



# GEORGIA RESEARCH ALLIANCE

## FY 2010 GRA Collaboration Planning Grants

### Frequently Asked Questions

UPDATED April 15, 2009

These questions and answers are intended to provide supplemental information about GRA Collaboration Planning Grants, but are not comprehensive. For grant application guidelines and more detailed program information, including a description of the scientific focus of the GRA Next-Generation Vaccines and Therapeutics Initiative, please download the program announcement from [www.gra.org/vaccines](http://www.gra.org/vaccines).

#### **May I receive an extension to the application deadline?**

The published deadline for proposals is Friday, May 1, 2009. However, GRA will accept proposals submitted by email prior to midnight on Sunday, May 3, 2009. Extensions will not be granted beyond this date. (Please note that all proposals involving CDC researchers must meet earlier CDC internal deadlines, as described below.)

#### **How do I submit my proposal?**

Proposals (other than those involving CDC researchers\*) are to be submitted directly to GRA via email at [CPGrants@gra.org](mailto:CPGrants@gra.org). Please copy all co-PIs on the email.

#### **\*IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING PROJECTS INVOLVING CDC INVESTIGATORS**

All Collaboration Planning Grant proposals involving CDC researchers must be submitted to GRA through the CDC Foundation. Therefore CDC PIs should be aware of internal agency review/ submission deadlines. Completed proposals will be routed through respective Associate Directors of Laboratory Science (ADLS), who must forward to Gena Hill at CDC by April 27<sup>th</sup>. Additional deadlines and application procedures for projects that involve CDC collaborators are outlined at [www.cdcfoundation.org/insider/propose/GRA.shtml](http://www.cdcfoundation.org/insider/propose/GRA.shtml). CDC PIs may also contact Gena Hill ([ghill@cdc.gov](mailto:ghill@cdc.gov), 404-639-8453) with procedural questions or for clarification of internal deadlines.

#### **If a university researcher plans to submit a proposal that involves a CDC collaborator, does the proposal still need to be processed through the CDC and the CDC Foundation?**

Yes. It does not matter who initiates the proposal or who leads the project. All proposals involving CDC researchers must be submitted to GRA through the CDC Foundation.

#### **Can I submit more than one application in a particular year?**

Yes. However, be aware that it is rare for a particular PI to receive funding for more than one proposal in the same fiscal year, so submission of multiple proposals may diminish the chances of your collaborators. We discourage PIs from submitting more than two proposals in the same fiscal year.

#### **Can a previously-funded project be submitted for renewal?**

GRA will accept a proposal for a second year of funding if milestones are met from the initial proposal. Continuation proposals must include a statement of the project's results/progress towards milestones during the first year of funding. (UPDATE 4/15/09: Progress statements should be submitted as an attachment to the proposal and should be no more than one page of text with an additional page of graphs/pictures if applicable. This will not count toward the five page proposal limit.) Continuation proposals will be reviewed competitively with all new applications; no preference is given to renewals. GRA will not consider renewal applications after a project has been funded for two years.

#### **Can I submit a proposal in the field of diagnostics (or another platform technology)?**

Yes, so long as the proposal provides a compelling explanation of how the project would ultimately support the development or improvement of next-generation vaccines and therapeutics.

**Can I submit a proposal focused on antivirals or other drugs?**

Yes, so long as the project is focused on a novel therapeutic that either (1) directly modulates host response or (2) is critical to enabling the efficacy of a particular vaccine or immunotherapy.

**Can I submit a proposal focused on transplantation?**

Yes, so long as the project addresses a novel immuno-modulatory approach to transplantation.

**Can I submit a proposal focused on epidemiology or vaccine policy?**

These areas are not currently supported by GRA Collaboration Planning Grants.

**Can I include funds for the following items on my budget:**

Faculty/Post Docs/Graduate Students/Student Assistants/Lab Technicians – Yes; *specific name(s) and amount of funding requested for each person must be included.*

Laboratory Supplies and Animals – Yes, *if specific to the project and in keeping with institutional policies*

Facility Fees – *In some cases, with specific justification*

Travel – *In some cases, with specific justification*

Administrative Support – No

Tuition Remission – No

Equipment – No

Consultants – No

Partners out of State – No

Industrial Partners – No

**Does the project budget have to be exactly \$100,000?**

No; \$100,000 is the maximum.

**Does the project budget have to be split evenly between institutions?**

No. However, GRA expects substantial participation from each institution and would expect that to be reflected in the budget.

**What do you require from my institution to indicate approval/acceptance of the project?**

All proposals should be submitted in accordance with the guidelines of the principal investigators' institutions. GRA does not require PIs to submit documentation of institutional approval with the initial proposal. Once GRA has selected projects for funding, PIs and institutional contacts will be notified. The institutional contacts then have 30 days to notify GRA in writing that the projects have met all of the institution's requirements and that the researchers have institutional approval to proceed.

**Who is the designated contact at my institution?**

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

**When and how will I receive award notification?**

All applicants will be notified of award decisions by email by mid-July, 2009.

**What is the funding cycle for these projects?**

Funds will be transferred to the institutions by mid-August 2009. All funds must be expended by June 30, 2010.

**If I am awarded a grant, how will I receive funds?**

GRA will transfer funds directly to the academic institutions. All program funds awarded to support CDC researchers will flow through the CDC Foundation. Project approval must be submitted to GRA from all participating institutions before project funds will be released. PIs will be notified by email when project funds are transferred to their institutions.

**Can I see a copy of a successful proposal?**

GRA does not share copies of proposals, other than with technical reviewers. However, a list of projects funded in previous years is available online at [www.gra.org/vaccines](http://www.gra.org/vaccines).

**How many grants will you award in FY 2010?**

We have not set a specific number of grants that will be awarded in FY 2010. All awards are subject to availability of funds for the program.

**What criteria are considered in proposal evaluation?**

Proposals are reviewed for technical merit and for potential impact on GRA's program goals.

Technical Merit Criteria include:

- Technological strength/significance of the proposed work
- Suitability of R&D methods and procedures
- Relevance of investigators' experience
- Scope of work consistent with one-year timeline and budget
- Projected results and relevance to GRA's priorities

GRA Program Criteria include:

- **Evidence of a compelling, concrete plan (with timetable) for seeking non-state funding as a result of the project**
- Fit with GRA's Next-Generation Vaccines & Therapeutics Initiative
- Significance of collaboration among institutions (For example, is this a new or expanded relationship? Are there unique assets on the campuses without which the project could not be undertaken?)
- Likelihood that effort will lead to significant non-state funding for the state of Georgia
- Likelihood that effort will lead to significant improvements in an aspect of global health or will support the growth of new technologies or companies
- Comparison to other proposals, in terms of quality and balance of GRA program investments

**Who will review the proposals?**

External technical review will be managed by Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU). GRA will evaluate proposals for fit with program criteria.

**How will confidential information be handled?**

Confidential information should not be included in Collaboration Planning Grant proposals.

**Who can I contact for more information?**

General questions may be directed to Kitty Vogt at the Georgia Research Alliance ([CPGrants@gra.org](mailto:CPGrants@gra.org); 404-332-9770, x23).

Questions regarding internal CDC application procedures and deadlines should be directed to Gena Hill at CDC ([ghill@cdc.gov](mailto:ghill@cdc.gov), 404-639-8453).