



China Medical Board

2021 Open Competition Program

Request for Proposals

Invitation for Proposals

The China Medical Board (CMB) invites research institutions, university and hospital affiliated early and middle-stage career researchers and health professionals to apply for the CMB Open Competition (CMB-OC) research grants. This is the 11th annual round of CMB-OC program, with the theme of this year focusing on women’s reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH).

Background

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 early and middle-stage career 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 ten cycles, CMB has awarded 120 CMB-OC grants totaling almost \$12 million. The program is highly competitive. In the 2020 cycle, CMB received over 400 project applications, of which 40 concept notes were invited for full proposals. Ultimately, 25 projects were selected for funding of \$1.4 million.

2021 CMB OC Program

In this 2021 round, CMB commits a total amount of \$ 1 million 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.

The 2021 CMB-OC program will prioritize research projects in the broad area of women’s reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH). Women and children (newborns to adolescents) are among the most high-risk and vulnerable groups in the world. The health and well-being of mothers is not only important for women themselves, but central to child health and development, family welfare, and equity. Moreover, a healthy start in life and optimal health and development for all children are essential to society’s collective future.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is designed to move forward the global initiative to improve the health and well-being of women and children of all ages (birth through adolescence). It builds upon the work of the United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly MDG4 (Reduce child mortality) and MDG5 (Improve Maternal Health) and the targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially those related to health and wellbeing (SDG3) and gender equality (SDG5). Consistent with the “Every Woman Every Child” movement, we hope to move beyond survival (ending preventable deaths) to ensure that women and children thrive (physical and emotional health and well-being) and that we transform the landscape for their lifespan (including longitudinal preventive and curative health services, optimal nutrition, education, safety, social equity, and gender equality).

The focus of this RFP is consistent with the vision and agenda of Healthy China 2030. Enhancing RMNCAH is particularly important in China, with an aging population, declining fertility, an emphasis on poverty reduction, and regional differences in health and health services delivery.

In the 2021 OC program, CMB will support a wide variety of research proposals, spanning discovery science to implementation science, clinical and translational projects (including RCTs, cohort and other epidemiologic studies), health services, health systems, and community-based research studies. Areas for potential research projects include but are not limited to:

- Maternal health across the lifespan: including studies of physical and mental health
- Reproductive health: including studies of STDs, family planning, and infertility
- Maternal and Newborn Health: studies of nutrition, stillbirth, and neonatal diseases, including congenital anomalies and diseases of prematurity
- Child and Adolescent Health: studies addressing child development, injury prevention, abuse and neglect, immunization, nutrition, risky behavior, sexual health, and mental health
- The impact of COVID-19 on RMNCAH with a particular focus on maternal and child mental health and family dynamics

Through this open competition for research grants, CMB hopes to help advance the field of research in RMNCAH with the aim of enhancing the lives of women and children in China and beyond.

Eligibility to Apply

We welcome early and middle-stage career researchers and health professionals from eligible universities (including affiliated hospitals) and research institutions (listed in Addendum I) to apply for the 2021 CMB-OC grants. 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 work such as collaboration between clinical medicine and public health. Researchers who have received CMB-OC grants during 2018 to

2020 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 RFP 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 "21OC1CMBFamilyNameGivenName". 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

March 20, 2021	Submission of concept note
May 20, 2021	CMB decision on concept notes for consideration
July 20, 2021	Submission of full proposal
December 31, 2021	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 CMB Program Manager, Ms. Wenting Pu (wpu@cmbfound.org).

Addendum I- Eligible Institutions and CMB Liaison Information

Institutions	Abbreviation	Liaison Officer
Center for Health Statistics & Information, NHC	CHSI	Zhang Yaoguang
Central South University	CSU	Wu Zhigang
China Medical University	CMU	Bai Xueying
China National Health Development Research Center	CNHDRC	Wang Yaoling
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences	CASS	Yao Yu
Fudan University	Fudan	Lu Li'an
Guangxi Medical University	Guangxi	Zhang Haiying
Guangzhou Medical University	Guangzhou	Ma Xiaojie
Guizhou Medical University	Guizhou	Fu Qihong
Hainan Medical University	Hainan	Li Guoguo
Harbin Medical University	Harbin	Yang Libin
Huazhong University of Science and Technology	HUST	Wang Haikun
Inner Mongolia Medical University	InnerMongolia	Zhang Nan
Jiujiang University Medical Center	Jiujiang	Niu Li
Kunming Medical University	Kunming	Guo Haiyun
Lanzhou University	Lanzhou	Chen Yaolong
Nanjing Medical University	Nanjing	Zhang Donghui
Ningxia Medical University	Ningxia	Teng Jing
Peking Union Medical College and CAMS	PUMC	Liu Jiuchang
Peking University Health Science Center	PUHSC	Zhang Lei
Qinghai University Medical College	Qinghai	Huang Mingyu
Shandong University	Shandong	Li Huijing
Shanghai Health Development Research Center	SHDRC	Li Fen
Shanghai Jiaotong University	SHJT	Dai Jiaying
Sichuan University	Sichuan	Deng Hong
Tibet University Medical College	Tibet	Kang Min
Tsinghua University	Tsinghua	Lan Xi
Wuhan University	Wuhan	Li Xiaoshu
Xi'an Jiaotong University	Xi'an	Li Xiaomei
Xinjiang Medical University	Xinjiang	Liu Tao
Zhejiang University	Zhejiang	Yu Hai
Sun Yat-sen University	SYSU	Gu Wenli