



# **China Medical Board 2020 Open Competition Research Program**

## **Health Policy and System Sciences**

### **Request for Proposals**

#### **Invitation for Proposals**

The China Medical Board (CMB) invites young researchers from its collaborating institutions in China to apply for the CMB Open Competition (CMB-OC) research grants in the field of Health Policy and System Sciences (HPS). This is the tenth annual round.

#### **Background**

China like all countries faces many challenges in providing universal, high quality, affordable healthcare to its people. The CMB is dedicated to supporting solutions to these challenges in China and other Asian countries. Starting in 2011, the CMB-OC program has aimed at developing research capacity of junior researchers and health professionals. The program's rigorous merit-based peer review process seeks to identify researchers with high potential, regardless of seniority. CMB-OC awardees receive research funding and join an active CMB research community.

Over the course of nine cycles, CMB has awarded 95 CMB-OC grants totaling over \$10 million. The program is highly competitive. In the 2019 cycle, CMB received 339 project applications, of which 46 abstracts were invited for full proposals. Ultimately, 11 projects were selected for funding.

#### **2020 CMB OC Program**

In this 2020 round, CMB commits a total amount of 1 million USD to support a dozen projects from merit-basis selection. The same as previous years, applicants can choose from two different budget allowances. Each OC category will have quotas for the number of awards. Applications should identify the category at submission; and the budget should be justifiable with the proposed activities.

- 1) OC1 capped at 40,000 USD per project with duration of no more than 3 years.
- 2) OC2 capped at 80,000 USD per project with duration of no more than 3 years.

#### **Priority research themes**

Applicants are expected to formulate research projects that generate evidences to support China's health care reform in providing safe, appropriate, cost-effective, equitable, and essential health care, improving quality, efficiency and containing cost of the health system.

The 2020 CMB-OC will prioritize research projects relevant to **quality of care**. Along with equity and safety, quality of care is a main theme critical for the success of the health reform in China. Over the past years, efforts have been made to standardize the technical quality of health providers, reduce poor-quality practices through standardization, and reinforce physician-patient communications and interactions. Applicants for the OC grants may choose any dimension of quality of care to develop a specific research topic in the fields of healthy policy, health systems, public health, nursing, clinical medicine, pharmacy, etc. The dimensions of quality of care include but not limited to health professional education for quality, healthcare governance and policy for quality, measurement and evaluation of quality, quality improvement and hospital administrations, and patients-providers alliance for quality and safety. Priority will be given to topics that well address the national or local needs for improving quality of care in China, including quality and safety issues related to the COVID-19 response.

### **Eligibility to Apply**

This year, in addition to junior faculties and post-doctoral fellows from eligible universities and institutions (listed in Addendum I), we encourage young clinical practitioners from hospitals affiliated to these eligible universities, especially those dispatched to Hubei province to support the fight against the COVID-19, to apply. Applicants are encouraged, where appropriate, to team up with international scholars, although the primary lead researcher must be based in China. We particularly encourage multidisciplinary research focusing on quality of care, including research topics related to the COVID-19. Researchers who have received CMB-OC grants during 2017 to 2019 are not eligible to be PIs or co-PIs. We do not restrict the total number of submissions from each institution this year.

### **Proposal Submission**

This Request for Proposals process will be implemented in two steps. First, applicants submit a concept note of no more than 2 pages for initial review. Next, the PIs of projects considered suitable will be invited to develop full proposals for final review. The full proposal will again go through peer review to determine final selection.

A concept note of no more than 2 pages must include the following:

- *General information:* Institution; project title; PI(s) and their leadership and/or academic titles; contact information, including email and a reliable phone number; amount of funding required; and duration of the project.
- *Significance:* Explanation of project's importance to China, to your locality, to your institution, and/or to yourself.
- *Project description:* Statement of the main problem addressed by the project, goals and objectives, specific activities that will be undertaken to achieve the goals, analytic methods, expected results and products, timetable, and estimated budget.

Concept notes should be accompanied by the current CV of the PI. The CV should be no more than 3 pages and include the PI's date of birth; contact information; major educational and professional experiences; previous participation in CMB activities. Please put the concept note and CV in one Microsoft Word file and do not send them separately.

Concept notes and proposals should be submitted in English through the respective institution's CMB liaison office (Addendum I). In naming project concept notes or proposals, please follow the standard format: **“Year + OCCategory+InstitutionAbbreviation + PI's Name.”** An example is “20OC1CMBFamilyNameGivenName”. Applicants from university affiliated hospitals should also send concept notes and proposals to respective university's CMB liaison office.

After submitting concept notes and proposals to liaison office, each applicant must register their basic information online:

Concept note submission registration: <https://www.wjx.top/jq/59702917.aspx>

Proposal submission registration: <https://www.wjx.cn/jq/59846757.aspx>

### **CMB Review Criteria**

The process is highly competitive and merit-based. PIs of selected concept notes and proposals may be sent comments to assist them in focusing and improving their full proposals. CMB's decisions about which projects to support are final and based on the rigor, relevance, and topical significance of the full proposal. In particular, the following aspects will be examined during review:

- Value of the project, as explained in its “justification;”
- Priority theme projects will receive extra consideration;
- Soundness of the research design and appropriateness of methods used;
- Feasibility of the project;
- Potential of the PI to achieve academic excellence;
- Demonstration of multidisciplinary work;
- Cost-effectiveness in producing key knowledge and educational products given the requested budget

Literature review should be conducted before the grant submission instead of being done in the pilot stage. It is CMB policy that all research and education products, including original datasets generated by its grant support, must be widely shared and accessible to the public.

### **Timeline**

May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Submission of concept note
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	CMB decision on concept notes for consideration
August 31 <sup>st</sup>	Submission of full proposal
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	CMB announcement of funding decisions

### **Point of Contact**

The CMB liaison officers will serve as the point(s)-of-contact between the institution and CMB in grant management issues. The CMB liaison officers should send all concept notes, proposals and inquiries to Dr. WANG Yu ([ywang@cmbfound.org](mailto:ywang@cmbfound.org)).

## Addendum I- Eligible Institutions and CMB Liaison Information

Institutions	Abbreviation	CMB Liaison	Phone
Center for Health Statistics & Information, NHC	CHSI	Xu Ling	86-10-68792488
Central South University	CSU	Wu Zhigang	86-731-88877945
China Medical University	CMU	Bai Xueying	86-24-31939094
China National Health Development Research Center	CNHDRC	Wang Yaoling	86-10-88385686
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences	CASS	Yao Yu	
Fudan University	Fudan	Lu Li'an	86-21-65642266
Guangxi Medical University	Guangxi	Zhang Haiying	86-771-5358325
Guangzhou Medical University	Guangzhou	Ma Xiaojie	86-20-37103045
Guizhou Medical University	Guizhou	Fu Qihong	86-851-88416080
Hainan Medical University	Hainan	Li Guoguo	86-898-31350995
Harbin Medical University	Harbin	Yang Libin	86-451-86669493
Huazhong University of Science and Technology	HUST	Wang Haikun	86-27-83692919
Inner Mongolia Medical University	Inner Mongolia	Zhang Nan	86-471-6653058
Jiujiang University Medical Center	Jiujiang	Niu Li	86-792-8570078
Kunming Medical University	Kunming	Guo Haiyun	86-871-65922908
Lanzhou University	Lanzhou	Chen Yaolong	86-931-8915076
Nanjing Medical University	Nanjing	Zhang Donghui	86-25-86869109
Ningxia Medical University	Ningxia	Teng Jing	
Peking Union Medical College and CAMS	PUMC	Liu Jiuchang	86-10-65105936
Peking University Health Science Center	PUHSC	Zhang Lei	86-10-82805681
Qinghai University Medical College	Qinghai	Huang Mingyu	86-971-6104085
Shandong University	Shandong	Jiang Hongmin	86-531-88365337
Shanghai Health Development Research Center	SHDRC	Hu Shanlian	8621-2212-1860
Shanghai Jiaotong University	SHJT	Dai Jiaying	86-21-63846590 ext.776411
Sichuan University	Sichuan	Deng Hong	86-28-85403052
Tibet University Medical College	Tibet	Kang Min	86-891-6331024
Tsinghua University	Tsinghua	Lan Xi	86-10-62786160
Wuhan University	Wuhan	Li Xiaoshu	86-27-68753419
Xi'an Jiaotong University	Xi'an	Li Xiaomei	86-29-82657017
Xinjiang Medical University	Xinjiang	Liu Tao	86-991-4365561
Zhejiang University	Zhejiang	Yu Hai	86-571-88208060
Sun Yat-sen University	SYSU	Gu Wenli	86-20-84115633