भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद
स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग, स्वास्थ्य और परिवार
कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Indian Council of Medical Research
Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health
and Family Welfare, Government of
India

Date: 05 /12/2022

II Call for project proposals for funding under PM-ABHIM scheme for subcomponent "Supporting research in NIV Pune and other ICMR associated research Institutes"

Emerging / re-emerging viral infections pose a continuous threat to the public health system of all countries globally. In recent years, India has seen a number of viral infections that caused multiple outbreaks. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to strengthen the infrastructure and conduct relevant research to provide swift and effective nation-wide response to future viral disease outbreaks. To meet this target, a subcomponent entitled "Supporting research in NIV Pune and other ICMR associated research Institutes" has been approved for ICMR-DHR under PM ABHIM scheme. The main objective of this subcomponent is to establish/support cutting edge technology/platform for diagnosis and research on clinical, virology and immunological aspects of emerging and re-emerging viral diseases at NIV Pune and other ICMR institutes. To fulfil this objective, project proposals under ICMR task force research program are invited **ONLY** from all the ICMR institutes.

Projects having high scientific impact with a focus on discovery or development or delivery of health interventions and/or technologies will be preferred. Descriptive projects are invited only for public health priorities where no previous data is available in the area of proposed work. The projects may focus on the following research areas:

a) Develop and **validate** platform molecular and/or serological diagnostic tests that can be adapted for any emerging and re-emerging viral infections. Point of care tests that use novel molecular biology techniques will be preferred. The developed technology should be ready-to-transfer for commercialization.

b) Develop/discover animal models to understand the pathology and pathogenesis of emerging and re-emerging viral infectious diseases with an aim **to comprehensively simulate the disease** so that the efficacy of various vaccines and antiviral treatments can be ascertained.

c) Delineate the host-pathogen interaction to define the biology and antigenic properties of emerging/reemerging viruses and host immune responses to **develop broadly cross-protective vaccines**.

d) Design, Development and Biological Evaluation of **broad-spectrum antivirals** against emerging and re-emerging viral infections.

e) For vector borne emerging and re-emerging viral infections, spatio-temporal mapping of vectors in real-time, identification and validation of next generation vector management approaches for public health interventions.

f) Develop platform disease-dynamic models by employing machine learning algorithms to integrate multiple disease related data points (clinical/virology/immunology/epidemiology) so as to design data driven tool for future disease prediction and making an informed disease management decision for any emerging and re-emerging viral infections

g) Surveillance studies in defined communities/cohorts for specific viruses likely to cause outbreaks

h) Natural history and disease spectrum study for outcomes and co-morbidities for any emerging and re-emerging viral infections

Project format:

All full project proposals are to be submitted as per ICMR Task Force project guidelines (available at https://epms.icmr.org.in) through ePMS portal of ICMR. Multi-centric collaborative projects are encouraged so that capacity is built across all the ICMR institutes.

1) Project title:
2) ICMR institute:
3) Networking ICMR institutes if any:
4) Name and affiliation of PI and Co-PI:
5) Summary of the project (not more than 250 words):
6) Introduction/Background (including rationale and need assessment):
7) Current status/literature review:
8) Novelty/Innovation:
9) Objectives: This may address the following

     i.   Research and diagnostic infrastructure and research capacity building within ICMR institutes

    ii.   Research questions being addressed

10) Proposed work plan/Methodology:

11) Timeline:

12) Expected outcome:

13) How will the developed infrastructure be supported after 5 years/Future plan:

14) Budget as per ICMR guidelines for extramural research program:

15) Brief CV of the PI and Co-PI: Please attach as annexure

Review mechanism:

All the submitted project proposals will be evaluated by an expert group constituted by the competent authority of the ICMR. The project proposals will be reviewed along following lines.

1) Merit of the proposal addressing the existing gap and leading to infrastructure and research/diagnostic capacity building within ICMR institutes

2) Scientific merit of the proposal

3) Proposal formulation:

    a) Objective

    b) Current status/literature review

    c) Proposed work plan

    d) Expected outcome

4) Expertise of the principal investigator and ability to develop network structure within ICMR institutes

If felt necessary by the expert group, the principal investigator may be invited to make a presentation to the expert group. Initially the project will be funded for three years. Based on the recommendations of the expert group and subject to the approval of the competent authority, the projects may be funded for another two years. Maximum period of funding will be for five years.

Date for submission of full length project proposal:

Start Date   :   5/12/2022   Time 9:00 a.m.

End Date   :   13/01/2023   Time 5:00 p.m.

The project proposals which are not submitted through ICMR ePMS portal (https://epms.icmr.org.in) and received after due date will not be considered.

Important Note:

1. Open the ICMR Electronics Project Management System (e-PMS) portal https://epms.icmr.org.in
2. Project proposal submission is three steps process in e-PMS.
   - Step 1 : PI Registration/Login
   - Step 2: Verify Email Id and Complete/Update PI Profile
   - Step 3 : Apply for Grant through submission of Taskforce proposal
3. Click on "**LOGIN** and select "*Register a new membership*" for new registration OR else if registered enter details to login into the application at e-PMS portal.
4. After registration in the portal, login in the portal. Verify your registered email and complete the PI profile. IP profile includes Personal detail such as Salute, Name, DOB as per 10th certificate, Details of 10th (Board name, roll number, Year of passing), Attachment (10th certificate/mark sheet), Gender (Male/Female), Category (GEN, OBC, SC, ST), State, District, Institute Name (if name doesn't exist in the drop down list then there is an option to add the new institute also), Designation, Nature of Employment, Department, Broad Area of Research, Subject Area.
5. After completing mandatory section of PI Profile, click on "*Submit New Proposal*" under "*Proposal Submission*" menu. New screen will display. Select "Task Foce" from drop down list to submit new proposal program.
6. The user manual of e-PMS (Guidelines-> e-PMS menu) https://epms.icmr.org.in/user-manual and ICMR Ad-hoc Project Program guideline (Guidelines-> Ad-hoc Program menu) are available at https://epms.icmr.org.in/adhoc . Before proceed to submission the proposal, it is suggested to read user manual and guidelines; and make ready all relevant information, documents and research plan.
7. There is no separate budget head for the consumable's. It will be required to add under budget head contingency.
8. Registration in e-PMS portal and filling the Personal, Education and Experience information is mandatory for Co-PI also.
9. As per Guidelines for Extramural Research Programme of ICMR. (Letter No.16/107/2008-(3) Admn.II Dated: 01.01.2018) Scientists/ Professionals who have a regular employment are eligible to apply. The contractual, adhoc, project staff etc. are not eligible to apply for research grant in this program. Therefore, all PIs are advised to ensure the nature of employment of PI/Co-PI before process to submission or addition as PI/Co-PI.
10. It is suggested to submit your proposal without waiting last date and time to avoid last time rush. Last minute request for extension of the due date w.r.t. any technical issue will not be considered.

11. Detailed Research Proposal, Declaration & Attestation, Details of Research Experience as PI, Non-availability Equipment Form (If proposed to procurement of any equipment from grant) are mandatory to upload during proposal submission. Remaining documents can be submitted during Codal Document submission.

12. **Contact person**

Proposal submission related query	Program related query
Dr Lokesh Sharma Scientist E Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi - 110029 Email: po.epms@icmr.gov.in	**Dr Neeraj Aggarwal** Scientist E Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi -110029 Email: aggarwal.n@icmr.gov.in