SOM P^4 - PIVOT, PROPOSAL AND PLANNING PROGRAM
Fast track RFA

P^4 RESEARCH AWARDS (RELEASED April 17, 2025): The Dean of the Emory School of Medicine (SOM), in partnership with the Winship Cancer Institute, Emory Department of Pediatrics and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA), Grady Research, and the Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), is soliciting proposals for the P^4 Pivot Program. This new pivot program is designed to provide seed funding to Principal Investigators (PIs) in the SOM who are looking to reshape their research to better align with current and emerging funding priorities at federal agencies. In this funding cycle, grants will be considered for:

P^4 Fast Track Awards: This RFA is only for proposals from principal investigators whose funding has been terminated at this time due to changes in federal funding priorities and who need to pivot their research programs to new areas of research and funding opportunities. This program will evaluate and fund new projects with an emphasis on novelty, significance, and potential for successful extramural funding with this research pivot. All proposals will be evaluated by a scientific review committee, and successful applicants must enlist an Individual Advisory Council (IAC) to aid in success of the proposed work. Funding is provided by the SOM and partners above for SOM PIs.

Funding Availability:
- **P^4 Fast Track Awards: Up to $100,000 for year 1 in total direct costs** (may not include faculty salary) with the opportunity for a 2nd year based upon a competitive renewal process.
- Applications will be evaluated monthly and funded on a rolling basis.
- The total number of awards to be made is dependent on merit and available funds.

Eligibility – SOM P^4 Research Awards:
- P^4 applicant must have been the PI on a grant or project leader of a program grant/contract (e.g., P01, U19, etc.) that has been terminated in 2025 by the federal government actions
- Any full-time faculty member in the SOM at the rank of Assistant Professor or above and with ≥20% Research FTE prior to loss of funding
- All areas of SOM research are eligible, provided they align with current NIH funding priorities
- PI must have ≤$200,000 in all Annual Direct Costs (DC) on other funded projects/year
- PI must have ≤$50,000 in all discretionary monies
- Department Chair must commit to co-funding 10% of total budget (not including PI salary)
- If R01-level funding is attained within the 2-year award period, the balance of the P^4 award at the time of funding will be returned to SOM
- Awards are not transferable

Timeline
  April 17, 2025 – RFP released.
  Ongoing – Proposals accepted **by the last business day of each month at 5:00 p.m.**

Within 45 days of submission – Applicant award notification or determination.
Within 60 days of submission – Project start date.
11 months from start date – 1-year competitive renewal.
24 months from start date – Project end date.

Application Information
Applicants should submit the following materials using [InfoReady](#) **by the last business day of each month at 5:00p.m. (proposals received after 5 pm will be evaluated in the next month's cycle).**
Applicants are recommended to gather the information/documents below before beginning the application.
- Title of the proposal/innovation
- Category: P^4 Fast Track
- Length of project: 1 year, with potential for a competitive renewal for an additional year
- PI name, credentials, title, and department/division
- If applicable, Co-PI name, credentials, title, and department/division
- Co-Investigators' names, credentials, titles, and departments/divisions
- Summary/Abstract (200 word maximum)
- Attachments (see below)

Attachments – Each of the following items should be uploaded as a single PDF document following this naming convention: PI last name.first name.P4FastTrack2025.pdf
- Example: Hill.Beth.P4FastTrack2025.pdf
- The single PDF must include, in this order (please start each section on a new page):
- **Title page** with name of individual designated as PI and list of co-investigators; must include signatures of the PI and the Chair of the PI's department (to indicate approval of the proposal). [Note that proposals will not be accepted after the deadline due to a delay in obtaining signatures.]{.underline} *(maximum of 1 page)*
- **Specific Aims** (*maximum 1 page*)
- **Documentation of canceled funding** - Include identifying information for the grant or project cancelled in 2025 and why it was canceled if known *(maximum 1/4 page)*
- **Statement of financial need** - Provide all current funding status, including Direct Costs on other funded projects and available discretionary funds using eligibility criteria limits *(maximum 1 page)*
- **Research Strategy**: Include sections for Significance, Innovation, and Approach (*maximum 3 pages*)
- **Pivot Strategy**: Address: 1) Why is this a pivot? What is the new direction? 2) creativity and novelty in the proposed research area, including why this specific strategic area was chosen; 3) the PI's ability to compete in the field; 4) justification that the new direction is in a fundable area; 5) magnitude of impact if the project were to succeed (i.e., potential for significant vs. incremental impact); 6) potential to generate extramural funding (include aims of the planned extramural grant; a timeline for submission; and the agencies from which funding will be sought); 7) existing specialized Emory workforce who would be maintained through this funding *(maximum 1 page)*
- **Timeline** with specific aims and go/no-go decision points for reporting *(maximum of ½ page)*
- **Individual Advisory Council** membership list; including titles and department/division affiliation
- **References** *(maximum 2 pages)*

- **Budget** (*using this template*) in this breakdown:
  - Dollar amount requested (max of $100,000 direct costs per year, not including faculty salary). No cost extensions would be considered only under extenuating circumstances.
  - Department Chair commitment to fund 10% of total budget, not including PI salary.
  - Breakdown of budget (personnel and other cost categories) with dollar amounts for each.
    - Funds may be requested for salaries for study staff, students, post-doctoral fellows, and other study-related personnel. Support for independent faculty is not allowed.
    - Travel expenses and equipment are not allowable with this funding mechanism.
    - Computers, general-purpose equipment, office supplies, etc. may not be charged to this project.
    - Tuition is not allowed on P⁴ Awards; however graduate student stipends are allowed.
    - Indirect costs are not allowed on the P⁴ Awards.
    - No subcontracts are allowed on the P⁴ Awards.
- **Budget Justification** (*maximum of 1 page*)
- **Biosketches**: Include (new) NIH-style biosketches for key personnel. Please use this template. Combine all biosketches into the single overall PDF. Biosketch instructions here.
- **Full CV of the applicant**

A separate, confidential letter (pdf) should be prepared from the investigator's Chair (or Division Chief) and sent directly to the Manager of Research Projects, SOM Research Administration – Greeshma Kombara (**Greeshma.Girish.Kombara@emory.edu**). This letter should:
- Confirm the amount of the request
- Indicate the degree of departmental enthusiasm for the investigator's pivot strategy
- Address whether additional departmental funds are available to pool with institutional P⁴ funds, and if so, up to what level
- Confirm required Departmental matching funds at 10% of the P⁴ amount (not including PI salary)

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%)
- The following fonts are acceptable: Arial and Calibri
- Text color must be black (color text in figures, graphs, diagrams, charts, tables, footnotes, and headings is acceptable)

Review and Award Process- The following Review Criteria will be used to score proposals:
- Likelihood of success of the pivot strategy
- Novelty in area, significance of the proposed research, and ability to compete in the field
- Financial need
- Previous track record of success
- Maintaining existing specialized Emory workforce

Individual Advisory Council

As part of the award process, each PI that is awarded P^4 funding must assemble and work with an Individual Advisory Council (IAC). The IAC will function like an external advisory board and will:

- Consist of ≥3 faculty members with at least one from a different department/division
- Provide advice and guidance on the scientific aspects of the pivot
- Serve as a resource to ensure the new research direction is novel, innovative, and impactful
- Help review grant proposals prior to submission to funding agencies
- Determine if advice is being heeded by the PI
- Provide brief written progress reports on the project if funded

The IAC will meet with the PI during the application development process and will continue to provide strategic advice if the project is funded. The IAC will also review progress and provide a brief 1-page letter to the SOM at 11 months post award for continued funding.

Progress Reports

Return on Investment (publications, patents, presentations, grant applications, etc.) will be tracked. Awardees are required to submit biannual scientific progress reports. Awardees are required to submit brief annual progress reports for 3 years following completion of the funded award to state progress on the following metrics: publications, external grant funding, and/or further projects stemming from the award.

Financial Reports

The PI's department is responsible for financial management of P^4 awards. The PI and the PI's Department (not SOM) are responsible for reconciling project accounts as non-sponsored funds.

For administrative questions related to P^4, please contact:

Greeshma Kombara, MPH
Manager, Research Projects
Emory University School of Medicine
Greeshma.Girish.Kombara@emory.edu

For scientific questions, contact the P^4 - PIVOT, PROPOSAL AND PLANNING PROGRAM COALITION:

- **Emory School of Medicine – Dr. Jeremy Boss**
- **Winship Cancer Institute – Dr. Adam Marcus**
- **Emory Department of Pediatrics and CHOA – Dr. Kristy Murray**
- **Grady Research – Dr. Ravi Rajani**
- **Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) – Dr. Carlos del Rio**