



~ REQUEST FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS ~

The Connors Center IGNITE Awards

Special Call for Research Proposals on Sex- and Gender-Differences in
Cardiac and Vascular Diseases

Sponsored by the Mary Horrigan Connors Center for Women's Health and Gender Biology

*This Connors IGNITE Award is funded by the Scott Schoen and Nancy Adams Research Fund in Women's
Vascular Disease*

Description:

The Connors Center for Women's Health and Gender Biology is pleased to announce a request for research proposals (RFP) from the Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) research community for a special IGNITE award that will support innovative research on sex- and gender-differences in cardiac and vascular diseases. This funding opportunity is made possible by the Scott Schoen and Nancy Adams Research Fund in Women's Vascular Disease.

The broad goal of the IGNITE program is to ensure that medical advances are optimized for the health of women through scientific investigation. With specific relevance to cardiac and vascular diseases, the goals of this special IGNITE award are: 1) to promote the investigation of sex-specific and sex-differentiating factors that may affect the efficacy, tolerability, safety, acceptability, and uptake of novel therapeutics; 2) to identify sex-specific and sex-differentiating factors which may represent novel therapeutic targets; 3) to examine innovative and effective approaches to include women in early-phase development of drugs, devices, and digital diagnostics and therapeutics.

These goals are important components of the Connors Center's **First.In.Women Precision Medicine Platform**. First.In.Women is a translational research platform aimed at advancing the inclusion of women and the investigation of female-specific outcomes in the development and utilization of new drugs, devices, digital diagnostics and therapeutics, in order to produce sex-specific knowledge about treatments aimed for diseases that affect women exclusively, preferentially and differentially.

Up to one \$50,000 award will be distributed. The award total will be inclusive of indirect costs. The initial funding period will run for 12 months. Competing renewals are allowable if first-year progress shows promise for expanding the investigation. Projects must be ready to commence upon receipt of award.

While investigators funded by this IGNITE award will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation and oversight of their studies, IGNITE investigations will be carried out as collaborations between the recipient and Connors Center First.In.Women faculty, as appropriate. First.In.Women scientific leaders and staff will engage



regularly with IGNITE Awardees individually and as a group through Work in Progress (WiPs) meetings. These meetings will stimulate scientific exchanges, provide mentorship, integrate the First.In.Women translational framework, and facilitate networking and collaboration across the First.In.Women research community with the broader goal of growing the impact of First.In.Women translational science and supporting the growth of Awardees.

Timeline:

Request for proposals announced:	March 1, 2021
Proposals due:	April 1, 2021
Award recipients announced:	May 5, 2021
Earliest start date:	June 1, 2021

Eligibility:

You are invited to apply if you meet the following criteria.

- You have a doctoral degree (MD and/or PhD or equivalent).
- You have an HMS appointment at the Instructor level or above.
- HMS Post-doctoral or Research Fellows whose promotion to Instructor is either pending or whose application is expected to be submitted during the period of the Award indicating an intended faculty position at HMS will be considered if a written letter from the Division Chief or Department Chair confirms the status of the faculty appointment consistent with these criteria.
- Your primary appointment is at Brigham and Women's Hospital.
- Each applicant may serve as the Principal Investigator for only one submitted proposal.
- Both US and non-US citizens are welcome to apply.

Prior IGNITE award recipients may apply again for IGNITE funding, either to continue a previously funded IGNITE project or to support a new research study.

Application Materials:

Proposal Due April 1, 2021, at 12:00 PM in the order outlined below:

1. Application Cover Page including 250-word summary written for a lay audience.
2. A one-year budget (using the budget template provided) for a maximum of \$50,000 (out of which 15% indirect costs will be deducted) with budget justification (200-word max).
3. A two-page research statement describing the scientific work that you propose to undertake. Include a timeline with planned milestones and deliverables. Figures, tables, and images may be included within the two pages.



4. Brief description of plans for future grant applications and investigations using these pilot data (150-word max).
5. References (a maximum of 10 references may be included).
6. NIH biosketch
7. A one-page letter of support on letterhead from your Division Chief, Department Chair, Laboratory PI, or Mentor.

Applications Materials must be submitted electronically to Winnie Ng, MPH, Connors Center Project Manager, at WTNG@bwh.harvard.edu by **12 PM on April 1, 2021**.

Application text must be in Arial, 11-point font. Single-spacing is allowed. All margins must be at least 0.5 inches. All items above must be compiled into a **single PDF in the stated order**. Incomplete applications, applications submitted in multiple files, and multiple applications submitted by a single Investigator will not be considered.

Proposal Review Criteria:

Applications will be judged for scientific merit, feasibility, fit with the goals and objectives of the Connors Center First.In.Women Precision Medicine Platform, alignment with the specific goals of this Special IGNITE Call, investigator profile, and potential for obtaining independent funding to continue the study once the IGNITE funding period has ceased.

Terms of the program:

- Recipients will be required to meet with Connors Center leadership individually.
- Recipients will be required to attend WiPs research meetings as described above.
- In addition to the WiPs meetings, recipients will be required to present their project at one or more Connors Center events.
- Recipients will submit brief 6-month and final written reports (1 page/each) of research activity.
- Recipients will be asked to complete an annual survey with questions on 1. External funding obtained 2. Collaborations established 3. Invited talks/poster presentation given 4. IP-related outcomes like invention disclosures or patents filed 5. Award/recognition received
- Recipients will be required to notify the Connors Center in advance regarding any plans for manuscript or IP-related submission. Affiliation with the Connors Center and the IGNITE Award funding source must be acknowledged in abstracts, manuscripts, poster presentations and talks related to funded project.
- Recipients must maintain their primary appointment at BWH for the duration of the funding period. If an awardee leaves BWH, all unspent funds will be returned to the Connors Center.

*For questions about the Connors Center IGNITE Awards,
please contact Winnie Ng, MPH, Project Manager of the Connors Center for Women's Health and Gender
Biology, at WTNG@bwh.harvard.edu.*