SOM IMAGINE, INNOVATE, AND IMPACT (I^3)
VENTURE RESEARCH AWARDS RFP

VENTURE AWARDS: The Dean of the Emory School of Medicine (SOM) is soliciting innovative research proposals to catalyze promising early-stage concepts with commercial potential that do not yet qualify for funding from external sources. The **I^3 Venture Research Awards** aim to cultivate inventors, innovators, and entrepreneurs driven to solve medicine's challenges and create patient impact. In the current round, grants will be considered for:

- **I^3 Venture Research Awards:** Proposals with the potential to shape, de-risk, or scale up a potential new drug or technology in medicine (diagnostic, therapeutic, device or software) in less than **<u>one year</u>**. If successful, the proposal would ready the project for the next stage of translation (not necessarily to market readiness). Particularly creative ideas, even without preliminary data, will be considered provided compelling impact, feasibility and commercial potential is demonstrated.
- Note that an invention disclosure to the Emory Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) is not necessary in order to submit and be eligible. Also, the opportunity being developed does not necessarily have to be fit for development into a startup company.

Funding Availability – Award amounts are as follows:

- **I^3 Venture Research Awards: Awards will be made in $1,000 increments, up to $20,000** in total direct costs. Budgets should be rounded off to the nearest $1,000.
- The total of number of awards to be made is variable based on merit and funds requested; a maximum of $100,000 will be awarded in this round.

Eligibility – I^3 Venture Research Awards:

- Cannot be duplicative of current funding at the time of award
- Faculty may participate in more than one proposal and may serve as PI on more than one proposal
- Faculty PI with a primary appointment in the Emory SOM at the rank of Assistant Professor or above at an FTE or 0.5 or higher
- Collaborations are strongly encouraged but not required. If the proposal includes a non-SOM entity, that second entity must agree to fund its share of the budget if awarded.

Timeline
February 3, 2020 – RFP released
April 1, 2020 – Proposals due by 5:00 pm
May 15, 2020 – Applicant award notification
July 1, 2020 – Project start date
June 30, 2021 – Project end date (Up to 1-year No Cost Extension (NCE) may be granted with strong justification. Funds not expended by 24 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 Wednesday, April 1, 2020.**

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

At above link, answer:
- Title of the proposal/innovation
- Category: Venture Research
- Does your project involve investigators from more than one institution? (Yes or No)
- PI name and department/division
- Total amount of budget proposed (maximum of $20,000, rounded off to nearest $1,000)
- Period proposed (for Venture = 1 year)
- Summary/Abstract (500 words maximum)
- Single PDF Attachment (see below for format)

Attachment – Each of the following items should be uploaded <u>as a single PDF document following this naming convention:</u> PI last name.first name.I3Venture2020.pdf

- Example: Hill.Beth.I3Venture2020.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.I3Venture2020   Page 1 of 10

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
   - Invention disclosure reference number (if filed; not required)
   - Technology Category (Small molecule drug, Biologic drug, Diagnostics device, Therapeutic device, mHealth product, Combination Product, Research tool, other)
   - 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. **Background** (*up to 1 page*) - Describe the scope and nature of the problem the technology will be designed to address. Some elements to include are the disease burden, market space in which the product would operate, and comparison of your solution to the current and predicted standard of care. Provide a brief description of the solution. How will the proposed solution improve on how it's being done today? How does it compare to competitive technologies? Who would use it?
3. **Proposed Solution** (up to 1 page, <u>non-confidential)</u> – Describe the underlying technical approach and where are you in its development? If you have some very compelling preliminary data to illustrate feasibility, this is a good spot to put one or two simple figures. What is the status of intellectual property – Describe the extent of interactions with the technology transfer office if applicable.
4. **Project Plan** (up to 2 pages) – Discuss the overall project plan including a timeline with key milestones

and the final goal to be achieved at the completion of the project. Include a timeline noting specific milestones to be used in project reporting. Define the funding requirements to achieve each milestone. How have you funded development to date? Explain how this project plan fits into an overall product development plan.

5. **Impact** (up to 1 page) - What is the likelihood of significant progress in shaping, de-risking or scaling up a potential drug or technology in less than one year? Will additional or new intellectual property be generated? What is the likelihood of (and plan for) this project leading to future/follow-on external funding support? What is the magnitude of potential impact if project were to succeed in the long-term (i.e. potential for significant vs. incremental impact through delivering a drug or technology to the public)?

6. **Personnel** - Provide the institutional affiliation, relevant background and expertise of the individuals on the team. Include (new) NIH-style biosketches for key personnel. Please use this template. Combine all biosketches into the single overall PDF. Biosketch instructions here

7. **References** (up to 1 page) – include contact information

8. **Letters of support are not permitted**

9. **Budget** *(up to 1 page using this template)* in this breakdown:
   - Dollar amount requested (rounded to the nearest $1,000, up to a maximum of $20,000)
   - Period requested (Venture = 1 year)
   - 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 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 I^3 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.

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

11. **Include IRB or IACUC Approval Letter** (if approved) OR the status of the IRB/IACUC review (if applicable).

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:
- Primary criteria:
  - Significance of the problem
  - Creativity and novelty of the solution

- Reasonableness of the project plan, its milestones and funding needs
- Likelihood of significant progress in shaping, de-risking or scaling up a technology within one year
- Likelihood of leading to future/follow-on external funding support
- Long-term commercialization potential (IP generation)
- Magnitude of potential impact if project were to succeed in the long-term (i.e. potential for significant vs. incremental impact through delivering a technology to the public)
- PI qualifications and team readiness

Progress Reports

Return on Investment (publications, disclosures/patents, presentations, etc.) will be tracked. Awardees are required to submit quarterly scientific reports demonstrating progress against aims on their submitted timeline - due at 3, 6, 9 and 12 months (and 15, 18, 21 and 24 months in an NCE).

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 I^3 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 <u>and</u> the Georgia CTSA NIH award number (**UL1-TR002378**) on all products (publications, patents, presentations) resulting from this award.

For content questions related to the I^3 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