

**2<sup>nd</sup> Expression of Interest**  
**To be a part of**  
**ICMR-NITM Clinical Trial Network for Integrative Health**

**Date: 04.05.2026**

**Invitation:**

ICMR-NITM Clinical Trial Network for Integrative Health is a strategic initiative to establish a collaborative network of hospitals and research institutes committed to generating evidence-based, robust, and culturally sensitive integrative health solutions for public health. ICMR-NITM is the only institute under the Indian Council of Medical Research dedicated to Traditional Medicine and Integrative Health, with a focus on integrating scientifically validated traditional/Ayush practices with modern medicine. As part of its first Expression of Interest (EOI) in 2023, ICMR-NITM successfully created a network of 11 modern hospitals with Ayush facilities. Over the past two years, the institute has initiated three clinical trials in the areas of Diabetic Foot Ulcer, Osteoarthritis knee, and Obesity. In addition, two more clinical trials have been sanctioned, and participating sites are currently being finalized.

Considering the growing need for suitable and competent clinical trial sites, ICMR-NITM now proposes to expand this network by inviting eligible institutions to partner with us to conduct high-quality clinical trials in Traditional Medicine and Integrative Health.

We are pleased to invite your esteemed institution to express interest in joining the ICMR-NITM Clinical Trial Network for Integrative Health. This collaboration will provide an opportunity to contribute to nationally relevant research, strengthen evidence generation, and promote integrative healthcare approaches to benefit society.

**Schedule of EOI:**

- Date of publication: **04.05.2026**
- Last date of submission: **26.05.2026**
- Interested applicants are requested to submit the required information through the Google Form, the link for which is provided here:  
Google form link for application: <https://forms.gle/HXQW5SuJ9ZBEG1m1A>
- Please note that only shortlisted centres will be contacted for subsequent stages of the process.
- ICMR-NITM reserves the right to withdraw, cancel, modify, or reissue this Expression of Interest (EOI), in whole or in part, at any stage, with or without amendments, without incurring any liability or obligation to assign reasons for such decisions.

## **Need for the Network**

There is an increasing need to generate high-quality scientific evidence for traditional medicine/ integrative health interventions that combine the strengths of traditional and modern medicine. Many diseases and public health challenges of national and regional importance require evidence-based, cost-effective, scientifically validated, and culturally appropriate healthcare solutions. Establishing a dedicated clinical trial network will enable systematic evaluation of such interventions and support their wider adoption, where they are proven effective.

At present, there is also a need for a common platform that can facilitate multicentric randomized clinical trials (RCTs) with standardized methodologies, timely implementation, broader geographic representation, and efficient pooling of results. In addition, strengthening national capacity in clinical research through training and skill development in integrative health research is essential for sustained progress in this field.

## **Objectives of the Network**

1. To generate evidence-based, cost-effective, scientifically robust, and culturally relevant healthcare solutions by integrating traditional and modern medicine approaches.
2. To establish a common platform for planning and conducting multicentric randomized clinical trials (RCTs) in the field of traditional medicine/ integrative health.
3. To facilitate the timely completion of clinical research projects through coordinated multicentre collaboration.
4. To ensure representation of diverse populations and healthcare settings across different regions of the country.
5. To generate evidence that can inform public health policy, clinical guidelines, and healthcare practice in integrative medicine.

## **Structure of the network**

The network will have a hub and spoke model with ICMR-NITM as the hub for activities initiated by ICMR-NITM or any of the Institutes of ICMR. The sites i.e. hospitals/institutes/organizations, would be spokes/sites in different regions. The DHR network of Multi-Disciplinary Research Units (MRUs) / Model Rural Health Research Units (MRHRUs) may also support the activity for daily functioning and monitoring of the trials in their respective areas. The study sites (spokes) will be selected based on the specialty/ research question to be answered. The sites will be provided with the logistics, human resources, and training required for the individual trials.

In cases where the partner institutions in the network provide funds to carry out trials, they would be free to do so and would be helped to function as the Hub, and other sites may participate as Spokes. ICMR-NITM will facilitate and provide technical assistance.

## **Eligibility for the Network**

Institutions seeking empanelment in the ICMR-NITM Clinical Trial Network for Integrative Health should meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Government or private medical colleges, hospitals, research institutes, universities, or other recognized healthcare institutions involved in conventional patient care, teaching, or research with Ayush facility available on the same campus.
2. Availability of adequate patient load, both inpatient and outpatient.
3. Availability of essential infrastructure for conducting clinical research, including outpatient/inpatient facilities, emergency care facilities, laboratory support, pharmacy support, and space for research activities.
4. Availability of qualified investigators and clinical faculties from modern medicine and/or Ayush systems.
5. Institutional willingness to participate in multicentric clinical trials in accordance with approved protocols, Good Clinical Practice (GCP), ethical standards, and applicable regulatory requirements for TM/IH.
6. Functional Institutional Ethics Committee registered with DHR, or willingness to obtain ethics approval through an approved mechanism before initiation of studies.
7. Availability or willingness to appoint trained research staff such as study coordinators, data entry personnel, and trial support staff.
8. Capacity to maintain proper documentation, data management, participant follow-up, and timely reporting during the conduct of trials.
9. Willingness to undergo site feasibility assessment, monitoring visits, audits, and quality assurance processes as required by ICMR-NITM.
10. Commitment from the Head of Institution/Competent Authority to support participation in the network and facilitate smooth conduct of research activities.
11. Prior experience in clinical research, multicentric studies, or funded research projects will be desirable; however, eligible institutions with adequate potential and commitment may also apply.

### **Please Note:**

- ✓ As this is an empanelment of institutions into the network, applications may be submitted by one faculty member from an eligible institute along with suitable team members. In the event of multiple applications from the same institute, only one application will be considered.
- ✓ Applications should be submitted by allopathic/modern medicine institutions, with clear details of the available Ayush facilities and associated faculty members within the institution. Applications submitted solely from Ayush facilities will not be considered.
- ✓ Institutions that have already been empanelled under the ICMR-NITM Clinical Trial Network are not required to apply again.

### **Criteria for selection of the coordinator**

- a. Endorsed by the Head of the Institute/College
- b. Experience in clinical trial management & well-versed in ethical guidelines & GCP.
- c. Experience in managing funded projects
- d. Other team members: Preferably a multi-disciplinary team, with at least 2 of the team members being mid-level faculty (associate or additional professor, or equivalent experience) and at least one faculty from an Ayush background

### **Criteria for Selection of an Institute**

- a. Community outreach program.
- b. Patient load, both inpatients and outpatients.
- c. Competence, and history of collaboration with other institutes/medical colleges/community-based organizations.
- d. Catchment area catering to various geographical and population groups.
- e. Presence of requisite infrastructure and space.
- f. Having a DHR-registered Institutional Ethics Committee.
- g. Any other criteria decided by the selection committee

### **Trials to be conducted by the network**

- Clinical trials funded from ICMR intramural or any other research grants for ICMR-NITM, where the empanelled institutes can play the role of clinical trial site for NITM trials, if selected as a site.
- The Network Institute can utilize the network for implementing its own funded multicentric projects.

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(To be printed on Institutional Letterhead)

**Endorsement from the Head of the Institution  
ICMR-NITM Clinical Trial Network**

This is to certify that:

1. We, ..... (Name of Hospital/Institute/Organization), situated at ..... (Place), ..... (District), ..... (State), are willing to participate in the ICMR-NITM Clinical Trial Network.
2. Dr. .... (Name), ..... (Qualification), ..... (Designation), ..... (Department), is a permanent/regular employee of ..... (Name of Hospital/Institute/Organization) and has at least five years of regular service remaining before superannuation. He/ She shall act as the Coordinator for the Network.
3. We understand that the Clinical Trial Network shall function in accordance with the requirements of specific clinical trial projects, which shall be funded individually by the appropriate funding agency(ies), and that there will be no financial benefits for the coordinator and/or Investigators.
4. The Hospital/Institute/Organization shall provide the necessary infrastructure, institutional support, and full cooperation for the conduct of clinical trials.
5. The coordinator shall facilitate the process of site feasibility assessment, assist in identifying a suitable Principal Investigator (PI) along with the required research team from the Hospital/Institute/Organization, and coordinate with ICMR-NITM, Belagavi, during the site selection process for specific clinical trial projects.
6. We understand that ICMR-NITM may enter into a project-specific Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) / Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) upon selection of our Hospital/Institute/Organization as a study site. Upon execution of the MoA, the Hospital/Institute/Organization shall assume all financial, administrative, and other project-related responsibilities.
7. We further understand that a team from ICMR-NITM may visit our Hospital/Institute/Organization for facility evaluation and site assessment.

Seal of  
Institute/Organization/Hospital

Signature  
Head of the Institute/ Head of organization / Director of  
Hospital

Date:

Name: