



# **China Medical Board**

## **2023 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 to apply for the CMB Open Competition (CMB-OC) research grants. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> annual round of the CMB-OC program, with this year's theme focusing on the prevention and control of healthcare-acquired infections.

#### **Background**

The CMB-OC program, started in 2011, was designed to promote the career development of early and mid-career researchers and health professionals in China. The program's rigorous merit-based peer review process seeks to identify researchers with high potential for an independent research-intensive career. CMB-OC awardees receive research funding and join an active CMB research community. The program is highly competitive. Over the course of 12 cycles, CMB has awarded 166 CMB-OC grants totaling over 15 million US dollars.

#### **2023 CMB-OC Program**

In this 2023 round, CMB commits funding to support approximately a dozen projects (~1 million US dollars), based on merit-based selection. Each successful applicant will receive a grant of up to \$50,000 to conduct a project for no more than three years.

The 2023 CMB-OC program will prioritize research projects in the broad area of the prevention and control of healthcare-acquired infections (HAIs), also known as hospital-associated infections or nosocomial infections. HAIs, which are among the leading threats to patient safety, are infections that people acquire while they are receiving treatment and other services at healthcare settings and facilities, including hospitals, community clinics, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, etc. The prevention and control of HAIs are critical to the containment of antimicrobial resistance and the prevention of outbreaks of highly transmissible diseases. Moreover, prevention of HAIs could prevent unnecessary deaths and avoid excess healthcare costs.

This Call for Applications supports global efforts to improve healthcare quality and safety through the prevention of HAIs, as well as the global action plan and China's national action plan to contain antimicrobial resistance. HAIs are one of the primary causes of preventable death and disability among hospitalized patients, resulting in emotional stress and prolonged hospitalizations. HAIs impact not only individual patients but also the healthcare system and society at large, as HAIs are linked to multidrug-resistant infections, the spread of

transmissible diseases, and increased use of healthcare resources. The prevention and management of HAIs should target individual behaviors, organizational administration, and capacity building, as well as healthcare system preparedness.

This Call for Applications is prepared in the context of the urgent need of improving emergency preparedness underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic. The significant and added pressure of COVID-19 on healthcare workers, hospitals and healthcare systems has highlighted the huge impact of HAIs on all health systems and the need for more vigilance in the prevention and control of HAIs. The COVID-19 pandemic has also emphasized the importance of strong collaborations between health professionals from both clinical settings and public health fields.

In the 2023 OC program, CMB welcomes a wide variety of research proposals, including clinical and translational projects, implementation science, health service and health system research, etc. The CMB-OC grant mechanism will not support fundamental research or drug trials. Through this open competition for research grants, CMB hopes to help advance the field of research in HAIs, antimicrobial resistance, and quality and safety of care in China and beyond. Proposed research projects should demonstrate innovation, creativity, and strong practical application significance. Areas for potential projects include but are not limited to:

- Advancing methodologies for early detection, surveillance, and monitoring of HAIs;
- Appropriate use of antibiotics;
- Efforts to prevent antimicrobial resistance;
- Effective individual, organizational and administrative measures for preventing and managing HAIs;
- Innovative technologies for improving hand hygiene, environmental hygiene, and reducing inappropriate device use in healthcare settings;
- Strategies for protecting frontline clinicians from HAIs;
- Innovative mechanisms, systems and management for the prevention and control of HAIs in different healthcare settings.

### **Eligibility to Apply**

The OC grants aim to support early and middle-stage career researchers and health professionals from universities (including affiliated hospitals) and research institutions in China. Researchers and health professionals from CMB's collaborating institutions (listed in the Addendum) who received their terminal degree (PhD, ScD, DrPH or MD) in the last 10 years (2013 and beyond) or completed their postdoc/residency training in the last 10 years are eligible to apply for the 2023 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, nursing, and/or public health. Researchers who have received CMB-OC grants as PIs from 2020 to 2022 or as co-PIs in 2022, are not eligible to be PIs or co-PIs for the 2023 CMB-OC grants. We do not restrict the total number of submissions from each institution.

## **Application Process**

This Call for Applications will be implemented in two stages. Along with CVs, applicants submit a concept note for peer review first. The PIs of projects considered suitable will be invited to develop full proposals which will go through international peer review for the determination of final selection.

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

- **General information:** institution; project title; PI's full name, appointment, and academic title; contact information, including email address and cellphone number; amount of funding required; and duration of the project.
- **Project summary:** use no more than 200 words to summarize the research question, main objective, basic design, expected outcome and significance of the proposed study.
- **Project description:** statement of the main problem to be 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.

The concept note should be submitted in English and combined with the PI's current CVs in both Chinese and English. The CV in each language version should be no more than 3 pages and include the PI's date of birth, contact information, educational background, professional appointments and experiences, grants and fellowships, awards and honors, publications, and previous participation in CMB activities.

Please put the concept note and CVs in one Microsoft Word file and do not send them separately. In naming the document, please follow the standard format: "23OC+InstitutionAbbreviation + PI's Name." Applicants should submit their application documents through the respective institution's CMB liaison office (contact information to be found in the Addendum). Applicants from university affiliated hospitals should also send application documents to the respective university's CMB liaison office.

After submitting application materials to liaison office, each applicant must register their basic information online: <https://www.wjx.top/vm/eBam3mV.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 improving their full proposals. The following aspects will be examined during the concept note and proposal review process:

- Practical significance and value of the project;
- 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.

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**

February 28, 2023	Submission of concept note
May 15, 2023	CMB decision on concept notes for consideration
July 31, 2023	Submission of full proposal
December 15, 2023	Notification of approved proposals for funding

### **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 [cmbbeijing@cmbfound.org](mailto:cmbbeijing@cmbfound.org).

## Addendum: CMB Collaborating Institutions and Liaison Information

Institutions	Abbreviation	Liaison Officer	Email Address
Center for Health Statistics & Information, NHC	CHSI	Zhang Yaoguang	<a href="mailto:zhangyg@nhc.gov.cn">zhangyg@nhc.gov.cn</a>
Central South University	CSU	Wu Zhigang	<a href="mailto:wbxiangya@csu.edu.cn">wbxiangya@csu.edu.cn</a>
China Medical University	CMU	Bai Xueying	<a href="mailto:xybai@cmu.edu.cn">xybai@cmu.edu.cn</a>
China National Health Development Research Center	CNHDRC	Zhang Ling	<a href="mailto:zhangling@nhei.cn">zhangling@nhei.cn</a>
Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & Peking Union Medical College	PUMC	Liu Jiuchang	<a href="mailto:liujccams@163.com">liujccams@163.com</a>
Fudan University	Fudan	Wang Xi	<a href="mailto:wangxi@fudan.edu.cn">wangxi@fudan.edu.cn</a>
Guangxi Medical University	Guangxi	Zhang Haiying	<a href="mailto:68383511@qq.com">68383511@qq.com</a>
Guangzhou Medical University	Guangzhou	Ma Xiaojie	<a href="mailto:horse3838@163.com">horse3838@163.com</a>
Guizhou Medical University	Guizhou	Fu Qihong	<a href="mailto:2101593077@qq.com">2101593077@qq.com</a>
Hainan Medical University	Hainan	Qiu Lei	<a href="mailto:qiulei@hainmc.edu.cn">qiulei@hainmc.edu.cn</a>
Harbin Medical University	Harbin	Yang Libin	<a href="mailto:yanglib@126.com">yanglib@126.com</a>
Huazhong University of Science and Technology	HUST	Wang Haikun	<a href="mailto:896026943@qq.com">896026943@qq.com</a>
Inner Mongolia Medical University	InnerMongolia	Zhang Nan	<a href="mailto:skyzn@126.com">skyzn@126.com</a>
Jiujiang University Medical Center	Jiujiang	Niu Li	<a href="mailto:bull1271@126.com">bull1271@126.com</a>
Kunming Medical University	Kunming	Guo Haiyun	<a href="mailto:seaokmu@163.com">seaokmu@163.com</a>
Lanzhou University	Lanzhou	Chen Yaolong	<a href="mailto:chenyaolong@lzu.edu.cn">chenyaolong@lzu.edu.cn</a>
Nanjing Medical University	Nanjing	Zhang Donghui	<a href="mailto:donghuizhang@njmu.edu.cn">donghuizhang@njmu.edu.cn</a>
Ningxia Medical University	Ningxia	Su Ming	<a href="mailto:m_su328@hotmail.com">m_su328@hotmail.com</a>
Peking University Health Science Center	PUHSC	Zhang Lei	<a href="mailto:lei_zhang@bjmu.edu.cn">lei_zhang@bjmu.edu.cn</a>
Qinghai University Medical College	Qinghai	Huang Mingyu	<a href="mailto:qyhuangmingyu@126.com">qyhuangmingyu@126.com</a>
Shandong University	Shandong	Li Huijing	<a href="mailto:lihuijing@sdu.edu.cn">lihuijing@sdu.edu.cn</a>
Shanghai Health Development Research Center	SHDRC	Ren Yanhua	<a href="mailto:renyanhua@shdrc.org">renyanhua@shdrc.org</a>
Shanghai Jiao Tong University	SHJT	Dai Jiaying	<a href="mailto:daijy@shsmu.edu.cn">daijy@shsmu.edu.cn</a>
Sichuan University	Sichuan	Yin Junbo	<a href="mailto:stephen68@126.com">stephen68@126.com</a>
Tsinghua University	Tsinghua	Tang Kun	<a href="mailto:tangk@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn">tangk@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn</a>
Wuhan University	Wuhan	Shi Xinyu	<a href="mailto:global@whu.edu.cn">global@whu.edu.cn</a>
Xi'an Jiaotong University	Xi'an	Li Xiaomei	<a href="mailto:roselee@xjtu.edu.cn">roselee@xjtu.edu.cn</a>
Zhejiang University	Zhejiang	Chen Jing	<a href="mailto:chenjing2006@zju.edu.cn">chenjing2006@zju.edu.cn</a>
Sun Yat-sen University	SYSU	Gu Wenli	<a href="mailto:guwenli@mail.sysu.edu.cn">guwenli@mail.sysu.edu.cn</a>