

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
LKS FACULTY OF MEDICINE
HKUMed Tam Wing Fan Innovation Start-up Grant

Objectives

1. The HKUMed Tam Wing Fan Innovation Start-up Grant ("Start-up Grant"), made possible by the generous contribution from Mrs. May Tam, plays a crucial role in fostering innovation and translational research that make significant impact on healthcare. By providing support to basic science and clinical researchers, the grant empowers them to explore original and innovative ideas and to adopt or develop new technologies that have the potential to drive advancements in healthcare. This emphasis on technology-driven translational research underscores the importance of bridging the gap between scientific discovery and real-world applications, ensuring that research outcomes translate into tangible benefits for individuals and society as a whole. Priority would be given to projects in the fields of Cancer and Neurosciences.

Eligibility and conditions

2. LKS Faculty of Medicine (HKUMed) research staff at the grade of Research Assistant Professor or above are eligible to apply for the scheme.
3. The Awardee must continue to serve HKUMed for at least three years upon completion of the project. Should the Awardee leave his/her position during the period of the project period or within three years of its completion, he/she will be required to repay the award amount, in part or whole.

Awards

4. A maximum of five awards, each valued at HK\$1,500,000, may be made each year. However, if there are no suitable projects, the Faculty reserves the right to not grant any award in a given year.
5. The duration for each project should be a maximum of three years.

Application procedures

6. Calls for applications will be made once a year.
7. Applicants should submit the following documents for consideration:
 - a. Completed application form;
 - b. Project proposal, up to five (5) A4 pages in length, which should outline clearly the innovation elements, translational outcomes, and industry partners (if any); and
 - c. Brief curriculum vitae (up to 5 pages) of the Principal Applicant and Co-Applicants.

8. If a Department/School is submitting more than one application, the Chairperson/Head/Director concerned should rank the applications and provide a brief rationale for the ranking.

Selection Criteria

9. Selection is based on:
- Scientific merit, impact, element of innovation and translational potential of the proposed project.
 - Research track record of the applicant(s).
 - Potential for technology transfer or commercialization.
 - Strengths and complementary nature of team members' expertise.

Selection Process

10. A Selection Panel, which may comprise representatives from the HKUMed Research Deanery and relevant external members, shall assess the applications and make award recommendations.
11. Applicants will be invited to present their projects to the Selection Panel.
12. The Awards shall be granted by the Board of the Faculty of Medicine, which will consider recommendations from the Selection Panel.

Expected deliverables

13. Awardees are required to submit annual reports, which should include details on project progress and outcomes achieved. Awardees who fail to submit the required reports may be debarred from applying for any research grants supported by the Faculty in the future.
14. Upon completion of the project, awardees are expected to have achieved tangible translational outcomes, e.g. patent applications, success in translational funding schemes such as those under ITC (e.g. RAISE+), HKSTP, RGC, etc.
15. Awardees may be required to present their projects and/or outcomes at appropriate showcase events.

Administrative arrangements

16. To meet future circumstances, the regulations of the scheme may be subject to review annually.

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