



2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)

CMB Collaborating Programs Health Policy and System Sciences

Invitation for Proposals

The China Medical Board (美国中华医学基金会) invites eligible Chinese universities to submit proposals for funding of **CMB Collaborating Programs (CMB-CP)** in the field of health policy and system sciences (HPSS). This RFP continues CMB's efforts to promote academic excellence in HPSS through developing outstanding CMB collaborating research and educational programs in China. This note describes the background, application process, and management of CMB-CP.

Background

The CMB has supported philanthropic work in China and Asia for nearly a century. CMB established the Peking Union Medical College from 1914-1951 and supported medical universities in 16 countries across East and Southeast Asia from 1951-1981. Since 1981, CMB has been assisting 13 Chinese medical universities in strengthening their faculty, research, and education programs. Recently, CMB has extended eligibility for grant support to additional universities.

Over the course of the 20th century, health in China has advanced significantly. However, China nevertheless confronts many challenges in providing universal, high quality, and affordable health care to its people. China's ongoing health reform entails policies aimed at improving health system performance to address the new and re-emerging health challenges. Success of these reforms requires academic support in the forms of targeted research and educational activities that generate knowledge and produce high-quality health professionals.

Since 2008, the CMB has awarded 80 grants, totaling nearly US \$26 million, to Chinese universities to undertake HPSS-related research and education initiatives. These HPSS-focused programs have continued the CMB's long tradition in capacity building. They include:

- *HPSS high-level promotional efforts* such as Westlake Forums (<http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/default.aspx?EventID=934954>), partnership with *The Lancet* to publish China-themed issues, and China's hosting of the 2nd Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (<http://www.hsr-symposium.org/>).
- *Development of Centers of Excellence* as the institutional basis for HPSS research and education, including support for the Peking University China Center for Health Development Studies (www.cchds.pku.edu.cn), the Sun Yat-sen Center for Migrant Health Policy (cmhp.sysu.edu.cn), and Sichuan's Center for Western China Health Policy.

- *Development of CMB-Collaborating Programs (CPs)* as faculty-led program clusters to tackle specific health challenges and policy and systems responses, to be detailed later in this RFP.
- *Capacity strengthening of researchers* through CMB fellowships and training programs. This category of programming includes fellowships managed by the Institute of International Education (www.iiebeijing.org/cmb/cmb.html) to support overseas advanced study in HPSS; “Project 991,” managed by Peking Union Medical College, which offers research grant opportunities coupled with continuous mentoring and methodology training; and open competition research grants, many of which are awarded to junior faculty. (Check out this year’s open competition RFP http://vdisk.weibo.com/s/3dZ_C)

For more information about CMB’s current China work, please follow our **Sina Weibo @China Medical Board**. Our official website, www.chinamedicalboard.org, is undergoing development so as to improve CMB communication with grantees.

CMB Collaborating Programs (CMB-CP)

What is a CMB-CP? A CMB-CP is a CMB-supported, faculty-lead, and university-based research and/or educational program focusing on a specific theme in HPSS. Led by a “principal investigator” (PI) who is a distinguished faculty leader, the CMB-CP generally consists of a core multidisciplinary research group that addresses a high-priority challenge in HPSS. The structural forms of CMB-CP vary; some are virtual collaborative platforms or research groups, whereas others may have a formal physical space or university-sanctioned center. Regardless of form, all CMB-CP programs must demonstrate the potential to achieve national excellence in advancing specific areas of HPSS.

Last year, in the first round of RFP for CPs, CMB approved four out of 33 CP proposals, including those in non-communicable diseases studies, pharmaceutical economics, mental health policy, and evidence-to-policy translation. One of last year’s winning CMB-CP proposals has been posted at <http://vdisk.weibo.com/s/3dY11>

CMB plans to award **up to five additional CMB-CPs** this fiscal year. As the program is aimed at the field of HPSS, laboratory-based biological research programs will not be considered. Priority will be given to research, education, and capacity-building programs that focus on health challenges, health policy, or systems responses in the following areas:

- Emerging health challenges in China, especially research and educational activities involving disease burdens, policies and programs in non-communicable diseases (including mental health, cancer, diabetes, respiratory diseases, hypertension, and cardio-vascular diseases), and risk factors such as obesity and tobacco use.
- Health policies and health systems responses to address health challenges, such as those related to health financing, human resources, primary and hospital care systems, health technology assessment, and health informatics.

Most programs will have one primary disciplinary base, such as epidemiology or economics, but will be supported by allied disciplines with a multi-disciplinary team for advancing specific domains or areas of HPSS. The RFP encourages multidisciplinary research and educational programs that engage faculty and students within and beyond the field of medical science.

CMB-CP Entitlements: Successful CMB-CP proposals will receive funding for an initial three-year term with the possibility of renewal contingent upon performance. CMB-CP support will be flexible, totaling up to **300,000 USD over three years** to support priority activities in research, faculty development, data acquisition and processing, staff support, and infrastructure development (computers, website development, etc.). CMB-CP awardees will be entitled to:

- Official **prestigious designation** as a CMB-CP, including use of CMB's logo;
- Potential **technical and relational support** facilitated by the CMB's extensive international linkages;
- Access to **linkages with other HPSS activities** consisting of CMB-CPs, CMB affiliated Centers of Excellence, and CMB fellows and alumni;
- Potential to grow into a CMB **"Center of Excellence"** if the program achieves significant research and educational results;
- Participation in a proposed CMB **network of CMB-CPs** with common infrastructure, website, research resources, symposiums, study tours, and workshops.

Eligibility to Apply

Faculty members from the eligible institutions, listed at the end of the RFP, who are recognized experts in the domain addressed by the proposal can submit CMB-CP applications. Final selection of the funded CMB-CPs will be competitive, so eligibility does *not* guarantee funding.

Proposal Submission

This RFP process will be implemented in **two steps**. In the first step, applicants should submit a 1-2 page abstract of the proposal for initial review. In the next step, the PIs of proposals considered suitable will be invited to develop complete proposals for final review. Abstracts and proposals should be submitted in English through the respective university's CMB liaison office, which will screen the content and submit the proposals to the CMB.

Each institution may submit up to **three (3) abstracts**. The PI must be a recognized expert in the domain of the CMB-CP.

Timeline in 2012

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

Proposal Abstract

Abstracts of 1-2 pages must include the following:

- *General information:* University, project title, PI(s) and their leadership and/or academic titles, amount of funding required and duration of the project.
- *Project justification:* Rationale on why the project is important 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. As a collaborating program, the budget may be flexibly structured to offer optimal agility for the PI to pursue his/her priority domain or theme in HPSS.

Abstracts should be accompanied by the current CV of the Principle Investigator. This CV should be no more than three pages and include the PI's date of birth, major educational and professional experiences, up to five selected publications, and list all HPSS-related research funding received from funding agencies, including CMB.

CMB Review

PIs of selected abstracts may be sent comments on the abstract to assist them in focusing their full-length proposals. Most provisionally accepted proposals will require revisions based on comments generated by the 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 the review:

- PI's leadership qualities, academic credentials, and potential to mobilize resources and achieve results;
- Demonstrated involvement of a team of researchers of different levels to work on the program;
- Promotion of multidisciplinary work;
- Plans to nurture junior faculty and foster emerging leaders;
- Potential to develop the chosen field to obtain national recognition;
- Cost-effectiveness in producing key knowledge and educational products given the requested budget.

The process is highly competitive and merit-based. Consequently, some schools may be awarded more than one grant, while others may not receive any awards.

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. CMB is considering developing a data-sharing electronic platform to improve ease of access to original datasets.

Grants Management

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

Each participating university has designated “**CMB liaison officer(s)**” (listed below) who will serve as the point-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).

CMB Newsletter and Weibo

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>. Alternatively, you can choose to follow our Sina Weibo @China Medical Board, where all of our formal announcements will be timely posted.

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	86-731-8877945 /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 of 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
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Sun Yat-sen University	Gu Wenli	Deputy Director	guwenli@mail.sysu.edu.cn	86-20-84111982