The Shaw Family Pioneer Awards
Request for Proposals

The Women's Health Research Institute is currently accepting proposals for the Shaw Family Pioneer Awards. Two awards of $12,000 in direct costs will be granted to research or tenure-line faculty members. Proposals must be directly relevant to sex-inclusive research, focusing on sex-based determinants of health and disease. These awards are not designed to provide ongoing support for a long-term project, rather they are intended to assist in obtaining pilot data required for larger grant applications.

Specifically, this program:

• Supports Northwestern University investigators who conduct or are interested in sex-based research.
• Enables early career investigators to conduct pilot studies that will help build their portfolio, thereby enhancing their ability to compete for large federal grants.
• Provides a mechanism for senior investigators to mentor young scientists who are interested in sex-based research.
• Promotes sex-inclusive science through collaborative and innovative research.

Application Process:
Applications are accepted through an on-line form and require the following information:

• An abstract limited to 500 words.
• A summary of the proposed research plan (limited to 3 pages) including the following:
  o Introduction
  o Goals and objectives
  o Approach
  o Project timeline
  o Relevance to sex-based discoveries
• An NIH-style biographical sketch
• A budget summary (limited to 2 pages) including the following:
  o Amount of funds requested, not to exceed $12,000
  o An itemized budget and rationale for resources needed
  o Additional current and pending sources of funding for the proposed research

Please note that the award cannot be used towards conference support, including travel, registration, and lodging, or the use of consultants.
Review Criteria:
A panel will review and evaluate award proposals and select the most meritorious projects based on the reviews and specific criteria requested. The WHRI will not provide individuals critiques of submitted proposals. Award proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Impact of the project
- Innovation of the project
- Approach of the project
- Relevance to sex-based discoveries

Awardees
Award letters will be issued in early January, 2020 and a formal announcement will be made prior to January 25th, 2020. Award letters will include additional information regarding disbursement of funds and indicate if additional documentation or steps are required prior to the initiation of the project. Awardees will be required to submit a stewardship report upon completion of the project period and agree to cite the WHRI as a source of support in presentations, publications, or grants resulting from their proposed research project. It is the responsibility of the awardee to notify the WHRI of these relevant activities.

Key Dates
September 3rd – Applications open
December 6th – Applications due
January 24th, 2020 – Awards announced
February 1st, 2020 – Project period begins
February 26th, 2021 – Project period ends

Questions regarding the Shaw Family Pioneer Awards or the application process should be directed to:
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