



Women First Research Coalition

WFRC Second Quarter 2023 Activities Update

Organizational Activities

WFRC Solicits Co-Chair Nominations

Consistent with WFRC's 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.

Legislative Activities

WFRC Report Language Requests for Fiscal Year 2024

WFRC continued to advocate for our three report language requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. As a reminder, 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 were pleased to see that 16 senators joined Senator Tammy Duckworth's (D-IL) Dear Colleague letter in support of the BIRCWH program.

BIRCWH Program Advocacy Efforts

While we were pleased to see 17 senators sign onto the Dear Colleague letter in support of the BIRCWH program, we were disappointed that no Senate republicans signed on to the letter. Therefore, WFRC has prepared a strategy to educate Senate republicans on the BIRCWH program and explore opportunities for collaboration and support. WFRC members and staff plan to hold virtual meetings this summer and we hope to garner support through these conversations.

Agency Outreach

ORWH-WFRC Meeting

On June 29, WFRC members met with ORWH Director, Dr. Janine Clayton, and ORWH staff to discuss issues of importance to ORWH and WFRC members. In follow up to the discussion, WFRC will request a meeting with the Center for Scientific Review to discuss a women's health study section and will have a separate follow-up conversation on issues related to endometrial and cervical cancers.

Outreach to NIA

WFRC requested and scheduled a meeting with the National Institute on Aging (NIA) for August 31. WFRC staff will work with WFRC leadership and members to develop an agenda for the meeting. We are excited for the upcoming meeting to discuss issues related to aging and women's health research.

Agency Activities

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

WFRC Responds to NIH RFI on Postdoctoral Training

WFRC was pleased to submit comments on the NIH's request for information (RFI) on [U.S. Postdoctoral Research Training and Career Progression within the Biomedical Research Enterprise](#). Drawing upon the collective expertise of WFRC organization members, we provided valuable feedback on the postdoc experience, including issues and challenges inhibiting recruitment, retention, and overall quality of life of postdoc trainees as well as existing policies, programs, and resources that could be used to enhance the postdoc training ecosystem and academic research career pathways.

NASEM Call for Nominations

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) issued a call for nominations for experts to participate in a new study focused on women's health research. The study entitled "Assessment of NIH Research on Women's Health" is a direct result of the report language WFRC secured in the FY 2023 Labor-HHS appropriations bill. WFRC looks forward to sharing regular updates on the developments of this study as information becomes available.

Dr. Bertagnolli Nominated to Lead NIH

On Monday, May 15, President Joe Biden [announced](#) his intent to nominate Dr. Monica Bertagnolli, a renowned surgical oncologist and cancer researcher, as the Director of the NIH. The White House stated that Dr. Bertagnolli's leadership and expertise will support the NIH's mission to advance biomedical research and improve human health, building on her achievements as the current Director of the National Cancer Institute. Since this nomination, there has been some pushback from the Hill. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chair Bernie Sanders (I-VT) said he [will not bring](#) President Biden's nomination of Monica Bertagnolli to serve as NIH Director, nor will he advance any other health nominees, until the administration produces a comprehensive plan to lower the cost of prescription drugs. WFRC will continue to monitor Dr. Bertagnolli's nomination and provide updates to membership.

Funding Opportunities from NIH I/Cs

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): EXposome in Autoimmune Disease Collaborating Teams PLANning Awards (EXACT-PLAN) (Clinical Trials Not Allowed) ([NOT-OD-23-112](#)) Application due date: June 16, 2023

Translational Research in Maternal and Pediatric Pharmacology and Therapeutics (R21 Clinical Trial Optional) ([PAR-23-131](#)) Application due date: June 16, 2023

Understanding Chronic Conditions Understudied Among Women (R01 Clinical Trial Optional) ([RFA-OD-23-014](#)) Application due date: June 20, 2023

Understanding Chronic Conditions Understudied Among Women (R21 Clinical Trial Optional) ([RFA-OD-23-013](#)) Application due date: June 20, 2023

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

Interventions to expand cancer screening and preventive services to ADVANCE health in populations that experience health disparities (R01, Clinical Trial Required) ([PAR-23-170](#)) Earliest application submission date: September 5, 2023; Application due date: October 5, 2023

Investigator-Initiated Research in Genomics and Health Equity (R01 Clinical Trial Optional) ([RFA-HG-23-017](#)) Letter of intent due date and earliest application submission date: October 8, 2023; Application due date: November 8, 2023

Investigator-Initiated Research in Genomics and Health Equity (R21 Clinical Trial Optional) ([RFA-HG-23-018](#)) Letter of intent due date and earliest application submission date: October 8, 2023; Application due date: November 8, 2023

NOSI: Research to Improve Pre-Pregnancy Care and Enhance Healthy Birth Intervals ([NOT-HD-23-003](#)) Applications will be accepted through May 8, 2024

Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) (S06 Clinical Trial Optional) ([PAR-23-166](#)) Letter of intent due date and earliest application submission date: June 8, 2024; Application due date: July 8, 2024

NOSI: Mortality of Adolescents, Young Adults, and Other NICHD Priority Populations in the United States ([NOT-HD-23-001](#)) Applications will be accepted through September 8, 2024

NOSI: Administrative Supplements to Leverage Network Infrastructure to Advance Multisite Research for Women, Children, Pregnant and Lactating Individuals and/or Persons with Disabilities ([NOT-HD-23-005](#)) Applications will be accepted through March 31, 2026

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.

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.