

2023 GCRLE GRANTS - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Global Consortium for Reproductive Longevity & Equality (GCRLE)

The Global Consortium for Reproductive Longevity & Equality, with support from the Bia-Echo Foundation, invites investigators to apply for two-year research grants focused on better understanding mechanisms of female reproductive aging.

Overview

The [Global Consortium for Reproductive Longevity & Equality](#) at the [Buck Institute for Research on Aging](#) invites applications for projects focused on understanding the fundamental drivers of female reproductive aging through. Our goal is to support breakthrough research on female reproductive longevity.

The end of fertility sets off a cascade of negative health effects in a woman's body. As a society, every aspect of a woman's life is influenced by the fact that her reproductive capacity is limited -- overall health, family planning, health, and career decisions. Despite its profound impact on women's well-being, female reproductive aging is an understudied topic. We are growing the field by attracting the world's best and brightest researchers to focus their efforts on understanding female reproductive senescence.

GCRLE Grants are intended to fund research that will **identify the unifying biological principles that underlie female reproductive aging**. Four distinct awards are offered for scientists at a variety of career stages. Our goal is to stimulate collaborations and relationships across disciplines and institutions that will help define the field and lay the foundations for its future. With these grants, the Consortium is accelerating innovative research into strategies to prevent or delay ovarian aging and fostering the development of a cohesive international community in reproductive longevity science.

Grantees will automatically become members of the [Global Consortium for Reproductive Longevity & Equality \(GCRLE\)](#), a forum for the formal and informal exchange of ideas and knowledge. Consortium membership provides access to resources in the form of training, support and networking opportunities with scientists across the world. Grantees will also benefit from the annual GCRLE Scholar Symposium, where grantees and experts in the field present ongoing research and brainstorm ways to progress the science.

Apply at gcrle.org/apply. The Application Portal will open on November 18, 2022. Applications will be accepted until December 16, 2022 at 11:59 pm PST.

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Award Objectives

The long-term goal of this program is to address the mechanisms of female reproductive senescence at the cellular and organismal level, including its molecular drivers, and the effects of genetic and environmental factors on relevant cellular/system properties and interactions. This funding opportunity is explicitly aimed at basic biomedical research on **female reproductive aging**, broadly defined. It is not intended to support large clinical trials.

We seek to complement other major funders of research by placing emphasis on projects that may not be supported by traditional sources because of their perceived novelty or high risk, or because the investigator is moving into the field of female reproductive longevity from a different research area.

Examples of eligible projects (this list is not exhaustive)

- Discovery of underlying mechanisms that are causal for female reproductive decline
- *In vitro* or *in vivo* models of menopause or other aspects of female reproductive aging that are experimentally tractable and help translate between human and non-human systems
- Development, validation, and dissemination of robust experimental and analytical tools
- Biomarker discovery and diagnostic tools to monitor female reproductive span and fertility
- Benchmark datasets for the field that will inform mechanistic approaches, deposited into publicly accessible data platforms.

- Projects in all model organisms and tissues will be considered provided the applicant can demonstrate relevance to the award objectives
- See gcrle.org for descriptions of past projects that have been funded

Funding priorities

- Researchers in disciplines outside of aging science or reproductive biology who bring new technology, resources, or conceptual frameworks to studying female reproductive aging
- Researchers who utilize quantitative or computational methods in their work
- Women, underrepresented minorities, and members of underserved populations
- The GCRLE is emphasizing funding investigators who will contribute to a **collaborative interdisciplinary network** and the advancement of the field. To this end:
 - Grantees and members of their labs will participate in annual meetings of all funded grantees and smaller meetings focused on specific biological or technical topics.
 - Grantees and GCRLE staff will work together to identify resources and technology that will support the field as a whole
 - Grantees will commit to rapid dissemination of all resulting data, protocols, code, reagents, and results prior to publication through resources such as protocols.io, GitHub, Addgene, and preprints

Award Mechanisms

Senior Scholar Awards fund established investigators who are thought leaders and are recognized for substantial contributions of creative and productive research in their respective fields to pursue substantive, innovative projects in female reproductive aging. This award provides \$400,000/year in funding.

Junior Scholar Awards fund early career investigators with outstanding promise when they are establishing their own labs. These awards are to encourage young scientists to pursue bold ideas in female reproductive aging when they are at their most scientifically creative. This award provides \$250,000/year in funding.

Special eligibility requirements: **Early career investigators are defined as** principal investigators who have been in an independent faculty role for less than six years at the time of application, i.e. starting after December 16th, 2016.

Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards fund exceptional young scientists for their postdoctoral training in the area of female reproductive aging, broadly defined. Our goal is to encourage the next generation of researchers to pursue creative projects in this exciting nascent field. This award provides \$100,000/year in funding, of which a minimum of \$70,000 must be used for the Fellow's salary.

Special Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must be within **4 years of the date of the award of their PhD or 5 years of their MD at the time of application**, i.e. starting after December 16th, 2018 (for PhDs) or 2017 (for MDs).

Pilot Awards fund pilot projects to foster innovative or novel research projects in female reproductive aging that have the potential for high impact and high reward at an accelerated rate. These awards will allow collection of preliminary data to apply for larger grants and we encourage applications to fund novel collaborative cross-discipline projects, with an emphasis on projects that establish novel collaborations. This award provides \$100,000/year in funding.

Additional eligibility criteria specific to each award can be found in the '**Additional Information**' document on the application portal.

How to apply

Applications should be submitted on the '[Apply](#)' page at gcrle.org. The application portal will open on **November 18, 2022** and applications are due by **11:59 pm PST on December 16th, 2022**. Applications which fail to comply with guidelines will be **removed from consideration**.

In addition to identifying information, please have the following materials prepared:

- Title of Proposed Project**
- Lay Abstract/General Audience Summary** (3000 characters or less)
Please explain your proposed project in language appropriate for an audience without a scientific background. This will become public information; do not include proprietary/confidential information.
- What is your prior experience in the field of reproductive aging?** (3000 characters or less)
If you do not have prior experience in the field of female reproductive aging, please describe how you will gain the expertise necessary to complete your project.
- Biosketch or CV.** Maximum 5 pages. Include for each co-applicant (if applicable)
- Project Narrative.** Maximum 2 pages (not including figures, tables, legends, or references).
This document should include:
 - Project goals and how they will be achieved*
 - How the proposed project will advance the science of female reproductive longevity*
 - Relevant figures, tables, and legends (not included in page limit)*
 - List of references (not included in page limit)*

- No personally identifiable information** (*name, institution, etc*)
- Proposed Basic Budget** (*see below for guidelines*)
- Letters of Support** (*Required only for Postdoctoral Fellowships*)

General Requirements

- The awards are open to researchers based at both national and international accredited academic and nonprofit research institutions. Applications will be accepted by domestic and foreign non-profit organizations; public and private institutions, such as colleges, universities, hospitals, laboratories, units of state and local government; and eligible agencies of the federal government.
- Applicants must hold a PhD, MD, or equivalent degree.
- Each Investigator may only participate in one application for a Pilot, Junior, or Senior scholar award. Lab heads may also serve as mentor to one postdoctoral applicant in addition to their own application. Investigators with a current GCRLE Grant may not receive another.
- Multiple applications from different Investigators will be accepted from a single institution.
- Previous recipients of a GCRLE Grant may apply again for subsequent cycles, provided their award period is complete and final report documentation has been submitted at the time of award distribution.
- GCRLE reserves the sole right to decide if an applicant and applicant organization meet the eligibility requirements.
- The project narrative must not contain any **personally identifiable information** (name, institution, etc) or risk removal from consideration.

Key dates

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| November 18, 2022 | Application portal opens |
| December 16, 2022 | Applications due by 11:59 pm PST |
| December 22, 2022 | Postdoctoral letters of support due by 11:59 pm PST |
| Late January 2023 | Earliest notification of decisions (subject to change) |

Awards will be two years in duration with a project start date of no earlier than February 1, 2023. Second year of funding is contingent on satisfactory progress during Year 1 and fulfillment of all required reporting. Actual start date may vary.

Budget

Grant applications have a simple estimated budget section: **please fill out the template document included in the online form portal**. See the 'Additional Information' document on the application portal for an example.

What expenses do the Grants cover?

Funds from the Senior Scholar, Junior Scholar, and Pilot awards are intended to support research activities. Funds for the Postdoctoral Fellowship are intended to support the Fellow's full annual minimum salary of \$70,000.

Additional funds for all awards may be used for:

- Salaries
- Laboratory research supplies
- Dependent child allowance (up to \$2,000 per child per year)
- Scientific meeting registration and travel expenses (including the GCRLE Annual Symposium)
- Capital equipment
- Small equipment (including computer workstations, a laptop, printer, etc).

Indirect or overhead charges are not allowed for Postdoctoral Fellowships. Investigators of funded projects will be required to set aside allotted budget for travel to the annual GCRLE Scholars Symposium.

International Applications:

International grantees must use all grant funds exclusively for activities conducted outside the United States of America. For Institutions outside the US, indirect costs are capped at 8% and may not be assessed on capital equipment and subcontracts exceeding \$25,000.

SELECTION PROCESS

GCRLE will evaluate all applications for scientific merit and will seek independent expert review of applications by a Scientific Advisory Council (SAC). The Scientific Advisory Council is composed of leaders in the field from all over the world who will review, identify and recommend the most promising grant applications for funding based on quality of science, impact, and alignment with the Consortium's stated goals. Finalists for each mechanism may be asked to participate in a short in-person interview via remote link with members of the SAC. Final funding decisions will be made by GCRLE staff in consultation with the Bia-Echo Foundation and our scientific advisors. Buck Institute employees may apply for Consortium grants but will receive no special consideration during the selection process.

GCRLE does not provide feedback on decisions for unfunded proposals.

Selection of awardees will be based on:

- The scientific quality of the proposal and the applicants
- Potential impact of the work on an understanding of female reproductive aging, broadly defined
- Degree to which the proposed work bridges scientific areas and brings new ideas to the field
- Potential of investigators to contribute to a highly collaborative interdisciplinary network

For supplementary information about eligibility and the application process please refer to the Apply page at gcrle.org.

For questions and all correspondence regarding these Grants, please contact us in advance of the proposal deadline at info@gcrle.org. Deadline extensions will not be granted for any reason.