

MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

RESEARCH GUIDELINES

Philosophy of the fund

The primary objective of the MSGH research fund is to encourage research among young practitioners with an interest in gastroenterology or hepatology. The intention is to offer grants suitable for the undertaking of small scale, short-term projects which if successfully completed would enhance the track record of the investigators and place them in a better position to apply for larger grants from other agencies. Research proposals may be for observational studies aimed at improving knowledge of local disease epidemiology or interventional studies designed to answer specific scientific questions.

Logistics of the fund

The quantum of funding available each year will be decided by the Executive Committee at the start of its term of office and this information will be circulated to the members. All applications will be vetted by a Research Subcommittee appointed by the Executive Committee. The role of the Research Subcommittee would be to:

- 1] assess and prioritise the merits of each application
- 2] advise investigators on the design of the study
- 3] submit the recommendations to the MSGH Executive Committee for final ratification.
- 4] monitor the progress of the projects

Guidelines for research proposals

- 1] Proposals should be on areas of research pertaining to gastroenterology or hepatology.
- 2] The projects should be designed to achieve completion of data collection within a year.
- 3] Projects should be viable and have realistic objectives.
- 4] The objective should be well defined and clearly stated.
- 5] The proposal should include the justification for the project and evidence that the relevant literature has been adequately reviewed.
- 6] The research instruments used to measure the outcome variable(s) in the study should be adequately validated.
- 7] The intended sample size and the statistical analysis used should be stated.
- 8] Clear and accurate costing of the project should be included in the proposal.
- 9] Ethical approval should be obtained from the institution in which the investigator is based.

The general format of the submitted proposals would be as follows:

- 1] General introduction and justification for the study.
- 2] Objective(s) of the study
- 3] Materials and methods
- 4] Statistical methods
- 5] Costing
- 6] Anticipated time schedule for the project
- 7] Literature references

A brief CV of the investigator(s) including previous research presentations and publications should be submitted with the proposal. If a project includes multiple investigators, the chief investigator will be held accountable for the grant. Accurate and detailed accounts should be maintained and is the responsibility of the chief investigator.

An interim report should be submitted 6 months after the grant has been awarded and a full report within two months of the proposed date of completion of the project. The final report should include the scientific findings and a detailed account of the expenditures incurred during the project. Any excess monies available after completion of the project should be returned to the MSGH.