

Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board (PCFB) Research Fund

Introduction

The Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board (PCFB) set up a research fund in 1996 with the purpose to support projects that are related to the prevention, diagnosis, assessment of disability and treatment of Pneumoconiosis and/or Mesothelioma in Hong Kong.

Eligibility of Applicant

An applicant may apply for the fund as an individual, a company or a group.

For individual applicant, the personal information of the individual will be examined by PCFB. In most circumstances, the individual should either be studying/ working in a local educational institution or working in a company registered in Hong Kong. Application from an applicant who is neither studying nor working at the time of making application (e.g. a retired person) may also be considered but if the application is approved, PCFB reserves the right to arrange payment only after the satisfactory completion of the entire project. The individual applicant is also required to submit two reference letters to PCFB.

For company applicant, the company should be registered in Hong Kong and a copy of the Business Registration document should be submitted to PCFB together with the other application documents. The company's business background, expertise and experience in related research will form part of the assessment criteria for PCFB to determine whether to approve the particular application.

For group applicant, an individual should be appointed as the 'Principal investigator' and other members as 'Co-investigators'.

Overseas applications will also be considered but preference will be given to local applications.

General Conditions

- 1a. For any funding application, the project must be related to either one of the following aspects of Pneumoconiosis and/or Mesothelioma:
 - prevention
 - diagnosis
 - assessment of disability
 - treatment
 - rehabilitation
- 1b. The findings of the project must be applicable to local situation.
2. Unless under very special circumstances, PCFB will not consider funding projects which have already received grants from other institution(s).
3. Funding applications will be examined by the PCFB main Board and/or the respective committee/ subcommittee assigned by the Board. PCFB reserves the right to invite a third party to give independent professional advice on the study proposal. Under such circumstances, the information submitted to PCFB will be disclosed to the designated third party. The final decision on any funding application rests solely and completely with PCFB.
4. Project length
 - PCFB may grant at most a two-year funding to any new project. However, extension of project period will be considered by PCFB on the merits of individual cases.
5. Funding limit
 - Funds may be granted for full or partial support of projects.
 - Most projects will only be granted a maximum of \$1,500,000 per year.

6. Withdrawal of grant

The Grant, if given, will be withdrawn if the project does not start within 6 months of the award, or if the Principal investigator leaves the institution within one year of the award.

7. Payment terms

- Partial / periodical payments may be arranged by PCFB and paid to individual applicant / company / institution. However, mutual agreement on these arrangements should be reached by PCFB and the applicant as soon as funding of the project is approved by the PCFB. The Secretariat of PCFB will write to the applicant to confirm the arrangements.
- Unless under special circumstances, at least 20% of the approved funding amount will be released only after the Board has approved the final report of the project.

8. Submission of progress / final report(s)

- The requirement of report submission(s) should be mutually agreed by PCFB and the applicant before a project starts. The Secretariat of PCFB will write to the applicant to confirm the arrangements.
- A Financial Report, with details of all the expenditures, should be submitted to PCFB together with the final report. The financial report should be counter-signed by both the principal investigator and a key officer of the relevant department of the institution to certify that all amounts are true and correct. For any purchase of equipments that is over \$20,000, the principal investigator would be requested to submit a copy of receipt as the proof.
- Applicant who has difficulty in submitting a report within 4 weeks after the mutually agreed submission date should write to PCFB, giving reasons for the delay and requesting for extension. PCFB will consider each application on individual basis. However, unless there are exceptionally special circumstances, application for more than a 6-month delay will usually not be acceptable.
- For applicant who fails to submit a report 6 months after the mutually agreed submission date, PCFB reserves the right to withhold payment or make request for a full refund (plus interest) of any paid amount and report to the applicant's serving institution/company/organisation

9. Copyright issue

- The copyright of all reports (including progress reports) and related publications belong to PCFB. PCFB has the right to release these reports as well as the applicants' personal information to the public.
- Applicants are also encouraged to publish their reports in peer-reviewed journals or present the reports in public forum and scientific meetings. In all these events, "Funding by the Hong Kong Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board" should be properly acknowledged.

Application procedures

1. Collect an application form from PCFB office or download the form from the PCFB homepage www.pcfb.org.hk
2. A completed application form should be submitted the PCFB office together with a detailed proposal stating background information and significance of the project, objectives, plan and methodology, budget breakdown and its justification, time schedule and other information considered relevant by the applicant.
3. Submission periods: **1 March to 15 April**
 1 September to 15 October

Enquiries

PCFB Secretariat
7/F Hing Yip Commercial Centre
272-284 Des Voeux Road Central
Hong Kong
Tel: 2541 0032
Fax: 2541 0211
E-mail: contact@pcfb.org.hk