

# 2020 WHSC COVID-19 CURE



EMORY

WOODRUFF  
HEALTH  
SCIENCES  
CENTER

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

June 22, 2020

Dear Woodruff Health Sciences Center Colleagues:

The Woodruff Health Sciences Center (WHSC) announces the launch of the **WHSC COVID-19 CENTER for URGENT RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT (COVID-19 CURE) and Awards Program**, made possible by generous philanthropic support from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation and the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. The CURE Center was created to facilitate high-impact science and discovery towards improved COVID-19 treatment and prevention research. The goal is to invest in high-impact Emory projects (e.g. in diagnostics, immunology, therapeutics, vaccines, seroprevalence, cohort development, disparities, computational studies and other clinical research) and smaller exploratory projects that can change the clinical course (effectively treat/prevent serious disease) or prevent the transmission and spread of this infection.

The funds can be used to support new COVID-19 focused researchers, equipment/instrumentation, technical support, pilots and enhancing facilities for this work. Awards up from \$10,000 to \$250,000 will be made depending upon the scope of the project. In addition, COVID-19 CURE will act as a hub, facilitating and helping to prioritize Emory COVID-19 research activities.

This is an open standing announcement for proposals (e.g. grants, recruitments, infrastructure) that will be reviewed on a rolling basis until 15 Dec 2020. The very best ideas that support **new or existing research** and collaborative projects between the schools, centers, and faculty of the WHSC are encouraged.

## ELIGIBILITY

Principal investigators must have a primary faculty appointment in one of the WHSC units. The proposal cannot be duplicative with other funding at the time of the award.

## APPLICATION

Applications will consist of:

- 1) A **cover sheet** indicating the title of the project, faculty and schools involved and contact information.

2) The **research proposal** should include four sections that succinctly describe the following:

- Innovative approach to be tested or goal to be achieved; why is the problem important in COVID-19; how will the proposed funding be impactful.
- How does the proposed investment create or magnify high impact Emory projects (e.g. in COVID-19 diagnostics, immunology, therapeutics, vaccines, seroprevalence, cohort development, EMR records analysis correlating outcomes with drugs use or other clinical parameters, development of COVID-related apps, other clinical research studies) or smaller exploratory project that can change the clinical course (effectively treat/prevent serious disease) or completely prevent the transmission and spread of this infection.
- Nature of the collaboration(s) that enables the proposed work; is this a new collaboration; applicants must clearly describe how the project will be important for addressing COVID-19.
- Goals to be accomplished with the funding
- Expected impact of the proposed studies beyond the initial funded phase, including what future work would be enabled

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

- 3) A minimal, **one-page budget** that describes how the funding will be allocated to each investigator in the collaboration and how it will be apportioned for any personnel, supplies and equipment. Any budget amount \$ 10,000 up to \$250, 000 can be proposed. Faculty salary and equipment costs can be included as desired. No indirect costs should be included in the budget.
- 4) A **National Institutes of Health-style biosketch** for each principal investigator that includes all current and pending support from all sponsored and non-sponsored sources. Each biosketch is **limited to five 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. (Example: Stephens.David.pdf)

The proposals will be reviewed using an NIH scoring system.

Score	Descriptor	Additional Guidance on Strengths/Weaknesses
1	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
3	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
4	Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses
7	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
8	Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weaknesses
9	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses
<b>Minor Weakness:</b> An easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen impact		
<b>Moderate Weakness:</b> A weakness that lessens impact		
<b>Major Weakness:</b> A weakness that severely limits impact		

For consideration, and due to the urgency of the crisis, proposals should be received as soon as possible. Please click on the links below (or send via email) to submit proposals or questions.

Please submit proposals to: [angie.daniels@emory.edu](mailto:angie.daniels@emory.edu)

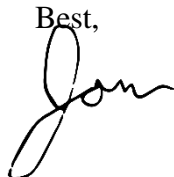
Direct all inquiries to:

Barbara Walsh  
(404) 727-4251  
[barbara.walsh@emory.edu](mailto:barbara.walsh@emory.edu)

Gayathri Srinivasan  
(404) 727-9843  
[gayathris@emory.edu](mailto:gayathris@emory.edu)

I look forward to seeing your innovative and collaborative ideas.

Best,



Jonathan S. Lewin, MD, FACR  
Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, Emory University  
Executive Director, Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center  
President, CEO, and Chairman of the Board, Emory Healthcare