



## Center for Pediatric Cardiac Research



## Request for applications for Pilot Grant Funding

Congenital heart defects (CHD) are the leading cause of infant mortality associated with birth defects and can result in chronic disability (both physical and mental), morbidity, and increased health care costs. While the vast majority of NIH funding for cardiac research is directed toward adult ischemia, atherosclerosis, and heart failure, we have been able to establish a significant group of NIH funded investigators in the areas of imaging, failure, computational modeling, neuroprotection, and postnatal development in CHD. New areas of cardiac therapy such as stem cell therapy are being rapidly developed for adult heart disease. One of our goals is to make progress in understanding how stem cells can be directed toward cardiac regeneration and repair of the infant heart with CHD. We have several active programs in research that work toward our **overall vision of enhancing the diagnosis and treatment of infants and children with Congenital Heart Defects**. We welcome applications from individuals not currently affiliated with these research programs in order to expand our collaborative expertise.

The goal of the Center for Pediatric Cardiac Research is to integrate basic science, translational and clinical research as it relates to the vision of enhancing the diagnosis and treatment of infants and children with Congenital Heart Defects. Some examples of potential projects include, but are not limited to:

1. Identifying novel targets for therapy designed for the pediatric cardiac patient through basic science studies of cardiac development and heart failure.
2. Utilize the large cohort of congenital heart patients seen at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta for prospective studies to optimize imaging techniques, surgical methods and timing of repair of heart defects to improve outcomes.
3. Improve the quality of life of children with congenital heart disease through understanding and ameliorating injury that occurs with oxidative stress during heart failure and at the time of surgical repair.
4. Understanding how stem cells can be directed toward cardiac regeneration and repair of the infant heart with CHD

Each of the newly established centers of research excellence at Children's and Emory has been allotted \$200,000 for pilot projects to be accomplished during 2010. The goals of these projects will be to develop new science which will further the development of each center, to increase collaborative and interdisciplinary science between Children's, Department of Pediatrics, and partners at Emory, Georgia Tech, Morehouse School of Medicine, to produce innovative advances in child health research, to synergize the efforts of investigators toward

reaching the critical mass needed for multi-investigator extramural awards, such as NIH Program Project grants, and to achieve a level of preliminary data and project development that will result in successful NIH R series grants and other extramural awards.

In order to implement this Pilot grant program for 2010, we will competitively review applications from investigators which meet the following criteria:

- a) All proposals must include at least 1 investigator who is a Children's professional staff member, or a faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics at Emory. If you would like information on current research in pediatric cardiology and names of faculty members with whom you might collaborate, please contact Dr. Ronald Joyner ([rjoyner@emory.edu](mailto:rjoyner@emory.edu)) or Dr. Robert Campbell ([campbellr@kidsheart.com](mailto:campbellr@kidsheart.com))
- b) To accomplish the goal of increasing extramural grant support, each application must have a clearly defined and achievable goal of submitting a new or revised NIH R01 application by the Feb/Mar application cycle of 2011.
- c) We are encouraging individuals who already have an NIH R01 grant funded or recently applied for to apply for a pilot grant with proposals for related scientific development which would lead to a revised or an additional NIH R01 application.
- d) A budget of up to \$50,000 will be allowed for a project leading to an NIH R01 application. A budget of up to \$100,000 will be allowed for a project leading to an NIH PPG application. Budget funds for salary of the principal or co-investigators will not be allowed, although salaries for a postdoctoral fellow or research staff will be allowed, along with supplies and small equipment items. All funds for approved projects must be expended by December 31, 2010.
- f) Applications must be submitted by **February 1, 2010** and will be reviewed with a start date for selected projects of March 1, 2010.
- g) The applications must follow the new NIH guidelines for project submission which is a limit of 12 pages of text divided into sections of innovation, significance, and experimental approach. Preliminary data must be included within the section on experimental approach. The bibliography and budget page (with justification), a NIH style biosketch for all faculty investigators and a NIH style Other Support page for the Principal Investigator will be in addition to the 12 page limit.
- h) Completed applications should be submitted by email as Word Doc files or as PDF files to Dr. Ronald W. Joyner ([rjoyner@emory.edu](mailto:rjoyner@emory.edu)).

**For more information on the Center for Pediatric Cardiac Research, please contact Center Director, Dr. Ron Joyner at [rjoyner@emory.edu](mailto:rjoyner@emory.edu) or [www.pedsresearch.org](http://www.pedsresearch.org).**