



**China Medical Board Open Competition Research Program
in Health Policy and Systems Sciences
2014 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Invitation for Proposals

The China Medical Board (美国中华医学基金会) for a fourth annual round invites investigators from eligible Chinese universities to submit proposals for the **CMB Open Competition (CMB-OC)** research program in the field of **Health Policy and Systems Sciences (HPS)**.

Background

China faces many challenges in providing equitable, affordable and quality 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. CMB supports building Chinese capacities in HPS by strengthening scientists to expand China's evidence-base for health policymaking.

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

Over the course of three cycles, CMB has awarded 31 CMB-OC grants with funding support ranging from 26,000 USD to 150,000 USD. The program is highly competitive. In the 2013 cycle, CMB received 130 project applications, of which 24 abstracts were invited for full proposal development. Ultimately, only 11 projects were approved for funding.

Open Competition.

The CMB-OC offers grant opportunities of **25,000 USD - 150,000 USD per research project for 2-5 years**. A central theme for this year's OC will continue to prioritize **equity in health**. 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. 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 I may apply. We especially encourage **junior faculty** or post-doctoral fellows at eligible institutions to apply. We encourage applicants to pair with **international scholars** and **scholars from CMB Rural Network**. We encourage **multidisciplinary** research and educational projects. 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 I), who 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; trainees of CMB HPS Residency training; and trainees of CMB Rural PhD training in Thailand
- Awardees of Westlake Seed Grants.

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:

- Value 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+SchoolAbbreviation + PI's Name.**" An example is **14OCCMBFamilyNameGivenName.**

Each participating university has designated "**CMB liaison officer(s)**" (Addendum I) 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, proposals and inquiries to **Linda Zhou (周娜)**, CMB's Program & Grants Manager (lzhou@cmbfound.org, 010-5969 5071-805).

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 SinaWeibo, @ChinaMedicalBoard, publishes timely updates related to CMB grant cycles.

For more information about CMB programs and grants, please visit CMB website <http://chinamedicalboard.org>. The Chinese web pages have information about previous years' OC exemplary proposals.

China Health Review (CHR) has published an in-depth interview with the reviewers, applicants, and program officers of previous OCs in their Volume 4, Issue 2 & Issue 3. Detailed information can be found in CHPAMS' website at <http://www.chpams.org>.

Addendum I
Eligible Institutions (in alphabetic order) & Liaison Officers

Institute	Liaison	Title	Email	Phone
Central South University	Wu Zhigang	Associate Professor Vice Director International Cooperation Office	wbxiangya@xysm.net	86-731-88877945 /84805209
China Medical University	Liu Sizuo	Program Officer International Exchange Center	cmbofficecmu@gmail.com	86-24-23256666-5113
Fudan University	Zhu Chouwen	Associate Professor Deputy Director Foreign Affairs Office	cwzhu@fudan.edu.cn	86-21-65642041
	Lv Yuping	Chief CMB Affairs Office	yplu@fudan.edu.cn	86-21-65642260
Guangxi Medical University	Zhou Hongxia	Prof., MD PhD, Executive Dean, International Education School	iec-gmu@163.com gmuies@163.com	86-771-5355656
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	896026943@qq.com	86-27-83692919
Inner Mongolia Medical University	Zhang Nan	Program officer	skyzn@126.com	86-471-6653058
Jiujiang University Medical Center	Xia Xiulong	Vice Dean	xiulongxia@126.com	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 CMB Office	teng-jing@x263.net	86-13895175550
Peking Union Medical College and CAMS	Jiang Yuhong	Program Officer Office for International Cooperation	yuhongjiang08@163.com	86-10-65253447
Peking University	Zhang Lei	Professor Deputy Division Chief	lei_zhang@bjmu.edu.cn	86-10-82805681

Health Science Center		Department of International Cooperation		
Shandong University	Jiang Hongmin	Program Manager	jianghongmin@sdu.edu.cn	86-531-88362840
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	oip@scu.edu.cn	86-28-85401952
Tibet University Medical College	Kang Min	Deputy Director of Foreign Affairs	kmdun@yahoo.com	86-891-6831024
Xi'an Jiaotong University	Zhou Yuling	CMB Program Director	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	Vice Director	guwenli@mail.sysu.edu.cn	86-20-84111896

Addendum II
CMB Rural Network Members (in alphabetic order)

Guangxi Medical University
Guiyang Medical College
Inner Mongolia Medical University
Jiujiang University Medical Center
Kunming Medical University
Lanzhou University
Ningxia Medical University
Qinghai University Medical College
Sichuan University
Tibet University Medical College
Xi'an Jiaotong University
Xinjiang Medical University