Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi

Expression of Interest (EoI) for

ICMR Clinical Care Excellence Initiative: Multi-centre Clinical Trials addressing Non-Communicable Diseases

ICMR invites networks of multidisciplinary research teams across medical institutions to submit Expressions of Interest for the 2026 Multi-centre Clinical Trial Grants which are academic or non-regulatory in nature. We are seeking to support ambitious, rigorously designed, well-powered RCTs that aim to redefine or improve standard-of-care protocols across the country. Applicants are required to demonstrate their ability to seamlessly integrate clinical expertise and robust data acquisition and governance across multiple sites, and expertise in data analysis and interpretation of results. ICMR envisages that the results of the clinical trials will contribute to guidelines developed by the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Scope

The primary goal is to support high-impact, academic or non-regulatory randomized controlled trials (RCTs) that require data from multiple sites to achieve statistical significance and generalizability to address any **non-communicable disease.**

Proposals from any medical discipline to evaluate:

1. Medical or surgical treatment options
2. Digital health integrations to improve clinical care
3. Lifestyle, Dietary or Behavioural Interventions

The objectives of proposed clinical trials may be one or more of the following:

i. Reduce adverse effects
ii. Increase efficacy
iii. Reduce costs
iv. Increase acceptability

v. Increase feasibility
vi. Newer indications for an existing medicine
vii. Precision and stratified medicine

Additional considerations

- **Newer designs:** In addition to classical individually randomized controlled trials, we encourage the use of Bayesian or Adaptive designs that allow for modifications like sample size re-estimation or dropping ineffective arms based on interim results, if these designs are appropriate to answer the research question.
- **Capacity Building:** A key objective is to strengthen the clinical research infrastructure of participating institutions.
- **Data acquisition and sharing:** Standardized data collection protocols to collect data using Electronic Case Report Forms (eCRFs) and concurrent transfer of data from all participating sites to a central data management facility, as well as regular transfer to the ICMR National Research Data Repository is mandatory.
- **Policy Transformation:** The ultimate goal is to generate high-quality evidence that can be directly translated into National Clinical Practice Guidelines by DHR.
- **Cost-Effectiveness Analysis:** We encourage inclusion of a secondary objective to evaluate the economic impact of the intervention to determine if the new treatment is not only better but also affordable for the public health system.
- **Patient-Reported Outcome Measures:** We encourage inclusion of patient-centric outcomes, such as quality of life, functional recovery, and treatment satisfaction.
- **Mechanistic sub-studies:** We encourage mechanistic sub-studies to explain the results of the trial, where possible.

Eligibility Criteria

- Each proposal must have a ***network of a minimum of five distinct clinical institutions*** where participants are enrolled.

- **Investigators:** Each proposal must have one Principal Investigator (PI, lead site) and one Co-PI from each of the other participating sites. PI of a multi-centre trial funded under this scheme ***cannot apply for another trial as a PI*** under this scheme until the completion of the first trial, but can be a co-PI in other trials.
- **Intrinsic capacity:** Each participating site should have intrinsic capacity to conduct an RCT because no funds will be provided for Contract Research Organizations.

The Two-Stage Application Process

Stage 1: Expression of Interest (EOI)

- **Duration:** 8 weeks.
- **Requirements:** An expression of interest with maximum 4 pages (minimum 12 font) with a brief description of Rationale, Objectives, Design, Population, Intervention, Comparator, Outcomes, Sample Size, Study Implementation Strategy, Budget outline

Stage 2: Full Proposal (Only for selected EOI)

- **Duration:** 8 weeks.
- **Requirements:** Full study protocol, with detailed Rationale, Objectives, Design, Population, Intervention, Comparator, Outcomes, Sample Size, Study Implementation Strategy, Statistical Analysis Plan, Data Management Plan, Ethics Committee approval, and Details of Pilot study/ Preliminary work done by the PI including the source of funding. Budget should be as per ICMR guidelines available on the website. Justifications for all sub-headings under budget (as per ICMR format) are to be provided in detail.

Funding Framework

- **Grant Ceiling:** Up to INR 8 crores per project.
- **Duration:** maximum 4 years (with milestone-based fund release).
- **Allowable Costs:** In addition to costs allowed as per ICMR guidelines, costs towards intervention and trial insurance may also be included.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be scored by an independent scientific committee using the following criteria:

Criterion	Weightage	Description
Clinical Impact	30%	Will the results of research have a major impact on clinical care? Are they likely to have a large impact on Disability-Adjusted Life Years?
Study Design	30%	Is the proposed methodology and statistical power robust?
Feasibility	20%	Can the sites realistically recruit the required number of participants and collect the required data with high quality?
Collaborative Strength	20%	Multidisciplinary expertise and experience of the PI and the investigators of the multi-centre network.

Timeline for the Call:

1. **Launch Date:** February 1, 2026.
2. **Webinar for Applicants:** before February 15, 2026 (To answer FAQs).
3. **EOI Submission Deadline:** April 15, 2026.
4. **Evaluation of EOIs and Invitation for Full Proposals:** May 31, 2026.

5. **Submission of full proposals:** August 1, 2026.
6. **Final Selection:** October 1, 2026.

How to apply?

The EOI proposal can be submitted for financial support through **ONLINE MODE ONLY** (https://epms.icmr.org.in) by the Principal Investigator on behalf of the proposed team of Scientists/ professionals who have a regular employment in Indian Medical Institutes/ Research Institutes/ Universities/ Colleges/ recognized Research & Development laboratories/ Government and semi-government organizations and NGOs (documentary evidence of their recognition including DSIR certificate, as applicable should be enclosed with every proposal). The research team should have the credentials for relevant skills, and experience and have demonstrated the ability to solve health problems under consideration.

Points to keep in mind

- If the same research team submits similar projects in the same call, the last submitted proposal will be considered for reviewing, and the others will be rejected without review.
- The PI must not have more than five ongoing research proposals funded by ICMR or the sum of grant amount of more than ₹25 crores from the ongoing research projects funded by ICMR.
- ICMR scientists/institutes are not eligible to apply in this call. ICMR scientists may be named as co-investigators in these projects, but no funds will be given to ICMR institutions or scientists.

Important points for the submission of the proposal

1. Submission portal (https://epms.icmr.org.in) will open from 16th Feb 2026 (Monday) 10:00 hrs.
2. After completing mandatory section of PI profile, click on "Proposal submission →Click on EOI → Click on the blue tab '*ICMR Clinical Care Excellence Initiative: Multi-centre Clinical Trials addressing Non-Communicable Diseases'* to apply for new proposal →Fill the form step by step.
3. Kindly ensure that all sections are adequately filled with the necessary details.
4. Inclusion of at least one Co-PI from PI's institute is mandatory.
5. PI's are advised to submit proposals well ahead of the last date, since servers may be overloaded and slow to respond on the last day of submission.
6. For any query related to the call, please mail to the addresses given below; other modes of communication won't be entertained.

Technical concerns related to application process	**Any other concerns related to call**
Email: po.epms@icmr.gov.in	**Email: jose.nisha@icmr.gov.in**

Template for CV

a) Name of PI/Co-PI along with their affiliation	
b) Date of Birth	
c) Domain Expertise	
d) Number of articles in PubMed (Past 10 years)	
e) h-index	
f) Fellow of Academies	

g) Maximum of 10 primary research publications related to the proposal.

Publication details in AMA style	**Impact factor of journal**	**Author type (first, corresponding, co-author)**	**Name of policy/programme/ protocol document or patent/ commercialization of products where cited.**

h) Experience as Investigator (completed projects):

Short title of project (Max. 10 words)	**Role PI/Co-PI**	**Funding agency**	**Amount of funding**	**Reference of main publications**

i) All ongoing research projects:

Project ID	**Title**	**Grant amount**	**Funding agency**	**Start Date**	**Duration of project**

Template for BUDGET

(Staff, Equipment, Contingency/Consumables and Travel allowance)

a) Staff/Manpower	
Sl. No.	Salary (As per ICMR Project guidelines)
Justification of Staff/Manpower*	

b) Equipment			
Sl. No.	Equipment Name	Estimated cost with appropriate supporting document	Justification*

c) Contingency/Consumables	
Detail	Breakup with Justification*
Year 1:	
Year 2:	
Year 3:	
Consumables	
Detail	Breakup with Justification*
Year 1:	
Year 2:	
Year 3:	

d) Travel Allowance	
Detail	Justification*
Year 1:	
Year 2:	
Year 3:	
Overhead charges(as per rules)	
GRAND TOTAL	

**Justification must be given in adequate detail; else the proposed budget item will be removed from the approved grant.*