

# Emory University Breaks Ground on Innovative Biomedical Research Facility

By Emory News Center  
Published December 11, 2019



Emory University's Health Sciences Research Building II

ATLANTA – Emory University broke ground today on a state-of-the-art research facility that will focus on innovation, synergy and impact for biomedical research. Biomedical research studies the prevention and treatment of disease and the genetic and environmental factors related to disease in order to find new ways of improving health. The new facility, Health Sciences Research Building II (HSRB II), will be built on Haygood Drive beside its sister facility, Health Sciences Research Building I, which opened in 2013.

Plans for HSRB II include six stories above ground and two stories below ground, offering more than 346,000 square feet of dedicated research space for imaging sciences, biomedical engineering, cardiovascular medicine, child health including cancer, adult cancer, inflammation, immunity and immunotherapeutics, emerging infections and other cutting-edge interdisciplinary research programs.

The new facility will be funded in part from a generous \$400 million gift from the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, with \$200 million of that gift directed for biomedical research. The additional \$200 million will help build Emory's newest cancer facility, Winship at Midtown, which broke ground in November at Emory University Hospital Midtown.

"This new building will help enhance Emory's mission of advancing collaborative and translational research across many areas throughout the Woodruff Health Sciences Center," says Jonathan S. Lewin, MD, executive vice president for health affairs at Emory University and president and CEO of Emory Healthcare. "HSRB II will provide a unique setting for researchers to focus on targeted discoveries and developments. We thank the Woodruff Foundation for its gift, helping to make this facility possible."

Core research functions in the building will include advanced imaging, flow cytometry, a biorepository for storing biological material, genomics and other state-of-the-art technologies. The building will include both laboratory and collaborative space for researchers. An innovation zone, including an accelerator space for start-ups and entrepreneurial research, is planned to promote translation of scientific discoveries.

"HSRB II will facilitate our vision of reimagining medicine - providing an innovative and collaborative environment that encourages us to tackle the most challenging problems in biomedical research and human health and providing the best chance of success," says Vikas P. Sukhatme, MD, ScD, dean of Emory University School of Medicine.

The design for the new building will promote efficiency and sustainability efforts such as: aggressive energy use reduction including occupancy sensors for interior lighting control, automated shades for limiting heat gain and glare control and a solar panel array; a green roof plaza along the side of the building facing Emory's Lullwater Preserve; a geothermal well field below the surface parking; permeable paving at the surface parking; a rainwater capture system and indoor bicycle storage. The building is targeting LEED Gold Certification upon completion.

"HSRB II is in the vanguard of new biomedical research buildings, such as the Francis Crick Institute in London, creating a remarkable work environment, connectivity and synergy - open labs and workspaces with soft barriers - to facilitate discovery of the biology underlying human health," says David Stephens, MD, vice president of research for the Woodruff Health Sciences Center.

Construction is slated to begin in January 2020, with a targeted completion date of April 2022. Global design, architecture, engineering and planning