

# e-ASIA Joint Research Program Joint Review Meeting

## 12th Call for Proposals – Health Research

Wednesday 6 September 2023, 09:30-10:30 AWST UTC+8

### Attendance:

- NHMRC (Australia): Ms Prue Torrance, Ms Kirilly Agnew, Ms Jane Lofts, Dr Adam Chapman(online), Ms Summer Edwards(online)
- DIKBUDRISTEK (Indonesia): Prof M. Faiz, Ms Erlin Puspaputri, Mr Muhammad Nafi, Ms Anggun Amalia Fibriyanti(online), Ms Bu Rian Afriana(online)
- AMED (Japan): Dr Yasushi Ogasaka, Dr Naoko Kojima, Dr Makiko Kusama(online)
- PMU-B (Thailand): Prof.Dr Sompong Klaysongruang, Dr Worajit Setthapun, Dr Angkana Jantanasartporn (online)
- NIAID (USA): Dr Joyelle Dominique, Ms Candice Beaubien

MOH (Cambodia) and MOH (Lao PDR) were absent.

- Ms Emi Kaneko welcomed delegates and Introduced item. Participating MO representation was noted, with Lao PDR and Cambodia not present.
- Ms Emi Kaneko provided a summary of the 12<sup>th</sup> Call for Proposal in Health Research, where the topic was *Climate Change and Health*.
  - 34 applications were received in total
  - 6 applications were ruled ineligible during national eligibility checks
  - 28 applications underwent a national evaluation
  - 8 projects were available for funding
- The 8 remaining projects were discussed. The first two projects discussed each received an A rank from all participating MOs. These were:

Proposal HE1222 – *Nontuberculosis mycobacterial (NTM) infections associated with climate change and major weather events: enhancing surveillance and mitigation strategies*

**Funding decision: SUPPORT**

MO (Country)	Funding modality	Lead Principal Investigator
NHMRC (Australia)	New	Professor Rachel Thomson, The University of Queensland
NIAID (USA)	New*	Dr Rebecca Prevots, National Institutes of Health
AMED (Japan)	New	Dr Kozo Morimoto, Research Institute of Tuberculosis
PMU-B (Thailand)	New	Dr Surakameth Mahasirimongkol, Ministry of Public Health
MOH (Cambodia)	In-kind*	Dr Sokleaph Cheng, Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (IPC)

\* The US PI is from NIH, so NIAID's funding of this project will support the Cambodian PI.

Proposal HE1207 – *Eliminating S. mekongi – the final push*

**Funding decision: SUPPORT**

MO (Country)	Funding modality	Lead Principal Investigator
NHMRC (Australia)	New	Dr Catherine Gordon, The Council of the Queensland Medical Research Institute
MOH (Lao PDR)	In-kind	Dr Somphou Sayasone, Lao Tropical and Public Health Institute

MOH (Cambodia)	In-Kind	Dr Virak Khieu, Ministry of Health, Cambodia
AMED (Japan)	New	Associate Professor Megumi Sato, Niigata University

- The next applications discussed received mostly an A rank but also had a B rank from at least one MO. These were:

[Proposal HE1213](#) – *Uncovering the burden of asymptomatic malaria: dissecting immune responses to infection to overcome immunosuppression and improve vaccination strategies*

NHMRC noted that this their least preferred of the three applications but would support; AMED supported, NIAID noted this application was a priority as it brings new collaborators to e-ASIA that haven't been previously funded.

**Funding decision: SUPPORT**

MO (Country)	Funding modality	Lead Principal Investigator
NHMRC (Australia)	New	Professor Diana Hansen, Monash Biomedicine Discovery
DIKBUDRISTEK (Indonesia)	New	Dr Indra Wibowo, Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB)
AMED (Japan)	New	Professor Takafumi Tsuboi, Ehime University
NIAID (USA)	In-kind*	Dr Stephen Hoffman, Sanaria Inc.

\*Originally funding modality was 'New', but the US PI is from a for-profit organization. So Dr Stephen is not allowed to receive funds under the RFP rules. Funding modality will be changed to 'In-kind'.

[Proposal HE1223](#) – *Climate change adaptation to smoke haze for improved child health in Southeast Asia*

PMU-B opted to support this application (rather than HE1213 as originally indicated) because of the overall impact and broad collaboration, DIKBUDRISTEK also supported this application.

**Funding decision: SUPPORT**

MO (Country)	Funding modality	Lead Principal Investigator
NHMRC (Australia)	New	Professor Sotiris Vadoulakis, Australian National University
PMU-B (Thailand)	New	Associate Professor Kraichat Tantrakarnapa, Mahidol University
DIKBUDRISTEK (Indonesia)	In-kind	Professor Budi Haryanto, University of Indonesia
MOH (Cambodia)	In-kind	Dr Vannak Ann, Institute of Technology of Cambodia
MOH (Lao PDR)	New	Dr Keophousone Phonhalath, National University of Laos

[Proposal HE1234](#) – *Innovative Therapeutics Targeting the Deadly Combination of Climate Change and Antimicrobial Resistant Infectious Diseases*

NIAID had capacity to support this application; NHMRC and PMU-B were unable to support as their respective funding pools were exhausted after supporting the above projects.

**Funding decision: NOT SUPPORT**

MO (Country)	Funding modality	Lead Principal Investigator
NHMRC (Australia)	New	Associate Professor Tony Velkov, Monash University

NIAID (USA)	New	Associate Professor Gauri Rao, University of North Carolina
PMU-B (Thailand)	In-kind	Professor Visanu Thamlikitkul, Mahidol university

- Ms Kaneko confirmed that the JRP decision is support a total of four projects – HE 1222, HE 1207, unlikely to object to supporting these applications but that confirmation was still required.
- Ms Kaneko invited discussion on application eligibility issues, noting that some action may be required to reduce the number of applications ruled ineligible each year. The discussion noted that the solution is to have better messaging for national requirements as applicants are failing to submit their application to national agencies in addition to the e-ASIA secretariat.
- Member suggestions included:
  - national requirements for applying are buried in the appendices of the call documentation. Adding a reminder in a more prominent spot in the documentation should improve visibility of this requirement.
  - Inclusion of an application checklist would help remind applicants of the requirement to submit their application to the necessary platforms.
  - A table similar to the mode of funding which lists national application requirements. It could list whether applicants must apply to a national application system, and any additional eligibility requirements, for example Philippine PIs must be a university lecturer, which are sometimes missed by applicants.
- Ms Kaneko closed the meeting.