

Research Translation Strategy for Health and Medical Research Fund (2025)

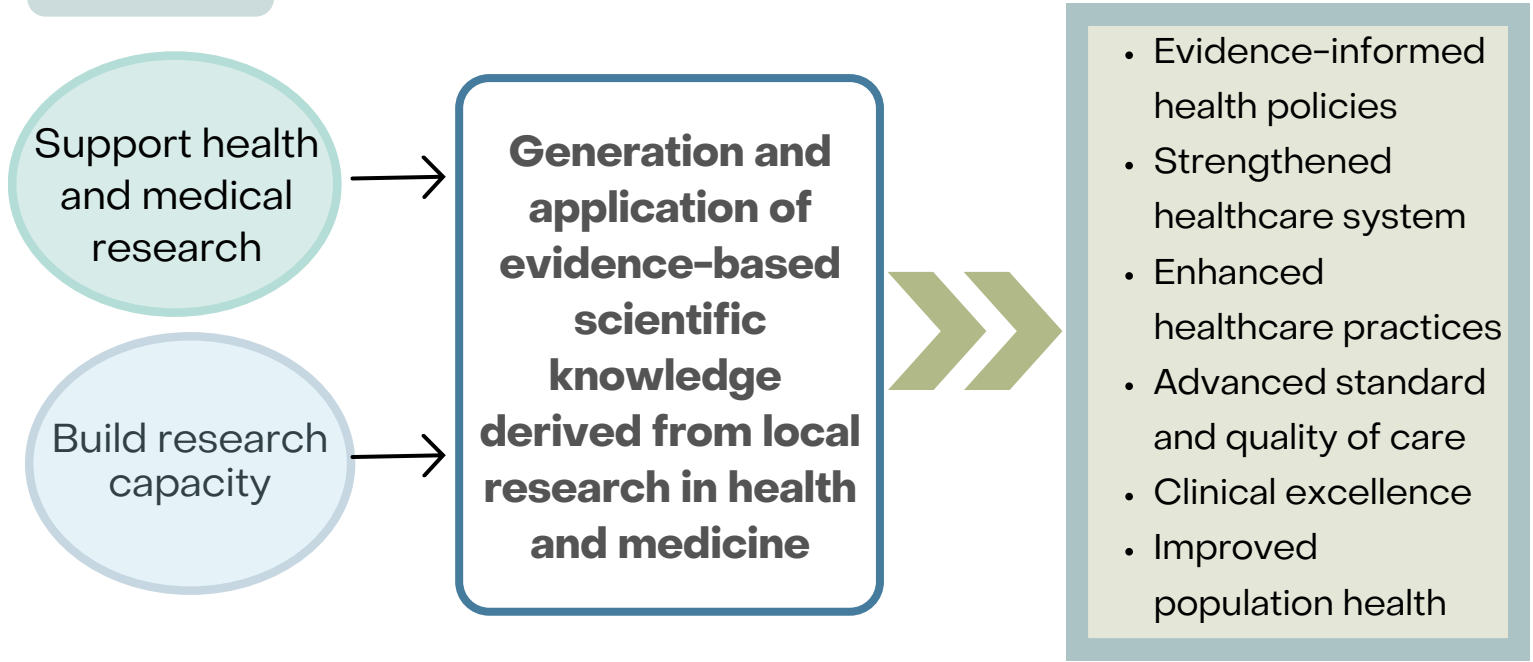
– Highlights



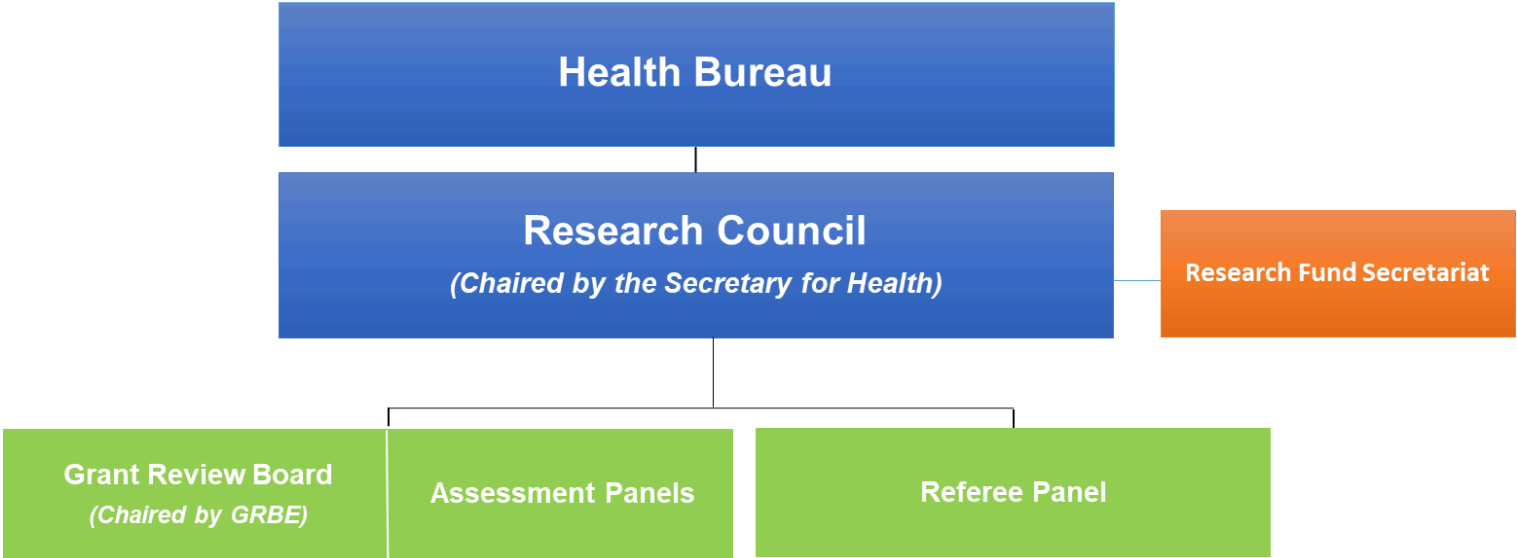
Research and Data Analytics Office
Health Bureau
September 2025

About Health & Medical Research Fund (HMRF)

Mission



Governance



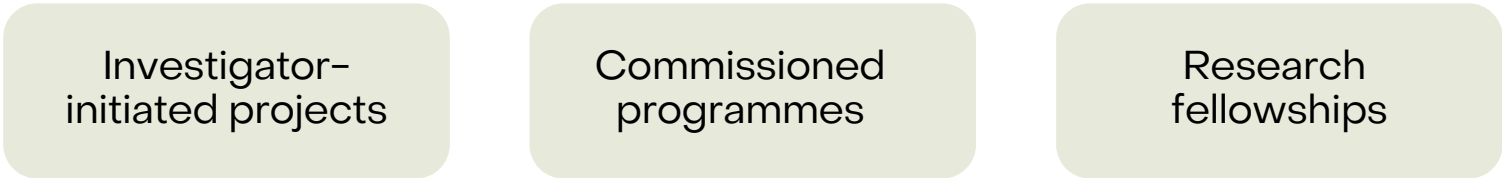
GRBE: Grant Review Board Executive

■ Governing body

■ Technical arm

■ Executive arm

Funding Schemes



Why Research Translation Strategy?



Better fulfill mission of HMRF



Align with global and local trends



Enhance public accountability

Current Situation – Dissemination Channels



**Final Report
& Dissemination Report**



** To Health Bureau, Department of Health,
Hospital Authority, Primary Healthcare Commission*

Current Situation - Dissemination

Strengths

- Well-established dissemination channels
- Long-term engagement with the existing stakeholders, in particular academia
- Well-documented assessment on impact

Weaknesses

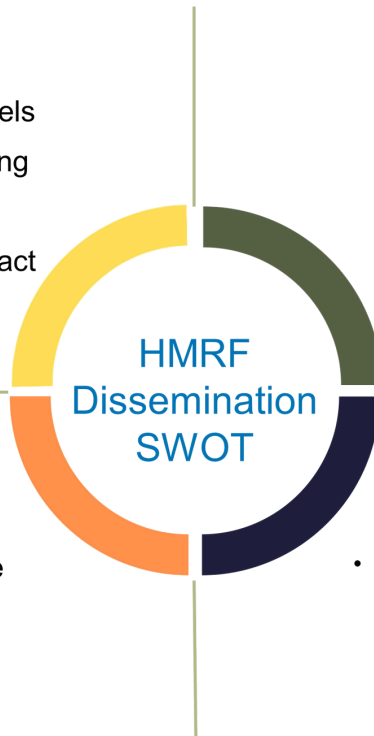
- Research translation limited to end-of-grant dissemination
- Effectiveness of dissemination in doubt
- End-user groups limited to public bodies

Opportunities

- Global and local trends in healthcare research translation

Threats

- Project teams place limited emphasis on building partnership with potential end-users, which might affect translation value of findings



From end-of-grant Dissemination to Research Translation

Research Translation Strategy

Principles

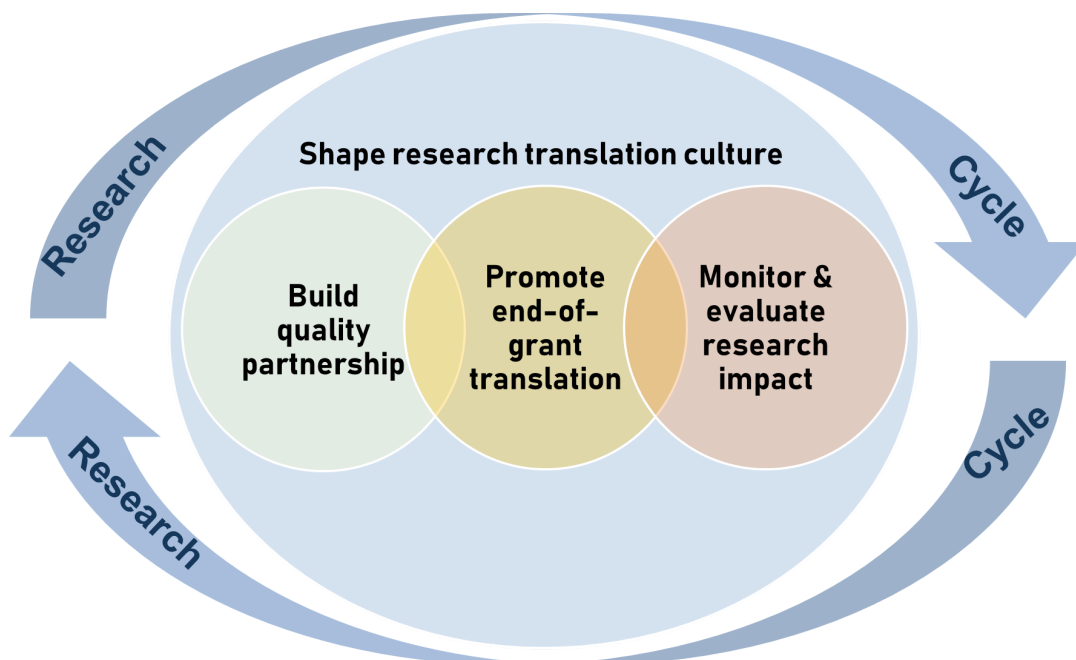
- 1 Research funded by HMRF is expected to generate impact beyond academia;
- 2 Researchers must recognise their role in research translation;
- 3 Research translation should be promoted throughout the research cycle; and
- 4 Research Council should leverage its power as a funder to promote research translation.

Objectives

The application of findings from research funded by HMRF will be enhanced, in informing health policies, strengthening healthcare system, improving clinical practices, and changing health behaviours of people.

Priorities, Initiatives & Actions

The proposed Strategy has **four priorities spanning the whole research cycle** to enhance research translation of studies funded by HMRF –



Guided by the four priorities, the proposed Strategy will be implemented under **8 initiatives** with **18 actions**

(A) Shape research translation culture

1. Reaffirm significance of research translation

- 1.1 Consult stakeholders on draft translation strategy
- 1.2 Brand HMRF as a funder emphasising on research translation
- 1.3 Connect with research translation organisations

2. Provide strategic funding

- 2.1 Fund evidence synthesis that supports healthcare service and policy needs



(B) Build quality partnership

3. Empower researchers and end-users in research co-design

- 3.1 Connect researchers with wider end-user groups
- 3.2 Build capacity of researchers, potential end-users and reviewers

4. Tune up funding assessment criteria

- 4.1 Enhance end-users' perspectives in grant review process
- 4.2 Mandate research translation planning



(C) Promote end-of grant translation

5. Promote effective research dissemination

- 5.1 Support publication in open access journals
- 5.2 Disseminate for end-users: suitable content and format
- 5.3 Enhance accessibility of reader-friendly research findings

6. Tailor translation effort

- 6.1 Coordinate with public sector end-users
- 6.2 Provide additional time for tailored translation activities (6 months)



(D) Monitor & evaluate research impact

7. Strengthen impact monitoring and evaluation mechanism

- 7.1 Evaluate translation planning
- 7.2 Adopt more quantitative indicators in outcome evaluation

8. Publicise research impact

- 8.1 Publicise HMRF's support in healthcare policies
- 8.2 Enable timelier sharing of research impact
- 8.3 Celebrate success stories



PRIORITY (A)



SHAPE RESEARCH TRANSLATION CULTURE



HMRF's identity as a funder emphasising on research translation to be further strengthened, with our funding schemes reflecting as such.



Initiative 1. Reaffirm significance of research translation

Initiative 2. Provide strategic funding

Action 1.1 Consult stakeholders on research translation strategy

- Reaffirm the significance of translation of research findings.
- Involve a wide range of stakeholders: research communities and potential end-users, for an inclusive and effective Strategy.

Action 1.2 Brand HMRF as a funder emphasising on research translation

- Prominently feature research translation in all of HMRF's public messaging, including at the Health Research Symposium, annual reports to Legislative Council, Journal Club sessions, funding applications materials, briefings for potential funding applicants and reviewers, RFS website and other public forums.

Action 1.3 Connect with research translation organisations

- Strengthen connections with organisations supporting research translation and corresponding capacity building, such as knowledge transfer offices of local universities, the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, Cochrane Hong Kong, local and overseas government funding agencies focusing on medicine and healthcare.

Action 2.1 Fund evidence synthesis that supports healthcare service and policy needs

- Government end-users to propose topics for evidence synthesis research that are relevant for their policy, service or clinical use.



PRIORITY (B)

BUILD QUALITY PARTNERSHIP



Enhanced and more effective collaboration between researchers and potential end-users throughout the research cycle.



Initiative 3. Empower researchers and end-users in research co-design

Initiative 4. Tune up funding assessment criteria

Action 3.1 Connect researchers with wider end-user groups

- Connect researchers with more end-user groups, including healthcare-related NGOs, and private healthcare sector.
- Policy-makers will be involved in all Assessment Panels for commissioned studies.

Action 3.2 Build capacity of researchers, potential end-users and reviewers

- Explore and provide capacity building support for researchers, potential end-users and reviewers, for building up a translation mindset and empowering parties involved to promote research translation in their roles.

Action 4.1 Enhance end-users' perspectives in grant review process

- Expand membership of the Grant Review Board to include more end-users, including representatives from healthcare-related NGOs and patient groups, while maintaining strong scientific rigour in the assessment.

Action 4.2 Mandate research translation planning

- Require translation module in research proposal, to cover co-design efforts, specific potential end-users, potential translation value of the findings, pathways to impact, planned research translation activities, impact record of past research, etc.
- Assign weightings to assessment criteria as general guidance for reviewers to facilitate appraisal of the translation module; with no change to the overall rating system (1 to 4).



PRIORITY (C)

PROMOTE END-OF-GRANT TRANSLATION



Dissemination of research findings will become more effective, targeted, and end-user friendly in terms of content, format and accessibility.



Initiative 5. Promote effective research dissemination

Initiative 6. Tailor translation effort

Action 5.1 Support publication in open access journals

- Raise budget limit for publication expenses to \$30,000 to encourage publication of research findings in peer-reviewed journals.

Action 5.2 Disseminate for end-users: suitable content and format

- Project teams to replace existing textual Dissemination Report with summary and presentation of their research findings in user-friendly and bilingual format suitable for their audience, e.g. infographic, policy brief.

Action 5.3 Enhance accessibility of reader-friendly research findings

- Explore new platforms, e.g. LinkedIn.
- Enhance RFS website to disseminate project details, infographics, and links to publications.

Action 6.1 Coordinate with public sector end-users

- Explore setting up coordination arrangement with Department of Health, Hospital Authority and Primary Healthcare Commission.

Action 6.2 Provide additional time for tailored translation activities

- Allow a maximum of additional six months after project end for project team to conduct more effective and targeted translation activities with their findings.
- Timeframe for submitting the Final Report will be extended from the current six months to within nine months upon completion of research (Research Creation Phase), and to within 12 months for Audited Accounts.



PRIORITY (D)

MONITOR AND EVALUATE RESEARCH IMPACT



Stronger emphasis on evaluating the translation efforts of project teams, and the impact of HMRF research will be more quantifiable and widely publicised.



Initiative 7. Strengthen impact monitoring and evaluation mechanism

Initiative 8. Publicise research impact

Action 7.1 Evaluate translation planning

- Require project teams to evaluate the translation module provided in the funding application when submitting Final Reports.
- Health Bureau to monitor uptake of findings from commissioned studies, involving major end-users in the public sector.

Action 7.2 Adopt more quantitative indicators in outcome evaluation

- Review the outcome evaluation mechanisms, for the outcome and impact to be more quantifiable.

Action 8.1 Publicise HMRF's support in healthcare policies

- Create and display HMRF's logo at public events involving findings of commissioned studies.

Action 8.2 Enable timelier sharing of research impact

- Explore mechanisms for timelier updating and publicity of research impact of HMRF studies on top of the outcome evaluation survey.

Action 8.3 Celebrate success stories

- Step up efforts in celebrating the success stories of HMRF projects with high translation value in a reader-friendly style via various platforms.

Roadmap



* Denote actions led by Researchers

2024

Action 1.1 Consult stakeholders on research translation strategy

Action 1.2 Brand HMRF as a funder emphasising on research translation

Action 3.1 Connect researchers with wider end-user groups

Action 4.1 Enhance end-users' perspectives in grant review process

2024 Open Call

Action 5.1 Support publication in open access journals

2025

Action 1.3 Connect with research translation organisations

Action 3.2 Build capacity of researchers, potential end-users and reviewers

* Action 5.2 Disseminate for end-users: suitable content and format

* Action 8.1 Publicise HMRF's support in healthcare policies

2026

Action 5.3 Enhance accessibility of reader-friendly research findings

Action 6.1 Coordinate with public sector end-users

* Action 7.1 Evaluate translation planning

Action 8.2 Enable timelier sharing of research impact

Action 8.3 Celebrate success stories

2026 Open Call

Action 2.1 Fund evidence synthesis that supports healthcare service and policy needs

* Action 4.2 Mandate research translation planning

Action 6.2 Provide additional time for tailored translation activities

2027

Action 7.2 Adopt more quantitative indicators in outcome evaluation

CONTACT



rfs@healthbureau.gov.hk



Research and Data Analytics Office
Health Bureau
9/F, Rumsey Street Multi-storey Carpark Building
2 Rumsey Street, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong.



The full [Research Translation Strategy](#) and [Summary of the consultation exercise](#) are available on the Research Fund Secretariat website.