**Emory Specialized Center of Research Excellence on Sex Differences (Emory SCORE)**

**Career Enhancement Core**

***announces***

**Pilot & Add-an-Aim Awards Available**

The Career Enhancement Core of the Emory Specialized Center of Research Excellence on Sex Differences (Emory SCORE) funds non-renewable awards that account forsex as a biological variable when examining key health influences, processes, and/or outcomes.

***In this round we are prioritizing projects that can be completed in 6-7 months.***

**Key Dates**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date** | **Notes** |
| Application due | November 1, 2025 | Submit to: <https://form.jotform.com/EmorySCORE/Application> |
| Notification of award | November 15, 2025 | Regulatory approvals must be in place before funding is released |
| Project Period ends | **July 31, 2026** | Progress report due at completion |

**Studies considered for funding:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PILOT AWARDS | ADD-AN-AIM AWARDS |
| * Pilot or feasibility studies | * Addition of a new aim or question to a currently funded project. The new aim must bring a focus on sex as a biological variable to a project that does not currently have that focus. |
| * Secondary analysis of existing data |

**Rationale**

The Emory (U54AG062334) SCORE is funded by the NIH to promote the NIH policy on [Sex as a Biological Variable](https://orwh.od.nih.gov/sex-gender/nih-policy-sex-biological-variable).

**Application Instructions: ALL APPLICATIONS**

* Read NIH NOT-OD-15-102: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/not-od-15-102.html>   
  (*Consideration of Sex as a Biological Variable in NIH-funded Research*)
* Watch the video at [https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=14501](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvideocast.nih.gov%2Fwatch%3D14501&data=05%7C02%7Cd%27andrea.doyle%40emory.edu%7Cb29d1790de5d4959b86908ddfc359766%7Ce004fb9cb0a4424fbcd0322606d5df38%7C0%7C0%7C638944029280009052%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gYm9C30ViSMFOdsFHa9h4CiZKPF%2Bmj3RZBw%2FvPKET%2BE%3D&reserved=0)   
  (*Methods and Techniques for Integrating Sex into Research*)
* OPTIONAL: Meet with Emory SCORE Bioinformatics and Bioinformatics Resource Core (BBRC)
  + BBRC director Dr. Christina Mehta (christina.mehta@emory.edu) can assess your Specific Aims and proposed study design, data collection, and analysis plans for rigor and provide onward referral for additional statistical support, power analyses, etc. as needed in order to enhance the competitiveness of your application.

**Application Instructions: PILOT AWARDS**

* **Eligibility**
  + Emory faculty member at any level who is eligible to receive NIH R01-equivelent funding through the University **AND** **EITHER**
    - Has no history of NIH funding at the R01-equivalent level (early stage investigator) **OR**
    - Has a history of only one R01-equivalent NIH award (early established investigator) **OR**
    - Is an independent scientist who has not previously been funded at the R01 level in sex differences research.
* **Budget cap:** $25,000
* **No clinical trials allowed**
* **Application Components:**
  + **Specific Aims**: 1 page
  + **Research Plan**: Less than or equal to 6 pages
  + **Project Timeline**:1/2 page

Note: This section will be used to assess project feasibility within the review-prioritized 6-7 month project completion period. *The content of this section will carry considerable weight on review.*

* + **Future Plans for NIH Applications**: 1/2 page
    - Describe how findings from the proposed research will help ground a future NIH application that will advance knowledge about sex differences. Include an outline of the remaining experiments or data collection, if any, that will need to take place before an NIH application that uses the findings may be submitted. *The content of this section will carry considerable weight on review.*
  + **Biosketches**:
    - PI
    - Other Key Personnel
  + **Budget:**
    - Indirect Costs should be included and budgeted at 8%
    - PI salary support is allowable, but not required
    - It is strongly recommended that budgeted effort for statistical support be included.
    - Do not request:
      * Salary or travel for senior faculty
      * Travel that can not be completed withing the award’s project period
      * Equipment purchases of > $5,000
      * Funds for publication costs (these will be provided, as needed, separately)
* **Application Submission:** 
  + Upload the completed application packet **as a single pdf document** to: <https://form.jotform.com/EmorySCORE/Application>
  + Do **NOT** route through or deliver the application to Emory’s OSP office.

**Application Instructions: ADD-AN-AIM AWARDS**

* **Eligibility**
  + PI or Co-Investigator on an active, funded project **AND EITHER**
    - Has no history of NIH funding at the R01-equivalent level (early stage investigator) **OR**
    - Has a history of only one R01-equivalent NIH award (early established investigator) **OR**
    - Is an independent scientist who has not previously been funded at the R01 level in sex differences research.
* **Budget cap:** $15,000
* **No clinical trials allowed**
* **Application Components:**
  + **Copy of base grant Specific Aims page**: 1 page
  + **Added Aim Page**: 1 page. *Make it clear how the added aim fits into the larger project*
  + **Research Plan**: 2 pages

**Significance:** *Include justification for the research, as related to sex differences*

**Approach**

* + **Project Timeline**:1/2 page

Note: This section will be used to assess project feasibility within the review-prioritized 6-7 month project completion period. *The content of this section will carry considerable weight on review.*

* + **Future Plans for NIH Applications**: 1/2 page
    - Describe how findings from the proposed research will help ground a future NIH application that will advance knowledge about sex differences. Include an outline of the remaining experiments or data collection, if any, that will need to take place before an NIH application that uses the findings may be submitted. *The content of this section will carry considerable weight on review.*
  + **Biosketches**:
    - Applicant
    - Other Added Aim Key Personnel
  + **Budget:**
    - Indirect Costs should be included and budgeted at 8%
    - Salary support for the Add-an-Aim project’s PI is allowable
    - Do not request:
      * Salary or travel for senior faculty
      * Travel that can not be completed withing the award’s project period
      * Equipment purchases of > $5,000
      * Funds for publication costs (these will be provided, as needed, separately)
* **Application Submission:** 
  + Upload the completed application packet **as a single pdf document** to: <https://form.jotform.com/EmorySCORE/Application>
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# RELEASE OF FUNDS

A response to the summary statement and proof of all necessary institutional approvals (e.g. IRB/HIC, IACUC) must be provided to the SCORE prior to release of funds. Additional stipulations may also be included in the Notice of Award.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCORE AWARDEES:**

* Participate in developmental and training activities sponsored by the Career Enhancement Core as required by the Office of Research in Women’s Health (our funding agency).
* Present research in progress or findings at a SCORE-sponsored Women’s Health Research Lecture Series (WHRLS) meeting or other Emory SCORE research seminar.
* After completion of your project, serve as a peer reviewer of future Emory SCORE applications.
* Submit progress reports as required in the NOA.
* Submit a poster at the annual Emory SCORE “How to Incorporate SABV in Your Research” Workshop
* Acknowledge SCORE funding in all presentations and publications.

CONTACTS:

**Application or Administrative Questions**

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Emory SCORE Program Director

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**Scientific Questions: Social Behavioral Science**

Dr. Kimbi Hagen

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**Scientific Questions: Basic & Clinical Science**

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