

**SYNERGY II\_Nexus Call for Proposals  
2021**

Distributed by January 19, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

The Provost's Office, the Woodruff Health Sciences Center, Emory School of Medicine, and Emory College of Arts and Sciences announce the 2021 cycle of "Synergy II\_Nexus" Awards. The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected the ability of many scholars to engage fully in their research; however, these detrimental effects have not been uniformly felt. Those early in their careers and with significant child-care or family-care obligations have been significantly impacted. These care obligations often fall on the shoulders of women, creating the risk of a significant gender-related impact.

To help mitigate the influence on the pandemic on this special cohort, and to invest in those who will define Emory's scholarly imprint in the years to come, this year's funding RFA is focused specifically on collaborative, multiple investigator initiated projects (1) that involve 2 principal (lead) independent scholars with at least one from a WHSC unit and one from ECAS, GBS, Law, Candler or Oxford, and (2) at least one of the two principal leads is at an early career stage (Assistant Professor, regardless of track).

The intent of this RFA is to seed collaborative research, scholarship and mentorship at Emory that will stimulate the growth of new synergistic research collaborations across academic units. We are especially interested in projects that enhance the scholarship of both co-leaders.

We anticipate funding up to 4 awards at a maximum of \$100,000 each with an award term of one year. Applicants must present a credible plan describing how they will make substantial progress with one year of funding. Carryover of funds to a second year will be considered with justification under special circumstances. Funds not expended within 12 months (24 months if an extension is approved) must be returned.

**The application deadline is Sunday, February 28, 2021 at 12 midnight** with funding to be released by Friday, May 14, 2021.

**Eligibility**

- This RFA is available only to Emory full-time faculty. Note that at least one of the co-leads must be early career (Assistant Professor).
- Faculty may participate in a single Synergy II\_Nexus Award application during any annual award cycle.
- Successful applications will have at least one faculty member with a primary appointment from a WHSC unit and at least one with a primary appointment from ECAS, GBS, Candler, Law, Oxford, with each contributor playing an equal role in the scholarship.

- One individual should be chosen as the corresponding PI.
- The proposal cannot be duplicative with other funding at the time of the award. These awards are not intended to support already established projects or minimal extensions of ongoing research programs.

## Application

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

Applications will consist of:

1. **A cover sheet:** indicating the title of the project, faculty involved, faculty role in the project, faculty member's school(s) and department(s), and contact information.
2. **A research proposal**, which should include four sections that succinctly describe the following:
  - Describe the research question to be addressed. Why is the problem important? Explain why it cannot be solved by individual investigators and their close collaborators, but rather requires equally weighted scholarly contributions from investigators in different academic domains.
  - Does the project represent a new research direction at Emory? If so, how?
  - What research approach or approaches will be pursued during the year of funding? What specifically will be done?
  - What is the expected impact of the proposed project beyond the initial funded phase, including what future work would be enabled?
  - How will the effort be sustained? What sources of extramural funding might be sought?

**The research proposal section should be no more than three pages.** References are not included in the three-page limit.

3. **A minimal, one-page budget** that describes how the funding will be allocated. How will it be apportioned among the participants? Any budget amount up to \$100,000 can be proposed. Neither faculty salaries nor indirect costs are permissible in the budget.
4. **A biosketch for each PI. For consistency please use the National Institutes of Health biosketch form** (guidance will be provided to those not familiar with the NIH biosketch). All current and

pending support from all sponsored and non-sponsored sources should be provided. Each biosketch is limited to four pages.

**Each proposal must be submitted with the above four items compiled into a single PDF.** *The PDF file name format must be: Last name of Corresponding PI dot First Name of Corresponding PI dot pdf. For example: Smith.John.pdf*

**Please send your proposals to Vice Provost Lanny S. Liebeskind at [chemLL1@emory.edu](mailto:chemLL1@emory.edu) not later than February 28, 2021 at 12 midnight.**

We look forward to seeing your innovative and collaborative ideas for building scholarly communities around compelling research ideas.

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Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, Emory  
University Executive Director, Robert W. Woodruff  
Health Sciences Center President, CEO, and Chairman of  
the Board, Emory Healthcare

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