



# GEORGIA RESEARCH ALLIANCE

## GRA Next-Generation Vaccines and Therapeutics Initiative

### COLLABORATION PLANNING GRANTS FY 2010 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

*Issued March 13, 2009*

#### **Program Description and Goals**

The Georgia Research Alliance Collaboration Planning Grants program supports joint university-based research and development projects related to next-generation vaccines and therapeutics\* that have the potential to attract significant non-state funding.

The goal of the program is to attract national R&D centers and other high-level R&D awards that will produce near-term economic gains for the state and boost Georgia's reputation as a science and technology destination in the area of next-generation vaccines and therapeutics. Through this program, the Georgia Research Alliance also aims to create long-term, productive R&D partnerships among researchers in Georgia, and ultimately to develop new technologies that will accelerate the growth of the life sciences industry in the state.

#### **FY 2010 Application Guidelines**

Pending state legislative budget approval for Fiscal Year 2010, the Georgia Research Alliance will continue its Collaboration Planning Grants Program for a third consecutive year. Georgia's fiscal year begins July 1, and the Legislature is currently considering the state's budget for the next fiscal year.

This Program Announcement by the Georgia Research Alliance invites competitive applications from faculty for consideration for FY 2010 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010).

#### Eligibility Requirements

Researchers at the following institutions are eligible to receive funding through the GRA Collaboration Planning Grants program:

**Clark Atlanta University**  
**Emory University**  
**Georgia Institute of Technology**  
**Georgia State University**  
**Medical College of Georgia**  
**The University of Georgia**  
Mercer University  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

To be eligible for an award, the proposing team must consist of at least two investigators from at least two of the institutions listed above. At least one of these investigators must be from one of the institutions listed in bold.

*\*See description of technology focus areas on p. 3.*

PIs from academic institutions listed above are required to hold faculty-level positions. (Post-docs and Ph.D. students may be included in projects, but may not serve as PIs.)

All proposals must be submitted in accordance with the guidelines of the principal investigators' institutions.

#### Amount and Duration of Awards

A team of investigators may apply for up to \$100,000 to support a one-year collaborative project.

Investments through the GRA Collaboration Planning Grants program are made for one year only and expire on June 30 of each year. All program funds must be expended in the fiscal year in which the investment occurs.

A team of investigators may apply for an additional year of support (up to a maximum of two years per project) if they demonstrate success toward earlier stated goals and present a compelling case for continuing funding. However, these follow-on applications will be competitively reviewed with new project applications.

#### **Application Process and Submission Deadlines**

The deadline for applications for the Fiscal Year 2010 GRA Collaboration Planning Grants Program is **May 1, 2009**.

Proposals involving CDC researchers will be submitted to GRA through the CDC Foundation. All other applications must be submitted via email to the Georgia Research Alliance at [CPGrants@gra.org](mailto:CPGrants@gra.org).

Please do not include confidential information in proposals. Applications must include:

- A cover sheet with the following information:
  - Project name
  - Names of PIs, along with titles, institutions and contact information (email/phone)
  - Total amount of funding requested for the proposal, and subtotal requested for each participating institution
  - A brief description of the project (no more than ½ page), preferably in lay terms
- A brief statement of work (no more than 5 pages), addressing:
  - Current state of knowledge in the field, including current impact/urgency of issue to be addressed
  - Objectives of project
  - Specific tasks and personnel associated with each task
  - Anticipated outcomes
  - Any related work currently under other support
  - **Specific plan for seeking external (federal, foundation, industry) support as a result of the project, if projected outcomes are achieved**
  - Potential impact on the development or improvement of Next-Generation Vaccines and Therapeutics
  - Potential commercial relevance of the work
- Timeline – expected duration of each task and of the overall project

- Budget, broken out by institution (see sample spreadsheet, attached) as follows:
  - Salaries (with specific names)
  - Supplies (specify categories)
  - Other (specify)
  - *Note: GRA funds may not be used for general staff, administrative support, overhead, publication expenses, food, beverages, gifts, entertainment, or any items prohibited for purchase using state funds. GRA Collaboration Planning Grant funds may not be used to purchase equipment.*
- Brief CV's of PIs (no more than 2 pages each)

Proposals must be submitted in Microsoft Word/Excel or PDF format with a minimum of 10 pt font and 1" margins.

### Technology Focus Areas

For purposes of this initiative, "Next-Generation Vaccines" include immune therapies that

- stimulate the immune system to prevent and fight conditions like cancer and emerging infectious diseases
- keep the immune system on to fight conditions like HIV
- dampen the immune system to address conditions like diabetes, multiple sclerosis, arthritis and atherosclerosis
- modulate the immune system, for example to prevent transplant rejection

The focus of the initiative also encompasses discovery & development of novel immunomodulators, for example, drugs that modulate the immune system's response to antigens in order to enhance the efficacy of vaccines.

Projects must address an opportunity in one of these areas, or in platform technologies that support the development of next-generation vaccines and therapeutics. (These could include, for example, areas such as vectors, adjuvants, reverse vaccinology, nanotechnology, delivery strategies, detection and diagnostics, drug discovery, etc.; however, proposals focused on these platform technology areas must provide justification of how the project would ultimately support the development or improvement of next-generation vaccines and therapeutics.)

### Application Review Process

All applications are reviewed on technical merit and criteria related to potential for economic impact. No proprietary information should be included in proposals. The attributes below are used to evaluate applications:

#### Technical Merit Criteria

- Technological significance of the proposed work
- Suitability of R&D methods and procedures
- Scope of work consistent with timeline and budget
- Projected results and relevance to GRA's priorities

#### Economic Impact Criteria

- **Evidence of a compelling, concrete plan (with timetable) for seeking non-state funding as a result of the project**
- Likelihood that effort will lead to significant non-state funding for the state of Georgia or will support the growth of new technologies or companies

Award Notification

The Georgia Research Alliance will notify teams and their institutions of intent to fund selected proposals in July 2009, subject to availability of program funds. Notifications will be made by email. The institutions will then have 30 days to confirm that the proposal has met institutional guidelines, and that the PIs may proceed with the project. Once project approval has been received from all participating institutions, GRA will forward an award letter to the PIs, along with a statement of terms and conditions.

Institutional Contacts

Clark Atlanta University	Marcus Shute
Emory University	Lanny Liebeskind
Georgia Institute of Technology	Mark Allen
Georgia State University	Robin Morris
Medical College of Georgia	Frank Treiber
Mercer University	Hewitt Matthews
Morehouse School of Medicine	Eve Higginbotham
University of Georgia	David Lee
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention	Gena Hill
CDC Foundation	Julie Rodgers

Project Reports

PIs of funded proposals will be required to submit a written summary of the project’s results by September 30, 2010. Periodic updates may also be requested by the GRA in the future.

SAMPLE BUDGET SPREADSHEET

	Institution (1)	Institution (2)	
Salaries			
Name 1*	\$xxx	\$xxx	
Name 2*	\$xxx	\$xxx	
Supplies			
Category A*	\$xxx	\$xxx	
Category B*	\$xxx	\$xxx	
Miscellaneous			
Item A*	\$xxx	\$xxx	
Item B*	\$xxx	\$xxx	
TOTAL	\$xxx	\$xxx	\$xxx
			(Total Project)

*\*List specific names, items and categories.*

Questions

A list of frequently asked questions will be posted to [www.gra.org/vaccines](http://www.gra.org/vaccines). Additional questions may be directed to Kitty Vogt at 404-332-9770, x23 or to [CPGrants@gra.org](mailto:CPGrants@gra.org).