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中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

Our Ref.: FH CR 1/1/581/03
FH CR 3/6/3921/03

Tel: 3150 8983
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Your Ref.:

15 August 2008

Dear Sir/ Madam,

**Joint Call for Grant Applications
Research Fund for the Control of Infectious Diseases (RFCID)
Health and Health Services Research Fund (HHSRF)
Application round closing on 17 November 2008**

I am delighted to inform you that the *Research Fund for the Control of Infectious Diseases* (RFCID) and the *Health and Health Services Research Fund* (HHSRF) have today issued a joint call for research grant applications. The closing date is **17 November 2008**.

The aim of the RFCID is to encourage, facilitate and support research on the prevention, treatment and control of infectious diseases. The RFCID considers applications for research projects relevant to the control of infectious diseases in the areas of aetiology, epidemiology and public health, basic research, and clinical and health services research. Collaborative research with Mainland China and overseas institutions is encouraged.

The HHSRF was established with the aim of maximising population health, improving the quality of life, and enhancing the standard and cost-effectiveness of the health system through the generation of new knowledge in areas of human health and health services. The HHSRF has three broad themes centred on public health, health services and Chinese medicine.

The thematic priorities for the RFCID and the HHSRF, which will be accorded higher funding priorities for the current open call for grant applications, are as follows:

RFCID

- Respiratory infectious diseases
 - Avian influenza
 - Tuberculosis
- Vector-borne diseases

HHSRF

- Public health theme
 - Smoking
 - Mental Health
 - Healthy community
 - Child nutrition
- Health services theme (especially: cancer, heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, respiratory disease)
- Chinese medicine theme (especially: interactions between Chinese and Western medicines)

A grant skills training workshop will be conducted on Saturday, September 20, 2008 at the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, Aberdeen, Hong Kong. The aim of the workshop is to increase understanding of the scope, thematic priorities, grant application and review process of the RFCID and HHSRF. It is expected that clinical and academic staff with a strong interest in health-related research and those who are just starting their research careers will benefit most from the workshop. Places are limited and interested parties are highly encouraged to register early.

Full details of the research priorities, application guidelines, application forms and workshop registration forms are available from <http://www.fhb.gov.hk/grants>.

Information leaflets describing the two Funds are enclosed for your reference. I would be grateful if you could disseminate the invitation for research grant applications and the enclosed materials to appropriate section heads or relevant departments within your organisation.

I am also pleased to enclose copies of the latest supplements to the Hong Kong Medical Journal (HKMJ) containing dissemination reports of completed studies for your retention. Electronic copies of these dissemination reports are available for download from the websites of both the Research Fund Secretariat (www.fhb.gov.hk/grants) and the HKMJ (www.hkmj.org.hk)

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr Richard A. Collins)
for Secretary for Food and Health

Encl.