

SYNERGY II/Nexus Call for Proposals  
2018-2019

Distributed October 15,2018

Dear Colleagues:

The Woodruff Health Sciences Center, The Provost's Office, School of Medicine and Emory College of Arts and Sciences announce a special one-time cycle of "Synergy II/Nexus" Awards for 2018-2019 specifically designed to support **Consortium/Community Building** (a minimum of 3 principal investigators) built around identifying an important research question and devising a path towards a solution that will lead to significant external resourcing along the lines of an NIH RM-1, major agency or foundation, or other significant extramural sources. This call seeks a cohort of faculty members that can identify an ambitious and challenging research question of relevance to the sources providing the internal funding (and not already well-developed at Emory) and that is beyond the scope of one or two investigators. The goals should not be achievable with a collection of individual efforts; rather, teams are essential to achieve far-reaching research objectives that will produce major advances in their fields. The intent is not to support a small number of individuals, but to identify and grow new research communities at Emory around compelling research themes.

The total of number of awards to be made is variable based on merit and funds requested; a maximum of \$400,000 will be awarded in grants up to \$100,000 each. The funds will be awarded to develop each consortium, to flesh out the research focus and its implementation at Emory, to facilitate brainstorming sessions, and to foster community and collaboration, all leading within 12-18 months to a major proposal to an external funding agency or foundation. As representative examples only, funds could be used for a symposium, recurring meetings of the cohort, smaller consortium-based proof of principal projects, and any activities that (1) build the community and catalyze growth of a specific area of cross-disciplinary scholarship, and (2) will clearly lead to self-sustaining funding of a major research topic.

Each Synergy II/Nexus Award will consist of up to \$100,000 with an award term of one year. Applicants must present a credible plan describing how they will make substantial progress with one year of funding. Carryover of funds to a second year will be considered with justification under special circumstances. Funds not expended within 12 months (24 if an extension is approved) must be returned.

**The application deadline is January 15, 2019** at 5 pm, and funding will begin April 15, 2018.

**Eligibility**

A typical proposal will include a minimum of 3 principal investigators (Assistant Professors and above) with at least one faculty member from ECAS and at least one from a WHSC unit – the more balanced, the better. All levels of faculty academic rank assistant professor and above are eligible. One individual should be chosen as the corresponding PI. Any principal investigator may only participate in a single Synergy II/Nexus Award application during any annual award cycle. The proposal cannot be duplicative

with other funding at the time of the award. These awards are not intended to support already established projects or minimal extensions of ongoing research programs.

## **Application**

Application formatting:

- Use paper size no larger than 8 ½" x 11"
- Provide at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages
- Font size must be 11 points or larger (smaller text in figures, graphs, diagrams, and charts is acceptable as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%)
- Text color must be black (color text in figures, graphs, diagrams, charts, tables, footnotes, and headings is acceptable)
- The following fonts are acceptable: Arial and Calibri

Applications will consist of:

1. **A cover sheet:** indicating the title of the project, faculty and schools involved and contact information.
2. **A research proposal**, which should include four sections that succinctly describe the following:
  - Describe the compelling research question. Why is the problem important? Explain why it cannot be solved by individual investigators and their close collaborators, but rather is a complex and challenging research question that demands the integrated efforts of a cohort of laboratories with complementary approaches that bring a breadth of intellectual and technical expertise.
  - How does the nature of the defined community enable the proposed work? How does the project represent a new direction at Emory?
  - What approach or approaches will be pursued during the year of funding e.g. town hall meetings, seminars, outside faculty visits What specifically will be done? How, will the “community” be grown beyond the initial cohort of principal investigators? How will access to all interested parties be enabled?
  - What is the expected impact of the proposed project beyond the initial funded phase, including what future work would be enabled.
  - How will the effort be sustained? What sources of extramural funding will be sought?

**The research proposal section should be no more than three pages.** References are not included in the three-page limit.

3. **A minimal, one-page budget** that describes how the funding will be allocated. How will it be apportioned? The budget should clearly enhance development of a scholarly community around a significant research problem and its solution. Any budget amount up to \$100,000 can be proposed. Neither faculty salaries nor indirect costs are permissible in the budget.

4. **Please use the new National Institutes of Health biosketch** form for each principal investigator. All current and pending support from all sponsored and non-sponsored sources should be provided. Each biosketch is limited to four pages.

**Each proposal must be submitted with the above four items compiled into a single PDF.** The PDF file name format must be: Last name of Corresponding PI dot First Name of Corresponding PI dot pdf. For example: Smith.John.pdf

**Please send your proposals to Vice Provost Lanny S. Liebeskind at [chemLL1@emory.edu](mailto:chemLL1@emory.edu) not later than January 15, 2019 at 5 pm.**

We look forward to seeing your innovative and collaborative ideas for building scholarly communities around compelling research ideas.

Jonathan S. Lewin, MD, FACR  
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