

Male Contraceptive Initiative: Undergraduate Project Grant Request for Applications

Purpose: This request for applications is for undergraduate students interested in working on projects related to male contraception.

Background: Nearly half of all pregnancies worldwide are unintended. Furthermore, current contraceptive options do not adequately meet the needs of users who desire contraception. Male Contraceptive Initiative (MCI), a US-based 501(c)3 nonprofit, is a funding agency and advocate for male contraceptive solutions that are effective, safe, reversible, and non-hormonal.

The project is made available with support from the Parsemus Foundation, and is supervised by MCI and the MCI Youth Advisory Board (YAB). The YAB is composed of undergraduate and recent graduate youth, aged 18-27, who are engaged in social research and advocacy work around understanding youth perceptions and needs of male contraception, and ultimately bringing male contraception to market.

Project details: Projects must be small-scale research or advocacy projects applicable to the understanding or development of male contraceptives. Projects must be conducted over the 2021-2022 academic year. Successful applicants will receive \$500-1000 in funding, mentorship from MCI, and may be invited to the YAB volunteer committee. Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- advocating for expanded methods of contraception
- qualitative or quantitative research on perceptions of/need for/interest in male contraception
- if applicable, bench science conducted in a lab that is developing male contraceptive targets

Other projects may be considered; please contact kathryn@malecontraceptive.org to discuss.

Eligible applicants: Applicants must be enrolled undergraduates at accredited domestic and foreign universities or colleges. US and international applicants are eligible. Applicants should be able to effectively read, write, and speak English. Selections will be made by the YAB and MCI staff. Successful applicants will carry out the work with oversight from MCI and the YAB. YAB members, MCI staff, MCI practicum students/fellows, and other recipients of MCI funding are not eligible to apply.

Open date: July 6, 2021

Application due date: Sept 30, 2021

Grant amount: \$500-1,000

Application documents: Please include the following application documents in order to apply for this opportunity. Please send documents to kathryn@malecontraceptive.org by Sept 20, 2021.



- A CV or resume
- A brief cover letter (250 words) describing academic, professional, volunteer, or other relevant experience, and interest in male contraception
- A project proposal (500-1000 words). Please describe the project that you would like to conduct. Projects can be advocacy projects, market research projects, qualitative or quantitative projects, or bench science work. Proposal must include project goals, process, timeline, justification, and plan for final deliverables and deliverable dissemination. Applicants are encouraged to consider potential time constraints they may face (e.g. Institutional Review Board approval) in their timeline to ensure that project activities can be completed within the designated time frame.
- A brief budget justification, describing the amount of funds students are requesting, and how the funds will be used. Funds can be used as a stipend or to support project costs.
- If applicable, the name and contact information of a faculty mentor or advisor. This is strongly suggested but not required. Faculty mentors/advisors are not required to have expertise in the field of male contraception.

Applicants are encouraged to reach out to kathryn@malecontraceptive.org at MCI before Sept 1, 2021 to review any application questions they may have and to ensure eligibility and viability of the project. Applicants are also encouraged to review the information and publications on malecontraceptive.org to help orient them to the field of male contraception.

Decision process: MCI staff and YAB will review applications. Awards will be selected based primarily on relevance and feasibility of the proposed project, and candidate strength. MCI and the YAB may reach out to applicants for clarification if needed throughout the application process.

Decisions will be made by Oct 30, 2021.

Reporting: Applicants should have a dissemination plan for results/final deliverables included in their proposal, though a further dissemination plan may be developed together with MCI and selected applicants. Final project reports are required and will be delivered to both MCI and the Parsemus Foundation. Further dissemination will be strongly encouraged, dependent on the project, and developed with input from the applicant and MCI.

All projects will include a final report, but some projects may also include other outputs such as white papers, digital or print advocacy materials, commentaries, advocacy plans, published articles in scientific and journalistic outlets, etc. MCI and Parsemus will publicly disseminate and host materials through all appropriate channels including social media and web publication. Any dissemination and promotion of results will be done to promote both the project and the grantee. Throughout the project, the grantee may be featured on MCI and Parsemus website and social media.

Due to the nature of the project and the limited academic experience of the grantees, journal publication will not be required, but could be encouraged depending on the project. Any journal publication resulting from efforts supported by MCI funds is required to be open-access. Additional funding to support open-access fees may be requested as appropriate.

