

Webinar for Potential Applicants to the WALTER A. ROSENBLITH NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD

Health Effects Institute
January 20, 2022
11:30 am EDT

The meeting will begin shortly.

A few logistics before we start:

If you experience any logistical difficulties, please contact us using the **“Chat” box**. You can also email us at qpham@healtheffects.org.

Please put your questions about the RFA and application process in the **Q&A box**.

After the webinar, HEI will post all questions and answers to the HEI website.

The recording is for internal purposes only.



Today's Agenda

- 11:30 am ET Welcome and Opening Logistics
Ms. Martha Ondras, Research Fellow, HEI
- 11:35 am ET Introduction to HEI
Overview of the RFA and Expectations for Research Proposals
Dr. Dan Crouse, Senior Scientist, HEI
- 12:00 pm ET Question and Answer Session
Dr. Amy Herring of HEI's Research Committee and HEI staff are available to answer questions about the RFA and the application process
- 12:30 pm ET Webinar ends

*After the webinar, HEI will post all questions and answers to the HEI website.

Introduction to HEI

The Health Effects Institute

An independent, nonprofit corporation chartered to provide *policy-relevant, high-quality, and impartial science*

Funded jointly by government and the worldwide motor vehicle industry and, occasionally, private foundations

Funds research that is selected, conducted, overseen, and reviewed independently of HEI's sponsors

Does not take policy positions

Ensuring the Quality of Research Funded by HEI

Research Committee



David A. Savitz, Chair

Professor of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Alpert Medical School, Brown University



Jeffrey R. Brook

Assistant Professor, Occupational & Environmental Health Division, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Canada



Amy H. Herring

Sara & Charles Ayres Professor of Statistical Science and Global Health, Duke University



Barbara Hoffmann

Professor of Environmental Epidemiology, Institute for Occupational, Social, and Environmental Medicine, University of Düsseldorf, Germany



Heather A. Holmes

Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Utah



Neil Pearce

Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine



Ivan Rusyn

Professor, Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences, Texas A&M University



Evangelia (Evi) Samoli

Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Medical Statistics, Department of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Medical Statistics, School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece



Gregory Wellenius

Professor, Department of Environmental Health, Boston University School of Public Health

HEI staff work with the Research Committee on:

- Strategic planning
- Defining research needs in Requests for Applications (RFAs)
- Selecting and overseeing funded studies

Overview of the Rosenblith RFA and Expectations for Research Proposals

Eligibility requirements (1)

Applicants of any nationality holding a PhD, ScD, MD, DVM, or DrPH may apply

At the time full applications are due (September 2022), applicants should have a *minimum* of two, and a *maximum* of seven, years of research experience following completion of their highest degree

- *PhD (or equivalent) earned between September 2015 and September 2020*
- *Applicants can request HEI to review time that is not spent on active research. For example, for MDs we may discount up to 100% of residencies and up to 50% of fellowship time.*
- *All applicants should verify their eligibility with HEI before applying. If you think you qualify for deduction of time not spent on research due to residencies or parental leave you need to present this to HEI for consideration.*

Eligibility requirements (2)

Applicants must be at Assistant Professor or equivalent level or hold a permanent position at an academic or research institution

- Some institutions or countries do not have an assistant professor type position. We will review such cases carefully. The position must be at minimum one step beyond post-doctoral and include similar responsibilities as an Assistant Professor would have.
- Tenure-track is not necessary, but it helps convince HEI that you are a promising researcher who is supported by their institution.
- The position can be a research position and does not have to include teaching responsibilities.

Priorities for funding

- Promising candidate
- Innovative study that:
 - *is likely to generate important, useful, and interesting results*
 - *is achievable within the time and budgetary constraints*
 - *addresses HEI's Strategic Plan*

Evaluation Criteria

The Candidate

- Consistency of the research plan with the candidate's career goals
- Evidence of strong institutional support, for example:
 - Start up package for equipment, lab space
 - Protected research time with lower teaching requirements
- Adequacy and appropriateness of the mentoring plan
- Publication record

Evaluation Criteria

The Project

- Scientific merit of the research design, statistical procedures, and analytical methods; scientific novelty or innovation
- Biostatistician involved during study design and analyses
- Adequacy of the facilities and appropriateness of the use of requested funds

Recent winners

M. Guxens, ISGlobal, Barcelona Institute for Global Health: Air Pollution, Autism spectrum disorders, and brain imaging amongst Children in Europe – the APACHE project

J. Apte, University of Texas–Austin: Scalable multi-pollution exposure assessment using routine mobile monitoring platforms

M. Pedersen, University of Copenhagen: Impact of exposure to air pollution on asthma; A multi-exposure assessment

M. Shiraiwa, University of California–Irvine: Formation of reactive oxygen species by organic aerosols and transition metals in epithelial lining fluid

T. Alderete, University of Colorado–Boulder: Air pollutants and the gut microbiota and metabolome during early life: Implications for childhood obesity

M. Herting, University of Southern California: Air pollution exposure and prefrontal connectivity in early adolescence.

H. Amini, University of Copenhagen: COUPH: Copenhagen Ultrafine Particles and Health

J. Antonelli, University of Florida: Robust statistical approaches to understanding the causal effect of air pollution mixtures

R. Arku, University of Massachusetts–Amherst: Urban air pollution in sub-Saharan Africa: A study of prenatal exposures, birth outcomes, and lower-respiratory infections in infants

Budget

- Maximum of \$500,000 (total budget) per study
- Indirect costs are capped at 30% (cannot be waived). Can be used for personnel, equipment, supplies as needed. Includes preparation of the final report.
- Personnel support only for PI and junior faculty / students. No support for senior faculty or mentors except if they are actively involved (e.g., as a biostatistician).
- Applicant should be leading the project and spend a minimum of 25% of their time on this research.
- Each study is a maximum of three years in length

Investigator Commitments

- HEI issues cost-reimbursement contracts (not grants)
- Requirements for Quality Assurance / Quality Control and data sharing
- Biannual progress reports and site visits to ensure quality of work
- Present a poster at HEI's Annual Conference
- Changes to proposed work or budget require Research Committee approval to ensure the study stays true to its original goals and the RFA
- Final reporting requirements

PLEASE REVIEW HEI'S PROCESS BEFORE APPLYING:

<https://www.healtheffects.org/research/investigators/commitments>

Important Dates

March 25, 2022: Preliminary applications due

April/May 2022: HEI Research Committee reviews preliminary applications

May 2022: Applicants notified of decisions on preliminary applications

September 23, 2022: Invited full applications due

October 2022: External peer review

November 2022: HEI Research Committee discusses full applications and recommends studies for funding

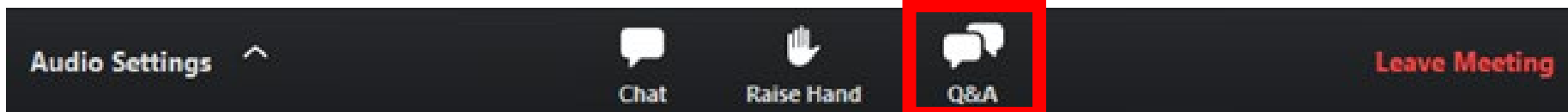
November 2022: Winner(s) notified

December 2022-February 2023: IRB approval and contract negotiations

Early 2023: Study initiation

Question & Answer Period

Please type your questions about the RFA and application process via the Q&A function. If someone else has already typed the same question that you have, please upvote that person's question.



Thank you for your interest!

Preliminary Application Deadline: March 25, 2022

Questions and answers from today, including any not answered during the webinar, will be posted on the HEI website in the coming days.

If you have additional questions, please contact dcrouse@healtheffects.org

For general questions related to the HEI application process, please visit:
<https://www.healtheffects.org/faqs>