



# **Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health**

## **UIC BIRCWH Program Scholar Application Packet Spring 2020**

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# Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health

**Program Description:** The University of Illinois at Chicago's (UIC) women's health and sex/gender-based research career development program, *Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health* (BIRCWH), is an NIH-funded K12 training grant to mentor scientists in women's health and sex/gender-based health research. During the funding period, the UIC BIRCWH program will train junior faculty BIRCWH scholars to become independent women's health or sex/gender-based research investigators.

The program consists of a core and tailored curriculum, research training, mentoring (by a team of two or more senior women's health or sex/gender-based health researchers), individualized career planning, and a research project. Scholars include a diverse group of junior faculty members who focus on research in alignment with the 2019-2023 Trans-NIH Strategic Plan for Women's Health Research. This call is for three scholars who will begin funding on **June 15, 2020 (anticipated)**.

**Core Activities:** Scholars are **required to devote 75% of professional effort** to program activities including research, core and tailored curricula, and other BIRCWH program activities. Surgeons are required to devote 50% of professional effort to these activities.

**The BIRCWH program will fund 75% of the scholar's salary (50% for surgeons), up to a maximum of \$100,000.00/year (salary plus fringe benefits) for a minimum of two years conditional upon meeting program requirements. The program will also fund \$35,000 annually in research support.** The scholar's college and/or department will be responsible for the remaining 25% of salary. Additionally, the dean of each scholar's college will be asked to commit \$25,000 in career development funds annually to their scholar in the BIRCWH program.

## **Program Leadership:**

Pauline M. Maki, PhD  
Professor of Psychiatry, Psychology & Ob/Gyn  
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Professor and Director, Research Division  
Director, Perinatal Research Laboratory  
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312-996-8786

## **Program Coordinator:**

Nyahne Bergeron, MPH  
[nberge1@uic.edu](mailto:nberge1@uic.edu)

## **Source of Support:**

National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women's Health, National Institute on Child Health and Human Development.



# Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health

## Eligible BIRCWH Scholar applicants will:

1. Have a doctoral degree in a clinical or research discipline (e.g. MD, PharmD, DVM, DDS or PhD) and be engaged in women's health or sex/gender-based research in such fields as nursing, medicine, pharmacy, social work, epidemiology, psychology, sociology and/or biostatistics.
2. Have completed any postgraduate training normally expected for a faculty appointment in their field (including clinical or postdoctoral fellowship training or residency).
3. Have **no more than six years of research or research training experience** beyond their last doctoral degree (excepting those who may have had a career hiatus due to family responsibilities or uniformed service).
4. Have a **full-time, tenure track faculty appointment** at UIC.
5. Identify mentors with extensive women's health or sex/gender-based research experience.
6. Be US citizens or non-citizen nationals, or lawfully admitted for permanent residence.
7. Be able to commit **75% of full-time professional effort** (50% for surgeons) to the BIRCWH program and its related research activities.

## Those who are ineligible include:

1. Individuals who are or have been a Principal Investigator on a mentored career development grant (K-series) or who have had substantial independent funding (e.g., R01, P01, P50) or other equivalent research grant awards.
2. Non-U.S. citizens or individuals on temporary or student visas.

The leadership of the BIRCWH Program encourages individuals from **all health disciplines and backgrounds** to apply.

## Application Submission:

Please submit all application materials by **Friday, May 15, 2020 at 5:00pm CDT**. Please contact us if you require additional time to apply.

**If by e-mail**, type "BIRCWH Application Packet" in the subject line and send to Nyahne Bergeron at [nberge1@uic.edu](mailto:nberge1@uic.edu).

**If by mail**, please postmark application materials by the due date and send to:

**BIRCWH Program  
Center for Research on Women and Gender (M/C 980)  
1640 W. Roosevelt Rd.  
Chicago, IL 60608**

## Application Timeline:

Full application due:	<b>May 15, 2020</b>
Candidate interviews:	<b>May 18 – May 29, 2020</b>
Candidates informed of selection:	<b>June 1, 2020</b>
Scholar start date:	<b>June 15, 2020</b>

## **UIC BIRCWH Program Scholar Application Packet Checklist**

Please use this checklist to track all required application materials. For full consideration, all materials must be received by **Friday, May 15, 2020 at 5:00pm CDT**. Please contact us if you need additional time to complete the application.

**1. Program Application Form (see page 5).**

**2. Your current *curriculum vitae*.**

**3. Your current NIH biosketch.** A template can be downloaded from:  
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>.

**4. A writing sample.** A publication related to your research is preferred, but an unpublished paper is acceptable. Include a 3-4 sentence cover note indicating your role in the work as well as your assessment of its significance. We ask that this sample not be more than 10 pages; please use excerpts to represent longer works.

***Your application form, CV, NIH Biosketch, and writing sample should be submitted to the mailing address or e-mail address listed on page 3.***

**5. Ensure we receive the following letters of support for your application:**

**5a.**  **Primary mentor** (must have research experience in women's health or sex/gender-based health research).

**5b.**  **Secondary mentor** (not required to have experience in women's health or sex/gender-based research, but must be able to contribute to your research and career development goals).

The letters from your primary and secondary mentors should include a statement indicating their knowledge of you as an applicant, detail on their support of your professional development to date (if applicable), and potential availability and commitment to you as your mentor during the BIRCWH program, including attendance in monthly mentor/scholar group meetings.

**5c.**  **Department head/chair**

This letter must include a statement of understanding that your participation in the BIRCWH program requires you to devote 75% (50% for surgeons) of your professional effort to research and program activities and that any difference in salary not covered by the BIRCWH program will be covered by your home department, college, or other supplemental funds.

**5d.**  **Deans (Other than the College of Medicine where support is already established).**

This letter must include a statement of his/her commitment of \$25,000 annually towards career development funds to support your participation in the BIRCWH program.

***The letters of support should be submitted directly to the BIRCWH Program from your primary and secondary mentors, department head/chair, and dean.*** When submitting requests for letters, please inform those writing your letters of the deadline: **Friday, May 15, 2020 at 5:00pm CDT**. Please contact us to request an extension if needed.

Letters of support may be submitted via email to **Nyahne Bergeron at [nberge1@uic.edu](mailto:nberge1@uic.edu)** or by mail to: **BIRCWH Program, Center for Research on Women and Gender (M/C 980), 1640 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, IL 60608.**



# Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health

## UIC BIRCWH Program Scholar Application

Please complete all sections. If you have a concern or question about this application, please email Nyahne Bergeron at nberge1@uic.edu.

### Part I – Basic Data

Name:	
Birthdate (mm/dd/yyyy):	
Citizenship: (select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Citizen or U.S. Noncitizen National <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent resident <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above

Contact Information			
Work phone:		Home phone:	
E-mail address:		Cell phone:	
Home address:			

Current Appointment Information	
Current title:	
Tenure track?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Department:	
Office address:	

Education and Academic Qualifications (certificates, diplomas, etc.)*			
Institution Name/Location	Dates of Training (month/year)	Degree(s) Earned (date received)	Major/Minor Fields of Study

Previous NIH Support*		
Grant Title	Grant Type and Number	Role (Co-I, PI, etc.)

\*If more space is needed, you may insert rows or add more than one entry per row.

## Part II – Candidate Qualifications Statement

### 1. RESEARCH INTERESTS

In 500 words or less, describe the proposed women's health or sex/gender-based research you wish to investigate under this program. Include the research question or topic that you hope to address, the aims of your research, and your intended outcomes. What do you hope will be your project's significance to the advancement of women's health or sex/gender-based research?

### 2. BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

In 250 words or less, describe your interest in women's health or sex/gender-based research, the research experience you have had to date in these areas (please specifically note funded research experience), and any additional training.

### 3. EXPERIENCE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMS

In 250 words or less, describe what interdisciplinary women's health research or sex/gender-based research means to you. Discuss any interdisciplinary research that you have performed or participated in to date.

### 4. PROFESSIONAL GOALS

In 250 words or less, describe your short-term (1-5 years) and long-term (5+ years) professional goals. Why is participation in the BIRCWH Program appropriate for you at this time in your career? In what ways can the BIRCWH Program help you reach these goals?

### 5. QUALIFICATIONS

In 250 words or less, summarize the key factors (e.g. skills, experience, and interests) that make you an outstanding candidate for this program. If selected as a BIRCWH scholar, how could you contribute to the success of the program?

### 6. MENTORS

Name the mentors with whom you propose to work. In 350 words or less, please describe your mentors' 1) research background, 2) experience in women's health or sex/gender-based research, and, 3) how they will assist with your research/career goals.

**Note:** Your primary mentor must have research experience in women's health or sex/gender-based health research. Your secondary mentor is not required to have experience in women's health or sex/gender-based research, but must be able to contribute to your research and career development goals. A list of current BIRCWH mentors is available on the UIC BIRCWH website at <http://crwg.uic.edu/bircwh-home/bircwh-mentors/>. If you wish to work with any of the current BIRCWH mentors, you should contact them directly regarding your application.

**You may choose to work with mentors who are not on the list.** If you already have a mentor and would like us to consider mentor(s) not included on the current list, please include a brief explanation for your request and submit the proposed mentor's NIH biosketch. Mentors may be changed (by request and with consultation and approval of the program directors) during the BIRCWH program if necessary to best align with your evolving professional needs. Your primary mentor must hold a primary appointment at UIC though other mentors may hold appointments outside of UIC. For mentors' external to UIC, you must provide a plan for regular communication.



## **Part III – Letters of Support**

Please identify who will submit letters of support on your behalf. See page 4 for instructions regarding the content of letters of support.

### **Letter 1: Primary Mentor**

Name:

Title:

Department/College:

Relationship to you:

Telephone:

Email:

Mailing Address:

### **Letter 2: Secondary Mentor**

Name:

Title:

Department/College:

Relationship to you:

Telephone:

Email:

Mailing Address:

### **Letter 3: Department Head/Chair**

Name:

Title:

Department/College:

Relationship to you:

Telephone:

Email:

Mailing Address:

### **Letter 4: Dean (required only for applicants outside of the College of Medicine)**

Name:

Title:

Department/College:

Relationship to you:

Telephone:

Email:

Mailing Address:



## Part IV – Diversity

We are committed to gender and racial/ethnic diversity in the BIRCWH program. Please complete the following questions.

**What is your gender?**                       Female             Male             Transgender/Non-binary/other

**Are you Hispanic or Latinx?**             Yes             No

**What is your racial/ethnic background?**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White                            | <input type="checkbox"/> More than one race                        |

**How did you hear about our program?**

- E-mail from the UIC BIRCWH program
- Faculty, staff or student from the University of Illinois at Chicago
- A person outside of the University of Illinois at Chicago
- Brochure
- Internet/Web
- Word of Mouth
- Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

### Certification

I hereby certify that the information presented in this application is true and correct. I have not knowingly withheld any facts or circumstances that could interfere with the integrity and accuracy of this application.

Signature

Date