



Women First Research Coalition

WFRC Fourth Quarter 2022 Activities Update

Legislative Activities

Update on Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations

On Tuesday, December 20, Congress released an [agreement](#) on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 omnibus appropriations bill. The bill includes \$47.5 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), \$1.75 billion for the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), \$7.1 billion for the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and \$2.4 billion for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). The omnibus formally authorizes the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), placing it within NIH, not outside NIH as the House-passed ARPA-H Act did. Despite the authorization formally placing ARPA-H within NIH, the legislation appropriates \$1.5 billion in funding for FY 2023, an increase of \$500 million above the FY 2022 enacted level, but this funding is in addition to the \$47.5 billion provided to NIH.

The bill included \$76.5 million for the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH), as well as \$5 million for the Building Interdisciplinary Research Centers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) program, which are both increases over FY 2022 levels.

Once adopted, the House Labor-HHS report, which includes both the menopause RCDC and NASEM language, will be deemed in effect. Additionally, we were pleased to see that WFRC's NASEM report language request was included in the joint report that accompanies the omnibus.

The Senate voted to approve the omnibus appropriations bill on Thursday, December 22 and the House is expected to pass it by Friday, December 23.

Letter to Appropriations Leadership

The WFRC sent a letter to the leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees urging them to finish work on the FY 2023 omnibus funding bill. We requested the inclusion of the WFRC's two report language requests, which were both included in the reports accompanying the House Labor-HHS appropriations bill and the Senate draft bill. The report language requests included a NASEM study on gaps in women's health research, and the creation of a Research, Condition, and Disease Categorization (RCDC) on menopause.

Agency Outreach

ORWH-WFRC Meeting

On October 24, the WFRC meet with the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) Director Dr. Janine Clayton, and with Jamie White, the Health Science and Strategy Lead for ORWH. Dr. Clayton provided an update on the implementation of the Women's Health Consensus Conference report, which will be incorporated into the new ORWH strategic plan. We discussed how ORWH will be collaborating with the National Cancer Institute (NCI) on new approaches to address women's health, and we shared with data on gynecologic cancer occurrence and disparities in health outcomes. We also discussed

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNECOLOGISTS • AMERICAN GYNECOLOGICAL & OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY • AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE • AMERICAN UROGYNECOLOGIC SOCIETY • INFECTIOUS DISEASE SOCIETY FOR OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY • NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC AND ADOLESCENT GYNECOLOGY • SOCIETY FOR ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY • SOCIETY FOR ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS IN GENERAL OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY • SOCIETY OF FAMILY PLANNING • SOCIETY OF GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY • SOCIETY FOR MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE • SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY AND INFERTILITY • SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE INVESTIGATION • SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH

ORWH's support for the biomedical workforce and Dr. Clayton shared several funding announcements and training programs that the ORWH is supporting.

Outreach to NICHD on Reproductive Medicine Network

The WFRC sent a letter to the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Director Bianchi expressing our concerns with the changes made to the Reproductive Medicine Network (RMN) and the impact that these have had on delaying important advances in this field of research. We urged NICHD to revisit the changes and to continue to support fertility and infertility research, as well as better meet the needs of patients. The WFRC will be meeting with NICHD on the RMNs in January 2023.

Agency Activities

NIH's CSR Releases 2022-2027 Strategic Plan

The Center for Scientific Review (CSR) finalized its [2022-2027 Strategic Plan](#) comprised of five overarching goals that organize CSR's current and future initiatives. The WFRC was one of 13 scientific societies to provide comments on the draft strategic plan earlier this year. We were pleased to see our input included in the final strategic plan and look forward to working with CSR as they implement the strategic plan.

Office of Science and Technology Policy Vision to Transform and Enhance the U.S. STEM Ecosystem

The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) released a [framework](#) for improving equitable participation in STEM, which addresses five action areas. This document is the result of the passage of the CHIPS and Science Act, and OSTP has led efforts to identify promising strategies for how cross-sector collaborations can create pathways to opportunities and success. The goal of the framework is for all sectors, including federal agencies, to collaborate on implementing the five action areas identified in the report.

Sex, Gender, and Intersectionality (SG&I) Innovations Collaborative

ORWH recently launched the [Sex, Gender, and Intersectionality \(SG&I\) Innovations Collaborative website](#), which aims to identify research gaps and unmet health needs related to a limited focus on and understanding of sex, gender and intersectionality across health research, clinical research and the biomedical enterprise. WFRC members are invited to join the SG&I LinkedIn group, and further updates on the collaborative will be coming in January.

NIH Releases UNITE 2022 Progress Report

The NIH released a [progress report](#) on the Ending Structural Racism (UNITE) Initiative, which they kicked off in 2021 with a Request for Information (RFI) on strategies to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout all facets of the biomedical research enterprise. The WFRC submitted comments on the RFI, which discussed the need to address funding disparities and suggestions for improving the diversity of the biomedical research workforce and study sections. The progress report is an update on all the activities relevant to the input received from the RFI.

Organizational Update

Update to WFRC's Goals for 2023

We have updated the WFRC's Advocacy Goals to reflect our priorities for 2023. We will be discussing the revised document on the January 4 WFRC monthly call and look forward to everyone's feedback and engagement in the coming year!

Member Updates

WFRC Member Co-authors Article on Women's Health Inequity

Katie Schubert, President and CEO of the Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR), recently co-authored an [article](#) on the need to measure inequities in women's health in order to better address it. The article was published in Health Equity and includes several recommendations and calls-to-action to improve data on health inequity in women.

Funding Opportunities from NIH I/Cs

NIH Research Opportunities for New and "At-Risk" Investigators to Promote Workforce Diversity (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)

This [FOA](#) solicits R01 grant applications from "New Investigators" and "At-Risk Investigators" from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the health-related sciences (e.g., see [NOT-OD-20-031](#), Notice of [NIH](#)'s Interest in Diversity), in order to enhance the diversity of R01-funded investigators. *Only applications that fall within the scientific missions of participating ICs will be considered for funding.*

Implementing a Maternal health and PRenancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone ([IMPROVE](#)) Initiative Funding Opportunities

Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence:

- [RFA-HD-23-035](#) — Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence (U54 Clinical Trial Optional). Application due date: December 5, 2022
- [RFA-HD-23-036](#) — Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence Data Innovation and Coordinating Hub/Resource Center (U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed). Application due date: December 5, 2022
- [RFA-HD-23-037](#) — Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence Implementation Science Hub/Resource Center (U24 Clinical Trial Optional). Application due date: December 5, 2022

IMPROVE Community Implementation Program (IMPROVE-CIP) Solicitation for Research Coalitions ([OTA-20-014-C](#)): The first due date is December 16, 2022.

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Small Business Initiatives for Innovative Diagnostic Technology for Improving Outcomes for Maternal Health ([NOT-EB-21-001](#)): The next due date is January 5, 2023.

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Implementation Science to Advance Maternal Health and Maternal Health Equity for the IMPROVE initiative ([NOT-HD-22-043](#)): The first available due date is February 6, 2023.

Apply for the Reissuance of "The Intersection of Sex and Gender Influences on Health and Disease (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)" ([RFA-OD-22-028](#)): The funding opportunity announcement invites R01

applications on the influence and intersection of sex and gender in health and disease, including (1) research applications that examine sex- and gender-related factors and their intersection in understanding health and disease and (2) applications that address one of the five objectives from Strategic Goal 1 of the 2019–2023 [Trans-NIH Strategic Plan for Women's Health Research](#). The open date is November 21, 2022; the first due date is [December 19, 2022](#).

Apply for the Reissuance of “Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research on the Health of Women of Understudied, Underrepresented and Underreported (U3) Populations (Admin Supp Clinical Trial Optional)” (NOT-OD-22-208): The NOSI encourages rigorous experimental designs—as well as the implementation of collaborative interdisciplinary research on the common causes and pathways of ill health and disease, differential risk, morbidity, and mortality—across socioecological domains and levels of influence. It also encourages thoughtful incorporation of intersectionality into research. The deadline is [January 31, 2023](#).

Apply for the Reissuance of “Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Administrative Supplements for Research on Sex and/or Gender Influences (Admin Supp Clinical Trial Optional)” (NOT-OD-22-030): The administrative supplements are to support research highlighting the impact of sex and/or gender influences in human health and illness. The application due date is [January 26, 2023](#).

ORWH Science Policy Scholar Travel Awards: ORWH is offering two Science Policy Scholar Travel Awards to support the development of junior investigators who are focused on women's health or sex and gender differences and are also interested in research policy. The travel awards will provide up to \$3,000 each to defray the costs of attending the [Organization for the Study of Sex Differences \(OSSD\) Annual Meeting](#) on May 7–11, 2023, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Learn more [here](#).

The Team Science Leadership Scholars Program (LSP) in Women's Health, Autoimmune and Immune-Mediated Disease (RFA-AMP/AIM-LSP-22-001): In September 2022, ORWH in partnership with the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) announced a pilot program to support and train research scholars by helping them acquire and hone team science leadership and mentoring skills. The Team Science Leadership Scholars Program (LSP) in Women's Health is now accepting funding applications. The LSP is funded by ORWH and embedded within the [Accelerating Medicines Partnership® Autoimmune and Immune-Mediated Diseases \(AMP® AIM\)](#) program. This joint initiative aligns NIAMS' goal of supporting team science and collaboration with ORWH's vision of preparing leaders in women's health research. The application due date is February 20, 2023.

Galvanizing Health Equity Through Novel and Diverse Educational Resources (GENDER) Research Education R25 (R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) (RFA-OD-22-015): AIDS Application due date: January 7, 2023.

NOSI: Administrative Supplements to Promote Research Continuity and Retention of NIH Mentored Career Development (K) Award Recipients and Scholars (NOT-OD-23-031): First available due date: January 16, 2023; submission dates vary by awarding Institute or Center.

NOSI: Administrative Supplement for Continuity of Biomedical and Behavioral Research Among First-Time Recipients of NIH Research Project Grant Awards (NOT-OD-23-032): First available due date: January 16, 2023; submission dates vary by awarding Institute or Center.