

REQUEST FOR *CONCEPT PROPOSALS (RFP)* FOR MANUSCRIPTS on COVID-19 in WHI PARTICIPANTS

June 10, 2020

The Women's Health Initiative seeks proposals for manuscripts to address COVID-19 risk factors and disease severity as well as the broader impact of the pandemic on WHI participants. We encourage proposals that build on our well-characterized, geographically dispersed cohort coupled with the WHI COVID-19 Baseline/Core survey data (attached). Investigators new to WHI are particularly encouraged to submit their ideas, and we ask that SIG chairs work with their members to submit proposals related to their SIG topic areas of expertise.

Background

The COVID-19 survey, to be administered in June-August among all WHI participants, will assess risk factors, preventive measures, disease incidence and severity and the impact of prevention measures among our cohort of ~65,000 participants aged 72-103. These data will be collected between June and August, 2020, using an online (RedCap) survey when possible, and a mailed survey or telephone interview otherwise. The RedCap and telephone surveys are identical; however, the paper survey is a slightly reduced version. We hope to have at least 50,000 responses. We anticipate that the data will be available to WHI investigators by September.

A major interest in the WHI population is COVID-19 related mortality. The analyses on this critical topic will be reserved for a major, group-authored paper. The remaining data collected through the COVID-19 survey will be available to all WHI investigators and their colleagues willing to work within the WHI collaborative environment. The SC views this as a particularly important opportunity to engage investigators with expertise in other areas so researchers new to WHI are particularly encouraged.

The intent of this RFP is to identify and facilitate the most promising science on COVID-19 in WHI based on these data.

Manuscript Concept Proposals

Please submit a brief (maximum 2-page) *concept proposal* to Lindsey Bull (lbull@whi.org) by June 24, 2020. We are asking for concept proposals initially as we anticipate overlap in content areas and we will work with the proposing investigators to develop collaborations and/or to minimize overlap while accelerating the best science.

Please include the following in your concept proposal:

1. Working title, lead author, co-authors (up to 4) including WHI sponsor, if required
2. Brief description of the objectives/key hypotheses
3. Key items from COVID-19 questionnaire to be used
4. Target journal(s)

Also, please note that WHI leadership is in discussions with a gerontology journal regarding the possibility of a special issue/supplement on COVID-19 in WHI. Proposed manuscripts selected for this

special issue will be expected to complete their analyses within a tight timeline to be developed with the journal. The CCC will prioritize the analyses of these papers to assist in meeting this timeline.

The SC is particularly interested in having early and mid-career scientists lead these efforts. Senior investigators are asked to partner with more junior investigator and allow them to take the lead on these proposals.

Review Process for Concept Proposals:

Concept Proposals will be reviewed by a COVID-19 Research TF by *July 1, 2020*, providing a quick turnaround along with information re: other overlapping proposals in order to facilitate collaboration in the development of a more formal manuscript proposal. *Note that the final manuscript proposal will be required to follow the normal procedures in WHI with a submission to the P&P using the standard forms and review processes (see attached form).*