**2012 Pediatric Research Center Pilot Program**

**Program Description:**

These pilot opportunities focus on seeding collaborative efforts that link primary faculty investigators who are on the medical staff of Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta or are faculty members of the Emory Department of Pediatrics to investigators with related interests including those in other departments at Emory and at other institutions within the State of Georgia. The primary goal is to build new collaborations that will lead to sustainable multi-investigator research programs, new grants, and important new discoveries related to our pediatric mission in producing innovative advances in child health research. Proposals that link researchers in different areas of expertise and/or at different institutions are particularly encouraged but at least one principal investigator must be a faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics at Emory or on the staff of Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta.

For the 2012 RFA, the Centers offering pilot funding and their major themes/areas for funding focus are:

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| **Center for Cardiovascular Biology****Key Contacts:**Mary Wagner, PhDDirectormbwagne@emory.edu Shantisa FulghamCenter Program Coordinatorshantisa.fulgham@choa.org  | Center for Cardiovascular Biology themes:* Research towards enhancing the diagnosis and treatment of infants and children with pediatric heart disease.
* Developing regenerative medicine therapies and nanotechnology that will be directed toward treatment of the pediatric heart and developing new collaborations with clinicians to address critical issues in the care of children with pediatric heart disease.
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| **Center for Cystic Fibrosis Research****Key Contacts:**Nael McCarty, PhDDirectornamccar@emory.eduMegha MadanCenter Program CoordinatorMegha.Madan@choa.org  | Center for Cystic Fibrosis Research themes:* Airway Ecology – provides the early-warning system for pulmonary exacerbation
* Oxidative Stress – the ultimate driver of lung destruction in CF
* Innate Immunity – imperfect defenders against infection in CF
* CF Diabetes – markedly accelerates the progression of lung disease
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| **Center for Developmental Lung Biology****Key Contacts:**Lou Ann Brown, PhDDirectorlbrow03@emory.eduMegha MadanCenter Program CoordinatorMegha.Madan@choa.org  | Center for Developmental Lung Biology themes:* Developmental lung biology
* Pediatric pulmonary diseases such as asthma, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, etc
* Respiratory infections
* Chronic oxidative stress in the lung
* Stem cell repair of the lung
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| **Center for Neuroscience Research****Key Contacts:**Ton de Grauw, MD, PhDDirectorton.degrauw@choa.org Jennifer KennyCenter Program CoordinatorJkenny2@emory.edu  | Center for Neuroscience Research themes:* Towards enhancing the outcome of neurological diseases
* Encouraging collaborations between basic/translational scientists and clinicians
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| **Center for Pediatric Healthcare Technology Innovation****Key Contacts:**Barbara Boyan, PhDDirectorbarbara.boyan@bme.gatech.edu Maribel BakerCenter Program Coordinator & Research Operations Program Mgrmaribel.baker@bme.gatech.edu  | **Center for Pediatric Healthcare Technology Innovation Themes:** * Fostering collaboration between biomedical engineering and clinical practice on behalf of children’s healthcare needs, particularly focused on device design and development.
* Advancing basic engineering and biological research to address problems in child health by working in teams with pediatric clinical specialists.
* Promoting the rapid transfer of new knowledge and inventions based on that knowledge to the commercial sector.

**Additional PI Requirement:** At least one of the PI’s must be a Georgia Tech faculty member and there must be at least one pediatric clinician on the team. |

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| **Center for Pediatric Nanomedicine****Key Contacts:**Gang Bao, PhDDirectorgang.bao@bme.gatech.edu Amy TangCenter Program Coordinatoramy.tang@bme.gatech.edu  | Center for Pediatric Nanomedicine Themes:* cancer
* cardiovascular disease
* infectious disease
* genetic diseases such as sickle cell disease and cystic fibrosis
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| **Center for Immunology & Vaccines****Key Contacts:**Paul Spearman, MDDirectorpaul.spearman@emory.edu Shantisa FulghamCenter Program Coordinatorshantisa.fulgham@choa.org  | Center for Immunology & Vaccines Themes:* Innate immune responses in infants and young children
* Structural biology of viral proteins
* Microbial pathogenesis
* Vaccine development for major global health pathogens impacting children (including but not limited to: TB, malaria, HIV, dengue, diarrheal pathogens, respiratory pathogens)
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| **Transplant Immunology & Immune Therapeutics****Key Contacts:**Leslie Kean, MD, PhDleslie.kean@emory.edu Allan Kirk, MD, PhDadkirk@emory.eduDirectorsJennifer KennyCenter Program CoordinatorJkenny2@emory.edu  | Transplant Immunology & Immune Therapeutics Themes:* Immune mechanisms of transplant rejection and graft-versus-host disease, and mechanisms of immune tolerance-induction during transplantation.
* Immune mechanisms of autoimmunity and mechanisms of tolerance-induction in autoimmune disorders.
* The impact of immunomodulation on the protective immune response after transplantation or during the treatment of autoimmune disorders.
* Novel clinical trials focused on both interventions and correlative biological studies for autoimmune disorders, solid organ transplantation and hematopoietic stem cell transplantation.
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| **Clinical Outcomes Research & Public Health****Key Contacts:**Ann Mertens, PhDDirectorAnn.Mertens@choa.org  Shantisa FulghamCenter Program Coordinatorshantisa.fulgham@choa.org | Clinical Outcomes Research & Public Health Themes:* Transition of Care
* Quality Initiatives
* Birth and Neonatal Outcomes
* Neuro-Developmental Outcomes
* Environmental Health
* Obesity/Nutrition
* Health Disparities
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***A note about future themes:***

*While not included with this announcement, it is anticipated that in the future there will be separate calls for pilot applications focused on topics related to pediatric HIV/AIDS research, autism research and pediatric research projects proposing the use of non human primates*.

**Review Criteria**

Projects will be evaluated by NIH review criteria plus the additional review criteria as outlined below.

* Significance to child health
* Degree of congruence with the given center’s chosen thematic areas of interest listed above
* Ability to leverage strengths across institutions or units that would not otherwise take place
* Strength and track record of investigators
* New Collaborations involving two or more investigators and new research projects are strongly encouraged and will be prioritized for funding
* Demonstration of how seed funding will lead to broader, sustainable initiatives including the specific plans to apply and obtain external funding for sustainability
* PI’s research & other support, including past, current and pending and intramural and extramural, will also be assessed as a part of the review process
	+ Investigator’s past Children’s funded pilot awards and the degree to which they have led to successful extramural grant funding will be evaluated
	+ Awards will not be made for research already funded by Children’s or another funding mechanism

**PI Eligibility**

* Faculty from all GRA-affiliated institutions\* are eligible to apply for these funds, however, each application must have at least one faculty level principal investigator who is on the professional staff of Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta or a faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics at Emory
* Investigators *may not* receive salary or research support *from more than one* pilot grant sponsored by Children’s *for the same or similar research project* (center pilots, EECRC, Friends/CROC grants)
* Researchers *may* serve as PI on more than one Children’s funded pilot, provided the *research proposed meets clearly distinct aims that are in turn strongly aligned with the goals and themes of the individual centers*

\*GRA-affiliated research institutions: Emory University, Georgia Tech, Georgia State, University of Georgia, Medical College of Georgia, Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse School of Medicine, Mercer University, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Additional Information**

* Pilot awardees must have Pediatric Center membership status in order to receive an award. If an applicant is not an official center member upon application submission, if awarded, the pilot PI will automatically be granted membership in the sponsoring center and will accept all the rights and responsibilities therein.
* If awarded, Intellectual Property that is a direct result of this funding will be subject to the appropriate Intellectual Property agreement with Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta as well as the PI’s institutional policy. For more information about these agreements, please contact Kris Rogers, Director of Research at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta at Kristine.Rogers@choa.org
* Any required institutional compliance protocols (IRB, IACUC, etc.) must be in place and approved before approved applications are awarded.

**Application Requirements**

All applications must be submitted electronically in 1 PDF document*.* An application kit including all required templates and forms is provided at <http://www.pedsresearch.org/news/article/2012-center-pilot-rfa> for your convenience. *Official routing through institutional channels and Office of Sponsored Programs approval is not required at this application stage.* Pilots that get selected for funding will undergo routing and internal administrative review and institutional sign-off at that time. Departmental or other appropriate signoff through the two Required Letters (#4 below) is required at this time, however, to acknowledge agreement with the proposed budget, goals of the project and the terms of the award, including absence of institutional overhead costs if award is funded.

See the following URL for application materials and additional information including FAQ:

<http://www.pedsresearch.org/news/article/2012-center-pilot-rfa>

Please submit **one PDF file** to the Program Coordinator listed for the Center to which you are submitting an application including the following documents:

1. Face Page: Use provided Face Page Template in the application kit (found at <http://www.pedsresearch.org/news/article/2012-center-pilot-rfa>)
2. NIH-format Biosketches for all Key Personnel Faculty Investigators (4 pages max each)
3. “Other Support” including current and pending support for all key persons including grant funding titles, roles and effort dedicated.
4. A 5-page\*, single-spaced, Arial 11 font, 0.5” margin scientific plan document that provides the following:
	* Specific Aims
	* Background and Significance: Be sure to include in this section the significance of the problem under study to child health.
	* Experimental Design and Methods

\* References should be listed but are not included in these page limitations. Appendices are not allowed.

1. A 1-page summary addressing the following two additional review criteria:
2. **Extramural Funding Plan:** Provide specific plans for extramural funding applications related to this project. Note special comments/criteria below:

These Pilot Grants are specifically intended to facilitate the acquisition of extramural support for new and expanded research efforts within the Center awarding the pilot grant, and as such each funded applicant must submit an extramural grant application *within one year* following the pilot award period. These plans should be clearly specified in each pilot application including the granting agency and the proposed date of the grant application. The proposed grant application could be any NIH award (e.g. K08, K23, or R01) or could be to other national, regional, or state organizations (e.g. American Lung Association, Muscular Dystrophy, March of Dimes, American Heart Association) with peer review of grant applications.

1. **Leveraging of resources:** Explain how the seed grant will stimulate additional opportunities and will utilize resources from the parent institutions, including the Emory+Children’s Pediatric Cores (<http://www.pedsresearch.org/cores>), that will promote sustainable interactions and ongoing collaborations.
2. **Human Subject Protection, Target Enrollment Table, Vertebrate Animals sections**, as appropriate.
3. Two **Required Letters of Support/Approval**

While routing is not required at the application stage, there are 2 levels of formal departmental/business related sign-off required prior to submission of applications. See application kit for templates for these required letters.

1. Dept Administrator, Business Manager or equivalent sign-off on budget acknowledging review of salary and fringe requests and any cost-share requests – see template for **Required Letter 1**
2. Dept Chair, Division Chief or Medical Director or equivalent sign-off to indicate acknowledgement terms of the award, including absence of institutional overhead costs if award is funded and agreement that the PI has effort available to dedicate to the research project should the proposal be funded – see template for **Required Letter 2**

Official institutional (OSP) sign-off is not required at this stage. Only upon award will formal routing will be required including department chair and institutional level approval and signature.

1. **Line Item Budget and budget justification** for the proposed project
* OFFICIAL PEDIATRIC RESEARCH CENTER **BUDGET TEMPLATE** MUST BE USED; It is strongly recommended that you utilize your dept/area business office expertise to assist with creation of this budget since sign-off will be required indicating that current salary information and other costs are reflected accurately and reasonably.
	+ All key persons named clearly including institutional affiliation
	+ Separate Emory, CHOA, GA Tech salaries and other costs and seek assistance from each business office to ensure salary, fringe and budget figures are accurate and calculated correctly. Each consortium site must contain a Statement of Work within the budget justification.
	+ Identify, justify and confirm cost share is possible
* Average budget requests are $50K and must be well justified (Nanomedicine application budgets only may request $60K)
* Project duration is one year
* Funds may not be used to pay any costs associated with institutional overhead.
* The PI on a pilot project must devote at least 1% of his/her effort to the project; the effort may be cost shared, but a departmental business representative must sign off on any cost shared effort (see Required Letter 1) confirming that the effort is available for this project should it be funded.
* The maximum amount that can be applied toward key personnel (faculty) salary plus fringe is $25,000
* Current salaries must be used and appropriate fringe rate must be requested and approved by departmental/divisional/area business manager or equivalent (approval indicated via Required Letter 1)
* Tuition and other fees for graduate students must be factored in
* Equipment (i.e., items over $5,000) cannot be purchased with pilot project funds and is not allowed on the budget
* Computers and other electronic devices may be budgeted only if ample justification is provided they will be used solely for the pilot study and no other purpose during the award

**Submission Instructions:**

One PDF file (including all 8 application pieces defined above) plus the budget excel file should be e-mailed to the Center’s respective Center Program Coordinator as indicated in the table above. Center coordinators will acknowledge receipt of each application with an e-mail confirmation. Deadline to submit applications is Thursday, March 1, 2012, before 6pm. Applications submitted past 6pm on that date will not be accepted.

**Key Contacts:**

Contact Center Directors for questions regarding information on current center related research themes and priorities and suggestions of faculty members with whom you might collaborate. (see table above for center director contact info)

Contact Center Program Coordinators for application logistics questions, including all budget questions (see table above for center program coordinator contact info)

For all other questions including additional efforts towards finding suitable collaborators and linking to key resources such as pediatric research cores, contact Stacy Heilman, PhD, at stacy.heilman@emory.edu

**Key Dates:**

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| Deadline for Submission: | March 1, 2012 at 6pm |
| Announcement of Funding Decisions: | April 30, 2012 |
| Funding Period: | June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2013  |
| Project Report Due by: | Within one month of the end of the grant cycle |

**Funded Pilot Recipients:**

* Official institutional routing and official administrative review will be required only for those pilot applications selected for award.
* All publications resulting from work generated with these funds should include the proper acknowledgement as detailed in the Pediatric Research Center Terms & Conditions.