



# Ludeman Family Center for Women's Health Research

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

## 2022 Funding Opportunities in Women's Health & Sex/Gender Differences Research

**SUBJECT:** Call for Applications for the Ludeman Family Center for Women's Health Research Early-career Faculty Research Development Awards

**FROM:** Judith G. Regensteiner, PhD, Director; Jane EB Reusch, MD, and Wendy Kohrt, PhD, Associate Directors, Ludeman Family Center for Women's Health Research

**DUE Date/Time:** Friday, June 10, 2022, by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time

**A. The Ludeman Family Center for Women's Health Research announces the availability of the following awards:**

Award	Funds	Eligibility	Purpose
Ludeman Center Early-career Faculty Research Development Awards	\$25,000 each	<b>CU-AMC full-time MD, MD-PhD, PhD, DO and PharmD faculty and fellows</b>  Up to six seed grants of \$25,000 will be available to scientists with projects relevant to the areas of research focus for the Ludeman Center.	Advance research careers in women's health or sex/gender differences across the lifespan with a focus on:  a) Cardiovascular disease (CVD) b) Diabetes c) Mental health as it relates to physical health
Ludeman Center Interdisciplinary Research Award in Women's Health & Sex Differences	\$50,000	<b>CU-AMC full-time MD, MD-PhD, PhD, DO and PharmD faculty and fellows</b>  One interdisciplinary grant of \$50,000 will be offered for a project that involves at least two investigators with different areas of expertise relevant to CVD.	Advance research career in women's health or sex differences with a focus on cardiovascular disease.
Specialized Center of Research Excellence (SCORE) on Sex Differences Pilot Grants	\$25,000 each	<b>CU-SOM MD, MD-PhD, and PhD postdoctoral fellows and Assistant Professors</b>	Promote translational research on the bioenergetic and metabolic consequences of the loss of gonadal function.

The Ludeman Family Center for Women's Health Research is dedicated to creating an inclusive environment that promotes and values diversity. We believe that diversity in age, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, ethnicity and perspective is essential.

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**B. Description of Awards:**

**1. Ludeman Center Early-career Faculty Research Development Awards**

The awards are one-year grants, not to exceed \$25,000, for exceptional early-career faculty members and fellows conducting research focused on women's health or sex/gender differences in the underlying mechanisms, diagnosis, treatment, or management of CVD, diabetes, and/or mental health as it relates to physical health. Research focused on other diseases or physiological questions will be considered relevant if there is a connection to CVD, diabetes or the integration of physical and mental health on these diseases (e.g. cardiovascular complications of rheumatoid arthritis, oral health as it relates to CVD, etc.).

Eligibility spans the full spectrum of research (e.g. basic, clinical, translational, population science, implementation and biomedical informatics) across the lifespan. **Interdisciplinary approaches, innovative ideas and use of technologically advanced methodological approaches are encouraged.** Topics must focus on women's health or sex/gender differences. Examples of past focus areas of research are listed below.

- a. Sex/gender differences in CVD occurring throughout the lifespan:
  - i. Cardiovascular implications of menopause
  - ii. Sex differences in the cardiovascular consequences of diabetes
  - iii. Disparities in cardiovascular treatments in men and women
  - iv. Gender disparities in ventricular assist device use
  - v. Understanding dilated cardiomyopathy in boys and girls
- b. Sex differences in the metabolic response to insufficient sleep
- c. Type 1 or type 2 diabetes throughout the lifespan (as well as gestational diabetes)
- d. Developmental origins of health and disease
- e. Vascular mechanisms for the effects of loss of ovarian function on cognition in women
- f. Underlying causes of depression

Because the long-term goal of this award is to enable a researcher to pursue a research career in women's health and/or sex/gender differences, priority for this award is reserved for **early-career faculty applicants**. However, **mid-level** and **senior faculty** will be considered if there is a clear reason why this type of funding would provide benefit to their research careers. Applications from exceptional post-doc **fellows** with strong research proposals and mentors/mentoring plans will also be considered.

The anticipated start of the funding period is September 2022.

**2. Ludeman Center Interdisciplinary Research Award in Women's Health & Sex Differences**

The award is for a one-year grant, not to exceed \$50,000. One interdisciplinary grant of \$50,000 will be offered for a project that involves at least two investigators with different areas of expertise conducting research focused on women's health or sex/gender differences in the underlying mechanisms, diagnosis, treatment, or management of CVD and who are from different Divisions or Departments. Research focused on other diseases or physiological questions will be considered relevant if there is a connection to CVD (e.g. cardiovascular complications of rheumatoid arthritis or oral health as it relates to CVD). Interdisciplinary research efforts are required.

Eligibility spans the full spectrum of research (e.g. basic, clinical, translational, populations science, implementation and biomedical informatics). Topics must focus on women's health or sex/gender differences.

**LUDEMAN FAMILY CENTER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH**  
**2022 Funding Opportunities in Women's Health & Sex/Gender Differences Research**

Because the long-term goal of this award is to enable a researcher to pursue a research career in women's health and/or sex/gender differences, priority for this award is research for **early-career faculty applicants**. However, more **mid-level** and **senior faculty** will be considered if there is a clear reason why this type of funding would provide benefit to their research careers. Applications from exceptional post-doc **fellows** with very strong research proposals and mentors will also be considered.

**3. SCORE on Sex Differences Pilot Grants**

The awards are 1-year grants, not to exceed \$25,000, for exceptional postdoctoral fellows and assistant professors conducting research focused on the bioenergetic and metabolic consequences of the loss of gonadal function, with a focus on translational research. Applications from established investigators will be considered if this represents a new research direction for the applicant.

**C. Considerations:**

1. Priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate promise for being able to obtain further extramural funding. **Applicants can have other non-overlapping funding for the proposed project but must show a clear reason as to why their research career would benefit from this award.**
2. Applicants must be actively engaged in research in the areas prioritized for this proposal. Because the support is for one year, applicants must demonstrate that the work is likely to yield publishable results within the funding period.
3. Applications are due no later than **Friday, June 10, 2022, by 5:00 p.m.** Applications will be evaluated by the Ludeman Center Grant Review Committee. All applicants will receive feedback.
4. Awardees will have the opportunity to participate in faculty trainings offered by the Ludeman Center focused on career building and professional skills development during the grant period and in future years.
5. Awardees may be asked to present their research findings at a venue or venues specified by the Ludeman Center. This may include both professional and lay audiences.
6. Awardees will be asked to communicate their accomplishments and career progress including additional grants and funding received, promotions, publications, and other accolades to the Ludeman Center during the grant period and in subsequent years.
7. Awardees must recognize the Ludeman Center and potentially, other funders, as noted in the award within any publication or presentation that is a result of the award.

**D. Application Guidelines:**

1. **Format:** Applications must have one-inch margins and use 11-point Arial font.
2. **Face Page:** Provide the name of the applicant and mentor (if a fellow, instructor or assistant professor), including academic positions, schools, departments and contact information (email, phone, campus location and campus mailing address). Also, provide the title of the work proposed.
3. **Abstract:** Briefly describe the applicant's proposed research and research career goals.
4. **Lay Summary:** Include a project lay summary (approx. five sentences) of the goals and significance of the study.

**LUDEMAN FAMILY CENTER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH**  
**2022 Funding Opportunities in Women's Health & Sex/Gender Differences Research**

5. **Budget and Budget Justification:** Include a detailed budget request for the award with all costs justified. The award can be used for salary support and/or project support.
6. **Biographical Sketch (current NIH Form):** Biographical sketches for both the applicant and mentor (where required, as stated above) are required, each of which lists all current and pending research support. Please use the current NIH form.
7. **Description of Applicant's Career Goals:** Describe career goals and how the Ludeman Center Early-career Faculty Research Development Award will help in attaining them (one page). Include reasons for and history of interest in women's health and sex differences research. Those newly interested in women's health and sex differences are welcome but we would like to know the source of interest.
8. **Role of the Applicant's Mentor (for fellows and early-career faculty):** Describe the mentor's role during the period of the award, including a mentorship plan (one page).
9. **Description of Proposed Research:** A complete, but concise (**no more than five pages**, single-spaced) description of the applicant's ongoing and proposed work must be included. Separate sections should be devoted to specific aims and hypotheses, background and significance, preliminary studies, experimental design and methods, and references cited. All figures, tables and other relevant data should be included within the body of the proposal (i.e., no appendices). References can be in addition to the **five-page limit**. **The importance of the proposed work, its relevance to women's health or sex/gender differences, translational impact, and potential for generating further funded research should be included.** Explanation of interdisciplinary approaches, innovative ideas and use of technological approaches within the research should be provided when applicable.

**E. Other Factors and Assurances**

1. **Letter(s) of Recommendation** (for fellows and early-career faculty): From the mentor, endorsing the applicant and stating that the mentor will support the applicant's research.
2. **Letter of Support:** From department chair, division head or section head stating the institutional commitments to the applicant and the availability of the requisite space and other forms of support (e.g. laboratory space, salary, technical assistance).

**F. Other Stipulations/Final Report**

1. Recipients of the award must submit a final report within 30 days of the conclusion of the grant period (typically 12 months after funding is received). Report needs to describe progress to date, including challenges and successes. Final reports should summarize the results of their studies supported by the grant, including copies of all publications, a list of those anticipated, and plans for and attempts to secure additional funding for the project(s).
2. Final Reports should be sent to: Carly Pilius ([carly.pilius@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:carly.pilius@cuanschutz.edu)) in one combined PDF.

**G. Submission**

1. **Applications must be combined into one PDF and must be submitted electronically to Carly Pilius** ([carly.pilius@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:carly.pilius@cuanschutz.edu)) **no later than Friday, June 10, 2022, by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time.**