Request for Proposal (RFP)

CMB young faculty seed grant in Health Policy and Systems

- A follow up of Westlake Forum III

Invitation for applications

We invite young faculty members and investigators from eligible universities in China to apply this China Medical Board (CMB) supported young faculty seed grant in the field of health policy and system sciences (HPSS).

Background

Due to historical reasons, public health studies in Chinese medical universities have largely focused on the technologies in hygiene and disease control rather than framework of health policy and management. Thus the capacity of health policy research in medical universities and the translation of research into policy are both in need of improvement. Since 2008, CMB has been encouraging Chinese universities to engage in HPSS-focused research and educational initiatives. As part of the efforts, CMB has supported three Westlake Forums. The purpose of the Westlake Forum series is to provide a platform for university academicians and government officials to discuss the major health policy issues which China's healthcare system is facing. The first and second Westlake Forum was hosted by Zhejiang University in 2007 and 2009 in Hangzhou. The Westlake Forum III was successfully held at Emory University, Atlanta GA, U.S. in April 9-12 2011. Approximately 250 participants from leading academic and governmental institutions in China and the United States attended the forum to examine and compare the healthcare reforms in the two countries and their impact on cost, quality and access to care. During the conference the participants from China and the U. S. were encouraged to explore collaborative opportunities in HPSS research and education.   Many participants have expressed strong interests in pursing those partnerships.   The CMB has therefore provided a grant to Zhejiang University, the founder and host of the Westlake Series, to continue the spirits of the Westlake Series and to catalyze the international cooperation

between Chinese young scholars and their overseas colleagues by offering seed grants for exploratory efforts.

Seed Grant

The purpose of the seed grant is 1). to provide seeds to develop funding proposals primarily to other funding agencies other than CMB; or 2). to develop a paper or small project that can be completed within the budget requested and provided.

This seed grant offers a fund of up to US$10,000 per project in the fields of HPSS. The RFP will prioritize projects in following four broad areas:

1. Changing health problems and disease burdens-health metrics for mapping changing disease patterns, their causes and consequences;
2. Health policies in finance, human resources, information, or technologies-public policies that shape key components of the health system;
3. Innovations in health systems operations and management-operational, managerial, or implementation innovations in improving health systems performance;
4. China and global health-studies and educational initiatives that connect China to a globalizing health world with interrelated disease patterns, health policies and health systems.

Successful applicants will have up to one year from the date of the project initiation to develop a full project proposal or conduct a small project. At the end of the seed grant phase, the full proposal or a paper as the result of the seed grant must be submitted. A review of the final proposals or paper will be conducted to select and award the top five projects as an incentive for better performance. Seed grants may cover travel and communication for joint project development, the costs for preliminary data collection, field survey, data analyses, pilot studies and other planning and start-up activities.

Eligibility and Requirements

1. The principal investigator (PI) should be a current faculty member at one of the 17 universities in China that are receiving support from CMB in HPSS work, including (in alphabetic orders): Central South University; China Medical University; Fudan University; Harbin Medical University; Huazhong University of Science and Technology; Jiujiang University; Nanjing Medical University; Ningxia Medical University; Peking Union Medical College; Peking University; Shandong University, Shanghai Jiaotong University; Sichuan University; Sun Yat-sen University; Tibet University; Xi'an Jiaotong University and Zhejiang University.
2. The PI should be under 45 years of age on June 30, 2011 and be at least 5 years after graduation
3. The project must have an overseas scholar(s) as Co-PI(s) or co-investigator(s).

4. The project should be focused on research and education in one of the above four broad areas of HPSS.

Proposal Submission

1. Only one proposal will be accepted per applicant;
2. The proposal should be submitted in English, not longer than 3,000 words. The outline of the proposal should be as follows:

- Title page
- Basic information on participants
- Abstract
- Background: rationale, significance and feasibility
- Hypothesis
- Goal and objectives
- Methods
- Flow chart of the sequence of events in the study
- Timeline
- Budget
- Miscellaneous
- References.
- Concise CVs of PI and Co-PIs
- Letter of commitment from the overseas co-PI(S) or co-investigator(s);

3. The application must be submitted through CMB liaison office of each eligible university before June 30, 2011. The winners will be announced by August 30 2011.

Grant Management

The grant will be organized and managed by Zhejiang University School of Medicine. An advisory committee will be formed, which is consisting of 7～9 overseas and domestic HPSS experts. The committee will review all applications and select the best ones on the merit basis for funding. The CMB liaison officers at each university should send proposals to Professor Dong Hengjin, Center for Health Policy Study, Zhejiang University School of Medicine (email: donghj@zju.edu.cn, cell phone. 13221076129). Any inquiries should be directed to Professor Yu Hai, Zhejiang University School of Medicine (email: yuhai@zju.edu.cn, cell phone: 13605712843).