



**Division of
Science, Technology
& Innovation**

A Division of Empire State Development

March 15, 2021

ERC Program
Division of Engineering Education & Centers
National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

RE: NSF Engineering Research Center for Integrated Mechanobiology for Women's Health (IMWEL)

Dear ERC Program Directors,

I am writing to confirm my intent to collaborate on the project, NSF Engineering Research Center for Integrated Mechanobiology for Women's Health (IMWEL), proposed by Lead Principal Investigator Dr. X. Edward Guo of Columbia University in response to the National Science Foundation's Engineering Research Center funding opportunity (NSF 20-553).

Empire State Development (ESD) is New York State's economic development agency. ESD's Division of Science, Technology & Innovation (NYSTAR) administers programs to enable new and existing businesses to become more competitive through the use of innovative technologies. Our goals include leveraging our programs and initiatives to help new start-ups thrive. We promote a robust network of industry-university partnerships across the state. New York State, and our division in particular, is committed to fostering the development, commercialization, and adoption of innovative technologies in order to drive competitiveness. We would welcome showcasing IMWEL at our New York State Innovation Summit, which brings together academia, industry, and start-ups.

We intend to collaborate and/or commit resources as detailed in the Project Description or the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section of the proposal. The Governor's proposed New York State budget contains funding for NYSTAR's Matching Grants Leverage Program as in previous years. If the budget and funding for the Matching Program is enacted, the IMWEL team may apply for New York State matching funds to promote its integrated convergent research, workforce development, innovation ecosystem, and diversity & culture of inclusion objectives.

Sincerely,

Matthew C. Watson
Senior Vice President & Executive Director