

# Nov 2017 Grant Call Roadshow

4 & 17 October 2017

# Agenda

- **Grant Calls for Nov 2017:**
  - Clinician Scientist Individual Research Grant (CS-IRG)/ Subcategory CS-IRG-New Investigator Grant (CS-IRG-NIG)
  - Open Fund Individual Research Grant (OF-IRG)/ Subcategory Open Fund Young Individual Research Grant (OF-YIRG)
  - Health Services Research Grant (HSRG)/ Subcategory Health Services Research New Investigator Grant (HSR-NIG)
  - Singapore Translational Research Investigator Award (STaR)
  - Clinician Scientist Award (CSA)
  - Transition Award (TA)
- **National Health Innovation Centre grants**

# Translation Pathway

PIs should plan and detail the translation pathway of their proposed research, e.g. potential areas of implementation, adoption into healthcare policies.

Please note that an additional section on “Translation Pathway” will be included in the proposal template.

**Open Fund Individual Research Grant  
(OF-IRG)**

**Open Fund Young Individual Research  
Grant (OF-YIRG)**

# OF-IRG

**OFIRG** is provided to support the conduct of research proposals in basic and translational clinical research that are relevant to human health and wellness as well as research that looks at the causes, consequences, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of human diseases.

**Grant call frequency:** Twice a year

**Funding Quantum:** up to \$1.5M (inclusive of 20% indirect costs) for up to 5 years

# Research Themes

- Open to proposals of the highest quality across the breadth of disciplines relevant to its mission
- To better realise the goals of Health and Biomedical Sciences (HBMS) in Singapore, the following five therapeutic areas have been identified as national priorities:
  - Cancers
  - Cardiovascular diseases
  - Diabetes mellitus and related metabolic/ endocrine disorders
  - Infectious diseases
  - Neurological and sense disorders
- While the focus of the IRG is on scientific excellence, the HBMS community is encouraged to address these therapeutic areas and consider their proposals' relevance to the HBMS industry sectors in PharmBio, MedTech, Food & Nutrition and Personal Care.

# Evaluation Criteria

- Quality of the science
- Capability of the research performers to conduct the research
- Objectives of the research program in context of HBMS goals\*

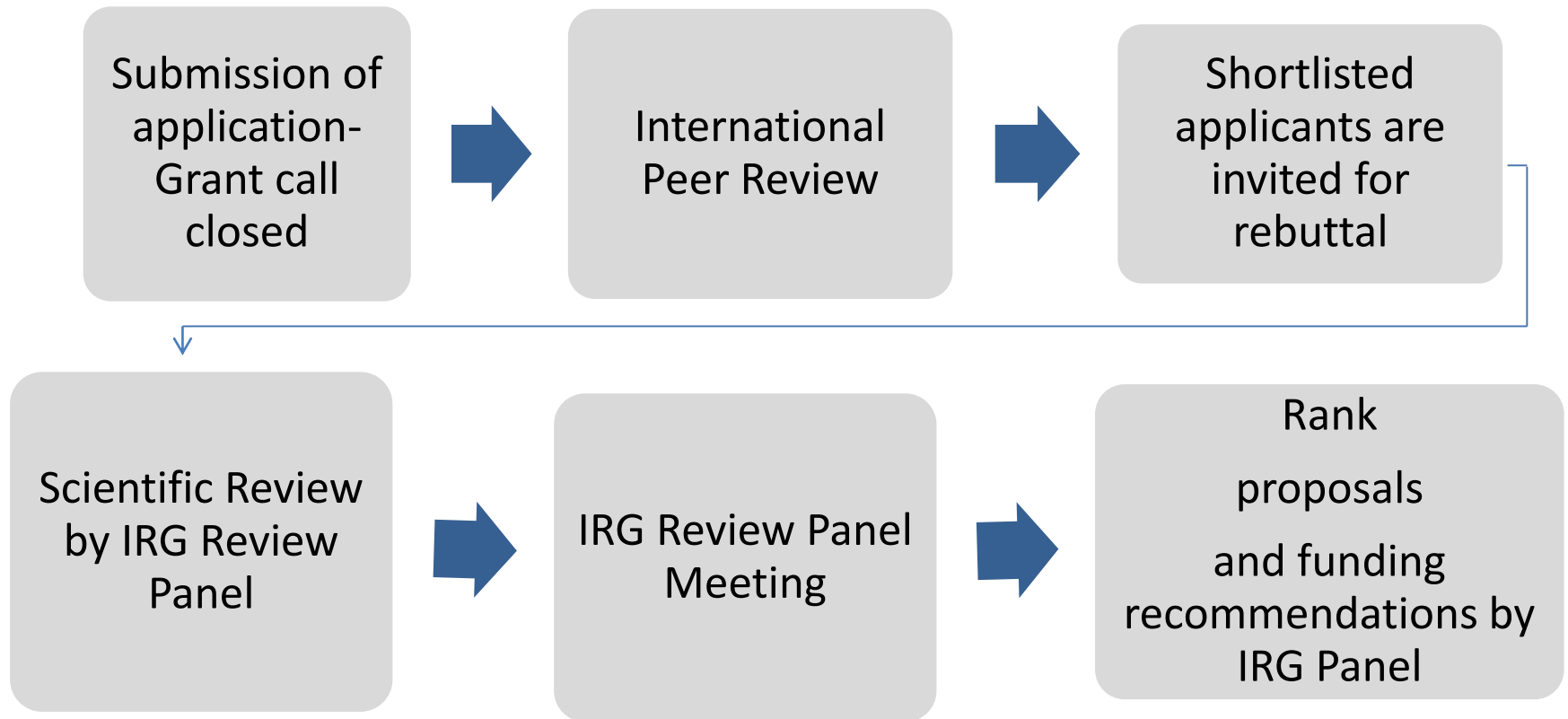
*\*The vision of HBMS domain is to be a leading centre that advances human health and wellness, and creates economic value for Singapore and Singaporeans, through the pursuit of excellence in research and its applications*

# Eligibility Criteria for IRG

- Only one Principal Investigator (PI) is allowed per application.
- Applicant applying as **Principal Investigator** is required to fulfil the following criteria at the point of application:
  - a) Holds a primary appointment in a local publicly funded institution and salaried by the institution.
  - b) PIs should have PhD or MD/MBBS/BDS qualifications. (*Exceptions would be made on a case-by-case basis*).
  - c) Is an independent PI with a demonstrated track record of research, as evidenced by the award of nationally competitive funding (international funding to be considered on a case by case basis), substantial publication record in the past 3 years, or PI status in research institutes.
  - d) Has a laboratory or clinical research program that carries out research in Singapore
  - e) Holds a minimum of 9 months employment (per calendar year) with local Singapore institution(s). Upon award, the PI must agree to fulfil at least 6 months of residency in Singapore for each calendar year over the duration of the grant award.
  - f) Has no outstanding reports from previous BMRC, NMRC grants, and other national grants.
  - g) For proposals involving patients, the PI should be SMC registered; or should be able to demonstrate ability to access patients through SMC registered Co-Is or collaborators.



# IRG Review Process



# OF-YIRG

- Sub-category of IRG
- Young IRG is a step for the new investigator to a first independent national level grant

**Grant call frequency:** Twice a year

**Funding Quantum:**

- up to \$0.3M (Inclusive of 20% indirect costs) for up to 3 years

# Research Themes

- Open to proposals of the highest quality across the breadth of disciplines relevant to its mission
- To better realise the goals of Health and Biomedical Sciences (HBMS) in Singapore, the following five therapeutic areas have been identified as national priorities:
  - Cancers
  - Cardiovascular diseases
  - Diabetes mellitus and related metabolic/ endocrine disorders
  - Infectious diseases
  - Neurological and sense disorders
- While the focus of the IRG is on scientific excellence, the HBMS community is encouraged to address these therapeutic areas and consider their proposals' relevance to the HBMS industry sectors in PharmBio, MedTech, Food & Nutrition and Personal Care.

# Evaluation Criteria

- Quality of the science
- Capability of the research performers to conduct the research
- Objectives of the research program in context of HBMS goals\*

*\*The vision of HBMS domain is to be a leading centre that advances human health and wellness, and creates economic value for Singapore and Singaporeans, through the pursuit of excellence in research and its applications*

# Eligibility Criteria for YIRG

- Only one Principal Investigator (PI) is allowed per application.
- Applicant applying as **Principal Investigator** is required to fulfil the following criteria at the point of application:
  - a) Holds a primary appointment in a local publicly funded institution.
  - b) PIs should have PhD or MD/MBBS/BDS qualifications (*Exceptions would be made on a case-by-case basis*).
  - c) Has a laboratory or clinical research program that carries out research in Singapore
  - d) Holds a minimum of 9 months employment (per calendar year) with local Singapore institution(s). Upon award, the PI must agree to fulfil at least 6 months of residency in Singapore for each calendar year over the duration of the grant award.
  - e) For proposals involving patients, the PI should be SMC registered; or should be able to demonstrate ability to access patients through SMC registered Co-Is or collaborators.

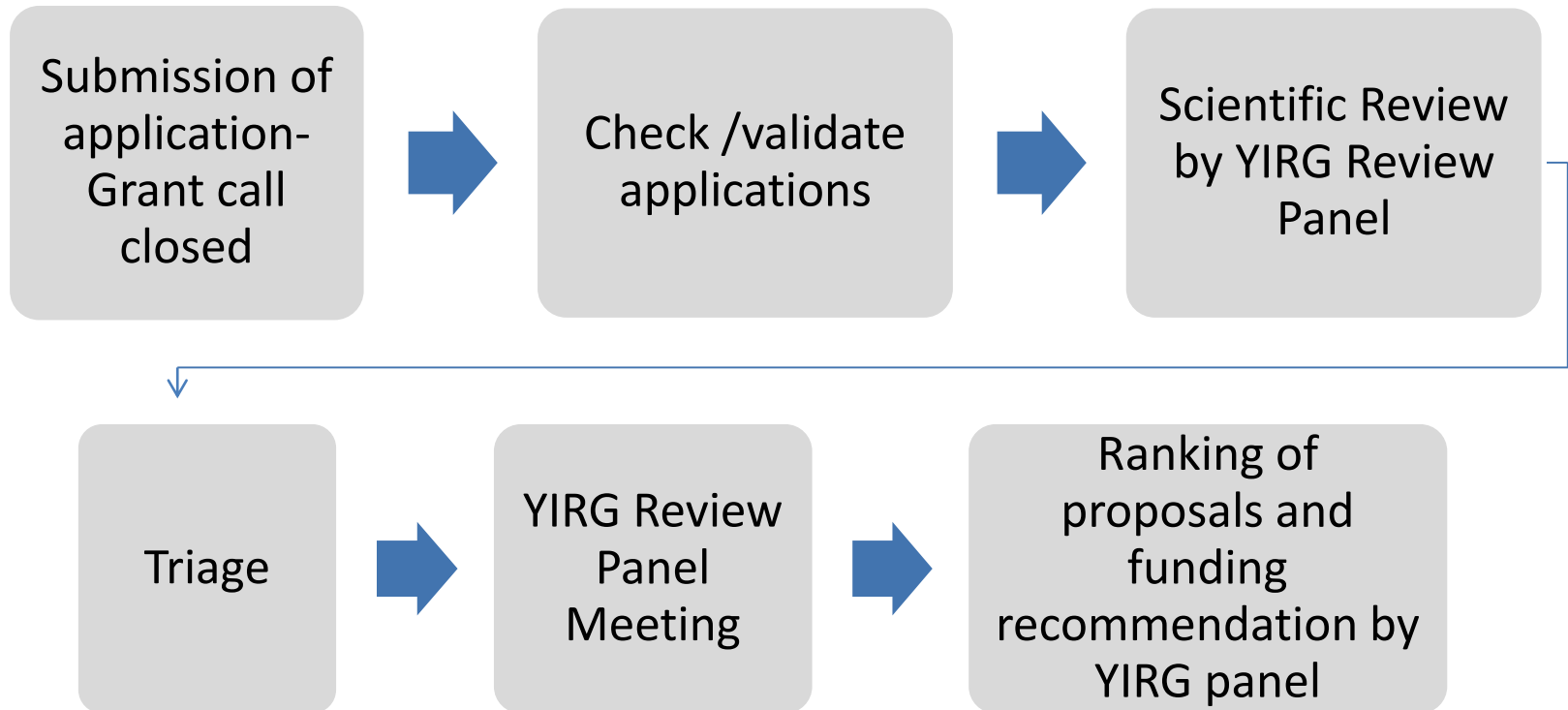
# Additional Eligibility Criteria for Young IRG (1)

- a) Applicants who are applying for the Young IRGs are strongly encouraged to work with a mentor for guidance in their research. This mentoring will provide support for a period of supervised research leading eventually to the investigators conducting larger scale research projects independently.
- b) Applicant's postdoctoral experience should not exceed 7 years for PhD holders and 10 years for MBBS/MD/BDS holders. No exceptions will be allowed.
- c) There will not be a limit to the amount of prior funding that OF-YIRG applicants have received. However, awardees of A\*STAR Investigatorship, NRF Fellowship, MOE Tier 2 and 3 grants, and IRGs will not be eligible for OF-YIRG.
- d) Applicant should not have held any prior OF-YIRG award.

# Additional Eligibility Criteria for Young IRG (2)

- e) Applicants must indicate how the proposed area of work would be distinct from their current supervisor's existing research. The applicant's current supervisor should not be a co-investigator on the proposal.
- f) Upon the award of the OF-YIRG, the host institution will be required to provide written confirmation from either the applicant's Head of Institution or supervisor to describe the steps the institution will take to demonstrate its commitment to his/her career development. This must include provision of appropriate space to carry out the work proposed, but may also include investment in the equipment necessary to establish the laboratory, access to shared institutional resource, and career development support etc.

# Young IRG Review Process





# **Clinician Scientist-Individual Research Grant (CS-IRG)**

# CS-IRG (1)

## Objective

- CS Individual Research Grants (CS-IRGs) are provided to Clinician Scientists (CS) to enable them to carry out medical research on a specifically defined topic for a period of 3 years in local public institutions.
- CS-IRG supports basic, clinical and translational research.

## Funding Quantum, Duration and Grant Call Frequency

- The CS-IRG will provide a funding quantum of up to **S\$1.5M** per project for **3 years** with additional 20% indirect costs provided to the host institution of the lead PI.

# CS-IRG (2)

## Eligibility Criteria

- **Grant application to be led by a Clinical PI**
  - PI must be clinically qualified (i.e. with MD/MBBS/BDS) and preferably with post-graduate clinical training and experience.
  - Exceptions are given to Allied Health Professionals who fall within the list of professions. The PI must possess a minimum academic qualification of a PhD or the equivalent training.

List of Professions			
Audiologist	Dietician	Optometrist	Prosthetist/ Orthotist
Biostatistician	Epidemiologist	Pharmacist	Radiation Therapist
Clinical Pharmacologist	Nurse	Physiotherapist	Radiographer
Clinical Psychologist	Occupational Therapist	Podiatrist	Speech Therapist

# CS-IRG (3)

## Eligibility Criteria

- For proposals **involving patients**, the clinical PI or co-I should be **SMC registered**; or should be able to demonstrate ability to access patients through SMC registered collaborators.
- For some CS-IRG proposals it is recognized that some studies may be **pre-clinical** and do not require the PI to be SMC registered.
- Only one PI is allowed per application. The number of application by an individual (as PI) is capped at 1 grant application per grant type in a grant call.

# CS-IRG (4)

## **Additional Eligibility Criteria:**

- (a) Hold a primary appointment in a local public hospital/public health institutions/national specialty centre/public universities/Academic Medical Centres and salaried by the institution.
- (b) Be an independent PI with a demonstrated track record of research as evidenced by the award of nationally competitive funding (international funding to be considered on a case by case basis) or substantial publication record.
- (c) Have a laboratory or clinical research program that carries out research in Singapore.
- (d) Hold a minimum of 9 months employment with a local Singapore institution. Upon award, the PI must agree to fulfill at least 6 months of residency in Singapore for each calendar year over the duration of the grant award.
- (e) No outstanding reports from previous BMRC, NMRC and other national grants

# CS-IRG (5)

- Open to proposals of the highest quality across the breadth of disciplines relevant to its mission
- To better realise the goals of Health and Biomedical Sciences (HBMS) in Singapore, the following five therapeutic areas have been identified as national priorities:
  - Cancers
  - Cardiovascular diseases
  - Diabetes mellitus and related metabolic/ endocrine disorders
  - Infectious diseases
  - Neurological and sense disorders
- While the focus of the CS-IRG is on scientific excellence, the HBMS community is encouraged to address these therapeutic areas

# **Subcategory New Investigator Grant (CS-IRG-NIG)**

# Subcategory CS-IRG-NIG (1)

## Objective

- The **CS-IRG New Investigator Grant (CS-IRG-NIG)** is a sub category of the CS-IRG to cater for new clinical investigators.
- Applicants with substantial research experience will not be accepted under this category.

## Funding Quantum, Duration and Grant Call Frequency

- The CS-IRG-NIG will provide a funding quantum of up to **S\$200,000** per project for **2 years** with additional 20% indirect costs provided to the host institution of the lead PI.



# NIG-specific Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants who are applying as new investigators category have to work with a **mentor** for guidance in their research. This mentoring will provide support for a period of supervised research leading eventually to the clinical investigators conducting larger scale research projects independently. Please note that the NIG is intended to fund a new investigator's independent project, and not to provide additional funding for the mentor's project (or clinical trial).
- To be eligible for NIGs in general, the following requirements apply:
  - (i) Applicants must not have held any national grants (e.g., NMRC, A\*STAR, NRF, MOE AcRF Tier II, etc) or international grants (e.g., MRC, NIH, NHMRC, etc) as a PI/Co-PI\* **prior to the award of the NIG.**
  - (ii) Applicants must not have received funding to conduct their own research project which cumulatively exceeds \$300,000. This can be funding from any sources.

*\*Co-PIs refer to PIs whose projects are jointly led by other PIs (e.g. projects under NMRC's Bedside & Bench grant). They are not the same as, and should not be confused with Co-Investigators (Co-Is).*

# Review Process & Assessment Criteria

	CS-IRG	CS-IRG-NIG
Review Process	<p><u>Two stage review process:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. International peer review</li> <li>2. Local Review Panel (LRP)</li> </ol>	<p><u>Evaluation by:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local Review Panel (LRP)</li> </ol>
Assessment Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific excellence</li> <li>• Feasibility of study in local context</li> <li>• Productivity</li> <li>• Track Record of Investigators</li> <li>• Overall Impact in local context –influence on the research fields</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific excellence</li> <li>• Feasibility of study in local context</li> <li>• Productivity</li> <li>• Suitability of the applicant to be an independent investigator and to assume the role of a PI</li> <li>• Overall Impact in local context – influence on the research fields</li> </ul>

# **Health Services Research Grant (HSRG)**

# HSRG (1)

## Objective

- Improve policy formulation and practice by studying health delivery and outcomes, and providing rigorous scientific evidence for process improvements in applied healthcare settings.
- RIE2020 HSRG aims to fund HSR in areas aligned with MOH priorities: transforming care, containing healthcare cost inflation and increasing the efficiency of our limited manpower.
- The HSRG:
  - can fund research into healthcare systems (i.e. not limited to “health services” per se),
  - should have a relatively short period from research findings to adoption (i.e. within 2 to 3 years upon study completion).
  - should focus on translating knowledge to not just action but impact, and result in practical measures that can be implemented across the healthcare system. This can include the adaptation of good practices overseas in the local context.
  - should focus on solutions with sector- or systems-level impact.

## Funding Quantum, Duration and Grant Call Frequency

- No cap in funding quantum or funding duration. Budget and duration requests will be assessed for reasonableness.
- Additional 20% indirect research costs will be provided to the host institution of the lead PI.

# HSRG (2)

## HSR Themes for Nov 2017 Grant Call

- Diabetes
  - Targeted at addressing current issues in diabetes care:
    - Identification of diabetes patients late after the onset of disease
    - Faster rate of deterioration of diabetes patients compared to other countries
    - Expensive acute-centric model of care that prolongs lives in disability after acute intervention
- Health Promotion
  - HSR that informs or leads to the development of new models of health promotion intervention, including prevention of frailty.
- Optimisation of Healthcare Resources and Patient Outcomes
  - Seeks new models of care delivery, at the sector- or systems-level, that optimise care delivery and improve clinical outcomes across the healthcare system.

# HSRG (3)

## HSR Themes for Nov 2017 Grant Call

- Community Mental Health
  - Seeks new community care models that enable sustainable end-to-end care for patients with mental health conditions, including dementia.
- End-of-life Care
  - Seeks new models to tackle early decision-making and cross-sector palliative care models especially for non-cancer patients.
- Healthcare Manpower Sustainability
  - HSR to improve the sustainability and efficiency of our limited healthcare manpower.
- White Space
  - Seeks investigator-led HSR which may provide disruptive insights to solutions for current and future healthcare challenges. Applications will be assessed based on the ability to address the challenges of (i) increasing demand from ageing population, (ii) shrinking workforce, and (iii) healthcare cost inflation.

# HSRG (4)

## Eligibility Criteria

- PI must have a PhD and/or MBBS/BDS/PharmD/MD and/or other appropriate Postgraduate Qualification (at least a Master's Degree).
- Hold a primary appointment in a local publicly funded institution and salaried by the institution.
- Be an independent PI with a demonstrated track record of research as evidenced by the award of nationally competitive funding (international funding to be considered on a case by case basis) or substantial publication record. (does not apply to NIG)
- Have access to a laboratory or research program that carries out research in Singapore.
- Hold a minimum of 9 months employment with a local Singapore institution. Upon award, the PI must agree to fulfill at least 6 months of residency in Singapore for each calendar year over the duration of the grant award.

# **Subcategory New Investigator Grant (HSRG-NIG)**



# Subcategory HSRG-NIG (1)

## Objective

- The **HSRG New Investigator Grant (HSRG-NIG)** is a sub category of the HSRG to cater for new clinical investigators.
- Applicants with substantial research experience will not be accepted under this category.

## Funding Quantum and Duration

- The HSRG-NIG will provide a funding quantum of up to **S\$100,000** per project for **2 years** with additional 20% indirect costs provided to the host institution of the PI.

# NIG-specific Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants who are applying as new investigators category have to work with a **mentor** for guidance in their research. This mentoring will provide support for a period of supervised research leading eventually to the clinical investigators conducting larger scale research projects independently. Please note that the NIG is intended to fund a new investigator's independent project, and not to provide additional funding for the mentor's project (or clinical trial).
- To be eligible for NIGs in general, the following requirements apply:
  - (i) Applicants must not have held any national grants (e.g., NMRC, A\*STAR, NRF, MOE AcRF Tier II, etc) or international grants (e.g., MRC, NIH, NHMRC, etc) as a PI/Co-PI\* **prior to the award of the NIG.**
  - (ii) Applicants must not have received funding to conduct their own research project which cumulatively exceeds \$300,000. This can be funding from any sources.

*\*Co-PIs refer to PIs whose projects are jointly led by other PIs (e.g. projects under NMRC's Bedside & Bench grant). They are not the same as, and should not be confused with Co-Investigators (Co-Is).*

# Review Process & Assessment Criteria

	HSRG	HSRG-NIG
Review Process	<p><u>Two stage review process:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. International peer review</li> <li>2. Local Review Panel (LRP)</li> </ol>	<p><u>Evaluation by:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local review</li> <li>2. Local Review Panel (LRP)</li> </ol>
Assessment Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High quality scientific research</li> <li>• Research of importance to the healthcare system.</li> <li>• Demonstrate potential to improve health outcomes and be adopted into actual policy or practice within 2-3 years upon study completion.</li> <li>• Provided they are scientifically meritorious, proposals which address the set themes would be given priority consideration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High quality scientific research</li> <li>• Research of importance to the healthcare system.</li> <li>• Demonstrate potential to improve health outcomes and be adopted into actual policy or practice within 2-3 years upon study completion.</li> <li>• Suitability of the applicant to be an independent investigator and to assume the role of a PI</li> </ul>

# Submission Mode and Deadline

- It is **mandatory** for **all applications** to be submitted **online via nGager** by **1 December 2017, 5pm.**
- nGager is compatible to **Internet Explorer** or **Mozilla Firefox** only
- Please ensure that all submissions are endorsed by the corresponding host institution's Research Director.
- We will not entertain any late/hardcopy submissions or submissions from individual applicants without endorsement from the Host Institution.
- Application forms, guidelines and grant call information are available on the NMRC website.

# **Talent Development**

## **Human Capital Awards**

# Human Capital Awards

## Types of Programmes

- Singapore Translational Research (STaR) Investigator Award
- Clinician Scientist Award (CSA)
- Transition Award (TA)

# **STaR Investigator Award**

# STaR Investigator Award (1)

## Objective

- A prestigious award offered by the MOH to recognise and support internationally renowned and outstanding investigators in translational and clinical research

## Funding Quantum

- Total funding quantum of up to **S\$8mil over 5 years** comprising:
  - PI's salary support between **S\$400k to \$600k** per annum
  - Grant support of up to **S\$5mil** (depending on salary support required)
  - 20% indirect costs

## Grant Call Frequency

- Twice a year
- Opening dates: **May** and **November**



# STaR Investigator Award (2)

## Eligibility Criteria

- i. Applicants should hold a **clinical qualification (e.g. MBBS, MD, BDS or equivalent)** with specialty training beyond medical or dental school (including specialists, family physicians and public health practitioners)<sup>1,2</sup>.
- ii. Applicants should have a **strong track record of scientific achievement, conduct cutting edge translational and clinical research and produce outstanding research output with clinical and health impact.**
- iii. Applicants who are **PhD holders working in human clinical research** (including PhDs in areas such as biostatistics, epidemiology, behavioural science, nursing, pharmacy, psychology, and allied health) and whose research is clinically relevant and has potential health impact, will be considered as exceptions on a case-by-case basis<sup>3</sup>.
- iv. Non-medically trained PhD applicants conducting laboratory based research are not eligible.
- v. Applicant must hold the following appointments:
  - a. A primary appointment in a local public hospital/public health institutions/national specialty centre/public university/Academic Medical Centre and be salaried by the institution; and
  - b. A regular-rank faculty/academic appointment in one of the academic medical centres (AMC) or medical school **within 3 months of award conveyance.**
- vi. Applicant must agree to fulfil at least 9 months of residency in Singapore for each calendar year over the duration of the grant award (Host Institution must provide a letter, to commit that the STaR applicant will spend at least 75% of their time in Singapore upon award).
- vii. Applicant must generally **not be beyond the retirement age** at the point of first award<sup>1</sup>.
- viii. All research must be conducted in Singapore at a public research institute, hospital/centre or medical school.

## Notes:

1. *Existing holders of NMRC Human Capital Awards (i.e., TA, CSA and STaR) are exempted.*
2. *Clinicians with recognised specialty training are:*
  - a. *Clinicians who have full, conditional or temporary registration with SMC as specialist; or*
  - b. *Clinicians who have SMC recognised postgraduate qualifications as provided in the MOH website, which includes registration with specialist boards or specialist colleges (e.g., American Board of Internal Medicine, Royal College of Physicians), but not necessarily registered in SMC's Register of Specialists.*
  - c. *Clinicians who do not fulfil the above but are able to demonstrate completion of specialist training in countries which do not have specialist boards/colleges and are holding consultant positions as a specialist may be considered on a case-by-case basis.*
3. *Applicants who are submitting on an exception basis are to submit their CV (with track records including publication records and grants held as PIs/Co-PIs in the past 5 years) to the Secretariat to determine their eligibility prior to submitting a full proposal.*

# STaR Investigator Award (3)

## Review Process

- **Two-stage** review process comprising an **international peer review stage** followed by a **collective review** by STaR Panel. Applicants may be contacted to be interviewed by the STaR panel if needed.
- The review process will take about 6 months after the application closes.

## Assessment Criteria

- Scientific excellence will be the highest priority
- Feasibility of study in local context
- Productivity
- Track Record of PI
- Overall Impact in local context

# **Clinician Scientist Award (CSA)**

# Clinician Scientist Award (1)

## Objective

- To provide salary & funding support for selected outstanding clinician scientists, to enable them to carry out internationally competitive translational and clinical research.
- 2 categories of award:
  - Investigator level (INV)
  - Senior Investigator level (SI)

## Funding Quantum

- PI's salary support according to NMRC annual salary cap
- Grant support of up to:
  - **S\$675k over 3 years** (INV category)
  - **S\$1.75mil over 5 years** (SI category)
- 20% indirect costs

# Clinician Scientist Award (2)

- **Two** categories for time commitment in research
  - i.  $\geq 70\%$
  - ii. 50-69 %
- Corresponding salary component
  - i.  $\geq 70\%$  time commitment
    - Full salary support (up to NMRC annual salary cap)
  - ii. 50-69% time commitment
    - Salary support proportionate to time commitment

## Grant Call Frequency

- Twice a year
- Opening dates: **May** and **November**

# Clinician Scientist Award (3)

## Eligibility Criteria

- i. Applicants should hold a **clinical qualification (e.g. MBBS, MD, BDS or equivalent), with specialty training beyond medical or dental school** (including specialists, family physicians and public health practitioners)<sup>1,2</sup>.
- ii. Applicants who are **PhD holders working in human clinical research** (including PhDs in areas such as biostatistics, epidemiology, behavioural science, nursing, pharmacy, psychology, and allied health) and whose research is **clinically relevant and has potential health impact**, will be considered as exceptions on a case-by-case basis<sup>3</sup>.
- iii. Non-medically trained PhD applicants conducting laboratory based research are not eligible.
- iv. Applicants must have been an independent PI on at least one national or international peer-reviewed research grant, equivalent to an Individual Research Grant (IRG)-level grant.
- v. Applicant must hold the following appointments:
  - a) A primary appointment in a local public hospital/public health institutions/national specialty centre/public university/Academic Medical Centre and be salaried by the institution; and
  - b) A regular-rank faculty/academic appointment in one of the academic medical centres (AMC) or medical school **within 3 months of award conveyance**.
- vi. Applicant must be a Singapore citizen or Permanent Resident **at the point of application**.
- vii. Applicant must generally **not be beyond the retirement age** at the point of first award<sup>1</sup>.
- viii. All research must be conducted in Singapore at a public research institute, hospital/centre or medical school.

## Notes:

1. Existing holders of NMRC Human Capital Awards (i.e., TA, CSA and STaR) are exempted.
2. Clinicians with recognised specialty training are:
  - a) Clinicians who have full, conditional or temporary registration with SMC as specialist; or
  - b) Clinicians who have SMC recognised postgraduate qualifications as provided in the MOH [website](#), which includes registration with specialist boards or specialist colleges (e.g., American Board of Internal Medicine, Royal College of Physicians), but not necessarily registered in SMC's Register of Specialists.
  - c) Clinicians who do not fulfil the above but are able to demonstrate completion of specialist training in countries which do not have specialist boards/colleges and are holding consultant positions as a specialist may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
3. Applicants who are submitting on an exception basis are to submit their CV (with track records including publication records and grants held as PIs/Co-PIs in the past 5 years) to the Secretariat to determine their eligibility prior to submitting a full proposal.

# Clinician Scientist Award (4)

## Review Process

- **Two-stage** review process comprising an **international peer review stage** followed by a **collective review** by the Local CSA Panel.
- The review process will take about 6 months after the application closes.

## Assessment Criteria

- Scientific excellence will be the highest priority
- Feasibility of study in local context
- Productivity
- Track Record of PI
- Overall Impact in local context

# **Transition Award (TA)**



# Transition Award (1)

## Objective

- To assist **budding, young clinicians** who have just returned from formal research training, to build up their capability in research
- Help the clinicians to transit to a stable independent research position or other independent research funding.

## Funding Quantum

Funding quantum is awarded over 3 years comprising:

- PI's salary support according to NMRC annual salary cap
- Grant support of up to **S\$375k**
- 20% indirect costs

*Applicants have the flexibility to adjust the project duration up to 4 years\*.*

## Grant Call Frequency

- Twice a year
- Opening dates: **May** and **November**

*\* Funding quantum remains capped at 3 years. Applicant is required to declare the proposed project duration at the point of application.*

# Transition Award (2)

- **Two** categories for time commitment in research
  - i.  $\geq 70\%$
  - ii. 50-69%
- Corresponding salary component
  - i.  $\geq 70\%$  time commitment
    - Full salary support (up to NMRC annual salary cap)
  - ii. 50-69% time commitment
    - Salary support proportionate to time commitment

# Transition Award (3)

## Eligibility Criteria:

- i. Applicants should hold a **clinical qualification (e.g. MBBS, MD, BDS or equivalent), with specialty training beyond medical or dental school** (including specialists, family physicians and public health practitioners)<sup>1</sup>.
- ii. Applicants must have received **in-depth scientific training** through a PhD programme, Masters programme, or at least 2 years post-doctoral intensive research experience, in relevant local or overseas universities, research institutes, centres etc.
- iii. Applicants who **are PhD holders working in human clinical research** (including PhDs in areas such as biostatistics, epidemiology, behavioural science, nursing, pharmacy, psychology, and allied health) and whose research is **clinically relevant and has potential health impact**, will be considered as exceptions on a case-by-case basis<sup>2</sup>.
- iv. Non-medically trained PhD applicants conducting laboratory based research are not eligible.
- v. Applicants should **not have been an independent PI** on national/international research grants<sup>3</sup>.
- vi. For clinicians (with MBBS/MD/BDS), the maximum number of years after **exiting from specialist training should not exceed 10 years**<sup>4</sup>; For PhD holders who wish to apply on an exception basis, the maximum number of years of postdoctoral experience is **10 years post PhD**.
- vii. Applicant must hold the following appointments:
  - a) A primary appointment in a local public hospital/public health institutions/national specialty centre/public university/Academic Medical Centre and be salaried by the institution; and
  - b) A regular-rank faculty/academic appointment in one of the academic medical centres (AMC) or medical school **within 3 months of award conveyance**.
- viii. Applicant must be a Singapore citizen or Permanent Resident **at the point of application**.
- ix. All research must be conducted in Singapore at a public research institute, hospital/centre or medical school.

## Notes:

1. *Clinicians with recognised specialty training are:*
  - a) *consultant positions as a specialist may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Clinicians who have full, conditional or temporary registration with SMC as specialist; or*
  - b) *Clinicians who have SMC recognised postgraduate qualifications as provided in the MOH website, which includes registration with specialist boards or specialist colleges (e.g., American Board of Internal Medicine, Royal College of Physicians), but not necessarily registered in SMC's Register of Specialists.*
  - c) *Clinicians who do not fulfil the above but are able to demonstrate completion of specialist training in countries which do not have specialist boards/colleges and are holding.*
2. *Applicants who are submitting on an exception basis are to submit their CV (with track records including publication records and grants held as PIs/Co-PIs in the past 5 years) to the Secretariat to determine their eligibility prior to submitting a full proposal.*
3. *Recipients of institutional grants or NIG grants are eligible to apply. Applicants who have previously held one national grant (equivalent to Exploratory Developmental Grant (EDG) or Individual Research Grant (IRG) level), can apply on exceptions basis with justifications.*
4. *Clinicians who exited from specialist training more than 10 years ago and hold a PhD degree may write in for consideration on an exception basis.*

# Transition Award (4)

## **Criteria on PI's previously held grants:**

- Not an independent PI on national/international research grants.
- Recipients of institutional grants or NIG grants are eligible to apply.
- Applicants who have previously held one national grant (e.g. EDG or IRG), can apply on exceptions basis with justifications.

# Transition Award (5)

## Review Process

- Evaluation by the Transition Award Review Panel (TARP).
- The review process will take about 5 months after the application closes.
- Shortlisted applicants may be invited for interview by the panel.

## Assessment Criteria

- Scientific excellence will be the highest priority
- Feasibility of study in local context
- Productivity
- Overall Impact in local context
- Track record of mentor and mentorship training plans
- Suitability of the applicant to be an independent investigator and to assume the role of a Principal Investigator in the proposal.

# Submission Mode and Deadline

- It is **mandatory** for **all applications** to be submitted **online via nGager** by **1 December 2017, 5pm**.
- Endorsement by the Research Director (for host Institution) and Dean (for academic institution) or equivalent upon submission.
- The Host institution to submit a summary of the applications to NMRC.
- Late submissions, submissions from individuals or those without endorsement from the Host Institution **will not be entertained**.
- Application forms, guidelines and grant call information are available on the NMRC website.

# **Talent Development**

## **NMRC Research Training Fellowship**

# NMRC Research Training Fellowship

## Objective

- Awarded to outstanding and talented clinicians and health science professionals for research training to have qualifications and skills to become Clinician Scientists and Principal Investigators respectively.

## Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be **medical doctors/dental surgeons** (i.e., with MBBS/MD/BDS degree) who are registered with the Singapore Medical Council/Dental Board. Residents or AST/BST trainees who wish to pursue research training in the midst of their clinical training will be required to submit additional documents. Medical/House officers are not eligible to apply.
- Practicing **health science professionals** who fall within the list of Allied Health Professions may apply. Health science professional applicant must either be a PhD degree holder or applying for training leading to a PhD degree.
- Applicants must be Singapore citizens or Permanent Residents **at the point of application**.
- Applicants must be employed in a public institution in Singapore during and throughout duration of the award. They will also be required to serve a bond with the Government of Singapore upon the completion of training.
- Applicants are encouraged to apply for local training if expertise is available locally so that knowledge acquired is applicable in the local context.
- The curriculum of the formal degree should be research-based. Applicants are advised to apply to the university of interest and liaise the necessary arrangements for their research training or degree programme concurrently with this fellowship application to avoid delay in the submission of the application and commencement of training.

## Notes:

1. Please refer to the NMRC website for details on the eligibility criteria, submission deadline, sample application form and award guidelines.
2. Applications are to be submitted **online** via nGager.
3. Endorsement by the Research Director (for host Institution) on nGager is required upon submission.
4. Late submissions, submissions from individuals or those without endorsement from the Host Institution **will not be entertained**.



# General Q & A