

## **Networking Grants for Global Health Research**

### **Guidance Notes 2008**

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**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 3.00 P.M. FRIDAY 09 MAY 2008**

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Send fully completed application forms **in electronic format** by email to [mdevitt@hrb.ie](mailto:mdevitt@hrb.ie) no later than **3.00 p.m.** on **Friday 09 May 2008**.

Signature page(s) at the end of the application form must be signed and sent in **hardcopy** to the HRB offices **no later than five working days after the above deadline**.

**Failure to submit the application form and signature page by these deadlines will result in your application being deemed ineligible.**

#### **Contact Details**

All enquiries and correspondence relating to this scheme should be addressed to:

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Project Officer  
Research Management Unit  
**Health Research Board**  
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## **Networking Grants for Global Health Research**

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#### **Background to this scheme**

Irish Aid is the official development assistance programme of the Irish Government. Addressing poor health is a priority of the assistance programme as this is both a cause and consequence of poverty. Health research is an important component of the Irish Aid programme and is increasingly recognised as a vital factor in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

In 2006, Irish Aid spent approximately €20 million on health-related research, mainly for research and development of new technologies in malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS. Priority was given to research in health systems and to support operational research that can contribute to the development of international best practice in health, with a focus on reaching the poorest.

In order to facilitate an increase in its support for health research, with a particular emphasis on collaborative projects involving the Irish research community, the Department of Foreign Affairs, through its official assistance programme, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Health Research Board (HRB) in October 2005. A call by the HRB for Global Health Research Awards during 2006 was the first joint initiative resulting from the Memorandum of Understanding with six projects funded at a total cost of approximately €2 million.

One of the most notable observations from the review of the Global Health Research Awards call in 2006 was the limited degree of partnership in a number of research proposals and the concern that the research proposals were not responding sufficiently to needs identified in and by developing countries themselves.

The aim of this scheme is to provide researchers in recognised research institutions in Ireland with networking grants to allow them to build relationships with their counterparts in developing countries and with other collaborators in order to collaboratively develop research proposals for submission to future HRB and other grant competitions in the global health field.

Researchers who have a research concept but need to spend time in a developing country or countries with local academic/research institutions and to consult with relevant collaborators to develop an appropriately detailed research proposal are welcome to apply.

This is the second call for the Global Health Research Networking Grant. A total of 11 grants were funded in 2007 at a total cost of €100,000.

## General Guidelines

- The networking grant can serve as the basis for the collaborative preparation and submission of a grant application in the area of global health research including, but not limited to, the HRB/Irish Aid Global Health Research Awards.

**Note:** Successful receipt of a networking grant does not guarantee future funding under this initiative.

- The maximum amount available per applicant is €10,000 and this grant must be used over a period of one year from receipt of funding.
- Funding can be used to cover the following:

**Travel-related costs:** Funding may be used to cover the cost of travel expenses, accommodation and health insurance of the Principal Investigator visiting the developing country. Where justified and where necessary to meet the objectives of the application, a minor part of the funding may also be used to meet limited travel costs of a collaborator or partner institution coming to Ireland.

**Other:** Any other cost not covered by the other headings.

**Overhead contributions:** 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 10% of Total Direct Modified Costs (excludes student fees, equipment and capital building costs).

**Note:** Research activities, e.g. salaries, equipment and materials, will **not** be funded by this grant.

## Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

- Each application must be submitted by a Principal Investigator from a recognised research institution in Ireland.
- Each Principal Investigator may only submit one networking grant application per call.
- Application can be made to the HRB up until **3.00 p.m.** on **Friday 09 May 2008** by completing a short application form available from the HRB website ([www.hrb.ie](http://www.hrb.ie)).
- The signature page must be submitted in hardcopy within 5 working days of the above deadline. All signatures must be original, electronic versions cannot be accepted.
- Applications will be reviewed by a small assessment panel convened by the HRB and Irish Aid. Applicants will be informed about the results of the assessment before the end of the third quarter in 2008.
- Assessment will be carried out considering the track record and experience of the partners involved, the quality of the proposed networking arrangement, the value added by the collaboration, the scientific merit of the proposed research project, the proposed outputs from the networking grant and the justification of the budget requested.
- If successful, funding will be issued to the host institution of the Principal Investigator. All receipts and expenditures relating the networking grant will be administered in accordance with the regulations and processes of the host institution.
- One year after receipt of the networking grant, the Principal Investigator will be expected to submit a summary report to the HRB detailing the outputs resulting from the grant and a statement of accounts. Any unexpended funds must be returned to the HRB.