



February 21, 2013

Dear liaison officers,

As the year of the snake comes, I'd like to wish you and your family a prospective year! We are very pleased at the beginning of this year of the snake to send you the two major RFPs of this year - the one for CMB Open Competition in HPS researches and the other for CMB Collaborating Programs.

You may have noted that we used the acronym of HPS rather than HPSS for the full name of "health policy and systems sciences". This is entirely a "cosmetic change" so that CMB's programs are now more easily called HPS (Health Policy and Systems Sciences) and HPE (Health Professional Education). HPS and HPE just sound better.

This year's CMB OC continues our tradition of the past two rounds of merit based competition. A change is our focus on "health equity" as the cross-cutting theme. I would like to call your particular attention to the "additional resources" section of the RFP which lists examples of three OC proposals and also the interviews done by China Health Review on the reviewers, applicants and CMB officers on last year's OC. The interview should shed much insight on the development and review of the OC.

The CMB CP will almost be the same as the last two rounds. But note that we have now decided that applicants CAN submit a CP proposals even if the subject matter overlaps with a previous-approved CP. We would welcome competition in the same area. I'd also like to use this opportunity to announce that a CMB mid-term on-site review of the first round of CPs will be conducted early part of this year. Most likely this time will be the staff review by myself. The final review at the end of year three will be conducted by external experts though. We will follow up on this review process with a separate email.

Finally, we will soon send out the announcement for the HPS Residency Training which is an upgraded version of 991 training. The training will be directed by the world-renowned health economist Dr. Winnie Yip of Oxford University. The Ministry of Health Center for Statistics will provide full and open data support. Unlike 991, all full students will receive a small but dedicated grant from this training. A few other OC recipients will also be invited to be course observers.

We will continue to create an active HPS community for the faculty members who are alumni of our IIE, OC, CP, Westlake seeds, and HPS Residency programs.

Cheers!

China Medical Board
Roman Xu, Director of Beijing Office