



Forskningrådet för  
hälsa, arbetsliv och välfärd

## Call for proposals in the field of Ageing and Health

The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) and Forte, the Swedish Research Council for Health Working Life and Welfare, invite proposals for collaborative research projects in the field of ageing and health, focussing on developing affordable and appropriate innovative assistive technology for the disabled elderly and methods of home based care interventions for the elderly. This call is open for joint proposals from research teams based in India and Sweden.

**A Memorandum of Intent (MoI) between ICMR and Forte for cooperation in the field of ageing research and health was signed during the visit of the Honorable President of India to Sweden in June 2015.** The MoI is based on a planning workshop that was partnered by ICMR and Forte in November 2014 to identify key areas for bilateral cooperation. This call is based on the recommendations of this workshop. [Read more here](#). As an outcome of the aforementioned workshop, we are pleased to announce this call for joint research project proposals between Indian and Swedish researchers, and herewith invite all interested parties to submit their applications.

### Background

With declining fertility and rising life expectancy, there is a rapid increase in the number of elderly persons worldwide. Currently persons aged 60 years or over comprises ~11.5% of the world's population. This number is expected to surpass the 2 billion mark in 2050 from 841 million in 2013.

India stands to witness 100 million persons aged 60 and above currently as per the latest report from Helpage India. The need for elderly care in India is similar to the global scenario with some factors pertinent to India like a changing family system, a rural urban divide, gender based beliefs, and a lack of facilities that needs to be addressed.

The Swedish national objectives for the policy for the elderly are focused on individual care and treatment. India on the other hand has to put greater stress on the healthcare system to cater to the needs of its elderly population. There is a need to understand and strengthen the mechanisms of provision of care for the elderly and address them through appropriate delivery mechanisms. For this we need to turn to global models of homebased services and remote healthcare delivery through mHealth or telemedicine to understand the nuances of designing and implementing public and private models of elderly care. This will provide an insight into critical success factors as well as challenges in managing elderly care. Through cross national studies, lessons can be learnt on the need for collaboration amongst various stakeholders that can change India's elderly care landscape, and bring it to a level that is comparable with global standards.

### Objectives and remit

The call will stimulate interdisciplinary, innovative, close to practice research in the field of ageing and health. Proposals may address one of the two themes:

- a. Innovative and assistive technology studies, or
- b. Models of homebased care



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All studies should aim to enhance our understanding of the theme of the call for proposals and should demonstrate potential benefits to Sweden and India. The Call will deliver significant 2-3-year research funding for internationally competitive and innovative projects.

## **Innovative and assistive technology studies**

Proposals could include the development of innovative and assistive technology and services that are affordable and appropriate (culture, gender, age specific) for the elderly.

- Projects on development of visual assistance, mobility assistance and cognitive assistance of the elderly
- Design and provision of technology applicable to working with older adults
- Identify barriers and strategies on older adults' acceptance of technology and perceptions of learning how to use new tools

## **Models of homebased care**

Proposals could include how the design of housing, living arrangements, effective supportive technologies for functional abilities, and the availability of local communities affect elderly people's participation, activities and independence. Proposals should address how interventions could prevent or reduce the severity of functional impairment, especially impairments secondary to cognitive decline.

- Interventions aimed at the prevention of functional impairment as well as health promotion in order to reduce the incidence of functional impairment in the elderly
- Systems of integrated care designed to address the set of health, social and functional needs of the frail elderly.
- Community based care models

## **Eligibility**

Proposals must demonstrate collaboration and include both Swedish and Indian Principal Investigators.

### **Indian Principal Investigators**

Indian applicants must be working in a permanent position in a Medical College, Research Institute or University, anywhere in the country including Government, Semi-Government and Registered bodies. Applications from non-governmental agencies and private organizations should provide documentary evidence of registration certificate for research with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Govt. of India, previous track record etc.



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## Swedish Principal Investigators

The Swedish principal investigators should hold a doctoral degree at the start of the project and be scientist at a Swedish University or Higher Education Institute(HEI) or at another research organisation that has been approved as an Administrative organization by Forte and has an organizational account in the Swedish application system Prisma.

## How to apply

This Call for Proposals is a one stage full application process. Applications should be submitted by each Principal Investigator via their respective funders' submission system before the deadline. The application systems have varied requirements, please find more information at the respective funding organisation's webpage. However, the Principal Investigators must submit identical information as far as possible since the applications will also be evaluated by a joint Indo-Swedish committee at the final phase of the evaluation process.

## Indian Principal Investigators

The Indian Principal Investigators should submit their applications as per the ICMR format structured as below:

1. Title of the project.
2. Objectives
3. Summary of the proposed research (up to 150 words) indicating overall aims of the research and importance of the research proposal. Application of the work in the context of national priorities of medical research, if any, may also be mentioned.
4. Present knowledge and relevant bibliography including full titles of articles relating to the project.
5. Preliminary work already done by the Investigator on this problem, e.g. selection of subjects, standardization of methods, with results, if any.
6. Links with other ICMR projects (ad-hoc, task force or collaborative).
7. List of important publications of last 5 years of the all the investigators in the relevant fields (enclose reprints, if available)
8. Detailed research plan. (give here the design of study, indicating the total number of cases/samples/animals to be studied, the mode of selection of subjects specially in experiments involving human beings, equipment and other materials to be used, methodology/techniques to be employed for evaluating the results including statistical methods any potential to obtain patents etc.)
9. Facilities in terms of equipment, etc, available at the sponsoring institution for the proposed investigation.
10. Budget requirements (with detailed break-up and full justification):
  - Staff
  - Contingencies
  - Recurring
  - Non-recurring (equipment)
  - Travel
  - Overhead charges



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Further details may be found at the following link: <http://icmrextramural.in/ICMR/>

### Swedish Principal Investigators

The Swedish Principal Investigators may submit their applications as per the format below:

1. Project title
2. Abstract (maximum 2000 characters)
3. Time plan
4. Subject classification
5. Background, purpose and research questions (Maximum 15000 characters)
6. Previous Forte grant ref. number
7. Significance for the research area (Maximum 5000 characters)
8. Gender and diversity (Maximum 2500 characters)
9. Study design and method (Maximum 15000 characters)
10. Reporting of ethical considerations (Maximum 2000 characters)
11. Work plan and research consortia (Maximum 15000 characters)
12. References for the project description and maximum 10 relevant publications for the research group (Maximum 5000 characters)
13. Knowledge dissemination (Maximum 2500 characters)
14. Societal relevance (Maximum 2500 characters)
15. Collaboration (Maximum 2500 characters)
16. Budget
17. CV of principal investigator in India

The onus is on the applicant to find their own research collaborator(s) in the partner country. Only a common/joint proposal will be considered.

### Indian Applicants

The applicants should submit their application through the ICMR electronic project management system (ePPMS) <http://icmrextramural.in/ICMR/>.

### Swedish Applicants

Applicants should submit their proposal including associated documentation using Prisma <https://prisma.research.se/start>

### Funding available

Each selected project will be funded for a maximum period of three (3) years. To facilitate the



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objectives of the joint project, labour costs, consumables, research expenses, project related visits of India and Swedish researchers to the counterpart country may be supported. Each proposal must have an Indian and a Swedish PI. Each joint proposal must include separate budget requests from both India-based and Sweden-based Principal Investigators from their respective funder.

Funding under this programme will cover the following expenses related to the project:

- Support for research expenses: Expenditure by the project team in their country would be provided by the respective funding agency, i.e., Forte in Sweden will support expenditure on Swedish side of the project whereas the ICMR will support expenditure on the India side.
- Participation of research students working under the project would be encouraged.
- Exchange visits of researchers between the two countries may be built within the joint collaborative project
- Institutional overhead will be determined in accordance with specific research and development programme related policies of each institution/government.
- While the exact nature of expenditure is not fixed, the following may NOT be funded from this allocation: purchase or construction of a building, rental costs for space that is owned by the institution, recruitment costs for staff, and purchase of office furniture.

Projects should be of 2-3 years duration and it is anticipated that a maximum of 4 research projects will be funded, subject to scientific quality and availability of funds.

Due to the nature of funding availability, projects funded through this scheme will be expected to be completed within the timeframe of August 2017- August 2020 and this will be a condition of an award.

The Swedish budget breakdown must be completed in the Prisma system (as part of the application) and the India budget must be completed in the ICMR electronic project management system (ePPMS) (as part of the application).

### Indian Budget

ICMR will fund the Indian component as per the usual ICMR terms and conditions. ICMR will provide funding to Indian researchers working in India only for research based in India. Based on the justification, approximately 70 lakhs may be available per project for its entire duration, not exceeding three years for the ICMR-funded portion of the costs. Maximum of up to 4 projects will be funded. This funding is the maximum level and the amounts being applied for do not have to be of comparable size in the two countries.

### Swedish Budget

Forte will award funding to the institution of the Swedish Principal Investigator under the Forte's standard terms and conditions. A maximum of 3MSEKs will be available per project for its



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duration, not exceeding three years for the Forte funded portion of the costs. This funding is the maximum level and the amounts being applied for do not have to be of comparable size in the two countries.

## Ethical issues

### India

All proposals should adhere to the ICMR ethical guidelines [www.icmr.nic.in/ethical\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.icmr.nic.in/ethical_guidelines.pdf) and should be cleared by the Institutional Ethics Committee.

### Sweden

Proposals must be approved by an ethical review board in Sweden prior to funding being released from Forte.

## Deadlines

**The deadline for submission will be January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (17:00 IST; 13:30 CET).** ICMR and Forte will carry out an application matching process. Matched proposals must be received from partnering researchers in both countries by the deadline for an application to be eligible.

Call open for submissions	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Call deadline:	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2017 (17:00 IST; 13:30 CET)
Applicants informed of outcomes	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2017

## Evaluation

ICMR and Forte will carry out independent assessment processes, arranging for applications to be reviewed by their respective expert scientific panels. Subsequently, this expert advice will inform joint funding decisions.

Full applications will be assessed and scored by both funding partners using jointly agreed scientific and funding criteria. In addition to maintaining the usual high standard of assessment of scientific excellence, reviewers will take into consideration collaborative and transnational potential.



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### Indian Applicants

ICMR will use a standard peer review assessment process. As per ICMR mechanism, Indian Investigators may be invited for presentation if required. The selected projects will also require HMSC approval.

### Swedish Applicants

Forte will follow the usual peer review process.

### Terms and conditions

Grant award recipients will have all project costs met by their country's respective funding agency, as specified in their submitted research proposal budgets. Researchers must therefore abide by the terms and conditions set out by their home country's research funder.

Indian researcher's need to comply with the ICMR's ad-hoc project format and should fulfill the requirements of International Collaboration, details available at <http://icmr.nic.in/guide.htm>.

### Contacts and guidance

All enquiries from Indian applicants should be directed to:

#### ICMR

Dr. Geetha R Menon

*Scientist D*

Division of Non-communicable Diseases

Indian Council of Medical Research

Ansari Nagar, New Delhi- 110029

Email: [menong@icmr.org.in](mailto:menong@icmr.org.in)

Telephone: +91-11-26589544

All enquiries from Swedish applicants should be directed to:

#### Forte

Thomas Jacobsson

*Senior Research Officer*

Östra Järnvägsgränd 27, Stockholm

#### Postal address

Forte, Box 894, 101 37, Stockholm

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