

## THE CENTER FOR HEALTH DESIGN RESEARCH COALITION NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD

**Submission Deadline: January 17, 2014**

The Center for Health Design's (CHD) Research Coalition announces the New Investigator Award (NIA). Its purpose is to support high quality research studies by new investigators in the field of evidence-based healthcare facility design. The award is open to graduate students, and other *recent* research degree recipients whose contributions reflect their potential to conduct original, empirical research to improve our understanding of the relationships between the physical environment and health-related outcomes. The goal of the award is to support new researchers whose research is likely to fill critical gaps in the field of evidence-based design (EBD).

All applications will undergo a thorough peer-review process, conducted by Research Coalition (RC) members.

### AREAS OF FOCUS

This request for proposals seeks to fund studies in all healthcare settings, including ambulatory care, or senior living locations that examine the relationship between environmental design and healthcare outcomes for the following areas:

- Patient and resident safety;
- Patient and resident satisfaction and quality of care, including care provided in behavioral healthcare settings;
- Care provider safety and effectiveness; and
- The development of innovative tools, techniques and approaches to support healthcare design research and practice, including sustainability-focused and renovation projects.

### AWARDS

Awards are made to researchers in the early phases of their career. Depending on the quality of the proposals received, The Center for Health Design may select two award recipients as follows:

The 2014 NIA RC "Winner of Distinction" will receive the following:

1. Cash award of \$10,000 to support the proposed research study, as described in the budget section of the proposal.
2. Stipend of up to \$1,000 to support travel and one-night's lodging at the Healthcare Design Conference in November 2015, during which the award recipient will present the results of the study.
3. Free registration to attend the Healthcare Design Conference '15.
4. A seat on the Research Coalition for 12 months, beginning in October 2014.

The 2014 NIA Winner will receive the following:

1. Cash award of \$10,000 to support the proposed research study, as described in the budget section of the proposal.

## **RESEARCH COALITION PURPOSE**

The purpose of The Center for Health Design's RC is to support EBD research and its translation into practice that contributes to therapeutic, safe, efficient, and effective healthcare environments. The RC directly supports CHD's strategic goals by:

- Assisting with the translation of research into practical design tools.
- Facilitating the engagement of new researchers in the EBD community.
- Strengthening CHD's research team's knowledge.

## **EVIDENCE-BASED DESIGN OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY**

Evidence-based design or '*the process of basing decisions about the built environment on credible research to achieve the best possible outcomes*' provides a framework for linking facility design decisions with key patient, staff and organizational outcomes in healthcare settings.

While the body of evidence available for supporting design decisions has grown over the last decade, there is still a paucity of research in many key areas. As a result, healthcare practitioners and designers engaged in the design of new facilities or renovating existing facilities struggle to find sufficient evidence to support key facility investment decisions. There is a need for timely and relevant research studies that clearly show how different aspects of the built environment impact patient safety, worker safety and effectiveness as well as patient satisfaction and quality of the care in healthcare settings. The New Investigator Award is intended to support the continued development of quality EBD research.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Investigators from research and academic institutions, and professional practice, are encouraged to apply. Applicants should be either a current a graduate student or someone who has graduated with a research degree within the past three years and is currently engaged in research in either a practice setting or academic institution.

All applicants should submit a fully developed research proposal as detailed in the Appendix of not more than fifteen pages.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

- Approval of thesis proposal from thesis committee members (if a graduate student)
- Communications plan for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- Two letters of support regarding the candidate's qualifications and accomplishments
- Letters of commitment (agreement to serve as a research site, make personnel and data available, etc.) from proposed research site(s).
- Timeline, with key milestones shown (e.g., start of data collection, data analysis, writing).

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Proposal submissions will be reviewed and scored by the Research Coalition members based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to priority issue areas identified above;
- Strength and quality of the research proposal;
- Feasibility of successfully implementing the proposed project;
- Applicant's research abilities/qualification/ and the availability of additional funding.

The award decisions will be made at the discretion of CHD on the recommendations of the RC.

Reviewers are required to respect the confidentiality of the information provided in the proposals.

#### **APPLICATION PROCESS AND SCHEDULE**

The following key NIA activities include:

October 10, 2013      2014 NIA Program Announced

**January 17, 2014      Submission Deadline**

March 3, 2014      NIA Award Recipient(s) Announced

October 1, 2014      The top NIA recipient joins the Research Coalition for a one-year membership.

November 2015      The top NIA recipient presents research findings at the HCD'15 Conference

#### **NIA Award Recipient Deliverables**

NIA recipient's progress with their research project will be monitored on a quarterly basis by a member of the CHD staff and a member of the Research Coalition, who will act as a mentor. Recipients are expected to complete the research project according to the timeline outlined in their proposal. Any adjustments to the timeline must be coordinated with and approved by the RC. At the conclusion of the project, NIA recipients are expected to:

1. Prepare a manuscript describing the study in a format that can be submitted to a peer reviewed journal.
2. Complete a Key Point Summary of their study using CHD's Knowledge Repository format.
3. Submit quarterly progress reports (to be coordinated with RC mentor).
4. Prepare a poster of their project, which can be displayed at HCD'14.
5. Provide a 20 minute presentation about their study during CHD's Innovations in Research session of HCD'15.

*Questions and proposals should be addressed to:*

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925.521.9404 x 131  
[sroecklein@healthdesign.org](mailto:sroecklein@healthdesign.org)

**Appendix**  
**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Component and Length	Purpose
Abstract, one page	Describe objectives, methods and relationship to the chosen issue topic.
Proposal Description, maximum of seven pages	<p><i>Introduction</i> (short overview)  <i>Objectives</i> (list goals). Ensure the following components are in alignment with your objectives:</p> <p><i>Research Need:</i> Explain why the healthcare design industry needs this research. What is unique about this project, how does it relate to current and future research efforts and are there any applications to the other issue topics listed above?</p> <p><i>Research Methodology:</i> Explain methods and instrument selection. List what you will measure and any controls. Explain how you will verify data collected from other organizations, if applicable. How you will complete the work within one to two years.</p> <p><i>Research Activities:</i> Describe the research activities that are necessary to meet project objectives. How this project will be organized?</p> <p><i>Locus of research:</i> Describe the setting where the study will be conducted. Also indicate if approval has been obtained from study site.</p> <p><i>Outcomes:</i> Describe how the project will impact healthcare design research, healthcare building design practices and/or the EBD process. List the expected outcomes and the proposed baseline. How likely is it that the results will be easily and rapidly translated to design?</p>
Tasks & Milestones, maximum of two page	List the tasks and milestone in a timeline. Refer to the budget template to associate requested funds with each task. You will be required to meet quarterly with a member of the CHD's RC who will act as your mentor, schedule your milestones accordingly.
Budget Narrative, maximum of two pages	Complete the budget template (attached in the appendix). Reference a budget narrative to explain all line items. Tie line items to project tasks and milestones. Please explain any additional funding contributions.
Qualifications, one page summary	Include a summary of the applicant's skills as relevant to this project. Include Curriculum Vitas in an appendix and reference as needed. Explain why you are best suited for this work.
Human Subjects, maximum one page	Discuss whether or not your study involves human subjects and, if so, explain how your research methods will protect human subjects. Through what entity will you submit an IRB application?

Communications, one page	Explain how your project team will disseminate the findings from your study (conferences, journals, etc).
Appendices, as needed	Include CVs and Contact Information, two references, signed commitment letters from organizations where you may be conducting your research study. For graduate candidates, one letter of reference should be provided by your thesis advisor. This letter should confirm that your study has been approved by your committee. For all applicants, we recommend that you seek letters of recommendation from individuals who are well acquainted with your skills and capabilities as a researcher.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Research Coalition members, CHD staff, and consultants are not eligible to serve as principal investigators. In addition, they may not participate in the review of proposals that are submitted by his or her colleagues or if he or she is asked to serve in a consultancy capacity. All proposals must adhere to the application process of the RFP. All research results will be broadly disseminated and therefore are required to be non-proprietary. Only one proposal per applicant is eligible for the award.

**RESEARCH COALITION MEMBERS**

- Sheila Bosch, PhD*, Director of Research, Gresham, Smith and Partners
- Barbara Dellinger, MA, AAHID, IIDA, CID, EDAC*, Associate Vice President, HDR Architecture
- Tejas Gandhi, PhD*, Assistant Vice President, Virtua Health
- Saif Haq, PhD*, Professor, Associate Dean of Research, Texas Tech University
- Eileen B. Malone, RN, MSN, MS, EDAC*, Senior Partner Mercury Healthcare Consulting, LLC
- Mark Patterson, AIA, LEED AP; AIA AAH Representative*, Vice President SmithGroup
- Ron Smith, AIA, ACHA, EDAC, LEED AP*, President / CEO, Design At The Intersection, LLC
- Avein Tafoya*, CEO, Adelante Healthcare
- Walt Vernon*, President & CEO, Mazzetti
- Laurie Waggener, RRT, IIDA, AAHID, EDAC*, Research and Evidence Based Design Director, WHR Architects
- Frank Weinberg*, Corporate Vice President of Facilities, MedStar Health
- Robert White, MD*, Director, Regional Newborn Program, Memorial Hospital
- Salley Whitman, MHA*, Executive Director, Operations, NXT Health, Inc.
- Rana Zadeh, M.Arch, PhD, EDAC*, Assistant Professor, College of Human Ecology, Cornell University
- Terri Zborowsky, PhD, EDAC*, Adjunct Instructor, University of Minnesota; Research Chair, Nursing Institute for Healthcare (NIHD)

Please direct questions to:  
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