

Guidelines for Awarding Research Grants by the Malaysian Society of Hypertension

Introduction

The Malaysian Society of Hypertension has made significant strides towards promoting a scientific culture among the health fraternity in Malaysia. One of the purposes of the Society is to encourage scientific research among Malaysians in the field of hypertension. The yearly scientific meeting of the Society has managed to attract research papers from local researchers.

Malaysian researchers have also managed to get their scientific work accepted by major international meetings on hypertension like the European Society of Hypertension (ESH) and the International Society of Hypertension (ISH). In 1994 only 2 papers from Malaysian researchers were accepted for presentation at the ISH meeting in Melbourne. A few years later there were more than 10 papers from Malaysian researchers accepted for presentation at the ISH meeting in Fukuoka.

More needs to be done to enhance research activities and research output from Malaysia. Efforts must be made to encourage research activities in the field of hypertension, both at the basic and clinical levels. MSH is now in a better financial position to help spur research activities in the country.

The following grant has therefore been created.

Research Grant Award

1. This award will be offered yearly to researchers working in the field of hypertension.
2. The age limit for applicants should be below 40 years old.
3. Applicants must submit a full study protocol using a structured format
4. Priority should be given to original research work not previously done anywhere in the world
5. The MSH council will determine the quantum and number of grants annually.
6. The quantum and number of grants to be awarded will be reviewed depending on available funds
7. Proposals will be vetted by a committee. While Ethical approval is not mandatory prior to the committee reviewing the proposals, funds can only be disbursed to successful applicants after obtaining Ethical approval.

Generation of Funds

1. It is proposed that MSH create a fund dedicated to research
2. As this fund should be tax exempted, it is proposed that MSH should increase the quantum yearly. An initial seed money of RM20,000 is proposed with a yearly increment of 15% to the fund
3. The fund can be established as a trust fund dedicated to hypertension research
4. Philanthropists and health related industry can contribute to the fund
5. The MSH council will supervise the management of the fund and the disbursement of the awards. In future, a board of trustee may be set to manage this fund.