

HKAM-HKGI Research Excellence Grants in Genomic Medicine 2025/26

Introduction

The HKAM-HKGI Research Excellence Grants in Genomic Medicine (the Grant) is jointly organised by the Hong Kong Genome Institute (HKGI) and Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM). It aims to encourage and support initiatives of research in the field of genetic and genomic medicine conducted by the Academy's young Fellows and higher specialist trainees. It is established to award the grant(s) annually. However, the grant will be awarded only if the research project merits such recognition. HKGI and HKAM reserve the right not to award in any given year.

Eligibility

Applicants must be either young Fellows of the Academy at the time of application (i.e. those awarded Fellowship of HKAM within 10 years), OR higher specialist trainees (i.e. those who have completed the basic training at the time of application). Only the principal investigator of the research can apply. The application must be accompanied by a declaration that the applicant is the principal investigator of the research.

Application Procedures

Please complete and submit the Application Form on or before **5pm on 25 August 2025 (Monday)**. Please refer to the Guidance Notes for completing the Application Form.

Completed forms and relevant supporting documents must be submitted to and reach HKAM by email at HKAM-HKGI-Grant@hkam.org.hk or by post to 10/F, HKAM Jockey Club Building, 99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong. Please address to Chief Executive Officer and indicate "Application for HKAM-HKGI Research Excellence Grants in Genomic Medicine" in your email or on the envelope.

Vetting Panel and Evaluation Mechanism

- a) All proposals shall be evaluated by a Vetting Panel (the Panel) comprising no more than 5 members, as below:
Chairman: President, HKAM
Members: 2 members appointed by the HKAM Council
1 to 2 representatives from HKGI
- b) Name(s) of applicant(s) / author(s) will be blinded during the evaluation process. The Panel will evaluate the applications for the final assessment.
- c) The applicant may be requested to provide additional information and may also be invited to give an oral presentation to the Panel, followed by a Q&A session.
- d) The assessment for the award will be on the basis of scientific content, originality, impact and applicability, and quality of presentation, etc.

Remarks

To ensure a fair and equitable assessment,

- a) a member of the Panel can still make assessment on a paper if it happens that the applicant is known, for whatever reason, to the member.
- b) a member of the Panel must NOT make assessment to any paper in which he has direct involvement, e.g. being a co-investigator.
- c) the average scores shall be counted, instead of the total score. For instance, if all 5 members of the Panel have given a score, the total score will be divided by 5. But if one of the members cannot give score because of b) or any other reason, the total score will be divided by 4.

Award and Sponsorship

- A sum of **HK\$250,000** each will be awarded to no more than 2 awardees in a year¹.
- Apart from the monetary support, a provision of access to resources from HKGI (e.g. laboratory equipment / analysers) may also be made available to awardees to facilitate the conduct of relevant research projects (subject to mutual consent between the awardees and HKGI on the scope).
- All presentations and publications by the grant recipient related to the research project shall acknowledge the support from the Grant.

¹ The Grant will be disbursed via the awardee's supporting institution, typically in 2 instalments upon the submission of progress report(s) and final report at the satisfaction of the Vetting Panel which will be responsible for monitoring and of the awardee's project.