INTRODUCTION

Established with the NMRC Centre Grant, the vision of the Singapore Population Health Improvement Centre (SPHERiC) is to be a leading centre for population health research, working towards a future in which every Singaporean enjoys good health and has access to affordable, quality healthcare. Our mission is to conduct rigorous multi-disciplinary research, build capabilities, and foster collaboration in population health with the goal of translating evidence into action.

The SPHERiC Fellowship aims to support the development of research talents in career and thought leadership in population health research. It is designed to provide funding opportunity and guidance for early career researchers and post-graduate students who require support for publication and/or conference travel, as well as resources/networks in population health research.

TERMS OF SPHERiC FELLOWSHIP

a. Each awarded fellowship will provide a funding quantum capped at S$10,000 for 1 year, for publication costs and/or conference travel. Please note:
   (i) The conference travel budget is capped at $6,000 per fellowship, to fund 1 overseas travel and/or multiple local travels. The travel must align to the institutions’ travel policies.
   (ii) In the case where conference travel is not budgeted, publication budget could be requested up to $10,000.

b. The duration of the fellowship award will be from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020.

c. The budget for publication and/or conference travel must be utilized within the award duration. Otherwise, the fellowship may be withdrawn.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

a. Applicants are only allowed to submit one application.

b. Applicants must hold a primary appointment in NUHS cluster, and be salaried by a NUHS entity (e.g. NUH, NTSGH, AH, NUP, NUS YLLSoM, NUS SSHSPH, NUS FoD), or must be a post-graduate student undergoing Masters/PhD studies in NUS YLLSoM, NUS SSHSPH or NUS FoD with research focus in population health-related areas.

c. Applicants should not have held any national grants (e.g. NMRC, A*STAR, NRF, MOE AcRF Tier II, etc.) or international grants (e.g. MRC, NIH, NHMRC, etc.) as a PI/Co-PI.
ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

a. Conference travel will be funded only if an oral/poster presentation is given on a topic relevant to population health field.

b. Applicants must be able to complete the outcomes (i.e. publication and/or conference travel) within the award duration.

c. Applicants must remain appointment in NUHS entity during the award duration. Otherwise, the fellowship will be terminated.

RESEARCH THEMES

The SPHERiC Fellowship is open to eligible applicants whose research work covers the breadth of disciplines relevant to its vision and mission articulated above. However, there will be strategic consideration for population health works which focus on the following priority areas:

- Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Chronic Disease Management
- Primary Care (& Community Care)
- Reducing Infectious Disease Spread
- Aging and Frailty
- Technology-enabled Healthcare

This includes research into determinants of health, and enablers for health improvement (healthcare financing, human resource/ manpower strategies, care integration, role of technology and data sharing).

SPHERiC RESEARCH CORES

SPHERiC provides a centralised platform with the following capabilities to support population health research in Singapore:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core</th>
<th>Core PIs</th>
<th>Key Objectives</th>
<th>Capabilities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Population Health Analytics Core (PHAC)</td>
<td>A/Prof Alex Cook</td>
<td>To facilitate collection and analytics of data on health, social and behaviour through developing capabilities to poll a ready panel to obtain representative data, perform and visualize population level analytics layered with determinants of health.</td>
<td>▪ Health Opinion Panel (HOP)</td>
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<td>▪ Geographic Population Information System for Health (GeoPISH)</td>
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Health Systems and Models of Care Core (HSMCC)

A/Prof Helena Legido-Quigley & A/Prof Gerald Koh

Enables better understanding of current care models and their gaps, how health systems affect access, delivery and effectiveness of care and its impact on health, as well as facilitate the translation of this understanding to designing, implementing and evaluating innovative care models, with a focus on care integration and community care.

- International Hub for Health Systems & Policy Comparisons
- Health Systems and Policy Research Hub
- Capacity Building in Health Systems and Policy Research

Implementation Science Core (ISC)

A/Prof Gerald Koh & Dr Tan Ker Kan

Provide a multidisciplinary approach to test new approaches to improve health programming, investigate and address major barriers that impede effective implementation. Evaluations will also emphasize a mixed-methods perspective, integrating qualitative research to provide insight and depth wherever appropriate, economic evaluation and decision analysis.

- Translation of Evidence-based Principles into Intervention Models
- Formative and Summative Programme Evaluation
- Economic Evaluation and Decision Analysis

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The application will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

a. Merits & academic performance of applicant
b. Relevance of work to population health and research themes identified
c. Significance of work to population health research
d. Feasibility to deliver the targeted outcomes of the fellowship

REVIEW PROCEDURES

The application will be reviewed by the SPHERIC Review Committee for selection, and applicants will be notified of the outcome in July 2019. Applicants may be invited for an interview by the panel.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

a. Support from the fellowship must be acknowledged in the publications and/or presentation (slides/poster) according to the following:
E.g. “This research is supported by the Singapore Ministry of Health’s National Medical Research Council under the Fellowship Programme by Singapore Population Health Improvement Centre (NMRC/CG/C026/2017_NUHS).”

b. The awardee shall submit one copy of each publication to the SPHERiC inbox (spheric@nuhs.edu.sg) for record purposes within one month of being published.

c. The awardee shall submit one copy of presentation’s abstract when claiming reimbursement for conference travel.

d. Final report must be submitted to the SPHERiC inbox (spheric@nuhs.edu.sg) within 3 months upon completion of the fellowship.

e. The awardee may be requested to give a presentation on the research works upon completion of the fellowship.

SUBMISSION MODE AND DEADLINE

It is mandatory for all applications (hardcopy and softcopy) to be submitted to the RHS Planning Office (SPHERiC) by 31 May 2019.

Note: Hardcopy submissions may take longer to reach the RHS Planning Office. Do factor in time for your proposal to reach us by the stipulated deadline.

Address: 1E Kent Ridge Road, NUHS Tower Block Level 12, Singapore 119228
Attn: Ms Tan Ke Wei / Nur Farzira Bte Hairudin (SPHERiC Fellowship Application)
Email address: spheric@nuhs.edu.sg

Please submit the following documents for your application:

1. SPHERiC Fellowship Application Form
2. 2 Reference Letters
3. Abstract of the publication and conference presentation, if applicable