



Institute for Clinical and Translational Research
The Johns Hopkins Clinical Research Network

**Johns Hopkins Center for Women's Health, Sex, and Gender Research and
The Foundation for Gender-Specific Medicine
Request for Applications (RFA) for Seed Grants
for Research on Sex/Gender Differences in Medicine and Public Health**

SEED GRANTS for Biological/Medical Research on Sex and Gender Differences aim to promote basic, translational, clinical, and population health research on sex and gender differences at Johns Hopkins University and to facilitate the research careers of junior faculty on these topics across Johns Hopkins University.

The Johns Hopkins Center for Women's Health, Sex, and Gender Research in collaboration with the Foundation for Gender-Specific Medicine plans to fund 2 seed grants of \$25,000 to enable junior faculty researchers to collect pilot data, conduct feasibility studies, and/or demonstrate interdisciplinary collaborations that would enhance applications to the NIH, NSF, etc. (e.g. R01s, K-awards) for research on the role of the sex and gender in genetics, on cell, tissue, and/or organ function; interactions of sex and gender on biology and medical outcomes, e.g. diagnostic tests, treatments, procedures, etc. and/or in women's health, including studies that seek to determine if findings reported in one sex/gender group are similar or different in another, as well as studies that seek to distinguish the influence of sex and gender on health outcomes.

I. ELIGIBILITY

The primary aims of this program are to stimulate research in sex/gender differences and to foster interdisciplinary research collaborations:

- Principal Investigator (PI) must be an Instructor or Assistant Professor (no more than 6 years post training) from any Johns Hopkins School. Post-doctoral fellows may apply if they can submit an offer letter from JHU.
- Collaborations involving faculty from at least two schools will be favored.
- Eligible submissions cannot exceed 12 months from the project start date. If awarded, the start date of the 12-month grant will be provided in the award notification letter.
- All proposals that involve human participants must be approved by an IRB to receive funding. Investigators should be aware of the impact of these and other necessary administrative or regulatory reviews on project timeline and feasibility.



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II. POTENTIAL RESEARCH TOPICS

Appropriate topics/studies include, but are not limited to, those listed below:

- Comparative studies of male and female cells (including stem cells), tissues, organs or physiological systems;
- Studies of sex differences using a systems biology approaches (e.g. "omics");
- Imaging studies of structural and/or functional differences in pain, brain activity, neural circuitry, metabolism, inflammation and drug delivery;
- Studies that add sex parameters to experiments using animal models, *in vitro* approaches, or computational models of disease;
- Studies of sex differences in embryonic and early development, and in epigenetic changes and processes;
- Studies of sex specific biomarkers for disease risk, prognosis, or benefit of treatment; or
- Studies of sex differences in response to preventive or therapeutic interventions.

III. FUNDING AMOUNTS AND REQUIREMENTS

We will award up to 2 applications for \$25,000 each. Requests must be no more than \$25,000 in direct costs. Requests exceeding \$25,000 will not be reviewed.

Funds may be used for salary support (up to 10% of the NIH salary cap) as well as for stipends paid to undergraduate or graduate students.

Funds may also be used for travel essential to the conduct of research, but not for travel to established meetings or conferences.

Awards will be funded for 12 months.

An end of the year progress report will be submitted to the Women's Health Research Group and the Foundation for Gender-Specific Medicine.

Awardees will be required to present their research at the WHRG Symposium in the Spring 2018.

IV. APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are due on Friday, September 1, 2017 by 5pm EST



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Grants must be submitted through the ICTR Connection Request form, available at <https://ictrweb.johnshopkins.edu/ictr/?applyWHRG>. A JHED-ID is required to submit an application.

V. INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

Presentation and Formatting:

The research plan must be no longer than three single-spaced pages (including figures) in a font no smaller than 11 points, with margins of at least 0.5 inches on all sides. The name of the PI should appear in the top right-hand corner of each page. Page numbers should appear on the bottom right-hand corner of each page.

Materials required to be submitted via the online application include:

- Title page
- Summary/Abstract: Briefly describe the project focus, its significance, expected outcomes, your partnerships, proposed next steps.
- A biographical sketch (NIH-format) for the PI.
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424>
- A brief identification and biographical description of all study team personnel (4-page limit total).
- Letter of Support (LOS) if applicable.
- A comprehensive, itemized budget (items >\$1,000 require detailed justification). The budget should also include an explanation of any other funding sources that will be used to cover costs not covered by the seed grant. Budgets must be submitted utilizing the NIH PHS 398 form -
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>
- Research plan (3-page limit, content and format described below in “Research Plan Requirements”)
- Reference list of up to 30 references – not included in the 3-page limit

The Research Plan must include the following components:

- **Background (including Preliminary Results, if available), and Significance:** Significance of gaining insight into sex differences and/or the role of gender on the biology of the research focus, and/or on women’s health



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- **Specific Aims:** Establish the overall purpose of the study and define the specific study objectives.
- **Research Design:** Method description should be sufficiently detailed to convince reviewers of feasibility and validity. Details should focus on the novel aspects of the project rather than published or standard techniques. Statistical approaches to data analysis should be outlined where applicable.

The following sections are not included in the 3-page limit, but are required to be included in the proposal:

- **12 month Project Timeline:** This summary may be presented as a chart, a paragraph, or incorporated throughout the experimental design. Milestones should highlight specific goals to be attained and, when appropriate, hypotheses to be tested.

VI. REVIEW CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated and scored using the following criteria:

1. Scientific Approach: Rigor and technical merit
2. Investigator Collaboration: Quality and feasibility of community and academic partner involvement and mentorship
3. Significance: Impact on health knowledge, practice, outcome or policy
4. Sustainability: Likelihood that the project will promote continued collaboration and external funding.
5. Feasibility of project completion within a 12-month period
6. Budget: Cost effectiveness and availability of support/matching funds

VII. FUNDING DECISIONS

Based on review committee scoring, funding decisions will be finalized by September 22, 2017. All applicants will be notified of the review committee's funding decision and given specific feedback on their proposals. **The start and end date of the 12-month grant will be included in the notification of the funding decision.**



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VIII. RFA TIMELINE

RFA Release:	June 27, 2017
Proposal Deadline:	September 1, 2017
Funding Decisions:	September 22, 2017
Presentation:	TBD, Spring 2018

Questions about the seed grant Application should be directed to Wendy Dauber (212-737-5663 or WDauber@gendermed.org) for the Foundation; Dr. Sabra Klein (410-955-8898 or sklein2@jh.u.edu) for the Johns Hopkins Center for Women's Health, Sex, and Gender Research.