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

Pilot Awards foster innovative collaborative or novel research projects that have the potential for high impact and high reward at an accelerated rate. Blue sky projects that may be risky but if they are successful will greatly accelerate progress.

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 varian 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) 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/

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

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