SUMMARY
Clemson University Core Facilities are shared resources for research and teaching support that offer a range of equipment and services to the university community including cutting edge technologies, high end instrumentation, technical support and education. Core facilities are recognized by the University as central to its existence, mission and character. While core facilities receive supplemental support from the University, appropriate user fees are necessary to fully recover costs associated with instrumentation use and service contracts.

The Division of Research has established the CLEMSON CORE INCENTIVIZED ACCESS (CU-CIA) grants in order to increase awareness of the available core facilities, and to leverage the services that they provide to increase research activities at Clemson University. This award will provide preliminary support to Clemson University researchers for use of core research facilities to enhance the probability of obtaining extramural funding for new projects. If needed, access to multiple facilities is allowable. To this end, requests should be made for the sole purpose of acquiring data for NEW grant applications.

For the purposes of this program, the Core Facilities are listed below.

- Clemson Light Imaging Facility (CLIF - https://www.clemson.edu/centers-institutes/light-imaging/)
- Clemson Electron Microscope Facility (EMF - https://www.clemson.edu/centers-institutes/cuadvancedmaterialscenter/electron-microscope/)
- Clemson University Micro Fabrication Facility (CUMFF - https://www.clemson.edu/cecas/ece-clean-room/index.html)
- Godley-Snell Research Center (GSRC - https://www.clemson.edu/research/godley-snell.html)
- Aquatic Animal Research Lab (AARL - https://www.clemson.edu/research/services/facilities.html)
- High Performance Computing (HPC - https://ccit.clemson.edu/services/research-and-hpc/)

ELIGIBILITY
Tenured or tenure-track faculty (regardless of academic rank), research faculty, post-doctoral researchers and full-time staff are eligible to participate as PIs, co-PIs, or key personnel.

Emeritus, adjunct, and visiting faculty, and graduate or undergraduate students are not eligible to lead projects but may be included on the research teams.

Past recipients of R-Initiative funding who did not comply with the terms of funding are ineligible.

FUNDING AND REQUIREMENTS
- A current lack of funding for the proposed research is mandatory.
- Upon selection for award, the core facility where the requested equipment is housed, will receive a voucher or account from the Division of Research in the awardee’s name to be
charged against for equipment usage hours, - and charges for technical assistance and/or training for the grant personnel.

- Core facility technical staff expenses should be included in the budget.
- While a complete budget is required, it should be noted that if extensive materials (including, but not limited to, animal models) are required for the completion of the proposed experimental procedures, then cost share to cover those expenses is should be included in the budget.
- No facilities and administrative (F&A) costs are permitted.
- The grant period is twelve (12) months from the award date, and the usage of the requested core equipment must be completed within that period. At the end of that period, all remaining funds on the awarded voucher will be returned to the Division of Research.
- No costs extensions will not be granted under this program.

DELIVERABLES

The primary outcome of the CLEMSON CORE INCENTIVIZED ACCESS (CU-CIA) is the access to core facility equipment for the purpose of generation of preliminary data needed in preparation for specific grant applications. The core equipment must be utilized to generate preliminary data and a grant submission must be made using the data within the grant period. Inclusion of usage fees for the core facilities in the new grant submission is highly recommended. Proposals may be submitted to federal agencies, foundations, corporate consortia, or any other external sponsor. Copies of the submitted proposal(s) should be sent to the Division of Research (rifunds@clemson.edu) upon submission.

A Final Report must be submitted to rifunds@clemson.edu by the end of the grant period and should include:
- List of grants submitted with the following details:
  - The overall requested amount(s)
  - Funding agency or agencies
  - Date submitted
  - InfoEd PPN
- Copies of the pages from the submitted grant that detail the experimental data obtained via the CU-CIA.
- Copy of the requested grant budget and budget justification with the inclusion of usage fees for the core facilities

Should R-Initiative funding result in publication(s), PIs must acknowledge the impact of R-Initiative funding. For example, “This project was funded in part by Clemson University's R-Initiative Program.”

APPLICATION PREPARATION

Proposals that are not in compliance with the requirements and the instructions may be returned without review.

Format all documents using 12 pt. Times New Roman Font, one-inch margins, single line spacing, and 8 ½ x 11 inch paper size.

Submit the proposal as a single PDF file with the following ordered sections:
A. Cover Sheet [1 page]
The official R-Initiatives Cover Sheet must be used and include:
- A clear and concise project title (CU-CIA: Project Title)
- The names of the PI, all co-PIs, and any other senior personnel or key collaborators, including graduate and undergraduate students, should be listed along with departmental affiliations; additional personnel may be listed on a separate page if not enough space is provided in the cover sheet,
- Center affiliations, if applicable
- Total budget amount,
- Indication of prior R-Initiative funding, and
- Anticipated deliverables.

B. Project Summary [1 page]
Include a brief summary of the need for time on the specific items of core equipment and how the data that is generated will enhance a specific research grant application(s). The summary should include the specific grant application program(s), funding agency/agencies, and requested grant amount(s), for which the data will be utilized. This may be in the form of a table if the data will be used in multiple grant applications.

C. Project Description [3 pages]
Inclusive of all figures and charts, include a description of the research, training, and proposal activities that will be possible upon utilization of the specific equipment and the impact on the competitiveness of the specific grant application(s). The description should include details about which pieces of core equipment will be utilized and which users will be generating the data on the requested equipment. Details about how the specific experiments to be run on the requested equipment will be carried out and how these experiments add to the overall goals of the proposed grant application are required. (Applicants are highly encouraged to contact the appropriate core director(s) for assistance with determining the specific instrumentation, training, technical assistance and materials (including, but not limited to animal models) required to complete their proposed projects.) The project description should provide a statement regarding the overall requirements for the specific grant application(s) for which the data will be utilized. In addition, a brief statement regarding the applicant’s current overall funding status and why the applicant does not have the funds necessary to generate the required preliminary data is required. The project description should include how many students are anticipating using the equipment (graduate and undergraduate).

D. Budget
The budget should include the estimated number of hours required on each piece of core equipment and the cost of those hours, as well as the number of requested technician and training hours required along with their associated costs. This should be done by utilizing the currently published core equipment and technician hourly rates for in-house users. These billing rates may be found on the University Controller’s website (https://www.clemson.edu/finance/controller/rates/). Applicants are encouraged to seek assistance from the appropriate core director(s) when preparing the proposed budget. The budget should include cost share for any materials and/or supplies (including, but not limited to animal models) required for the completion of the proposed experimental procedures that will be purchased from and/or through the requested core(s).
E. Biographical Sketches [2 pages]
Submit 2-page biosketches in NSF or NIH format for PI, and all Co-PI(s), collaborators and key personnel. This should include biosketches for students who may be utilizing the equipment for the generation of data.

F. Letters of Support [optional; up to maximum of three]

G. List of Suggested Reviewers (max. 4) with Their E-Mail Addresses [optional] Faculty from any institution may be listed, but at least two must be current Clemson University faculty. Ineligible reviewers include department chairs and collaborators of the project team. Each person listed should be notified that he or she has been included and may be invited to review.

TIMELINE
Round 1:
September 11, 2019  Solicitation announced
November 6, 2019  Proposals due
January 10, 2020  Decisions announced

Round 2:
December 3, 2019  Solicitation announced
April 29, 2020  Proposals due
To be Decided  Decisions announced

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE
All proposal documents, including electronic signatures, must be received by 4:30 p.m., November 06, 2019 and, April 29, 2020 by 4:30 p.m. in InfoEd. Pls will contact their OSP Support Centers as they would normally do for an external submission. To ensure that all electronic signatures are received on time, faculty are strongly encouraged to submit their final proposal documents for routing and electronic signature at least two business days before the deadline. Only those proposals having completed the InfoEd routing process by the deadline will be reviewed.

REVIEW PROCESS
A review committee will be formed to review the proposals and make funding recommendations to the Vice President for Research.

Evaluation Criteria:
✓ Probability of increased extramural funding resulting from the data generated through usage of the equipment
✓ Other factors that demonstrate potential benefit to the University
✓ Lack of current funding necessary to pay for utilization of core equipment for the generation of needed preliminary data for the proposed grant application(s).
✓ Clear and concise experimental plan for generation of preliminary data utilizing the requested core equipment

RESEARCH COMPLIANCE
All applications selected for award must have received all required approvals from the Office of Research Compliance before the award can be activated.
QUESTIONS
Questions should be directed to the appropriate core director.

Contact information is listed below:

Clemson Light Imaging Facility Director - Dr. Terri F. Bruce; terri@clemson.edu; 656-1264

Clemson Electron Microscope Facility Director - Dr. Laxmikant Saraf; lsaraf@clemson.edu; 656-7535

Clemson University Micro Fabrication Facility - Fab Manager – Bill Delaney; fdelane@clemson.edu; 656-1118

Godley-Snell Research Center Associate Director - Melody Willey; mclrk@clemson.edu; 656-1849

Aquatic Animal Research Lab; Manager - John Smink; smink@clemson.edu; 656-7162

High Powered Computing; Interim Executive Director – Dustin Atkins; datkin2@clemson.edu; 656-5949