

### HLCA Round 4 Public Briefing Q&A – 22 Feb 2023

S/N	Question	Replies
<b><i>Applicant Eligibility</i></b>		
1	Is it possible for an individual researcher to apply for a research grant without a team? Can a PI apply on their own?	PI can apply on their own but must represent a local entity as the Host Institution.
2	How big a team needs to be? Would two Co-PIs from two different public institutions be allowed?	There should only be one PI per project team. However, you can have as many Co-Is and Collaborators as needed.
3	Are students allowed to be part of the project team? Are there any guidelines and/or restrictions?	Yes, this is allowed. Students may participate as collaborators.
4	Can private hospitals or healthcare organizations be the host institution? Can the project team be fully from the private sector?	Yes, but teams will have to submit details to Grant Manager to create an institutional account on IGMS at least 2 weeks before proposal submission deadline. PI's account should be set up as well, in order to submit an application through the organization.
5	Is there a minimum career stage to be a PI, and does track record play a part?	No, there is no minimum career stage to be a PI. Nevertheless, the reviewers do take the track record into consideration when assessing the proposals.
6	Can private company apply on its own, without partnering other research institutions or hospitals?	Yes, this is possible. Partnerships, however, are encouraged to take advantage of synergies.
7	Is it a requirement to have at least one service provider as a research collaborator?	There is no need to for HLCA, but this is encouraged, especially if your innovation is meant to eventually lead to the development of a service/programme to be adopted by a service provider (e.g. Active Ageing Centres)
8	Can a senior research fellow apply for this grant? Also, would be a proof of concept and/or a pilot study funded?	Yes, Senior Research Fellow can apply. We welcome applications with proof of concept and/or pilot study.
9	For private companies, we typically do not have an ethics committee or IRB. How should we fulfill the ethics and consent from participants for the project?	Private companies can consider collaborating with Public Health Institutions (PHI), so they have access to ethics committee through the PHIs.
<b><i>Evaluation Process/Criteria</i></b>		
10	What are the criteria for innovation?	Applicants can refer to the broad evaluation criteria provided. In terms of innovativeness, we are looking for projects that employ new methodologies or concepts.
11	Who will be part of evaluation panel? Is it MOH or will be members from US team as well?	The panel comprises members from different organisations, including MOH, AIC, Clusters etc. There will be international expert reviewers as well.

12	Will re-submitted proposals be required to go through the whole review process again?	Yes, resubmitted proposals will undergo the same review process as new proposals.
<b>Scope of Proposal</b>		
13	If the application has no pilot data, will it be considered?	Yes, we are open to projects with no pilot data as the intent is to reward new and innovative ideas. Nevertheless, there should be a clear articulation of the scientific basis for the proposal and why it would be useful to Singapore.
14	Is the funding agency interested in non-interventional study that focuses on discovery of knowledge through translational research?	Yes, we are open to project proposals from all disciplines, and we particularly welcome proposals that focus on translation.
15	Can you provide information on whether it is possible to submit a proposal for pre-clinical studies?	Yes, subject to review, as with all the other proposals received.
16	Understand that proof-of-concept needs to be provided in the event the current proposal is part of a larger programme. Can the HLCA funding be used to increase the number of participants that are not covered by the original funding?	HLCA is meant as a seed fund to support new ideas, rather than extensions of existing projects, unless this is a translation of an earlier project. If so, the HLCA proposal should include the positive POC and POV findings from the earlier project, and provide details on the scope of study that will be conducted using HLCA funds. If the project scope under HLCA is the same as the previous study, then increasing the number of participants would not be considered new or innovative.
17	What constitutes “new” research, given that new research proposals are often built on previous research?	“New” research could mean areas where the research in Singapore could be more nascent in and where there are no/very few interventions or programmes looking into it
<b>Funding</b>		
18	Can the PI draw their salary from this grant if successful?	No, salary of PI and the project team is not fundable under HLCA.
19	Can the EOM be backdated? e.g., July 2023 payroll, even the award is granted in sept/oct?	Invoices (including EOM invoices) must be dated within the project duration.
20	Are collaborators allowed to receive funding?	Based on the T&Cs, collaborators will not be entitled to the research funding.