



भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद
स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग, स्वास्थ्य और परिवार
कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Indian Council of Medical Research
Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health
and Family Welfare, Government of India

Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) for Participation in “Breast Cancer study to Improve Survival in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir”

Background

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, is the apex biomedical research body in the country for formulation, co-ordination, and promotion of medical research. The overall goal of ICMR-DHR is to generate evidence to inform policy, program and practices pertaining to health care in India. Globally, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, and its burden is rising rapidly across India, including the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). ICMR is planning to initiate ‘Breast Cancer Study to Improve Survival’ in J&K.

Rationale for the Breast Cancer study to improve Survival

ICMR envisages initiating a study to improve survival in breast cancer patients in Jammu and Kashmir. There is an urgent need to address low survival rates in breast cancer by adoption of cancer-care models. At stage II, breast cancer survival rate is 66-70% in India as compared to developed countries, which are 90- 99%. Moreover, due to unique geographical terrain and high-altitude remote areas and health-system context of Jammu and Kashmir, contributing to diagnostic and treatment delay of breast cancer detection, which may adversely affect the survival rate in the union territory.

ICMR’s vision is to identify hospitals with best survival rates for breast cancer from India, which could mentor institutes of Jammu and Kashmir with poor survival rates through a Hub and Spoke model to bring uniformity in breast cancer treatment, improve quality of life and survival rates. This will bring catalytic changes in hospitals where infrastructure already exists.

Additionally, this network will be at the forefront of capacity building of a pool of health researchers across the country.

Structure

The project will work on a hub and spoke model with a co-ordinating centre located at ICMR Hqrs. Hub will be in J&K or from another state and will function as nodal point for J&K region. This centre will include Institutes/Medical Colleges/Hospitals of repute with experience and expertise in conducting multicentre studies and will have a linkage to ICMR Hqrs as the coordinating unit. Regional hub, thus identified, will act as the mentoring body for the region, with the responsibilities

of supportive supervision and troubleshooting as required. Funding for human resources, as well as for the mentoring activities for the hub, will be provided by ICMR coordinating unit.

Spokes will be from Jammu and Kashmir region only. These Centres will include Institutes/Medical Colleges/Hospitals of repute with oncology departments and rendering services to cancer patients in Jammu and Kashmir region.

This would be an implementation research study that would help in improving breast cancer survival rates.

ICMR invites Expression of Interest (see annexure) from research teams to participate in this Implementation Research study. Selected research groups, state representatives and ICMR Secretariat will co-develop the detailed protocol for this study.

Annexure

Format of Expression of Interest (EOI) to be submitted

Concept proposals should aim at finding solutions to improve breast cancer survival and must address following points:

1. Rationale of proposed study including the choice of sites where the implementation shall be carried out

The proposal should clearly state the rationale for the study, the recommended sites and the likelihood of utilization of the model by stakeholders in the future. The proposal can also provide evidence from previous research on the topic in the county or elsewhere, and describe any specific challenges related to implementation for the target group(s).

2. Implementation Strategy:

Provide a clear and detailed description of the palliative intervention(s) being implemented, including the target population, the intervention components, and the implementation strategies. You may include preparatory activities, mapping, a timeline, steps of implementation, measures of outcome, data management and deliverables.

3. Address feasibility and scalability:

Address the feasibility and scalability of the proposed intervention, including the resources needed, the capacity of the implementing organization, and the potential for wider adoption and scale-up within India's health care framework.

4. Research Team:

Summarize and justify composition of the research team, based on the expertise of the individual team members in designing and implementing the project. The role and responsibility of each team member should be outlined here.

5. Established Relationship with health system.

Operational feasibility would be the key for this Implementation research. The EoI should also describe the existing or proposed liaisoning with district health system where the study is proposed to be undertaken.

6. Budget outline

The final site budgets for the proposal will be developed by the selected research team(s) under the guidance of ICMR. In this EOI, provide an estimated budget outline (no budget justification required at this stage).

7. CV of the principal investigator and other key investigators (format attached)

Please provide CV of the PI and other key investigators from each identified area. Each CV should include:

- Academic and professional qualifications
- Current position and affiliation
- Up to five most relevant previous research grants
- Up to five most relevant previous publications
- H-index

8. Duration of the Project

The project duration will be up to four years. An additional period of up to six months for preparatory activities (with no additional costs) can be incorporated.

9. Review process:

EOI documents will be evaluated and shortlisted by ICMR. The ICMR team will screen applications for technical accuracy and eligibility. Shortlisted teams will collaborate to develop a detailed protocol under ICMR Headquarters' guidance. Proposals will be evaluated based on study design, feasibility, data management capabilities, prior experience, engagement with public health systems, and potential for seamless integration.

10. Who can apply for Breast Cancer Survival Study?

Hub	Spoke (only from J&K)
1. Govt. Medical Colleges/ Private Medical Colleges/Institutes	1. Govt. Medical Colleges/ Private Medical Colleges/Institutes
2. Hospital Breast Cancer Registry (HBCR) in the institute is mandatory	-
3. At least 1000 new breast cancer cases reported per year	2. At least 200-300 new breast cancer cases reported per year
4. Hospitals with facility of Ayushman Bharat scheme for cancer patients.	3. Hospitals with facility of Ayushman Bharat scheme for cancer patients.
5. Hospitals with survival rates of >90% at two years in stage II breast cancer	-
6. HBCR with >80% follow up of registered breast cancer patients	-
Investigators a. Preferably a multi-disciplinary team of investigators to be involved. b. Experience of initiating/participating in multi-centric studies (>5 years). c. Endorsed by the Head of the Institute/College	Investigators a. Preferably a multi-disciplinary team of investigators to be involved. b. Endorsed by the Head of the Institute/College
Institute a. Institute should have Departments of Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology, Radiation Oncology and Pathology. b. HR availability—Team of clinicians, pathologists, surgeons, medical oncologists	Institutes a. Institute should have Departments of Medical Oncology, Surgery and lab facilities. b. HR availability—Team of clinician, pathologist, surgeon, medical oncologist

Points to be kept in mind while submitting the EOI

- 1) The EOI must address the specific research question that is mentioned in the call text.
- 2) Collaborative, multi-centre, interdisciplinary research initiatives from the applicant will be encouraged.
- 3) Descriptive studies, systematic reviews and secondary data analysis will not be considered.
- 4) Should focus on outcomes that are translatable into policy.
- 5) Evaluation of the development of indigenous technologies and solutions relevant to the Indian context may be prioritized.
- 6) Foreign collaboration is not allowed under the call.

Interested parties should submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) as per the Format. Only shortlisted PIs will be contacted.

Timeline

Activities	Date
Release of Call	20 th May 2026
Last Date for Submission of EOI	19 th June 2026, 17:00hrs
Short listing of EOI	30 th June 2026
Proposal Development Workshop	30 th July 2026
Submission of Full Proposal	20 th August 2026, 17:00hrs

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.

- 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.

Important points for the submission of the proposal

1. Submission portal (<https://epms.icmr.org.in>) will open from **28th May 2026**
2. After completing mandatory section of PI profile, click on “Proposal submission → Click on EOI → Click on the blue tab ‘Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) for Participation in “Breast Cancer study to Improve Survival in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir” 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.

For any queries related to the call, please contact	Technical concerns related to application process
Dr. Nisha K Jose Program Officer Division of Development Research Indian Council of Medical Research Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029 Email: jose.nisha@icmr.gov.in	Email: po.epms@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) Maximum of 5 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.

g) Experience as Investigator (completed 5 projects):

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

h) All ongoing research projects:

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