



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

THE LORNA GRINDLAY MOORE FACULTY LAUNCH AWARD 2022

Nanette Santoro, MD, Director

Letter of Intent due date: Extended: February 11, 2022

Application due date: March 23, 2022

The University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver) and University of Colorado | Anschutz Medical Campus (CU|AMC) proudly announce the next call for applications for the **Lorna Grindlay Moore, PhD, Faculty Launch Award**. Eligible Instructors and Assistant Professors are invited to apply for a one-year award of \$40,000 to help launch their independent research programs. Faculty may be appointed in any of the schools or colleges of the CU Denver or CU|AMC whose research is centered on women's health during and after the reproductive period. Appropriate areas include - but are not limited to - pregnancy, family planning, infertility, oncology, education, public policy, mental health, cardiovascular health, diabetes, advancing the academic careers of women faculty and the effect of COVID-19 on women's health.

Examples of topics of interest:

- Improving retention in post-secondary education
- Factors influencing acceptability of contraceptive methods
- Weight loss programs for reducing cardiovascular risk
- Role of potassium channels in regulating uteroplacental blood flow
- Factors responsible for health disparities in outcomes of cervical cancer
- Molecular mechanisms of drug-resistance in ovarian cancer
- Signaling pathways linking obesity and infertility
- The leaky pipeline: what causes women to leave academics
- Causes of differential health outcomes of COVID-19 during pregnancy
- Genetic determinants of uterine prolapse
- Food deserts and diabetes rates among Latina women in rural Colorado
- Epigenetic mechanisms underpinning intrauterine programming of fertility
- A qualitative study of educational attainment and bipolar illness in adult women
- Mechanisms linking pregnancy complications to later-in-life adult diseases in the mother or child
- Academic career trajectories of women at CU Denver or CU|AMC

Description: The award is for one year, not to exceed \$40,000, for exceptional junior faculty members at the CU Denver or CU|AMC who are conducting research directly relevant for improving women's health.

Eligibility: Women's health during or after the reproductive period must be the central focus of the proposed research, but may be basic, clinical or translational in nature and based in the applied, life or

social sciences. Junior faculty are considered those as having been at their current rank for less than five years; if more time has elapsed, a clear justification as to why the faculty member is eligible must be provided. Applicants may have previously received a fellowship, postdoctoral or institutionally-funded seed grant award but are not eligible if they have received a major, independent, externally-funded research grant. A major research grant is defined here as one from a national or international funding agency, of at least two years' duration, and funded as a result of a competitive peer-reviewed process. Since the long-term goal of this award is to enable a researcher to pursue an independent research career in women's health, **this award is reserved for applicants who are at the early stages of their careers; that is at the Instructor, Senior Instructor or Assistant Professor levels.**

Additional considerations and requirements are:

- Likelihood that the proposed research will improve the faculty member's ability to obtain major extramural funding.
- Applicants may have other funding but it must **not** overlap with the work being proposed.
- The extent to which the applicant's research career will benefit from receipt of this award.
- Extent to which the applicant is actively engaged in the area(s) required.
- Feasibility that the proposed work can be completed, and publishable results obtained within the time period for which support is being requested.
- Grants will be reviewed by a special review panel convened by Dr. Santoro that will include members with expertise appropriate to the applicant pool. All applicants invited to submit a full proposal will receive feedback.
- Awardees are encouraged to participate in faculty-training programs offered at the CU Denver or CU|AMC for developing their careers and professional skills during the grant period, and in future years.
- Awardees must agree to cite support from the Lorna Grindlay Moore Faculty Launch Award in their presentations, publications, and other accomplishments stemming from the work conducted within the award period.
- Awardees must agree to present the results of the funded project at the CU Denver and CU|AMC campuses.
- Awardees must agree to provide a report to Dr. Santoro no later than **one year** following the completion of the award that summarizes a) the research accomplished within the award period and b) the value it has provided for the awardee's career development.

Guidelines for Letter of Intent

A Letter of Intent is required and will be used to identify eligible applicants and select investigators with the appropriate expertise for serving on the grant review committee.

Letters of Intent should be addressed to:

Nanette Santoro, MD
Professor and E. Stewart Taylor Chair
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

and sent by email to:

Madelyn Book (madelyn.book@cuanschutz.edu)

Letters of intent are due **February 11, 2022**. The following format is required for the letter of intent:

- A cover letter which should include the following information:
 - Title of proposal
 - Principal Investigator
 - Co-investigator (if any)
 - Mentors
 - Current and past faculty positions
 - Title, total direct costs/year and funding agency of **all** current funding
 - Title, total direct cost/year and funding source for **all** grants received in the past five years, and for **all** grants applied for in the past year
- A (no more than) **one-page** description of the intended application which includes a brief background/premise, central hypothesis, specific aim(s), significance and innovation, and anticipated impact on the applicant's career.

Guidelines for Application

1. Applications should be addressed to

Nanette Santoro, MD
Professor and E. Stewart Taylor Chair
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

and sent by email to:

Madelyn Book (madelyn.book@cuanschutz.edu)

2. Applications must adhere to the guidelines listed below are due no later than **5 pm on March 23, 2022**.
3. You will be notified within approximately two weeks after the submission deadline for Letters of Intent whether you will be invited to submit an application.
4. **Format:** Applications must have one-inch margins and use no smaller than 11-point Arial font. All materials must be submitted as a single pdf file. Applications not adhering to these guidelines will be returned and not considered further.
5. **Face Page (1 page):** Provide the name of the applicant -- including present and all prior academic positions (including department[s] and institution[s]), the applicant's contact information (email, phone, fax, campus location and campus mailing address), and the title of the work proposed. Also list the names and positions of all other personnel involved in the project as mentors or co-investigators.
6. **Abstract (300-word maximum):** Briefly describe the proposed research and research career goals. The abstract should be on a separate page.
7. **Budget and budget justification:** Include a detailed budget request for the award period with **all** costs justified. The award can be used for salary support and/or project support. Aspects

of the proposed research receiving support from existing sources, whether institutional funds or other grants-in-aid, must clearly be justified.

- 8. Biographical Sketch:** Provide a biographical sketch for the applicant and all other persons named in the proposal as mentors or co-Investigators, listing **all** current and pending research support for each person. Please use the most current NIH form <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>
- 9. Description of Applicant's Career Goals (500-word maximum):** Describe the applicant's career goals and how the Lorna Grindlay Moore Faculty Launch Award will help in attaining them.
- 10. Mentor and training plan (2 single-spaced pages maximum).** All applicants must include a mentor and training plan with defined specific goals and the roles of the mentor and, if appropriate, a mentoring committee clearly delineated.
- 11. Description of Proposed Research (5 single-spaced pages maximum):** A complete but concise description of the applicant's ongoing and proposed work must be included. Separate sections should be devoted to Specific Aims and Hypotheses (1-page maximum), Background and Significance, Preliminary Studies, and Experimental Design and Methods. All figures, tables and other relevant data should be included within the body of the proposal (i.e., no appendices). References are not included within the 5-page limit. The importance of the proposed work, its relevance to and impact upon women's health, and potential for generating future research funding must be included.
- 12. Other Factors and Assurances:**
 - a. **Letter(s) of Support:** The applicant's Department Chair is required to provide a letter of recommendation that guarantees that the applicant will have sufficient salary support, protected research time, laboratory space and/or other resources necessary for the successful completion of the proposed project. If the project involves more than one department, both Chairs are required to provide such letters.
 - b. **Letter(s) of Recommendation:** Each mentor named in the application must provide a letter that endorses the applicant and states whether and how that Mentor will support the applicant's research and career development.
- 13. Final Report:** A final report must be submitted within one year of the conclusion of the award period that summarizes the progress achieved, including the challenges and successes encountered; conferences and workshops attended; and the efforts made and/or anticipated for securing further funding. Copies of all articles emanating from the work conducted within the period of the award that has been published or is under review are required components of the report.

Please email all Letters of Intent and Applications to: Madelyn Book
(madelyn.book@cuanschutz.edu) (Admin Assistant, Division of Reproductive Sciences).

Please address any questions to:
Thomas Jansson, (Thomas.jansson@cuanschutz.edu)