



2016 Request for Proposals (RFP) CMB Open Competition Research Program Health Policy and System Sciences (HPS)

Invitation for Proposals

The China Medical Board (美国中华医学基金会) invites young investigators from Chinese universities for a sixth annual round of proposal submissions for the CMB Open Competition (CMB-OC) research program in the field of Health Policy and System Sciences (HPS).

Background

China like all countries 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 capacity building for evidence-based policy-making for China's ongoing health reforms.

The CMB-OC program began in 2011 targeted at expanding opportunities in HPS for junior researchers. The CMB-OC offers grant opportunities of **25,000 USD - 150,000 USD per research project for 2-5 years**. The program's rigorous merit-based peer review process seeks to identify researchers with high potential, regardless of seniority. CMB-OC awardees receive research funding and also join an active CMB research community that provides mutual support for collaborative learning, training, and research.

Over the course of five cycles, CMB has awarded 51 CMB-OC grants. The program is highly competitive. In the 2015 cycle, CMB received 133 project applications, of which 29 abstracts were invited for full proposal development. Ultimately, 10 projects were selected for funding.

Open Competition

This year's OC program will prioritize project submissions that seek to **advance quality with equity in China's health system**. Projects that aim to improve the quality and equity of health care system in China will receive higher priority than other themes. One of China's great challenges is to ensure quality of health care. Quality may be defined along many dimensions, including safety of services, technical appropriateness, and client satisfaction. There is a vast literature on health care quality which has many definitions that would be acceptable for this competition. Equity may be interpreted as "fairness" in the provision of health services, usually achieving coverage of disadvantaged populations. The pursuit for health equity motivates efforts to eliminate disparities in health between groups of people who are economically or socially worse-off in comparison to their better-off counterparts.

Eligibility to Apply

The CMB welcomes all its current Chinese grantees and a few designated new partners to apply for OC applications this year. We especially encourage **junior faculty** or post-doctoral fellows to apply. We encourage applicants, where appropriate, to team up with **international scholars**, although the primary lead researcher should be based in China. We encourage **multidisciplinary** research and educational projects. Please note that researchers who have received CMB-OC awards in the past 3 years are NOT eligible to apply until 3 cycles of RFPs from the award year have been conducted. Eligible applicants for 2016 thus excludes OC winners in 2015, 2014, and 2013.

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 institution's CMB liaison office (Addendum I), who will screen the content and submit the proposals to the CMB.

Each institution can submit up to **five** abstracts. In addition, faculty members who have participated in one of the following CMB programs 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

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

April 15th Submission of abstract

May 31st CMB decision on abstracts for consideration

July 31st Submission of full proposal

December 31st CMB announcement of funding decisions

Proposal Abstract

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

General information: Institution; 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 institution, 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 and proposals may be sent comments to assist them in focusing and improving their full-length proposals. 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, must 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 **16OCCMBFamilyNameGivenName**.