



ANNOUNCEMENT and REQUEST for PROPOSALS

Johns Hopkins Education and Research Center for Occupational Safety and Health



2020-2021 Pilot Project Research Training Awards

Proposals Due November 6, 2020

Description: The objective of this program is to enhance **occupational research training** through direct support of research activities. Supplemental funds from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health will support student, postdoctoral, and new investigator (junior faculty) research projects with awards of up to \$15,000 each for the budget period January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Projects will be funded for up to 18 months; no additional extensions are permitted.

Eligibility: Applicants must be doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows (including occupational medicine residents), or fulltime faculty affiliated with a university-based program within federal region 3 (Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania). Faculty applicants must be new investigators (i.e., not above the rank of assistant professor, though exceptions will be made for faculty not traditionally working in occupational health). For student applicants, a faculty member must write a brief letter of support and be willing to be listed as the principal investigator for the project budget. Applications must be received by Friday, November 6, 2020. Prior to the release of funding, investigators must demonstrate approval of the research project by their institutional review board or animal care and use committee, as appropriate.

Use of Funds: Budgets will be allocated in the name of the junior faculty member or faculty advisor (for student awards) and are to be used exclusively for the described research. This support may be used for research expenses for which there are no other means of support, including supplies, domestic travel related to data collection or presentation, services such as data entry or laboratory analysis, and printing or photocopying. These funds may *not* be used for student tuition or stipend or for faculty salary. Awardees will be required to provide a written report within 30 days of the end of the budget period and to present their findings at a symposium in conjunction with a multidisciplinary occupational health conference in the Baltimore region.

Evaluation of Applications: A committee representing region 3's NIOSH Education and Research Centers and Training Project Grants will evaluate applications based on *relevance to worker health and safety*, merit of the research, need for support, and potential to enhance research training capacity. In addition, inclusion of interdisciplinary interaction and research topics that concern the priorities identified in NIOSH's National Occupational Research Agenda, <https://www.cdc.gov/nora/comment/agendas/default.html>, as well as attention to diversity and outreach, will be considered as strengths. In conformance with federal regulations, any exclusion of portions of populations (e.g., based on gender or race) as potential research subjects must be specifically justified.

Application Format: Applications must include the following elements:

- Title
- Investigator (include biographical sketch)
- Faculty advisor (student applications only) and collaborators (include biographical sketches for advisor and/or collaborators)
- Budget and Budget Justification
 - Include an itemization of costs for the proposed project, with a full description and detailed justification of each item; for non-JHU applications, university facilities and administrative costs are limited to 8%. The total cost, excluding facilities and administrative charges, must not exceed \$15,000.
- Description of research project, which should be modeled after the format below and limited to no more than five single-spaced pages:
 - Abstract (complete and suitable for reproduction)
 - Introduction (one paragraph)
 - Objectives and Research Question (one paragraph)
 - Research Plan (three to four pages; fully describe the study population, sample size, data collection methods, analytical framework and methods, timeline, etc.)
- References
- List of current funding sources for this project and the investigator
- Documentation of institutional review board or committee on animal care and use approval (must be submitted before funds can be released)
- Brief letter of support from faculty advisor (student applications only)
- Description of student involvement and enhancement of research training capacity (faculty applications only)

Application Deadline: Submit applications electronically to Dr. Ana M. Rule at arule1@jhu.edu by Friday, November 6, 2020. Direct any questions to Dr. Rule at arule1@jhu.edu.

Mentorship. Applicants can request to be paired with a mentor, who will be selected from faculty at Johns Hopkins University (with help from the ERC's external advisory board) based on expertise and area of research. Please contact Dr. Ana Rule.