SingHealth DukeNUS ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTRE

PhD SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CLINICIAN RESEARCHERS

Objective:

To recognise and develop clinician researchers of SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre (AMC) to support the growth of research capabilities in priority areas of our AMC and contribute to ground-breaking discoveries.

INTRODUCTION

1. The SingHealth Duke-NUS PhD Scholarships for Clinician Researchers are for clinician researchers within our AMC who are interested in pursuing a research-based PhD programme to advance their research careers.

2. The Call for Applications is open to ACP faculty and clinician staff of SingHealth (doctors, nurses and allied health professionals) who are applying for a research-based PhD programme in a local university in the same calendar year.

3. The PhD Scholarship will fund **tuition fees** of the clinician's formal PhD programme at a **local university**, over a 4-year duration. Local universities providing research-based PhD programmes include the following:
   - Duke-NUS Medical School PhD Programmes
   - National University of Singapore (Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, etc)
   - Nanyang Technological University (Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine)
   - Other local universities and relevant research-based PhD programmes

4. Applicants are required to **apply for a formal PhD programme** (at any local universities stated above) **concurrently with the NMRC Research Training Fellowship (RTF) and SingHealth Duke-NUS PhD Scholarship**.

5. A Conditional Offer of Scholarship will be given to all successful applicants. The Scholarship funding will only be awarded after the outcomes of **two rounds of NMRC RTF applications**.
   (Note: The time duration between the two NMRC RTF applications should not exceed 12 months.)

6. Manpower FTE support will be provided by the clinician's primary institution for a 4-year duration. (Standard bond terms apply for each PhD Scholarship awardee.)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA *(at the point of application)*

1. Applicant should be a qualified medical doctor / dental specialist registered with the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) / Dental Specialist Accreditation Board (DSAB) respectively, and employed to perform clinical duties in a SingHealth institution.

2. SingHealth Residents who are in their final year of residency and are keen on pursuing a PhD programme are eligible to apply for the PhD Scholarships. The candidate must be supported by the potential employing SingHealth institution and the ACP with which the applicant will be associated, upon successful exit from their Residency Training Programmes. Non-final year Residents who wish to apply may submit their

applications, and the applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

3. A nursing or allied health professional, who performs clinical duties and aspires to advance in a research career working on human clinical research or research related to biomedical sciences with potential health impact, may apply for the PhD Scholarship.

4. Applicant must hold a primary appointment in a SingHealth institution and must remain employed in the institution during and throughout the PhD Scholarship's funding duration. Residents employed by the Ministry of Health (MOH) must be supported as per clause 2 above.

5. Application to Duke-NUS Medical School PhD Programme is encouraged. For PhD programmes not within Duke-NUS, the applicant is required to provide reasons for the proposed PhD programme. **Overseas PhD programme will not be eligible for the PhD Scholarship application**.

6. Each applicant must enrol in the Duke-NUS Centre for Clinician-Scientist^{+} Development's (CCS^{+}D) Individual Development Plan (IDP) in the preceding year of his / her PhD application, for discussion on project career advice about PhD programme.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENT & EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Each application must be applied using:
   a) **Application Form** (to be completed by applicant)
   b) **Research Write-Up and Applicant CV** (to be completed by the applicant and discussed with the Research Supervisor and Mentor)
   c) **Supervisor and Mentor template** (to be completed by the Research Supervisor and Mentor)
   The research supervisor provides advice and guidance on the applicant's research career. The research mentor provides guidance and mentoring for the applicant's project and research domain.
   d) **Nomination Form** (to be completed and endorsed by Clinical HOD, ACP Chair and SDDC Head (where applicable))

   If ACP has more than one applicant, ***each application should be accompanied by the complete set of forms listed above.***

2. All application(s) must be completed using the prescribed templates. Applications that fail to comply with the requirements in any of the templates and / or incomplete applications will be disqualified and will not be reviewed.

3. **All sections** in the **Application Form** have to be filled in unless stated otherwise; the applicant is required to elaborate on his / her **plans to develop capabilities within SingHealth and beyond**, and describe **how the research project aligns with the goals of Academic Medicine**.

4. Applicant must provide a **research project title**, **details of the proposed local PhD programme** and **research proposal**, a **write-up on their research focus**, **justification on how the proposed PhD training will enable he / she to pursue a clinician researcher career**, as well as **future plans in the research career**.

5. Applicant has to name an **appointed research supervisor and mentor** to provide guidance during the course of the PhD programme and beyond. **A description of how the research supervisor and mentor will be able to advance the applicant's career in research** is required in the Supervisor and Mentor template. Additionally, each supervisor/mentor has to submit a **two-page CV** and a **one-page letter of support** for the applicant.

6. Each application must be **supported by** the applicant's **Clinical HOD**, **ACP Chair** and **SDDC Head** (where applicable). Clinical HOD is to provide a **statement of support** for the applicant to undertake his / her PhD programme and ensure that the applicant is provided **appropriate support and protected time** to work on the PhD-related work.

7. These documents and data therein will be used for the purpose to review, evaluate, recommend, and approve the PhD Scholarships for Clinician Researchers award. The data shall also be used to facilitate administration, talent management and development within the SingHealth Duke-NUS AMC.

8. Applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:
   - **Suitability of applicant** (aptitude, skill sets, public service ethos, publications and research track record, developmental and career plans)
   - **Research proposal** (clearly defined research topic, quality of science and potential outcomes in the respective research areas, focus on national research priority areas & areas of strategic importance to SingHealth Duke-NUS AMC)
   - **Training environment** (proposed PhD programme, Supervisor/Mentor and mentorship plans)
   - **Applicant's research and practice environment** (support from the primary institution and ACP)

9. For shortlisted applicants, a short interview with the review panel may be required. Details concerning the interview will be disseminated once it is finalised.

10. For successful applicants, the progress of the research project will be monitored during and after the PhD Scholarship funding period. Applicants are expected to submit the reports periodically during and upon completion of the funding period. These reports will be timed with the key milestone reports of the respective PhD programmes with the goal to provide oversight whilst not leading to excessive reporting.