EMPOWER Program Announces Request for Proposals

Collaboration Advances Preeclampsia Research in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Melbourne, Florida – September 22, 2015 – The EMPOWER Program is now accepting research proposals related to preeclampsia and other hypertensive disorders of pregnancy from young investigators in low resource settings. Letters of Intent are due November 15, 2015. Thereafter, projects deemed feasible will be invited to submit full applications by April 15, 2016. The grant recipient will be announced in October 2016 at the World Congress of the International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy (ISSHP).

EMPOWER (EMpowering Progress in Obstetric and Women’s hEalth Research) was established to create partnerships between mentors and single sites or groups within low- and middle-income countries to improve clinical and health services research into hypertensive disorders of pregnancy.

Funding is available up to $60,000 USD for a two-year research project. The immediate objective will be the completion of a project designed by the local investigator and, when appropriate, the dissemination of the results of the study to change practice and improve care.

A fundamental goal of the program is to build independent capacity for research and effective implementation of research findings. Other objectives include developing an integrated hypertension research team, advancing the knowledge base, and supporting research operational infrastructure.

Preeclampsia, the most dangerous form of pregnancy hypertension, is estimated to contribute to at least 120 maternal and 1,300 fetal or newborn deaths every day throughout the world, primarily in regions such as the Indian subcontinent, Africa, and Latin America. Most of these cases are considered preventable.
EMPOWER is a collaboration of ISSHP, the Preeclampsia Foundation, PRE-EMPT/Global Pregnancy Collaboration, and supporting organization New Zealand Action on Pre-eclampsia.

For more information and direct links to applications and other program materials, go to http://www.preeclampsia.org/research/research-funding or email empower@preeclampsia.org.

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About ISSHP
The International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy (ISSHP), founded in September 1975, aims to stimulate research in the field of hypertension in pregnancy, disseminate the results of such research, and advance education in the field so as to advance clinical care. It is particularly committed to encouraging research activity by encouraging junior research fellows, especially from low- and middle-income countries, to attend Society meetings. For more information, visit www.isshp.org.

About the Preeclampsia Foundation
The Preeclampsia Foundation is a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 2000. It is dedicated to providing patient support and education, raising public awareness, catalyzing research, and improving healthcare practices, envisioning a world where preeclampsia and related hypertensive disorders of pregnancy no longer threaten the lives of mothers and babies. For more information, visit www.preeclampsia.org.

About PRE-EMPT and Global Pregnancy Collaboration (CoLab)
The theme of PRE-EMPT(PRE-eclampsia & Eclampsia Monitoring, Prevention & Treatment) initiative is to develop, test, and introduce new knowledge that will reduce the unacceptable maternal, perinatal, family, societal, and global impacts of preeclampsia and the other hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. Global Pregnancy Collaboration (CoLab), objective 4 of the PRE-EMPT initiative, aims to improve the health of women and their infants by fostering collaborative research and sharing biological materials and data. The University of British Columbia, with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, leads the PRE-EMPT initiative. For more information, visit http://pre-empt.cfri.ca/.