

**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 April 9, 2010, Proposal due May 15, 2010

Introduction

The Georgia Tech/Emory Center (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 building regenerative medicine in Atlanta, 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 **groups intending to pursue a multi-disciplinary project** in the area of regenerative medicine that has the potential for multiinvestigator extramural funding in a 3-year time horizon.

Deadlines

Letters of Intent for proposals are due April 9, 2010 with the proposals due May 15, 2010.

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, somatic cell or biological therapies modulating tissue protection, repair or regeneration 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 molecules, materials or biologicals 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, multidisciplinary 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 3-6 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 an additional year of funding should include in their renewal proposal a) how the previous 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 future. 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 and submission of a competitive multi-investigator proposal. Please also note that the intent of 3rd year funding is to provide for continued support in those special cases where the application submitted was a near miss or where resubmission has strongly been encouraged by the funding agency. Thus eligibility for a 3rd year of funding will REQUIRE investigators to submit a peer-review summary statement from a multi-investigator submission that resulted from the previous funding.*

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 preclinical 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 the requested additional year of funding
- A statement of how the funds were used in the previous year, 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 multiinvestigator proposal
- Summary statement or other evidence that demonstrates the fate of the submitted multiinvestigator proposal.
- Justification for an additional year of funding with appropriate budget request broken down to where and how the additional 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 May 15, 2010 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 April 9, 2010. 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).

