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Health and Medical Research Fund (HMRF)

On 9 December 2011, Legislative Council Finance Committee approved a new commitment of $1,415 million for setting up the HMRF, by consolidating the former Health and Health Services Research Fund (HHSRF) and the former Research Fund for the Control of Infectious Diseases (RFCID), with a broadened scope for funding health and medical research in Hong Kong. Research projects funded under the former HHSRF and the former RFCID have been subsumed under the HMRF. The commitment is comprised of an injection of $1,000 million and unexpended balances of the former HHSRF and the former RFCID amounting to $190.8 million and $225 million respectively during the establishment.

The HMRF aims to build research capacity and to encourage, facilitate and support health and medical research to inform health policies, improve population health, strengthen the health system, enhance healthcare practices, advance standard and quality of care, and promote clinical excellence, through generation and application of evidence-based scientific knowledge derived from local research in health and medicine. It provides funding support for health and medical research activities, research infrastructure and research capacity building in Hong Kong in various forms, including investigator-initiated research projects and government-commissioned research programmes.

The HMRF, steered by the Research Council (RC), supports health and medical research in the following broad areas:

(a) public health, human health and health services (e.g. primary care, non-communicable diseases, Chinese medicine, etc.) (previously funded by HHSRF);

(b) prevention, treatment and control of infectious diseases, in particular emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (previously funded by RFCID); and

(c) advanced medical research in the fields of paediatrics, neuroscience, clinical genetics and clinical trials (a broadened scope under the HMRF).

It provides funding support for the following types of projects:

(a) Investigator-initiated projects ($1,200,000) – to support studies from individual researchers in response to "open call" invitations for research grant applications guided by reference to the research areas and thematic priorities.

(b) Government-commissioned studies – to support specific programmes
commissioned to, inter alia, build research capacity, fill knowledge gaps, support policy formulation, address specific issues, assess needs and threats, etc. Funding may cover research projects, facilities, infrastructure and other capacity building initiatives as appropriate.

(c) Research fellowships ($1,200,000) - to enhance research capability and build research capacity to facilitate the translation of knowledge into formulation of health policy and clinical practice. Research fellowships will be awarded to eligible candidates covering a range of research areas and specialties on the advice of the RC.

In general, members of any discipline or profession in the health or health-related field can apply for research funding through investigator-initiated projects. Grants may be awarded for research in tertiary institutions, hospitals, medical schools or other appropriate centres, units or services. Members of other disciplines, such as social welfare and education may also apply if the proposed research is within the ambit of the HMRF.

(a) Research applications are assessed by a stringent two-tier review process, first by external referees, and then by the Grant Review Board (GRB) according to the criteria set out below-

- originality of the research topic
- relevance to the scope of funding and thematic priorities
- significance of the research question
- quality of scientific content
- credibility for study design and method
- feasibility of the intended project
- research ethics
- translational potential/value

(b) The GRB will also take into account the past performance and track records of the grant applicants, research capability of the administering institution, and the proposal’s value for money when considering the funding recommendation. The RC will review and endorse the funding recommendations of the GRB. The GRB will provide specific feedback for each application.

In addition, the HMRF organises Health Research Symposium from time to time for researchers and health care professionals to share their knowledge and achievements in various research topics, and acknowledge the outstanding research projects funded by the HMRF. The upcoming Health Research Symposium will be held in 2017.
Governance

Chaired by the Secretary for Food and Health, the RC is responsible for providing strategic steer for funding health and medical research, and overseeing the administration of the HMRF including the allocation of funds for approved grants. Its terms of reference are as follows –

(a) to determine research agenda and funding control mechanism of the HMRF;

(b) to approve procedures for inviting, and criteria for vetting research applications;

(c) to approve standard terms and conditions for grant-holders;
(d) to approve funding allocation after peer-review process;

(e) to approve processes for the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of approved research projects;

(f) to establish the GRB to carry out the technical work of the RC; and

(g) to disseminate key findings of funded projects.

The RC is supported by the GRB, the GRB Executive (GRBE) and the Referee Panel for technical inputs. Individual members of the Referee Panel are selected according to their specific field of expertise to review grant applications.

The membership of the RC, GRBE and GRB is at Appendix A. Their operation is supported by the Research Fund Secretariat of the Research Office under the Food and Health Bureau.

**Highlights of 2015-16**

**2015 HMRF Open Call**

The 2015 Open Call was issued in December 2015 and by the closing date of 31 March 2016, a total of 806 funding applications were received. In accordance with the updated thematic priorities (Appendix B) and the established assessment criteria, the GRB’s funding recommendations will be considered by the RC. Funding results will be announced in November 2016.

During the year, final reports of 104 completed projects were assessed by circulation.

**Investigator-initiated Research Projects**

Of the 1,249 Investigator-initiated Research Projects funded under the HMRF, 753 projects have been completed. The research topics cover management and prevention of major non-communicable diseases including cardiovascular illnesses, cerebrovascular diseases, cancers; modifiable lifestyle factors including tobacco control, alcohol consumption behaviour and harm, mental health, injury prevention, exercise and health, sleep deprivation and environmental pollution; health services including primary care, chronic disease management and palliative care, elderly care and Chinese medicine; epidemiology, surveillance and control of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, vaccination programmes;
paediatrics, neurosciences and clinical genetics.

**Government-commissioned Research Programmes**

Four portfolios of commissioned programmes on quality of healthcare for the ageing, risk of breast cancer in Hong Kong and evaluation of Government’s colorectal cancer screening pilot programme have been approved during the year. Research areas of programmes approved in the previous years include healthcare manpower planning and projection, regulatory framework for healthcare professionals, Phase I Clinical Trials Centres, emerging Influenza A viruses with epidemic potential and control of infectious diseases Phase III.

During the year nine portfolios have been completed and the results of seven completed portfolios have been disseminated to relevant health policy teams and healthcare services providers.

**Research Fellowships Scheme**

The Research Fellowship Scheme aims to support researchers or professionals in their early to mid-career to enhance their skills in health and medical research. Tertiary institutions were invited to nominate fellowship applicants. The grant ceiling per award is $1.2 million including $0.2 million for local/overseas training/attachment relating to health services or public health, in particular public health policy topics. The specialised skills obtained from the training should be applied to the research project proposed in the application. The first open call was issued in August 2015 and five awards were approved for funding.

**Financial Position**

The cash balance of the HMRF as at 31 March 2016 is $1,012 million, with an uncommitted funding balance of $316.8 million (i.e. funding available for new projects/programmes). The financial position for the HMRF for the 2015-16 financial year is at Appendix C.
Appendix A

Membership of
the Research Council, the Grant Review Board Executive and
the Grant Review Board
(as at 31 March 2016)

(A) Research Council

Chairman

Secretary for Food and Health (or Permanent Secretary for Health)

Members

Prof Francis CHAN Ka-leung
Prof Annie CHEUNG Nga-yin
Prof FOK Tai-fai
Prof David HUI Shu-cheong
Prof Mary IP Sau-man
Prof Nancy IP Yuk-yu
Prof LAU Yu-lung
Prof Diana LEE Tze-fan
Prof Gabriel M LEUNG
Prof Dennis LO Yuk-ming
Prof Alex MOLASIOTIS
Prof Joseph Sriyal Malik PEIRIS
Prof Paul TAM Kwong-hang
Dr Dominic TSANG Ngai-chong
Appendix A

Prof Maurice YAP Keng-hung

Prof YEOH Eng-kiong

Dr YU Wai-cho

Director of Health (or representative)

Chief Executive of Hospital Authority (or representative)

Secretary

Head of Research Office
Food and Health Bureau
(B) Grant Review Board Executive

**Terms of Reference:**

The terms of reference of the Grant Review Board Executive are:

(a) to assess and recommend action (on behalf of the GRB) on requests for additional funds, budget revision and/or reallocation, changes to study design or methods, and changes to the principal applicant or administering institution;

(b) to monitor the quality of the peer review including the assignment of referees to grants for review;

(c) to monitor the response of grant applicants and grant holders to requests by the GRB;

(d) to evaluate and advise the GRB regarding changes to the grant or final report review process; and

(e) to advise the Research Fund Secretariat on the monitoring of the progress of current research projects.

**Members**

Dr Felix CHAN Hon-wai

Prof Francis CHAN Ka-leung

Prof David HUI Shu-cheong

Prof Nancy IP Yuk-yu

Prof Timothy KWOK Chi-yui

Prof Cindy LAM Lo-kuen

Prof LAU Yu-lung

Prof Gabriel M LEUNG

Dr Patrick LI Chung-ki
Prof Dennis LO Yuk-ming
Dr Dominic TSANG Ngai-chong
Prof YEOH Eng-kiong
Prof YIP Shea-ping
Prof YUEN Kwok-yung

(C) Grant Review Board

Terms of Reference:

The terms of reference of the Grant Review Board are:

(a) to set Standard Operating Procedures for the grant submission and review process, and the assessment and dissemination of final reports;

(b) to distribute guidelines for the formulation of research proposals, grant applications and the submission of final and dissemination reports;

(c) to review and assess applications and recommend projects for funding;

(d) to review and assess final and dissemination reports;

(e) to promote the development of research in the areas of health & health services, controlling infectious diseases and advanced medicine in the wider community;

(f) to monitor the progress of approved projects; and

(g) to monitor the financial performance of approved projects.

Members

Prof Anil Tejbhan AHUJA
Dr Alma AU May-lan
Dr AU YEUNG Tung-wai
Prof John BACON SHONE
Prof Iris Frances Forster BENZIE
Prof BIAN Zhao-xiang
Prof Kenneth BOHELER
Prof CAI Zongwei
Prof CHAIR Sek-ying
Prof Chetwyn CHAN Che-hin
Prof Godfrey CHAN Chi-fung
Prof Juliana CHAN Chung-ngor
Dr CHAN Engle Angela
Prof Henry CHAN Hin-lee
Dr Karen CHAN Kar-loen
Prof Paul CHAN Kay-sheung
Prof Allen CHAN Kwan-chee
Prof Andrew CHAN Man-lok
Prof Daniel CHAN Tak-mao
Dr CHAN Wai-chi
Dr Johnny CHAN Wai-man
Prof CHAN Wai-yee
Prof CHAN Ying-shing
Prof Emily CHAN Ying-yang
Appendix A

Prof Kathryn CHEAH Song-eng
Prof Gladys CHEING Lai-ying
Dr CHEN Honglin
Dr CHEN Zhiwei
Prof Christopher CHENG Hon-ki
Dr CHEUNG Kin
Prof Bernard CHEUNG Man-yung
Prof Annie CHEUNG Nga-yin
Prof Raymond CHEUNG Tak-fai
Prof CHEUNG Yiu-fai
Prof CHIEN Wai-tong
Prof James CHIM Chor-sang
Dr Wilson CHING Yick-pang
Dr CHOI Cheung-hei
Prof Winnie CHU Chiu-wing
Dr Brian CHUNG Hon-yin
Prof Tony CHUNG Kwok-hung
Dr Benjamin John COWLING
Prof Richard FIELDING
Dr Daniel FONG Yee-tak
Prof FUNG Kwok-pui
Appendix A

Prof Tony GIN
Dr William B GOGGINS
Prof James GRIFFITH
Prof Sian Meryl GRIFFITHS
Prof GUAN Yi
Prof Joseph HARWELL
Prof Karl HERRUP
Dr HO King-man
Dr HO Lai-ming
Dr HO Pak-leung
Dr Daniel HO Sai-yin
Prof HUANG Yu
Prof Mamie HUI
Dr Ivan HUNG Fan-ngai
Dr Dennis IP Kai-ming
Prof Margaret IP
Prof Mary IP Sau-man
Dr Patrick IP
Prof JIN Dong-yan
Dr Janice M JOHNSTON
Prof KHONG Pek-lan
Appendix A

Prof KHOO Ui-soon
Prof KWAN Hoi-shan
Dr Patrick KWAN Kwok-leung
Prof Paul LAI Bo-san
Dr Christopher LAI Kei-wai
Prof Jimmy LAI Shiu-ming
Dr Timothy LAI Yuk-yau
Dr David LAM Chi-leung
Prof LAM Ching-wan
Prof Linda LAM Chiu-wa
Prof Karen LAM Siu-ling
Prof Carly LAM Siu-yin
Prof LAM Tai-hing
Prof LAM Tai-pong
Dr Wiley LAM Tak-chiu
Dr Wendy LAM Wing-tak
Prof LAU Chak-sing
Prof Joseph LAU Tak-fai
Prof Simon LAW Ying-kit
Dr Calvin LEE Kai-fai
Prof Nelson LEE Lai-shun
Appendix A

Prof Tatia LEE Mei-chun
Dr Jenny LEE Shun-wah
Dr LEE So-lun
Prof Diana LEE Tze-fan
Dr LEUNG Chi-chiu
Dr Gilberto LEUNG Ka-kit
Mr LEUNG Kwok-fai
Prof Cynthia LEUNG Man
Prof LEUNG Po-sing
Prof LEUNG Suet-yi
Prof LEUNG Ting-fan
Prof LEUNG Wai-keung
Prof Ronald Adolphus LI
Dr William LI Ho-cheung
Dr Teresa LI Mun-pik
Dr Wilina LIM Wei-ling
Prof LIN Zhi-xiu
Prof LO Kwok-wai
Dr Raymond LO See-kit
Dr Janice LO Yee-chi
Prof LU Aiping
Appendix A

Dr Grace LUI Chung-yan
Dr Christopher LUM Chor-ming
Prof Maria LUNG LI
Dr Margaret MAK Kit-yi
Prof David MAN Wai-kwong
Prof Bradley MCPHERSON
Prof Alex MOLASIO TIS
Prof John Malcolm NICHOLLS
Dr Eddy NG Kwok-po
Prof Irene NG Oi-lin
Prof Simon NG Siu-man
Prof Gabriel NG Yin-fat
Prof Hextan NGAN Yuen-sheung
Prof Joseph Sriyal Malik PEIRIS
Dr Leo POON Lit-man
Prof Randy POON Yat-choi
Prof John RUDD
Dr C Mary SCHOOLING
Prof SHEN Jiangang
Prof SO Kwok-fai
Prof SZETO Cheuk-chun
Appendix A

Dr TAM Cheuk-yin
Prof TAM Lai-shan
Prof Kathryn TAN Choon-beng
Prof Sydney TANG Chi-wai
Dr TANG Fuk-hay
Prof TANG Jin-ling
Prof Nelson TANG Leung-sang
Dr Marie A TARRANT
Prof Agnes TIWARI Fung-yee
Prof TO Ka-fai
Dr Tony TO Shing-shun
Dr Antonio TONG Chi-kit
Dr Thomas TSANG Ho-fai
Prof Kenneth TSANG Wah-tak
Prof George TSAO Sai-wah
Prof TSE Hung-fat
Dr Gary TSE Man-kit
Prof Karl TSIM Wah-keung
Prof Stephen TSUI Kwok-wing
Prof WEI Xiaolin
Prof WING Yun-kwok
Prof Martin WONG Chi-sang
Dr William WONG Chi-wai
Dr WONG Ka-hing
Prof Lawrence WONG Ka-sing
Prof Frances WONG Kam-yuet
Prof Chris WONG Kong-chu
Dr Grace WONG Lai-hung
Dr Cesar WONG Sze-chuen
Prof WONG Tze-wai
Prof Vincent WONG
Prof Gary WONG Wing-kin
Prof Samuel WONG Yeung-shan
Prof WONG Yung-hou
Prof Patrick WOO Chiu-yat
Prof Justin WU Che-yuen
Dr Joseph WU
Prof WU Wutian
Prof WU Zhenguos
Prof Hannah XUE Hong
Dr YAM Wing-cheong
Prof Bryan YAN Ping-yen
Appendix A

Prof Michael YANG Mengsu
Prof Maurice YAP Keng-hung
Prof YEUNG King-lun
Prof YIP Kam-shing
Prof YU Cheuk-man
Prof Doris YU Sau-fung
Dr YU Wai-cho
Dr YU Weichuan
Prof Benjamin YUNG Yat-ming
Prof Benny ZEE Chung-ying
Prof ZHANG Zhangjin
Prof ZHAO Guoping
Prof ZHAO Zhongzhen
Appendix B

Thematic Priorities of the Health and Medical Research Fund for 2015

Research Area 1: Health and Health Services
This area focuses on the cause, treatment, prevention of human diseases and the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of healthcare services and policy.

Theme 1: Public Health

Ref. Code  Major non-communicable diseases (NCD)
PH-NC-1 ○ Identification and surveillance of socioeconomic and health-related risk factors associated with quality of life and major NCD in local population
PH-NC-2 ○ Risk factors of cancers that has rising trends in Hong Kong in recent years including thyroid cancer, corpus cancer, prostate cancer, kidney cancer, non-small cell lung cancer and ovarian cancer
PH-NC-3 ○ Effectiveness of interventions to tackle NCD and their contributing factors, e.g. cancer, cardiovascular diseases, cerebrovascular diseases, childhood nutrition and obesity
PH-NC-4 ○ Extent and impact of food marketing on children’s eating behaviour and body weight

Modifiable lifestyle factors
○ Tobacco control
PH-MF-1a ▪ Identification of factors and evaluation of methods to prevent uptake of smoking
PH-MF-1b ▪ Effectiveness of strategies to reduce smoking prevalence in general population
PH-MF-1c ▪ Effectiveness of smoking cessation programmes and publicity including new media
PH-MF-1d ▪ Evaluation of tobacco control policies (including surveillance and intervention)

○ Alcohol consumption behaviour and harm
PH-MF-2a ▪ Identification of factors influencing drinking behaviour
PH-MF-2b ▪ Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of interventions to reduce alcohol-related harm
PH-MF-2c ▪ Public health impact of alcohol tax change
PH-MF-2d ▪ Effect of restricting off-premises alcohol sale to underage people
Appendix B

- **Promoting good mental health**
  - PH-MF-3a ▪ Assessment of people suffering from and at risks of developing mental disorders
  - PH-MF-3b ▪ Risk and protective factors for mental disorders
  - PH-MF-3c ▪ Effectiveness of interventions to promote mental well-being and optimize recovery from mental disorders
  - PH-MF-3d ▪ Mental health literacy of the general public

- **Injury and poisoning**
  - PH-MF-4a ▪ Identification of risk factors and effectiveness of prevention methods, especially in the areas of domestic injury, sports injury, falls and drowning/near drowning
  - PH-MF-4b ▪ Study on the epidemiology and the clinical aspects of metal poisoning in Hong Kong

- **Sleep deprivation**
  - PH-MF-5a ▪ Effects of sleep deprivation on physical and mental health outcomes
  - PH-MF-5b ▪ Effectiveness of strategies to promote sleep hygiene
  - PH-MF-5c ▪ Effects of sleep intervention to reverse the adverse outcomes in chronically sleep deprived individuals

- **Exercise science and health**
  - PH-MF-6a ▪ Effectiveness of exercise intervention to promote physical and psychological well-being in disease populations
  - PH-MF-6b ▪ Effective strategies to promote physical activity in general population
  - PH-MF-6c ▪ Relationships between fundamental motor development and physical literacy
  - PH-MF-6d ▪ Exercise and cognitive health

- **Environmental pollution and climate change**
  - PH-EP-1 ▪ Epidemiology, identification and quantification of pollutants
  - PH-EP-2 ▪ Impact on health
  - PH-EP-3 ▪ Improve public health knowledge about linkages between health and climate
  - PH-EP-4 ▪ Effectiveness of climate change adaptation and mitigation to protect health
Appendix B

Theme 2: Health Services

- **Primary care**
  - **HS-PC-1**: Developing multidisciplinary health service models
  - **HS-PC-2**: Evaluation of adoption of the Hong Kong Reference Frameworks in Primary Care Settings and identification of the associated enabling factors and/or barriers
  - **HS-PC-3**: Effectiveness of primary care programmes

- **Chronic disease management and palliative care**
  - **HS-CD-1**: Service delivery models and effectiveness for chronic disease management
  - **HS-CD-2**: Health economic analysis of the new target/biological therapies
  - **HS-CD-3**: Effectiveness and safety of new medications or innovative devices in the management of obesity
  - **HS-CD-4**: Effectiveness of end-of-life programmes in residential care homes
  - **HS-CD-5**: Effectiveness of supportive and palliative/end of life care

- **Reducing avoidable hospitalisation**
  - **HS-RH-1**: Effectiveness of programmes to reduce avoidable hospitalisation
  - **HS-RH-2**: Evaluation of models of ambulatory care
  - **HS-RH-3**: Health systems research to support enhancing care in the community

- **Elderly care**
  - **HS-EC-1**: Prevention of cognitive decline in old age, exploring intervention methods and models of care for dementia
  - **HS-EC-2**: Promote the bone health of elderly population and to promulgate secondary prevention of fragility fractures
  - **HS-EC-3**: Early return to function and quality of life after fragility fractures in elderly
  - **HS-EC-4**: Effectiveness of structured fall prevention programmes for elders in the community

- **Evaluation on efficiency**
  - **HS-EE-1**: Cost-effectiveness models for better management plans
  - **HS-EE-2**: Cost-utility comparisons between treatment options
Appendix B

○ Use of modern information technology in healthcare
  HS- IT-1  ▪ Improve quality and safety of patient care
  HS- IT-2  ▪ Enhance efficiency
  HS- IT-3  ▪ Facilitate public private collaboration
  HS- IT-4  ▪ Enhance the capacity and ability in ambulatory / community care

Theme 3: Chinese Medicine

CM-1  Integrated approaches in combining Chinese and Western models of health care
CM-2  Effectiveness of Chinese medicine in prevention/ treatment of human diseases
CM-3  Interactions including efficacy and toxicity of combined Chinese-western medicine
CM-4  Identifying quality control parameters for Chinese medicines

Research Area 2: Infectious Diseases
This area focuses on the research of infectious diseases which pose potential threats in Hong Kong and neighbouring areas.

Theme 1: Respiratory Pathogens (including influenza and tuberculosis)

RP-1  Epidemiology (including mathematical modelling)
RP-2  Transmission
RP-3  Pathogenesis
RP-4  Rapid diagnostic tests
RP-5  Novel control approaches
RP-6  Economic burden of disease
RP-7  Vaccine and therapies

Theme 2: Emerging & Zoonotic Diseases

EZ-1  Characterise new pathogens in animals that can infect humans
EZ-2  Identification of risk factors that contribute to the emergence of disease
EZ-3  Transmission
EZ-4  Pathogenesis
EZ-5  Development of diagnostic tests
Appendix B

EZ-6  Surveillance methods for emerging infections
EZ-7  Vaccine and therapies

Theme 3: Antimicrobial Resistance

AR-1  Epidemiology of multi-drug resistant organisms
AR-2  Identification of risk factors for colonisation and infection
AR-3  Mechanisms of resistance and its transfer
AR-4  Laboratory-based strategies for detection
AR-5  Optimal infection control measures
AR-6  Appropriate antimicrobial therapy and avoidance of antibiotic overuse
AR-7  Effectiveness of programmes to promote antibiotic awareness in community and antimicrobial resistance

Theme 4: Vaccination Programmes

VP-1  Development of new vaccines
VP-2  Acceptability of vaccination programmes (e.g. pneumococcal vaccination in elderly) and factors affecting vaccination
VP-3  Effectiveness and economic analysis of vaccine (e.g. effectiveness in seasonal influenza vaccine in local community and cost-benefit analysis of hepatitis A vaccine)
VP-4  Measures to enhance vaccination of elderly, institutionalised or other at-risk populations

Theme 5: Technology Platforms

TP-1  Application of the “omics” technologies in infectious diseases diagnosis and epidemiology studies
TP-2  Application of the new mobile IT technologies in infectious disease surveillance and contact tracing
TP-3  Genome sequencing and molecular epidemiology
TP-4  Technology substitution/supplement for traditional pathogen typing methods

Theme 6: Severe Sepsis

SS-1  Epidemiology in Hong Kong
Appendix B

Research Area 3: Advanced Medical Research
This area focuses on the development and use of new technologies, and treatment paradigms to improve human health. The following 4 themes are our priorities:

Theme 1: Clinical Genetics

CG-1 Genetic and genomic study of major chronic and hereditary diseases in Hong Kong
CG-2 Identification of biomarkers for common cancers using molecular biology approaches
CG-3 Genetic counselling
CG-4 Research on ethical, legal and social issues associated with advances in medical genetics and genomics

Theme 2: Clinical Trials

CT-1 Assessing the safety and effectiveness of a new medication/ new device/ new indication of existing medication or device on a specific group of patients
CT-2 Comparing the effectiveness in patients with a specific disease of two or more already approved or common interventions for that disease

Theme 3: Neuroscience

NS-1 Epidemiology, identification of risk factors, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, management and rehabilitation of neurological diseases, particularly neurodegenerative diseases, stroke and injuries
NS-2 Stem cell therapy and regenerative medicine

Theme 4: Paediatrics

PD-1 Epidemiology, identification of risk factors, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, management in the following special areas: Neonatology, respiratory, allergy, clinical immunology, dermatology, gastroenterology, haematology, oncology, metabolic, cardiovascular, surgical diseases and nutrition (Vitamin D supplementation to exclusive breastfed babies)
## Health and Medical Research Fund

### Financial Position as at 31 March 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>HK$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cash balance as at 31.3.2015</strong></td>
<td>1,151,985,598.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants paid for the period from 1.4.2015 to 31.3.2016</td>
<td>(139,945,861.64)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former HHSRF Commissioned project grants</td>
<td>(4,626,395.40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigator-initiated project grants</td>
<td>(12,169,473.63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former RFCID Commissioned project grants</td>
<td>(4,426,912.98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigator-initiated project grants</td>
<td>(26,266,107.82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMRF (new projects) Commissioned project grants</td>
<td>(29,687,531.32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigator-initiated project grants</td>
<td>(60,120,813.24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct operation costs paid</td>
<td>(2,648,627.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash balance as at 31.3.2016</strong></td>
<td>1,012,039,737.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Less:</strong></td>
<td>(695,261,331.29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former HHSRF Fund committed but not yet paid</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Commissioned project grants</td>
<td>(7,066,214.05)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigator-initiated project grants</td>
<td>(11,510,678.38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>18,576,892.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former RFCID Fund committed but not yet paid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commissioned project grants</td>
<td>(10,456,764.52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigator-initiated project grants</td>
<td>(22,860,486.89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>33,317,251.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMRF Fund committed but not yet paid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(new projects) Commissioned project grants</td>
<td>(181,469,413.68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigator-initiated project grants</td>
<td>(457,044,694.57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research fellowship</td>
<td>(4,853,079.20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>643,367,187.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Uncommitted balance as at 31.3.2016** 316,778,405.84