Grant Skills Training Workshop-Sharing from Research Fellowship Assessment Panel

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Agenda

1. Assessment Criteria
2. Tips for Preparing Your Application
3. Common Weaknesses in Applications
4. Q&A

Assessment Criteria

- Fellowship Applicant's Capability (30%)
- Training Proposal (35%)
- Research Proposal (35%)

Note: Recommendations will be made after the interview with shortlisted applicants.

Fellowship Applicant's Capability (30%)

- Applicant's research potential and capability including applicant's qualifications, track record in research and training

Training Proposal (35%)

- Importance of the training to health care development
- Relevance of the training to the research proposal

Requirements for Training Proposal

1. An **overseas attachment** to a reputable institution for at least **three months** cumulatively
2. Knowledge and/or skills acquired in the training programme should be applied to the research project and be able to benefit public health and health services in Hong Kong
3. Details of the training programme including its purpose, duration, activities, relevance to the research project and deliverables should be clearly stated

Research Proposal (35%)

- Scientific merits of the research proposal
- Translational potential/value of research proposal to public health or health services in Hong Kong

Notes:

1. It can be a small-scale pilot study with no more than three research objectives or proof of concept study.
2. In Section 4 of the application form, describe in simple language the potential of the research findings to improve patient care, population health, influence clinical practice and/or health services management, or inform health policy in Hong Kong and elsewhere, as well as the potential facilitators and barriers to this impact being achieved.

Requirements for Research Proposal

1. Original and with impact to clinical practice
2. Clear research question, aims, objectives & hypotheses
3. Feasible methodology (e.g. justifiable subject recruitment and timeline)
4. Outcomes and data analysis plan
5. Research capability (required expertise shall be included)
6. Justifications for budget
7. Ethical & safety consideration
8. Contingency plan

Tips for Preparing Your Application

Study Design

1. Study design has to be scientifically sound
2. Use of appropriate type of investigation to answer the research questions and attain the objectives (prospective/ retrospective; cohort/ cross-sectional/ randomized controlled trial etc.)

Study Design

3. Subjects will be recruited from available and accessible population
4. Study design described In sufficient detail to allow
   - Assessment of workload
   - Timetable
   - Experiments, observations to be made, randomisation method where relevant, and the use of controls

Study Design:
Aims, objectives & hypotheses

1. Specific and clearly stated aims and objectives (be realistic)
2. Stated objective will contribute to new knowledge or needed understanding of the subject
3. Has this work been done before?
4. If hypotheses are applicable:
   - Clearly and appropriately cited
   - Be consistent with the cited research objectives

Methodology

1. Adequate sample size in terms of number to establish:
   - prevalence / incidence or other such rates or estimates within acceptable bounds of precision; or
   - adequate statistical power for hypothesis tests?
2. Describe the sampling procedures adequately
   - Inclusion and exclusion criteria
   - Comparators/ control group

REMEMBER:

Justification for sample size shall be provided in ALL APPLICATIONS including pilot/ proof of concept studies

Outcomes & Data Analysis

1. Define primary outcome
   - Addresses the most important objective
   - Basis for sample size calculation
2. Secondary outcomes relevant to the objectives
3. Confounding variables to be measured
4. Specific statistical tests to answer each specific objective & test specific hypothesis
5. Sufficient details on qualitative data analysis/ other complex analysis, e.g. Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

Common Weaknesses in Applications: Training plan

- Overseas training programme is insufficiently detailed for assessment
- Associations between the knowledge/ skills to be acquired from the training programme and the research plan are poorly stated
- Training courses or structured mentorship activities are not specifically described
- Proposed training is not relevant to the research plan

Common Weaknesses in applications: Research plan (1)

- Low translational potential within short-to-medium timeframe
  Note: Basic science research with low translational value will not be considered
- Improper use of data from CMS/ CDARS
  Note: Proper consent/approval from Hospital Authority (HA) must be sought if HA data will be used
- Sample size estimation is not justified or provided
- Lack of technical details or demonstration of competence to execute the proposed research

Common Weaknesses in Applications: Research plan (2)

- Not clearly state ethics/ safety approvals and/or consent for access to third-party data will be obtained before project commencement
- Study design/ analytic plan is inadequate for the research purpose

Seek guidance from your Mentor!

Wish You Success!

Q&A