



The Indian Cardiovascular Research and Advocacy Group
ST. JOHNS RESEARCH INSTITUTE
NIH – Centre of Excellence
In Collaboration with the Population Research Institute,
McMaster University, Canada



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1st August 2009

To
The Principal/ Dean/ Director

Subject: Course on Health Research Methodology and two-year Health Research Training by Mentorship program for Health Professionals

Dear Sir/ Madam

Greetings from St. John's Medical College and Research Institute and the Indian Cardiovascular Research & Advocacy Group (ICRAG)

We are happy to inform you that ICRAG led by St. John's Research Institute, Bangalore, has been awarded the status of *Centre of Excellence* (CoE) by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA. We will now participate in the Global Health Initiative to prevent and control chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular and lung diseases, and diabetes in developing countries.

You will agree that we in India have relatively few highly skilled medical researchers who can address issues of local importance. One of the **key objectives** of our program therefore is to carefully identify, train and mentor committed young health professionals to initiate relevant research in India.

We are pleased to invite applications from your college / hospital for a two-week **health Research Methodology Course (RMC)** and a two-year **Health Research Mentorship Program**.

The applicants must be health professionals (doctors, nurses, others) working in your Institution on a regular or permanent basis for at **least 1 year** and must be within 5 years of their masters level qualifications, (MD, DNB, MSc, MPH etc.). They can apply for the two-week RMC and if interested for the two-year training by mentorship program as well. From the applicants selected for the two-week course, a smaller number (up to 6) will participate in the two-year **Health Research Mentorship Program**.

While the two-week RMC will be conducted at St. John's in Bangalore, for the two-year research mentorship program the selected candidates will continue to remain employed at their home institution and work closely with **two mentors**. Candidates must select an **internal mentor** from the institution where they are working. This internal mentor will help the candidate with scientific and operational aspects at the Institute. We have identified a few **external mentors** who are experienced researchers either from India, Canada or other countries. We have also identified a few research areas (list in the attached poster and in the application form) in cardiovascular diseases and diabetes that the candidate can work on for two years. We will match the candidate with the external mentor based on the common research areas of interest. Presently we are unable to expand beyond the selected research areas.

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Co Chair Executive Committee: Prem Pais MD, Salim Yusuf DPhil
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Statisticians: T Thomas MSc, J Pogue MSc, R Afzal MSc, S Islam MSc Study Coordinators: Freeda Xavier BSc, Nandini Mathur MSc,

At the RMC, the candidates will be exposed to the latest knowledge & skills in Health Research Methodology. Broadly, the *topics for the RMC* include asking research questions, conducting a literature search, systematic review, study designs, methods in observational and experimental studies (cross-sectional, case-control, cohort studies and randomized controlled trials), essential biostatistics, ethics in research, writing grants and research publications, data capture, data-management and statistical analysis. We will use effective teaching methods such as lectures, journal clubs, group discussions, student presentations and protocol writing. The faculty are experienced researchers and teachers from India & abroad.

There are **no registration or tuition fees** for both the RMC and the two-year mentorship program. We will cover costs for travel, accommodation and food of the candidates for the two-week course. The internal mentor is also required to attend a part of the course. We recommend that the internal mentor attends for at least 3-4 days. If necessary we can cover costs of the internal mentor for up to 5 days. No other direct payment or remuneration is available for the candidates. The mentors will receive a **research grant** of up to Rs.5.0 lakhs that must be used to conduct the research over two years.

At the end of the course a certificate from the CoE sponsored by the NIH, USA will be given to the candidates who achieve a minimum grade.

Candidates undergoing the two-year Health Research Training by Mentorship program will gain the expertise and the confidence to write research grants and lead research in their own institutions. On completion of this two-year program, selected candidates (50%) can consider *full-time advanced training* options for one year and this will be **fully funded by St. John's**.

We request you to display the enclosed posters prominently on your Institution's notice boards. In addition we request your personal support to identify and encourage potential candidates for this important research program.

The last date for sending in completed applications is 17th Aug 09.

Thank you very much for your support.

With best regards

Sincerely



Dr Prem Pais MD
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