

**Request for Planning Grant Applications:
Planning for the Future of Regenerative Medicine in Atlanta**

*The Georgia Tech/Emory Collaboration (GTEC) for Regenerative Medicine
and The Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute,
Established by an NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA)*

Letter of Intent due June 15, 2009 for new proposals, Proposal due June 29, 2009

Introduction

The Georgia Tech/Emory Collaboration (GTEC) for Regenerative Medicine and the Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute (ACTSI) have partnered in the establishment of this interinstitutional grant program for regenerative medicine.

As GTEC looks ahead to its post-NSF funding years, a central mission is to nurture and seed the formation of inter-disciplinary research ideas and teams that will generate large, competitive team and/or center proposals in the next two to four years. Because of the multifaceted nature of the field, research projects require team approaches combining areas of expertise.

This call for planning grants is aimed at **a) groups requesting year 2 funding;** and **b) new groups intending to pursue a multi-disciplinary project** in the area of regenerative medicine that has the potential for multi-investigator extramural funding in a 3-year time horizon

Deadlines

Please see the chart on the last page of this document. Letters of Intent for new proposals are due Jun 15, 2009. New grants and renewal submissions proposals are due June 29, 2009.

Background

Regenerative medicine has the potential to revolutionize health care and provide therapeutics for currently untreatable conditions. Several compelling challenges/ideas/research themes related to regenerative medicine remain to be explored including, for example:

- technologies for stem cell therapies or investigating regenerative capacity (imaging, bioreactors, materials, cell engineering etc);
- understanding the role of inflammation and the immune system relative to implants, healing response or transplanted cell fate;
- adaptive or rationally designed materials for endogenous repair or reconstruction of tissues or imaging, and/or biomolecular reporters for non-invasive monitoring of tissue health and pathologies.

Goals

The goals of this request for applications are to: (1) foster research that will unearth ideas and/or themes that will be the foundation of team-based or center proposals; (2) develop collaborative teams around which the larger proposals can be formed; and (3) produce preliminary data that will support the proposals and establish a track record for the team. This RFA may be viewed as being a **planning grant** for a larger, multi-disciplinary proposal to be submitted for external funding.

Eligibility

Only permanent, full time faculty in the professorial ranks (assistant, associate, full) may apply.

Budgets

Awards will range in size up to **\$100,000 in direct costs for the first year with the possibility of similar level of support for the 2nd and 3rd years subject to meeting the eligibility conditions for renewal as described below.** Teams consisting of members from more than one institution are strongly encouraged. Funds may be used for salary and fringe benefit support of faculty, graduate students and other research staff, but may not be used for general staff or administrative support. Operating supplies, minor equipment items, and travel directly associated with the research activity are eligible for support. Publication expenses will not be supported. If involving animal or human work, funding will only be released after IACUC or IRB approvals are obtained for the work.

Criteria

Proposals will be selected based on the following criteria: (1) scientific excellence, (2) likelihood of obtaining external funding, (3) formation of interinstitutional teams that involve an interdisciplinary approach, (4) the strength of the team, and (5) potential for clinical relevance. Such proposals must be submitted by teams comprising 4-6 investigators (with larger groups encouraged), identifying the lead investigator or co-lead investigators. Investigators may participate in more than one team, but cannot be PIs on more than one proposal. Proposals should explain the importance of the proposed area to regenerative medicine (note that the areas listed in the background are example areas and while they may serve as fine areas for a proposal, they are not intended to limit the areas that will be considered in any way). Additionally, proposals should include a map for submitting a competitive, external, team or center based proposal in the 2nd or 3rd year of the project and identifying appropriate opportunities for its submission (NSF ERC/STC, DARPA, NIH program projects, BRPs or Translational Research Grants).

Groups seeking second year funding should submit a report due July 1st that address a) how the first year funds were used to further the goals of obtaining multi-investigator extramural funding; b) concrete information on proposals submitted or to be submitted in the second year. If a grant was submitted and peer-review statements are available, these **MUST** be included if available for renewal. *Please note that 2nd year funding is NOT automatic and is subject to sufficient evidence of progress towards preparation of a competitive multi-investigator proposal in the 1st or 2nd year. Please note that eligibility for a 3rd year of funding will REQUIRE investigators submitting a peer-review summary statement from a multi-investigator submission.*

Format

Proposals should not exceed five pages, excluding a cover page, a budget page and a two-page NIH format biosketch of co-investigators. The cover page must contain the project title, names of the investigators, amount requested, a one-paragraph summary, and the approval/signature of the department chair of the PI/Co-PI. Eligibility for renewal in 2010 will be contingent upon clear demonstration of satisfactory progress towards submitting a multi-investigator proposal and availability of funds.

New grant proposals must include:

- Significance
- Description of the project and subprojects and how the science may be translated to pre-clinical or clinical studies
- Team for this proposal and for the planned center/team proposal
- Goals and milestones, including submission plan for smaller R01 scale proposals along the way.
- Timeline of the project, including the plan for submitting a large proposal (and appropriate agencies and RFAs)

Renewal applications must include:

- Scientific Plan for year 2
- A statement of how the funds were used in year 1, and how this furthered the competitiveness of the planned multi-investigator application. Please list progress both on scientific as well as team building fronts.
- Concrete program, agency and deadline information for the submitted or planned multi-investigator proposal in the 1st or 2nd year of funding
- Summary statement or other evidence that demonstrates the fate of the submitted multi-investigator proposal.
- Justification for 2nd year of funding with appropriate budget request broken down to where and how the 2nd year dollars will be spent.
- Detail any changes in the composition of the team with appropriate justification.

Submission

Proposals should be submitted via email to Meg McDevitt (megan.mcdevitt@ibb.gatech.edu) by 5:00 pm on June 29, 2009 and new funding is expected to commence starting August 1, 2009 subject to submission of IACUC and other approvals being submitted. Technical questions should be directed to the co-chairs: Ravi Bellamkonda, GTEC (404-385-5038, ravi@gatech.edu), Robert N. Taylor, ACTSI (404-727-9106, robert.n.taylor@emory.edu), and W. Robert Taylor, GTEC (404-727-8921, wtaylor@emory.edu)

Each new proposal will be peer-reviewed using experts internal and external to GT/Emory. In order to prepare for the review process, a letter of intent for new proposals is requested by June 15th. This brief letter should include the title of the project, a short 100 word abstract, and a list of team members, and it should be submitted by e-mail to Meg McDevitt (megan.mcdevitt@ibb.gatech.edu).

Please see the chart on the next page for timeline and deadline information.

Timeline & Breakdown of 2009-2010 Planning Grants

	Requests for 2nd year funding	First Time Submissions
Letter of Intent	<i>Not required</i>	June 15, 2009 Include title of the project, a short 100 word abstract, and a list of team members
Format & Required Content	<p style="text-align: center;">Scientific Plan for Year 2</p> <p>A statement of how funds were used in year 1, and how this furthered the competitiveness of the planned multi-investigator application. Please list progress both on scientific as well as team building fronts.</p> <p>Concrete program, agency and deadline information for the submitted or planned multi-investigator proposal in the 2nd or 3rd year of funding</p> <p>Summary statement or other evidence that demonstrates the fate of the submitted multi-investigator proposal.</p> <p>Justification for 2nd year of funding with appropriate budget request broken down to where and how the 2nd year dollars will be spent.</p> <p>Detail any changes in the composition of the team with appropriate explanation.</p>	<p>Significance of research vis-à-vis Regenerative Medicine</p> <p>Description of the project, subprojects or center planning activities</p> <p>Team for this proposal and for the planned center/team proposal</p> <p>Goals and milestones that might trigger the submission of large, multi-investigator proposals.</p> <p>Timeline of the project, including the plan for submitting a large proposal (please include target deadlines and information about the appropriate agencies and RFAs if available)</p>
Proposal Due	June 29, 2009	June 29, 2009
Notification	July 17, 2009	July 17, 2009
Funding Begins	August 1, 2009	August 1, 2009

Letters of Intent as well as full proposals should be sent by e-mail to
Meg McDevitt at megan.mcdevitt@ibb.gatech.edu