



California Walnut Commission Health Research Program 2021 Call for Letters of Intent

The California Walnut Commission (CWC), established in 1987, is funded by mandatory assessments of the growers. The CWC represents over 4,500 growers and 88 handlers (processors). The CWC is dedicated to funding high-quality research that will increase the understanding and expand knowledge of how the consumption of walnuts affects human health. The CWC is an agency of the State of California that works in concurrence with the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and is funded by mandatory assessments of growers.

The CWC is currently soliciting Letters of Intent (LOI) in the following areas:

Human clinical trials, observational studies, narrative reviews, systematic reviews and meta-analyses examining the association between walnut consumption and health outcomes that significantly impact the quality of life or health across the lifespan. Areas of interest may include effects on body weight, body composition and/or obesity, cancer, cardiovascular health, cognitive health, reproductive health, enhancement of immune strength or personalized nutrition. All novel and noteworthy proposals will be considered if given appropriate justification. The CWC funds research both domestically and internationally.

Grant application details and deadlines:

CWC uses **proposalCENTRAL** for online submission of grant applications. There are two stages to the application process: (1) Letters of Intent and (2) Full Applications. Letter of Intent Submission Opens Monday, **January 4, 2021**. Letters of Intent are required from all applicants and must be submitted by Monday, **March 8, 2021**.

Unfunded Letters of Intent from previous grant cycles are eligible to be revised and resubmitted.

Letters of Intent will be evaluated by the CWC Health Research Advisory Group and a limited number of applicants will be invited to submit Full Applications. No reviewer feedback is provided to the applicant at the Letter of Intent stage.

Invitations to submit full proposals will be sent by Monday, **April 5, 2021**. Invitees will be asked to submit their full proposal by Monday, **May 17, 2021**.

Full proposals will undergo evaluation by the CWC Health Research Advisory Group and a separate Expert Peer Review Panel. Researchers selected to receive funding will be informed by Friday, **August 27, 2021**. CWC will hold all information provided by the researcher in confidence while the Letter of Intent and full proposal are under consideration.

Eligibility requirements:

Before submitting the Letter of Intent, please ensure that our pre-eligibility criteria are met:

- The Principal Investigator must have a PhD, MD, or equivalent degree and be a research staff or faculty member at a non-profit academic or research institution.
- The proposed study must adhere to the CWC Research Integrity Guidelines (Appendix).
- The proposed study must address the effects of whole walnut consumption on the above stated priority health conditions.
- The total proposed budget must be no more than \$500,000 for the entire project. Indirect costs of up to 10% of total direct costs will be permitted and should be included in the total proposal budget. Proposals will be considered for single-year and multiple-year projects. Please note that whole walnuts must be used for interventional studies and will be provided by the CWC in order to facilitate research efforts.

To find out more about the type of studies and research areas CWC has funded in the past, please visit the health research section of the [CWC website](#).

Letter of Intent (LOI) Format

Upload Letter of Intent into the [proposalCENTRAL](#) online form according to the instructions provided there. The Letter of Intent must be limited to 2 pages (excluding list of references and optional letters of support), single-spaced, 11-point font and should include:

- I. Specific Aims
- II. Background and Significance
- III. Project Description/Methodology
- IV. Expected Outcomes and Limitations
- V. Translational Message (Statement that demonstrates the potential public health impact of the project.)
- VI. Budget and Study Timeline
- VII. Expertise/Experience

Upload letters of support if included (limited to 4 pages) and references (limited to 2 pages) as PDF file attachments.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Sloan RDN, FAND, Health Research Director, California Walnut Commission at csloan@walnuts.org or 916-932-7070

For technical questions regarding the proposalCENTRAL online application system please contact their customer support hotline at 800-875-2562 or pcsupport@altum.com.

Appendix.

Research Integrity Guidelines

Engagement within the research community should be purposeful and transparent with meaningful interactions that provide tangible opportunities for learning, collaboration and advancement of science.

The California Walnut Commission (CWC) is committed to eliminating research bias based on funding source, therefore,

- CWC emphasizes that control of both study design and research is conducted by researchers.
- CWC requires that the research team submit results from all completed studies for publication regardless of outcomes.
- CWC assures that payment of research is not contingent on the outcome of a research project.
- CWC requires supported researchers disclose their relationship with CWC in all relevant publications and conference presentations.
- CWC's Health Research Program issues a formal request for letters of intent that is open to the entire research community.
- CWC supports only the highest quality research proposals. CWC utilizes its Health Research Advisory Group (external nutrition science experts who provide insight and guidance) as well as Peer Review Panelists (experts in specific areas of research) in its selection of scientifically sound research proposals.

References:

Garza C, Stover PJ, Ohlhorst SD, et al. Best practices in nutrition science to earn and keep the public's trust. *Am J Clin Nutr.* 2019;109(1):225-243. doi:10.1093/ajcn/nqy337

Kretser A, Murphy D, Bertuzzi S, et al. Scientific integrity principles and best practices: recommendations from a scientific integrity consortium. *Sci Eng Ethics* 2019. 25: 327–355

Rowe S, Alexander N, Clydesdale F, Applebaum R, Atkinson S, Black R, Dwyer J, Hentges E, Higley N, Lefevre M, et al. Funding food science and nutrition research: financial conflicts and scientific integrity. *Nutr Rev.* 2009;67(5):264-272. doi:10.1111/j.1753-4887.2009.00188.x

Non-Discrimination Statement

The CWC prohibits discrimination in all programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, marital/familial/parental status, religion, sexual orientation,

political beliefs, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs.

Persons with limited English proficiency or disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (translated materials, braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the CWC offices at (916) 932-7070.

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or write a letter with all information requested in the form and either send to USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, fax to (202) 690-7442, or email to program.intake@usda.gov. CWC is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

1/2021