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स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग, स्वास्थ्य और परिवार
कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Indian Council of Medical Research
Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health
and Family Welfare, Government of India

Date: 01/01/2022

MALARIA ELIMINATION RESEARCH ALLIANCE – India (MERA- India) CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR YOUNG MALARIA RESEARCHERS

The aim of Malaria Elimination Research Alliance-India (MERA-India) is to identify, articulate, prioritize and respond to the research needs of the country in a coordinated and combinatorial way to eliminate malaria from India by 2030. The Alliance was launched by the Secretary (Department of Health Research) and Director General (Indian Council of Medical Research) Prof. Balram Bhargava, on the eve of 'World Malaria Day' in 2019. The vision of this trans-institutional research alliance is to generate evidence to support and accelerate malaria elimination in India. The overall goal is to bring together all stakeholders working on malaria including researchers, health-care professionals, government and non- government organizations, public health representatives, policy makers at one platform.

After a successful Round 01 during 2019-20, MERA-India launches a special call for early career malaria researchers in the second round to promote young investigators (less than 40 years) to carry out cutting edge malaria research (Operational/Implementation/Public Health/Translational) on the recommendation of MERA-India Expert Committee.

The MERA-India is inviting grant applications from Young Malaria Researchers (YMR) in the call. The alliance believes to encourage the young talent of the country who works in the field of malaria research. The aim of this call is to nurture YMR by providing them research grants under the mentorship of senior malaria scientists and supporting them to become independent researchers. With the intention of capacity building of young researchers in the country, the MERA-India provides a unique platform to YMR to express their research ideas and to develop them into full-fledged research proposals in the fields of *Operational/Implementation/Public Health/Translational* malaria research.:

When and how to submit a proposal:

1. The "full length research (detailed) Ad-hoc proposal should be submitted through online mode only on <https://epms.icmr.org.in> and no proposal in physical/hard copy/email is to be submitted.
2. Details of the format of application, terms & conditions and guidelines of the Adhoc Proposal are available on <https://epms.icmr.org.in/adhoc>.
3. All projects involving research on human beings/animals must be cleared by the registered Human Ethics Committee/ Animal Ethics Committee of the respective institute (Registration Number to be provided).

Date for submission of full-length research proposal:

Start Date: 1st January, 2022 Time 09:00 am
End Date: 31st January, 2022 Time 05:00 pm

Proposal submission related queries:

Contact: Division of Biomedical Informatics, ICMR, New Delhi
Email Address: po.epms@icmr.gov.in
Telephone No.: 011-26589571

(Dr Lokesh Kumar Sharma)
Scientist E & Program Officer



Important Note:

1. Open the ICMR Electronic Project Management System (e-PMS) portal <https://epms.icmr.org.in>.
2. Project proposal submission is three steps process in e-PMS.
 - Step 1: PI Registration/Login
 - Step 2: Verify Email Id and Complete/Update PI Profile
 - Step 3: Apply for Grant through submission of Ad-hoc proposal
3. Click on "LOGIN and select "Register a new membership" for new registration OR else if already registered, enter the details to login into the application at e-PMS portal.
4. After registration in the portal, login in the portal. Verify your registered email and complete the PI profile. PI profile includes Personal details such as Salute, Name, DOB as per 10th certificate, Details of 10th (Board name, roll number, Year of passing), Attachment (10th certificate/mark sheet), Gender (Male/Female), Category (GEN, OBC, SC, ST), State, District, Institute Name (if name doesn't exist in the drop down list then there is an option to add the new institute also), Designation, Nature of Employment, Department, Broad Area of Research, Subject Area.
5. After completing mandatory section of PI Profile, click on "Submit New Proposal" under "Proposal Submission" menu. New screen will display. Select "**ICMR Adhoc Proposal under Young Malaria Researchers Program**" from drop down list to submit new proposal under Extramural Research Programme.
6. Proposal submission form will be opened. Please ensure to select in respective dropdown list in submission form to submit proposal under Young Malaria Researchers Program.
 - Advertisement: **Research Proposal under ICMR MERA-India for Young Malaria Researchers Program 2022**
 - Broad Area: **Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases**
 - Major Disciple / Subject Area (any one): **Public Health / Operational / Implementation/ Translational Research**
7. The user manual of e-PMS (Guidelines-> e-PMS menu) <https://epms.icmr.org.in/user-manual> and ICMR Ad-hoc Project Program guideline (Guidelines-> Ad-hoc Program menu) are available at <https://epms.icmr.org.in/adhoc>. Before proceeding to submission of the proposal, it is suggested to read user manual and guidelines; and make ready all relevant information, documents and research plan.
8. Registration in e-PMS portal and filling the Personal, Education and Experience information is mandatory for Co-Investigator also.
9. As per the guidelines for Extramural Research Programme, ICMR MERA-India, individuals holding permanent positions in medical colleges, universities, educational and research institutes with research experience in the field of malaria are eligible to apply for the MERA-India YMR grant. The applicant should be below 40 years of age on 31/01/2022. He/She should have a PhD in relevant subject or MBBS/MD/MS/MPH or equivalent are eligible to apply for the MERA-India YMR grant.
10. The contractual/adhoc/temporary project staff etc. are not eligible for this program. Therefore, all PIs are advised to ensure the nature of their and Co-Investigator's (if any) employment before processing the application further. Due regard will be given to non-research career break (especially for women



researchers). In case the applicant desires age-relaxation with such a break, the request and reason thereof should be specified in the cover letter.

11. A mentor, **not from the host institution**, from India should be identified and included in the application. A detailed letter from the mentor with a mentoring plan on academics and professional growth of applicants for the entire duration of the grant should be provided. Specifically, the letter from the mentor should elaborate on the following points:

- a. Guidance to the PI for accomplishment of the research goals and project objectives
- b. Technical/infrastructure support to the PI
- c. Monitoring PI's research progress

(Note: ***The mentor role is a mandatory requirement.***)

12. The proposal should be in the field of malaria addressing **public health/ operational/ implementation/ translational** research.

13. The maximum budget can be up to ₹ **50 Lakhs** for the proposed duration of the study.

14. Duration of the research proposals should not be more than **two years**.

15. There is no separate budget head for the consumables. It can be added under contingency budget head.

16. The applicant can submit only one application in this round.

17. The MERA-India checks all the proposals for plagiarism using professional tools and reserves the right to disqualify plagiarized proposals from ongoing competitions. Applicants are advised to check their applications very carefully before submission in this regard.

18. It is mandatory that the proposals must be submitted in the asked format ONLY. The format for proposals can be downloaded from <https://epms.icmr.org.in/adhoc> The incomplete proposals (if there is no response for any question/section) will be automatically disqualified from the current round. All the proposals will be peer-reviewed and shortlisted for the funding based on the recommendations of reviewers. The applicants may be called for personal discussion, if required.

19. It is suggested to submit your proposal without waiting for the last date and time to avoid last time rush. Last minute request for extension of the due date w.r.t. any technical issue will not be considered.

20. You may contact the following official if you have any queries:

MERA- India related query

Dr Sonal Gupta,
Scientist D, MERA-India
MERA-India Secretariat,
ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research,
Sector-8, Dwarka, New Delhi, India-110077
Email: meraindiacid@gmail.com
Telephone No.:011-25307344

e-PMS and proposal submission related query

Dr Lokesh Kumar Sharma
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