



Date: 01/01/2022

MALARIA ELIMINATION RESEARCH ALLIANCE – India (MERA- India) CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The aim of Malaria Elimination Research Alliance (MERA)-India is to identify, articulate, prioritize and respond to the research needs of the country in a coordinated and combinatorial way to eliminate malaria from India by 2030. MERA-India was launched by the Secretary-Department of Health Research and Director General-Indian Council of Medical Research, Prof. (Dr) Balram Bhargava, on the eve of 'World Malaria Day' in 2019.

The vision of this trans-institutional research alliance is to generate evidence to support and accelerate malaria elimination in India. The overall goal is to bring together all stakeholders working on malaria including researchers, health-care professionals, government and non- government organizations, public health representatives, policy makers at one platform.

MERA-India is inviting proposals in research areas for the second round of funding in the following priority areas:

Theme	Research Questions
Theme I: Artificial Intelligence (AI), surveillance, remote sensing, digital platform for surveillance, GIS nodes identification, mobile apps	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Modernization of surveillance techniques and systemsUtilization of digital / artificial intelligence tools for surveillance (human and vector) in different settingsNear real time data transfer tools – integration with the routine surveillance systemsAI for reading malaria slides automatically in high throughput format
Theme II: Vector control strategies and tools	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Assessment of implementation and usage patterns of vector control tools and services by communities in different malaria endemic settings, barriers for the most effective usage and the solutions to overcome theseQuantification of outdoor / residual transmission by assessing outdoor and early biting including infectivity of mosquito and associated parameters (EIR and its alternatives)
Theme III: Compliance, severity and relapses in case of P. vivax infections	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Establishment and follow-up of a cohort at different malaria endemicities to observe P. vivax infections and its course in operational settings. The parameters to be assessed may include following:Clinical spectrum of P. vivax malaria – symptomatology, clinical presentation, complications and recoveryParasite densities and gametocyte densities at different stages of illness



Theme	Research Questions
	<p>d. Compliance to 14 day PQ treatment: actual compliance rates, availability of PQ for 14 days, community mobilization by health system, barriers</p> <p>e. Relapses: incidence, time gap, markers to differentiate between relapse and reinfection</p> <p>f. Field testing potential POC –TrueNat / LAMP / any other POC diagnostic tool</p>
Theme IV: Developing alternative surveillance strategies to capture the malaria case load in the community including private sectors	<p>a. Strategies/ tools to strengthen surveillance by inclusion of private sector at different levels of health care:</p> <p>b. Strategies/ tools to mobilize private sector and motivating them to share data on malaria cases.</p> <p>c. Training of different private sector (formal and informal) in delivering quality assured diagnosis and treatment.</p> <p>d. Tools for transfer of data in near real time from private sector.</p> <p>e. Harmonization of private sector data with public sector at different levels (lessons from TB)</p>

When and how to submit a proposal:

1. The “full length research (detailed) Ad-hoc proposal should be submitted through online mode only on <https://epms.icmr.org.in> and no proposal in physical/hard copy/email is to be submitted.
2. Details of the eligibility, format of application, terms & conditions and guidelines of the scheme are available on <https://epms.icmr.org.in/adhoc>.
3. All projects involving research on human beings/animals must be cleared by the registered Human Ethics Committee/ Animal Ethics Committee of the respective institute (Registration Number to be provided).

Date for submission of full-length research proposal:

Start Date: 1st January, 2022 Time 09:00 am
End Date: 31st January, 2022 Time 05:00 pm

Proposal submission related queries:

Contact: Division of Biomedical Informatics, ICMR, New Delhi

Email Address: po.epms@icmr.gov.in

Telephone No.: 011-26589571

(Dr Lokesh Kumar Sharma)
Scientist E & Program Officer

Important Note:

1. Open the ICMR Electronic Project Management System (e-PMS) portal <https://epms.icmr.org.in>.
 2. Project proposal submission is three steps process in e-PMS.
 - a. Step 1: PI Registration/Login
 - b. Step 2: Verify Email Id and Complete/Update PI Profile
 - c. Step 3: Apply for Grant through submission of Ad-hoc proposal
 3. Click on "LOGIN and select "**Register a new membership**" for new registration OR else if already registered, enter the details to login into the application at e-PMS portal.
 4. After registration in the portal, login in the portal. Verify your registered email and complete the PI profile. PI profile includes Personal details such as Salute, Name, DOB, Gender (Male/Female), Category (GEN, OBC, SC, ST), State, District, Institute Name (if name doesn't exist in the drop down list then there is an option to add the new institute also), Designation, Nature of Employment, Department, Broad Area of Research, Subject Area.
 5. After completing mandatory section of PI Profile, click on "**Submit New Proposal**" under "**Proposal Submission**" menu. New screen will display. Select "**ICMR Ad-hoc Project Program**" from drop down list to submit new proposal under Extramural Research Programme.
 6. Adhoc Proposal submission form will be opened. Select "**Research Proposal under ICMR MERA-India 2022**" in Advertisement dropdown list.
 7. The user manual of e-PMS (Guidelines-> e-PMS menu) <https://epms.icmr.org.in/user-manual> and ICMR Ad-hoc Project Program guideline (Guidelines-> Ad-hoc Program menu) are available at <https://epms.icmr.org.in/adhoc>. Before proceeding to submission of the proposal, it is suggested to read user manual and guidelines; and make ready all relevant information, documents and research plan.
 8. Registration in e-PMS portal and filling the Personal and Education information is mandatory for Co-PI/ Co-I also.
 9. As per the guidelines for Extramural Research Programme, individuals holding permanent positions in Medical colleges/ universities, educational and research institutes, NGOs or industries are eligible to apply for the MERA-India Call. The contractual, adhoc, project staff etc. are not eligible to apply for research grant in this scheme. Therefore, all PIs are advised to ensure the nature of employment of PI/Co-PI/Co-I before process to submission or addition as PI/Co-PI/Co-I.
- 10. Duration of the research proposals should not be more than two years.**
11. There is no separate budget head for the consumables. Consumables can be added under contingency. budget head
 12. The applicant can submit only one application in this round. The thematic area for the proposal should be selected from the subject dropdown menu.
 13. The MERA-India checks all the proposals for plagiarism using professional tools and reserves the right to disqualify plagiarized proposals from ongoing competitions. Applicants are advised to check their applications very carefully before submission in this regard.

14. It is mandatory that the proposals must be submitted in the asked format ONLY. The format for proposals can be downloaded from <https://epms.icmr.org.in/adhoc>. The incomplete proposals (if there is no response for any question/section) will be automatically disqualified from the current round. All the proposals will be peer-reviewed and shortlisted for the funding based on the recommendations of reviewers. The applicants may be called for personal discussion, if required.
15. It is suggested to submit your proposal without waiting for the last date and time to avoid last time rush. Last minute request for extension of the due date w.r.t. any technical issue will not be considered.

16. You may contact the following official if you have any queries:

MERA- India related query	e-PMS and proposal submission related query
<p>Dr Sonal Gupta, Scientist D, MERA-India MERA-India Secretariat, ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research, Sector-8, Dwarka, New Delhi, India-110077 Email: meraindiacid@gmail.com Telephone No.:011-25307344</p>	<p>Dr Lokesh Kumar Sharma Scientist E & Program Officer Division of Biomedical Informatics Indian Council of Medical Research New Delhi, India – 110029 Email: po.epms@icmr.gov.in Telephone No.: 011-26589571</p>