

## **“Call for Proposals”**

A new initiative to strengthen implementation and operational research (IR and OR) components in TB control focusing on testing effective solutions to improve program performance invites proposals from multi-disciplinary teams. The applicant team must include a physician/epidemiologist in a lead role and experts from disciplines such as social science, economics, management, statistics, health system research, etc. (3-4 members per team). One member must be from the local TB program or government health system.

The priority areas for the research proposals are:

1. Design and evaluate interventions to minimize missed opportunities in diagnosis of TB both in the public and private sectors
2. Design and evaluate interventions for active case finding in high-risk groups (clinically and socially vulnerable populations).
3. Design and evaluate interventions for early diagnosis of paediatric TB under RTNCP.
4. Design and evaluate interventions to ensure treatment initiation delays among TB patients in RNTCP and in the private sector.
5. Design and evaluate interventions to ensure early treatment of TB patients ‘Referral for Treatment’ in RNTCP
6. Design and evaluate interventions to prevent initial default in RNTCP
7. Design and evaluate interventions to prevent treatment interruptions and default especially in tribal, slum populations and hard to reach areas.
8. Newer diagnostic tools and their programmatic applications
9. Integrated strategy to diagnose and manage TB in vulnerable populations, e.g homeless, prisoners etc
10. Cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit studies:
11. Program evaluation

Researchers are invited to submit concept note in the topic areas listed above in the structured format described below.

***Pre-Proposal format***

*1. Title of the project should be clearly spelt out*

*2. Introduction:*

*3. Novelty:*

*4. Description of the project with Research question, Methodology, time frame and expected outcome*

*5. Public health importance of the outcomes and applicability:*

The last date of submission will be 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. The pre-proposals will be screened and the selected teams will be intimated by end of November, 2015. Those who are shortlisted will be invited to participate in a 2 weeks' training workshop on Implementation and Operational research conducted by expert faculty at National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai, wherein full proposals will be developed. This training workshop is likely be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December 2015. The proposals will be funded through a Global fund grant and the project duration will be 2 years.

Concept notes should be sent to:

Director, NIRT

National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis (ICMR)

No:1, Mayor Sathyamoorthy Road,

Chetpet, Chennai 600031