

## **Emory University Master of Science in Clinical Research (MSCR) Program Guidelines for MSCR Thesis Proposal**

All applicants are required to submit a brief (e.g., 2-5 pages not including references) description of their proposed thesis project. **The applicant's Lead Mentor must review and approve the proposal prior to its submission.** The proposal (single spaced) should have 1 inch margins and a font size of 11 pt. Arial or greater. The thesis proposal should be structured as follows:

**1. Title of proposal and investigators.** The applicant should include the title of the proposal, the applicant's name and the name of the Lead Mentor (and their affiliation and title).

**2. Abstract/Summary Statement (350 word maximum)**

**3. Specific Aims and Hypothesis:**

State the specific aims of the research project. State the specific hypothesis to be tested.

**4. Background/Introduction.** Provide a brief description of the problem or issue to be investigated. Be sure to include a description of the medical significance of area being investigated. This should be written so that it can be understood by a reviewer who may not be a specialist in the field.

**5. Approach.**

Describe how and where the project will be carried out. Include a description of the experimental methods. Include a brief description of statistical analyses that are planned and sample size calculations (pilot studies can be acceptable but this should be stated in the approach). Include a brief section on humans subjects issues--describe briefly how patient confidentiality and/or consent will be addressed (if applicable) and whether IRB approval has been obtained or is pending.

**6. Literature cited** (does not count against the 2-5 page limit for the thesis proposal).