



भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद  
स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग, स्वास्थ्य और परिवार  
कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Indian Council of Medical Research  
Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health  
and Family Welfare, Government of India

Date: 28.04.2023

## Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) for Participation in “Breast Cancer Survival Studies”

### Background

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, is the apex biomedical research body in the country for formulation, co-ordination, and promotion of medical research. The overall goal of ICMR-DHR is to generate evidence to inform policy, program and practices pertaining to health care in India. The ICMR has always attempted to address the growing demands of scientific advances in biomedical research on the one hand and to the need of finding practical solutions to the health problems of the country, on the other. ICMR is planning to initiate ‘Breast Cancer Survival Studies’.

### Rationale for the Breast Cancer Survival Studies

ICMR envisages initiating a new study on breast cancer survival to improve survival in breast cancer patients in India. There is urgent need to address low survival rates in breast cancer and saturate the country with good quality care. At stage II, breast cancer survival rate is 66-70% in India as compared to developed countries, which are 90- 99%.

ICMR’s vision is to identify Hospitals with best survival rates for breast cancer from East, West, North, South and North-East India which could mentor other institutes with poor survival rates in form of Hub and Spoke model to bring uniformity in breast cancer treatment and improve quality of life. This will bring catalytic changes in hospitals where infrastructure already exists.

Additionally, this network will be at the forefront for capacity building of a pool of health researchers across the country.

### Structure

The project will work on a hub and spoke model with a co-ordinating centre located at ICMR Hqrs. Hubs will be distributed over the five regions of the country (North, South, East, West and North-east) and will function as nodal point for that region. These Centres will include Institutes/Medical Colleges/Hospitals of repute with experience and expertise in conducting multicentre studies and will have linkage to ICMR Hqrs as the coordinating unit.

Each regional hub, thus identified, will act as the mentoring body for a region, with the responsibilities of supportive supervision and troubleshooting as required. They will have an inclusive expansion plan so that the newly identified potential partnering agency/institutes/organizations are inducted in the regional network. Funding for human resources, as well as for the mentoring activities at each of these hubs will be provided by ICMR coordinating unit (Figure 1). The number of regional hubs will be scaled up in a phased manner.

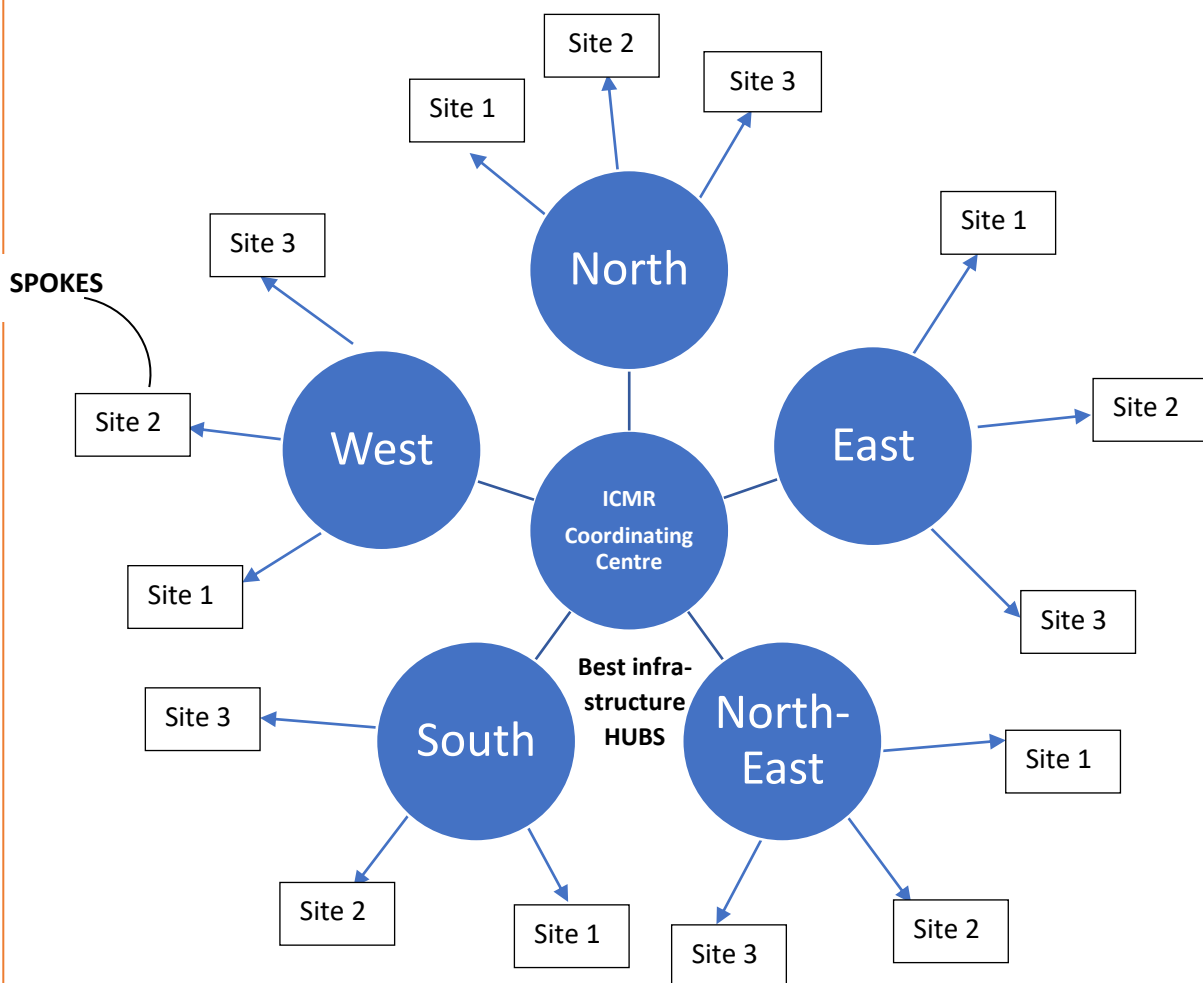


Figure 1

### Scope of the studies under the project

Implementation research studies that would help in improving breast cancer survival rates.

Concept proposals should aim at finding solutions to implementation research questions on breast cancer survival and must address following points:

A. Rationale of proposed work

You may include issues related to perceived need for the study and likelihood of utilisation of the model by stakeholders in future. The challenges strengths and weakness of the participating facilities to be included. Evidence from previous research on this topic may be provided.

B. Implementation Strategy:

A brief outline of implementation strategy should be given. You may include timeline, steps of implementation, measures of outcome, data management and deliverables.

C. Research Team:

You should summarise and justify composition of the research team, based on the expertise of the individual team members in designing and implementation of the project. Role and responsibility of each team members should be outlined here.

D. Established Relationship with health system.

Operational feasibility would be the key for this Implementation Research study. The EoI should also describe the existing or proposed liaisoning with district/state health system where the study is proposed to be undertaken.

**Who can apply for Breast Cancer Survival Studies?**

Hub	Spoke
1. Govt. Medical Colleges/Institutes	1. Govt. Medical Colleges/Institutes
2. Private Medical Colleges/Institutes having DSIR certificate	2. Private Medical Colleges/Institutes having DSIR certificate
3. HBCR in the institute is mandatory	3. HBCR in the institute is mandatory
4. At least <b>1000</b> new breast cancer cases reported per year	4. At least <b>300-500</b> new breast cancer cases reported per year
5. Hospitals with facility of Ayushman Bharat scheme for cancer patients.	5. Hospitals with facility of Ayushman Bharat scheme for cancer patients.
6. Hospitals with survival rates of >80% at two years in stage II breast cancer	6. Hospitals with survival rates of >30% at two years in stage II breast cancer
7. HBCR with >50% follow up of registered breast cancer patients	7. HBCR with >20% follow up of registered breast cancer patients

<p><b>Investigator</b></p> <p>a. Endorsed by the Head of the Institute/College</p> <p>b. Experience of initiating/participating in multi-centric studies (&gt;5 years).</p> <p>c. Preferably a multi-disciplinary team of investigators to be involved.</p>	<p><b>Investigator</b></p> <p>a. Endorsed by the Head of the Institute/College</p> <p>b. Preferably a multi-disciplinary team of investigators to be involved</p>
<p><b>Institute</b></p> <p>a. Institute should have Departments of Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology, Radiation Oncology and Pathology.</p> <p>b. HR availability—Team of epidemiologist, clinician, pathologist, surgical oncologist, radiation oncologist, medical oncologist</p>	<p><b>Institute</b></p> <p>a. Institute should have Departments of Medical Oncology, Surgery and lab facilities.</p> <p>b. HR availability—Team of clinician, pathologist, surgeon, medical oncologist</p>

### Review Process

Once the call is closed and EoIs are received, the eligible concept proposals will first be subjected to preliminary screening to shortlist proposals fulfilling the inclusion criterion. Expert Group constituted for the Breast Cancer Survival Studies project will then score the proposals. Those scoring highest will then be required to submit full proposal.

### Duration of project:

The project duration will be up to three years. An additional period of up to 6 months for preparatory activities (with no additional costs) can be incorporated in the project proposal.

### Timeline

Activities	Date
Release of Call	28- Apr-2023
Last date for submission of concept proposal	31- May-2023
Review and short listing of concept proposals	30-June-2023
Proposal improvement workshop	31-July-2023
Submission of full proposals	31-August-2023

Interested parties should fill the Google form at the below link and submit concept proposals as per the [Format](#) on next page. Each concept note to be submitted online as a single PDF of not more than 4 pages.

Link: <https://forms.gle/t3NXZFeQ7NQLnGyX9>

Last date for receiving applications: 31- May-2023

For any query contact:

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## CONCEPT-PROPOSAL FORMAT

(Each concept note to be uploaded online as a single PDF of not more than 5 pages)

SL NO	CONTENTS
1	Title of the proposal
2	Duration of the project in months
3	Brief description of the identified problem and its public health relevance (< 100 words) ---Rationale
4	Justification of the proposed intervention with supporting data (< 100 words)
5	Objectives (as bullets) (Maximum of 3 objectives)
6	<p>Work plan/ methodology aligned to objectives (&lt; 1000 words, sub-headings only for reference) --- Implementation Strategy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>Study design</i></li><li>2. <i>Study tools</i></li><li>3. <i>Sampling technique and sample size estimation</i></li><li>4. <i>Details of the intervention</i></li><li>5. <i>Data analyses</i></li><li>6. <i>Budget</i></li></ol> <p>The final budget for the proposal will be developed by the selected research team/s in discussion with ICMR. In this EOI, we request you to provide a budget outline (no budget justification required at this stage) under the following headings: staff, recurring/contingency, data management, travel and equipment.</p>
7	Implementation Strategy
8	Study outcomes & future plans (< 100 words)
9	<p>One-page CV of Principal Investigator</p> <p>Each CV should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Academic and professional qualifications</li><li>- Current position and affiliation</li><li>- Up to 5 most relevant previous research grants</li><li>- 5 most relevant previous publications</li></ul>