

Basic research on the traceability, pathogenesis, prevention and treatment of 2019-nCoV

By NSFC dated 22 January 2020

In order to effectively respond to the 2019-nCoV pneumonia epidemic outbreak, reinforce the preventive and control capacities, NSFC is now launching a special programme to support researchers with relevant biosafety research conditions in their host institutes to conduct basic and foresighted joint research on related scientific issues on the 2019-nCoV such as etiology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, and disease prevention and treatment. This special programme encourages inter-disciplines to adopt new scientific research paradigm in solving key scientific issues, so as to provide theoretical and technological support for the prevention and control of novel coronavirus infections and new emerging infectious diseases.

1. Research scope to be funded

- 1) Novel coronavirus structures, functions, key targets of infection and action mechanisms, and differential studies on various coronaviruses
- 2) Novel coronavirus traceability, variation and evolution, and new technologies and new understanding of Koch' Postulates
- 3) Population susceptibility and transmission characteristics of novel coronavirus
- 4) Novel coronavirus infections outbreak, progression and outcome mechanisms, as well as basic research on critical care of severe cases, prevention and control of hospital infections
- 5) Basic research on emergency vaccines and universal vaccines of coronavirus

2. Funding

The duration of funding of this special programme will be two years. The research period on the application forms shall be indicated as 15 March 2020 – 14 March 2022. The funding scale for direct cost shall be around 1.5 million yuan per project. About 20 projects targeted at the above research scopes will be selected based on scientific merits and be funded.

3. Application requirements

1) Eligibility conditions

The applicants should meet the following conditions:

- a. experiences in holding basic research grants
- b. senior academic rank (title);
on-post postdoc researchers, ongoing postgraduates, and individuals without a host institute or those whose host institutes have not registered in NSFC cannot apply for this programme.

2) project number limits

- a. the project under this special programme will not be calculated as the 2-projects limit entitled to senior academic rank(title) staff
- b. the applicant and main participants can only apply and participate in one project under this special programme
- c. applicants can apply for only one project under the special programme within the same year

3) Points for attention in applications

- a. This special programme requires projects to be problem-oriented and driven by needs. Interdisciplinary integration is emphasised and joint applications by universities and research institutes are encouraged to propose research projects with innovative ideas.

- b. Applications of electronic versions should be submitted from 3 February 2020 to 16:00 6 February 2020. Application hard copies shall be dispatched by express mail before 16:00 13 February 2020 (as indicated by postal delivery stamps). The application submissions that fail to follow relevant requirements will not be handled. The number of cooperation partner institutes shall not exceed two.
- c. Applicants should read this guideline and the relevant content as indicated in the NSFC Guide to Program 2020 carefully before filling up the application forms. Those applications that fail to comply with relevant requirements as set out in these guidelines will not be funded.
- d. Applicants should define research content based on the directions provided in this guideline. Novel coronavirus is defined as "Highly pathogenic microorganism". Applicants and their host institutes must strictly observe relevant regulations and propose their applications only if corresponding safety conditions are equipped. Host institutes of applicants and their cooperation partner institutes should both provide documentations to prove that the research shall not generate any biosafety risks. The applications that fail to provide relevant biosafety proof documentations will not be accepted. Biomedical research that concerns human must strictly comply with relevant regulations of the country and relevant ministries/commissions on ethics and biosafety. Applicants must provide verification paper proof documentations of the ethics committees of their host institutes or their direct hierarchy administrations, as annexes to application forms (scanned copies annexed to electronic application forms). On research that relates to human genetic resources, applicants and their host institutes should strictly observe the relevant rules set out in the Regulation of the People's Republic of China on the Administration of Human Genetic Resources implemented as of 1 July 2019.
- e. Applicants should log in at the NSFC info system <https://isisn.nsf.gov.cn> to fill up the application forms by following the outlines and relevant requirements.
- f. Applicants should set up the NSFC project budget form in line with the relevant rules and requirements as set out in the NSFC project fund management methods, NSFC project budget formulations based on the principles of "relevance to objectives, compliance with policies, economic rationality"
- g. After completing the application forms, the applicants should submit the electronic version and annexes online, download and print the final PDF forms, and provide original application forms with signature to their host institutes together with the original annexes as required.
- h. The host institutes should review the authenticity and completeness of the materials provided by the applicants, and send the application documentations to NSFC timely, with the following specific requirements¹.
- i. contacts for inquiries

Microbiology (C01)

Contact person: Du Quansheng Tel: 010-62329221 Email: duqs@nsfc.gov.cn

Medical pathogens and infection (H19)

Contact person: Li Enzhong Tel: 010-62329131 Email: liez@nsfc.gov.cn

Preventive medicine (H26)

Contact person: Yan Zhangcai Tel: 010-62327195 Email: yanzc@nsfc.gov.cn

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¹ Specific requirements not translated here