



## C I R C U L A R

Imphal, the 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2026

**No. 121/RIMS-MRU/2026:** The Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, has invited Expression of Interest from Multi-Disciplinary Research Units (scoring  $\geq 70\%$  defined by DHR) for upgradation as **MRU-Centre of Research Excellence (MRU-CoRE)**.

MRU, RIMS, Imphal, having secured the requisite performance score (80%), is eligible to apply for upgradation as a Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE). For this purpose, robust, high-quality and problem-solving research proposals are required as mandatory component of the EoI. In this regard, proposals are invited from all Departments of RIMS, Imphal, including Dental College, and College of Nursing, RIMS, Imphal.

The priority research domains identified by DHR are:

1. **Communicable Diseases** (Tuberculosis, Vector-borne Diseases, Antimicrobial Resistance, One Health);
2. **Non-Communicable Diseases** (Cancer, Mental Health, Ambulatory Care of Hypertension & Diabetes);
3. **Reproductive, Child Health & Nutrition** (Anaemia, Childhood Malnutrition, Neonatal Mortality);
4. **Others** (Acute Emergency Care, Oral Health, Climate Change, Gene Therapy).

Each Department/College may submit **one (1) research proposal** under any of the above domains to the MRU, RIMS, Imphal.


The submission schedule shall be as follows:

- **Concept Note Submission:** On or before **30<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, 4:00 PM.**
- **Full Research Proposal Submission:** On or before **31<sup>st</sup> July, 2026, 4:00 PM.**

The proposals received shall be reviewed by the competent authority. Out of the proposals received, **three (3) proposals** will be recommended to DHR under the MRU-CoRE initiative. The remaining meritorious proposals shall be considered for support under the Intramural Research Programme of MRU, RIMS, Imphal.

The prescribed format for submission of concept notes and research proposals is being uploaded on the RIMS, Imphal website and circulated separately through official email.

This is issued with the approval of the Director, RIMS, Imphal.

  
(Prof. T. Jeetankumar Singh)  
Nodal Officer  
Multi-Disciplinary Research Unit  
RIMS, Imphal

Copy to:

1. The P.S. to Director, RIMS, Imphal, for kind information of Director
2. The P.A. to Medical Superintendent, RIMSH, Imphal, for kind information
3. The Dean (Academic), RIMS, Imphal, for kind information.
4. The Principal, Dental College, RIMS, Imphal
5. The Principal, College of Nursing, RIMS, Imphal
6. All Heads of Department, RIMS, Imphal, Imphal
7. The Chairperson/Co-Chairperson, LRAC, MRU, RIMS, Imphal
8. The Member, LRAC, MRU, RIMS, Imphal .....
9. The Member, EC, MRU, RIMS, Imphal .....
- ✓ 10. The System Administrator RIMS, Imphal – for uploading the circular in the website
11. Guard file.

## Format for project proposal

### PART-A

1. **Title of the proposed research project (up to 25 words):** should be **specific, concise** and yet sufficiently descriptive and informative.
1. **Summary (up to 250 words):** A structured summary should contain the following subheadings:
  - I. Rationale/ gaps in existing knowledge,
  - II. Novelty,
  - III. Objectives,
  - IV. Methods
  - V. Expected outcome.
2. **Area of research (Please tick one):**
  - Description-burden, risk factors, determinants, associations, characteristics-clinical or OMICs
  - Discovery-finding novel interventions (basic research)
  - Development or improvement of preventive, screening, diagnostic, treatment or rehabilitation interventions
  - Delivery-implementation research
3. **Keywords:** Six keywords separated by comma which best describe your project may be provided.
4. **Abbreviations:** Only standard abbreviations should be used in the text. List of abbreviations maximum of ten may be given as a list.
5. **Problem Statement (up to 500 words):** State the currently available information to adequately present the problem.
6. **Rationale of the study (up to 250 words):** Mention how the research question addresses the critical barrier(s) in scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or programmatic/clinical/lab practice and its relevance to local, national and international context with relevant bibliography.
7. **Hypothesis/ Research question (up to 100 words):** Please provide details
8. **Study Objectives (up to 25 words/ objective):** Define the objectives clearly and in measurable terms; mention as primary and secondary objectives if necessary. Do not include more than 3-4 objectives.
9. **Methodology:** Include objective-wise work plan under the following sub-headings (as applicable):
  - a. Study design
  - b. Study site
  - c. Methods (e.g. PICO)
  - d. Sample size estimation and sampling strategy
  - e. Implementation strategy
  - f. Data management and analysis plan
  - g. Statistical analysis
  - h. Ethical issues

10. **Expected outcome/ Deliverables aligned with research question** i.e., what will be known at the end, if the project achieves all the stated objectives **(up to 100 words)**:
11. **Future plan based on expected outcomes (up to 100 words)**:
12. **Whether the study is going to generate new intellectual property or will be in conflict with the existing one? Please provide details**
13. **Timelines with achievable targets: GANTT/ PERT chart to be provided.**
14. **Details about research governance:** This includes, but is not limited to the following: Roles and responsibilities of leadership such as the lead investigators, other investigators, MRU nodal officer, Dean/Principal and relevant senior faculty of host medical college; administrative and financial processes involved in project management including availability of academic research department, if any; institutional support in terms of resources, space, etc., provided to MRU; any institutional policy/documents related to biomedical research, ethical review process; mechanisms for protection of human research participants; institutional capacity building of staff in conducting biomedical research.
15. **Plan for research data management**
16. **Plan for collaborations with other institutions that include roles of collaborating institutions and justification for their involvement**

## PART-B

1. **Name of the MRU:**
2. **Name of MRU Nodal Officer:**
3. **Address with email id and phone no. of Nodal Officer:**
4. **List of three Health issues identified:**
5. **Name, designation and departments of the lead investigator for each of the three identified health issues:**
6. **Preliminary work done by the PI including the source of funding (up to 250 words):**  
Proof of concept (if any)
7. **Skill and experience of the research team:** Highlight only the key qualifications, expertise, and achievements that demonstrate the team's capability to implement the project effectively and ensure high-quality outcomes. Include a one-page brief CV of the Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI).
  - a. **Publications (Table 1):**  
Provide a list of publications by all three lead investigators proposed for the MRU-CoRE in peer-reviewed, indexed journals during the last five years. Publications should be relevant to the identified health issues. For each publication, indicate its impact, such as contribution to policy, protocols, programmes, guidelines, patents, technology development, or other measurable outcomes.
  - b. **Extramural Research Projects (Table 2):**  
List all extramural research projects undertaken by each lead investigator during the last five years in the prescribed format.
  - c. **Patents, Technologies, and Commercialized Products (Table 3):**  
Provide details of patents, technologies developed, and products commercialized related to the identified health issues, as well as achievements in other relevant subject areas.
  - d. **Research Collaborations (Table 4):**  
List the institutions and organizations with which the MRU has collaborated on research projects during the last five years.
8. **Institutional Support/ Facilities:** Mention the efforts made to achieve inter-departmental or inter institutional collaboration needed for study implementation, details of coordination between clinical, laboratory and data management procedures, mention:
9. **Laboratory facilities (*in-vitro* *in-silico*):** Institutional resources such as instruments/equipment and other physical resources available for use in the project proposed animal house etc.

10. **Budget:** Budget should be as per DHR MRU CoRE. Justifications for all sub-headings under budget is to be provided in detail. (Kindly provide budget plan for establishment of data management centre and Capacity Building as per CoRE Guidelines under the recurring head). Kindly provide cumulative budget for all three Research Proposals.
11. **Conflict of Interest Declaration (if any):** PI should include a statement for conflict of declaration (if any).
12. Additional supplementary information including figures, tables, flow diagrams, etc can be shared as PDF (5 MB).

**(Information to be provided by each lead investigator (add more rows where applicable))**

**Table 1. List of publications in last five years**

Title of publication in Vancouver referencing style	Impact Factor of journal	Name of policy/ programme/ protocol document or patent/ commercialisation of products where cited

**Table 2. List of projects in last five years**

Short title of the project	Primary objective (in brief)	Type of study (e.g. RCT / Prevalence/ Lab-based)	Sample size	Funding agency	Grant amount	Time period

**Table 3. List of granted patents/commercialised products**

Intellectual Property	Application Number	Title/ Technology or Project to which the invention is related	Status (Filed/ Granted)

**Table 4. List of collaborating institutes in last five years**

<b>Name of institute</b>	<b>Name of research project</b>	<b>Time period</b>

**Signature of lead applicant 1**

**Date**

**Signature of lead applicant 1**

**Date**

**Signature of lead applicant 1**

**Date**

**Signature of MRU Nodal officer**

**Date**

**Signature of LRAC Chairperson**

**Date**

**(Signature with seal)**

**Date**

**Dean/Principal/Director of Medical College**