



**AMED-A\*STAR Joint Funding**  
**“Biological and Molecular Determinants of Human Ageing”**  
**Call for Collaborative Proposals (Due: December 19<sup>th</sup> (Mon) 2016)**

**I. General Description**

**I-1. Joint Funding of Japan-Singapore Collaborative Research**

Based on the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) dated March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (hereinafter referred to as “AMED”) and the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, Singapore (hereinafter referred to as “A\*STAR”) have expressed the desire to strengthen R&D cooperation between scientists in Japan and Singapore in the field of biomedical and scientific research. The AMED-A\*STAR joint call is therefore launched to take the AMED-A\*STAR engagement to a deeper level. For this call, “Ageing” was selected as the specific research area.

**I-2. Aim of This Call and Research Field**

The aims of this call are to: 1) strengthen research collaborations between Japan and Singapore within the field of “**Biological and Molecular Determinants of Human Ageing**”; and 2) achieve world-class scientific results through the development and use of new and innovative technologies which can address the challenges facing the international community in the area of health research in both countries.

For the assistance of understanding, research projects should focus on human genes or biomarkers as indicators of healthy ageing or ageing-related diseases, and could involve the use (but not limited to) of cells, animals or human subjects.

This is operated under the Strategic International Collaborative Research Program (SICORP) between AMED and A\*STAR.

To accomplish the R&D objectives mutually agreed upon by both countries, AMED will assign the Program Supervisor (PS) and Program Officer (PO), who play a key role in the evaluation process and the management of projects on the Japanese side.

**I-3. Prospective Applicants**

AMED and A\*STAR invite researchers based in Japan and Singapore to submit proposals



for this call pertaining to the research area of "**Ageing**". This call for collaborative proposals will require a set of applicants (co-applicants) who will be serving as co-Principal Investigators (PI) based in Japan and Singapore to work in partnership on research projects. Japan-based applicants will be funded by AMED, while Singapore-based applicants will be funded by A\*STAR. Eligibility to apply will be determined by the following national eligibility rules.

Eligibility for Japan-based co-applicants:

- a. The Japan-based co-applicants must be the persons who will be the co-PIs for the project.
- b. The Japan-based co-applicants must be affiliated with a domestic Japanese research institution, and they will carry out the proposed project at this institution.

\* The following researchers may also submit applications:

- Researchers affiliated with companies etc. (Research institutions other than university etc.\*) in Japan.
- Researchers of foreign nationality who are affiliated with a domestic Japanese research institution.
- Researchers who are not currently affiliated with a research institution or affiliated with an overseas research institution, but would be able to become affiliated with a domestic Japanese research institution and organize a system for carrying out the R&D project if selected as an R&D PI.

c. Researchers who are able to bear overall responsibility for an R&D project throughout the entire project period.

\* For further details, please refer to "V. Responsibilities of Research Leaders after Proposals are Approved."

\*: The term "University etc." refers to educational corporations such as national, public and private university corporations; public research organizations such as national and public testing and research bodies, independent administrative agencies, and national R&D corporations; and public organizations such as benevolent corporations, all of which are approved by AMED. The term "Company etc." refers to research institutions other than the "University etc."

Eligibility for Singapore-based co-applicants:

- a. The Singapore-based co-applicants must be the persons who will be the co-PIs for the project.
- b. The Singapore-based co-applicants must reside in Singapore and be full-time employed researchers at a public sector research organization in Singapore, including hospitals, universities, polytechnics, and A\*STAR research institutions, and they will carry out the



proposed project at this institution.

c. Researchers who are able to bear overall responsibility for an R&D project throughout the entire project period.

\* For further details, please refer to “V. Responsibilities of Research Leaders after Proposals are Approved.”

d. For the avoidance of doubt, researchers from industry are not eligible to receive funding from A\*STAR, but may participate via a joint collaboration with the successful co-applicants.

## **II. Financial Support**

Depending on the number of proposals submitted, it is anticipated that up to three (3) bilateral research projects will be funded by this Call.

### **II-1. Support by AMED and A\*STAR**

In this collaborative call, AMED and A\*STAR will fund up to three proposals, each at a total budget of no more than 22.5 million yen from AMED and no more than SGD\$300,000 from A\*STAR for the entire project duration. AMED will provide support for the researchers based in Japan, and A\*STAR will support researchers based in Singapore. The duration of a collaborative research project shall be no longer than three years (thirty-six (36) months) in total from the start date.

### **II-2. AMED**

#### **II-2.1. Budget for Collaborative Research Projects**

The total budget for each project proposed by Japan-based co-applicants over a full three (3)-year period (i.e. thirty-six (36) months) should not exceed twenty two and a half (22.5) million yen in principle including indirect cost. The planned budget for research projects may vary each year, depending on the planned activities specific to each project.

Funding for Japan-based Teams are allowable for:

	Items	Standard definitions
Direct Cost	Goods	Costs of purchasing new equipment, supplies, trial pieces, software, books, reagents, materials and consumables.

	Travel	Expenses for travel by the R&D PI or research unit members and by invited persons
	Personnel and Services	Annual salaries for research staff etc. employed for R&D objectives and honorariums, etc. for speakers, etc.
	Others	In addition to the above, costs required to accomplish the R&D objectives. Examples: costs related to the presentation of research results (research paper submission fees, printing costs, HP-producing costs etc.), meeting expenses, transportation costs, equipment lease expenses, equipment repair costs, printing costs, software subcontract production costs, inspection costs, equivalent expenses to consumption tax regarding non-taxed transactions, etc.
Indirect Cost* <sup>1</sup>	Allocated in certain proportion to direct cost (within 30%), paid by AMED as required costs for managing the research institution to implement the contract R&D project and used by the research institution.	

\*<sup>1</sup> Provided for the contract R&D agreement between AMED and a national university corporation, inter-university research institute corporation, national institute for education policy research, independent administrative agency, government-affiliated corporation, special private lending corporation, general incorporated association, general incorporation foundation, public interest incorporated association, public interest incorporated foundation, private enterprise, private university or similar organization, but not for researchers belonging to national institutes. Indirect costs are also allocated in proportion to the direct cost to the joint institution (excluding national institutes.)

## II-2.2. Contract between Japan-based Co-applicant and AMED

Support will be implemented in accordance with a contract for commissioned research which shall be entered into between AMED and the Japan-based co-applicant's Institution. The contract for commissioned research will be signed each fiscal year over the collaborative research period. Since the contract is agreed on condition that all administrative procedures related to the project in question shall be handled within the institution, the PI should consult with the department in charge at his/her institution.

## II-3. A\*STAR

### II-3.1. Budget for Collaborative Research Projects

The total budget for each project proposed by Singapore-based co-applicants over a full three (3)-year period (i.e. thirty-six (36) months) should not exceed three hundred thousand (300,000) Singapore dollars in principle including indirect costs (Note: Indirect costs only apply to non-A\*STAR applicants. The project budget should not fund indirect costs for A\*STAR applicants). The planned budget for research projects may vary each year, depending on the planned activities specific to each project.

### II.3.2. Funded Expenses



This grant call is designed to support expenses relating to collaboration with a Japan counterpart for a Singapore-based researcher. The main research infrastructure essential to conducting the research project should be secured by each research group prior to the commencement of the collaboration.

Funding provided within this grant call is intended to enhance the capacity of the co-applicants to collaborate. Funding will therefore be provided in support of collaborative activities and may include some of the local research that is necessary for the collaboration. These may include:-

- Travel expenses
- Manpower expenses.
- Equipment purchase
- Expenses for research-related consumables (OOE)

Please refer to the accompanying A\*STAR Grants Terms & Conditions and Guidelines for Managing A\*STAR Grants for more details on fundable and non-fundable items for this grant call.

### **II-3.3. Contract between Singapore Co-applicant and A\*STAR**

The awarded projects will be subjected to the Terms and Conditions set by A\*STAR. Management of the projects will be accordance to the A\*STAR Guidelines for Managing A\*STAR Grants. Arrangements relating to intellectual property rights (including copyright and patent rights) and commercialization of such intellectual property shall be in accordance with the Terms and Conditions applicable to the award as determined by A\*STAR.

### **II-4. Contract between Researchers from Japan and Singapore**

It is required that a contract be entered into for any joint research collaboration. In the interest of encouraging meaningful collaborations, the concerned parties are requested to engage in appropriate discussions and negotiations to determine issues such as ownership of any arising intellectual properties and each party's rights and obligations under the collaboration. Reference to this joint guideline should be stated within the contract should it be drawn up by the Japan and Singapore institutions.



### **III. Application**

#### **III-1. Application Forms**

All co-applicants are required to submit the application forms written in English.

NOTE: The Japan and Singapore-based co-applicants shall use the appropriate application form issued by AMED and A\*STAR. The co-applicants from Japan and Singapore shall work together to write a proposal and apply electronically as designated in III-2. Submission of Application Forms.

The application shall include the following basic common information:-

- a) A project description stating how the collaboration will be conducted, with clear statements of what roles the Japan- and Singapore-based researchers will play in the project.
- b) The expected outcome(s) of the proposed project, including scientific objectives, and the project's relevance to industry and society.
- c) The ongoing activities and specific expertise of the Singapore and Japan groups, which form the basis for the proposed joint project, including how the skills, technology and other resources in each group complement each other. Also, details of any existing links between the groups.
- d) The expected added value from the proposed joint project, and how this will help strengthen research collaboration between Japan and the Singapore over the longer term.
- e) A discussion of how the proposed joint project compares with other comparable activities elsewhere in the world.

#### **III-2. Submission of Application Forms**

Japan-based co-applicants should electronically submit their application forms to AMED by 17:00 (Japanese Standard Time) on December 19<sup>th</sup> (Mon) 2016, through online application system, e-Rad (<http://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html>).

Singapore-based co-applicants should electronically submit their application forms to BMRC, A\*STAR by 17:00 (Singapore Standard Time) on December 19<sup>th</sup> (Mon) 2016, via [A-STAR\\_BMRC\\_AMED@a-star.edu.sg](mailto:A-STAR_BMRC_AMED@a-star.edu.sg).

### **IV. Evaluation of Project Proposals**

Joint Committee consisting of experts will evaluate all proposals and make a selection. Based on the results of the evaluation, AMED and A\*STAR will jointly make a common



decision regarding funding of the selected proposals.

#### **IV-1. Evaluation Criteria**

The following general evaluation criteria will apply to each application:

##### **1) Conformity with Program Aims and Designated Research Fields**

The proposed activity shall conform to the aims of the program and the research fields that the program designates.

##### **2) Capability of Research Leaders**

The research leaders in both countries shall have the insight or experience (or potential in the case of younger researchers) necessary for pursuing the activity and the ability to manage the collaboration and reach the project goals during this program's period of support.

##### **3) Effectiveness and Synergy of Collaborative Research Project**

The proposed research activity shall be eminent, creative and at an internationally high level in an attempt to produce a significant impact on the development of future science and technology or to solve global and regional common issues or to create innovative technological seeds that can contribute to the creation of new industries in the future.

Moreover, proposed research activities that can be expected to create synergy through collaborative research with the counterpart institution will be preferred. Such synergy could be attained through, for example, the acquisition and/or application of knowledge, skill and/or know-how of the counterpart researcher.

##### **4) Validity of Research Plan**

The sharing of research activities with the counterpart research institute and the planning of research expenses shall be adequate to realize the proposed research activity.

#### **IV-2. Announcement of Decision**

Successful co-applicants will be notified of the final decision by AMED and A\*STAR in March 2017.

### **V. Responsibilities of Research Leaders after Proposals are Approved**

#### **V-1. Responsibilities**

After the proposal has been approved, research leaders and their affiliated institutions will observe the following when carrying out the collaborative research and utilising funds



provided by AMED and A\*STAR.

#### 1. Annual Progress Report

At the end of each project year for A\*STAR-funded projects; and at the end of each fiscal year for AMED-funded projects, the respective research leader should promptly submit a progress report within two (2) months after the end of the project year (for A\*STAR-funded projects) and within two (2) months after the end of the fiscal year (for AMED-funded projects), and the institution with which the research leader is affiliated shall promptly submit a financial report to AMED and A\*STAR that funds that project.

#### 2. Final Report

Final reports should be submitted within three (3) months and three (3) months to AMED and A\*STAR respectively after completion of the period of international collaborative research. The report includes a general summary (maximum five A4-sized pages) compiled jointly by both the Japan and the Singapore research groups.

If papers describing results of collaborative research are presented to academic journals, societies and so on, copies of such papers are to be attached to the final report.

### **VI. Additional Information and Requirements for Researchers**

Please see the annex sheets for such requirements:

Annex A: A\*STAR Grant T&TCs

Annex B: Guidelines for Managing A\*STAR Grants

補足公募要領 (written in Japanese for only Japan-based co-applicants)

追加応募様式 (written in Japanese for only Japan-based co-applicants)





## **VII. Contact Information**

Japan-based co-applicants should contact the following for further information:

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Singapore-based co-applicants should contact the following for further information:

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