



HEALTH RESEARCH BOARD

Health Research Awards 2010 (HRA)

Guidance Notes

Key Dates & Times

Application Call

1 October 2009

Application Closing dates

Health Services Research Committee

17 November 2009, 12:00

Population Health Sciences Research Committee

18 November 2009, 12:00

Patient-Oriented Research Committee

20 November 2009, 12:00

Submission of signature pages and supporting documents

26 November 2009, 15:00



HRB Health Research Awards 2010

Guidance Notes

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HRB Health Research Awards 2010

Guidance Notes

Introduction to HRB:

The Health Research Board (HRB), has the lead role in bridging the gap between new health research discoveries and the effective translation and implementation of these discoveries into policy and practice in order to achieve specific health service goals. We work with others to build the capacity for health research; create opportunities for researchers; drive the translation of research discoveries into delivering improved healthcare; provide solid evidence to support health research policy. This, in turn, will achieve better outcomes for patients and realise efficiencies in the health service.

The HRB is now focusing resources in areas which offer the most potential for translation into impacts and benefits for health. As a result, HRB funding will be awarded to projects, programmes and fellowships which address patient-oriented research, health services research and population health sciences research. The HRB is now inviting applications for its 2010 Health Research Awards.

Objective:

The Health Research Awards 2010 aims to fund individual researchers and research teams to conduct internationally competitive and innovative research that will create new knowledge and evidence of benefit to health through patient-oriented research, population health sciences research and health services research.

The assessment criteria and committee structure for applications has been revised to reflect this focus.

Further guidance and details of the research areas covered by each research Committee can be found in Appendix I.

Scope:

Clearly defined research projects up to a maximum of 36 months in areas of patient-oriented research, health services research and population health sciences research. Funding for a period up to a maximum of 24 months can be sought for proof-of-principle, methodology research development or pilot work in the fields of population health sciences and health services research.

The scheme will not fund

- applications which are solely or predominately basic biomedical research. By that, we mean research conducted to increase the knowledge base and understanding of the physical, chemical and functional mechanisms of life processes and disease but not directed to solving any particular biomedical problem in humans or animals.
- applications which are solely literature review, audits, surveys, needs assessment or technology development (although these elements may be part of an integrated research study).
- applications which are solely service developments: although the scheme will fund research aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of a service or intervention it will not provide the costs of providing the service or intervention.

Note: For applications for clinical studies that fall within the scope of the EU Clinical Trials Directive, the HRB cannot take on the role of sponsor so plans for appropriate sponsorship arrangements must be included in the application.

Eligibility Criteria of Principal Investigator:

The Principal Investigator must

- Hold a post (permanent or a contract that covers the duration of the award) in a recognised research institution in the Republic of Ireland as an independent investigator or
- be a contract researcher recognised by the Host institution as an independent investigator who will have an independent office and research space for duration of award, have previous senior-author publications
- an individual who will be recognized by the Host Institution upon receipt of the HRB HRA award as a contract researcher as defined above. The Principal Investigator does not necessarily need to be employed by the Host Institution at the time of the application submission.

Note: Host Institution statement of support regarding an independent investigator status (i.e. own office and research space for duration of award, have previous senior-author publications) is required with each application to certify that the Principal Investigator meets these criteria and is either a contract researcher, or a contract researcher awaiting appointment as defined above.

Up to two Co-applicants can be listed and collaborations between academic and health agencies are particularly welcome (maximum of three collaborators permitted).

Only one application per Principal Investigator to this scheme will be considered.

It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to ensure that applications are completed in full and all necessary documentation is received by the HRB on, or before, the closing dates indicated. Documentation received after the deadline will be deemed ineligible.

Note: where an applicant fails to meet eligibility criteria or the scientific and strategic merit of the application is outside the scope of the scheme, the application will be deemed ineligible and will not be accepted for review. The HRB will contact the Principal Investigator in the event that this situation arises.

Funding and or Conditions:

The maximum value of an award is €95,000 per annum. Eligible costs include personnel costs, running costs, dissemination costs and an overhead contribution.

Note: The HRB does not fund the salary and related costs of academic staff within research institutions (including buy out from teaching time etc.).

Note: As the primary aim of this scheme is to fund high quality, innovative research projects of international standing, applicants must demonstrate clearly that the level, expertise and experience of proposed research personnel matches the ambition and scale of the project and that they possess the necessary breadth and skills in all methodological areas required to deliver the proposed programme of work. Unlike the HRBs fellowships programmes, this scheme is not framed as a training initiative, and where junior personnel registered for a higher degree are proposed to work on projects, reviewers will thoroughly assess the level of baseline experience matched with the supervisory and up-skilling arrangements proposed in scoring the proposal.

Application Process:

All applications must be made online using the HRB eGrants System. The HRB is committed to an open and competitive process underpinned by international peer review. Following an initial eligibility check applications will be sent to international experts for analysis and comment. Grant selection committees will then be established to consider applications and the associated comments of the peer reviewers with a view to making final recommendations to the Board of the HRB.

Applicants must **select one** of the following three committees, based on which is most appropriate to review the application:

- Patient-Oriented Research
- Population Health Sciences Research
- Health Services Research

Further guidance and details of the research areas covered by each committee can be found in Appendix I.

It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to select the most appropriate committee to assess the application. The HRB reserves the right to reassign an application to another committee if that chosen by the Principal Investigator is deemed inappropriate. Where HRB staff members make a decision to switch an application between committees as part of the detailed eligibility check, the Principal Investigator will be informed.

Guidance on the Application Form

These notes must be read in conjunction with the application form and are designed to help you provide the information required.

The online application form is divided into the following sections:

Part A

Within this section information is entered by the Principal Investigator directly online through the eGrants system. Information includes;

Project Title

Principal Investigator Details

Includes name, contact information, host institution, present position and profession

Co-Applicants Details

Includes name and contact information

Project Lay Summary

This lay summary is similar to the project abstract in that you are asked to describe what you propose to do, say why you think it is important to complete this piece of work and how you are actually going to go about conducting the research. The difference is that it needs to be written as a plain English summary, such that it is clear, easy to understand, and is easily accessible to a broad lay audience. This summary may be used when providing information to the public with regards to the variety of research funded by the HRB. The word limit is **300 words**.

Keywords

Please use keywords that specifically describe your area of research.

Project Budget

Provide a summary and justification of the costs associated with the project.

The maximum value of an award is **€95,000 per annum** (personnel costs, running costs, dissemination costs and an overhead contribution of 30%) for a maximum of three years.

A **full detailed breakdown of costings and justification for all funding** is required for items listed under each subheading. You are strongly advised to seek guidance from the research office/finance office in the host institution before completing this section of the form. The HRB will not provide additional funding in the case of either under-estimates or over expenditure.

Funds will be provided for the following:

1. Personnel costs	Must be listed for each salaried personnel under each of the following subheadings (a-e):
a) Salary	<p>Gross Annual Salary (including 5% employee pension contribution) negotiated and agreed with host institution. Applicants should use the IUA website scales for the most up-to-date recommended salary scales for researchers (http://www.iua.ie/iua-activities/research.html). Please note employee pension contribution of 5% has already been incorporated into the gross salary figure.</p> <p>Please state the pay scale used and the level and point on the scale. This should be justified accordingly. No annual salary increases will be paid.</p> <p>Note: The HRB does not provide funding for the salary or benefits of academic staff within research institutions who are already in receipt of salary or benefits.</p>
b) Employer's PRSI	Employer's PRSI contribution is calculated at 10.75% of gross salary.
c) Employer Pension Contribution	As of 1 September 2009, the HRB will cease paying a pension contribution for all awards except where Circular letter 6/2007 applies. Circular Letter 6/2007 states that the pensions contribution of all Public Health Service employees who, on or after 1 June 2007, are granted secondments or periods of special leave with pay to enable them take up appointments with other organisations, including other Public Health Sector organisations, will be increased to 25% of gross pensionable pay. The rate of 25% of gross pensionable pay referred to in this context is the pension contributions to be paid by the body to which the employee is seconded – it does not include any pension contributions which employees make themselves. Where no such arrangements are in place, the HRB will not be liable for costs.

d) Student Stipend	The HRB student stipend is €16,000 per annum (tax exempt) as recommended by current IUA scales
e) Student Fees	A contribution to fees for students registered for a higher degree will be paid at the 2008/2009 fee levels for the duration of the award. Please note only personnel in receipt of a stipend are eligible to receive a student fee contribution.
2. Running Costs	<p>Up to a maximum of €25,000 per annum for all costs required to carry out the research including materials and consumables, the purchasing, transport or disposal of animals, survey costs, travel for participants, transcription costs etc.</p> <p>An additional amount of funding for small items of equipment can be included in this section. The maximum amount that can be requested for equipment over the lifetime of the award is €2,000. Stand alone computers <u>will not</u> be funded. All costs must be inclusive of VAT, where applicable.</p> <p>The following <u>ineligible</u> costs will not be funded: training courses/workshops, inflationary increases, cost of electronic journals.</p> <p><u>Note: Please see a list of costs that fall within the overhead contribution below.</u></p>
3. Dissemination Costs	Costs associated with publication of results, seminar/conference attendance (provide details of name and location, where possible) and any other means of communicating/reporting research outcomes. The maximum amount that can be requested under this subheading over the lifetime of the award is €5,700
4. Overhead Contribution	<p>In accordance with the HRB Policy on Overhead Usage, the HRB will contribute to the indirect costs of the research through an overhead payment of 30% of Total Direct Modified Costs (TDMC excludes student fees, equipment and capital building costs).</p> <p>The following are included in the overhead contribution: recruitment costs, bench fees, animal maintenance, software, contribution to gases, bacteriological media preparation fees, waste fees, bioinformatics access.</p>
<p>Note: The HRB <u>does not</u> provide funding for start-up costs</p> <p>Note: Where an overhead cost has been incorrectly listed under running costs this will be removed. Please see a list of costs that fall with the overhead contribution above.</p>	

Other Funding Sources

Give details of any other financial support available for this or any other related project in the box provided. Indicate project title, funding agency and amount of award. You must state if financial support from another funding body is being sought for the same or related research.

Ethical Approval and Use of Animals

Ethical approval is required for all research work funded by the HRB that involves human participants, human material (including tissue) or animals. Applicants should allow sufficient time to obtain ethical approval. It is suggested that ethical approval is sought in parallel with submission of an application to the HRB.

Part B

Within this section a word document entitled "Application" is available to download and information is entered by the applicant offline. The "Application" document once completed must be uploaded onto the eGrants system.

Other files to be uploaded in this section include a Gantt chart and up to a maximum of two supporting proposal attachments e.g. Images, Table etc

Information includes;

Project Title

Committee Relevance

As part of the eligibility criteria for this scheme your proposal must address a question or a topic that is pertinent to your chosen committee: Patient-Oriented Research, Population Health Sciences Research, or Health Services Research (as defined in Appendix I of the Guidance Notes). Please clearly explain how the proposal fits within the scope of this committee. The word limit is **650 words**.

Project Abstract

This should be a succinct summary of the proposed research. The aims and hypotheses of the project should be conveyed with clarity. The objectives of the project and what the work is expected to establish should be described. Ideally it provides a clear synopsis of your proposal and should set the research proposal in context. The word limit is **300 words**.

Project Description

Maximum **5,000 words** in total including graphs and tables:

The Project Description should include:

- Current knowledge in the area of the proposed research
- Aims and hypotheses and underlying specific objectives
- Description of pilot work already undertaken, if relevant
- Methodological approach (inc. sample size, power calculations, access to statistical support, ethical considerations)
- Description of the programme and plan of research to be undertaken
- Project management information
- Involvement of stakeholders and service users
- Dissemination Plan
- Gantt chart or alternative

Current knowledge and background to the area

Describe the background to the research proposal leading to the present application. Include the research context for your proposal. Why is it important that these questions or problems are explored? What other research has been conducted in this area or is currently in process? What contribution will your project make to improve,

enhance, or develop knowledge or understanding in your chosen area of study? Where available, include a description of any pilot work already undertaken.

Aims and Hypotheses

Methodology and design

Describe in detail the design of your study and the methodology you propose to use. This section should include information on the type of study proposed i.e., whether quantitative or qualitative, the sample size and a justification for the sample size proposed, any statistical advice or support, the sampling methods and the exclusion/inclusion criteria. If datasets are involved in this proposal, how would access to and use of data be managed? There may be ethical issues involved in conducting your research. In this section you are given an opportunity to discuss your approach to any issues that might arise and describe how you plan to handle these issues. This will demonstrate to the reviewers that you are aware of the issues involved and have given them due consideration. Are difficulties in your approach anticipated and, if so, what alternative methods could be considered?

Note: The Health Research Board Centre for Support and Training in Analysis and Research (CSTAR) is available for assistance and advice on the methodologies. CSTAR can be found at the following link www.cstar.ie

Description of the programme and plan of research to be undertaken including project management information

Lay out the tasks to be completed in a logical order within a set timescale. In addition, your plan should also demonstrate how you can manage to conduct the proposed research within the set timescale, enabling you to achieve deliverables. In particular, you must clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each member of the research team, so that the international peer reviewers and grant selection committee are clear as to who is taking responsibility for each aspect of the project.

Involvement of stakeholders and service users

Please address how patients, carers, service users, the public, health related charities/groups, public bodies etc will be involved in the proposed research

Dissemination Plan

Include a clear dissemination plan to indicate how information will be disseminated during and after your research.

Gantt chart

You must provide a Gantt chart outlining project management information including the estimated timelines for the various elements of the research project, roles and responsibilities of the Principal Investigator team etc. Gantt chart must be uploaded in the section B of the Application Form on eGrants.

Note: You are advised to ensure that your application is focused and that sufficient evidence is provided to enable the international peer reviewers and grant selection committees to reach a considered judgement as to the quality of your research proposal, its significance and its feasibility. You can upload up to two additional files (images, graphs or tables) as part of your Project Description.

References

A full description of the Publications cited in the Project Description should be provided. You can enter a maximum of 30 publications.

Please enter references in the same format. For example the following format may be used:

Gallagher PA, Shoemaker JA, Wei X, Brockhoff-Schwegel CA, Creed JT. Extraction and detection of arsenicals in seaweed via accelerated solvent extraction with ion chromatographic separation and ICP-MS detection. *Fresenius J Anal Chem.* 2001 Jan 1;369(1):71-80. PMID: 11210234.

For book and printed source citations:

Farrell M, Gerada C and Marsden J (2000) *External review of drug services for the Eastern Health Board*. London: National Addiction Centre.

Cochrane Systematic Reviews

You are advised to search the Cochrane Library (www.thecochranelibrary.com) for systematic reviews on a topic(s) that might be relevant to your research proposal. You are asked to complete this section in order to assure the international peer reviewers and grant selection committee that the question you are addressing has not already been carried out and answered and if it has, to justify to the reviewers how you are proposing to add to the existing knowledge and findings (maximum **500 words**).

Cochrane reviews provide systematic, up-to-date summaries of the possible benefits and harms of health care. You can access the Cochrane Library via the HRB website www.hrb.ie.

Sponsorship for Clinical Trial Applications

For applications for clinical studies that fall within the scope of the EU Clinical Trials Directive, the HRB cannot take on the role of sponsor so plans for appropriate sponsorship arrangements must be included in the application.

Principal Investigator's Career Profile

Includes present position, academic qualifications, professional qualifications and other requested details.

Principal Investigator's Publications

You must provide **ten most recent publications** in peer-reviewed journals.

Principal Investigator's Funding Record

You must give details of any **past or current grants** held (including HRB grants) in the past 6 years where the applicant has acted as Principal Investigator.

Co-Applicants Profile

Co-Applicants are welcome from institutions on the **island of Ireland** and **abroad**. A **maximum of two** Co-Applicants are permitted per application.

Collaborators

A **maximum of three** collaborators is permitted per application. A **collaborator** is a person who has a recognised expertise or special interest in the area and/or who may be in a position to act on the research findings. The collaborator will participate in some aspect of the proposal but will not draw salary or receive any form of compensation for their role in the project. A collaborator differs from the Co-Applicant in that the Co-Applicant plays a significant role in and is intrinsically active in the whole project, whereas a collaborator plays a role, albeit a significant one, in some aspect of the proposal. A collaborator may supply samples, may provide training in a technique, enable the use of specific equipment, provide cell lines or antibodies, or may act in an advisory capacity. They can be based in an academic institution, a private enterprise, a healthcare organisation or agency, or come from the charity sector.

Applications including partnerships will be accepted. However, the HRB will not broker these arrangements. The terms of the collaboration should be determined early and relevant agreements must be in place by the onset of the project. The HRB advise that consideration should be given to issues such as relative responsibilities, governance arrangements, intellectual property rights, reporting and access to data and samples.

For each collaborator a signed letter of support must be provided. **Letters must be signed, dated and sent in sent in hardcopy** to Aoife Crowley, Health Research Board, 73 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2 no later than **Thursday 26 November 15:00. Faxes are not acceptable.**

Details of Personnel

Full details of all personnel **to be funded** through this project, with names where available. You must demonstrate clearly that the level, expertise and experience of proposed research personnel matches the ambition and scale of the project and that they possess the necessary breadth and skills in all methodological areas required to deliver the proposed programme of work. The word limit is **500 words**.

Host Institution Infrastructure and Support

Describe the infrastructure, facilities and other support available at the various research sites where the research will be conducted.

Nomination of International Peer Reviewers

You are allowed to nominate a maximum of **two individuals that could act as peer reviewers** for your proposal in the HRB international peer-review process. The individuals nominated by you may or may not be contacted by the HRB.

Signature Page

Signature pages must be signed, dated and sent in hardcopy to Aoife Crowley, Health Research Board, 73 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2 no later than **Thursday 26 November 15:00**. All signatures must be originals. **Electronic signatures or faxed copies are not accepted.**

Please note that the HRB will not follow up any supporting documentation related to the application, such as signature pages, letters etc. It is responsibility of the applicant to send the documentation within the stated deadline and in the correct format. If the documentation is not received by the HRB on time or is not addressed to the HRB or if not completed or not properly signed, the application will be deemed ineligible.

Submission

Please ensure that you have completed all the relevant sections of the application form. Once you have submitted your application, you cannot edit or unsubmit it.

Application Review Process and Assessment Criteria

The Health Research Awards scheme will use a two phase assessment process. In accordance with this process all eligible applications will be evaluated as follows;

First phase: This phase constitutes an online review of the applications by an average of three international peer reviewers. On the basis of the external peer reviews, the proposals submitted to each committee will be ranked. Only the highest ranking proposals will be brought forward to the second phase of peer review. For those proposals where only one reviewer report is received and/or where inconsistencies in scoring are evident, these are identified and highlighted by HRB staff for further discussion at the Committee meeting.

Second phase: A multidisciplinary committee is convened and members are assigned as lead and secondary reviewers to specific applications. In leading the discussion on an application, a committee member is asked to summarise the peer reviewer reports, provide an overview of their assessment of the applications merit, and raise any other issues as appropriate. The number of applications tentatively recommended for funding is submitted to the Board of the HRB for approval. The exact number funded per committee will be determined by the quality of applications and available budget.

The reviewers will evaluate all applications based on the following assessment criteria, as approved by the HRB Board;

Scientific Quality and Innovation (60 marks)

- Clarity of the research question.
- The background to the proposed research, justifying the need for work in this area, drawing particularly on existing evidence.
- Completeness of the literature review and relevance to study design/research plan.
- Clarity of rationale for the research approach and methodology.
- Appropriateness of the research design.
- Appropriateness of the research methods.
- Feasibility of the research approach (including recruitment of subjects, project timeline, preliminary data where appropriate, etc.).
- Anticipation of difficulties that may be encountered in the research and plans for management.
- Originality of the proposed research in terms of hypotheses/research questions addressed, novel technology/methodology and or novel applications of current technology/methodology
- Potential for the creation of new or advancement of knowledge and evidence of benefit to the area covered by the research.
- The anticipated outputs, outcomes (e.g. patents) and impacts of the proposed research.

Expertise and Research Environment (40 marks)

- Qualifications of the applicant(s), including training, experience and independence (relative to career stage).
- Experience of the applicant(s) in the proposed area of research and with the proposed methodology.
- Expertise of the applicant(s), as demonstrated by scientific productivity over the past five years (publications, books, grants held, etc.). Productivity should be considered in the context of the norms for the research area, applicant experience and total research funding of the applicant.
- Track record of applicant(s) as demonstrated by the outputs, outcomes and impacts on the health of patients and/or the public arising from previous grants.
- Ability to successfully and appropriately disseminate research findings, as demonstrated by knowledge translation activities (publications, conference presentations, briefings, media engagements, etc.).
- Quality of the plan for using and disseminating the knowledge, potential for promoting innovation and clear plans for the management of intellectual property, where appropriate, to ensure optimal use of the project results for the patient and the healthcare system.

- Appropriateness of the team of applicants (if more than one applicant) to carry out the proposed research, in terms of complementarity of expertise and synergistic potential.
- Availability and accessibility of suitably qualified personnel, facilities and infrastructure required to conduct the research.
- Suitability of the environment to conduct the proposed research.

The identity of the experts who participate in the peer review process shall remain confidential and shall not be disclosed to the Principal Investigators. However, all of the international reviewers and committee members comments will be issued to the Principal Investigator following the conclusion of the review process.

Conflict of interest

Conflict of interest rules *are applied rigorously*. Where a conflict of interest exists, the reviewer is requested to inform the HRB immediately so that an alternative reviewer may be appointed. International peer reviewers will not provide comments or scores on any application on which they have a conflict of interest.

Reviewers are required to respect the confidentiality of the peer review process, which is designed to protect and preserve the integrity of the HRB's advisers and processes. Reviewers may not discuss any aspect of the scoring or assessment with applicants or colleagues. All such requests must be referred to the HRB.

Reviewers must adhere to high standards of integrity during the peer review process. They must respect the intellectual property of applicants and may not appropriate and use as their own, or disclose to any third party, ideas, concepts or data contained in the applications they review.

A disqualifying conflict of interest may exist if a peer reviewer:

- Was involved in the preparation of the application
- Stands to benefit directly should the proposal be accepted or rejected
- Is in some way related to the Principal Investigator at a personal or professional level
- Is a former supervisor of the Principal Investigator
- Is a collaborator of the Principal Investigator (up to 10 years previously)

A potential conflict of interest may exist in some cases, which is not covered by the disqualifying conflict of interest rules indicated above.

Timeframe

October 2009	Opening of call
November 2009	Deadline for application submission per committee, Health Services Research Committee 17 November 2009, 12:00 Population Health Sciences Research Committee 18 November 2009, 12:00 Patient-Oriented Research Committee 20 November 2009, 12:00 Deadline for Signature Page and supporting documentation submission Thursday 26 November 15:00
April 2010	Committee Meetings will take place in April 2010 with a view to making final recommendations to the Board of the HRB in May 2010
May 2010	Following Board approval of the recommendations, successful applicants will be notified of their success by the end of May 2010.
June 2010	Contracts will be issued in June 2010 with a view to beginning the research project from October 2010.

Contacts

For further information on the Health Research Awards contact:

Dr Aoife Crowley

Project Officer

Research Management Unit

Health Research Board

e acrowley@hrb.ie

t +353 1 2345 186

Please also refer to frequently asked questions on the HRB website.

The HRB reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet the terms of this call. The decision of the HRB Board in respect of any grant application is final and cannot be appealed or reviewed.

Appendix I

HRB Grant Selection Committees

The details below are not exhaustive but should serve as a useful guide to applicants in considering relevance and eligibility for this scheme and in selecting the most appropriate committee. Applications will be reviewed upon receipt by HRB staff based on the criteria below. In the case of any queries regarding appropriateness or eligibility, staff will consult with the appointed international Chairs of the relevant committees before making a final decision.

Patient-Oriented Research

Applications submitted to this committee should have the patient at the centre of the research goals and generate clinically relevant results. Eligible applications include clinical research projects and those in the applied biomedical space. Applications which are solely or predominantly considered basic biomedical research will not be accepted to this committee. By that, we mean '*research conducted to increase the knowledge base and understanding of the physical, chemical and functional mechanisms of life processes and disease but not directed to solving any particular biomedical problem in humans or animals*'.

When considering which applications are eligible for submission to this committee, the following definition will be applied by HRB staff and the committee Chair:

Research conducted with human subjects, or on material of human origin such as blood products or tissues, specimens and cognitive phenomena. Research studies involving in vivo or other appropriate pre-clinical models are eligible, as are computational or bio-informatics studies with an emphasis on yielding clinically relevant results.

Applications will typically focus on one or more of the following;

- Mechanisms of human disease
- Therapeutic interventions
- Clinical trials
- Use of new technologies for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease
- Emotional, social, behavioural and developmental mechanisms of health and disease

Population Health Sciences Research

Research with the goal of improving the health of the population, or of defined sub-populations, through a better understanding of the ways in which social, cultural, environmental, occupational and economic factors determine health status or through the identification of effective interventions for improving health status and reducing health inequalities.

This committee will review research proposals focusing on the complex interactions which determine health and their application to improve the health of individuals, communities and global populations. It includes research into the broad determinants of health and the pathways by which factors affect health in specific population groups. It also includes research on prevention strategies and how best to disseminate effective health messages to different communities. Furthermore, it includes research focusing on understanding basic life processes such as birth, development in infancy, childhood and adolescence, young and middle adulthood and older ages and the influences of psychological, social, economic and cultural factors on these processes.

Applications focusing on issues such as the following are welcome;

- Macro-level socio-economic determinants of health (the influence of social and economic policies on health)

- Individual-level socio-economic determinants of health (the relationships between access to the resources of society such as housing, income, employment, food security and health)
- Individual behavioural/lifestyle factors such as smoking, nutrition, alcohol and substance abuse, physical activity and sexual behaviour and their impact on health
- Occupational and environmental determinants
- Birth, child and adult development and ageing
- Health of specific population groups (e.g. children and youth, people with disabilities, older adults, migrant populations)
- Gender issues and health
- Health protection, promotion, health education and intervention programmes
- Genetic epidemiology
- Prevention and control of diseases
- Monitoring and surveillance of population health

Health Services Research

Research with the goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of health professionals and the health care system through changes to practice and policy. Health services research is a multidisciplinary field of scientific investigation that studies how social factors, financing systems, organisational structures and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviours affect access to health care, the quality and cost of healthcare and ultimately health and well-being.

This committee will consider applications focusing on the planning, management, organisation, financing, purchasing and provision of health and social care services. It will address aspects of the quality of services, access and equity in provision, relevance and appropriateness to the needs of individuals and communities, effectiveness and efficiency, workforce capacity and capability issues and how services are experienced. Applications focusing on the three main dimensions of quality – patient safety, patient experience and effectiveness of care – are particularly welcome.

Applications focusing on issues such as the following are welcome;

- Access to services
- Strategic management of waiting times
- Health service planning
- Health service delivery and organization
- Integration of care
- Evaluation of health services interventions
- Delivery and organization of hospital and primary health care
- Community-based care (long-term care, home care)
- Chronic disease prevention and management
- Citizen engagement
- Health professional influences on health care
- Public and private health care sectors
- HR and financing of health services
- Health policy and systems management
- Health ethics and law
- Health informatics
- Pharmacoepidemiology
- Quality of life and quality of care
- Health systems and policy