

SOM AND WHSC
IMAGINE, INNOVATE, AND IMPACT (I³)
SYNERGY CORES AWARDS RFP

I³ Synergy Cores Awards: The Dean of the Emory School of Medicine (SOM) and the Vice President of Research for the Woodruff Health Sciences Center (WHSC) are soliciting proposals to use the Emory Integrated Core Facilities (EICF; full list [here](#)) to facilitate innovative research. This mechanism will provide funding support to utilize the existing services and technologies offered by the nineteen EICF cores with the goal of generating data for research projects. Faculty members from across the WHSC, including all Schools, Centers, and Institutes are encouraged to apply.

Funding Availability – Award amounts are as follows:

I³ Synergy Cores: Awards will be made in \$1,000 increments, up to \$10,000 in total direct costs to support EICF core usage only and not other research costs associated with the proposal. Budgets should be rounded off to the nearest \$1,000. The total number of awards to be made is variable based on merit and funds requested; a maximum total of \$150,000 will be awarded in this round. Projects may propose usage of more than one core facility however the direct costs cap remains at \$10,000. The proposed research project cannot have used the proposed core service(s) within the last two years. If funds are awarded, they must be used within one year of the award date or they will be returned to the SOM and WHSC.

Eligibility – I³ Synergy Cores Awards:

- Open to PIs with a primary faculty appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor or above at an FTE of 0.5 or higher within the Woodruff Health Sciences Center (WHSC)
- Cannot be duplicative of current funding at the time of award
- Faculty may serve as PI on only one proposal but can serve as a co-Investigator on multiple proposals
- If the proposal includes a non-WHSC entity, that entity must agree to fund its share of the budget if awarded.

Timeline

November 3, 2022 – RFP released

December 15, 2022 – Proposals due by 5:00 pm

February 15, 2023 – Applicant award notification

March 1, 2023 – Project start date

February 28, 2024 – Project end date (Up to 1-year; funds not expended by 12 months will be returned to SOM.)

Application Information

Applicants should submit the following materials using [InfoReady](#) no later than 5:00 p.m. (no exceptions) on Thursday, December 15, 2022. Note that the proposal length and sections required are abbreviated and modified compared to other I³ awards to expedite the proposal submission process.

We recommend that applicants gather the information/documents below before beginning the application.

At above link, answer:

- PI name and department/division
- Does your project involve investigators from more than one institution? (Yes or No)
- Title of the proposal/innovation
- Summary/Abstract (500 words maximum)
- Total amount of budget proposed (maximum of \$10,000, rounded off to nearest \$1,000)
- Period proposed (for I³ Synergy Cores Awards = 1 year)
- Single PDF Attachment (see below for format)

Attachment – Each of the following items should be uploaded as a single PDF document following this naming convention: PI last name.first name.I3Cores2022.pdf

- Example: Hill.Beth.I3Cores2022.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.I3Cores2022

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The single PDF must include, in this order and in these sections (sections should not be combined as they will be scored separately):

1. **Title page (up to 1 page)** with:
 - Name of individual designated as PI, credentials, title, and department/division
 - If applicable, Co-PI name, credentials, title, and department/division
 - Co-Investigators' names, credentials, titles, and departments/divisions
 - Must include signature of the PI, and the Chair of the PI's department must indicate approval of the proposal through signature on the title page
2. **Specific Aims (maximum 1 page)** with an overall impact statement
3. **Research Strategy:** Must include sections for Significance, Innovation, and Approach (e.g., service) that will be implemented within an EICF core. Within these sections the applicant should delineate which core(s) will be used, justify how the core will facilitate their research, describe the service to be used, and address feasibility of the proposed studies in the core. We highly recommend consulting the respective EICF core director. Preliminary data can be added but is not required. Applicants are encouraged to meet with EICF Core Directors to address feasibility of the proposed project (*maximum 2 pages*)
4. **A one year timeline** noting specific aims (*maximum of 1 page*)
5. **References (maximum 2 pages)**
6. **Letters of support are not permitted.**
7. **Budget (up to 1 page)** in this breakdown:
 - It is highly recommended to consult with the respective EICF core director on the budget prior to submission
 - Dollar amount requested (rounded to the nearest \$1,000, up to a maximum of \$10,000)
 - Period requested (SOM I³ Synergy Cores = 1 year)
 - The budget will only support charges associated with usage of EICF cores; support for personnel, equipment, supplies, travel, and other related expenses are not allowed

- If EICF costs exceed the \$10,000 award cap please indicate how the remainder of the costs will be funded
- Indirect costs are not allowed on the I³ Awards
- A separate budget page should be submitted for each non-WHSC entity that will incur costs on behalf of this project, including a statement of commitment from each non-WHSC entity to fund its share if the award is made.

8. **Budget Justification** (*up to 1 page per institution*)

9. **Biosketches:** Include NIH-style biosketches for the PI and co-Investigators. 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:

- Justification for utilizing the proposed core
- Feasibility of carrying out the proposed project with the proposed core
- Magnitude of impact if the project were to succeed
- Creativity and novelty of the idea/approach
- PI qualifications and team readiness
- Potential to generate future extramural funding

Progress Reports

Return on Investment (publications, grants, disclosures/patents, presentations, etc.) will be tracked. Awardees are required to submit scientific progress reports two times per year, due at 6 and 12 months

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 and follow-on funding stemming from the award, and replication of project at Emory or elsewhere.

Financial Reports

The PI's department is responsible for financial management of I³ awards. The PI and the PI's Department (not SOM) are responsible for reconciling project accounts as non-sponsored funds.

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:

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

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