



The Female* Founders Forum at Emory (F3@E) Request for Applications

Background

In December 2021, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a workshop focused on Overcoming Structural Barriers for Women in Entrepreneurship. Experts at the workshop noted that the percentage of women who decide to pursue an entrepreneurial career continues to be significantly lower than that of men. Only 11 percent of venture capital deals in 2019 went to startups led by female CEOs and only 2 percent of venture funding went to women founders. An increased organizational climate to support more women in entrepreneurship, strong commitment from leadership, and a movement toward a consciously inclusive culture is required for long-term transformation. The program described below is one step that Emory University is taking in response to this disparity.

Purpose

The Office of the Senior Vice President for Research is launching its second cohort of the Female Founders Forum (F3@E) to support the entrepreneurial development of female faculty at Emory who are launching a startup company to license and develop their invention. To be considered, applicants should already have plans for their startup or have a startup underway. The target technology for the startup should be an Emory owned technology(s).

Eligibility

Proposals are invited from female* faculty at Emory University. Pls must:

- Be Emory faculty, including tenured, tenure-track, tenure-eligible, clinical track, and non-tenure-track research scientists.
• Identify as female, a woman, or other gender identify that aligns with the intent of this program.
• Must have disclosed an invention to the Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) that has been evaluated and have IP protection (patent or copyright) pending.
• Have plans for their startup or have a startup underway (the target technology for the startup should be an Emory owned technology(s)).

Program Details

Program Period: The program will take place January 2025 through November 2025.

Number of Participants: The cohort will include 5-7 faculty.

Tentative Programming Schedule:

Applicants must commit to substantial participation in the program and attendance of events. A balance of in-person and virtual events will be scheduled approximately once per month. Most events will be held in the evening to minimize scheduling problems. Events will typically be from 6-8pm and will include dinner when held in person. A culminating celebratory event will be hosted by Emory leadership.

Table with 4 columns: Event, Date, Guests, Location. Row 1: 1 - F3@E Cohort Welcome Dinner, January 2025, SVPR team, Local restaurant TBD.

*Note: This program solicits applications from those who identify as female, a woman, or other gender identity that aligns with the intent of this program.



2 – IP protection and Technology Transfer	February 2025	Patent Counsel and OTT	Virtual event
3 – WIN Event #1 and F3@E Dinner	March 2025	Guest Speaker for afternoon event. Speaker joins cohort for dinner.	TBD. Co-locate WIN event and F3@E dinner on campus.
4 – Funding the Technology/Startup	April 2025	Panel of Experts	Virtual event
5 – Managing COI and COC	May 2025	Campus leaders	Virtual event
6 – WIN Event #2 and F3@E Dinner	June 2025	Guest Speaker for afternoon event. Speaker joins cohort for dinner.	TBD. Co-locate WIN event and F3@E dinner on campus.
7 – Clinical and Regulatory Issues	July 2025	Panel of Experts	Virtual event
8 – Identifying, Engaging, and Compensating Management	August 2025	Panel of Experts	TBD working dinner meeting on campus.
9 - WIN Event #3 and F3@E Dinner	September 2025	Guest Speaker for afternoon event. Speaker joins cohort for dinner.	TBD. Co-locate WIN event and F3@E dinner on campus.
10 – Pitch Practice	October 2025	Invited Guests	TBD working dinner meeting on campus.
11 – Graduation and Technology Pitch	November 2025	Special Invitations	Dinner & Graduation held at Convocation Hall.

We understand that you have many demands on your time and that managing those demands provides special challenges for women looking to succeed with faculty-driven startup companies. This program has been designed to balance virtual with in person contact to support you on your journey, while maximizing connections. We expect substantial participation in this programming.

Technology/Business Mentoring: Participants will receive up to five (5) hours of paid individual mentoring from successful external entrepreneurs. These meetings should occur outside the program schedule above.

Research Agenda/Mentoring: Participants will receive one-on-one guidance from representatives from the Office of SVPR to align their entrepreneurial activities with their research agenda.

Key Deliverables of Program Participants



Technology Development Plan: Participants will be required to develop or refine a technology development plan or business plan, as appropriate. It is expected that participants have already given thought to the development of their technology and that this program will continue to develop the participant's focus on vetting and addressing value inflection points.

Technology/business pitch: Each participant will have an opportunity to pitch their TDP/business plan at the final session / graduation event. It is not required that the startup be at any particular stage or seeking funds. The pitch session is an opportunity to learn, refine what has been learned, identify the next steps for participant technology, obtain external feedback on plans, and to practice communicating plans and pitches.

Timeline

10/18/24 – RFP released

12/04/24 – Applications due by 5:00pm

12/18/24 – Participant selection notification

01/03/25 – Program start date

11/30/25 – Program end date

Application Instructions

Instructions for Submittal: To submit an application, please fill out the application on InfoReady, Emory University's internal competition software.

<https://emory.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1954548>

If you have any questions about the application process or program, contact Todd Sherer, PhD, ttsHERE@emory.edu Associate Vice President for Research and Executive Director of the Technology Transfer Office. For questions about the InfoReady application portal, contact Erica Pitre, Office of Research Development, at erica.elaine.pitre@emory.edu.

Format: Single-spaced, 11-point font Arial with one-inch margins. Smaller text in figures, graphs, diagrams, and charts is acceptable as long as it is legible.

Proposals should include the following sections:

1. Online Application Form (InfoReady portal; link above)
2. Statement of interest of no more than three (3) pages:
 - a. Reason for applying and goals for participation
 - b. Technology description
 - c. Status of startup activity
 - d. IP/license status
 - e. Statement of commitment to participate, if selected
3. Attachments: Biosketch – Attach an NSF or NIH style biosketch

Review Criteria



Proposals will be reviewed by a small, internal review committee. The review panel will provide a recommendation for final participant selection to the final selection committee, which will include the Senior Vice President of Research.

Evaluations will be based on these criteria:

1. Commitment of the participant to the program
2. Commercial potential of the technology/startup
3. Strength of the IP position
4. Entrepreneurial interest

Progress Tracking and Reporting

Participants must submit a final report within 60 days of the program period end. The final report should include a technology development plan and the plan for next steps. Participants are required to submit brief annual progress reports for two years following completion of the program on the progress of the technology/company. Reports should include updates on IP protection, technology development, funding activities, and management teams.