



2013 Request for Proposals (RFP)

CMB Open Competition Research Program

Health Policy and Systems Sciences (HPS)

Invitation for Proposals

The China Medical Board (美国中华医学基金会) for a third consecutive year invites investigators from eligible universities in China to submit project proposals for the **CMB Open Competition (CMB-OC)** research program in the field of **health policy and systems sciences (HPS)**.

Background

Over the course of the 20th century, health in China has advanced significantly. Nevertheless, China still faces many challenges in providing universal, high quality, affordable healthcare to its people. The CMB is dedicated to supporting solutions to these challenges as part of its broader mission of promoting health in China and other Asian countries. In strengthening Chinese capacities in HPS research and education, the CMB supports China's ongoing health reforms by encouraging the expansion of China's evidence-base for health policymaking.

The CMB-OC program began in 2011 with a special emphasis on broadening opportunities in HPS for junior researchers. The program's strenuous merit-based peer review process seeks to identify excellent researchers or researchers with high potential, regardless of seniority. CMB-OC awardees receive research funding and, perhaps more importantly, join an active CMB research community that provides mutual support for collaborative learning, training, and mentorship.

Over the course of two grant cycles, CMB has awarded 20 CMB-OC grants with funding support ranging from 57,000 USD to 150,000 USD. The program is competitive. In the 2012 cycle, CMB received 123 project applications, of which 29 abstracts from six schools were invited for full proposal development. Ultimately, 8 projects were approved for funding.

Open Competition

This third round of CMB-OC continues to prioritize HPS research capacity development by identifying and supporting competent faculty members regardless of seniority.

The CMB-OC offers grant opportunities of **25,000 USD - 150,000 USD per research project for 2-5 years**. Grant funding supports projects in the following broad areas of HPS:

- *Emerging health challenges in China*, especially research involving diseases with a high burden of disease in China (but excluding wet-lab based research); and
- *Health policies and health systems responses to address emerging health challenges*, such as those related to health governance, ethics, financing, human resources, care delivery systems, health technology assessment, pharmaceutical policies, and health informatics.

As a central theme, this year's OC will prioritize equity in health, a major goal of China's health care reform. Equity means justice, which describes "fairness" in moral judgments about objective inequality in the distribution of health conditions, processes, and determinants. Some inequalities, for example, might be due to inherited genetic predisposition, which would not be considered ethically unfair. Others, such as child malnutrition due to hunger from poverty could be considered as "unfair." The pursuit for health equity motivates efforts to eliminate disparities in health between groups of people who are economically or socially worse-off and their better-off counterparts. As equity or fairness in health is one of the primary goals of China's health reform, this OC will give special attention in the proposal selection to the research that illuminates the measurement, causes, conditions, strategies and interventions to inequity in health.

Eligibility to Apply

Any researchers from the schools listed in the Addendum may apply. We **especially encourage** junior faculty or post-doctoral fellows who are staff/faculty members at eligible institutions to apply. Please note: researchers working on active CMB-OC projects are **NOT** eligible to apply this grant cycle.

Proposal Submission

This RFP process will be implemented in **two steps**. First, applicants submit a 1-2 page abstract of the proposal for initial review. Next, the Principal Investigators (PIs) of projects considered suitable will be invited to develop complete proposals for final review. The full proposal will again go through peer review, with promising proposals invited for revision. The revised proposals will be reviewed again to determine final selection. Abstracts and proposals should be submitted in English through the respective university's CMB liaison office (Addendum), which will screen the content and submit the proposals to the CMB.

Each eligible institution can submit up to **five** abstracts. In addition, faculty members who have participated in one of the following CMB programs and do not have an active OC project may submit one project abstract which will not count towards each school's five-abstract quota:

- Awardees of CMB Faculty Development and Next Generation Fellowships; and
- Trainees of CMB 991 in-China training in HPS; and
- Awardees of Westlake Seed Grants.

The CMB-OC program encourages multidisciplinary research and educational projects that engage faculty and students within and beyond the faculty of medical sciences. Joint applications by faculty members from complementary schools and collaborative projects between Chinese and foreign investigators are welcome.

Timeline

March 31	Submission of abstract
May 31	CMB decision on abstracts for consideration
June 30	Submission of full proposal
December 31	CMB announcement of funding decisions

Proposal Abstract

An abstract of 1-2 pages must include the following:

- *General information:* University; 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.
- *Project justification:* Explanation of the project's importance to China, to your locality, to your university, and/or to yourself. Where appropriate, you may integrate this with the project content description.
- *Project content:* Clear 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). This CV 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; and a list of all HPS-related research funding received from funding agencies, including CMB.

CMB Review

The process is highly competitive and merit-based. PIs of selected abstracts may be sent comments on their abstracts to assist them in focusing their full-length proposals. Most provisionally accepted full proposals will require considerable revisions based on comments generated by CMB review prior to final acceptance. CMB's decisions about which projects to support will be based on the quality, relevance, and topical significance of the revised proposal. In particular, the following aspects will be examined during review:

- Topical importance of the project, as explained in its “justification;”
- Soundness of the research design and appropriate 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, should be widely shared and accessible to the public.

Grants Management

In naming project abstracts or proposals, please follow the standard format: “**Year + OC+School Abbreviation + PI’s Name.**” An example is **13OCFudanFamilyNameGivenName.**

Each participating university has designated “**CMB liaison officer(s)**” (Addendum) who will serve as the point(s)-of-contact between the university and CMB in grant management issues.

The CMB liaison officer at each university should send all abstracts and proposals to **Linda Zhou (周娜)**, CMB’s Grant Manager (lzhou@cmbfound.org, 010-5969 5071-805). Technical inquiries should be directed to **Roman Xu (徐东)**, CMB Beijing Office Director (rxu@cmbfound.org, 010-5969 5071-801).

Additional Resources

Organizations or individuals who are interested in receiving CMB announcements and news can subscribe to an electronic “**CMB Newsletter**” by participating in a survey at <http://www.websurveymaster.com/s/dbaab0e9>. CMB Sina Weibo, @ChinaMedicalBoard, publishes timely updates related to CMB grant cycles, and more information about programs and grants can be found below and on the official CMB website www.chinamedicalboard.org.

- Sen, Amartya. "Why health equity?" Health economics 11, no. 8 (2002): 659-666. You can download from <http://sites.google.com/site/svenkatapuram2/whyhealthequity.pdf>
- Summary description of the awarded projects of CMB-OC in 2011 and 2012 (http://chinamedicalboard.org.cn/sites/chinamedicalboard.cn/files/2012_oc_results_summary.pdf)
- China Health Review (CHR) will soon publish an in-depth interview with the reviewers, applicants, awardees, and program officers of the last year OC (<http://review.chpams.org/>). You may want to sign up for CHR’s newsletter.
- Three exemplary OC full proposals selected last year:
 - 1: <http://chinamedicalboard.org.cn/sites/chinamedicalboard.cn/files/ocex1jianweiyan.pdf>
 - 2: <http://chinamedicalboard.org.cn/sites/chinamedicalboard.cn/files/ocex2zhouhuan.pdf>
 - 3: <http://chinamedicalboard.org.cn/sites/chinamedicalboard.cn/files/ocex3zhouxudong.pdf>

Addendum

Eligible Institutions (in alphabetic order) & Liaison Officers

Institute	Liaison	Title	Email	Phone
Central South University	Wu Zhigang	Associate Professor Vice Director International Cooperation Office	wbxianya@xysm.net	86-731-8877945 /4805209
China Medical University	Liu Sizuo	Program Officer International Exchange Center	cmbofficecmu@gmail.com	86-24-23256666- 5114
Fudan University	Zhu Chouwen	Associate Professor Deputy Director Foreign Affairs Office	cwzhu@fudan.edu.cn	86-21-54237421 86-21-65642041
	Lv Yuping	Chief CMB Affairs Office	yplu@fudan.edu.cn	86-21-65642260
Harbin Medical University	Yang Libin	Professor Deputy Director Institute for Medical Education	aaronylb@gmail.com	86-451- 86669493
Huazhong University of Science and Technology	Wang Haikun	Program Officer International Exchange Center	whk107@yahoo.com.cn whk22@hotmail.com 896026943@qq.com	86-27-87548857
Jiujiang University Medical Center	Xia Xiulong	Vice Dean	xiulongxia@yahoo.com.cn	86-792-8312633
Nanjing Medical University	Xu Shan	Director Office of International Communication and Cooperation	xushan@njmu.edu.cn	86-25-86862011
Ningxia Medical University	Teng Jing	Professor Director Collaboration and Exchange Department	teng-jing@x263.net	86-13895175550
Peking Union Medical College and CAMS	Jiang Yuhong	Program Officer Office for International Cooperation	yuhongjiang08@gmail.com	86-10-65253447
Peking University Health Science Center	Zhang Lei	Associate Professor Deputy Division Chief Department of International Cooperation	lei_zhang@bjmu.edu.cn	86-10-82805331
Shandong University	Sun Fengshou	Deputy Director, International Office	sunfs@sdu.edu.cn	86-531- 88364568
Shanghai Jiaotong University	Gao Hong	Deputy Division Chief Department of International Communication	gloriahgao@shsmu.edu.cn	86-21-63846590 ext.776299
Sichuan University	Deng Hong	Professor Deputy Director Office of International Projects	deng_hong@tom.com	86-28-85403072
Tibet University Medical College	Labasang zhu	Program Officer	iron.tiger.hog@gmail.com	86-1820801429
Xi'an Jiaotong University	Zhou Yuling	Deputy Director International Exchange and Cooperation	zhouyl@mail.xjtu.edu.cn	86-29-82655058
Zhejiang University	Yu Hai	CMB Program Director	yuhai@zju.edu.cn	86-571- 88208060
Sun Yat-sen University	Gu Wenli	Deputy Director	guwenli@mail.sysu.edu.cn	86-20-84111982