

Interdisciplinary Research Award in Pediatric Sex Differences

The Ludeman Family Center for Women's Health Research at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus is dedicated to mentoring and training the next generation of women's health and sex differences researchers. The Ludeman Center's Early-Career Faculty Research Development Award Program is a mentoring, academic and career development training program and funding mechanism that welcomes and incorporates awardees into a network of scientists from across the research spectrum who are focused on women's health or sex differences.

What it means to be a Ludeman Center scientist:

- Attend monthly trainings on career building and academic skills development
- Participate in annual events (including Women's Health Research Day and the biennial National Conference on Women's Health and Sex Differences Research)
- Receive mentorship and coaching from Ludeman Center senior faculty members
- Network with colleagues across campus and around the world
- Speak to scientific audiences and the lay community about your research
- Receive biostatistical support from Ludeman Center statisticians

Eligible applicants will be full-time MD, MD-PhD, PhD, DO or PharmD faculty and fellows with a primary appointment at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. The anticipated start of the funding period is September 1, 2025.

Award	Funds	Purpose
Interdisciplinary Research Award in Pediatric Sex Differences	\$100,000 one-year award One project will be funded	Fund an interdisciplinary project involving at least two investigators from different departments or divisions in pediatric sex differences within one of the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiovascular disease • Diabetes / metabolism • Intersection of mental and physical health

The Ludeman Center is dedicated to creating an inclusive environment that promotes and values diversity. We are committed to ensuring a diverse field of researchers on the Anschutz Medical Campus and encourage and welcome applicants who are likely underrepresented in the University's workforce, including individuals from marginalized and underrepresented populations; however, neither an applicant's race nor ethnicity will be considered in the selection process.

Description of Award:

Interdisciplinary Research Award in Pediatric Sex Differences

This award is a one-year grant, not to exceed \$100,000, to fund an interdisciplinary project involving at least two investigators from different departments or divisions. The project must investigate pediatric sex differences in the underlying mechanisms, diagnosis, treatment, or management of cardiovascular disease, diabetes/metabolism and/or the intersection of mental and physical health.

Eligibility spans the full spectrum of research (e.g. basic, clinical, translational, populations science, implementation and biomedical informatics). Topics must focus on pediatric sex differences.

Because the long-term goal of this award is to enable a researcher to pursue a research career in women's health and sex differences, priority for this award is research funding 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 or if they are new entrants into the field of women's health and sex differences. Applications from exceptional postdoctoral fellows with very strong research proposals and mentors will also be considered.

Considerations:

1. Priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate the likelihood of 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 full-time MD, MD-PhD, PhD, DO or PharmD faculty and fellows with a primary appointment at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.
3. 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 two years of funding.
4. Applications are due no later than **Friday, July 25, 2025, by 5:00 p.m.** Applications will be evaluated by the Ludeman Center Grant Review Committee. All applicants will receive feedback.
5. Awardees will be required to participate in faculty trainings offered by the Ludeman Center focused on career building and academic skills development during the grant period. Awardees are invited to continue participating in trainings in future years.
6. Awardees will be asked to present their research findings at venue(s) specified by the Ludeman Center. This may include both professional and lay community audiences.
7. 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.
8. 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.

Application Guidelines:

Applications must be submitted via email to carly.pilius@cuanschutz.edu. Please email the full application in PDF format. Letters of recommendation and support may be emailed separately.

1. **Face Page:** Provide the names of the applicants and mentor(s) (if a fellow, instructor or assistant professor), including academic positions, schools, departments and campus mailing address.
 - **Project title**
 - **Lay summary:** Include a project lay summary (approximately five sentences) of the goals and significance of the study.
2. **Abstract:** Briefly describe the applicants' proposed research and research career goals.
3. **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.
4. **Biographical sketch (current NIH format + funding):** Biographical sketches for the applicants and mentor(s) (where required, as stated above) are required, each of which lists all current and pending research support.
5. **Description of applicants' career goals:** Describe career goals and how Ludeman Center support will help in attaining them (one page per applicant). Include reasons for and history of interest in sex differences research. Those newly interested in sex differences are welcome, but we would like to know the source of interest.
6. **Role of the applicants' mentor(s) (for fellows and early-career faculty):** Describe the mentor's role during the period of the award, including a mentorship plan (one page).

7. **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 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.

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, time and other forms of support (e.g. laboratory space, salary, technical assistance).

Other Stipulations and Expectations of the Recipients:

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. Recipients of the award are expected to engage in events and trainings offered by the Ludeman Center throughout the year of funding. Award recipients should plan to attend monthly academic and career development trainings, attend Women's Health Research Day (typically held in March on the Anschutz Medical Campus) and present a scientific poster at the event.
3. Recipients are expected to respond to the Ludeman Center's Annual Researcher Audit in January of each year. The audit includes a survey and request for the recipient's updated CV.
4. Final Reports should be sent to carly.pilius@cuanschutz.edu in one combined PDF upon completion of the funding cycle.

Submission:

Applications must be submitted no later than Friday, July 25, 2025, by 5 PM Mountain Time. Email full application in PDF format to carly.pilius@cuanschutz.edu.



2025 Program Timeline

Date	Activity
July 25, 2025 5 p.m. MT	Grant Application Deadline
Week of August 11, 2025	Notification of Applicants
August 22, 2025	Letter of Agreement Deadline Grant awardees must return signed Letter of Agreement.
September 1, 2025	Funding Cycle Begins
September 16, 2025	New Researcher Orientation Meeting Grant awardees and their mentors meet with Ludeman Center leadership for orientation.
October 2026	Final Report Due

Questions about the grant application? Email carly.pilius@cuanschutz.edu