

An Introduction to the Document

The Health Ministry's Screening Committee (HMSC) is a high level committee constituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Govt. of India, to consider and approve international research proposals in biomedical sciences for collaboration with foreign institutions and/or assistance from foreign funding agencies. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) acts as the technical arm and is the Secretariat for this Committee. HMSC is also responsible to monitor the progress of such projects and assess the suitability of research results for inclusion in various national health programmes and policies.

There is no laid down procedure to report the progress made under the international collaborative projects to the HMSC, which is a lacuna, especially during consideration of the projects to avoid the duplication of research work, as also to address the future policy bearings and prioritize key areas of scientific enquiry and research. To overcome this deficiency, a mechanism was needed to be established through better liaison with Principal Investigators (PIs) and funding agencies. Accordingly, it was suggested by the HMSC during the meetings held on February 28, 2004 and April 20, 2004 to prepare a document on the international collaborative research proposals submitted and approved by HMSC alongwith the status of such ongoing projects.

Subsequent to the directions of the Health Ministry's Screening Committee to monitor the progress of international collaborative projects undertaken during the last five years, International Health Division(IHD) formulated an ad-hoc project, duly approved by a Project Review Committee in May, 2004.

Title of the project

"Development of an ICMR document on international collaborative projects approved by Health Ministry's Screening Committee (HMSC)".

Aims & Objectives

- To develop a document indicating the international biomedical collaborative projects submitted to Health Ministry's Screening Committee (HMSC).
- To organize workshops to assess the progress / outcome of approved projects during the last five years.

Duration of research project

Three years (2004-2007)

Investigators

Dr. Mukesh Kumar, Deputy Director General, IHD, ICMR

Dr. Harpreet Sandhu, Senior Research Officer, IHD, ICMR

Project staff

Dr. Vineeta Singh, Research Scientist-II (worked w.e.f. September, 2004 to September, 2006)

Dr. Mrityunjai Kumar, Research Scientist-I (worked w.e.f. September, 2006 to June, 2007)

Mr. Mahesh Kumar, Programmer (worked w.e.f. August, 2004 to June, 2007)

The activities related to this project are highlighted in the document.