



FOUNDATION FOR
Women & Girls
with Blood Disorders

**FWGBD Annual Research Grant
2021 Request for Applications**

*Promoting XXcellence in Women's Health:
Optimal Management of Women and Girls with Blood Disorders*

Award Target: Junior Faculty or Fellows

Introduction

Menstruation, pregnancy, childbirth, and menopause present unique challenges in women and girls with blood disorders. Undiagnosed, untreated blood disorders in women have medical consequences at every life stage. Delay and/or failure in diagnosing and appropriately treating blood disorders in women and girls are major public health problems, resulting in significant morbidity, reduced quality of life, days lost from work and school, unnecessary invasive procedures, and high healthcare costs.

It took the experience and training of three internationally recognized physicians in women's blood disorders, Drs. Andra James, obstetrics and gynecology, Barbara Konkle and Roshni Kulkarni, hematology, to realize the need for a foundation focused on education and awareness. Their discussions culminated in the Foundation for Women & Girls with Blood Disorders (FWGBD). In 2010, the FWGBD, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, was launched to serve as a single site, single source of information and education for physicians and healthcare providers.

FWGBD's Mission is to ensure that *all women and girls with blood disorders are correctly diagnosed and optimally managed at every life stage* by:

- Raising awareness and educating healthcare providers including, but not limited to, pediatricians, adolescent medicine providers, family practice providers, internal medicine physicians, obstetricians & gynecologists, hematologists/oncologists, geriatricians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses and social workers
- Translating and disseminating information and research to these healthcare providers
- Providing support for and encouraging research in this area

The Foundation is dedicated to achieving the correct diagnosis and optimal treatment of blood disorders and accompanying reproductive problems in women and girls with bleeding disorders—von Willebrand disease (VWD), other clotting factor deficiencies, inherited and acquired platelet disorders including immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP); the thrombophilias; sickle cell disease (SCD) and sickle cell trait (SCT); and all anemias.

FWGBD has been effectively gaining recognition and momentum as a key resource for providing education, guidance and expertise to physicians and other healthcare providers in the care of women and girls with blood disorders. FWGBD's Board and Medical Advisory Committee members (<http://www.fwgbd.org/about>) are leaders in clinical care and research in women and blood disorders.



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The FWGBD Research Award

The overarching purpose of the award is two-fold: to support a research project in the area of in hematology and/or in obstetrics/gynecology in the area of blood disorders—**all blood disorders**—affecting women and girls and proposed by junior faculty or fellows who are pursuing careers in the following disciplines: Adult or Pediatric Hematology; a Women's Reproductive Health speciality such as Obstetrics/Gynecology, Adolescent Medicine, Pediatric/Adolescent Gynecology, or another subspecialty that involves the care of women and girls with bleeding disorders; and 2) to further sustain an interest in translating research into clinical care that will ultimately improve the lives of these women and girls.

Research projects that will be accepted for consideration include ***hypothesis-generating projects in any of the following areas:***

Basic research – projects that answer fundamental biologic questions or clinically-related, laboratory-based questions.

Clinical and/or implementation research – projects that explore new treatments, medications, biomarkers and/ or diagnostic techniques or the implementation of clinical research outcomes in relevant clinical practice settings.

Translational research – projects that bridge the gap between basic and clinical science to refine and advance the application of an idea or discovery to improve healthcare delivery and/or patient outcomes.

The specific objectives of the 2021 ***FWGBD Promoting XXcellence in Women's Health: Annual Research Grant Award*** are:

- Create and sustain interest/knowledge of the next-generation of healthcare providers, i.e., physician-researchers working in Blood Disorders Affecting Women/Girls
- Foster collaboration between two core disciplines for WGBD—the Hematologist or another subspecialty that involves the care of women and girls with bleeding disorders and is relevant to the Foundation's mission (e.g., Ob/Gyn or other women's/girls' reproductive health specialty)
- Provide an opportunity for junior faculty or fellows to conduct research in this important area

Timeline

Applications are due	October 29, 2021
Notification of awards	January 3, 2022



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First grant award payment	January 31, 2022
Progress report due	July 5, 2022
Project final report due	December 31, 2022
Final grant award payment (contingent on report)	January 16, 2023

Eligibility

Eligible applicants must:

- Submit a complete application (see criteria below).
- Be an MD or DO who is junior faculty who qualifies as an early-stage investigator (see below), or a current fellow, in Adult or Pediatric Hematology; Obstetrics/Gynecology; a Women's Reproductive Health speciality such as Adolescent Medicine or Pediatric/Adolescent Gynecology; or another speciality that involves the care of women and girls with blood disorders
 - If a junior faculty:
 - Must hold a faculty position in a US academic institution
 - Must be within seven-years of completing training in Pediatric or Adult Hematology or Women's Reproductive Health speciality
 - Must be within seven-years of completing training for a career that will have a substantial component of, or overlap with, the disciplines of hemostasis and/or women's reproductive health as of January 1, 2021

Exceptions to the seven-year requirement may be made for applicants who provide a legitimate explanation for being more than seven years out of fellowship, such as taking time off for family-related matters or for moving to another area of medicine. Applicants who believe they may be exempt from the seven-year requirement should email an explanation as well as a letter of confirmation to kfunkhouser@fwgbd.org so that a determination may be made as to eligibility before the application is prepared.

- Have an experienced research mentor who is mid-career or senior faculty with a research track record at the applicant's home institution
- Demonstrate active, working collaboration with a peer in the related discipline—Women's Reproductive Health speciality for the Hematology applicant and Hematology for the Women's Reproductive Health speciality (or Related Career) applicant
- Have an approved or a pending IRB approval at the time of grant submission
- Have not been a prior FWGBD RFA recipient



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Available Funding

This award is intended as a supplemental non-salary research support grant, for a one-year period; **the award total is \$15,000**. A portion of the funding can be used toward support for a statistician and/or technician. Up to 10% of the grant award may be used toward indirect costs. A no-cost extension to two years for expending the full one-year amount will be considered based upon request from the investigator if sufficient justification can be made that a second year is necessary to complete the research project and ultimately benefit the health outcomes for women/girls with blood disorders.

The funding can be used toward:

- Statistical support
- Database development
- Technician support
- Laboratory supplies

Other non-salary items related to the research project will be considered upon request by the investigator and are subject to approval by the FWGBD Award Review Committee.

Responsibilities and Conditions

1. **Grant Agreement:** Upon acceptance of the research grant, the awardee, and FWGBD will sign a formal Grant Agreement prepared by FWGBD's legal counsel.
2. **Acknowledgment:** Every publication, thesis, or presentation reporting the results and/or analyses of the research award shall explicitly acknowledge the support of the Foundation for Women & Girls with Blood Disorders, as outlined in the signed Grant Agreement. Awardees agree to provide FWGBD with a copy of any publication, abstract, or presentation reporting the results and/or analyses of the award project.
3. **Rights and Welfare of Human Subjects:** The recipient is responsible for protecting the rights and welfare of human subjects in any clinical research activities involving the FWGBD awardee.
4. **Progress Report:** Awardees are required to submit a Six-Month Progress Report (of 1-3 pages) and a Financial Report indicating the grant funds have been applied to the specified objectives of the Award. The exact deadline for submission of this report will be listed in the awardee's Grant Agreement. Upon receipt and approval of the Progress Report by the FWGBD Research Award Review Committee, FWGBD will issue the final check representing full payment of the award to the recipient.



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5. **Final Report:** Awardees are required to submit a Final Narrative and Financial Report on the 12-month anniversary of the awarding of the Grant as described in the Grant Agreement and by the date listed therein.

Proposal Preparation and Submission

Candidates must submit completed applications no later than 11:59 PM (EDT) on Friday, October 31, 2021, in one PDF document to: kfunkhouser@fwgbd.org

Completed applications must include the following:

1. Award Application Form - available at fwgbd.org/fwgbd-research-RFA
2. Candidate's Biosketch - Standard NIH format
3. Personal Statement of applicant outlining career development plan including future career goals, significance of the research area, and how the study, if funded, will advance the applicant's research career development (e.g., publication plan, how the pilot data generated from the proposed study will support overall career goals including future intended career development award applications (2-page limit in 11-point Arial font/.5-inch margins).
4. Research Mentor's Biosketch - Standard NIH format
5. Research Mentor's Letter(s) of Support* (1-page max, 12-point font/.5" margins)
6. Research Mentorship and Mentorship Justification
The proposal must clearly describe the following for each identified mentor:
 - I. prior mentorship experience
 - II. academic focus and relevance to the applicant's proposed research
 - III. pre-existing mentor-applicant relationship if any
 - IV. role in the proposed project, and
 - V. an appropriate plan for applicant/project supervision as well as progress evaluation, which includes details regarding the mentor-mentee meeting frequency and plans for scheduling these meetings (in person vs. tele-conference, etc.).**NOTE:** If the primary mentor and the applicant are not at the same institution, include a clear description of the supervisory and progress evaluation plans to illustrate commitment to the partnership's success.
7. Letter of Support from collaborating specialist—Women's Reproductive Health specialist or Hematologist



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8. Research Proposal: (2–4-page limit in 11-point Arial font, excluding references)
 - a. Background/Importance including significance for W/G with bleeding disorders
 - b. Hypothesis / Specific Aim(s)
 - c. Study Design, including sample size estimation and subject selection
 - d. Statistical Justification
 - e. Well-Defined Study Outcomes
 - f. Potential limitations and how they will be addressed
 - g. Expected Timeline (through completion date of the project)
 - h. Budget Justification
 - i. References

9. Budget (in Excel spreadsheet)

10. IRB Status (for human subjects) and/or IACUC Status (for animal studies)

Criteria for Assessing Applications

- Significance of the proposed research project to bleeding disorders in women and girls
- Interest of the applicant in blood disorders in women/girls as a core area of her/his career including background training
- The quality and feasibility of the research project
- The quality, experience, level of involvement, and time given by the mentor and the institution to research mentorship for the candidate, as well as an adequate research environment and the potential for training in basic, translational or clinical research
- Clear delineation of the Roles of the Mentor and the Awardee/Mentee
- The availability of cross-disciplinary collaboration, and the quality and level of this collaboration between Hematology; a Women's Reproductive Health speciality such as Obstetrics/Gynecology, Adolescent Medicine, or Pediatric/Adolescent Gynecology; or another specialty that involves the care of women and girls with bleeding disorders
- The commitment and percent (%) effort of the applicant within the context of career development

To reiterate, cross-disciplinary basic, translational or clinical research that requires a collaboration between hematology and another subspecialty relevant to the Foundation's mission, (e.g., Ob/Gyn or other women's/girls' reproductive health specialty) is preferred.
