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## REQUEST FOR RESEARCH APPLICATIONS

### Brigham/Harvard Center for Reproductive Outcomes of Stress and Aging (ROSA Center) Scholar Award

Specialized Center for Research Excellence on Sex Differences (SCORE) Scholar Award  
*Sponsored by the National Institute on Aging and Office of Research on Women's Health of the National Institutes of Health*

Letters of Intent Requested: <b>4/14/2023</b> <i>Not required for submission of full application</i>	Full Applications Due: <b>5/15/2023</b>	Award Announced: <b>7/1/2023</b>
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The Connors Center for Women's Health and Gender Biology is pleased to announce a request for research applications (RFA) for the Brigham/Harvard Center for Reproductive Outcomes of Stress and Aging (ROSA Center) Specialized Center for Research Excellence on Sex Differences (SCORE) Scholar Award.

The ROSA Scholar program will equip early-stage faculty or established investigators who wish to refocus their careers on sex-differences and women's health translational research with critical tools to become leading researchers in the field through a mentored research project with the successful Scholar going on to receive NIH K- or R- level funding

**The overarching goal of the NIH-funded Brigham/Harvard ROSA Center SCORE is to investigate the role of stress and its neural mechanisms in reproductive aging health outcomes that confer susceptibility to cardiovascular disease and dementia in aging women, and to catalyze growth of interdisciplinary and translational women's health and sex-differences research.** Research and educational outputs from this Brigham/Harvard SCORE will translate to ameliorating the adverse health consequences of reproductive aging among postmenopausal women.

Investigators are invited to submit project proposals that align with the themes and goals of the ROSA Center including stress, reproductive aging/menopause, cardiovascular disease, sleep, cognitive function and dementia. Scholars will participate in robust educational and career development programming which will enable them to develop an understanding of women's health and how to incorporate sex as a biologic variable (SABV) when planning, analyzing, and reporting data.

In addition to the Scholar's primary research mentor, the Scholar will be matched with a ROSA Center mentor by area of expertise and all ROSA investigators will contribute to mentorship as needed. The Scholar will also have the option to obtain added sleep research training and to earn a Certificate in



Sleep Medicine from the Harvard Medical School Division of Sleep Medicine (which can be designed as part of a Scholar's Career Enhancement Plan).

One Scholar Award will be distributed. Funding is provided for a minimum of one year and until the Scholar receives K- or R-level funding, for a maximum of 3 years. The Scholar will receive \$75,000 annually for salary/fringe support for the *required* 6 person-months of full-time professional effort per year. In addition, \$20,000/year in research project-related costs, including research supplies, programming or research assistance, training, and travel will be provided.

**Timeline:**

Request for applications announced:	March 23, 2023
Letter of Intent due:	April 14, 2023
Full applications due:	May 15, 2023
Award recipients announced:	July 1, 2023
Earliest start date:	September 1, 2023

**Eligibility:**

Both early career investigators and established investigators who wish to refocus their careers on sex-differences and women's health research are invited to apply permitting they meet the following criteria:

- Has earned a doctoral degree (MD and/or PhD or equivalent)
- Holds a Harvard appointment as an Instructor or Assistant Professor (Harvard Medical School or affiliated hospitals, or Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health). Senior Faculty are not eligible for this award.
- Is able to commit a minimum of 6 person-months FTE annually for the research and career enhancement activities comprising the award
- Has a current mentor with extensive research experience who will commit to supporting the applicant for the proposed project period. Established investigators must have a mentor with research expertise in the specific new area of research that the applicant intends to pursue.
- 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 for this award.
- Is **not** a current or past Principal Investigator on an NIH R01, R29 or subproject of a Program Project (P01), Center (P50, P60, U54) grant, mentored career development (K-series) grant, or other equivalent NIH research grant award; **except** for R03 and R21 awards.

Individuals from underrepresented minorities in medicine (URiM) are strongly encouraged to apply.

**About the Program:**

Scholar programming will be led by Kathryn Rexrode, MD, MPH and Janet Rich-Edwards, ScD, MPH, ROSA Center Career Enhancement Core (CEC) co-Leaders and will leverage the robust research infrastructure and expertise in women's health, sleep medicine, clinical neuroscience, pre-clinical neuroendocrinology, dementia, and cardiometabolic disease at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. The Scholar will work with Drs. Rexrode and Rich-Edwards



to craft a personalized Career Enhancement Plan that will include the matching of a SCORE mentor (in addition to the Scholar's primary research mentor); Brigham/Harvard coursework and seminars to address specific needs; and a timeline and source for future grant submission(s). The Scholar will participate in CEC skills and methods seminars and have the opportunity to engage in Career Development discussions facilitated by senior CEC faculty on the application of CEC seminar content to the Scholar's own research. Regular work-in-progress meetings will allow the Scholar to ask methodologic questions, present preliminary data for discussion, review abstracts, practice oral presentations, and discuss grant specific aims.

### **Application Materials:**

#### **Letter of Intent Requested by April 14, 2023, at 5:00pm:**

Applicants are requested to submit the attached Letter of Intent Form that includes the following information: name, current position and contact information; mentor's name and title; title of project, and a brief narrative describing the proposed research. This Form must be signed by both the applicant and mentor and submitted electronically to [BWH\\_SCORE@partners.org](mailto:BWH_SCORE@partners.org) by the time of submission of the full application.

#### **Full Application Due May 15, 2023, at 11:59pm:**

1. Research statement: A four-page maximum research proposal describing the proposed scientific work. Applicants should assume a 2-year funding period when creating their research proposal. Figures, tables, images, and a timeline may be included within this limit. A maximum of 20 references must be provided and are not included in this four-page limit.
2. Statement of future plans: A description of plans for future studies and grant applications using these project data, and a summary of career development and specific gaps in knowledge and/or mentorship (two-page max).
3. Budget and Justification: Applications will include a two-year line-item budget **using the provided budget template**. Projects will be funded to a maximum of \$75,000 direct costs/year for salary and fringe benefits for a minimum of 50% FTE, and \$20,000/year in research project-related expenses. All expenses must be directly project-related. A brief written justification for each requested expense must be included.
4. Biosketch in standard NIH format and Curriculum Vitae.
5. Letters of Support: For all applicants, a Letter of Support from the primary research mentor should be included (1-page max, on letterhead). For established investigators, the letter must include a brief statement of how the proposal introduces a new line of research for the applicant (200-word max). For all applicants, an additional letter from the investigator's Division Chief or Department Chair should also be included, which outlines how any difference in salary not covered by this award will be covered by the sponsoring department. If the investigator's mentor is also the Division Chief or Department Chair, this information may be included in the mentor Letter of Support.

All items above must be compiled into a single PDF, in the above order, and submitted electronically by 11:59pm on May 15, 2023, to [BWH\\_SCORE@partners.org](mailto:BWH_SCORE@partners.org)

Application text must be in Arial, 11-point font. Single-spacing is allowed. All margins must be at least 0.5 inches. Incomplete applications and applications submitted in multiple files will not be considered.



**Proposal Review Criteria:**

Applications will be judged on the following criteria:

- Translational scientific merit (pure laboratory experiments are acceptable if there is a clear and well-described path to a translational endpoint) and potential for ultimate clinical impact (though clinical impact is not an expectation during the project period).
- Proposed projects must align with the overall scientific priorities of the Brigham/Harvard SCORE: stress, neural regulation, and reproductive aging.
- Research that directly integrates with the goals and/or science of at least 1 of the 3 SCORE projects will be given priority. For more information about these SCORE projects, visit our [website](#).
- Feasibility for completing the project during the funding period with the amount of awarded resources.
- Likelihood of independent funding based on the preliminary data developed; strategies for moving the project forward beyond initial to more stable funding will be evaluated.
- Integration and collaboration with the SCORE Projects and Cores, the Connors Center, and other existing BWH women's health resources.
- Fit with Center mission, and enthusiasm and willingness of the Investigator to participate in SCORE activities, including presenting at SCORE meetings and symposiums.
- The candidate's mentor's expertise, experience, and ability to guide the applicant on the proposed study and help them meet the timelines.

**Terms of the Program:**

At the end of each twelve-month period, the awardee and mentor will be asked to submit a brief formal progress report delineating the completed work and plans for the remaining grant period. A formal written report will also be required at the end of the funding period. Brief interim reports may be requested for reporting purposes.

The Scholar is required to attend monthly seminars, works-in-progress sessions and the bi-annual ROSA Center research symposia. The Scholar must maintain their faculty appointment at a Harvard affiliate (Harvard Medical School or one of its affiliates or Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health) to maintain eligibility to participate in the ROSA Center Scholar program. If the Scholar is awarded an NIH K Research Career Development or R01 award or other K-equivalent foundation award during the Scholar funding period, all funds remaining on the Scholar award will be returned to the Brigham/Harvard SCORE.

*For questions about the Brigham/Harvard SCORE Scholar Award,  
please contact Annie Walsh, Program Manager for the Connors Center for Women's Health and Gender Biology, at  
BWH\_SCORE@partners.org*