



Request for Proposals (RFP)

CMB 2018 Special Research Program Health Policy and System Sciences (HPS)

The China Medical Board (美国中华医学基金会) invites young investigators from **selected** Chinese universities to apply for the CMB Special Research Grants in the field of Health Policy and System Sciences (HPS). This is a special round, supplementing the 8th round of Open Competition (OC) announced in February 2018. This Special Round is for joint projects by a lead Chinese investigator from selected universities to work in collaboration with a co-PI from an overseas institution to submit a high-quality joint research project. CMB's goal is to promote research development of selected Chinese university researchers that have not been able to win many previous OC awards.

Background

China like all countries faces many challenges in providing universal, high quality, affordable healthcare to its people. The need is especially great in less developed regions, requiring even greater research and knowledge for advances. Medical universities in such regions face handicaps in open competitions against elite medical universities. At the suggestion of CMB liaison officers in Hong Kong in December 2017, this special competition research program has been designed to promote collaborative research by PIs from these less privileged Chinese medical universities with overseas co-PIs, thereby strengthening their mutual research capacity.

This special program should be viewed as complementing the regular CMB-OC awards program. Starting in 2011, the CMB-OC program has aimed at developing research capacity of junior HPS researchers. 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 also join an active CMB research community. Over the course of seven cycles, CMB has awarded 73 CMB-OC grants totaling \$8.5 million. The program is highly competitive. In the 2017 cycle, CMB received 130 project applications, of which 38 abstracts were invited for full proposals. Ultimately, 14 projects were selected for funding.

The regular 2018 cycle of OC is currently underway. This special program complements and is additional to the regular cycle.

2018 CMB Special Program

This special program is targeted at promoting collaboration between young Chinese investigators and overseas research collaborators. Young scientists at the following medical universities may apply (see list in Appendix I). These medical universities were selected because they have received two or fewer OC awards in the first 7 rounds. Young investigators in these universities may partner with key international co-investigators to submit a competitive project proposal for a special OC award. We are making this special program known to several groups that have worked with less advantaged Chinese medical universities in the past, such as the US-based China Health Policy and Management Society (CHPAMS), Prince Songkla University in Thailand, and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. These three groups and others have provided academic supports for research capacity building in less advantaged medical universities in China.

CMB will count on Chinese medical university liaison officers to coordinate the partnership development. Chinese young investigators also may know of overseas colleagues with whom they would like to partner.

CMB will also encourage key overseas groups with connections to China to seek out liaison officers for identifying potential Chinese partners.

For this special round, the research project budget will be \$40,000 per project over 2-5 years. Altogether, CMB could offer up to ten research awards for meritorious project based on quality of submissions.

Priority research themes

Interested applicants are encouraged to formulate research projects that address China's priority research themes of relevance to its **national health reform**. What has been the progress? Where are the remaining challenges? What kinds of policy innovations would help accelerate progress? Research projects that address priority themes would be accorded higher ranking in the independent assessment of project submissions. As CMB is attempting to support successful health reform in China, special consideration would be given to research projects that focus on:

- Integrated systems of financing-delivery
- Workforce for primary care
- Informatics for health systems
- Modern management systems
- Patient and public knowledge and understanding of health care

Eligibility to Apply

We encourage junior faculties or post-doctoral fellows from eligible medical universities to apply. **Applicants must team up with eligible international scholars, with the primary lead researcher based in China.** We encourage multidisciplinary research and educational projects. Researchers who have received CMB-OC awards 2015, 2016, and 2017 are not eligible to be PIs or co-PIs.

Each institution can submit up to **two** abstracts.

Proposal Submission

This RFP process will be implemented in two steps. First, applicants submit an abstract of no more than 2 pages for initial review. Next, the Principal Investigators (PI and co-PI) 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.

An abstract of no more than 2 pages must include the following:

- *General information:* Institution; project title; amount of funding required; and duration of the project.
- *Collaborators:* PI, co-PI and their leadership and/or academic titles; contact information, including email and a reliable phone number; roles of the PI and co-PI in 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.

Abstracts should be accompanied by the current CV of the Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Principal Investigator. The CVs should be no more than 3 pages and include the PI's date of birth; contact information; major educational and professional experiences; up to 5 selected publications; previous participation in CMB activities. Please put the abstract and CV in one Microsoft Word file and do not send them separately.

Abstracts and proposals should be submitted in English through the respective institution's CMB liaison office (Addendum I). In naming project abstracts or proposals, please follow the standard format: "**Year + SpecialOC+SchoolAbbreviation + PI's Name.**" An example is 18SpecialOCCMBFamilyNameGivenName.

All applicants must register basic information of the abstracts/proposals and PIs in the online system:

- [Abstract registry](#)
- [Proposal registry](#)

CMB Review Criteria

The process is competitive and merit-based. PI and co-PIs of selected abstracts 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 “significance”;
- 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 have been 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

August 15 st	Submission of abstract
September 15 th	CMB decision on abstracts for consideration
November 15 th	Submission of full proposal
January 31 st	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 abstracts, proposals and inquiries to Minhui Yang (myang@cmbfound.org).

Addendum I- Eligible Chinese Institutions and CMB Liaison Information

Institutions	CMB Liaison	Phone
Guangxi Medical University	Zhang Haiying	86-771-5358325
Guizhou Medical College	Fu Qihong	86-851-88416080
Hainan Medical University	Li Guoguo	86-898-31350995
Harbin Medical University	Yang Libin	86-451-86669493
Inner Mongolia Medical University	Zhang Nan	86-471-6653058
Jiujiang University Medical Center	Niu Li	86-792-8570078
Kunming Medical University	Guo Haiyun	86-871-65922908
Lanzhou University	Chen Yaolong	86-931-8915076
Ningxia Medical University	Teng Jing	
Qinghai University Medical College	Huang Mingyu	86-971-6104085/6168538
Xinjiang Medical University	Liu Tao	86-991-4365561