

Concept Clearance Proposal

Re-issuance of *Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health* (BIRCWH) Program, RFA-OD-16-013

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Purpose: Expand the Quality and Number of Researchers who Focus on the Health of Women

- One of ORWH's Signature Programs, focusing on career development of junior faculty.
- To expand support for career development in interdisciplinary, basic, translational, behavioral, clinical, public health and/or health services research relevant to the health of women.
- Where appropriate, the inclusion of both sexes to better understand the influence of sex as a variable in health and diseases.



BIRCWH Program Locations Across the Nation



What Has BIRCWH Accomplished?

- The BIRCWH program was created in 2000, with over 700 Scholars graduating from the program.
- ~70 percent of BIRCWH Scholars supported during 2000-2018 received at least one successful R-level grant from the NIH.
- Research areas for BIRCWH include CVD, Aging, Cancer, Neurosciences, Musculoskeletal conditions, Autoimmunity, Mental Health, Reproductive Health, Health Disparities, and Infectious diseases/emerging infections & HIV/AIDS.



Key Questions Addressed in the BIRCWH Evaluation

The evaluation addressed the following broad research questions related to the program:

- What are the career trajectories of the BIRCWH Scholars after their period of training?
- What are the career trajectories of the Principal Investigators (PIs) and the Mentors involved in the program?
- To what extent have Under-Represented Minorities (URMs) been recruited as BIRCWH Scholars?
- What is the career advancement of the URMs trained within the program?
- How have institutions of the awarded BIRCWH Scholars leveraged BIRCWH programs?



Videocast of BIRCWH Evaluation

For those who would like to hear more details on the recent BIRCWH evaluation:

- On October 20, 2020, the ORWH hosted the 51st Advisory Committee on Research on Women's Health (ACRWH) meeting where a preliminary report was made of the BIRCWH Evaluation; On agenda at 2:30pm.
- This video can be viewed at:
<https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=38647>



Re-issuance of RFA-OD-16-013

- FY: 2022; Type of Initiative: RFA
- Re-issuance of the previous BIRCWH RFA, **RFA-OD-16-013**
- Mechanism: K12, Institutional career development award
- Clinical trials can be included: Scholars can lead a clinical research project that could fall under the new definition of clinical trials
- The BIRCWH program continues to partner with several NIH ICs



Rationale for the RFA Re-issuance

- The BIRCWH Program is the only Trans-NIH Training/Career Development program that focuses broadly on the health of women.
- Congressionally-designated program in 1999 and it is still a priority area as specified in the 21st Century Cures Act.
- Supports the *2019-2023 Trans-NIH Strategic Plan for Women's Health Research*, strategic goal 4: to promote training and careers to develop a well-trained, diverse, and robust workforce to advance science for the health of women (objectives 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5).



BIRCWH Program RFA Re-issuance

Questions or Comments?

