



The Donaldson Charitable Trust Research Synergy Fund

Request for Pilot Grant Proposals 2022

The Winship Cancer Institute (Winship) in collaboration with the Aflac Cancer & Blood Disorders Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (Aflac) and the Wallace H. Coulter Biomedical Engineering Department at Emory University and the Georgia Institute of Technology (BME) is releasing a 2022 Request for Pilot Grant Proposals (RFP) supported by *The Donaldson Charitable Trust Research Synergy Fund*. As a result of a generous donation from the Oliver S. and Jennie R. Donaldson Charitable Trust, we are pleased to announce this peer-reviewed program to provide pilot funding for **novel**, **innovative**, and **collaborative** cancer research projects. This program enables cancer investigators from both Emory University and the Georgia Institute of Technology to obtain preliminary data and results for publication and for subsequent peer-reviewed funding applications.

The Donaldson Charitable Trust Research Synergy Fund is intended to further efforts to break down barriers that have sometimes separated clinical oncology and basic science/engineering. The Fund will spark collaboration between the most innovative minds in basic research (including biomedical engineering) and physicians who provide the highest quality of clinical care for both pediatric and adult cancer patients.

Projects funded may include but are not limited to the following key strategic areas:

- Biologically targeted cancer therapies
- Novel methods to improve cancer diagnosis
- Patient-specific approaches that provide individualized cancer treatment plans
- Point-of-care technologies to give cancer patients more convenient options for earlier detection and intervention (e.g. home-based testing and mobile applications)
- Cell therapies that allow reprogramming of the immune system to fight tumor cells
- Novel medical devices that will enable real-time efficacy testing of targeted therapies

Projects are encouraged to address priorities in the Winship catchment area, the state of Georgia. This includes but is not limited to cancers with increased incidence/disparities (lung, breast, prostate, colorectal, pancreatic, multiple myeloma), vulnerable populations (Black/African American, rural, low socioeconomic status, people living with HIV, uninsured) and/or risk factors in Georgia (obesity, low screening rates, health literacy, HPV vaccination, UV exposure, tobacco use, poverty).

Proposals with a budget of up to **\$125,000 for one year** will be considered for funding by *The Donaldson Charitable Trust Research Synergy Fund*. Applications should reflect collaborative team science projects that **must include at least 2 of the 3 partnering units** (i.e. Winship, Aflac, BME). Successful applicants will be expected to appropriately reference receipt of award as outlined in the notice of award in all acknowledgements, as well as provide progress and final reports.

Eligibility Criteria and Application Requirements:

1. Application for cancer-specific research projects will only be considered from investigator teams that hold affiliations in 2 of the 3 partnering units as identified below:
 - a. Active member of the Winship Cancer Institute in good standing
 - b. Active member of the Aflac Cancer & Blood Disorders Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
 - c. Faculty member at either Emory University or the Georgia Institute of Technology with a primary faculty appointment in the Wallace H. Coulter Biomedical Engineering Department
2. An individual investigator may be included on only one submitted Pilot Grant Proposal per funding cycle.

3. Salary support for the principal investigator is not permitted, although support for research staff is permissible.
4. Indirect costs are not allowed.
5. All proposals must include a clear plan for subsequent extramural grant submissions as a result of the work proposed.
6. Data Management – proposals must include a plan to maintain research data in Redcap or another secure data management system (if relevant) with quality control and stored on the Emory system with back-up and potential for data sharing. Consultation for data sharing plans with the Winship Data Analytics and Technology Applications Shared Resource are recommended. (<https://winshipcancer.emory.edu/research/shared-resources/winship-research-informatics.html>)
7. Proposals which include *in vivo* studies must include a:
 - a. Section addressing *Vertebrate Animals* research
 - b. IACUC protocol (draft to be submitted or IACUC-approved protocol)
8. Members receiving funding are expected to submit progress reports to the *Donaldson Charitable Trust Research Synergy Fund* Review Committee. Specific instructions on due dates of reports will be provided at the time of funding.
9. Letter of Intent: The Letter of Intent should identify the PI, all potential co-investigators and/or collaborators on the project, the research program of the applicant, the research domain for which the project is to be considered, a proposed title and a brief description of the proposed research project. Letters of Intent should be no longer than two pages. Letters of Intent are used to establish appropriate reviewer teams, rather than as a project selection step.

Letters of Intent should be uploaded as a single document to <https://intranet.winship.emory.edu/pilotgrant> **no later than 5:00pm on Friday, December 2nd, 2022**. Please direct any questions you have regarding this funding opportunity to WinshipGrants@emory.edu.

<u>Key Dates:</u>	<u>Cycle 4</u>
RFP Announcement:	11/11/2022
Letter of Intent:	12/02/2022
Application receipt date:	01/04/2023
Awardee Announcement	02/08/2023
Anticipated start date:	03/01/2023