

SYNERGY II\_Nexus Call for Proposals  
2020

*This RFA encourages proposals that bring together multiple individuals from different scholarly domains under the general rubric of data science.*

Distributed Monday, January 13, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

The Provost's Office, the Woodruff Health Sciences Center, Emory School of Medicine and Emory College of Arts and Sciences announce the 2020 cycle of "Synergy II\_Nexus" Awards specifically to generate cross-unit projects that address domain-spanning collaborative research in the realm of "data science". This RFA seeks proposals with a minimum of 2 principal investigators (more than 2 encouraged), with at least one from a WHSC unit and one from ECAS, GBS, Law, Candler or Oxford.

The intent of this RFA is to seed research and scholarship at Emory under the data science umbrella in a way that will stimulate the growth of new research collaborations around compelling research themes. Explicitly employing techniques and theories drawn from many fields within the context of mathematics, statistics, computer science and information science, this RFA solicits proposals that are able to grow data science at Emory by identifying relevant research questions, collecting data from a multitude of different data sources, organizing the information, and translating the results into potential solutions.

We anticipate funding 3-4 awards at a maximum of \$100,000 each with an award term of one year. Applicants must present a credible plan describing how they will make substantial progress with one year of funding. Carryover of funds to a second year will be considered with justification under special circumstances. Funds not expended within 12 months (24 if an extension is approved) must be returned.

**The application deadline is Friday, February 21, 2020** at 5 pm with funding released by **May 10, 2020**.

### **Eligibility**

- This RFA is available only to Emory full-time tenure, clinical or research track faculty of any rank.
- Faculty may participate in a single Synergy II\_Nexus Award application during any annual award cycle.
- Successful applications will have at least one faculty member with a primary appointment from a WHSC unit and at least one with a primary appointment from ECAS, GBS, Candler, Law, Oxford, with each investigator playing a principal role in the scholarship.
- Applications with more than 2 principal investigators are encouraged.
- One individual should be chosen as the corresponding PI.

- The proposal cannot be duplicative with other funding at the time of the award. These awards are not intended to support already established projects or minimal extensions of ongoing research programs.

## Application

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

Applications will consist of:

1. **A cover sheet:** indicating the title of the project, faculty involved, faculty role in the project, faculty member's school(s) and department(s), and contact information.
2. **A research proposal,** which should include four sections that succinctly describe the following:
  - Describe the research question to be addressed. Why is the problem important? Explain why it cannot be solved by individual investigators and their close collaborators, but rather is a complex and challenging research question that demands the integrated efforts of a cohort of laboratories with complementary approaches that bring a breadth of intellectual and technical expertise.
  - Does the project represent a new research direction at Emory? If so, how?
  - What research approach or approaches will be pursued during the year of funding? What specifically will be done?
  - What is the expected impact of the proposed project beyond the initial funded phase, including what future work would be enabled?
  - How will the effort be sustained? What sources of extramural funding will be sought?

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

3. **A minimal, one-page budget** that describes how the funding will be allocated. How will it be apportioned among the participants? Any budget amount up to \$100,000 can be proposed. Neither faculty salaries nor indirect costs are permissible in the budget.
4. **A biosketch for each PI. For consistency please use the National Institutes of Health biosketch form** (guidance will be provided to those not familiar with the NIH biosketch). All current and

pending support from all sponsored and non-sponsored sources should be provided. Each biosketch is limited to four 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. For example: Smith.John.pdf

**Please send your proposals to Vice Provost Lanny S. Liebeskind at [chemLL1@emory.edu](mailto:chemLL1@emory.edu) not later than February 21, 2020 at 5 pm.**

We look forward to seeing your innovative and collaborative ideas for building scholarly communities around compelling research ideas.

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

Janice Love, PhD  
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