



Women First Research Coalition

WFRC First Quarter 2023 Activities Update

Legislative Activities

2023 Virtual Hill Day

The WFRC held a successful virtual hill day on March 16. Staff scheduled 15 meetings with Hill staff which were attended by 7 representatives of the WFRC member organizations. WFRC's goals for the virtual hill day were to ask Congress to support WFRC's federal funding priorities, educate members of Congress about WFRC and the need for increased funding for women's health research; and develop relationships with Members of Congress and their staff. Specifically, the WFRC asked Congress to –

- Include WFRC's report language on "BIRCWH Fellows Program", "WRHR Career Development Program", and "Reproductive Medicine Network"; and
- Include increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the Labor HHS bill for FY 2024.

WFRC Report Language Requests for Fiscal Year 2024

WFRC developed three report language requests for Fiscal Year 2024. The first request is for the committee to include \$6 million for the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) program. The second request is for the committee to include \$3 million for the Women Reproductive Health Research (WRHR) career development program. The third request is for the NICHD to report back on its' plan to support clinical trials on infertility similar to the Reproductive Medicine Network (RMN). We are pleased to report that Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) will be leading a Dear Colleague letter urging her colleagues to support the BIRCWH program.

FY 2024 Outside Witness Testimony Submitted to House and Senate Appropriations

The WFRC submitted outside witness testimony to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Educated and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill. We requested \$50.9 billion, an increase of \$3.5 billion, to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We also requested that the committees consider including our report language calling for \$6 million for the BIRCWH program, calling for \$3 million for the WRHR program, and asking NICHD to re-instate an infertility research network similar to the RMN in the report that accompanies the final FY 2024 Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

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 2024 Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

Support for Endometriosis Month Resolution

The WFRC [endorsed](#) a resolution on Endometriosis Month, led by Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV).

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNECOLOGISTS • AMERICAN GYNECOLOGICAL & OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY • AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE • AMERICAN UROGYNECOLOGIC SOCIETY • COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY CHAIRS IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY • 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

WRHR-WFRC Meeting

On January 5, WFRC members met with NICHD staff who work on the Women's Reproductive Health Research (WRHR) career development program to discuss our concerns with the reduced number of slots in the WRHR program in recent years. We discussed how to increase the number of slots, including through increased funding to the program, as well as the importance of increasing diversity in the WRHR participants.

Outreach to NICHD on Reproductive Medicine Network

On January 3, WFRC members met with NICHD staff on our concerns with NICHD's decision to replace the Reproductive Medicine Network (RMN) with the Consortia for Infertility and Reproductive Medicine (ConFIRM) Clinical Trial Program. We shared how researchers have been impacted by the change, which is imperiling infertility supported by the network, is forcing awardees to duplicate efforts, and is limiting sites ability to share foundational research. We had a productive discussion; however, NICHD is not planning to make immediate changes to the new structure. This led to the WFRC's report language on the RMN that we submitted for the FY24 appropriations process.

Agency Activities

ORWH Launches Sex and Gender Webpage

The Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) has a [new webpage](#) on Sex and Gender. The site includes information on the differences and interactions between sex and gender and why these differences are important to advance health for everyone, in particular for women. It also highlights ORWH's specific programs and resources related to sex and gender.

7th Annual Vivian W. Pinn Symposium

ORWH is hosting the 7th annual Vivian W. Pinn [Symposium](#) on May 16, which is titled "Menopause and Optimizing Midlife Health of Women." The symposium will discuss menopausal transition, accumulation of morbidity after menopause, menopause in special populations, social determinants of health, menopausal hormonal therapy, and interventions to promote healthy aging. Register [here](#) for the symposium.

Funding Opportunities from NIH I/Cs

1. Multisite Clinical Research: Leveraging Network Infrastructure to Advance Research for Women, Children, Pregnant and Lactating Individuals, and Persons with Disabilities (U01 Clinical Trial Optional) ([PAR-23-037](#))
Earliest submission date: May 5, 2023; Final application due date: June 5, 2023
2. Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Mortality of Adolescents, Young Adults, and Other NICHD Priority Populations in the United States ([NOT-HD-23-001](#))
Earliest submission date: June 5, 2023; Subsequent receipt dates through September 8, 2024
3. Understanding Chronic Conditions Understudied Among Women (R01 Clinical Trial Optional) ([RFA-OD-23-014](#))

Letter of intent due date: May 19, 2023; Earliest submission date: May 19, 2023; Final application due date: June 20, 2023

4. Understanding Chronic Conditions Understudied Among Women (R21 Clinical Trial Optional) ([RFA-OD-23-013](#))

Letter of intent due date: May 19, 2023; Earliest submission date: May 19, 2023; Final application due date: June 20, 2023

5. Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Mortality of Adolescents, Young Adults, and Other NICHD Priority Populations in the United States ([NOT-HD-23-001](#))

Earliest submission date: June 5, 2023; Subsequent receipt dates through September 8, 2024

6. Galvanizing Health Equity Through Novel and Diverse Educational Resources (GENDER) Research Education R25 (R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) ([RFA-OD-22-015](#))

Application due date June 27, 2023

7. NOSI: Administrative Supplements to Promote Research Continuity and Retention of NIH Mentored Career Development (K) Award Recipients and Scholars ([NOT-OD-23-031](#))

Submission dates vary by awarding Institute or Center.

8. NOSI: Administrative Supplement for Continuity of Biomedical and Behavioral Research Among First-Time Recipients of NIH Research Project Grant Awards ([NOT-OD-23-032](#))

Submission dates vary by awarding Institute or Center.