

# Background of Open Fund

- Objectives of Open Fund:  
Fund the best ideas, through competition, to support individual and collaborative research that is aligned with the Health and Biomedical Science (HBMS) vision for RIE2020
- HBMS vision:  
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.

*\*Under RIE2020, NMRC will be administering the Open Fund grants on behalf of HBMS EXCO and funding agencies (A\*STAR, MOE, MOH, NRF).*

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

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

# IRG

## **Aim:**

**The Individual Research Grant (IRG)** 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 indirect cost capped at 20% of direct cost) + \$0.3M\* over 3-5 years

*\*Additional up to 20% funding will be provided to cover expenses on enablers' services / technology platform services and data sharing.*

# Eligibility Criteria for IRG

- Only one Principal Investigator (PI) is allowed per application.
- Applicant applying as **Principal Investigator** are 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.

# 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 \$0.5M (Inclusive of indirect cost (IRC) capped at 20% of direct cost ) + \$0.1M\* over 3-5 years

\*Additional up to 20% funding will be provided to cover expenses on enablers' services / technology platform services and data sharing.

# Eligibility Criteria for YIRG

- Only one Principal Investigator (PI) is allowed per application.
- Applicant applying as **Principal Investigator** are 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) 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

- a) Applicants who are applying for the Young IRGs 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 investigators conducting larger scale research projects independently.
- b) 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 Young IRG.
- c) Applicants must not have held any grants cumulatively exceeding **\$300,000** from any other sources as PI/Co-PI, with the exception of a Young IRG (i.e. a PI can win no more than 2 Young IRGs over the course of his career).

*\*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).*

# 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

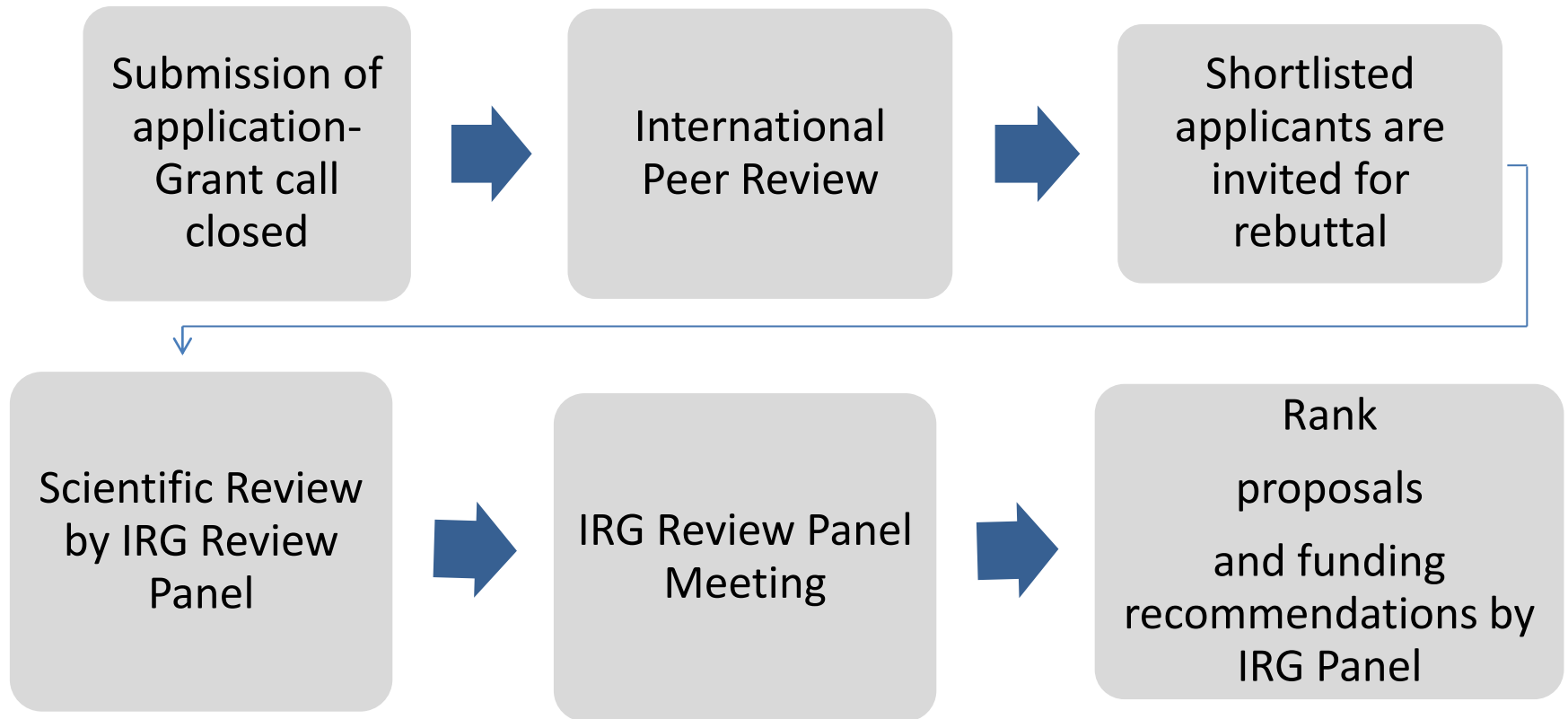


# Research Themes

- Open to all research themes
- Priority Areas:
  - Cancers
  - Cardiovascular diseases
  - Diabetes mellitus and other metabolic/ endocrine disorders
  - Infectious diseases
  - Neurological and sense disorders

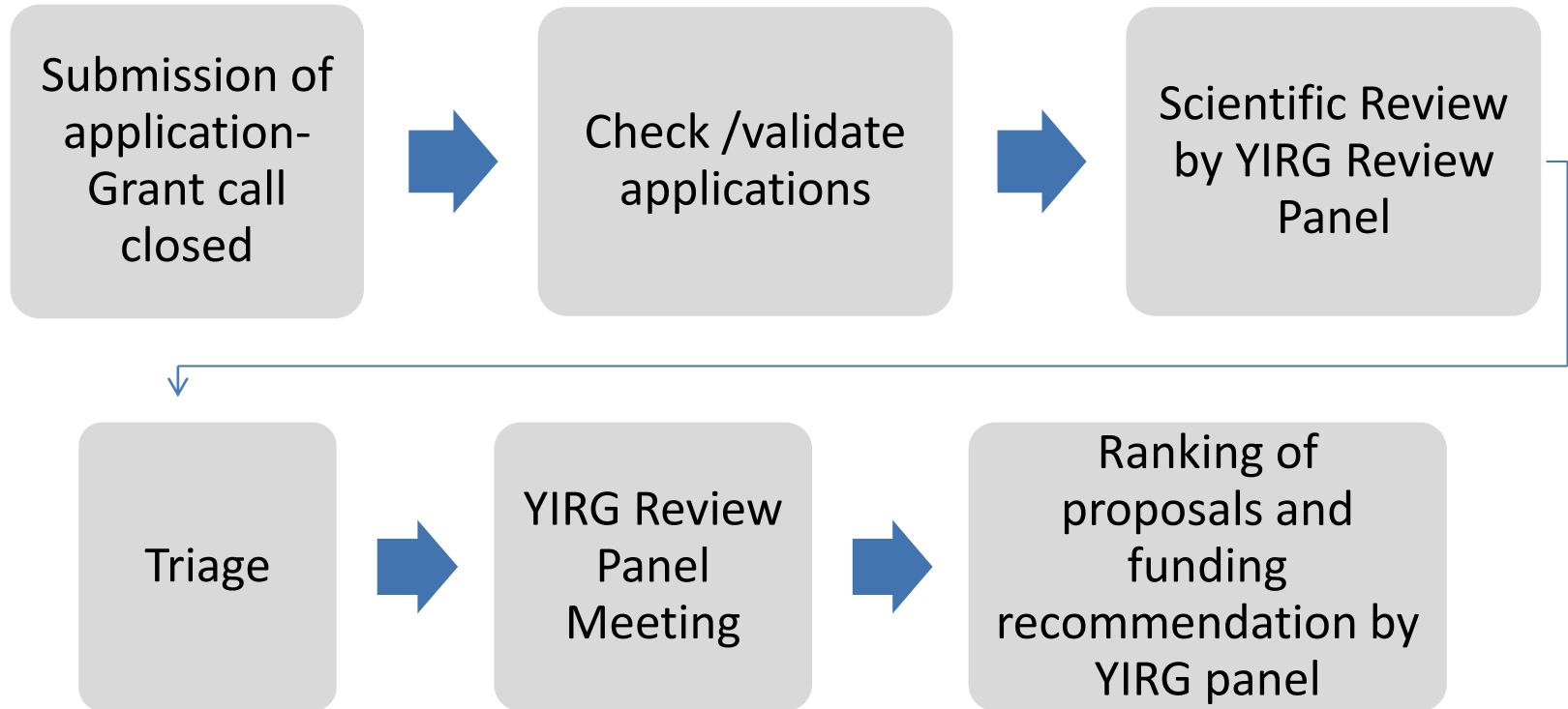
# IRG Review Process

**For Nov 2015 grant call only**



# Young IRG Review Process

**For Nov 2015 grant call only**



# Submission Mode and Deadline (IRG/YIRG)

- It is **mandatory** for **all applications** to be submitted **online via nGager** by **11 Dec 2015, 5pm**
- 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.
- For enquiries, please email [moh\\_nmrc@moh.gov.sg](mailto:moh_nmrc@moh.gov.sg)

# nGager

- <https://ngager.moh.gov.sg>
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Established in 1994, the National Medic

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nGager is best viewed using Internet Explorer 8.0 or above. Safari is not supported. Please enable pop-ups as well. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

**LAUNCHING**

**FEB/MAR 2016**

**Open Fund Large Collaborative Grant  
(OF-LCG)**

# PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

## **Aim:**

To bring together the best complementary research strengths in hospitals and national disease centres, universities and A\*STAR Research Institutes to advance human health and wellness, and/or create economic value for Singapore and Singaporeans, through the pursuit of excellence in research and its applications<sup>+</sup>. It will focus on diseases/research themes of strategic importance.

*<sup>+</sup> Collaboration across institutions is encouraged to integrate, coordinate and leverage on the full spectrum of research capabilities in Singapore from basic science to clinical research in an “all-the-way” fashion; facilitate the discovery and application of basic science ideas relevant to the advancement of health (as well as the translation of clinical findings into practices and policies if any); and provide productive platforms for collaboration with top overseas research institutions and industries.*

# Research Themes

- Open to all research themes, *with particular interest in the following 5 priority areas:*
  - Cancers
  - Cardiovascular diseases
  - Diabetes mellitus and other metabolic/ endocrine disorders
  - Infectious diseases
  - Neurological and sense disorders



# PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

## Grant call frequency:

Once a year. Starting from Feb/ Mar 2016 onwards.

## Funding quantum and duration:

Up to \$25M<sup>^</sup> + \$5M<sup>\*</sup> over up to 5 years

<sup>^</sup> Inclusive of indirect cost (IRC) capped at 20% of direct cost

<sup>\*</sup> Additional up to 20% funding will be provided to cover expenses on enablers' services / technology platform services and data sharing.

## Review process:

2-stage; comprising Letter of Intent (LOI) submission and (for shortlisted LOIs only) Full Proposal submission.

**WHO CAN APPLY?**

**SAME ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AS THE IRG**

# Eligibility Criteria for IRG & LCG

- Only one Principal Investigator (PI) is allowed per application.
- Applicant applying as **Principal Investigator** are 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.

# COMING SOON...

- 1<sup>st</sup> call in Feb/ Mar 2016
- Details are in the midst of being firmed up
- More will be shared nearer the scheduled launch