

Call for proposals to establish Ayush-ICMR Advanced Centre for Integrative Health Research (AI-ACIHR) at AIIMS under Extramural Program

(PI from all AIIMS institutes can only apply under this scheme, PI other than AIIMS or from non-AIIMS institute will not be considered)

Background

There is a need for an integrated healthcare regime that can guide health policies and programs in the future. India has an advantage in this global resurgence of interest as it has a rich heritage of indigenous medical knowledge coupled with a robust infrastructure and skilled workforce in contemporary medicine. Recently, a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between M/o Ayush and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was signed at an inter-ministerial level. This is to promote high impact research on Integrative Health to generate evidence in priority areas of national importance in healthcare utilizing modern scientific methods. This is a joint effort to establish Ayush-ICMR Centers for Advanced Health Research at AIIMS in phases. Joint efforts will be in place to conduct high-quality clinical trials on identified areas/disease conditions of national importance with promising integrative therapies to generate evidence for wider acceptance.

Purpose

Under the Extramural Research Programme, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences under Ministry of Ayush will jointly fund to set up Ayush-ICMR Advanced Centre for Integrative Health Research (AI-ACIHR), at AIIMS to conduct research on identified areas focusing on integrative healthcare by experienced research teams.

Scope/ Objective of this call

The broad scope of this call is to develop integrative health research through integrating Ayush system with conventional bio-medicine, and modern technology to bring integrative health care to the people for improved patient outcome through innovations related to diagnostics, preventive, health promotive as well as treatment methods.

The objectives of the Ayush-ICMR Advanced Centre for Integrative Research at AIIMS will be:

- To harness the mutual understanding and research environment between the different systems of medicine leading to Integrative Health Research.
- To identify gaps in knowledge and priority areas where the approach of integrative medicine may have potential and conduct integrative research in these priority areas to generate robust evidence.
- To develop Integrative management protocols with inputs from both traditional and modern medicine in the identified priority diseases based on the generated evidence.
- To carry out mechanistic studies to explain the integrative medicine approach.

What the AI-ACIHR is expected to do/ deliver:

Conducting decisive research that helps in solving an important healthcare problem. It can have single or multiple linked research projects with clear deliverables. It is expected that the AI-ACIHR will be led by a lead researcher amply supported by a diverse research team. Outcome generated through research will guide and support policy recommendation for Integrative medicine.

Priority diseases or conditions

Research teams planning to undertake studies in finding solutions for prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment or rehabilitation of the following diseases or conditions will receive preference for selection as AI-ACIHR.

The institutes will be required to formulate and submit a concept note on integrative research in the following identified areas:

Table-1: Priority diseases and conditions

Communicable Diseases	Non-Communicable Diseases	Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition	Autoimmune Disorders
Antimicrobial resistance	Cancer	Anemia & micronutrient deficiencies	Rheumatoid arthritis
Tuberculosis	Preventive Medicine/ Wellness	Childhood Malnutrition (Undernutrition,	Psoriasis/psoriatic arthritis

	Diabetes	Stunting, Wasting, Obesity)	
Vector Borne Diseases	Chronic liver/GE diseases	Maternal health (Prenatal, Antenatal and Post natal management and Care)	Multiple sclerosis
	Chronic Respiratory diseases	PCOS/endometriosis	Systemic lupus erythematosus
	Neurological Disorders	Early Childhood Care and Developmental	Ankylosing Spondylitis
	Mental Health	Developmental Delays	
	Musculoskeletal Disorders		
	Oral Health		
	Geriatric Health/Ageing/ Ambulatory Care		
	Anorectal Diseases		
	Autoimmune Disorders		
	Metabolic Disorders		
	Gastrointestinal Disorders		
	Preventive Medicine/ Wellness		

Or any other area of national priority emerging from time to time needing attention

Duration of project and funding: Current budgetary ceiling is 6 crores per AI-ACIHR with an initial period of 3 years and which can be extendable up to 10 crores and for a period of 5 years. Duration of project will be initially for 3 years and later can be extended for five years.

How to apply

A proposal can be submitted for financial support through ONLINE MODE ONLY by the Principal Investigator on behalf of the proposed team of Scientists/ professionals who have a

regular employment in **All India Institute of Medical Sciences**. Collaboration with Ayush institutions is also allowed. The research team should have credentials for relevant skills, experience and demonstrated ability to solve research problems under consideration in both Modern and Ayush health systems.

Scientists from ICMR institutes or councils under Ministry of Ayush are not eligible to apply under this call. ICMR or Ministry of Ayush scientists may be named as co-investigators/Co-PIs in these projects, but no funds will be given to scientists from these institutions.

Format for project proposal is provided at Annexure-I

Proposal Review Process

An 8- to 10-member project Screening and Development Committee (PSDC) will screen the proposals and provide their comments and score on following criteria:

Skill and capacity of research team (PI, Co-PI):	20
Publications* since 01-Jan-18 including IF	20
Impact of publications (public health policy/clinical protocol/patent)	20
Concept note of proposed research	40
Total	100

(Publications as first, last or corresponding authors)*

The concept proposals will be shortlisted based on scores. If the project is shortlisted, The PI will then be requested to submit a detailed proposal. The detailed proposal will be reviewed by the project review committee.

Timelines

Activities	Date
Release of Call	10 th October, 2023
Submission of AI-ACIHR concept notes* (Inclusive of sensitization meeting)	30 th November, 2023
Shortlisting of concept notes	29 th December, 2023
Submission of detailed proposal (Inclusion discussion with project screening and development committee)	29 th Feb, 2024
Selection of AI-ACIHR after review in project review committee	31 st March, 2024

**** ICMR epms portal will accept Ayush-ICMR Advanced Centre for Integrative Research (AI-ACIHR) under Extramural Program between 10th October 2023, 10:00 AM IST to 30th November, 2023 17:00 hrs IST (5.00 PM)***

ANNEXURE_I: Format for submission of concept note for AI-ACIHR

Title of the proposed AI-ACIHR (up to 25 words): should be **specific, concise** and yet sufficiently descriptive and informative.

Summary (up to 250 words): A structured summary should contain the following subheadings: (i) Rationale/ gaps in existing knowledge, (ii) Novelty, (iii) Objectives, (iv) Methods, and (v) Expected outcome.

Does it cover a priority area? If yes, please select the most appropriate one from the list below:

Communicable Diseases	Non-Communicable Diseases	Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition	Autoimmune Disorders
Antimicrobial resistance	Cancer	Anemia & micronutrient deficiencies	Rheumatoid arthritis
Tuberculosis	Preventive Medicine/ Wellness Diabetes	Childhood Malnutrition	Psoriasis/psoriatic arthritis
Vector Borne Diseases	Chronic liver/GE diseases	Maternal health	Multiple sclerosis
	Chronic Respiratory diseases	PCOS/endometriosis	Systemic lupus erythematosus
	Neurological Disorders		Ankylosing Spondylitis
	Mental Health		
	Musculoskeletal Disorders		
	Oral Health		
	Geriatric Health/Ageing/ Ambulatory Care		
	Anorectal Diseases		
	Autoimmune Disorders		
	Metabolic Disorders		

	Gastrointestinal Disorders		
	Preventive Medicine/ Wellness		

**Short Curriculum Vitae highlighting research skills, content expertise and grants:
(Annexure-II)**

Short CV of PI : (maximum 4 pages)

Short CV of Co-PI-s: (maximum 4 pages)

Institutional Support/ Clinical Facilities for Integrative health research: Mention the efforts made to achieve inter-departmental or inter-institutional collaboration needed for study implementation, details of coordination between clinical, laboratory and data management procedures etc.

Laboratory facilities (in-vitro/ in-silico/in vivo) for Integrative health research: institutional resources such as instruments/equipment/ animal house and other physical resources available for use in the project proposed etc.

Budget: Budget should be as per ICMR guidelines available on the website. Justifications for all sub-headings under budget (as per ICMR format) is to be provided in detail.

Conflict of Interest Declaration (if any): PI will be asked to submit declaration, if shortlisted.

Additional supplementary information including figures, tables, flow diagrams, etc. can be shared as PDF (20-30 KB).

Annexure-II : Format of Curriculum Vitae for PI / Co-PI

**Personal
Details**

Name	
Contact details	
Date of Birth	
Academic Qualification	
Affiliation	
Fellow of Academies, (mention names of academies, if any)	
H-index	
Domain Expertise	

List of publications since 01-01-2018

Publication details in AMA style	Impact factor of journal	Name of policy/programme/ protocol document or patent/commercialization of products where cited.

(Publications as first, last or corresponding authors)*

List of projects undertaken since 01-01-2019

Short title of the project	Primary objective (in brief)	Type of study (e.g. RCT / Prevalence/Lab-based)	Funding agency	Grant amount	Time period

List of patents since 01-01-2018

Title of Patent	Date of filing	Name of the institute (collaborative)	Whether patent is commercialized or not, If yes, Give the details

Important note for the submission of proposal:

Submission Portal will open from 10th October 2023

Open the ICMR Electronics Project Management System (e-PMS) portal

<https://epms.icmr.org.in>. The user manual of e-PMS (under Guidelines → e-PMS manual) is available on the portal.

Project proposal submission is three steps process in e-PMS:

Step 1: PI registration/ Login (<https://epms.icmr.org.in/userLogin>)

Note: For Log in/registration, PI only from AIIMS can apply, PI other than AIIMS institute will not be considered under this scheme. (Co-PI and collaborations can be from non-AIIMS institutes)

Step 2: Verify email ID and complete/ update PI profile

Step 3: Proposal submission

After completing mandatory section of PI profile, click on “Proposal submission →Click on Submit new proposal → Select the program from drop-down box as "After completing mandatory section of PI profile, click on “Proposal submission →Click on Call for proposal Click on the click here to apply new proposal against ‘Call for proposals to establish AI-ACIHR (***Ayush-ICMR Advanced Centre for Integrative Research***) under Extramural Program’ → Fill the form step by step” →Fill the form step by step.

Please submit the budget in prescribed format.

Inclusion of at least one Co-PI from PI’s institute is mandatory.

PIs are advised to submit proposal well ahead of the last date, since servers may be overloaded and slow to respond.

For any queries related to the call, please contact

Proposal submission related query

Dr. Pulkit Verma

Scientist D & Program Officer

Division of BMI, ICMR Headquarters,

V Ramalingaswami Bhawan, Ansari Nagar, New

Delhi-110029

Email: po.epms@icmr.gov.in

Program related query

1. Dr. Satyapal Singh Yadav

Scientist E

Discovery Research Division, ICMR

Headquarters,

V Ramalingaswami Bhawan, Ansari

Nagar, New Delhi-110029

Email: yadavss.hq@icmr.gov.in

2. Dr. Rniky Thakur

Research Officer

Central Council for Research in

Ayurvedic Sciences

Jawaharlal Nehru Bharatiya Chikitsa

Evam Homoeopathy Anusandhan

Bhawan

No 61-65, Institutional Area, Opp D

block, Janakpuri, New Delhi -110058

Email: rinky.thakur@gov.in

Format of Budget for AI-ACIHR Call
(Staff, Equipment, Contingency/Consumables and Travel Allowance)

Staff/Manpower	
Sl. No.	Salary (As per ICMR Project guidelines)
Justification of Staff/Manpower	

Equipment				
Sl. No.	Equipment Name	Estimated cost with Quotations (Preferably of GeM)	Justification	Mode of Proposed disposal

Contingency	
Detail	Breakup with Justification
Year 1: Total Amount (e.g. 50,000) (amount is just for reference)	1) Item 1: 20,000/- 2) Item 2: 30,000/-
Year 2:	--
Year 3:	--
Year 4 (extendable period)	
Year 5 (extendable period)	

Consumables	
Detail	Breakup with Justification
Year 1: Total Amount (e.g. 5,00,000) (amount is just for reference)	1) Item 1: 2,00,000/- 2) Item 2: 3,00,000/-
Year 2:	--
Year 3:	--

Year 4 (extendable period)	
Year 5 (extendable period)	

Travel Allowance	
Detail	Justification
Year 1:	
Year 2:	
Year 3:	
Year 4 (extendable period)	
Year 5 (extendable period)	

Overhead charges(as per rules) (Year 1) to (Year 3)	
Grand Total	

**Signature of the Principal
Investigator
with Stamp**

**Accounts Officer
with Stamp**

**Signature of Head of the Institute
with Stamp**

Date: _