Women’s Health and Environmental Toxins: 
Pilot Funding Available from the Iris Cantor-UCLA Women’s Health Center

December 10th, 2013 Announcement

Pilot funding is available for researchers in Los Angeles County to perform research on the effects of environmental toxins on women’s health and/or birth outcomes. Basic scientists and public health and health services researchers are strongly encouraged to apply.

In 2009, the Endocrine Society found evidence that environmental toxins that act on hormonal systems (endocrine disrupting chemicals, or EDCs) affect health outcomes including cancer, obesity and diabetes, thyroid function, infertility, and fetal malformations. Differences in exposures to environmental toxins have also been linked to differences in health outcomes among members of different socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic groups. In September, 2013, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) issued a Joint Committee Opinion “Exposure to Toxic Environmental Agents”. The report acknowledged evidence that environmental toxins are ubiquitous, and that environmental toxins can negatively affect health from preconception through adult life. The report called for increased research on the effects of environmental toxins on women’s health.

The Iris Cantor-UCLA Women’s Health Center invites submission of projects for pilot funding addressing the following issues:

- Improving understanding of the effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) on biological systems
- Increasing knowledge of the degree of chemical exposure in women
- Developing methods to better understand the effects of multiple chemicals on health
- Understanding the relationship between disparities in exposure to environmental toxins and disparities in health

Note: Investigators planning to request funding for public health and/or health services research are strongly encouraged to attend a free half-day workshop on Monday, January 27th, 2014 at the California Endowment where information on database resources in Los Angeles County and California will be presented. Information is available at the Iris Cantor-UCLA Women’s Health Center website: womenshealth.ucla.edu.
**Funding Amount Available:** $30,000 one-year pilot awards for all types of research

**Pilot Submission Timeline and Selection Process**

a. Submit a one-page letter of intent and full CV by e-mail for review. All submissions from interested researchers must be received by **noon, February 25, 2014** (see contact information below). The letter should indicate/include:

- Abstract of planned pilot research project
- Long range research goals for this pilot work for future research
- Whether the research is a new or augmented pilot research project
- For any augmentation requests, how additional funds will strengthen current research and specify how increased budget amount would be used in your pilot work
- Budget amount requested
- CV(s) of Principal Investigator(s) and NIH biosketch (attachments)

Investigators may request up to $30,000 for a one-year period.

The Review Committee will review letters of intent and contact investigators whom they wish to submit full pilot proposals by **Monday, March 25, 2014**. Funded projects will begin **July 1, 2014** for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Criteria for selection include: (a) quality of the proposed research; (b) potential of the research to expand understanding of environmental toxins and women’s health, (c) potential of the pilot funding to expand capacity for research on this topic in Los Angeles County, and (d) credentials of PI and Co-investigators (if included). Funding may be requested for any purpose which meets the needs of the investigator(s) and complies with UCLA policies for expenditure of funds. Please note that highest priority for the pilots will be given to pilots that would likely lead to R01s (or equivalent level funding from extramural sources) within 2-3 years.

**Submission of Letter of Intent**

The letter of intent, full CVs, and other attachments should be e-mailed to the attention of Ryane Daniels, rdaniels@mednet.ucla.edu; (310-794-8063). **The letter of intent, CV, and other requested materials must be received by noon, Tuesday, February 25, 2014.** Any materials received after noon, February 25, 2014 will not be considered.

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