

Inaugural SPHERiC Seed Funding Grant Call

INTRODUCTION

The Singapore Population Health Improvement Centre (SPHERiC) Seed Funding grant will support the development of population health research capabilities in Singapore.

Designed to support small exploratory studies that may provide preliminary data to potentially vie for bigger grants on a national level, it aims to contribute towards a centralised platform for multi-disciplinary research, develop local capabilities and foster collaboration with policy makers, national agencies, communities and other RHEs.

Successful awardees are strongly encouraged to disseminate the findings of their research projects through publications (hardcopy or electronic) in professional journals, presentations at scientific meetings/conferences and/or conducting training.

ELIGIBILITY

- a. Applicants applying as Principal Investigators (PI) are only allowed to submit one application per grant call.
- b. The study team should comprise of at least one NUHS staff as a co-investigator. NUHS staff are defined as those who are full time staff from NUHS, staff with joint primary employment in NUHS, research fellows salaried by NUHS or affiliated appointments.
- c. First time PIs who have not been a PI of any research projects funded under any grant scheme are required to engage the support of a mentor who is an experienced PI.

Note:

- Clinicians who are Associate Consultants and below, are advised to engage the support of a mentor who is an experienced PI (Consultant level and above).
- Scientists/ Allied Health staffs/ Nurses are advised to engage the support of a mentor who is an experienced PI.

REQUIREMENT FROM GRANT

- a. All grants that involve human participants must be approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) to receive funding. While advance IRB approval is not a prerequisite for submission of an application, investigators should be aware of the impact of these and other necessary administrative or regulatory reviews on project timeline and feasibility.

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- b. Annual progress reports and a final progress report must be submitted to the SPHERiC within 30 days after the end of the year and completion of the project, respectively.
- c. Funding period should not exceed the end date of the main Centre Grant (August 2021).
- d. Support from the grant must be acknowledged in any publications resulting from the research.

ENGAGEMENT

Applicants are strongly encouraged to engage one of the SPHERiC Core(s), ie. Population Health Analytics Core, Health Systems and Models of Care Core, and Implementation Science Core prior to their grant submission.

RELEVANT EXPERTISE

The principal investigator and study team should have adequate expertise and skills in the research area. They are strongly encouraged to attend courses offered by SPHERiC where relevant.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Research Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

a.	Focus on studies whose findings align with the centre’s vision of being a leading centre for population health research, working towards a future in which every Singaporean enjoys good health and access to affordable, quality healthcare.
b.	Building capabilities in population health research, to support the centre’s mission to conduct rigorous multi-disciplinary research, build capabilities and foster collaboration in population health with the goal of translating evidence into action.
c.	Relevance to the development of population health analytics, health systems and policy research, and implementation sciences.
d.	Ability to develop a project to the point that a competitive application for external support can be obtained

DURATION OF PROJECT AND FUNDING SUPPORT

The duration of the proposal would be for up to **2 years** and funding period should not exceed the end date of the main Centre Grant (August 2021). The funding cap for each proposal will be up to **S\$50,000** per project and indirect costs are not applicable.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION (DEADLINE: 2PM, 31st January 2018)

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- a. All applications (hardcopy and softcopy) must be submitted through the RHS Planning Office (SPHERiC).

Note: Hardcopy submissions may take a longer time to reach the RHS Planning Office and factor in this time for your proposal to reach us by the stipulated deadline.

Address: 1E Kent Ridge Road, NUHS Tower Block Level 12, Singapore 119228

Attn: Nur Farzira Bte Harudin (SPHERiC Seed Funding Grant Call for Proposal)

Email address: spheric@nuhs.edu.sg

- b. The proposals will be collated and undergo review by the SPHERiC Review Committee for selection. The Investigators will be informed of the outcome at the end of April 2018.

Hardcopy and Softcopy
<p>1. Seed Funding Grant Application Form which includes, but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Research plan limited to ten pages. The research plan should include sections that cover Abstract (<300 words), Specific Aims, Background and Significance, Preliminary Results (if available), Research Design and Methods and References ii. A list of deliverables, milestones and timeline of research plan iii. Budget planning with justifications on the type and amount of manpower FTEs, equipment and OOE required iv. Biographical sketch (not more than 2 pages) of the PI and each co-investigator, including a summary of other research support and a declaration of current and previous grants held in the last five years which should include Funding Agency, Project Title, Duration of Project, and Total Budget Awarded <p>2. Cover Letter indicating how this research will build capabilities in population health research and foster collaboration with the goal of translating evidence into action.</p>

ATTACHMENTS

1. SPHERiC Seed Funding Application Form
2. NUHS Grants General Administrative Guidelines
3. NUHS Grants Annex A- Fundable and non-fundable items