

To Whom It May Concern,

The Children's Heart Research and Outcomes (HeRO) Center is pleased to announce the availability of research funding due to a generous contribution from Enduring Hearts (www.enduringhearts.org). The goal of this program is to catalyze research at Emory, Georgia Tech, and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta to solve major problems associated with cardiac transplantation in children. The average transplant does not last long enough (<17 years) and requires toxic cocktails of immunosuppressive drugs...too much for any child to have to endure. We are soliciting projects in the areas outlined below with a maximum duration of 2 years and a maximum total cost of \$150k. Interested candidates should submit an application of no more than 5 pages, NIH-style bio-sketches of all key personnel, and a detailed budget **by 9/30/2021**, by accessing the application [here](#). Please complete and upload the attached budget template (required) as well as Financial Agreement (if required) in the necessary sections of the application.

Grantees will be expected to publish their results acknowledging this funding, prepare semi-annual reports to the foundation, and apply for follow-on funding. Any grantee not in compliance will be ineligible for future grant calls.

1. Improving Longevity and quality of post-heart transplant life by reducing/eliminating rejection and Cardiac Allograft Vasculopathy (CAV) by:

- 1.1. Integrating accurate non-invasive surveillance methods, technologies, and biomarkers for care strategies, technologies, and methods towards EARLIER identification of the onset of acute cellular rejection (ACR), antibody-mediated rejection (AMR), and/or cardiac allograft vasculopathy (CAV)
- 1.2. Development of therapeutics and/or therapeutic strategies for acute cellular rejection (ACR), antibody-mediated rejection (AMR), and/or cardiac allograft vasculopathy (CAV)
- 1.3. Developing novel immunotherapies, identification of novel targets for immunosuppression, improving methods for monitoring and determining the optimal level of immunosuppression to prevent ACR, AMR, and/or CAV while reducing/eliminating secondary conditions that may arise due to immunosuppression (renal; infectious)
- 1.4. Development and validation of better experimental models to study the underlying mechanisms, therapies, and/or prevention of CAV
- 1.5. Developing more robust evidence for person-centered post-transplant care guidelines, including nutrition and exercise guidelines, and effective delivery of person-centered care.

2. Development of evidence-based strategies to improve the longevity of adolescent recipients including:

- 2.1. Improving transitioning from pediatric to adult care/medication adherence
- 2.2. Development of evidence-based tools for improving pediatric heart recipient and family education related to heart transplantation.
- 2.3. Improving evidence-based diverse psycho-social support methods including technologies, hosted peer action groups, virtual visit models, and remote metrics.

3. Strengthen pre-transplant strategies, innovations, or new technologies for children waiting for, and immediately after receiving, a heart transplant including:

- 3.1. Applying advanced data analytics to better integrate extracardiac and cardiovascular candidate risk factors including the degree of multiorgan dysfunction and frailty, race and ethnic group, and HLA and nonHLA sensitization.
- 3.2. Innovative strategies that would improve organ availability, matching, utilization, and allocation.
- 3.3. Pre-transplant modifications in donor heart immunogenicity.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Best,

Kelcey Little, M.S.

Research & Program Manager
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Children's Heart Research and Outcomes Center
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Enduring Hearts Research Program: Financial Letter of Agreement

A signed Financial Letter of Agreement is required from the department head of the faculty member applying for funding.

PI Name: _____

Title of Pilot Application: _____

Dear Dr. _____:

I agree with the goals of your project and the terms of the award as outlined in the RFA for the Enduring Hearts pilot projects. My signature confirms:

- Acknowledgement of the terms of the award, including absence of institutional overhead/indirect costs if the project is funded.
- Acknowledgment of a business level review of salary and fringe requests to ensure accuracy in numbers and agreement to any cost share requests.
- Agreement that the PI, or faculty or staff member from my institution, has effort available to dedicate to the research project should the proposal be funded.

My signature below also confirms that the budget has been reviewed by an appropriate department or division representative and that current salary base information and non-federal fringe rates have been used.

Sincerely,

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Email Address: _____