



## 2024 Data analysis/systematic review/meta-analysis/Methods paper grant

In order to improve our understanding of risk factors which can be modified to enhance maternal and child health and development as well as to support the development of epidemiologic and statistical methods relevant for studies describing them, CISM MAC invites its affiliated researchers to submit proposals for relevant short-term data-analysis projects, methods papers or systematic reviews. Projects can involve the systematic review and meta-analysis of existing papers, the analysis of datasets both from CISM MAC-supported or other studies, or address methodological aspects relevant to our research that have a generic importance, i.e. in the field of epidemiology for causal inference. In case data from CISM MAC-supported studies are used, the analysis should not be in conflict with the pre-defined objectives of the study or already listed as outputs of the CISM MAC-funded project.

The required product of this activity is a manuscript submitted to an international peer-reviewed scientific journal indexed in the [Norwegian register for scientific journals](#) no later than 6 months after the project is granted. The paper must be submitted to an Open access, preferably in a pure Open access journal, i.e. not a hybrid open access journal. If the investigators plan to submit the manuscript to a hybrid journal, they must share a plan for how article processing charges (APC) will be covered, including from this small grant. (Additional grants for APC are regrettably not available from CISM MAC).

The requested grant should be used to ensure the dedication of time and attention needed to analyse the data/do the review/methods development, write the manuscript and submit it for publication. Anticipated travels and conference fees need to be reflected in the budget.

CISM MAC will in this round fund up to 5 projects. CISM MAC should be acknowledged in the papers generated by this initiative<sup>1</sup>.

### 1. Application process

The application for the existing small research grant is open to the CISM MAC researchers affiliated with any of the studies which are part of the CISM MAC consortium. Researchers from at least two of the CISM MAC partner institutions must collaborate on the paper and co-author the resulting scientific article(s). UiB is considered a partner in this context. The CISM MAC applicants can also choose to collaborate with researchers who are not affiliated with institutions in the CISM MAC consortium.

In addition to the [ICMJE recommendations](#) for defining the role of authors and contributions, we recommend that those who contributed to generating the data, not only its analysis, are invited to become co-authors. Please also see Annex 5 of [CISM MAC's Consortium agreement](#) for more details.

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<sup>1</sup>The following phrase (or a suitable modification thereof) should be used, where the italicized components must be included: "The contribution by [name of the investigator] was supported by the *Centre for Intervention Science in Maternal and Child Health*, which is funded by the Research Council of Norway through its Centres of Excellence scheme (*project number 223269*) and the University of Bergen (UiB), Norway.

The applicants should complete the [application form](#) outlining the rationale and relevance of the project, contributing partner institutions, any external collaborators and the key contents of the proposed manuscript, the intended journal(s) it targets, and any planned conferences where the findings will be presented. If using existing data, the applicants should describe from which study the data emanate, provide a realistic timeline and a budget. Those who plan a systematic review or a methods paper should describe the research question, the planned literature search and any meta-analysis. The application and the budget outline shall be uploaded to the [application form](#) no later than 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024. If approved, the funds will be transferred to the partner institution(s) or, in some cases, be handled by the CIH to cover expenses incurred by the project in Norway or in another country.

There is no limit to the number of applications an individual researcher can submit. However, an individual applicant will only be entitled to receive a second grant after successful publication of the paper resulting from the previous grant.

## **2. Assessment of proposals**

Only proposals that comply with the requirements stated above will be assessed. The assessment will be carried out by CISM MAC management, when required using independent reviewers. The proposals will be ranked based on:

- a. Relevance of study question
- b. Rationale for doing the study and writing the paper
- c. Data quality, if original data is used.
- d. Analysis plan
- e. Qualification of the research team which will carry out the analysis and write the manuscript.
- f. Likelihood of publication in a well-recognized scientific journal

The final decision on grant allocation will be made by the chair of CISM MAC's publication committee based on CISM MAC management and any reviewers' recommendations.

## **3. Budget and funds disbursement**

Each of the grants are up to NOK 70,000. Which part of the funds the CISM MAC partner institution(s) choose(s) to use for APC and for other expenses, including for any consultancy to scientist(s) who do(es) the work towards the paper, is decided by the partner institutions. Consultancy cannot be paid to full time employees of the University of Bergen, CMI, Innlandet Hospital Trust or NIPH. The consultancy portion of the grant will be paid to the institution(s) after the manuscript has been submitted to the journal and assessed to be appropriate for such a journal by the CISM MAC Publication Committee.

## **4. Report**

A brief report is to be submitted to CISM MAC Management within 2 months of project completion, presenting the paper that was developed, indicating the scientific journal where it was submitted and quoting the initial response from the journal to which it was submitted. The report should also

list conference(s) where the findings were presented, with abstract identification. Abstracts from conference proceedings and, later, published papers, should be sent to CISMAC management, which will ensure that the communication is reflected in CISMAC's progress and annual reports. The project report should include an account statement. Any surplus funds after project completion should be returned to CISMAC or, if approved by CISMAC's management, used for additional analysis and/or manuscript writing.

For clarification linked to the application process please contact the CISMAC Administration: Iselin Henriksen Kvamme ([Iselin.Kvamme@uib.no](mailto:Iselin.Kvamme@uib.no)).