



SOM IMAGINE, INNOVATE, AND IMPACT (I³) NEXUS RESEARCH AWARDS RFP

NEXUS AWARDS: The Dean of the Emory School of Medicine (SOM) is soliciting proposals to develop new interdisciplinary research projects that have the potential to impact health or generate biomedical knowledge. In the current round, grants will be considered for:

- **I³ Nexus Research Awards:** Proposals to spur interdisciplinary research are solicited. The I³ Nexus Research Awards will provide seed money to fundamental biological and translational investigators for obtaining sufficient data to ultimately develop external collaborative funding applications, and to investigators who may not otherwise engage in multi- and interdisciplinary research. The goal is to take programs to the level at which extramural funding may be pursued. **These awards require interdisciplinary team collaboration, with at least one collaborator outside of the home department/division (within the SOM) who brings a different discipline, expertise, or methodology to the project.**

Funding Availability – Award amounts are as follows:

- **I³ Nexus Research Awards:** Awards will be made in \$25,000 increments, up to a total of \$150,000 in total direct costs. Budgets should be rounded-off to the nearest \$25,000 increment.
- The total of number of awards to be made is variable based on merit and funds requested; a maximum of \$600,000 will be awarded in this round.

Note that at inception of the project, the PI will be awarded half of the approved funding. SOM will award remaining funding based on demonstrated progress and spending.

Eligibility – I³ Nexus Research Awards:

- Faculty PI with a primary appointment in the Emory SOM at the rank of Assistant Professor or above at an FTE of 0.5 or higher
- Requires an interdisciplinary team collaboration with at least one collaborator outside of the home department/division (within the SOM) who brings a different discipline, expertise, or methodology to the project
- While additional collaboration outside of SOM is allowed, if the proposal includes a non-SOM entity, that second entity must agree to fund its share of the budget if awarded. (I³ funding cannot be used to support non-SOM expenses)
- Faculty may participate in more than one proposal and may serve as PI on more than one proposal
- Cannot be duplicative of current funding at the time of award

Timeline

June 15, 2019 – RFP released

September 15, 2019 – Proposals due by 5:00 pm

November 20, 2019 – Applicant award notification

January 2, 2020 – Project start date

January 31, 2022 – Project end date (Up to 1-year No Cost Extension (NCE) may be granted with strong justification. Funds not expended by 36 months will be returned to SOM.)

Application Information

Applicants should submit the following materials using the [online application](#) **no later than 5:00 p.m. (no exceptions) on September 15, 2019.**

The online application must be completed in one sitting, so it is recommended that applicants gather the information/documents below before beginning the application.

- Title of the proposal
- Category: Nexus Research
- Project period: 1 year or 2 years
- Total budget requested: Rounded off to the nearest \$25,000 (max of \$150,000)
- PI name, credentials, title, and department/division
- If applicable, Co-PI name, credentials, title, and department/division
- Co-Investigators' names, credentials, titles, and departments/divisions
- Does your project involve investigators from more than one institution? (Yes or No)
- Summary/Abstract (500 words maximum)
- Attachments (see below)

Attachments – Each of the following items should be uploaded within a single PDF document following this naming convention: PI last name.first name.I3Nexus2019.pdf

- Example: Hill.Beth.I3Nexus2019.pdf
- If a PI is on more than one grant, use Doe.John1 and Doe.John2 to identify each grant
- Please include a header that appears on every page with the file name and page numbers with total pages
 - Example: Hill.Beth.I3Nexus2019

Page 1 of 12

The single PDF must include, in this order:

- **Title page** with name of individual designated as PI and list of co-PIs; must include signatures of the PI and the Chair of the PI's department must indicate approval of the proposal through signature on the title page (*maximum of 1 page*)
- **Specific Aims** (*maximum 1 page*)
- **Preliminary data** are suggested, to illustrate the project is feasible (*maximum 2 pages*)
- **Research Strategy:** Must be formatted by Specific Aim and include sections for Significance, Innovation, and Approach (*maximum 3 pages*)
- **References** (including only those which are most pertinent) (*maximum 2 pages*)
- **Description of plans to meet I³ criteria:** 1) an interdisciplinary team collaboration with at least one new collaborator outside of the home department/division (within the SOM) who brings a different discipline, expertise, or methodology to the project; 2) benefits of, and need for, collaboration; 3) potential for significant vs. incremental impact if project were to succeed; 4) time to impact (with well-defined time plans and with early and clear go-no-go points); 5) creativity and novelty of the idea/approach; 6) feasibility of carrying out the proposed project; and 7) chances of a successful outcome (*maximum 2 pages*)

- **Description of plans for extramural funding:** How the proposed studies will generate pilot data to enhance extramural applications that support the applicants' long-term research programs; the aims of the planned extramural grant; a timeline for submission; and the agencies from which funding will be sought (maximum 1 page)
- A **timeline** noting specific aims to be used in reporting (*maximum of 1 page*)
- **Budget** ([using this template](#)) in this breakdown:
 - Dollar amount requested (rounded off to the nearest \$25,000; max of \$250,000)
 - Breakdown of budget (personnel and supplies) with dollar amounts for each
 - Faculty salary support is limited to 10% of the total budget. Salary support for administrative support is not appropriate. Funds may be requested for salaries and fringe for study staff, students, post-doctoral fellows, and other study-related personnel.
 - Travel expenses and equipment are allowable with this funding mechanism.
 - Computers, general-purpose equipment, office supplies, etc. may not be charged to this project.
 - Indirect costs are not allowed on the I³ Awards
 - A separate budget page should be submitted for each non-SOM entity that will incur costs on behalf of this project, including a statement of commitment from each non-SOM entity to fund its share if the award is made (I³ funds cannot be used to fund non-SOM expenses)
- **Budget Justification** (*maximum of 1 page per institution*)
- **IRB or IACUC Approval Letter** (if the study has already been approved) OR comments on the status of the IRB/IACUC review.
- **Biosketches:** Include (new) NIH-style biosketches for key personnel. Please use this [template](#). Combine all biosketches into the single overall PDF. Biosketch instructions [here](#)

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

Review and Award Process - The following Review Criteria will be used to score proposals:

- Identifies an interdisciplinary team collaboration with at least one new collaborator outside of the home department/division (within the SOM) who brings a different discipline, expertise, or methodology to the project
- Benefits of, and need for, collaboration
- Potential for significant vs. incremental impact if project were to succeed
- Time to impact (preference given to projects with well-defined time plans and with early and clear go-no-go points)
- Creativity and novelty of the idea/approach
- Feasibility of carrying out the proposed project
- Chances of a successful outcome
- Potential to generate extramural funding

Progress Reports

Return on Investment (publications, patents, presentations, etc.) will be tracked. Awardees are required to submit: 1) scientific reports demonstrating progress against aims on their submitted timeline, and 2) financial status reports – both are due at 6, 12, 18 and 24 months (and 30 and 36 months in an NCE). Departments are responsible for tracking and reconciling project accounts as non-sponsored funds.

Awardees are required to submit brief annual progress reports for 5 years following completion of the funded award to state progress on the following metrics: publications, external grant funding, and/or further projects stemming from the award, and replication of project at Emory or elsewhere.

Citation Requirements

Awardees are required to cite institutional support of the Emory SOM and the Georgia CTSA NIH award number (**UL1-TR002378**) on all products (publications, patents, presentations) resulting from this award.

For content questions related to the I³ Award programs, please contact:

Lisa M Carlson, MPH, MCHES
Executive Administrator, Research Programs and Operations
Emory University School of Medicine
Lisa.Carlson@emory.edu

For technical questions related to the application portal, please contact:

Bekeela M. Davila, MPH
Program and Research Manager
Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance (Georgia CTSA)
Bekeela.Davila@emory.edu