COGNITIVE EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (CEP):
Call for Seed Grant Pre-Proposals

We ask that you review the following form and prepare your answers on a separate document. Once you are ready to submit please paste your final answers in the Qualtrics form- https://gatech.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4VgDAeXQg83QPBO and only then will your response will be received.

The number of individuals affected by Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) is increasing every year, with an estimated 15 to 20% of those over the age of 65 at risk of developing it. These individuals have increased problems with memory, problem-solving or spatial ability. The vision of the Cognitive Empowerment Program (CEP) is to revolutionize the experience of people affected by MCI by creating a comprehensive approach that can be replicated nationally and internationally. With funding from the Cox Foundation and in partnership with Emory Brain Health and the Goizueta Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, faculty from Georgia Tech and Emory University have developed a ground-breaking new program that combines therapeutics, technology, data science, and the built environment to improve the lives of people diagnosed with MCI. The CEP mission is to empower people with MCI and their care partners and families by creating a living lab that promotes joy, purpose, health, and wellness through comprehensive lifestyle programs, technologies, and physical environments.

With the aim of speeding up the development, testing, and dissemination of evidence-based interventions for MCI, the Innovation Accelerator (IA) core is offering seed grants to support research in the following areas: therapeutic programming, technology, and the built environment. The funded projects should result in innovative solutions, strategies, or methodologies developed through a culture of collaboration among students, researchers, clinicians, and people with MCI in less than 12 months’ time. This is the third year that $150,000 in seed grants will be available.

The staff of the Innovation Accelerator Core will help Seed Grant awardees connect with the members of the CEP and their care partners as well as the staff to access shared innovation space in the empowerment center at 6 Executive Park.

The CEP Seed Grants are intended to support the creation, implementation, and testing of novel ideas to achieve one or more of the following goals:

- **Engage** people with MCI and their care partners in developing strategies and/or solutions for improving their lives;
- **Create** proof of concepts for new technological innovations, environmental designs, and non-pharmacological interventions or programs that can be used by people with MCI around the world; and,
- **Generate data** that will support external funding proposals in MCI consistent with CEP’s mission and vision.

Successful pre-proposals address any of the target domains of cognitive stimulation, functional independence, social engagement, physical activity, well-being, nutrition, art, and education by supporting daily activities in the home and/or the empowerment center. Proposals may involve:

- **Built environment**: Evidence-based design strategies for interior and exterior built environments and products to support an independent, safe, joyful, engaged life of people with MCI and their families;
- **Technology**: Improve the lives of people with MCI and their care partners through the creation of non-intrusive and engaging interventions that guide and reinforce personalized therapy and support daily activities;
- **Therapeutic Programs**: Develop meaningful behavioral programs for individuals affected by MCI that are grounded in science and based on the unique needs of participants.

Proposals can range from a semester to year-long research projects and smaller proposals can target funds to convene valuable discussions, gather data, develop methods and metrics, or prototype new designs and technologies.

**TIMELINE**

- Call for pre-proposals released: June 30, 2021
- Program info session: July 16 at 11am
  - This info session will be recorded and made available on the IPAT and CEP Website
  - Program info session link- [https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/wtvyvzp](https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/wtvyvzp)
- Pre-proposals due: August 13, 2021 by 5pm
- Invitation for full proposals: September 10, 2021
- Full Proposals due: October 15, 2021
- Intent to fund announced: November 12, 2021
- Funding received: Based on IRB approval (if required). Target January 1, 2021
- Project completed: December 31, 2021
ELIGIBILITY

All applications should involve two or more investigators, with at least one faculty member from Georgia Tech and/or one from Emory. Additional collaborators from other organizations are encouraged, including but not limited to other academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, healthcare, and industry.

BUDGETS

The maximum award available is $50,000 for any individual project; smaller scaled projects are encouraged to maximize the number of grants that can be awarded. The pre-proposal document needs to include an estimated total budget with a list of the type of expenditures, but no detailed budget justification is required at this stage. Overhead is not allowed on the seed grants.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Submissions will be reviewed based on the involvement of stakeholders, the composition of the research team, and the potential for impacting the lives of people with MCI. In particular, the review committee will look at how teams anticipate working directly with individuals with MCI and parts of their care network (therapists, family members). The Innovation Accelerator team will facilitate access to these important stakeholders for requirements gathering, design, and evaluation activities. Specifically, the peer review panel will evaluate proposals according to the following criteria, adapted from the NIH:

1. **Significance.** Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier for people with MCI? Have people affected by MCI been involved in identifying this as an important issue? How will people with MCI be involved in the project? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will the lives of people with MCI be improved?

2. **Investigator(s).** Are the Principal Investigator (PI), collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? Does the project team include people from both Emory and Georgia Tech? Is this a transdisciplinary collaboration? Does it create new collaborative relationships?

3. **Innovation.** Does the application challenge and seek to shift current understandings and approaches to empowering people with MCI? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, technologies, strategies, or interventions novel to MCI?

4. **Approach.** Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? If the project involves human subjects research, are the plans for the protection of human subjects from research risks justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?
All pre-proposals will be evaluated by a review committee comprised of representatives from all cores of the CEP and individuals affected by MCI. Feedback from the committee will be given to all pre-proposals. Those selected for full proposals will be contacted by the end of the day on September 10.

**Note: For additional information or questions regarding the seed grant process email**

Kimberly.seaton@design.gatech.edu

*Required Fields*

Q1. *Pre-Proposal Title*

Q2. Principal Investigator 1 Information
   a. *Name
   b. *Role on Team (PI or Co-PI)
   c. *Institute Name
   d. *School/College
   e. Department Name
   f. Title in Department
   g. *E-Mail
   h. *Phone Number

Q3. *i. Attach CV or resume of PI 1 (Required)*

Q4. *Do you have other Investigators on your team?*
   a. Yes
   b. No

**Note: If No, move onto Q7**

Q5. Investigator 2 Information
   a. *Name
   b. *Role on Team (PI or Co-PI)
   c. *Institute Name
   d. *School/College
   e. Department Name
   f. Title in Department
   g. *E-Mail
   h. *Phone Number
Q6. *i. Attach CV or resume of Investigator 2 (Required)

Q7. *Do you have any additional Collaborator(s) on your team?
   a. Yes
   b. No

Note: If No, move onto I. Summary and Area of Interest

Additional Collaborator(s) Information

Q8. *Please list any additional Collaborator(s). No CV required. (Name, Organization)

I. Summary and Area of Interest

A. *Executive summary

Provide a brief description of the proposed research project, including the key questions or goals, processes, and deliverables. (300 words)

B. *Lay summary

Provide a brief description of the proposed project focusing on the anticipated outcome of the project. This will be shared with the members (people living with mild cognitive impairment) for their evaluation. (100 words)

C. *Primary area of interest
   a. Technology
   b. Built Environment
   c. Therapeutics

II. Proposed Outcomes

A. *What are the expected outcomes of the proposal, and what benefit will it bring to those with MCI?

Please describe what you hope to achieve with this project, and how it will promote the objectives of CEP. How will you measure success (i.e. what data will you collect?). (150 words)
III. Collaboration and Involvement

A. *In the interest of promoting a collaborative approach to research, how will this proposal effectively contribute to other areas of research, or involve other disciplines, organizations, or industries?

*Describe how the proposal might promote collaboration inside and outside of the CEP. (150 words)*

B. *How will this project involve adults with MCI and their care networks in the ongoing research?

*Describe how you plan to involve people with MCI in defining the problem, developing solutions or programs, and testing those solutions or programs. (150 words)*

IV. Estimated Budget and Duration

A. *Select or provide your estimated duration

   a. Semester
   b. 1-year
   c. Other

B. *Total Expected Budget*

C. Estimated budget categories:

   a. Fully Loaded Salaries
   b. Tuition
   c. Supplies & Materials
   d. Other

Please submit final answers to

https://gatech.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4VgDAeXQq83QPBQ

by 5pm on August 13, 2021.