



Center for Worker Health Request for Applications (RFA)

Purpose. This RFA is intended to stimulate worker and occupational health research at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. The Center for Worker Health seeks applications to generate pilot data on any aspect of worker health, including but not limited to: job-related exposures, occupational illness and injury epidemiology, worksite health promotion, mechanistic studies (e.g., physiology of occupational asthma), measurement studies (e.g., using biomarkers or imaging to detect or diagnose occupational injury or illnesses), public health interventions (e.g., workplace safety education), and improved clinical outcomes.

Background. Work is a major element of life that has many health implications. Labor force participation is the primary source of individuals' and families' financial wherewithal, and it is a dominant source of health insurance and subsequent access to healthcare for most Americans. Work imposes organizational systems that shape such aspects of individuals' daily lives as their eating and sleeping patterns, and how they interact with their families and communities. Work characteristics such as shift, duration of work hours, and control or decision making over job-related tasks have short- and long-term health consequences. Job tasks and obligations bring workers into contact with materials and circumstances that have the potential of causing illness and disease, but they also have the potential of promoting human health and vitality.

In the fall of 2008, Wake Forest University School of Medicine established the Center for Worker Health. The Center for Worker Health provides a nexus for basic and translational research focused on all of the aspects of the work – health relationship. The overall goal of the Center for Worker Health is to promote worker and occupational health research and practice at Wake Forest University Health Sciences.

Eligibility & Support. Applications will be accepted from any full-time faculty of Wake Forest University School of Medicine. Applications will also be accepted from faculty of other institutions, provided the application includes at least one School of Medicine faculty member. Funds up to \$20,000 are available for 12 months. Up to two awards will be granted. Support for equipment, animals, supplies, and support personnel is appropriate, but not faculty salaries.

Submissions. Applications should use the Intramural Research Support Committee guidelines (see <http://www1.wfubmc.edu/OR/IRSC/> for instructions and forms) with the following exceptions: sections 2ii through 2v are limited to 5 pages. Applications should also use the Intramural Research Support Committee cover sheet. Please note on the application's cover sheet that you are responding to the **Center for Worker Health** Request for Applications. Submissions should be received by Penny Gatsis (pgatsis@wfubmc.edu) no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 11, 2009. An additional electronic copy should be sent to Quirina Vallejo via email (qvallejo@wfubmc.edu) by the same deadline.

Review Criteria. Applications will be reviewed by the Intramural Research Support Committee. Reviews will be based on: 1) significance and innovation of the proposed research; 2) relevance to worker or occupational health; and 3) likelihood that the supported project will lead to external funding. All applicants will receive written feedback, regardless of funding decision. Final funding decisions will be made by the Executive Committee of the Center for Worker Health.

Questions. Questions should be addressed to Joseph G. Grzywacz, Ph.D., Associate Director for Research, Center for Worker Health, at 6-2237 or grzywacz@wfubmc.edu.