



FOUNDATION FOR
Women & Girls
with Blood Disorders

FWGBD Research Grant

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

**2018 Special Award Focus Area: Bleeding Disorders Affecting Women and Girls
Award Target: New 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 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.

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, underscored 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 adolescent girls with blood disorders are correctly diagnosed and optimally treated and 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, nurses and social workers
- Translating and disseminating information and research to healthcare providers

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 factor deficiencies, platelet disorders, immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP); and the thrombophilias; sickle cell disease (SCD) and sickle cell trait (SCT); and 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 the area of women and blood disorders.



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The FWGBD Special Research Award 2018

The overarching purpose of the award is two-fold: to assist new faculty or fellows in conducting research in Hematology and/or in Obstetrics/Gynecology in the area of blood disorders affecting women and girls; and to further sustain their interest in research that will ultimately improve the lives of women and girls with blood disorders.

The objectives of the 2018 *FWGBD Promoting XXcellence in Women's Health Award: Special Research Award* are:

- Create interest and nurture and assure the next-generation of healthcare providers, i.e., the physician-researcher workforce working in Blood Disorders Affecting Women/Girls, **with a focus, in the 2018 special award, on Bleeding Disorders**
- Foster collaboration between two core disciplines for WGBD—the Obstetrician/Gynecologist and the Hematologist
- Provide an opportunity for junior faculty or fellows to conduct research in this important area

Timeline

Applications are due	April 27, 2018
Notification of award	May 31, 2018
First grant award payment	June 30, 2018
Progress report due	January 7, 2019
Project final report due	June 30, 2019
Final grant award payment (contingent on report)	July 15, 2019

Eligibility

Eligible applicants must:

- Submit a complete application (see criteria below)



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- Be an MD or DO who is an early-stage investigator, or a current fellow in Hematology or Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Have a research mentor who is senior faculty at the applicant's home institution for the duration of the award
- Demonstrate active, working collaboration with a peer in the related discipline—Obstetrics/Gynecology for the Hematology applicant and Hematology for the Obstetrics/Gynecology applicant
- Have an approved or pending IRB approval at the time of grant application submission

Available Funding

This award is intended as a supplemental non-salary research support grant, for a one-year period; **the award total is \$35,000**. A portion of the funding can be used toward support for a statistician and/or technician. The grant award cannot be used toward indirect costs. Extension to two years for expending the full one-year amount will be considered based upon the 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 bleeding disorders.

The funding can be used toward:

- ⦿ Statistical support
- ⦿ Database
- ⦿ Technician
- ⦿ Laboratory supplies
- ⦿ One-time limited travel expenses related to implementation of the proposed research or to present the research findings at a national meeting

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.



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2. Acknowledgment: Any 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. Awardee agrees 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: Awardee is required to submit a Six-Month Progress Report (of 2-3 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.
5. Final Report: Awardee is 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 April 27, 2018, 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. Research Mentor's Biosketch - Standard NIH format
4. Research Mentor's Letter of Support/Statement - including a clear delineation of his/her role in the Project and affirm the Mentee has a significant, specified portion of protected time to complete the research (1-page max, 12-point font/.5" margins)
5. Letter of Support from collaborating specialist—Ob/Gyn or Hematologist



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6. Personal Statement from applicant providing a clear delineation of his/her role in the Project and outlining career development plan, significance of this research area in Mentee's career development, and the specific impact of the Award on the Mentee's Career plan (2 page limit in 11-point Arial font/.5-inch margins)
7. Research Proposal (2-page limit in 11-point Arial font, excluding references):
 - i. Scientific Question
 - ii. Background/Need
 - iii. Method/Study Design
 - iv. Anticipated Results
 - v. Expected Timeline (through completion date of the Project)
 - vi. Significance for W/G with bleeding disorders
 - vii. References
8. Budget (in Excel spreadsheet)

Criteria for Assessing Applications

- The proposed research project's significance to bleeding disorders in women and girls
- The interest of the applicant in blood disorders in women/girls as a core area of her/his career in hematology or Ob/Gyn
- The quality of the research project
- The research mentorship available and provided to the candidate
- Roles of the Mentor and the Awardee/Mentee are clearly delineated
- Having the recommended cross-discipline collaboration and the quality and level of this collaboration between hematologist and Ob/Gyn
- Qualifications, experience, and level of involvement

To reiterate, interdisciplinary research proposals involving collaboration between a reproductive health physician and a hematologist are preferred.

The awarding of this FWGBD research grant, for 2018, focusing specifically on Bleeding Disorders Affecting Women and Girls, is made possible in part through the support of Shire.