Call for Applications: October 7, 2019
K12 Applications due: Nov 29, 2019 by 5:00 PM
Notification of awards: December 31, 2019
Earliest Appointment start date: January 2019

KEY INFORMATION

Number of positions: 1
Term: 2-3 years
Effort Requirement: 75% minimum
Salary & Fringe Maximum: $100,000/year
Questions: Sarah Hopkins, hopkis@musc.edu or (843) 792-7848

OVERVIEW

The BIRCWH Career Development Program at the Medical University of South Carolina will support the research career development of junior faculty members who have recently completed clinical training or postdoctoral fellowships, and who have mentorship and a solid plan for training in basic research, translational research, clinical research and/or health services research relevant to women's health in all areas of the neurosciences. BIRCWH is a K12 career development program co-funded by the Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH) and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NIHCD), National Institutes of Health.

Scholars will be selected for a career development award to begin January, 2020. Applicants must be on faculty or eligible to join the faculty by this date. Scholars will receive 2-3 years of salary support commensurate with 75-100% effort per year (see Salary & Time Commitment under “Eligibility”) to pursue multidisciplinary clinical and pre-clinical research. The program includes a supportive environment, start-up research funds, access to core faculty who provide expertise and guidance in research design, measurement techniques, study coordination, data management, biostatistical analysis, publishing and presenting research, grant writing, and a training plan that the applicants, in consultation with their mentors, must develop specific to their career goals. Applicants should develop a research topic in consultation with two eligible mentors (experienced faculty with NIH research funding) who together represent multidisciplinary approaches to research (see below) and apply according to the instructions outlined below.

ELIGIBILITY

Junior faculty and senior fellows pending faculty appointment with a doctorate and less than 6 years of postdoctoral research training who are committed to a career in basic, translational, clinical and/or health services research in women's health. Scholars are scientists with doctoral-level professional degrees who represent a broad range of disciplines, professions, specialties and sub-specialties and who can develop into future leaders in all areas of clinical or pre-clinical research. Examples include both clinical doctoral degrees (e.g., MD, DPH, DPT, DO, DDS, DMD, DVM,
PharmD) and non-clinical doctoral degrees (e.g., PhD, ScD). Scholar positions are distinct from clinical fellowships. All candidates with clinical doctorates are expected to have completed the specific requirements leading to clinical certification.

**Salary & Time Commitment.** A minimum of 75% of a Scholar's full-time professional effort must be devoted to the program for the training and research activities. The 75% effort is based on the entire amount of time worked in a typical week, and should be proportionate. The remaining 25% effort can be divided among other research, clinical, and teaching activities if these activities are consistent with the proposed goals of the K12 program. A Scholar may devote 100% effort (full-time) to the program at a salary commensurate with experience and departmental guidelines for faculty rank.

**Citizenship.** Candidates must be U.S. citizens or non-citizen nationals, or have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence and possess an Alien Registration Receipt Card (I-151 or I-551) or some other verification of legal admission as a permanent resident. Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible for this program.

**Prior Research Experience.** At the time support begins, BIRCWH Scholars may not have served as the principal investigator or equivalent on an NIH research project (R01), as PI of a subproject of a program project (P01) or center grant or equivalent, or as PI of mentored career development (K-series) grant. BIRCWH Scholars may not accept or hold any other PHS award that duplicates the provisions of this career award. During the period of this award, BIRCWH Scholars are encouraged to apply for, and may accept and hold, independent research grant support.

**SCHOLAR SELECTION CRITERIA**

The following criteria will be used by the BIRCWH Advisory Board to evaluate applications from Scholar candidates. Top candidates will be interviewed in person.

- Candidate must show evidence of interest in and commitment to research in women’s health as it relates to neuroscience as a career objective.

- Applicants must be able to define a specific research question or set of questions to be addressed during the program (see Application Instructions). There should be some relationship between the choice of topic and past or current activity, although a case can be made for using the program as a transition into a new area. In either case, the applicant will be asked to indicate how the program will be used to prepare for an extended program of research on the chosen topic. The significance of the topic, its likelihood of receiving grant support, and the applicant’s strength of commitment to the topic will be appropriate selection criteria for applicants. The topic must be consistent with program objectives, specifically including a focus on women’s health. A scholar’s work during the program should lead to an extended body of research on the chosen topic.

- Applicants as scholars must devote a minimum of 75% time to the BIRCWH Program.

- The application instructs applicants to discuss their commitment to research after completing the program and describe their short- and long-term career goals. These items will help identify applicants whose career goals are in accord with the short- and long-term goals of the program.

- Scholars will be selected from clinical/laboratory settings that value and support research, as evidenced by ongoing research or clear support from a division chief or department chair. Criteria for evaluating a research-supportive environment include availability of expert consultation and/or mentoring by more experienced researchers, and ready access to critical resources such as laboratories, patients, data sets, and community settings.
• The applicant's clinical or laboratory experience, previous work, and/or research interests will be taken into account in assessing the match between the applicant's research interests and those of the mentors. The mentors’ expertise, accessibility, and enthusiasm for the applicant will also be taken into account.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Duration of the Award
MUSC BIRCWH Scholars will receive 2-3 years of salary support at a minimum of 75% effort per year. Each year of funding is contingent on satisfactory participation in BIRCWH activities and progress toward the Scholar’s individual career goals, and continued support from the Scholar’s mentors and department.

2. Career Development Plan
At the time of program entry, a needs assessment will be conducted to develop an individualized program that meets the needs of each Scholar and satisfies the general goals and objectives of the program. While each BIRCWH Scholar will have an individually tailored career development plan, all will participate in core components providing ample opportunity for interaction to ensure that interdisciplinary collaborations and efforts are encouraged and nourished within the program. Scholars are required to write and submit a NIH-level grant proposal during the second year of BIRCWH support.

3. Mentors
Each Scholar must have a multidisciplinary team consisting of a primary and secondary mentor from different disciplines. Mentors should have sufficient NIH research support to cover the costs of the proposed research project in excess of the allowable costs of the BIRCWH Program. Primary mentors will have overall responsibility for helping Scholars develop creative and independent careers in research. In addition to being an expert in the scientific area the Scholar has chosen to pursue, a primary mentor must be familiar with faculty and resources at MUSC and have resources and research staff to support the Scholars' research. Mentors will provide guidance to the Scholar to assure that projects are moving satisfactorily on the path to presentations, publications, and grant applications, and they will provide advice about career directions, national networking, and academic promotion. They will also help to assure that 75% of the Scholar's total work week is protected from clinical and administrative duties, and fully available for training and research.

APPLICATION

Candidates must complete the application following the instructions included in the application packet. Completed applications must be submitted by 5:00 PM on November 29, 2019.

Please contact Sarah Hopkins, BIRCWH Project Coordinator (hopkis@musc.edu or 843-792-7848) with any questions.
I. Basic Data

1. **Face Page Form.** Follow the Application link on the BIRCWH website:

2. **NIH Biosketches.** Include the candidate’s NIH biosketch, and primary and secondary mentors’ NIH biosketches. Please be sure to use the updated NIH format.

3. **Budget Sheet.** Complete the NIH PHS 398 Budget Sheet and submit Budget Justification for research-related expenses (maximum $25,000) and salary support for Year 01.

II. Mentors and Department Chair’s Statements

A. The candidate’s primary and secondary mentors must include an updated Biosketch and complete a Mentor’s Statement (1 page) and Current and Former Trainees page. Mentors should be specific about resource commitment to the Scholar’s research.

B. The candidate’s Department/Division Chair must complete a Statement (1 page).

III. The Candidate’s Statement (PDF format, not to exceed 4 pages)

   **TRACK RECORD**
   - Describe any previous training in clinical and translational research (e.g., MSCR degree, MSTP program, previous mentor program, etc.).
   - Give examples of opportunities you’ve had to engage in research (basic or clinical); describe your role in these projects.
   - Highlight examples of your productivity (e.g., pursuing an original research question, analyzing data, pursuing extramural funding, and presenting or publishing your findings).

   **RESEARCH GOALS**
   - State your short-term and long-term research career goal(s), including the type of research you plan to conduct and the potential impact your research will have on women’s health. Provide evidence of your commitment to a research career in women’s health and discuss future training expectations.
   - Explain how conducting the research project proposed in this application will prepare you to compete successfully for an NIH grant, such as an R03, R21, or R01 and provide some scenarios for the project.

   **TRAINING PLAN**
   - Explain what additional training you need to achieve your research career development goals in the area of women’s health. Identify specific areas where you have deficiencies and describe how you will obtain additional training in each area.
   - Describe the role your mentors will play. Be specific; cite examples from your proposed training or research plan whenever possible.
CAREER POTENTIAL

• Explain how you will benefit from the BIRCWH program and how it will contribute to the development of your career in women’s health.
• Comment on the leadership role you expect to play in your department in 5-10 years.

IV. Research Plan

You should work closely with your mentors on writing the research plan. Propose a line of investigation consistent with program objectives, specifically a focus on pre-clinical or clinical investigation relevant to women’s health or gender differences in the neurosciences. There should be some relationship between the choice of topic and past or current activity, although a case can be made for using the program as a transition into a new area. The research plan must demonstrate familiarity with relevant literature, indicate the areas of skill development you intend to concentrate on, and describe how the BIRCWH program will be used to prepare for an extended program of research on the chosen topic.

The research plan should follow Sections A-F as described below:

A. Specific Aims
B. Background and Significance (2 pages for A&B together)
C. Preliminary Studies (1 page)
D. Research Design and Methods (5 pages - Design to be completed in 3 years)
E. Human or Animal Subjects (not included in page limit)
F. Literature Cited (not included in page limit)

Format: Arial 11pt font, 1” margins, 8-page limit for Sections A-D.

Note: Please DO NOT submit any supplementary materials (e.g. appendices) as these will not be reviewed.