

2015 Call for Pilot Research Project Applications



The Washington University Center for Women's Infectious Disease Research (cWIDR) promotes interdisciplinary research aimed at discovering the microbial and host mechanisms underlying infectious diseases (ID), particularly those that affect women and girls. Substantial resources have been dedicated to the study of human genetics, in which identification of polymorphisms and mutations contributing to disease susceptibility and progression lead to tailored strategies of disease prevention and treatment. Fewer resources have

been devoted to understanding the clinical consequences of a major genetic factor that affects every human being: our sex chromosomes. For years, the study of sex differences on women's health has been relegated to reproductive health. However, sex differences in gene expression across the genome result in differences in nearly all tissues and body systems, including changes in biochemistry, physiology, immunology, and pharmacokinetics, which in turn contribute directly to variability in disease susceptibility and treatment response.

We are now accepting proposals for 2015 cWIDR Pilot Research Grants to attract investigators who are interested in initiating research on infectious disease in women.

Priority will be given to new research (not currently funded by internal or external mechanisms) that will lead to a future application to an external funding agency. Proposals that utilize a wide range of research methods and disciplinary perspectives are highly encouraged.

We seek proposals initiating new research or developing tools to study:

- 1) pathogens/infectious diseases that predominantly affect women or girls
- 2) pathogens/infectious diseases that affect females differently from males at any stage of life
- 3) differences in the immune response to infection of females and males
- 4) genetic differences in hosts or microbes that predispose females vs males to an infection or sequelae.

Eligibility: All Washington University Faculty and Instructors.

Senior postdoctoral research associates (with letter of support from faculty mentor)

Application Information:

Application Due: **5:00 pm June 30, 2015**

Email a single PDF to betty@wustl.edu

Notice of Award: Awards will be announced by mid-August 2015

Award Period: September 1, 2015 – August 31, 2016

Award Amount: Up to **\$25,000 Direct Costs.**

Interdisciplinary projects with awards up to \$75,000 Direct costs will also be considered.

Budget Restriction: Carry over and No-Cost Extensions are not allowed

Further details, forms and instructions are located at: <http://cwidr.wustl.edu/pilotgrant.htm>

Review Criteria: Projects will be reviewed for scientific merit, creativity & innovation, originality & importance, potential for the project to lead to external funding, and ability to advance the cWIDR's overall mission.

For more information, contact Dr. Scott Hultgren, hultgren@wustl.edu