



PNGIMR Internal Competitive Research Award Scheme (ICRAS)

Background

The primary aim of the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research (PNGIMR) is to conduct research into the health problems facing Papua New Guineans, ultimately leading to interventions that prevent or control disease and improve overall health. As a statutory body of the government of PNG, the Institute receives core funding from the National Government, as well as core support from AusAID. Approximately 70% of the annual budget comes from external research grants, and senior management are seeking to maintain or improve upon this ratio in the coming years. In recognition of the important work conducted by PNGIMR, the Government of PNG has provided PGK 1 million to be allocated directly to research funding for the 2011 calendar year. As a result, senior management has established an internal, competitive research award scheme (the PNGIMR ICRAS Program). Two funding streams will be available: a total of PGK 300,000 for small grants to early and mid-career researchers; and a total of PGK 700,000 for larger research grants to mid-career and senior researchers. The ICRAS Scientific Review Committee is now seeking expressions of interest (EOI) for research funding from eligible IMR-based scientists.

Objectives

- To enable early and mid-career Papua New Guinean scientists to gain experience in research project design and leadership;
- To conduct studies consistent with the goals of the PNGIMR that will enable new areas of research to be established, or contribute important new data to existing areas of research;
- To provide preliminary data that can be used in future external grant applications;
- Produce data suitable for publication in international peer reviewed journals.

Scope of Research

ICRAS will support operational, biomedical, behavioral, field and laboratory-based research projects at all sites.

Preference will be given to projects that:

- Have clear and achievable research objectives;
- Demonstrate innovation and address issues of significant public health importance in PNG;
- Have a high likelihood of achieving project outcomes within the 2011 calendar year;
- Are likely to provide preliminary data that will enable IMR-based researchers to apply for competitive external funding in the near future;
- Will lead to publication in international peer reviewed journals at completion of the project.

ICRAS for Early and Mid-Career Researchers (PGK 300,000 in total)

Applicants are advised that proposals for PGK 20,000 – 60,000 will be considered most competitive. It is anticipated that a total of 6-12 awards will be made in 2011. There will be no quota or upper limit on the number of awards that can be made for individual Units within the IMR. All projects will be evaluated on merit.

The program is open to early and mid-career IMR-based research staff. For this program, *early career researchers* are defined as those who have been awarded a relevant degree within the past 5 years or those who have at least 5 years research experience; and *mid-career researchers* those who are currently enrolled in a research higher degree program (MSc or PhD) or have been awarded a research higher degree in the previous 3 years.

ICRAS for Mid-Career and Senior Researchers (PGK 700,000 in total)

Applicants are advised that proposals under PGK 300,000 will be considered most competitive. It is anticipated that a total of 3-4 awards will be made in 2011. There will be no quota or upper limit on the number of awards that can be made for individual Units within the IMR. All projects will be evaluated on merit.

The program is open to *mid-career researchers* (as defined above) and *senior researchers* (defined as unit or section heads, and/or researchers who have been awarded a research higher degree more than 3 years ago). Applications must demonstrate collaborative partnerships within PNG and/or internationally. Projects that facilitate multidisciplinary linkages across the IMR would be viewed favourably.

Submission Guidelines

EOIs should be submitted using the specific proforma. Successful applicants will be asked to submit a full project proposal using the IRB template. Please note that a successful EOI is not a guarantee of funding. Applicants are welcome to submit more than one EOI. Completed EOIs should be submitted to **Dickson Kuvi** (dickson.kuvi@pngimr.org.pg) by **4.00pm Fri 4th February 2011**. Submissions after this deadline will **NOT** be considered for funding.