



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

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

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**To
The Directors/Directors-in-charge of
All Institutes/Centres of ICMR**

Subject: Invitation for Expression of Interest for tenure-based deployment of regular DHR/ICMR Medical Scientist at Model Rural Health Research Unit (MRHRU) – reg.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to say that the Department of Health Research is in the process of revamping the Model Rural Health Research Units (MRHRUs) established under the Central Sector Umbrella Scheme in rural areas.

2. In this direction, in order to strengthen the said scheme a team of scientists is to be deputed for the functioning of MRHRUs.

3. Accordingly, the Expression of interest (EoI) inviting interested and eligible DHR/ ICMR Scientist for tenure-based deployment at MRHRUs is enclosed herewith. Interested and eligible candidates may submit their request as per EoI in the attached format through the proper channel latest by 6th November 2026 at email id Ao.rpcell@icmr.gov.in.

Yours sincerely

Digitally signed by
Reema Sharma
Date: 07-10-2026
15:17:06

(Reema Sharma)

Assistant Director General (Admin)

Copy to:-

1. PS to DG /Addl. DG(SP)/ Addl. DG(AS) / Sr. DDG(A) / Sr. FA, ICMR
2. The Deputy Secretary, DHR , New Delhi-110001
3. All Divisional Heads
4. Dr. M.S. Chalga, Scientist-E with request to upload the same in ICMR website

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH
ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110 029

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Expression of Interest inviting applications from regular DHR/ICMR Institutes' Medical Scientists for deployment at Model Rural Health Research Units (MRHRUs)

Background

The Department of Health Research (DHR) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, initiated the Model Rural Health Research Unit (MRHRU) sub-scheme under the central sector umbrella scheme for development of infrastructure for promotion of health research during the 12th Five-Year Plan (2012–2017). The scheme continues with the objective of strengthening health research infrastructure across the country.

MRHRUs are located close to Community Health Centre or Primary Health Centre covering a defined rural population of a block. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) institutes are designated as the responsible institutes for these units, with each MRHRU linked to a nearby State Government Medical College. Currently, 39 MRHRUs have been established across the country.

Objectives of MRHRU scheme are:

1. To strengthen the infrastructure and capacity for population-based health research across the country.
2. To establish an interface among researchers, health system and communities to conduct research relevant to the local population.
3. To undertake population-based research of National relevance for evaluation and scale-up of relevant health technologies and program strategies.
4. To conduct annual population-based health survey and life-course cohort study across all MRHRUs to capture changing health profile of our population.

Under the MRHRU scheme, the department provides financial support for construction of building and research linked infrastructure support in terms of equipment (non-recurring) and consumable contingency and training (CCT) and human resource grant (recurring). There are 10 human resources working under the supervision of nodal teams from ICMR responsible institutes in these units, purely on contractual basis.

Tenure based deployment of regular ICMR scientists at MRHRUs

For strengthening the functioning and monitoring of MRHRUs, it is envisaged to have a centrally driven governance model including the deployment of a dedicated permanent medical scientist (Scientist 'D'/'E', preferably from Community Medicine) at MRHRUs for a period of five years, on rotatory basis. The objective of deploying ICMR Medical Scientists at MRHRUs is to provide scientific leadership, strengthen their capacities, foster collaboration and enhance research outputs.

Administrative Mechanism:

The deployment shall be treated as a tenure-based assignment, during which the scientist shall function as In-charge (Lead Scientist) of MRHRU. The concerned scientist would be working under the overall supervision and reporting of DHR. The reporting authority for Annual Performance Assessment Report (APAR) would be Joint Secretary, DHR and inputs for APAR shall be sought from Directors of Responsible ICMR institutes. Service-related matters including career progression, promotional prospects, leave, and other service benefits shall continue to be governed by the ICMR rules and regulations. The concerned scientist shall work in close collaboration with Nodal Team of ICMR Responsible institute.

Roles and Responsibilities of Nodal Teams and Resident Scientist:

SNo.	Scientific Nodal Teams	Resident Scientist
1.	They will be PI of the projects they develop (including conceptualization, design, monitoring and data analysis)	They will be co-opted as co-investigator in any research project in which he/she is working for ≥6 months.
	Credit: They will be the First/Last/ corresponding author on all papers from the project	Credit: He/she will be 2 nd /3 rd author on all papers from the project.
2.	They will assist the resident scientist.	They will develop, design & implement a research project in MRHRU for PhD/Ignition Grant upto 30 Lakhs.
	Credit: Co-author in the project prepared by resident scientist.	Credit: First & Corresponding author in all such projects
3.	---	At least one project to be undertaken in MRHRU in which resident scientist will be PI and the project will be funded by ICMR-Intramural wing (funded ≥50 Lakhs).
		Credit: First & Corresponding author in all such projects.
4.	Nodal Teams will supervise and monitor the following studies: - Population Based Health Survey - Life course-based cohort study	He/She will implement the following studies in respective MRHRU: - Population Based Health Survey - Life course-based cohort study
	Credit: Co-authors in all publications from these studies	Credit: Co-authors in all publications from these studies
5.	---	He/she will coordinate closely with DHR, ICMR institutes, Linked and other Medical Colleges and State Health Departments.

Eligibility criteria:

Selection of scientists for tenure-based deployment at MRHRU shall consider the following criteria

- a. Regular scientists from DHR/ICMR cadre with medical background (MBBS/MD in Community Medicine, preferably)
- b. Preferably Scientist-D or Scientist-E, though Scientist-C with relevant experience in field-based research may also be considered.
- c. Demonstrated experience in public health research, epidemiology, clinical and implementation research

Application and Selection Process:

- a. All interested scientists will be able to apply for the tenure-based deployment at MRHRUs through an Expression of Interest (EOI).
- b. Selection will be undertaken on a 'Merit-cum-Choice Basis' by an Independent Selection Committee chaired by Secretary, DHR cum DG, ICMR with Joint Secretary, DHR and Sr. DDG (Admin.), ICMR-HQ as member of selection committee among other members.
- c. Previous performance assessment and their publication equivalents (PE) would also be considered during selection.

Tenure of Deployment:

The tenure of deployment of medical scientists at MRHRU shall be for a maximum period of five years, on rotatory basis. The deployment shall be treated as a tenure-based assignment.

Working days and Attendance:

The deployment will be full-time regular assignment. Attendance shall be recorded through Biometric attendance system or Aadhaar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS).

HRA protection and financial provisions:

HRA and other financial provisions shall continue to be governed as per existing ICMR rules. The deploying order will be issued by ICMR-HQ, New Delhi and concerned resident scientist will be deployed through the respective ICMR Responsible Institute linked with the concerned MRHRU.

Submission of Application

Interested and eligible scientists may submit their duly filled application in the prescribed format.

The completed application along with supporting documents should be submitted within 30 days from the date of issue of this EoI.

The EoI copy (as per format attached) duly signed and completed should be sent via email to ICMR (Ao.rpcell@icmr.gov.in), latest by 6th November 2026. Hard copies of the application may be sent to:

“The Assistant Director General (Recruitment), Indian Council of Medical Research, V. Ramalingaswamy Bhawan, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110 029”

Annexure - 1

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH**ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110 029**

**Expression of Interest Application Format
For deployment of regular DHR/ICMR Medical Scientists at MRHRUs**

1.	Preferred MRHRU(s)/Location(s)	
2.	Full Name (in Capital Letters)	
3.	Present Designation & Level	
4.	Present Institute/Centre	
5.	Date of Birth	
6.	Date of Joining ICMR Service	
7.	Details of last Assessment	
8.	Educational Qualifications	
9.	Area(s) of Research Expertise	
10.	Details of experience in public health/ implementation/field-based research	Please enclose as Annexure
11.	Details of scientific publications, projects and research achievements (last five years)	Please enclose as Annexure
12.	Details of experience in community-based/ population-based studies, if any (last five years)	Please enclose as Annexure
13.	Details of Publication Equivalents (PE)	
14.	A 200 words write-up on the applicants' vision in leading MRHRU	Please enclose as Annexure
15.	Any other information the applicant wishes to provide	Please enclose as Annexure

Date: / /

Signature of Applicant