

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

Health Effects Institute

January 2023

The meeting will begin shortly.

A few logistics before we start:

If you experience logistical difficulties, please use the **Chat** box or email Quoc Pham: qpham@healtheffects.org

Please put questions about the RFA or application process in the **Q&A** box or email Dan Crouse:
dcrouse@healtheffects.org

The recording is for internal purposes only.



Today's Agenda

- Introduction to HEI
- Overview of the RFA and Expectations for Research Proposals
- Question and Answer Session

Introduction to HEI

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

Ensuring the Quality of Research Funded by HEI



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

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Amy H. Herring

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Heather A. Holmes

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Neil Pearce

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Ana M. Rule

Assistant Professor and Director, Environmental Exposure Assessment Laboratories, Department of Environmental Health and Engineering, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health



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

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 (1)

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

By the **date that full applications are due (end of June 2023)**, applicant must be at the Assistant Professor level or equivalent at an academic or research institution and meet one of the following two conditions:

- Have a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 7 years of research experience after obtaining the highest degree. That is, the PhD or equivalent final degree awarded between June 2016 and June 2021

or

- Have held a position of Assistant Professor or equivalent for a maximum of 3 years (36 months).

Note that in either case, time spent on non-research activities since obtaining the highest degree, such as medical residencies without a research component or parental or medical leave, may be excluded.

Please email Dan Crouse dcrouse@healtheffects.org if you have any questions about this.

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 position. We will review such cases carefully. The position must be at minimum one step beyond post-doctoral and 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 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*

<https://www.healtheffects.org/about/strategic-plan>

Note: HEI is always interested expanding its reach if there are innovative ideas. Recent examples are exposure to smoke from wildfires, and topics related to environmental justice and energy & environment

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

Budget

- Each study is a maximum of three years in length
- 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 (a biostatistician can be on the budget as a consultant for a set number of hours).
- Applicant should be leading the project and spend a minimum of 25% of their time on this research.

Recent winners

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*

L. Henneman, George Mason University: *Air pollution source impacts at fine scales for long-term regulatory accountability and environmental justice*

Investigator Commitments

- HEI issues cost-reimbursement contracts (not grants)
- Requirements for Quality Assurance / Quality Control and data sharing
- Biannual progress reports; informational site visit or webinar 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
- Prepare a Final Report

PLEASE REVIEW HEI'S PROCESS BEFORE APPLYING:

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

Important Dates

February 10, 2023: Preliminary applications due

March 2023: HEI Research Committee reviews preliminary applications

June 30, 2023: Invited full applications due

August 2023: HEI Research Committee reviews full applications

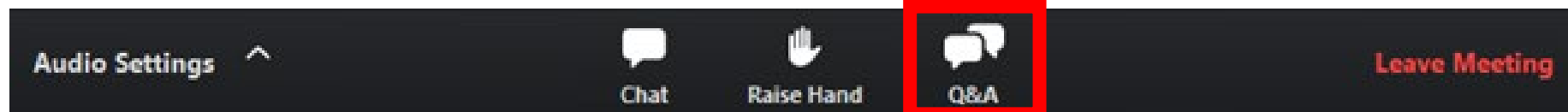
September 2023: Winner(s) notified

Fall 2023: IRB approval and contract negotiations

Early 2024: 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.



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

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