

Emory Center for Clinical and Molecular Nutrition/Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute (ACTSI)

New Investigator in Clinical/Translational Nutrition Research Award

Request for Applications

I. Purpose: The Emory Center for Clinical and Molecular Nutrition and the Pilot and Collaborative Translational and Clinical Studies Program of the ACTSI are co-sponsors of the **New Investigator in Clinical/Translational Nutrition Research Award** program. The purpose of this program is to provide Emory University-affiliated junior faculty members with pilot and feasibility funds in support of clinical or translational nutrition-oriented studies to facilitate competitive extramural grant applications and encourage academic careers with a focus on investigation in nutrition.

II. Funding: The Center for Clinical and Molecular Nutrition/ACTSI New Investigator in Clinical/Translational Nutrition Research Award program will provide **at least one award of \$15,000** in total costs to highly meritorious proposals from new investigators who meet the guidelines outlined below. One additional grant may be available in response to this announcement depending on the availability of funds. This program is also in support of a pending P30 NIH/NIDDK application from Emory to fund a Nutrition and Obesity Research Center (NORC). The top ranked 5 applications received from this request for applications (RFA) will be included in the NIH P30 grant application. Should the P30 NORC grant be funded in 2010, the top ranked applicant in response to the current announcement will receive a \$50,000 pilot and feasibility award (direct costs), with the opportunity for a second year of funding (\$50,000) depending on research progress. The next 4 highest ranked applications received for the current announcement will receive a \$25,000 pilot and feasibility award (direct costs) for one year from the NORC.

III. Eligibility: The priority for these grants is to assist in the research career development of new/young investigators who are: 1) likely to become competitive for peer-reviewed, federally funded nutrition-oriented grants in the future (e.g. NIH, VA Merit, CDC); and, 2) engage in collaborative, multidisciplinary projects that have clinical or translational significance.

In addition to Emory-based faculty, faculty applicants that are based at Morehouse School of Medicine, Georgia Tech or Children's Healthcare of Atlanta are eligible for this award if their proposal includes an Emory University-based faculty member as a Co-investigator or mentor. In this case, how the multi-institutional research team will be organized and communicate to fulfill the research aims must be described in the application. Applicants must have a M.D., D.O., Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree, and be at the level of Associate Professor or lower. Individuals who are currently the principal investigator of a funded NIH R01 or U01 grant or VA Merit grant are not eligible for this award. Principal Investigators of NIH junior career development awards (e.g. K08, K12, K23) and R03 or R21 grants are eligible for this program.

Although this program is directed at new investigators, established investigators from other areas of biomedical research who wish to develop, for the first time, new nutrition or obesity-related research are also eligible to respond to this RFA.

Projects proposed for this RFA must have a human research component, which may be either a stand-alone project or complementary to translational studies in animal model(s). In addition, applications must propose how they will leverage the NIH-funded resources of the Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute (ASCTI). Information on ACTSI resources can be found at www.actsi.org and via discussions with the contact persons below.

Applications covering the breadth of human investigation are eligible, including epidemiologic and community-based studies. Projects with a multidisciplinary component, particularly those that include faculty from at least one of the major ACTSI consortium institutions (Emory, Morehouse School of Medicine, Georgia Tech and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta) are especially encouraged.

For individuals who have had recent extramural applications approved but not funded, this application could be used in a specific plan to strengthen the application for re-submission. This award can also be leveraged with current research projects of the investigator, for example, to develop pilot data for a new specific aim on the parent project. In such cases, the application must briefly describe the specific research project that will be expanded and how this award will specifically strengthen the parent project. A description of future extramural grant applications (e.g. to NIH, CDC, specific foundations) that the applicant plans to submit, supported by data generated from the New Investigator in Clinical/Translational Nutrition Research Award, is encouraged.

New Investigator in Clinical/Translational Nutrition Research Award support can be budgeted to support supply costs, technician or other research assistant salaries, or other research costs, but not the investigator's salary.

IV. Deadline: Grants must be submitted by October 15, 2009 in electronic Word doc. format and Arial 11 font to: Thomas R. Ziegler, M.D, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Emory Center for Clinical and Molecular Nutrition (tzieg01@emory.edu), Vin Tangpricha, M.D. Associate Professor of Medicine (vtangpr@emory.edu) and Robert N. Taylor, M.D., Professor and Vice Chair of Obstetrics/Gynecology and Director of the ACTSI Pilot and Collaborative Translational and Clinical Studies Program (rntaylo@emory.edu).

Funding for awardee(s) of this RFA will be available in November 2009. Additional funding for the top-ranked 5 applicants will be available by June 2010, should the P30 NORC grant be funded.

V. Application Process: The primary application should include up to a 6-page application using NIH form 398 continuation and budget pages. The 6-page limit is exclusive of the human and animal subject items/data and safety monitoring plans, research environment/resources description, NIH-style biosketches, letters of support, gender and minority table, and bibliography. In addition, the applicant may submit an Appendix of up to 4 pages providing detailed methods where needed to assist the Award Committee in application review. Each applicant should submit letters of support from collaborators, consultants, the Division Chief (if applicable) and the Department Chair. If

multiple institutions are involved, a letter(s) of support for the collaborative project from the appropriate Department Chair or Dean at each institution must be included in the packet.

Applicants must submit their proposal in a format that includes the following elements:

A. Research Plan:

- Objectives, hypothesis and specific aims (up to 1 page)
- Background and significance of project (up to 1 page)
- Preliminary studies (up to 1 page)
- Research Design and Methods (up to 4 pages to total of 6 pages)
- Gender and Minority Table
- Human Subjects (PHS 398 format), if applicable
- Literature Cited
- Data and Safety Monitoring plan (human studies)

B. Biosketch of applicant and mentors/co-investigators in current NIH format, including Other Support.

C. Research Environment/Resources (e.g. laboratory or clinical environment and resources to be used in the completion of the project; describe use of the ACTSI resources)

D. Budget

The budget must include specific line-item costs up to a maximum of \$14,000. If funded, current fiscal guidelines mandate that \$1,000 in indirect costs be paid back to the Emory University School of Medicine. Salary support for the investigators cannot be budgeted, but salary + fringe support for technical support can be included in the budget. Use NIH 398 form budget pages.