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January 27, 2008

**SUBJECT: EMRO SPECIAL GRANT FOR RESEARCH IN PRIORITY AREA OF PUBLIC HEALTH (EMRPPH) 2008**

Dear Dr. Barouti,

With reference to the above mentioned subject, we are pleased to attach the guidelines and application form for EMRPPH 2008-09. Research proposals only in the areas mentioned below will be eligible and considered for funding for EMRPPH research grant. The maximum EMRPPH award amount will not exceed \$10,000 for a proposal. The proposed duration for which support is requested must be less than 12 months. The priority areas for the EMRPPH 2008-2009 are as follows:

**Stewardship function of health care systems:**

- Utilization of research results in policy making.
- Development and sustainability of Community Ownership in health and socioeconomic interventions.
- Enabling environment for women's greater participation at different levels of health management.
- Inter-sectoral linkages for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

**Resources for health:**

- Impact of Community Health Workers and health volunteers on achieving Millennium Development Goals.
- Evaluation of the Basic Development Needs (BDN) initiatives on health.

**Health Services:**

- Accessibility, referral systems and equity of health services especially for vulnerable groups.
- Health seeking behavior and satisfaction with health care services among beneficiaries.
- Adherence to the universal measures of patient safety and provider safety.
- Accreditation of health care services.
- Health systems capacities in identifying, treating and responding to domestic violence against vulnerable groups.
- Evaluation of programs on prevention and management of disability including blindness and deafness.
- Rational use and access to essential drugs.

**Knowledge generation and utilization:**

- Improving the use of the Health Management Information System (HMIS) as a tool for decision making and estimating the disease burden.
- Availability, quality and utilization of standard medical records in health care facilities.
- Quality, dissemination, and impact of health-related information provided to the public.

**Priority areas in public health:**

- Environmental health: safe water, sanitation and food safety.
- Interventional programmes for promoting healthy lifestyle.
- Evaluation of mental health programmes.
- Assessing the burden of non-communicable diseases: cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular, and renal diseases.

We would appreciate if you share the proposal with advisers to Chancellors of University of Medical Sciences in entire country for their consideration to develop research proposal based on the attached guidelines.

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

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**The deadline for submission of research proposals to EMRO is 31st March 2008.**

Applications that will be sent after the deadline will not be considered in any case.

Yours sincerely,

Mubashar Sheikh  
WHO Representative

Dr. E. Barouti  
Adviser to the Minister of Health and Medical Education on Women's Affair  
Cc  
Dr. Mohammad Hussein Nicknam  
Adviser to the Minister of Health  
Director General  
International Relations Department