

# Webinar for Potential Applicants to HEI RFA 25-2: Rosenblith New Investigator Award

Health Effects Institute

December 11, 2025

The meeting will begin shortly.

A few logistics before we start:

- If you experience logistical difficulties, please email Robert Shavers: [rshavers@healtheffects.org](mailto:rshavers@healtheffects.org)
- You can turn on **closed captioning** at the bottom of your screen to the *right* of the Q&A button
- Please put questions about the RFA or application process in the **Q&A** box
- The webinar recording is for internal purposes only
- After the webinar, HEI will post the webinar slides and all questions and answers to the HEI website



# Today's Agenda

Introduction to HEI

Overview of the RFA and Expectations for Research  
Proposals

Question and Answer Session

# The Health Effects Institute

An independent, nonprofit corporation chartered to produce *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.

# HEI's Environment & Health Research Committee

Works with HEI staff to define research needs for Requests for Applications (RFAs) and selects and oversees funded studies



**David A. Savitz, Chair**

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



**Benjamin Barratt**

Professor, Environmental Research Group, School of Public Health, Imperial College London



**David C. Dorman**

Professor, Department of Molecular Biomedical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University



**Christina H. Fuller**

Associate Professor, School of Environmental, Civil, Agricultural and Mechanical Engineering, University of Georgia College of Engineering



**Marianne Hatzopoulou**

Ph.D., Professor, Civil and Mineral Engineering, University of Toronto; Canada Research Chair in Transport Decarbonization and Air Quality



**Heather A. Holmes**

Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Utah



**Alexandra M. Schmidt**

Professor of Biostatistics, School of Population and Global Health, McGill University



**Neeta Thakur**

Associate Professor of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco



**Neil Pearce**

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



**Evangelia (Evi) Samoli**

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 and Director, BUSPH Center for Climate and Health

# Overview of RFA 25-2 and Expectations for Research Proposals

# Walter A Rosenblith

The award is named for Professor Walter A. Rosenblith (1913-2002), who served as the first Chair of HEI's Research Committee (from 1980 to 1989) and as a member of the HEI Board of Directors from 1990 to 1996.

The purpose of this award is to bring new, creative investigators into active research on the health effects of air pollution.



# Eligibility requirements

Scientists of any nationality residing anywhere in the world and holding a PhD, ScD, MD, DVM, DrPH, are eligible to apply.

By the date that preliminary applications are due (January 23, 2026) you must be appointed at the Assistant Professor (USA), University Lecturer (UK), or equivalent level at an academic or research institution.

You cannot have held such a position for more than five years (60 months) by that date.

# Eligibility requirements

Applicants must hold a permanent position at an academic or research institution.

The position must include responsibilities similar to an Assistant Professor.

Tenure-track is not necessary, but it helps convince HEI that you are a promising researcher who is supported by your institution.

The position can be a research position and does not have to include teaching responsibilities.



# Eligible Organizations

Lead organization must be an academic or independent, non-profit, free standing research institution.

Scientists from non-regulatory government agencies can participate but not lead a study.

For-profit companies can participate as consultants.

# Topics of interest for RFA 25-2

HEI seeks to fund studies that span a range of scientific fields, including atmospheric science, epidemiology, exposure science, risk assessment, social science, statistics, economics, and toxicology.

For RFA 25-2, we are seeking topics related to:

- the evolving transportation landscape
- pollutant mixtures
- air toxics (hazardous air pollutants).

See the [HEI Strategic Research Plan 2025-2030](#) for more details on these topics

# Two-Stage Process

## 1. Preliminary applications





Research Committee reviews proposals and invites some applicants to submit a full application.

## 2. Invited full applications

Reviewed by external reviewers and the Research Committee. The Committee recommends studies for funding.

HEI Board of Directors makes final funding decision.

# Criteria for Evaluating Research Applications

-  Relevance to the aims of the RFA
-  Scientific merit and rigor
-  Personnel and facilities
-  Reasonableness of the proposed budget

# Priorities for funding

- Promising applicant (along with evidence of institutional support and a strong mentoring plan)
- Innovative study (responsive to the RFA; likely to generate important, useful, and interesting results; and achievable within the time and budgetary constraints)

# Budget

- Maximum of \$600,000 (total budget) per study.
- Each study can be a maximum of three years in length (this includes preparation of the final report).
- Funds can be used for personnel (including PI, students, postdocs, technicians, laboratory QA manager, and others), equipment, and supplies as needed.
- No support for co-investigators or mentors.
- Indirect costs are capped at 30% (cannot be waived).

# Investigator Commitments

- HEI issues cost-reimbursement contracts (not grants)
- Requirements for Quality Assurance / Quality Control and data sharing, including third-party audits during the study and of the final report.
- Biannual progress reports, webinars, and site visits to ensure high quality
- 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

PLEASE REVIEW HEI'S FULL INVESTIGATOR COMMITMENTS BEFORE APPLYING:

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

# Important Dates

**January 23, 2026:** Preliminary applications due – submit via Survey Monkey link

**February 2026:** HEI Research Committee reviews preliminary applications

**March 2026:** Responses to Applicants

**June 5, 2026:** Invited full applications due

**July 2026:** HEI Research Committee reviews full applications

**August 2026:** Funding recommendations communicated to applicants

**Late 2026:** HEI Board approval, IRB approval, QA plan preparation, and research agreement negotiations

**January 1, 2027:** Studies begin



# Save the Date!

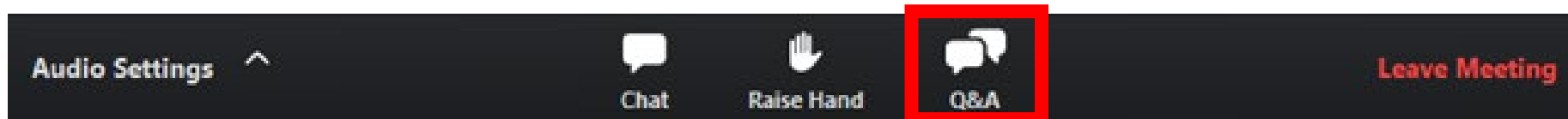
## HEI Annual Conference: Chicago, IL April 26-28, 2026



[www.healtheffects.org/annual-conference](http://www.healtheffects.org/annual-conference)

# Question & Answer Period

**Please submit your questions about the RFA and application process via the Q&A function.**



We will post the webinar Q&A summary to our website

For additional information on the RFA, please visit: <https://www.healtheffects.org/research/funding/>

If you have additional questions, please contact Dr. Allison Patton: [apatton@healtheffects.org](mailto:apatton@healtheffects.org)