

**Call for Applications**  
**BIRCWH**  
**Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health**

**K12-Career Development Grant for Junior Faculty at Duke and NCCU**

The Duke/NCCU BIRCWH Program is a **K12 institutional career development grant** administered by NICHD and funded by the NIH Office of Research in Women's Health (ORWH). The purpose of the BIRCWH is to promote interdisciplinary research and transfer findings that include sex/gender similarities or differences in biology, health or disease and/or will benefit the health of women.

The BIRCWH Program provides advanced training, mentoring, and career guidance for junior faculty leading to an independent interdisciplinary scientific career. BIRCWH research spans the entire spectrum of women's health topics, and the program is open to all types of disciplines, clinicians and non-clinicians.

BIRCWH scholars receive salary support (up to \$100,000 per year) for a minimum of two years and must dedicate 75% of full professional effort (9 person months; 50% effort, 6 person months for surgical specialties) to research and professional development related to their BIRCWH project. The award also includes funds for research support and travel. Scholars work closely with at least two mentors, one of whom is outside of their primary field. At least one mentor must be from the approved mentors list ([BIRCWH.medschool.duke.edu](http://BIRCWH.medschool.duke.edu)).

**Eligibility:** We invite junior faculty from NCCU and Duke to apply. Fellows and post-docs may apply with a letter from their chair stating that by the first date of their award they will have a faculty appointment, which is not contingent on their receipt of BIRCWH funding. **Applicants from underrepresented racial or ethnic groups, or from a disadvantaged background as defined by NIH's NOT-OD-20-031, are encouraged to apply.** Applicants can be associated with any department and should be pursuing a research career related to women's health or sex/gender differences.

The following additional eligibility requirements apply:

1. Clinical doctorate, or PhD, or equivalent
2. Have recently completed any postgraduate training (including clinical or postdoctoral fellowship training, or residency)
3. Have no more than six years of research or research training experience beyond the last doctoral degree (usually PhD or completion of fellowship). Those who may have had a career hiatus due to family responsibilities, uniformed service, etc. can be accommodated with NIH approval.
4. United States citizenship or permanent residency (green card)
5. Not be or have been a PD/PI on an R01, R29, or subproject of a Program Project (P01), Center (P50, P60, U54) grant, or independent mentored career development (K-series) grants, or other equivalent research grant awards; except for R03 and R21

**Applicants are encouraged to contact program leadership to discuss eligibility and mentor selection**

Research Director: [Cindy Amundsen, M.D.](#); Program Coordinator: [Friederike Jayes, Ph.D.](#)

**Letter of Intent (LOI):** Please contact us with any questions Email the LOI to Friederike Jayes at [friederike.jayes@duke.edu](mailto:friederike.jayes@duke.edu) and [cindy.amundsen@duke.edu](mailto:cindy.amundsen@duke.edu).

*We will contact you within 5 business days if you are eligible to submit a full application.*

**The LOI must include the following information:**

1. Applicant's full name
2. Degree(s) and date(s) awarded  
(if MD with residency/fellowship, also include when you finished residency/fellowship)
3. Department, Division, School
4. Academic rank and position
5. NIH biosketch
6. Project title and a two-sentence description of the research project
7. Brief description of the planned project (1 page max)
8. Brief description of professional development goals (1 page max)
9. Proposed mentor(s), at least one from the list of approved mentors ([BIRCWH.medschool.duke.edu](http://BIRCWH.medschool.duke.edu))

**Applications**

The application is available through Qualtrics and must include the following:

1. Completed application form (see website [BIRCWH.medschool.duke.edu](http://BIRCWH.medschool.duke.edu))
2. NIH Biosketch (including your eRA Commons Name and link to bibliography)
3. Current curriculum vitae (dated)
4. Project title and a two-sentence description of the research project
5. Personal statement (2 pages max) that includes:
  - a. Description of long-term career goals,
  - b. Professional development plan: Description of career development goals (include course work, training, and milestones for publications and grant submissions) for the next 2-3 years. Describe how your mentors will support you in your career development endeavors.
  - c. Description how the BIRCWH program will help meet your career and professional development goals,
  - d. Plan for securing 75% protected research time and explanation of commitments for your 25% non-BIRCWH time.
6. Brief research proposal (2-3 pages plus references) for a specific project to be accomplished during the next 2-3 years as a BIRCWH scholar. Describe how your mentors will support you in your research endeavors.
7. Budget is not required, but list other funding sources if estimated costs will likely exceed \$20,000/year
8. Plan for future funding (1 page): Briefly describe what question your future major grant application will investigate. Describe how the completion of your proposed BIRCWH project and your proposed career development goals will support that future major grant application.
9. Name **at least two mentors**  
(At least one from the BIRCWH mentor list [BIRCWH.medschool.duke.edu](http://BIRCWH.medschool.duke.edu)). List their names, degree(s), academic ranks, affiliation (Department, Division, School), and their disciplines/fields. Attach a letter of agreement/support from each proposed mentor. The letter should include how the mentor will support your career and professional development and also mention a plan for regular interactions.
10. Two letters of support/evaluation (**in addition to proposed mentors**) written by persons knowledgeable about your prior accomplishments and suitability for this program.  
One letter should come from your Department Chair or Division Chief indicating their agreement to designate 75% (9 person months; or 50% effort and 6 person months for surgical specialties) of your full professional effort towards BIRCWH-related research and career development, and specifying steps that will be taken to assure this protected time.