

Duke University/NCCU Recipient of 5-year \$2,492,590 Award

Duke University and North Carolina Central University (NCCU) have been awarded \$2,492,590 in funding for the **BIRCWH (Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health) Program**. Duke University and NCCU, a historically black institution, have united to provide career development of junior faculty with the goal to develop independent investigators who will benefit the health of women and advance our knowledge of sex/gender influences on health through interdisciplinary research.

The program has three major goals:

1. To develop highly skilled, innovative junior researchers investigating women's health and sex/gender elements of health and disease across a woman's lifespan through the use of interdisciplinary approaches
2. To foster diversity in women's health and health disparities research by identifying and recruiting scholars from diverse backgrounds and by providing individualized mentoring and career development support in an environment of team science
3. To encourage interdisciplinary research on all aspects of women's health by emphasizing the merits of all scientific categories and methods.

The program is built around three pillars

- interdisciplinary research
- structured mentoring
- individualized career development

The partnership between Duke and NCCU strengthens our goal of training minority scholars and focus on health care disparity. During our past funding periods, we have supported 21 BIRCWH Scholars, including 3 underrepresented minorities. The Duke/NCCU BIRCWH program will increase the availability of a diverse pool of highly trained women's health researchers to address the Nation's biomedical, behavioral, and clinical needs.