Pilot Grants Available in the Environmental Health Sciences

General Information Session: November 16, 11 am-12 pm, Claudia Nance Rollins Rm 2001

The HERCULES Exposome Research Center (NIH P30 ES019776) is pleased to announce the 2018 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) (NIEHS P50 ES026071 and EPA 83615301), 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 the Emory-Georgia Tech Department of Biomedical Engineering who are eligible to serve as Principal Investigators on NIH grant applications (Instructor and above, tenure-, research- or clinical-track). Faculty in other departments at Georgia Tech are eligible to apply if their proposal includes collaboration with an Emory faculty member. 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 ***required*** to consult with Core members regarding feasibility and costs 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.

All Sessions are on **Friday, December 15th**:

- IHSFC: Targeted Analysis: 10:00-11:00 am, Claudia Nance Rollins Room 2001
- IHSFC: Metabolomics: 11:00 am-12:00 pm, Whitehead Biomedical Research Building, Room 600
- Environmental Health Data Sciences Core: 11:00 am-12:00 pm, Claudia Nance Rollins Room 3001
- IHSFC: Clinical/Population Research Services: 3:00-4:00 pm, Claudia Nance Rollins Room 3001

Projects with translational relevance (clinical or population-based), applications from early-career investigators, community-based participatory research (CBPR) projects, and collaborative and interdisciplinary projects are particularly encouraged. See below for guidelines regarding CBPR projects.

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 (community-based participatory research) 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 Engagement Core can facilitate community-academic partnerships for these applications. If you would like to consult with the Community Engagement Core, please contact Melanie Pearson at mapears@emory.edu.
- 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 HERCULES C-CHEM^2 Children's Environmental Health projects

- Applications must focus on the role of the environment in children's health and disease.
- Priority will be given to:
    - Junior investigators and those seeking to expand their research programs 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.
    - Projects conducted in the Atlanta metro area.
    - Applications aligned with the focus of C-CHEM^2, which is to investigate the interrelationships of components of the prenatal and postnatal environment of the fetus and child and their impacts upon birth outcomes, the infant microbiome, and neurodevelopment.
- Applicants are encouraged to:
    - Provide opportunities for community engagement and science translation.
    - Align proposals with the aims of the three research projects (below) however basic science proposals are acceptable.
        - Project 1: Characterize environmental exposures of pregnant African American women and infants living in the Atlanta metro area.
        - Project 2: Characterize associations between environmental exposures, the infant microbiome, and infant neurodevelopment.
        - Project 3: Characterize metabolic pathways through which environmental exposures and the microbiome contribute to preterm birth and infant neurodevelopment.

General Application Submission Guidelines:

Letter of Intent due by Friday, December 8, 2017 at 5:00 pm to emoryhercules@gmail.com. The letter should include a descriptive title of the proposed research, overall aim/hypothesis of proposed research, names of key personnel, and any anticipated use of HERCULES Facility Cores. Letters should not exceed one page. Applicants will be notified if they are selected to submit a full application by Tuesday, December 12th.

Application due by Friday, February 2, 2018 at 5:00 pm. Decisions made by March 15, 2018. Funding starts April 1, 2018. Funding cycle ends March 31, 2019.

- Applicant must hold a faculty position and be eligible to be a PI on an NIH R01 grant. No one with HERCULES Leadership or Co-Leadership responsibilities can be the PI on a HERCULES pilot unless they have been at Emory/Georgia Tech less than 3 years.
- 4 page maximum length for science portion (11 point Arial, 1-inch margins)
    - Include plans for future grant submission and how pilot funding will improve likelihood of success (NIEHS submissions particularly encouraged).
    - Include a sentence describing your consultation with HERCULES Facility Core(s), if applicable. More information about the HERCULES Facility Cores is available on the HERCULES website.
    - References are not included in the page count.
- Provide a cover page (not included in 4-p limit) with a paragraph that summarizes the proposed research and explain its environmental health relevance and immediate or future relevance to local communities, if applicable. If exposome-related, also include a sentence explaining how the research will advance exposome science
- NIH Biosketch and full NIH budget & justification on **PHS 398 form (pages fp4 and fp5)**
    - Indirect costs should not be included in budget.
    - Faculty salary support up to a maximum of 5% effort may be requested (combined effort of all participating faculty, NIH salary cap limit applies).
    - 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.
- A compiled electronic version (PDF) of the application should be submitted to: emoryhercules@gmail.com

Award Requirements

- Awardees must agree to participate in HERCULES activities (Seminars, Data Clubs, Workshops, Advisory Board Meetings) and provide a brief written report at the end of the funding period (those funded jointly with partners will have additional expectations of participation and reporting vis a vis the partners).
- Awardees must supply the following IRB information, if relevant, to Kate Hodgins for approval by NIEHS before starting research: study team CITI certification, University IRB approval/exemption letter, Human Subjects Statement, and PHS Inclusion Form.
- Any resultant publications must cite funding from HERCULES (**NIH grant P30 ES019776**) and copies of the publications should be provided to the HERCULES center administrator and administrator of any relevant funding partner. Awardees are also required to keep Kate Hodgins informed of any NIH or other grant funding resulting from the pilot project.
- A midpoint project report is due December 1, 2018 and a final project update by April 30, 2019.

Questions?

- Visit our FAQ page at http://emoryhercules.com/center-research/pilot-program-frequently-asked-questions/
- For HERCULES questions, contact Dr. Edward Morgan, email: etmorga@emory.edu
  - Previously funded HERCULES PIs should contact Dr. Morgan before submitting an application. PIs funded in the previous two pilot cycles are not eligible to apply.
- For Winship questions, contact Jeff Mills, email: winshipgrants@emory.edu
- For C-CHEM^2 questions, contact Dr. Barry Ryan, email: bryan@emory.edu.