Call for Applications

Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health (BIRCWH)
BIRCWH.medschool.duke.edu

Letter of Intent Due: April 12, 2019 (Required)  Applications Due: May 5, 2019

The Duke/NCCU BIRCWH Program is a K12 institutional career development grant. This trans-NIH collaborative effort is led by the NIH Office of Research in Women’s Health and currently administered by NICHD. The goal of the program is to provide training and education for junior faculty members conducting research applicable to women’s health with an emphasis on a multidisciplinary approach. The purpose of the BIRCWH is to promote interdisciplinary research and transfer findings that will benefit the health of women, as well as research involving sex/gender similarities or differences in biology, health or disease.

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 sex/gender similarities or differences in biology, health or disease. The program is open to all types of disciplines, clinicians and non-clinicians.

The Duke PI of this career development grant is Nancy Andrews, MD, PhD, and the program is managed by Cindy Amundsen, MD, Professor Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Questions about the program or the application process can be directed to:

Cindy L. Amundsen, MD (Research Director)  Friederike L. Jayes, DVM PhD (Program Coordinator)
e-mail: cindy.amundsen@duke.edu  e-mail: friederike.jayes@duke.edu  
Phone: 919-668-3973

BIRCWH Scholars Award

The Duke/NCCU BIRCWH anticipates funding a new BIRCWH Scholar starting August 1, 2019. Beginning on the funding start date, BIRCWH scholars must dedicate 75% of total professional effort (9 person months; or 50% effort and 6 person months for surgical specialties) to research and career development activities related to their BIRCWH project. The BIRCWH program will pay 75% or 50% of salary, up to a $100,000 maximum, with a commitment of at least 2 years and up to 5 years of funding (contingent on annual review). The BIRCWH award also includes $25,000 for research support and travel. The scholar’s department has to be committed to support the scholar in their research and career development.

Awardees will be expected to publish their work and submit applications for independent funding (Independent K, R01 or similar). Each scholar will work closely with at least two mentors with extensive research experience, one of whom is outside of their primary field. At least one mentor must be from the approved mentors list (BIRCWH.medschool.duke.edu). Additionally, all BIRCWH scholars are expected to participate in scholar meetings, mentor meetings, and professional development activities.
Eligibility:

NIH encourages institutions to diversify their faculty populations to enhance the participation of individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been identified as underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral and social sciences (NOT-OD-15-053).

During this recruitment cycle we invite applications from junior faculty at Duke. Junior faculty at Duke from racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in biomedical research are especially encouraged to apply. Applicants can be associated with any department and are required to be interested in pursuing interdisciplinary research careers related to women’s health or sex/gender differences. 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.

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 if they have chosen not to subspecialize);
3. Have no more than six years of research or research training experience beyond their last doctoral degree (usually PhD or completion of fellowship). However, depending on approval by NIH, we can accommodate the needs of those interested in participating in this program that may have had a career hiatus because of family responsibilities, uniformed service, etc.
4. United States citizenship or permanent residency.
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;

The proposed research may be either a new application or a revision of a previous BIRCWH application. If a revised application is submitted the applicant must include a description of the progress completed on the research project dating from the previous submission date to the current application date. In addition, if a revised application is submitted please include copies of any manuscripts that have resulted from the research conducted.

Letter of Intent - Due no later than April 12, 2019 – please contact us early with any questions

All individuals wishing to apply for the BIRCWH Program must submit a letter of intent. The Letter of Intent should be e-mailed to Cindy L. Amundsen at cindy.amundsen@duke.edu with cc to friederike.jayes@duke.edu. We will contact you within 5 business days of receiving your Letter of Intent to let you know if you are eligible to submit a full application.

The letter of intent must include the following information:

1. Applicant’s full name
2. Degree(s) and date(s) awarded
   (If MD with residency/fellowship, then also include when you finished residency/fellowship)
3. Department, Division, School
4. Academic rank and position
5. NIH Biosketch
6. Project Title and two-sentence description of the research project
7. Brief description of the planned project (no more than one page)
8. Brief description of professional development goals (no more than one page)
9. Proposed mentors, at least one of whom is from the attached list of approved mentors (see website: BIRCWH.medschool.duke.edu)
Applications - Due by May 5, 2019
We will contact you within 5 business days of receiving your Letter of Intent to let you know if you are eligible to submit a full application.

All components of the application must be submitted by e-mail as separate Word or PDF documents
All application materials should be e-mailed to Cindy L. Amundsen at cindy.amundsen@duke.edu with cc to Friederike Jayes at friederike.jayes@duke.edu

The application must include the following:
1. Completed application form (see website BIRCWH.medschool.duke.edu)
2. NIH Biosketch
3. eRA Commons Name
4. Current curriculum vitae (dated)
5. Project title and a two-sentence description of the research project
6. A 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 of how the BIRCWH program will help meet your career and professional development goals, and
   d. Plan for securing 75% protected research time and explanation of commitments for your 25% non-BIRCWH time.
7. A 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.
8. Name at least two mentors
   (at least one must be from the BIRCWH mentor list 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.
9. 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.

Potential applicants are encouraged to speak with program leadership (Cindy Amundsen or Friederike Jayes) to determine eligibility and mentor selection.

Cindy Amundsen, MD (Program Director) e-mail: cindy.amundsen@duke.edu
Friederike L. Jayes, DVM PhD (Program Coordinator) e-mail: friederike.jayes@duke.edu
Phone: 919-668-3973