



Women First Research Coalition

WFRC Second Quarter 2022 Activities Update

FY 2023 Appropriations Activities

Submitted Outside Witness Testimony to the Senate Appropriations Committee

The WFRC submitted outside witness testimony to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill. We requested \$49.048 billion, an increase of \$4.1 billion, to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We also requested that the committees consider including our report language calling for a National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAEM) study on women's health research, and the creation of a Research Condition, Disease Categorization (RCDC) category for menopause at the NIH in the report that accompanies the final FY 2023 Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

Senator Duckworth Dear Colleague Letter on WFRC's Report Language Requests

Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) led a Dear Colleague letter to gain support for the WFRC's two report language requests calling for the NIH to contract with the NAEM to conduct a study on women's health research, and the creation of a RCDC category for menopause at the NIH. The WFRC is pleased to share that we had 15 Senators sign-on to the letter, including the following: Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Tom Carper (D-DE), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Angus King (I-ME), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Ed Markey (D-MA), Jack Reed (D-RI), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Tina Smith (D-MN), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Ron Wyden (D-OR).

Support for NIH-focused Report Language Requests from WFRC Members

Thanks to input from WFRC members, we compiled letters in support of NIH-focused report language that has been submitted by WFRC member organizations. We sent the letters to the House and Senate appropriators, which support inclusion of the language in the report accompanying the FY 2023 Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

Supporting Legislation to Advance Research

- In April, WFRC members reached out to their members of Congress asking for them to support the **Endometriosis Awareness Month Resolution**, introduced by Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV). WFRC endorsed the resolution prior to its release in March.
- WFRC endorsed Representative Lauren Underwood's (D-IL) **Endometriosis CARE Act**, which would fund investments that are needed to advance endometriosis research, develop and expand access to treatments, and promote public awareness.
- WFRC worked with Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL) to develop potential policies to be included in future legislation focused on women's health.

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

Agency Outreach

WFRC-NIH Meetings

The WFRC requested meetings with leaders from the following NIH institutes and centers: National Cancer Institute (NCI), *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), and the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH). The NCI and NICHD meetings have been scheduled for July 6 and September 6, respectively. We look forward to updating WFRC members on the outcomes in these meetings in the Third Quarter update.

Agency Submissions

ORWH Strategic Plan

The ORWH is preparing to begin work on the next iteration of their strategic plan. The current strategic plan expires in 2023, and the next iteration will build upon the work that ORWH has done over the last 5 years. The WFRC consolidated feedback from members and shared it with ORWH to consider as they begin drafting the next strategic plan.

ORWH RFI on COVID-19 and Women's Health

The WFRC responded to the ORWH's [request for information](#) seeking input on research gaps, clinical practice needs, and research opportunities to inform research priority setting and the intersection of the SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 pandemic and the health of women. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the need to advance research on the health of women; therefore, the WFRC recommended that ORWH and the NIH focus on the following areas of research (1) The impact of COVID-19 during pregnancy, including COVID-19 prevention and treatment; (2) The impact of COVID-19 on other conditions, like obesity and menopause, that are more common or unique to women; and (3) The effects of COVID-19 on women in the biomedical workforce.

Agency Activities

6th Annual Vivian W. Pinn Symposium

On May 12, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) hosted the 6th Annual Vivian W. Pinn Symposium focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the careers of women scientists. The ORWH reported survey results showing that 53 percent of women respondents said the pandemic would have a negative impact on their career trajectory, with 77 percent of women reported decreased productivity since the pandemic began. The ORWH believes the pandemic has highlighted an opportunity to implement interventions to promote equity. Jamie White, ORWH's Health Science Strategy and Relations Lead, announced the launch of ORWH's Sex, Gender, & Intersectionality (SG&I) Innovations Collaborative to achieve gender health equity through partnership and health science diplomacy and literacy to advance science and improve innovation to better health and society. For more details, you can find a full recording of the symposium [here](#).

ORWH Consensus Conference

The ORWH released the [executive summary](#) and other related materials from the consensus conference, titled "Advancing NIH Research on the Health of Women: A 2021 Conference" held last October. The

executive summary focused on key topics discussed during the conference including (1) clinical practices related to rising maternal morbidity and mortality rates; (2) increasing rates of chronic debilitating conditions in women; and (3) stagnant cervical cancer survival rates. We expect the final report to be released later this year.

Funding Opportunities from NIH I/Cs

Notice of Special Interest: Administrative Supplements to Advance Precision Medicine Using the *All of Us* Research Program's Data ([NOT-PM-22-002](#))

Application due date: July 5, 2022

Improving Maternal Health through Addressing Endometriosis, Fibroids, and/or Polycystic Ovary Syndrome ([WH-AST-22-001](#))

Application due date: July 7, 2022

Reducing Maternal Deaths Due To Substance Use Disorder ([WH-AST-22-003](#))

Application due date: July 11, 2022

NIH Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation (FIRST) Program: FIRST Cohort (U54 Clinical Trial Optional) ([RFA-RM-22-008](#))

Application due date: July 12, 2022

Chronic, Non-Communicable Diseases and Disorders Across the Lifespan: Fogarty International Research Training Award (NCD-LIFESPAN) (D43 Clinical Trial Optional) ([PAR-22-104](#))

Application due date: July 13, 2022

NIH Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) (R25 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed) ([PAR-20-153](#))

Application due date: July 13, 2022

Violence Against Women and Substance Use Prevention Initiative ([WH-AST-22-004](#))

Application due date: July 13, 2022

Limited Competition: Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program: Collaborative and Innovative Acceleration Award (UG3/UH3 Clinical Trial Optional) ([PAR-22-167](#))

Application due date: July 15, 2022

Emergency Awards: HEAL Initiative: Coordinating Center for National Pain Scientists Career Development (R24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) ([RFA-NS-22-060](#))

Final application due date: July 15, 2022

Study Suggests Female Scientists Are Credited Less Than Male Scientists

A recent study published in *Nature* found that there is a well-documented gap in the number of scientific works produced by women and men in science, which establishes clear consequences for the retention and promotion of women in science. Specifically, the article shows that female scientists are less likely than male scientists to be credited on scholarly articles. Results show the gender gap showing across almost all scientific fields and career stages. For more details, read the article [here](#).

Organizational Updates

WFRC Solicits Co-Chair Nominations

Consistent with WFRC's new organizational documents, WFRC put out a call for two new co-chairs whose terms will begin on September 1 of this year. The call for nominations has concluded and the voting membership of WFRC will approve the co-chair slate this summer. Look out for a welcome message from the new co-chairs in the Third Quarter update.