



China Medical Board

2025 Open Competition Grants Program

Call for Applications

Invitation for Applications

The China Medical Board (CMB) invites early and mid-career researchers and health professionals from collaborating institutions in China and the United States (U.S.) to form collaborative teams and jointly apply for the CMB Open Competition (CMB-OC) research grants. This is the 15th annual round of the CMB-OC program, with this year's theme focusing on healthy aging.

Background

The CMB-OC program, initiated in 2011, was designed to support early and mid-career Chinese health professionals by providing funding for research projects, guided each year by a specific theme that aligns with current health challenges. Its rigorous merit-based peer review selection process aims to identify individuals with high potential for independent, research-intensive careers. Over the past 14 years, CMB has awarded nearly 200 CMB-OC grants, totaling around 16 million US dollars across various fields, including clinical medicine, public health, and health policy.

The OC program has been playing a significant role in supporting the academic development and career advancement of young health professionals in China, with its design and mechanisms continually refined. The program not only offers funding for researchers to conduct research and enhance their research capabilities but also provides them with an active CMB research community platform for professional network development.

This year's CMB-OC program is designed to encourage and support joint research projects between Chinese and American investigators. These efforts aim to foster a more interconnected international academic community and further enhance China-U.S. health exchange and collaboration.

2025 CMB-OC Program

In 2025, CMB launches a new pilot initiative aimed at fostering collaboration between early and mid-career health professionals from China and the U.S. CMB will provide funding for selected proposals submitted by collaborative research teams from both countries, nurturing meaningful peer-to-peer partnerships. By developing concrete solutions to address specific

health challenges faced by both nations, the initiative is expected to facilitate mutual learning and encourage joint research efforts that benefit both countries and contribute to the global community.

The 2025 CMB-OC program prioritizes projects focused on healthy aging. CMB is committing up to 1 million U.S. dollars to support grants of \$100,000 each for research teams to conduct projects lasting no more than three years.

Global population aging is an important issue for clinical medicine, public health and personal and family well-being. The importance of healthy aging and longevity is underscored by significant global demographic shifts, with projections indicating that over 40% of the world population will be aged 60 and older by 2050. This transition presents numerous challenges, including rising healthcare costs, a higher prevalence of age-related diseases, and the need for sustainable systems to support an aging population. The U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAM) defines healthy longevity as the state in which years spent in good health closely approach biological lifespan, allowing for physical, cognitive, and social functioning that promotes well-being across populations. Promoting healthy aging can unlock the potential of older individuals, minimizing both societal and individual burdens while enhancing human and social capital.

This Call for Applications aims to advance global understanding and initiatives to promote healthy aging. It is released in response to the urgent need for effective strategies to address the health challenges posed by a rapidly aging population and to improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of care for the elderly. CMB seeks to support young health professionals from China and the U.S. in collaboratively working on research projects that demonstrate strong practical applications, enhance their academic capabilities, and equip them with essential skills for the global aging era, while also laying the groundwork for long-term collaboration.

CMB welcomes diverse project proposals, including clinical and translational projects, implementation science, and system strengthening initiatives. This grant mechanism will not support basic science research or drug trials. Proposed topics must address specific, practical issues related to healthy aging that are relevant to clinical professionals, public health practitioners, patients, families, and the public. Funded projects should contribute to addressing healthy aging issues in China and/or the US and serve as models for similar applications in other countries globally.

The feasibility of proposed projects will be thoroughly evaluated, considering factors such as grant size, project duration, team capabilities, data security, and health system priorities. Principal Investigators (PIs) should identify potential challenges to the proposed project and outline strategies to address these issues. For pilot studies, PIs must demonstrate plans for sustaining project outcomes and scaling them up in real-world settings, including potential future partnerships.

Areas for potential projects include but are not limited to:

- Screening and prevention of common health issues in the elderly to preserve functional abilities and reduce the incidence of major health conditions.
- Clinical research on the diagnosis and treatment of age-related illnesses to enhance the quality and safety of care.
- Research on health and social services to strengthen an integrated care system that promotes the physical, mental, and social well-being of the elderly.
- Intervention studies to promote healthy behaviors, lifestyles and self-management among the older adults to improve quality of life and healthy longevity.
- Exploration of strategies to encourage the adoption of innovative technologies among the aging population to enhance equitable access to care.
- Studies on the impact of urban planning and infrastructure development on the well-being of the elderly to minimize health risks.

Eligibility to Apply

The 2025 CMB-OC grants target early and mid-career researchers and health professionals from universities (including affiliated hospitals) and research institutions in China and the U.S. Applications must be submitted by a team consisting of one PI from China and one PI from the U.S.

The Chinese PI must be affiliated with a CMB collaborating institution in China (listed in the attachment), while the U.S. PI must be from a leading academic or medical institution in the U.S. that has a long-standing collaborative relationship with China. Both PIs must have either received their terminal degree (PhD, ScD, DrPH, or MD) in the last 10 years (2015 or later) or completed their postdoctoral or residency training in the last 10 years.

Multidisciplinary collaboration is strongly encouraged, particularly between clinical medicine, nursing, and public health. Researchers who have received CMB OC grants as PIs in 2023 and 2024 are not eligible to apply for the 2025 CMB OC grants. There are no restrictions on the total number of submissions from each institution.

Application Process

The application process for the 2025 CMB-OC grants consists of submitting a full proposal directly, as opposed to the previous two-stage process.

Required application materials include:

- Joint project proposal (*following CMB Grant Proposal Guideline*)
- CVs of both PIs (*maximum of 3 pages per CV in English, including personal information, educational background, professional experience, and publications; the Chinese PI must also provide a CV in Chinese*)
- Letters of recommendation from the leaders of the respective institutions of both PIs

For each selected project, the \$100,000 grant will be divided equally, with \$50,000 awarded to the Chinese PI and \$50,000 to the U.S. PI. The grants will be disbursed to the respective home institutions of the PIs. Based on this funding structure, the Chinese team and the U.S. team need to prepare separate budgets in their joint proposal. This approach ensures that both teams have the necessary resources to collaborate effectively and achieve their research objectives.

Both PIs must comply with their respective institutions' internal approval processes for jointly applying for CMB grants. All materials of each application must be compiled into a single PDF document and submitted by the Chinese PI's institution's liaison officer to CMB (cmbbeijing@cmbfound.org) by **July 15, 2025**. Each application team must also complete the online registration by July 15, 2025 via <https://www.wjx.top/vm/wt0e0OP.aspx#>

Review Criteria

The review process is competitive, and merit based. A committee of international experts will review the application materials and select outstanding applications for funding. CMB will announce the final funding decisions by December 1, 2025.

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Practical significance and value of the project
- Soundness of the research design and methods
- Feasibility and sustainability of the project
- The potential for academic excellence and long-term collaboration between the two PIs
- Demonstration of multidisciplinary collaboration
- Cost-effectiveness in producing key knowledge and educational products

CMB mandates that all research and educational outputs funded by its grants must be widely shared and accessible to the public.

Point of Contact

The CMB liaison officers will serve as the point-of-contact between the institution and CMB regarding all grant application and management issues. The CMB liaison officers should send all application materials and inquiries to cmbbeijing@cmbfound.org.

Addendum: CMB Collaborating Institutions in China and Liaison Information

Institution	Abbreviation	Liaison Officer	Email
Center for Health Statistics & Information, NHC	CHSI	Zhang Yaoguang	zhangyg@nhc.gov.cn
Central South University	CSU	Xie Yun	agnesxieyun@qq.com
China Medical University	CMU	Bai Xueying	xybai@cmu.edu.cn
China National Health Development Research Center	CNHDR	Zhang Ling	zhangling@nhei.cn
Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & Peking Union Medical College	PUMC	Liu Jiuchang	liujccams@163.com
CUHK-Shenzhen, School of MEDICINE	CUHK-SZ	Rita Yao	ritayao@cuhk.edu.cn
Duke Kunshan University	DKU	Wang Bingyi	bingyi.wang@dukekunshan.edu.cn
Fudan University	Fudan	Wang Xi	wangxi@fudan.edu.cn
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Guangzhou Medical University	Guangzhou	Ma Xiaojie	horse3838@163.com
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Lanzhou University	Lanzhou	Chen Yaolong	chenyaolong@lzu.edu.cn
Nanjing Medical University	Nanjing	Xu Yang	xuyang@njmu.edu.cn
New York University Shanghai	NYUShanghai	Guan Chenghe	cg157@nyu.edu
Ningxia Medical University	Ningxia	Su Ming	m_su328@hotmail.com
Peking University Health Science Center	PKUHSC	Li Xiaojia	lixiaojia@bjmu.edu.cn
Shandong University	Shandong	Li Huijing	lihuijing@sdu.edu.cn
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