Pilot Grants Available in the Environmental Health Sciences

The HERCULES Exposome Research Center (NIH P30 ES019776) is pleased to announce the 2017 Pilot Project Program in Environmental Health Sciences. These awards will be funded in part by the NIEHS P30 (5 x $40,000) and in part through the partnerships listed below. A major focus of HERCULES is to advance the science of the exposome (the comprehensive analysis of exposures analogous to the human genome); however, the Pilot Project Program supports any research in the environmental health sciences that aligns with the mission of NIEHS. Pilot projects must focus on the role of the environment in human disease, and may include basic (cellular and animal), biomedical, translational, clinical, epidemiological, or behavioral projects, e.g., studies on specific environmental toxicants or gene-environment interactions.

HERCULES formed two partnerships that will expand upon this funding. The first is with the NIEHS/EPA-funded Center for Children's Health, the Environment, the Microbiome, and Metabolomics (C-CHEM^2), which will support additional awards that focus on children's environmental health issues.

The second partnership is with the Winship Cancer Institute Center (Winship). This partnership seeks to better understand the connection between our environment and cancer. The HERCULES-Winship partnership will jointly support additional awards on the role of the environment in cancer biology and cancer prevention.

These awards are open to all investigators at Emory and Georgia Tech who are eligible to serve as Principal Investigators on NIH grant applications (Instructor and above, tenure-, research- or clinical-track). All applicants interested in funding from the HERCULES-Winship partnership should include at least one investigator who is a member of Winship.

Applications that propose to utilize one or more of the HERCULES Facility Cores are especially encouraged and awardees will receive subsidized core services. If planning to use a HERCULES Core, you are ***strongly encouraged*** to consult with Core members at the information session(s) below. If you are unable to attend, please contact Kate Hodgins (katehodgins@emory.edu) to set up an individual consult.

- IHSFC: Metabolomics (Dean Jones Lab) - March 1, 12:00-2:00 pm, Whitehead Biomedical Research Building, Room 200 (includes overview presentation on lab capabilities)

- IHSFC: Targeted Analysis and Research Services (Carmen Marsit and Dana Barr) – February 23, 2:30-3:30 pm, Claudia Nance Rollins Building, Room 2001

- Environmental Health Data Sciences Core (Lance Waller) – February 28, 1:00-2:00 pm, Claudia Nance Rollins Building, Room 3001

Projects with translational relevance (clinical or population-based), applications from early-career investigators, and collaborative and interdisciplinary projects are particularly encouraged. Additionally, HERCULES encourages applications for community-based participatory research (CBPR) projects (see below for more details).

Note: Applications that are not focused on the role of the environment in human health and disease will not be reviewed. Applications deemed ready for R01 applications will not receive funding. Also, no PI may submit more than one application.

Recommended Guidelines for HERCULES CBPR projects

- HERCULES places a particular focus on the community and through this, seeks applications for community-engaged research projects designed to address the potential health risks of environmental exposures of concern to a local community.
- Community members/partners are expected to participate meaningfully in the development of the research questions and research design, as well as study implementation (e.g., data collection), with resources shared (e.g., compensating partner's time.)
- The research team and community partner should plan to disseminate study results directly to the community.
- The HERCULES Community Outreach and Engagement Core can facilitate community-academic partnerships for these applications.
- All pilot application documents must be submitted through the Emory faculty member and are subject to the standard requirements of the pilot project program.

Recommended Guidelines for C-CHEM^2 Children's Environmental Health projects

- Priority will be given to junior investigators, and those that are seeking to expand their programs of research into the field of children's environmental health. The aim of the program is to allow investigators to gather pilot and/or feasibility data to support applications for independent R-level research funding from NIEHS or EPA.
- Additionally, priority will be given to projects conducted in the Atlanta metro area.
- Grants must focus on the role of the environment in children's health and disease.
- Applicants are encouraged to:
    - provide opportunities for community engagement and science translation.
    - align proposals with the aims of the three primary research projects (see below).
- Applications in alignment with the focus of C-CHEM^2 will be prioritized.
    - The focus of C-CHEM^2 is to investigate the interrelationships of components of the prenatal and postnatal environment of the fetus and child and their impacts upon birth outcome, the infant microbiome and neurodevelopment.
- Three primary research projects of C-CHEM^2
    - Project 1: Characterize the environmental exposures of pregnant African American women living in the metro Atlanta community and their infants.
    - Project 2: Characterize the associations between environmental exposures, the infant microbiome and infant neurodevelopment.
    - Project 3: Characterize the metabolic pathways through which environmental exposures and the microbiome contribute to preterm birth and infant neurodevelopment.
- Basic science proposals are acceptable however, pilot proposals that align with the aims of the three research projects are encouraged.

General Application Submission Guidelines:

- Applicant must hold a faculty position and be eligible to be a PI on an NIH R01 grant.
- 4 page maximum length for science portion (11 point Arial, 1-inch margins) including plans for future NIEHS grant submission.
- NIH Biosketch and full NIH budget & justification on **PHS 398 form (pages fp4 and fp5)**
    - Indirect costs should not be included in budget.
    - Funds may be used for faculty salary support if requested in the application or with approval of the HERCULES/C-CHEM^2 director, up to a maximum of 5% effort.
    - All federal and university rules and regulations regarding the administration of grants apply to these funds. Costs subject to CAS approval, such as computers, general purpose equipment, office supplies, etc., may not be budgeted. Any travel must follow University travel policies and procedures.
    - Requests for equipment or for a portion of PI salary greater than 5% must be justified in the budget.
- **Due by Monday March 20, 2017 at 5:00PM.** Decisions made by April 15, 2017. Funding starts May 1, 2017. Funding cycle ends March 31, 2018.
- A compiled electronic version (PDF) of the application should be submitted to: **Kate Hodgins, katehodgins@emory.edu**

Questions?

- Visit our FAQ page at http://emoryhercules.com/center-research/pilot-program-frequently-asked-questions/
- For Winship questions, contact Jeff Mills, email: winshipgrants@emory.edu
- For C-CHEM^2 questions, contact Dr. Barry Ryan, email: bryan@emory.edu.
- For HERCULES questions, contact Dr. Edward Morgan, email: etmorga@emory.edu
    - Currently funded HERCULES pilot awardees should contact Dr. Morgan before submitting an application.

Award Requirements

- Awardees must agree to participate in C-CHEM^2/HERCULES activities (Seminar, Data Club, Workshops) and provide a brief written report at the end of the funding period.
- Any resultant publications must cite funding from C-CHEM^2 (**NIH grant P50 ES026071, EPA grant 83615301**) and/or HERCULES (**NIH grant P30 ES019776**) and copies of the publications should be provided to the HERCULES/C-CHEM^2 center administrator.
- A midpoint project report is due December 15, 2017 and a final project update by May 30, 2018.