Global Consortium for Reproductive Longevity & Equality Announces New Grant Recipients -- 28 Researchers Selected to Receive $7.1 million in Grant Funding to Advance Science Focused on Reproductive Longevity —

The Global Consortium for Reproductive Longevity & Equality (GCRLE) at the Buck Institute for Research on Aging, made possible by the Bia-Echo Foundation, announces the 2023 GCRLE Scholar Awards recipients. These 28 scientists comprise a global group who share a vision of advancing research to better understand the underlying causes of female reproductive aging. Grantees were selected by an esteemed Scientific Advisory Council composed of leaders in the fields of aging and reproductive biology and range from early career scientists to established scholars in the field.

Our mission is to support breakthrough research on reproductive aging through funding, training, infrastructure-building and a collaborative intellectual network. The GCRLE network enables grantees and all consortium members to pursue support and collaboration across multidisciplinary approaches and institutions, establishing a foundation on which to grow a diverse and sustainable research ecosystem. Since its founding in 2019, GCRLE Grant recipients have pioneered major breakthroughs in reproductive longevity research, challenging the industry to rethink women’s health.

Grants totaling $7.1 million will be awarded over 2 years, with flexibility in budgeting for maximum creativity. “We are thrilled to support groundbreaking scientific research that will change the narrative around reproductive longevity and reveal the key factors that contribute to ovarian aging, ultimately extending the overall health and well-being of women. Our mission goes beyond addressing fertility and menopause; it’s about equality” –Jennifer Garrison, Co-Founder and Director, GCRLE.

For more information, please visit https://gcrle.org/, or @GCRLE1, @jenngarrison, and @BuckInstitute on Twitter/X

2023 GCRLE Scholars

Junior Scholar Awards support newly independent investigators with outstanding promise when they are establishing their own labs and have flexibility in the direction of their research.

2023 Junior Scholar Award Grant Recipients:

Miguel Angel Brieño-Enríquez, PhD
Magee-Women’s Research Institute
Natural partial reprogramming in the naked mole-rat ovary leads to ovarian rejuvenation and protracted fertility

Longhua Guo, PhD
University of Michigan
Molecular and genetic drivers of female reproductive aging and rejuvenation

Sarah Ocañas, PhD
Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
Comparison of macrophage activational response to immunomodulatory and hormonal signaling in the female mouse brain and ovary with reproductive aging
Senior Scholar Awards support established investigators who are thought leaders in their fields and are recognized for substantial contributions of creative and productive research.

2023 Senior Scholar Award Recipients:

Diana Laird, PhD
University of California, San Francisco
*The aging of human follicles: a molecular portrait and 3D landscape*

Michael Stout, PhD
Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
*Unraveling how mTORC1 activity in stromal fibroblasts contributes to ovarian inflammation, cellular senescence, fibrosis, & follicular exhaustion*

2023 Pilot Award Grant Recipients:

Elvan Böke, PhD
Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG) Barcelona
*Deciphering cell-intrinsic and cell-extrinsic mechanisms of oocyte ageing*

Iain Cheeseman, PhD
Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research
*Analyzing mRNA splicing as a source of reduced oocyte quality during female reproductive aging*

Hattie Chung, PhD
Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard
*Profiling the spatiotemporal dynamics of cellular diversity during ovarian aging*

Aubrey Converse, PhD and Michele Pritchard, PhD
Northwestern University and University of Kansas Medical Center
*Macrophage-derived multinucleated giant cells as drivers of aging in the mammalian ovary*

Francesca Duncan, PhD
Northwestern University and the Buck Institute for Research on Aging
*Shear wave elastography in assessment of human ovarian stiffness and reproductive longevity*

Deena Emera, PhD
Buck Institute for Research on Aging
*The genetic basis of reproductive longevity in exceptionally long-lived mammals*

Michael Garratt, PhD, Rebecca Campbell, PhD, and Greg Anderson, PhD
University of Otago
*Uncoupling nutrition from reproduction to extend female fertility*

Arjumand Ghazi, PhD
University of Pittsburgh
*Defining a molecular signature of aging induced by gonadal dysfunction*
Kathryn Grive, PhD  
Women and Infants Hospital of Rhode Island  
*Revealing the role of Ubiquitin C-Terminal Hydrolase L1 and the ovarian proteasome pathway in female reproductive aging*

Zachary Knight, PhD  
University of California, San Francisco  
*Effect of reproductive aging on the gut-brain axis*

T Rajendra Kumar, PhD  
University of Colorado  
*Re-routed FSH secretion and female reproductive longevity*

Lena Pernas, PhD  
University of California, Los Angeles and Max Planck Institute for Biology of Ageing  
*Identification of novel regulators of steroidogenesis*

Augusto Schneider, PhD  
Universidade Federal de Pelotas  
*BCAAs regulate ovarian aging in response to diet composition and exercise*

**Postdoctoral Scholar Awards** support training imaginative junior scientists who are the future leaders in the field of reproductive longevity & equality.

**2023 Postdoctoral Scholar Award Recipients:**

Olga Bielska, PhD  
Buck Institute for Research on Aging  
*Uncovering a new gene linking aging, mitochondria, and infertility*

Hannes Campo, PhD  
Northwestern University  
*Development of a vascularized microfluidic ovarian senescence model for senolytic drug screening*

Haiyuan Mu, PhD  
University of California, Berkeley  
*Regulation and functional roles of retrotransposon in ovarian aging*

Yasuhisa Munakata, PhD  
University of California, Davis  
*Chromatin regulatory mechanisms of ovarian reserve underlying disrupted gene expression in aged oocytes*

Periklis Paganos, PhD  
Marine Biological Laboratory  
*Gene regulatory networks controlling sea star reproductive longevity and aging*

Na-Young Rho, PhD  
Yale University School of Medicine  
*Determining molecular pathways in human ovarian aging*
Laura Wester, PhD
Max Planck Institute for Biology of Ageing

*Translating the translatome: How reproductive quiescence and activation are regulated by mRNA translation-based mechanisms in Caenorhabditis elegans*

**About the Global Consortium for Reproductive Longevity & Equality (GCRLE)**

The [Global Consortium for Reproductive Longevity & Equality (GCRLE)](https://gcrle.org) is a moonshot initiative to tackle female reproductive aging, launched at the Buck Institute in partnership with the Bia-Echo Foundation in 2019. We want to figure out what drives ovarian aging and develop interventions to slow or reverse it. The GCRLE’s role is to facilitate and accelerate translating scientific discoveries from the lab into useful products and therapies that positively impact the lives of women around the world and advance equality. We are building an intellectual network of scientists in academia and biotech, clinicians, funders, and thought leaders from all over the world to promote a collaborative dialogue about women, aging, and health.

To join our efforts and for more information, please visit [https://gcrle.org/](https://gcrle.org/)

**About the Buck Institute for Research on Aging**

Our success will ultimately change healthcare. At the Buck, we aim to end the threat of age-related diseases for this and future generations by bringing together the most capable and passionate scientists from a broad range of disciplines to identify and impede the ways in which we age. An independent, nonprofit institution, our goal is to increase human health span, or the healthy years of life. Globally recognized as the pioneer and leader in efforts to target aging, the number one risk factor for serious diseases including Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, cancer, macular degeneration, heart disease, and diabetes, the Buck wants to help people live better longer. Learn more at: [https://buckinstitute.org](https://buckinstitute.org)

**About the Bia-Echo Foundation**

The Bia-Echo Foundation is a private foundation, founded by Nicole Shanahan, that aims to accelerate social change in order to establish a fair and equitable society for future generations to thrive. We invest in changemakers at the forefront of innovation who are tackling some of the world’s greatest challenges within our core areas of equality-based investment: Reproductive Longevity & Equality, Criminal Justice Reform and Healthy and Livable Ecosystems. Learn more at: [https://www.biaecho.org](https://www.biaecho.org)