

ACCELERATING CRITICAL COVID-19 RESEARCH AND RESPONSE: THE EMORY COVID-19 CENTER for URGENT RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT (COVID-19 CURE)

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The Woodruff Health Sciences Center (WHSC) announces the launch of the **WHSC COVID-19 CENTER for URGENT RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT (COVID-19 CURE)**, made possible by generous philanthropic support from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation and the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. COVID-19 CURE has been 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, new devices, personal protective equipment, disparities) and smaller exploratory projects that can change the clinical course (effectively treat/prevent serious disease) or prevent the transmission and spread of this infection.

Since January 2020, Emory's talented researchers have worked in many roles to advance diagnostics, treatments, vaccines, and other prevention measures against this novel coronavirus. With a long record of innovative discovery and ongoing renowned research, Emory has become a leader in COVID-19 investigation and a steadfast responder to the health crisis. The COVID-19 CURE will serve as a hub for SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 research, drawing on interdisciplinary collaboration from experts across Emory and its affiliates. The center will be an incubator for discovery and dissemination of critical novel COVID-related research, allowing Emory to lead projects that impact this disease, attract community support and help leverage crucial federal funding. In addition to advancing current COVID-related clinical trials and informing emerging research, COVID-19 CURE will seek to advance breakthroughs in basic, translational, and clinical research that will accelerate Emory's response to future threats.

COVID-19 CURE will provide an immediate home for coordinated COVID-related research, bringing together experts from across Woodruff Health Sciences Center, including Emory School of Medicine, Rollins School of Public Health, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Winship Cancer Institute, the Emory Vaccine Center and Yerkes National Primate Research Center, as well as university-wide programs and synergies with healthcare research partners like Grady Healthcare, CHOA and Georgia academic partners.

By creating a central point for critical and emerging research activity in SARS-CoV-2 and other emerging infectious diseases threats, Emory will be able to explore foundational, translational, and clinical studies in prevention, diagnostics, therapeutics, and life-changing devices. COVID-19 CURE research activities will also include health services, epidemiology, and data sciences studies that result in novel clinical trials design, better preparedness for future threats, and more robust contact tracing. Developing an Emory COVID-19 cohort will allow a closer examination of future outcomes that may impact the people of Georgia.

To sustain these efforts, COVID-19 CURE will position Emory to compete more aggressively for prestigious NIH and other federal grants, and to publicize funding opportunities to investigators. By creating a hub for discovery and pilot studies, our researchers can quickly generate the critical data needed to leverage further funding that fuels advancement and innovation.