



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

Office of the Senior
Vice President for Research

A Milestone Moment

Fiscal Year 2023 Research Funding Announcement

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Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 academic year! With the fall semester now underway, I'd like to take a moment to express my appreciation to all Emory faculty and staff. Thanks to you, Emory continues to be at the forefront of institutions that turn research insights into meaningful outcomes. Emory faculty guide teams toward innovative research breakthroughs and secure resources that make research possible, and it is because of our researchers and research staff that Emory University has become renowned for the impact we have on people and communities around the world.

And it is that impact that is at the heart of this milestone moment for Emory.

I am thrilled to announce that Emory University secured more than \$1 billion of sponsored awards during FY23. This unprecedented achievement builds on an increase in faculty proposals and breaks our previous record of \$944.5 million last fiscal year. Crossing this mark places Emory among a select group of elite universities to reach \$1 billion in awards, an amount that represents a growth of 55% since we achieved \$689m five years ago.

This increase will enable us to continue to fulfill our mission of creating, preserving, and applying knowledge in the service of humanity.

Emory University's sponsored expenditures (an indicator of research activity and economic impact) increased 33% over the last five years, from \$593.7m to \$791.6m over FY18-FY22. Additionally, Emory University spent \$1.12B in institutional funds to support research activity during the same time period.

"For the fourth year in a row, Emory researchers have shattered funding records, marshaling the resources for world-changing discoveries across disciplines and fields," says Emory President Gregory L. Fennes. "As impressive as the numbers are, what's much more important is the impact that our faculty and researchers are having on society. They are taking on the greatest challenges of our time and transforming their expertise and ideas into solutions, scholarship, and breakthroughs that are changing lives here in Atlanta and across the globe."

Over the course of FY23, we garnered many important awards that will allow us to continue to build, support, and innovate in the health sciences. Emory received \$49.8 million from the NIH Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to accelerate the development of next generation COVID-19 diagnostic technologies and other rapid home-based tests with a focus on performance, multiplexing, and accessible innovations. Led by principal investigator Wilbur Lam, professor and associate dean of innovation in the School of Medicine, and including many other Emory faculty members, the award is part of NIH's Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADX) initiative, implemented to speed innovation in the development, commercialization, and implementation of technologies for COVID-19 testing. We also received a \$46.6 million NIH award to fund the renewal of the Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance. Led by W. Robert Taylor, principal investigator and professor in the School of Medicine, in conjunction with other Emory staff and faculty who support clinical and translational research, the Georgia CTSA initiative is now in its seventh year as a collaborative research alliance among local universities that accelerates clinical and translational education, research, workforce development, and community engagement. Mingji Dai, Asa Griggs Candler Professor in the Emory College of Arts & Sciences Department of Chemistry, received \$2.1 million from the NIH National Institute of General Medical Sciences to study the chemical synthesis of natural and unnatural molecules with the potential to treat cancer, neurological disorders, and drug resistant infectious diseases. And the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing's Jacob Kigo Kariuki received an award from the NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to study the efficacy of novel web-based intervention that aims to promote adherence to physical activity guidelines among adults with obesity.

We were among the first universities to prepare for the new federal Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), providing faculty with training and consultation, hosting ARPA-H leadership including new Director Renee Wegrzyn, and partnering with other Georgia universities. These efforts have yielded ARPA-H's first award in the nation, announced last week by the White House, totaling \$24.8 million. Principal investigator Philip J. Santangelo, alongside other Emory faculty Rafi Ahmed, Ignacio Sanz, Christian Larsen, and John Lyons, will collaborate with teams from Yale University, the University of Georgia, and German Company Transimmune AG to help prevent, treat, and cure cancer, autoimmune, and infectious diseases by directly programming immune cell function.

"This milestone of reaching \$1 billion in sponsored research is a testament to the creativity and insight of Emory faculty whose work is changing the world," says Ravi V. Bellamkonda, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. "Beyond the numbers, investments in our leading scholars translate into discoveries and meaningful advances in areas that affect us all—from brain health, cancer and diabetes to climate change and social justice to artificial intelligence. We are immensely proud of the achievements of our game-changing faculty and the staff and students who work alongside them every day to advance knowledge and serve humanity."

This past fiscal year was also notable for the way Emory built upon its diverse areas of inquiry and continued investment in research that seeks to answer critical questions in areas of ongoing social importance. The Department of History's Malinda Maynor Lowery received \$2.4 million from the Mellon Foundation to partner with the College of the Muscogee Nation in pursuit of the College's transition to a four-year institution that awards bachelor's degrees. Emory will support this transition and also glean important knowledge that will enhance Emory's ability to undertake, support, and provide research leadership on native and indigenous studies. Eri Saikawa and Saria Hassan, respectively of the Rollins School of Public Health and School of Medicine, received a \$1.3 million award from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to precisely measure the cumulative health impact of environmental factors on underserved communities in Atlanta. Lauren Klein, associate professor in the English Department, received a \$1.3 million award with the goal of showcasing how Atlanta can serve as a model and national hub for work at the intersection of AI, ethics, and social justice. Working with a consortium of local universities and other collaborators, Klein's work will foster research on artificial intelligence (AI) that blends humanistic ways of thinking with cutting-edge, machine-learning methods. The Candler School of Theology's Ted Smith and Khalia J. Williams received \$5 million and \$1.25 million

respectively from the Lilly Endowment to design innovative ministry programs with congregations that will nurture the faith of children, inspire increased congregational connection across the greater Atlanta area, and make ministerial education more accessible.

There are so many more stories to share, and we plan to continue featuring Emory successes in my monthly Research in Review newsletter as well as our Annual Report in early 2024. Emory's \$1 billion milestone is important because of what it represents: our ability to impact the lives of people all over the world. Our continued impact is only accomplished through the persistence of our research community's pursuit of new innovations, new breakthroughs, and new frontiers.

I would like to thank the faculty of Emory for their hard work and commitment to solving some of the world's most pressing challenges. Further, I would like to thank research administration leadership and staff as well as the many research team members across the university without whom none of this could happen. On behalf of everyone in the Office of Research, thank you all for your passion, persistence, and partnership in helping us reach this important milestone. Together, we can continue to bring discovery and innovation to many lives as we champion Emory as a leading research university.

Congratulations to all,

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