



REQUEST FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Brigham/Harvard ROSA Center Pilot Awards *Supporting new research on stress and neural regulation of reproductive aging health outcomes*

*Please direct any questions to Annie Walsh, Project Manager for the Connors Center for Women's Health and Gender
Biology at BWH_SCORE@partners.org.*

Applications Due: October 23, 2023	Award Announced: December 15, 2023	Earliest Start Date: January 1, 2024
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The Brigham/Harvard Reproductive Outcomes of Stress and Aging (ROSA) Center is pleased to announce a request for research proposals (RFP) for the 3rd cohort of ROSA Center Pilot Awards. The ROSA Center was established as one of eleven national NIH-funded U54 Specialized Centers for Research Excellence (SCORE) on Sex Differences in 2020.

The overarching goal of the Brigham/Harvard ROSA Center is to investigate the role of social and/or physiologic stress in relation to reproductive-aging health conditions, with a specific thematic focus on vasomotor symptoms, sleep, cognition, mood, wellbeing, and cardiometabolic outcomes in postmenopausal women, as well as to catalyze growth of interdisciplinary and translational women's health and sex-differences research. Research and educational outputs from the ROSA Center have the translational goal of ameliorating the adverse health consequences of reproductive aging among postmenopausal women.

ROSA Center Pilot awards must align with the broad goal of the ROSA Center and are intended for early-stage investigators (postdocs and junior faculty). These Pilot awards are perfect for investigators seeking to obtain preliminary data in order to facilitate applications for future NIH K- or R-level awards. Pilot Awardees are expected to participate in the Center's Career Enhancement Core's (CEC) robust monthly educational and career development programming, co-led by Kathryn Rexrode, MD, MPH and Janet Rich-Edwards, ScD, MPH. Programming will include structured monthly seminars and Work-In-Progress meetings that focus on developing skills and methods training in incorporating sex as a biologic variable (SABV) when planning, analyzing, and reporting data, as well as topic-specific didactic sessions in women's health, sleep medicine, neuroscience, dementia, and cardiometabolic disease. The ROSA Center's Pilot Awardees will be required to present their work at Work-In-Progress meetings. In addition, Pilot Awardees will be expected to present their work at and participate in periodic ROSA Center-hosted meetings (i.e., Steering Committee, Advisory Board) and NIH/National SCORE network-hosted select meetings and symposia, all of which provide valuable scientific and networking opportunities to engage across a broad women's health research community. Up to two ROSA Pilot Awards will be distributed. Each Awardee will receive a total of \$50,000 over 2 years (up to \$25,000/year), which is inclusive of 20% IDC

Pilot Awardees are required to identify a primary research mentor for the proposal.



Timeline:

Request for applications announced:	September 6, 2023
Applications due:	October 23, 2023
Award recipients announced:	December 15, 2023
Earliest start date:	January 1, 2024

Eligibility:

- Holds a primary Brigham and Women's Hospital appointment with a Harvard Medical School rank of Research Fellow, Instructor or Assistant Professor.
- Has earned a doctoral degree (MD, PhD, and/or ScD or equivalent)
- Has the commitment of a mentor with extensive research experience who will mentor the applicant for the duration of the pilot 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, individual 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. Both U.S. and non-U.S. citizens are welcome to apply.

Application Materials:

Application Due October 23, 2023, at 12:00pm:

1. Research statement: A two-page maximum research proposal describing the proposed scientific work. Applicants should plan a two-year funding period when creating their research proposal. Figures, tables, images, and a timeline may be included within this limit. References may be separate.
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 (150-word max).
3. Commitment to participate in ROSA Center programming: A brief statement regarding availability and interest in presenting at ROSA Center events. (100-word max)
4. Budget and Justification: Applications must include a two-year line-item budget **using the provided budget template**. Projects will be funded to a maximum of \$50,000 (\$25,000 total costs/year (including 20% IDC). All expenses must be directly project-related. Salary is allowable. A brief written justification for each requested expense must be included (200-word max).
5. Biosketch in standard NIH format.
6. Letter of Support: A Letter of Support from the primary research mentor should be included (1-page max, on letterhead).

All items above must be compiled into a single PDF, in the above order, and submitted electronically by 12pm on October 23, to 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:

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of established researchers and will be judged on the following criteria:

- Alignment with the ROSA Center mission and scientific focus. For more information about the ROSA Center projects, visit our [website](#).
- Up to 2 awards may be directed to proposals that specifically focus on menopause symptoms.
- Clinical, population, and preclinical science proposals are all welcome as long as they have a potential clinical translation that is described in the proposal. While clinical impact is not an expectation during the project period, translational scientific merit and potential for ultimate clinical impact will be considered.
- Projects that provide the opportunity for collaboration with other SCORE sites are of interest. More information about the SCORE program can be found [here](#).
- A career focused on the health of women and/or sex and gender research
- Enthusiasm and willingness of the Investigator to participate in ROSA Center activities, including presenting at ROSA Center meetings and symposiums.
- Feasibility for completing the aims of the proposal during the funding period with the amount of awarded resources.
- Likelihood of independent funding based on the preliminary data to be developed; strategies for moving the project forward beyond initial to more stable funding will be evaluated.
- Investigator qualifications; opportunity to bring new investigators into the ROSA Center and the national SCORE community.

Terms of the Program:

At twelve months, 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 2-year funding period. Pilot Awardees are required to attend monthly seminars, works-in-progress sessions and the bi-annual ROSA Center research symposia. In addition, there may be other events such as periodic ROSA Center-hosted meetings (i.e., Steering Committee, Advisory Board) and NIH/National SCORE network-hosted select meetings and symposia.

Funds must be spent through a fund set up at Brigham and Women's Hospital. The Pilot Awardees must maintain their appointment at Brigham and Women's Hospital to maintain eligibility to participate in the ROSA Center's Pilot program and funding.

Funding for this award is provided by Brigham and Women's Hospital and Bayer Pharmaceuticals.