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Patient Safety

Strengthening research capacity through the WHO Patient Safety Small Research Grants Programme

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ISQua International Conference, October 2009, Dublin

About the Small Grants

It is a new initiative of WHO that provides funding for patient safety research

It was formally launched on 24 June 2008 by Dr Bates

It is btw \$10 000 and \$25 000 per grant

Target junior or mid-career researchers in developing and transitional countries

Encourage collaboration



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Why the Small Grants?



Lack of **awareness** of the issues

Lack of **research capacity** – personnel, institutional development & organizational infrastructure, regulatory & policy frameworks

Lack of effective **mechanisms** for disseminating and sharing of new knowledge and translating of evidence into policy and practice

Lack of **financial resources** to conduct research given competing priorities

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And so...

- To stimulate research in patient safety
- To contribute to local capacity building –targeting young or early- to mid-career researchers
- To promote the culture of patient safety - facilitating dissemination of research findings.



Applications are now invited for the 2009 Small Research Grants Programme.

The programme focuses on applied research; applications that attempt to identify local problems, or evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of existing solutions are especially welcome. A list of priorities for potential research topics may be found on the WHO Patient Safety website.

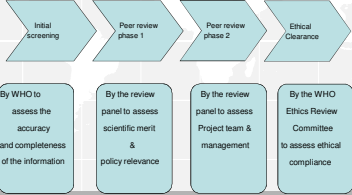
The Grants

- Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis.
- Developers (US\$ 10,000 and US\$ 25,000 per project).
- Studies can be conducted in any health-care setting.
- Studies must relate to patient safety.
- Studies must be conducted within 12-18 months.
- The principal investigator must be affiliated with an institution in the country in which the proposed study will be conducted.

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How does it work?

- Grants are awarded on a competitive basis
- Proposals are reviewed by independent expert reviewers through a peer review process
- Protocols must meet be of high quality
- Subject to approval by the WHO Ethics Review Committee




By WHO to assess the accuracy and completeness of the information


By the review panel to assess scientific merit & policy relevance

By the review panel to assess Project team & management

By the WHO Ethics Review Committee to assess ethical compliance


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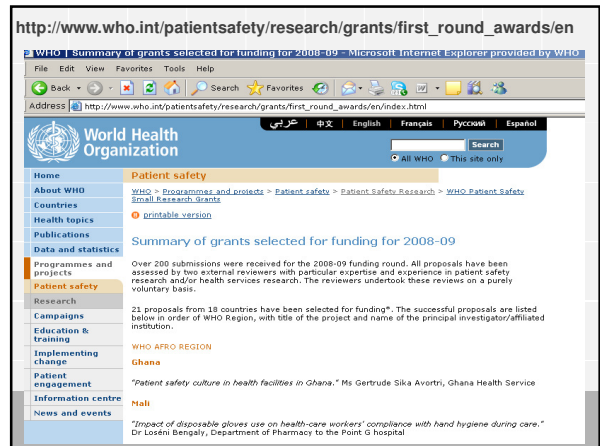
In the first year - 2008



- 52 expert reviewers contributed in 2008
- 223 submissions were received
- 20 projects from 17 countries selected for funding

4 projects on the epidemiology of adverse events
3 projects on hand hygiene
3 projects on medication safety
2 projects involve patient experience
4 projects on patient safety culture
1 project each on safe surgery, reporting system, counterfeit drugs and on education and training

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Supporting researchers

Direct coaching and ongoing support from WHO

Facilitating grantees to share experience through internet based seminars (Webinar) and communication platform (SharePoint)

The first round Small Grants will deliver:

- 20 research projects
- At least 20 publications
- Policy-makers in 17 countries will learn about the results
- 5 First time principal investigators
- 5 PhD and 1 Master degree graduates

Grantees from New Zealand and China

Developing research capacity

A mentoring model

Learning – team up with experienced researchers

Mentoring – share lead role with experienced colleagues in developed countries (4 projects)

A team from Canada/Mexico

Strengthening capacity through collaboration

Collaboration – with clinicians or decision makers

Collaboration - with colleagues in developed countries

Training of research teams

Grantees meet reviewers from France and Japan at ISQua in Dublin

We support the reviewers

"It has been a fantastic experience"

"I learned a lot about patient safety"

A grantee from China meets a reviewer from the UK

and meets reviewers from Thailand

Supporting the programme



We also need support for leadership and technical expertise



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What the grantees say...

This is the first protocol I wrote in English

This is the first patient safety research in my country.

It is very difficult to attract funding for research in my country, especially for research in the field of patient safety... WHO supports may help local funding bodies to recognize that this is a respectable area of research.

...without the support of the WHO I would not have been able to get my research career off the ground.



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