

Research Funds Administered by the Health Welfare and Food Bureau

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The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) administers three funds relevant to basic and applied health-related research.

- Research Fund for the Control of Infectious Diseases (RFCID)
- Health and Health Services Research Fund (HHSRF)
- Health Care and Promotion Fund (HCPF)

The RFCID supports studies initiated by individual investigators, in addition to those commissioned by the HWFB, to address health problems, fill scientific gaps and respond to public threats or needs. The RFCID was established with a capital commitment of \$500 million to encourage, facilitate and support research on the prevention, treatment and control of infectious diseases in Hong Kong, in particular emerging diseases such as SARS. The third open call for applications closed in September 2004.

The HHSRF was established with the aim of maximising population health, improving the quality of life, and enhancing the standard and cost-effectiveness of the health system through the generation of new knowledge in areas of human health and health services. The third open call for applications closed in September 2004.

The HCPF was established in May 1995 with an injection of \$80 million for the purpose of increasing health promotion and disease prevention and providing assistance to certain patients in need. Eighteen rounds of applications have been processed to date.

Applications are generally received in response to open calls issued 1-2 times per year. Research proposals are peer reviewed by both local and overseas experts. The time between the closing date of the open call and a funding decision is about 20-22 weeks. The approval rate of applications to the RFCID and HHSRF is about 25%.

Further information is available from the Research Fund Secretariat website (www.hwfb.gov.hk/grants).