**Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health (BIRCWH)**

**Introduction**

The purpose of Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health in Pittsburgh (BIRCWH@Pitt) program is to equip talented Univ. of Pittsburgh faculty Scholars to be independent investigators in interdisciplinary research in women’s health. The program encompasses basic, translational, behavioral, clinical, and health services research in reproductive sciences and women’s health, spanning embryonic life to advanced age.

Scholars are supported for a minimum of two years and are able to take advantage of the extraordinary environment at the Univ. of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences and Magee-Womens Research Institute as they work with a personalized mentorship team and supportive program advisory committee members to develop a research program that is not only relevant to the Scholar’s research interests in women’s health, but will serve as the foundation for the Scholar’s independence.

**Eligibility Criteria**

At the time of the appointment, BIRCWH Scholar candidates must:

* Have a clinical doctorate, or a PhD degree or its equivalent;
* Have completed any postgraduate training normally expected for a faculty appointment in their field (including clinical or postdoctoral fellowship training, or residency if they have chosen not to subspecialize);
* Have no more than six years of research or research training experience beyond their last doctoral degree (candidates who have had a career hiatus for special circumstances may be exceptions, please inquire with the program coordinator);
* Hold, or be scheduled to start a faculty appointment within the Univ. of Pittsburgh’s six Schools of the Health Sciences (Grad School of Public Health, School of Dental Medicine, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, School of Medicine, School of Nursing, and School of Pharmacy);
* Be able to spend at least 9 person months (or at least 6 person months for surgical-specialties) of full-time professional effort conducting research and research career development activities;
* Not be or have been a PD/PI on an R01 or subproject of a Program Project (P01), center (P50, P60, U54) grant, independent mentored career development (K-series) grants, or other equivalent grant awards; except for R03 and R21; and
* Be a U.S. citizen or noncitizen national, or must have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence and possess an Alien Registration Receipt Card (I-151 or I-155) or some other verification of legal admission as a permanent citizen. Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible.

New Scholar appointments begin as current Scholars transition off of the program. The program maintains funding for three Scholars at a time. We are currently accepting applications for appointment to begin on July 1, 2020.

**Scholar Support**

1. **Scholar’s salary:** The BIRCWH program will provide salary support for 75% of a scholar’s salary up to $100,000 total costs, plus fringe benefits, annually. If the Scholar’s salary exceeds available NIH funding, the Scholar’s home department must supplement the BIRCWH salary contribution to a level that is consistent with that department’s salary scale. Departmental supplementation of a salary cannot require duties or responsibilities that would interfere with the purpose of BIRCWH or the requirement that 75% effort be spent on women’s health research or related career development activities. (Note: BIRCWH research effort may be reduced to 50% FTE for faculty in surgical specialties such as general surgery, neurosurgery, etc.)
2. **Scholar's research and professional development:** The BIRCWH program provides $25,000 to support research and career development, which may include the following expenses: Research expenses, such as supplies, equipment, core research services and technical personnel ($22,905); tuition and fees related to career development ($595); and travel to one training or scientific meeting per year ($1,500). Additional funds are provided for Scholars to attend the annual BIRCWH Meeting at the NIH.
3. **Other support:** The department supporting the candidate must be able to demonstrate a commitment to the development of the candidate as a productive, independent investigator. The candidate’s department must agree to protect 75% of the Scholar’s time for the BIRCWH project (50% allowable for surgical specialties), and cover any of her/his salary and necessary research expenses in excess of the NIH limit. This agreement is needed to ensure that the scholar has a salary commensurate to that of other junior faculty in the relevant department, to ensure provision of the appropriate technical support and supplies necessary to establish a productive research program, and to ensure that the total funds allocated to support each young investigator are within the program guidelines. In addition to salary and protected research time, the department must provide office space and appropriate research space for the Scholar.

**Program Activity**

Scholars work with a personalized mentorship team and supportive program advisory committee members to develop a research program that is not only relevant to the Scholar’s research interests in women’s health but will serve as the foundation for the Scholar’s independence. Key activities in the program include:

* Conducting interdisciplinary research in women’s health, executing experiments, analyzing and preparing data for publication in peer-reviewed journals and presentation at local and national venues
* Engaging with a dedicated mentorship team to achieve research and career development goals
* Undergoing didactic education in research methodology, design, and the ethical conduct of research
* Meeting monthly with the PD and BIRCWH scholars to discuss professional development, work-life balance, strengthening mentoring relationships
* Attending advisory committee meetings (every 2 months) to assess progress and mentorship, and to discuss plans and future goals
* Participating in regular (weekly) MWRI conferences and in special events, such as Grant-in-Progress Meetings, MWRI’s Annual Research Day, and the BIRCWH National Meeting at the NIH

**BIRCWH Required and Suggested Coursework**

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| ***Required Coursework*** | **Environ & Occ Health** |
| **CTSI Coursework**CLRES2141: Medical Writing and Presentation Skills (fall/ spring)CLRES 2071: Advanced Grant Writing 1 (every fall)CLRES 2170: Making the Most of Mentoring (every fall)CLRES 2730: Benchtop to Bedside: What Every Scientist Needs to Know (every spring)**Interdisciplinary Biomedical Graduate Program**MSMGDB 3540: Reproductive Development from Model Organisms to Humans (Kelli Lazar, course coordinator)**Responsible Conduct of Research** *(see below)* | Environmental Health and DiseasePrinciples of ToxicologyGenome Instability and Human Disease |
| **Behavior & Comm Health Sci** |
| Overview of Health EquityDimensions of Aging: Culture and HealthIntroduction to Community HealthSeminar Maternal and Child HealthIntroduction to Community Based Participatory ResearchTranslating Research for Policy and Practice Concept Mapping: A Participatory Research MethodGlobal Perspectives Women's Health |
| ***Recommended Coursework\**** | **Health Policy & Mgmt** |
| **CTSI** | Leadership, Professionalism and Career DevelopmentComputer Methods in Decision and Cost-Effectiveness AnalysisCurrent Topics in Health Economics |
| Principles & Practices of Research Technology (SUPPORT)Managing Your Career in Clinical and Translational ScienceCost Effectiveness Analysis in Health CareClinical Decision AnalysisIntroduction to Research on Disparities in Health CareSeminar in Health Systems Leadership |
| **Human Genetics** |
| Molecular Basis of Human Inherited DiseaseBioethics |
| **Biostatistics** | **Infectious Dis & Microbiol** |
| Introduction to Statistical Methods 1Introduction to Statistical Methods 2Clinical Trials: Methods and PracticeChronic Disease Epidemiology SAS for Data Management and Analysis | Human Diversity and Public Health |
| **Public Health** |
| Overview of LBGT Health Disparities |
| **Pharm & Chem Biology** |
| Principles of Pharmacology |
| **Epidemiology**  | **Immunology** |
| Pathophysiology Across the Life SpanChronic Disease EpidemiologyReproductive EpidemiologyAdvanced Epidemiology of AgingEpidemiology of Aging-Methods | Comprehensive Immunology |
| **Interdisc Biomed Grad Program** |
| Cell and Molecular PhysiologyMolecular PathobiologyBasics of Personalized MedicineModel OrganismsStem Cells |
| **Office of Academic Career Dev** |
| Leadership Academy |

***\*Options may vary by academic term and research focus. Note that Pitt Faculty pay 10% tuition rate (http://www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/02/02-07-01.html)***

**Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research**

The NIH requires that scholars complete 8 hours of training in responsible conduct of research during their training period on BIRCWH. While some training may be conducted online, preference is given to non-online options.

Scholars must enroll in the Pitt CTSI Training in the Responsible Conduct Research (RCR) Center workshops, which include 1-hour lectures and case study-centered workshops on numerous aspects of research ethics. These are offered on a rotating basis throughout the year and organized in such a way that scholars can complete a custom-designed program of at least four courses, comprised of the core course, *Identifying Issues in the Responsible Conduct of Research*, and other courses that are relevant to their research (human subjects research, animal/bench research, research integrity and professionalism, or data management).A course listing may be found at: <http://www.ctsi.pitt.edu/education-responsible-workshop.html>.

**Research Mentors**

Each Scholar’s mentorship team will consist of one primary mentor and at least two supporting mentors. The Scholar will work with the primary mentor to submit the application’s research plan and budget. There will be at least one other research mentor with an interest in a relevant scientific discipline different than that of the primary mentor, thus enhancing the interdisciplinary aspects of the research plan. A third member of the mentoring team serves mainly as a career mentor. The BIRCWH Advisory Committee may assist the Scholar in assembling the mentoring team.

Progress review meetings between Scholars and primary mentors will occur, on average, no less frequently then every two weeks. Meetings with the full mentoring committee of primary and supporting mentors will occur at least 3 times per year and scholars must provide a written summary of the team meetings to the Advisory Committee. Under the guidance of their mentors, each Scholar will develop a detailed research plan that includes a rich curriculum of course work and seminars, adjusted to their level of training. Scholars will execute experiments, analyze and prepare data for publication in peer-reviewed journals and presentation at local and national venues. Importantly, Scholars will work with their mentors and BIRCWH advisory committee to prepare and submit an independent research proposal.

A list of program mentors is provided below. However, ***additional mentors can be added based upon project needs***, with the advisory committee’s approval. The mentor should be recognized as an accomplished investigator in the proposed research area and have a successful record in training independent investigators.

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| **BIRCWH @ Pitt Program Mentors** |
| [Yoel Sadovsky, MD](https://mageewomens.org/investigator/yoel-sadovsky-md/) | Executive Director, Magee-Womens Research InstituteProfessor of OBGYN-RS, and Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, School of Medicine |
| [Steve Abramowitch, PhD](https://www.engineering.pitt.edu/StevenAbramowitch/) | Associate Professor of Bioengineering |
| [Lisa Bodnar, PhD](http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/ho%20me/directory/lisa-m-bodnar) | Associate Professor of Epidemiology, Psychiatry and OBGYN-RS, Graduate School of Public Health |
| [Michael Boninger, MD](https://www.shrs.pitt.edu/people/michael-boninger) | Senior Medical Director for Post-Acute Care for the Health Service Division of UPMC and Vice President for Medical Affairs for Community Provider ServicesVice-Chair and Professor, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation |
| Sonya Borrero, MD, MS | Director, Center for Women’s Health Research and Innovation Associate Professor of Medicine,School of Medicine |
| [Daniel Buysse, MD](https://www.psychiatry.pitt.edu/about-us/our-people/faculty/daniel-j-buysse-md) | UPMC Endowed Chair in Sleep MedicineProfessor of Psychiatry, School of Medicine |
| [Anthony Delitto, PT, PhD](https://www.shrs.pitt.edu/delitto/) | Dean and Professor of Physical TherapySchool of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences |
| [Terence Dermody, PhD](http://www.chp.edu/find-a-doctor/service-providers/terence-dermody-224961) | Physician-in-Chief and Scientific Director, Children’s Hospital of PittsburghVira I. Heinz Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics,School of Medicine |
| [Heidi Donovan, PhD, RN](https://www.nursing.pitt.edu/person/heidi-donovan) | Professor of Health & Community Systems and Vice Chair, Research,School of Nursing |
| [Francesca Facco, MD](https://www.obgyn.pitt.edu/people/francesca-l-facco-md) | Assistant Professor of OBGYN and Reproductive Sciences, School of Medicine |
| [Mark Gladwin, MD](https://www.dom.pitt.edu/paccm/fac%20ulty/Gladwin.html) | Professor and Chair, Department of Medicine Director, Vascular Medicine Institute, School of Medicine |
| [Sharon Hillier, PhD](https://mageewomens.org/investigator/sharon-hillier-phd/) | Professor of OBGYN-RS and Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, School of Medicine |
| [Adrian Lee, PhD](https://mageewomens.org/investigator/adrian-lee-phd/) | Professor of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology, School of Medicine |
| [Mellissa Mann, PhD](https://mageewomens.org/investigator/mellissa-mann-phd/) | Associate Professor of OBGYN and Reproductive Sciences, School of Medicine |
| [Mary Marazita, PhD](http://www.dental.pitt.edu/person/m%20ary-l-marazita) | Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Oral Biology, Director of the Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics, School of Dental Health |
| [Michael Marshal, PhD](http://www.chp.edu/find-a-doctor/service-providers/michael-marshal-73937) | Associate Professor of Psychiatry, School of Medicine |
| [Karen Matthews, PhD](http://www.wpic.pitt.edu/behavioralmedicine/kampage.html) | Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry, Epidemiology, and Psychology, School of Medicine |
| [Elizabeth Miller, MD, PhD](http://www.chp.edu/find-a-doctor/service-providers/elizabeth-miller-154065) | Professor of Pediatric, Chief, Division of Adolescent Medicine, School of Medicine |
| [Pamela Moalli, MD, PhD](https://mageewomens.org/investigator/pamela-moalli-md-phd/) | Professor of OBGYN-RS and Bioengineering, School of Medicine |
| [Ann B. Newman, MD, MPH](https://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/home/directory/anne-b-newman) | Professor and Chair, Department of Epidemiology, Director Center for Aging and Population Health, Graduate School of Public Health |
| [Kyle Orwig, PhD](https://mageewomens.org/investigator/kyle-orwig-phd/) | Professor of OBGYN-RS, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, and Developmental Biology, Director, Molecular Genetics & Developmental Biology Program, School of Medicine |
| [James Roberts, MD](https://mageewomens.org/investigator/james-roberts-md/) | Professor of OBGYN-RS and Epidemiology, School of Medicine |
| [Lisa Rohan PhD](https://mageewomens.org/investigator/lisa-cencia-rohan-phd/) | Professor of Pharmaceutical Science and OBGYN-RS, School of Pharmacy |
| [Gerald Schatten, PhD](https://mageewomens.org/investigator/gerald-p-schatten-phd/) | Professor of OBGYN and Reproductive Sciences, School of Medicine |
| [Shroff, Sanjeev, PhD](https://www.engineering.pitt.edu/SanjeevShroff/) | Distinguished Professor of Bioengineering and Gerald E. McGinnis Chair in Bioengineering, School of Engineering |
| [Hyagriv Simhan, MD](https://mageewomens.org/investigator/hyagriv-simhan-md-ms/) | Professor of OBGYN and Reproductive Sciences and Executive Vice Chair, Obstetrical Services, School of Medicine |

**Application Submission**

The application consists of three major sections, which must be submitted via email (Word or PDF attachments) to Ms Lori Rideout at rideoutl@mwri.magee.edu.

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| **Candidate’s documents** |  |
| Completed application form |  |
| Current curriculum vitae |  |
| Draft budget (see template)*Departmental support for any expenses not covered by BIRCWH must be confirmed in writing. See required letters below.* | Address the following:* Scholar salary and fringes
* Research expenses
* Travel to scientific meetings
* Tuition/coursework
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| Research training and career development plan (3 pages) | Address the interdisciplinary nature and the reproductive sciences-women’s health focus of the training. (Up to 3 pages). |
| Research plan (5 pages) | Address hypothesis, innovation and approach, and describe how the proposed plan will promote the candidate’s education and development as an independent investigator. (Up to 5 pages, excluding bibliography). |
| NIH Other Support | Include current and pending support |
| **Primary mentor’s documents** |  |
| Mentor’s statement (2 pages) | Address the following:* Assessment of the candidate’s qualifications and potential for a research career
* Description of career development plan
* Description of the research environment, and the availability and quality of needed research resources
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| NIH biosketch  | Personal statement section should describe mentor's past mentoring experience and current research focus |
| Past/current trainees | Provide a list or table of up to 5 past or current trainees, which includes: Name, degree(s), dates, where trained, title of project, academic level, and present position and institution |
| **Letters of support (three total)** |
| Two general letters of reference  | From those familiar with candidate’s research |
| Department Chair’s letter  | Confirm the following:* Seventy-five percent of the candidate’s full-time professional effort will be protected for the development of his/her research program under the BIRCWH award.
* Departmental resources, including research facilities, resources, training opportunities, and faculty capable of productive collaboration with the candidate, will be available for the candidate’s planned career development and research program.
* The proposed budget is approved by the department, and that the department will cover the remaining salary/fringe and research expenses in excess of the BIRCWH NIH funding available.
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**Candidate Evaluation**

Proposals will be reviewed by the PI and Program Coordinator for adherence to application criteria prior to full review by the entire Advisory Committee. Selected candidates may be invited to interview with the PIs and/or to provide a presentation of their proposal to the Advisory Committee. The application process is an important training experience, and each applicant will be provided with a written assessment of her/his application prepared by the co-PI and Program Director, based upon reviewer critiques and committee discussions. Upon request, the PI may also meet with unsuccessful applicants to provide direction toward revision and alternative funding.

**Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health (BIRCWH)**

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| **Name** |  | **Start date** |  |
|  | Last, First, Initial |  |  |
|  |
| **Business** **Address** |  | **Home** **Address** |  |
|  |
| **Phone** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Business |  | Home |  | Cell/pager |
|  |
| **Email address** |  |
|  |
| **Personal** |  |  |  |
|  | Date of birth |  | Place of birth |
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|  |  |  |  |
|  | Country of Citizenship |  | If Non-US Citizen, then do you have a permanent US resident visa (Green Card)? |
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| **Education** | Institution, Location |  | Dates |  | Degree/field of training |
| **Undergraduate**  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **Graduate** |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **Post-graduate** |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | *\*If medical training occurred outside the United States, then provide a copy of your ECFMG certificate.* |
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| **Provide the names, titles, institutions and email address of three persons whom you have requested to provide letters of support. These should include 1) Candidate’s chair and 3) two other physicians or scientists familiar with the candidate’s qualifications, who are not the proposed primary mentor.** |
| 1 |  | 2 |  | 3 |
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| **Proposed primary mentor** |  | **Proposed supporting mentor** |  | **Proposed supporting mentor** |
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**DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR NIH REPORTING**

**Provision of the following information is voluntary.** Responses to these questions will help provide statistical information on the participation of individuals from diverse groups in Public Health Service (PHS) programs and identify inequities in terms of recruitment and retention based on race, ethnicity, disability and/or disadvantaged background. Applicants, trainees, scholars, and participants are strongly encouraged to provide this information, however declining to do so will in no way affect their appointments. This information will be retained by the PHS in accordance with and protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. Racial/ethnic/disability/background data are confidential and all analyses utilizing the data will report aggregate statistical findings only and will not identify individuals.

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| What is your race? |  | African American |  | Pacific Islander |
|  |
|  | Alaskan Native |  | White |
|  |
|  | American Indian |  | More than one race |
|  |
|  | Asian |  | Do not wish to provide |
|  |
|  | Other |  |  |
|  |
| Are you Hispanic? |  |
|  | Yes |  | No |  | Do not wish to provide |
|  |
| What is your gender? |  |
|  | Male |  | Female |  | Do not wish to provide |
|  |
| Do you have a disability? |  |
|  | Yes |  | No |  | Do not wish to provide |
|  |
| Do you come from a disadvantaged background? |  |
|  | Yes |  | No |  | Do not wish to provide |
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*Individuals falling in this category must have qualified for Federal disadvantaged assistance or have received Health Professional Student Loans (HPSL), Loans for Disadvantaged Student Program, or Scholarships from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the Scholarship for Individuals with Exceptional Financial Need.*