

# 2011 Request for Proposals (RFP)

# Innovations in Medical Education: A Third Generation of Reforms in China

## **Invitation for Proposals**

The China Medical Board (美国中华医学基金会) invites eligible Chinese universities with faculties in medicine, nursing, and public health to submit proposals on innovations in medical education. This note describes the background, content, process, and management of the RFP.

## Background

Since its founding in 1914, the CMB has been supporting China's pioneering efforts in medical education. CMB helped to build the Peking Union Medical College from 1914 to 1950, and since 1980, it has been supporting advances in medical education in medicine, nursing, and public health in 13 Chinese medical universities, opening eligibility to several additional universities in recent years. Noteworthy in such CMB work was support for innovations in curriculum, problem-based education, IT-empowered learning, and the GMER (Global Minimum Educational Requirements).

Recently, CMB President Lincoln Chen with Dean Julio Frenk of the Harvard School of Public Health co-chaired a global Commission on Health Professional Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century that adopted a global approach, a multi-professional perspective, and analyzed problems in instructional and institutional design. The Commission Report: Health Professionals for a New Century was published by The Lancet on December 4, 2010 (http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)61854-5/fulltext?\_eventId=login).

The Commission Report concluded that medical education has been built upon two earlier generations of reform. A science-based curriculum based in universities constituted the first generation of reforms nearly a century ago. Problem-based learning harnessing the power of academic centers that integrate education with research and care constituted the second generation of reforms half a century ago. The Commission Report proposed a third generation of systems-based reforms that would focus on competencies necessary for health system performance, promote team work, harness the power of IT in learning, and inculcate a renewed ethics of professionalism. Such transformative learning would be accelerated by institutional reforms calling for close cooperation between health and education sector, academic systems that extend hospitals into the community, and promote connectivity through networking. A framework of the third generation of educational reforms is detailed in the Commission Report.

# **Innovations in Medical Education**

This RFP will be open to support all educational projects that are believed to introduce innovations in medical education reform. Priorities will be given to projects related to one or multiple recommendations by the Commission as illustrated below (more details about those recommendations can be found from the <u>commission report</u>):

#### **Instructional Design**

- **Competency-based** curriculum shaped to produce professional competencies for health systems, not simply static curriculum delinked from learning purposes;
- **Inter-professional and trans-professional** education that inculcates team work for improved health systems performance;
- **IT-empowered** learning that harnesses the power of new technologies to overcome distance barriers, access to information, and insufficient case examples and simulations;
- Local adaptation but drawing on global resources to shape education to match local health challenges;
- **Strengthening of faculty and educational resources**, which are the critical ingredients to effective teaching and learning;
- **New professionalism** that inculcates a set of common attitudes, values, and behaviors to complement technical capacity with social responsibility;

#### **Institutional Design**

- Joint planning by health and education sectors to harmonize the supply of professionals with their demand in well-performing health systems;
- Academic systems that expands the educational experience beyond hospitals into the community and into other cultures and societies;
- Networks and collaborative linkages so exchange, share, and pool resources across individual institutions; and
- Nurturing of critical inquiry a hallmark of intellectual achievement.

# **Eligibility to Apply**

Investigators, educators, and leadership from the listed schools are invited to submit proposals. Applicants can find the list of the eligible schools and the contact information of their CMB Liaison Offices from the addendum.

For all institutions, this RFP encourages multi-professional education engaging faculty and students within and beyond individual medical, nursing and public health schools. Those innovations that involve cooperation, joint, or collaborative efforts across the individual professions will be accorded higher priority.

# **Proposal Submission**

**Abstracts**: This RFP process will be implemented in two steps. In the first step, applicants should submit a two-page abstract of the proposal. In the next step, the invited applicants develop the accepted abstracts into a full proposal for a final review. Abstracts and proposals should be submitted in English.

Each institution may submit up to 3 abstracts. CMB reviews of the abstracts will generate invitations for submission of full proposal for only those projects that will be considered for funding.

CMB grant for innovations in medical education will likely range in size from \$50,000 to \$200,000. Each proposal will be examined for its competitive merit. The project may take 1-5 years in duration and may comprise a packet of smaller related projects grouped around one central theme.

# Timeline in 2011

| May 31      | Submission of abstracts                     |
|-------------|---|
| June 30     | CMB decision on abstracts for consideration |
| July 31     | Submission of full proposal                 |
| December 15 | CMB announcement of funding decisions       |

## **Proposal Abstract Format**

Abstracts, not longer than two pages, should contain general information, the project purpose, content, and budget, as follows:

- **General information** university, project title, principal investigator(s), amount and duration of the project
- **Project content** Problem statement and analysis, justification for the project, project goals and objectives, project activities to achieve the goals, projected products and results to be produced, and estimated budget. Overhead costs may not exceed 5% of the total of the line items of the project budget

#### **CMB Review**

CMB reviews of the abstracts and proposals will be advised by invited experts. Under discussion is an Advisory Committee consisting of Chinese leaders who have formed a body to follow-up the Commission's recommendations in medical education in China. It is likely that CMB would request this Committee to act as a peer review body for the submitted abstracts. Most accepted abstracts and proposals will likely require revisions and improvements suggested by CMB and the advisors. All decisions will be based on quality, relevance, and topical significance. A most important criterion is genuine innovation in breaking new paths in education. Other considerations will be cost-effectiveness in producing key knowledge and education for the budget requested and the

likely capacity building impact of the award in strengthening the university. The process is competitive and merit-based.

It is CMB policy that all research and education products generated by its grant support should be widely shared and accessible to the public.

## **Grant Management**

The program base for designing and operating this RFP is the CMB's offices in Beijing. All substantive inquiries should be directed to **Roman Xu** (徐东), CMB Beijing Office Director (email: <u>rxu@cmbfound.org</u>, Tel: 010-59695071). As customary, abstract and grant management will be based at CMB's headquarters offices in Boston, USA. All abstracts and proposals should be sent to **Helen Wang**, CMB's Grant Administrator (email: <u>hwang@cmbfound.org</u>, US phone: 617-674-8516).

# **CMB** Newsletter

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.

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