

Specialized Centers of Research Excellence (SCORE) on Sex Differences



SCORE

2002 – Inception of the SCOR Program

Specialized Centers of Research (SCOR) on Sex Differences was established in 2002, becoming the first NIH disease-agnostic P50 centers program on sex differences and funded basic, interdisciplinary, and translational research to improve women's health. Eleven SCOR awards were co-funded by the NIH Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the following NIH institutes:

- National Institute on Aging (NIA)
- National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS)
- *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

2006 – First Reissuance

Based on the success of the SCOR program, the funding announcement was reissued in 2006. Eleven SCOR programs were funded.

2011 – Second Reissuance

The SCOR program was reissued for a second time in 2011 and resulted in eleven awards. These funded SCORs explored sex/gender differences in musculoskeletal diseases, pain, depression, vascular dysfunction and cognitive decline, substance use, tobacco dependence, and health of the urinary tract, as well as reproductive health, such as polycystic ovary syndrome, hormonal transitions, and the pelvic floor consequences of the reproductive process.

2015-17 – Evaluation & Approval of the SCOR Program

In October 2015, ORWH had an evaluation of the SCOR program conducted by an independent third party to assess whether the program was meeting its goals and to identify potential areas of improvement. Based on the findings, the Advisory Committee on Research on Women's Health (ACRWH) approved expansion of the program.

2018 – Expansion to the SCORE Program

ORWH converted the prior SCOR program into the **Specialized Centers of Research Excellence (SCORE)** on Sex Differences program. The newly designed SCORE program utilized the U54 cooperative-agreement award mechanism to fund three highly integrated, synergistic research projects and an administrative core. The Career Enhancement Core was added as a new feature of the program, whose goal is to support pilot research and train the next generation of scientists in the study of sex differences. Six awards were made.

2019 – Present

The funding announcement was reissued in 2019. Five additional SCORE awards were made in 2020, bringing the total to eleven awards. They are co-funded by ORWH and five NIH institutes (NIA, NIDA, NIDDK, NIMH, and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism) and aligned with respective institute mission and research priorities.

- Aging
- Alzheimer's disease
- Influenza
- HIV host-pathogen interaction
- Obesity
- Insulin resistance/diabetes
- Dyslipidemia
- Fatty liver
- Alcohol use disorder
- Opioid use disorder
- Addiction
- Stress
- Cardiovascular disease
- Dementia
- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Microbiome
- Depression
- Mood disorders
- Inflammation
- Microvascular aging