

ICMR – DFG – Call for Proposals 2022

New Indo-German funding initiative in medical research

Having concluded a joint Memorandum of Understanding in December 2021, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) wish to announce the beginning of a joint funding initiative for the benefit of Indo-German collaboration in medical research.

In their first joint Call under the new funding initiative, the two agencies invite proposals for joint Indo-German academic research projects in the field of **Toxicology** (e.g.: experimental and molecular, environmental, food and chemical, occupational, regulatory, or systemic toxicology, as well as new approach methods). For suggestions regarding possible project topics, please see the **Annex**.

The agencies are particularly interested in proposals submitted by teams of PIs with some initial cooperation experience. Projects with potential medical relevance may be prioritized.

Specification of projects

Projects within this funding initiative have a **duration of three years**. Proposals can include fund requests for personnel, consumables, instruments, joint workshops, travel and other items. (For details, see below.) ICMR and DFG expect that proposals submitted under this funding initiative describe ambitious projects which do not just benefit from, but essentially require, international collaboration to achieve the defined objectives. While all researchers can apply, the call particularly addresses Indo-German teams who already have a track record of joint research.

On the German side, the regulations governing the funding opportunity, follow the funding line “Sachbeihilfe/Research Grants” (see the DFG guidelines 50.01).

On the Indian side, refer to the information given on the ICMR Electronics Project Management System (e-PMS) (see the links given below).

Shortlisted proposals on the Indian side will be required to obtain Health Ministry’s Screening Committee (HMSC) approval as a prerequisite before the grant can be released.

Proposal and submission

Proposals must be written in English and clearly marked as ICMR-DFG proposals (as part of the project title). They must be submitted to both ICMR and DFG in parallel in accordance with the proposal preparation requirements of each side, respectively.

While conforming to the different respective regulations, forms and submission procedures of the two agencies, the project descriptions must be identical in their scientific substance. As the projects must be fully integrated Indo-German research projects, it is expected that the proposals contain

detailed information about the mode and essentiality of collaboration between the Indian and the German side.

German researchers can only apply for funds for the German side of a joint project; Indian researchers can only apply for funds for the Indian side of a joint project.

The deadline for submission of proposals in this funding initiative is **30 September 2022**.

For visits and meetings between both sides:

For German scientists visiting Indian Labs

The sending side will bear the travel costs (including medical overseas insurance, visa fees, etc.) from place of work in home institution to the place of work in host institution while the receiving side will provide local hospitality according to the norms of respective sides. Indian side will provide Rs 2500/- per day as per-diem plus a well-furnished institutional guest house; accommodation subject to maximum of Rs 4,000/- per day if the accommodation is arranged outside the Institute premises on non-availability of accommodation at the institute of visit.

For Indian scientists visiting German Labs

The sending side will bear the travel costs (including medical overseas insurance, visa fees, etc.) from place of work in home institution to the place of work in host institution.

All German applicants are asked to request adequate funds (according to the applicable state travel law, "Landesreisekostengesetz") for expenses on the accommodation and per diem of the Indian guests visiting their lab.

Joint workshops must be financed from the side where they take place. German applicants will detail their budgets both in the proposal file and in the online form on the elan portal. Indian applicants will detail their budgets in the ICMR application form. A short overview about the costs of the respective partner should be listed in the proposal.

German researchers have to submit the proposals electronically via the elan portal; Indian researchers have to submit the proposals electronically through ICMR Electronics Project Management System (e-PMS): <https://epms.icmr.org.in>

Review and Evaluation

The proposals will be evaluated separately by ICMR and DFG on the basis of the projects' scientific merit/quality, the justification for scientific collaboration and the qualifications as well as the compatibility of the participating team members.

The results of the review process will be shared between the agencies. Funding will be granted for only those proposals where both ICMR and DFG recommend funding. **Unilateral funding of only one**

part of a joint initiative will not be possible.

German applicants are advised about the DFG's data protection notice on research funding, which can be viewed and downloaded at www.dfg.de/privacy_policy. If necessary, please also forward this information to those individuals whose data will be processed by the DFG due to their involvement in your project.

Further Information about proposals and their submissions

To submit a proposal to DFG (for German applicants):

Prior to proposal submission to DFG (for German applicants):

Applicants are advised to contact Dr. Ziegler (contact details below) before detailing their proposals.

Please ensure that the applicants on the German side have a valid account with up-to-date contact information on the proposal submission portal elan. If not, please request/update your account as early as possible and no later than 23 September 2022.

Please follow the “Guidelines for the Research Grants Programme” (DFG form 50.01) and the “Proposal Preparation Instructions – Project Proposals” (DFG form 54.01). When submitting on the elan portal, please use the link “Proposal for a Research Grant” in the Proposal Forms column (Proposal Submission > New Project > Individual Grants Programme > Proposal for a Research Grant). Please select “India-ICMR-DFG 2022” to tag your proposal for this specific call.

Further Information

www.dfg.de/indien/dfg_icmr_call_annex

To the DFG forms 50.01 and 54.01:

www.dfg.de/formulare/50_01

www.dfg.de/formulare/54_01

DFG’s Electronic Proposal Processing System for Applicants – elan:

<https://elan.dfg.de>

Please note that the corresponding applicants in India need to be entered as “cooperation partners” in the elan web form.

Further information on elan and FAQ about using elan:

www.dfg.de/download/pdf/foerderung/antragstellung/elan/flyer_eant_en.pdf

www.dfg.de/download/pdf/foerderung/antragstellung/elan/faq_eant_en.pdf

DFG’s data protection notice:

www.dfg.de/privacy_policy

To submit a proposal to ICMR (for Indian applicants):

The Indian investigators need to submit applications online through the ICMR Electronics Project Management System (e-PMS).

1. Open the ICMR Electronics Project Management System (e-PMS) portal
<https://epms.icmr.org.in>
2. Project proposal submission is three steps process in e-PMS.
 - Step i: PI Registration/Login
 - Step ii: Verify Email Id and Complete/Update PI Profile
 - Step iii: Apply for Grant through submission of Ad-hoc proposal. Click on Proposal Submission-> Submit New Proposal -> Select Program -> Choose ICMR Adhoc Project Program -> click to proceed button application form will be opened. In form point no. 9a (Is this proposal against any advertisement?) select Advertisement (**ICMR – DFG – Call for Proposals 2022**)
3. For Adhoc proposal format refer to
https://epms.icmr.org.in/extramuralstaticweb/pdf/Adhoc/2.Adhoc_proposal_format.pdf

Contact persons

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Annex

Proposals under this call may address all fields of toxicology. As stated above, Projects with potential medical relevance may be prioritized. The following remarks are intended as suggestions regarding specific project topics.

Environmental Toxicology: understand how natural and manmade toxins influence the environment and possible ways to minimize or mitigate environmental toxicity

Occupational Toxicology: understand exposure through inhalation, ingestion, or dermal absorption of chemical and biologic hazards encountered at work and the probability of impairing the health of the exposed workers which could be acceptable, explore mitigation possibilities

Food and Chemical Toxicology: understand adverse physiological and/or biochemical, or pathological toxic effects of natural or synthetic chemicals, novel foods and ingredients, biotechnologically-derived products, and nanomaterials in animals and humans, develop techniques for assessing potential food toxicity

Systemic Toxicology: understand the biological effects on organs and tissues following exposure to a medical devices, bio-materials, or their extracts leading to acute, sub-acute, sub-chronic and chronic exposure

Regulatory Toxicology: encompasses the collection, processing and evaluation of epidemiological as well as experimental toxicology data to permit toxicologically based decisions directed towards the protection of health against harmful effects of chemical substances

New approach methods (NAMs – or non-animal approaches): understand any non-animal-based approaches that can be used to provide information in the context of chemical hazard and risk assessment including integrated approaches to testing and assessment (IATAs), defined approaches for data interpretation, and performance-based evaluation of test methods