



The Center for Transplant Immunology and Immune Therapeutics

Request for Applications for Seed Funding

The Center for Transplant Immunology and Immune Therapeutics (CTIIT) is a new pediatric research center sponsored by Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, in collaboration with Emory University. We are pleased to announce the CTIIT 2010 Request for Application (RFA) guidelines.

We are focusing on seeding collaborative, inter-departmental or inter-institutional efforts between primary faculty investigators who are on the professional staff of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta or are faculty members of the Emory Department of Pediatrics and investigators with related interests in other departments at Emory and at other institutions within the State of Georgia. The goal is to build new collaborations that will lead to sustainable pediatric research programs, new grants, and important new discoveries related transplant immunology and the development of novel immune therapeutics.

CTIIT requests applications for projects that will seed broader initiatives that are consistent with CTIIT's mission, as stated below. Projects can include, but are not limited to, basic laboratory studies, clinical research studies, and translational research studies. Funding will be \$50,000 per pilot project, available for one year. Four pilot projects will be awarded for 2010, and funds must be spent within the calendar year. No carry-forward is allowed.

To best facilitate the role of these awards as seed-funding for projects which will ultimately garner NIH RO1-level funding, preference for funding will be given to proposals that have been previously submitted, but not yet funded, to the NIH or equivalent national funding body. In addition to this criterion, projects will be evaluated in how well they meet the following additional criteria:

- * Significance to child health

- * Degree of congruence with the CTIIT's vision and scientific mission, as stated below.

- * Strength, track record of investigators

Faculty from all GRA-affiliated institutions are eligible to apply for these funds, and multiple Principal Investigators are allowed. At least one of the Principal Investigators must be on the staff of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta or a faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics at Emory. Funds may not be used to pay any costs associated with institutional overhead. Funding decisions will be announced by February 26, 2010. The CTIIT's Vision is to build a flagship center for translational immunology-based research in children, with specific emphasis on transplantation and immune tolerance-induction for the treatment of life-threatening childhood diseases.

The development of new immunological therapies will allow the CTIIT to distinguish itself as a preferred destination for children requiring complex immunological management and immune-based therapeutics.

The major research goal of the CTIIT is to address the unmet need for pediatric-specific immune management by performing state-of-the-art translational and clinical research directed at achieving immune tolerance. Developing strategies to induce immune tolerance is widely recognized as the most pressing goal for solid organ transplant, for BMT and for autoimmune diseases. Immune tolerance would allow acceptance of solid organ allografts without the need for lifelong immunosuppression. It would allow widespread use of BMT without the risk of GvHD. It would cure patients with autoimmune diseases without the requirement of complex, life-long medication regimens.

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Deadline: February 1, 2010

Format for Submissions to CTIIT's 2010 Request for Proposals

Please submit a PDF version of the application that includes the following:

1. Face Page: Use NIH SF424 face page
2. A 5-page, single-spaced, Arial 11 font, 1" margin scientific plan document that provides the following:
 - Specific Aims
 - Background and Significance: Be sure to include in this section the significance of the problem under study to child health.
 - Experimental Design and Methods
3. A 1-page summary addressing the following two additional review criteria:
 - Extramural Funding Plan: Provide specific details of previous submissions, and the outcome of these submissions, and plans for future grant applications.
 - Leveraging of resources: Explain how the seed grant will stimulate additional opportunities and resources from the parent institutions that will promote sustainable interactions and ongoing collaborations.

4. Letter of Support from Department Chairs or Institutional Officials agreeing to the goals of the project and the terms of the award, including absence of institutional overhead costs if award is funded.

5. Line Item Budget for the proposed project

6. NIH-format Biosketch for Principal Investigator(s)

7. NIH format Other Support page for Principal Investigator(s)

Please submit your application via e-mail to Karen Pierce (kpierce@emory.edu) as a single PDF file on or before Monday, February 1, 2010.

Key Dates:

Deadline for Submission: February 1, 2010

Announcement of Funding Decisions: by February 26, 2010

Funding Period: March 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010

Progress Report Due by: September 1, 2010

For additional information:

Please contact Center Directors Leslie Kean, MD/PhD, or Allan Kirk, MD/PhD at:

Leslie Kean: Leslie.Kean@choa.org or 404-376-0187

Allan Kirk: adkirk@emory.edu, 404-727-8380

Or refer to www.pedsresearch.org