

Guidelines on Open Fund Large Collaborative Grant

Role of PIs

- All the Theme PIs in an Open Fund Large Collaborative Grant (OF-LCG) programme share the responsibility in making the programme a success. They form the OF-LCG leadership team essential for implementing programme strategies and achieving desired outcomes.
- Theme PIs have the responsibility to direct each specific research theme being supported by the grant, and accountable for the proper conduct of the specific research theme.
- Among the PIs, there will be one Corresponding PI who will coordinate the OFLCG programme. He/She serves as the main point of contact between NMRC and the OF-LCG leadership team and is accountable to NMRC for the proper conduct of the whole programme. The Corresponding PI's host institution will take on the tasks of submitting the grant application and administering the awarded grant as a whole, including budget utilisation and reporting of research progress to NMRC. The Corresponding PI will work closely with the Theme PIs to resolve any issues which arise during the course of the programme, including the usage of funding, any variations to the scope of the programme etc.
- For application on IGMS (the national harmonised grant system), the Corresponding PI will be referred to as 'Lead PI' and the 'Theme PIs' as 'Team/Co-Team PIs'.

Letter of Award

- With effect from the May 2017 grant call, NMRC will list all PIs (Corresponding PI and Theme PIs) and their Institutions as the recipients of the grant in the Letter of Award for the OF-LCG.

Recognition and Attribution of Achievements

Publications and Public Communications

- In managing an OF-LCG programme, the Corresponding PI should ensure that the achievements of the programme are attributed among the team members according to the guidelines below and where applicable, formalised through the research collaboration agreement.
- The Institutions where the OF-LCG programme is conducted may publish, at any symposia, national, international or regional professional meeting or in any journal, thesis, dissertation, newspaper or otherwise of its own choosing, the findings, methods and results derived from the grant. For research funded by the LCG, the authorship should include all individuals who have contributed

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significantly to the studies. Senior/corresponding authors are encouraged to acknowledge the LCG programme and funding in the acknowledgement section according to the NMRC T&Cs and associated policy documents.

- For all public communications, including news and press releases, interviews, information on websites [e.g. institution and/or consortium website(s)], the speeches and/or media-associated articles mentioning the collective research achievements should acknowledge the OF-LCG leadership team. Please see examples in the **Annex**.
- If the publicised accomplishments resulted from one or more LCG themes, the focus of the public communication effort should be on the relevant PIs, their team(s) and respective host institutions that contributed to the work.

Performance metric reporting

- As the grant holders of the OF-LCG, the Corresponding PI and Theme PIs can each report that they hold a national grant to their employed institutions, as part of their research achievements and track record.
- The Corresponding PI and Theme PIs can also report the portion of the grant amount awarded under their research themes to their employed institutions, as part of their research achievements and track record.

For further information on the Guidelines, please contact Ms Peh Kah Yim (Senior Manager, NMRC) at Peh_Kah_Yim@moh.gov.sg.

FAQ

Question 1

Q: What is the difference between the role of the Corresponding Principal Investigator (PI) and the previous Lead PI of the Open Fund – Large Collaborative Grant (OF-LCG)?

A: The change in nomenclature is to better reflect the role of the Corresponding PI, who serves as the main point of contact between NMRC and the OF-LCG team. The Corresponding PI will coordinate the OF-LCG programme and is accountable to NMRC for the proper conduct of the whole programme. The Corresponding PI's host institution will take on the task of submitting the grant application and administering the awarded grant as a whole, including budget utilisation and reporting of research progress to NMRC. The Corresponding PI will work closely with the Theme PIs to resolve any issues which arise during the course of the programme, including the usage of funding, any variations to the scope of the programme etc. All post-award requests have to be submitted through the Corresponding PI to NMRC.

Question 2

Q: What is the difference between the role of the Theme PI and the Corresponding PI?

A: The Corresponding PI is one of the Theme PIs, but is given the additional responsibility to coordinate, serve as the main point of contact between NMRC and the OF-LCG team. The Corresponding PI together with the Theme PIs form the leadership team for the OF-LCG.

Question 3

Q: What is the reason for the change from Lead PI to Corresponding PI?

A: The goal of the change is for Theme PIs to be given equal recognition and credit for being part of the OF-LCG leadership team. It also provides more clarity on the roles of PIs within the leadership team.

Standard convention for leadership team naming to be adopted by all LCGs

The programme name and leadership team should be mentioned. In addition, the naming standardisation to be mentioned in the release text should mention all the PIs without any distinction being made between the Corresponding PI and the Theme PIs (which is terminology for internal reference only), as illustrated below:

'The [LCG] is led by PI1, PI2, and PI3.'

- Example: Singapore Gastric Cancer Consortium

'The Singapore Gastric Cancer Consortium (SGCC) is a national coalition of leading clinicians and scientists working in gastric cancer research. **The group led by A/Prof Yeoh Khay Guan, A/Prof Patrick Tan, Prof Yoshiaki Ito, and Dr Yong Wei Peng** focuses on solving important clinical questions to improve the care of gastric cancer patients, facilitated by close interaction between clinicians and scientists, and with synergism that enables biologic discoveries in the laboratory to be validated in the clinical setting. Research projects are focused along the three themes (i) early detection by screening of high risk groups, (ii) improving biologic understanding of gastric carcinogenesis and (iii) improving treatment by molecular profiling of tumours, and include biomarker discovery and validation, the genetic mapping of gastric cancer and clinical trials of new treatment agents.'

- Example: DevOS/GUSTO

'The Growing Up in Singapore Towards Healthy Outcomes (GUSTO) is one of the main research studies under a flagship programme called Developmental Origins: Singapore (DevOS), launched specifically to look into what health problems Singaporeans face, especially from pregnancy to infancy, as well as adulthood. **GUSTO first began in 2008 and is Singapore's largest and most comprehensive birth cohort study, led by A/P Chong Yap Seng, A/P Lee Yung Seng, A/P Qiu Anqi, Prof Kenneth Kwek, and Dr Bryan Emmett Ogden.** This nation-wide medical research study gathers data from both mother and child through pregnancy and until the child is three years old. By studying the mother's diet and lifestyle during pregnancy and its relationship with the babies' growth after birth, the programme would allow for more insight and understanding in the prevention and management of important diseases like obesity and diabetes in Singapore, contributing to the improving of the long-term public health of Singaporeans.'