

China – Maurice Wilkins Centre Collaborative Research Programme (C-MWC)

Invitation to apply for Exchange funding

Due 29th April 2024

The Maurice Wilkins Centre (MWC) hosted by the University of Auckland invites proposals from biomedical researchers based in NZ for Exchange visits with counterpart researchers in China.

The Exchange visits proposed should aim to establish or deepen partnerships with outstanding researchers and prestigious institutions in China and accelerate biomedical research into diagnostics or therapeutic agents with potential health benefits for both countries.

NZ-based biomedical researchers who are not affiliated with the MWC are welcome to apply for funding, as well as MWC investigators.

This document includes a Guide for Applicants that describes the objectives of the C-MWC programme, the intent of the Exchange programme within the wider C-MWC initiative, and the eligibility and selection criteria for applicants. The Application Form follows the Guide for Applicants and applicants should only submit the pages that make up the Application form, not the introduction nor the Appendices.



Guide for Applicants

1. C-MWC Programme Objectives

The C-MWC programme was funded by MBIE from June 2020 to December 2025 and aims to enhance the reputation in China of the NZ research community as world-class partners in biomedical research and the development of novel therapeutics and diagnostics. By extension the programme also aims to increase NZ's international standing as a high-quality research partner, capable of producing excellent results and willing to engage in large-scale international collaborative research programmes. Specific objectives of the programme include:

- Generating scientific knowledge that advances the understanding and treatment of human disease.
- Delivering a large-scale collaborative research programme with leading Chinese research institutions, especially those affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).
- Deepening existing relationships between NZ and Chinese research institutions into enduring research partnerships that attract funding from both NZ and China.
- Enabling NZ biomedical researchers to increase their international networks, and gain experience and skills through access to advanced research facilities not available in NZ.
- Helping to build a diverse health research workforce within NZ by creating new opportunities for biomedical researchers that improve our ability to attract and retain high-calibre researchers, and support the development of emerging research leaders.

A fuller description of the C-MWC programme's mission can be found in **Appendix 3**.

2. Intent of Exchange Visits

The C-MWC aims to fund multiple exchange visits between NZ biomedical researchers and their Chinese counterparts over 18 months, between 1st July 2024 and 31st December 2025. These exchange visits are intended to expand links between biomedical researchers (including clinicians) in both countries, leveraging research strengths on both sides. Each exchange proposed should aim to establish or deepen a programme of collaborative biomedical or clinical research that will benefit both countries in future.

3. Definition of Exchange Visits

In order to build sustainable collaborations based on mutual interest, all exchange visits proposed should involve **visits in both directions**. So while the minimum exchange is one person in either direction, applicants may also seek funding for other forms of exchange, e.g. funding for Joint Symposia, or repeat exchange visits by team members from counterpart laboratories.

4. Eligibility Criteria

• Applicants must be employed at an NZ-based institution, such as a University, Crown Research Institute, or an Independent Research Organisation, that is eligible for research funding from MBIE.



- Applicants must hold a PhD or MD, and currently work in a research field relevant to the advancement of human health through improved diagnostics ¹ or therapeutics ². While early-career researchers are eligible, please note that some assessment scores against the assessment criteria (listed below) may be influenced by career stage.
- Each proposed exchange must involve Chinese researchers based at a prestigious Chinese research institution or clinical facility. Institutes affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) are examples of such prestigious research institutions (see Appendix 4 for a list of relevant CAS institutes). Other prestigious Chinese research institutions include Universities and hospitals recognised for their research excellence within international and national ranking systems.
- Exchange visits should involve at least one visit to China by one NZ biomedical researcher, paired with at least one visit by a counterpart Chinese researcher to NZ. However more than one visit in either direction can be proposed by any applicant, and more than one person can be involved in each visit, up to the maximum budget stated below.
- Duration of each visit to either country can range **between 3 days and 3 months**, with budget available to cover accommodation costs and other reasonable living expenses, and limited working expenses for laboratory work (for Chinese investigators visiting NZ only).
- Travel and accommodation for conference attendance are eligible for funding, provided the conference attendee will be an invited speaker at the conference, and the visit will also include hosting the speaker at the applicant's research institution for a seminar presentation and project-oriented interactions.
- Exchange visits to initiate new collaborations or to further existing collaborations are both eligible. However please note that the assessment scores against the assessment criteria (listed below) will prioritise first exchanges between research teams over on-going contact for researchers who have already visited each other. Exchanges that have already occurred are not eligible for retrospective funding.
- Exchange visits should contribute to the wider aims of the C-MWC programme, including showcasing NZ science excellence ³ within China, and developing resources and relationships likely to benefit NZ biomedical research.
- Exchange visits must ultimately aim to lead to excellent research outcomes through collaborative research with Chinese counterparts. These outcomes should include potential pathways to impact, such as improvements in health in both countries, and/or successful commercialisation of innovative science.
- Applicants' host institutions are expected to observe New Zealand's <u>Trusted Research</u> <u>Protective Security Requirements</u> ⁴ aimed at protecting against foreign interference and espionage. This includes conducting appropriate due diligence on collaborators, adhering to

¹ Diagnostics must be molecular or cellular (e.g. histological, flow cytometric), in keeping with the focus and expertise of the Maurice Wilkins Centre. Radiological diagnostic methods are not in scope.

² Research into therapeutics includes any biomedical research that ultimately aims to discover and/or develop new therapeutic agents or preventative therapy such as vaccines. Clinical research is also eligible for consideration, especially clinical trials testing new therapeutic agents that have been discovered and/or developed in NZ or China.

³ For definitions of excellence and impact, please see the National Statement of Science Investment 2015–2025 at www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/7252-national-statement-of-science-investment-2015-2025

⁴ www.protectivesecurity.govt.nz/assets/Campaigns/PSR-ResearchGuidancespreads-17Mar21.pdf



New Zealand's export controls regime, and taking measures to protect personal and research data.

- Exchange visits must be completed by 31st December 2025. Failure to complete exchange visits by that date (the termination date of the C-MWC programme) will result in applicants' host institutions returning funds to MBIE.
- Successful applicants must be willing to report on their exchanges, both in formal reporting to the C-MWC at 6 monthly intervals (1st December 2024, 1st June 2025, 1st December 2025), and also in a final summary that is accessible and informative to the NZ biomedical research community (deadline 1st December 2025).

5. Budget

Individual proposals may budget for exchange visits **up to \$30,000** fully costed, exclusive of GST over a period of up to **18 months**. While small scale exchange visits between individuals are unlikely to require budgets of this magnitude, long visits or exchanges involving multiple individuals (e.g. for Joint Symposia) may require funding up to this maximum.

Expenses budgeted can include air travel costs (economy class), airport transfers and ground transport costs, and reasonable accommodation costs. For applications involving extended visits by Chinese investigators to NZ labs of more than one week, expenses can also include working expenses. All expenses need to be fully justified, with quotes for flights and accommodation. Working expenses can be broadly described rather than itemised, but should not exceed \$6000 for 3 months laboratory work, or pro rata amounts for shorter visits.

All applicants should provide options for partial funding, identifying any sections of the project that can be achieved independently of other sections.

6. Assessment process

Proposals will be assessed by the C-MWC Exchange Assessment Committee (EAC), through a competitive process, as described in Appendix 1 & Appendix 2.

The criteria used to rank applications will be:

- Research reputation of the Chinese investigators and their institution (30%)
- Scientific fit of the proposed collaboration with the objectives of the C-MWC (20%)
- Ability of the proposed collaboration to broaden contact between biomedical / clinical scientists in NZ and China (10%)
- Sustainability of the proposed collaboration (20%)
- Potential impact of the proposed collaboration (20%)

7. Timeline

- Call for applications Monday 18th March 2024
- Closing date for applications Monday 29nd April 2024
- C-MWC Exchange Assessment Committee week of 6th May 2024
- Announcement of results week of 20th May 2024
- Negotiation of any changes to plan and budget concluded by 1st June 2024
- Earliest travel date (outbound) 1st July 2024
- Latest travel date (inbound) 31st December 2025



8. Application process

To apply for C-MWC Exchange Funding under this call, please use the form provided on **pages 7-10** of this document. The form contains additional guidelines on the information required for each section, including page limits.

In addition, please provide the following documents:

• An officially-certified letter from the collaborating investigator(s) and their host institution in China confirming the feasibility of the exchange and its potential to strengthen scientific co-operation between NZ and China. If materials or services from China are required for the visit(s) to the Chinese institution, the commitment to supply these should also be stated clearly within the letter.

Please note carefully: To ensure the smooth execution of your Exchange, it is essential ⁵ to obtain such written support from Chinese institutions as part of your application. The process to obtain this letter of support can be initiated by your counterpart Chinese investigator(s) as soon as they have confirmed their interest, but is likely to require sign-off by senior institutional officials – a process that can take more than a week. The 6 weeks before applications close is to help provide enough time for this approval process. The C-MWC executive team can advise you on the appropriate content of the letter should the Chinese institution be unsure; the C-MWC team may also be able to help you with institutional contact where necessary.

- A budget set out in the template spreadsheet that accompanies this funding call
 document. This budget must be signed off by applicants' host institution prior to
 submission of the application, so that the C-MWC executive team is assured that the
 project has been fully costed prior to consideration by the Exchange Assessment
 Committee. Please note that individual budget items are justified within the application
 form rather than the spreadsheet.
- **CVs** of NZ applicants and Chinese counterparts. NZ CVs must be completed on the NZ Standard CV template provided; Chinese CVs must be in English.

These documents need to be received by Christine Li (christine.li@auckland.ac.nz) by 12pm on the 29th April 2024. In fairness to all applicants, no time extensions will be considered.

9. Administrative Assistance

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The C-MWC executive team acknowledges that there will be a significant effort involved in preparing this application. The C-MWC will provide advice to help teams of investigators prepare their applications, and administrative support to enable virtual meetings involving Chinese counterparts by audio or video-conferencing as required. Please contact Christine Li (christine.li@auckland.ac.nz) if you would like to take up the support or have any questions about the application process.

⁵ The same caution applies to final travel plans. Many Chinese scientists now need to travel on official passports, and the travel approval process can be complex, involving both institutional committee approval and an online declaration prior to travel to allow wider vetting of the travel plan. This process can take up to six weeks prior to travel, necessitating careful planning. It is imperative to provide Chinese visitors with an institutional invitation letter outlining each visit's purpose and duration, and to ensure they have clear knowledge of the visa process for entry into NZ. Similarly: for travel to China, institutional invitations from the Chinese host institution are also necessary, and the visa process can be lengthy. While your own institution will be able to assist you in this process, the C-MWC executive team can also provide advice.



10. Administration of Funded Projects

As soon as the EAC's recommendations for funding have been ratified by the MWC Board, the C-MWC programme executive team will begin the contracting process.

- For each project approved for funding, the C-MWC executive team will first negotiate with the applicants any changes to the scientific plan or the budget noted as necessary by the EAC.
- The C-MWC executive team will then develop with the applicants a statement of work and funding agreement for the research. This will include description of the requirements on reporting, and other activities to support the programme, including summarising the experiences for the benefit of other NZ-based biomedical researchers.
- The C-MWC executive team will then work with programme's host institution, the
 University of Auckland, to contract the Exchange with each successful investigator's host
 institution using protocols already established in the MWC's administration of its national
 research funding portfolio.
- Execution of the Exchange, including purchasing travel and accommodation, will rest with the applicant(s) and their host institution.

The C-MWC executive team will monitor progress against milestones **every 6 months** and institute a formal review should any milestone fail to be achieved. The review may lead to revision of the Exchange plan in order to ensure successful outcomes within the available timeframe. Failure to initiate any project within 3 months of the first planned event will result in cancellation of the Exchange and reallocation of the funds.

The C-MWC executive team will also continuously monitor the quality of the relationship between the NZ research team and their collaborators in China, by maintaining regular contact with, and visits to, the Chinese researchers and their institutions.



China-Maurice Wilkins Centre (MWC) Programme Application for Exchange with Chinese Investigators Round 1, open call: up to \$30,000, closing date 29th April 2024

NZ-based Investigator name(s) and Institution Investigator Institution	
China-based Investigator name(s) and Institution Please ensure details match supporting letter from Chinese institution Investigator Institution	
Summary of the Exchange Please provide summary details for each planned event, including who will be involved & what the event entail Start date End date Location Personnel Event type	ils
Your interest in the China-based Investigator(s) and their Institution Provide up to half a page of supporting details regarding the Chinese investigator(s) and their institution — will you want to work with them, and how you have established their reputation for biomedical or clinical research	



The Eychange nian			
The Exchange plan Describe (in no more than one page) why the events stated above should take place, and how they will further your scientific ambitions. Include clear information on the extent of prior contact you have had with the			
investigators and institution involved, and comment on how the Exchange plan and the science fit with the objectives of the C-MWC.			



Future plans
Describe (in no more than half a page) how you will sustain contact with your counterpart(s) in China after this
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Exchange. Include any plans to carry out collaborative research together, apply for grant funding, or produce
research outputs such as research publications / patents etc.
Potential impact
Potential impact
Describe (in no more than half a page) how you envisage the Exchange proposed will ultimately lead to positive
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Budget summary Please show the overall budget as itemised below, and justify costs (in no more than ¾ of a page). Full details of costs should be provided in a separate Excel spreadsheet, based on the template provided, along with quotes for major items such as airfares.			
Travel costs Accommodation costs Working expenses (NZ only) Total	\$ \$ \$ \$		

Rudget	4.
KIIMOAT	antiane

Budget optionsShould C-MWC be unable to fully fund your budget, please state (in no more than ¼ of a page) whether partial funding would be acceptable, and how this partial funding would be used.



Appendix 1 Exchange Assessment Process

To consider and rank applications, the C-MWC will use the MWC's well-refined procedures to convene an Exchange Assessment Committee (EAC) with at least 7 members. The EAC will comprise:

- · The Scientific Director of the C-MWC (Chair).
- The Administrative Director of the C-MWC.
- A member of the MWC Directorate or their delegate.
- At least four other biomedical researchers drawn from both the MWC and the wider biomedical research community in NZ, all of whom have knowledge and experience of collaborating with scientists in China. The breadth of scientific expertise of the EAC convened will be matched as closely as possible to the breadth of the applications.

The C-MWC aims to ensure the members of the EAC represents the diversity of NZ society, within the constraints of the pool of qualified investigators.

An observer from MBIE may also attend where possible to monitor and provide feedback on the process.

The EAC will be responsible for:

- · Review and evaluation of proposals.
- Recommendations to the MWC Board for proposals that meet the criteria for funding.
- Recommendations for changes to the exchange plan and/or budget to be negotiated between the applicants and the programme's executive team before funded can be released.

Applications will be assigned a Lead Reviewer from the EAC, based on who is best qualified to assess it. Before the EAC meeting, all projects will be scored by all (non-conflicted) EAC members as below, and these scores shared amongst the EAC in order to highlight proposals likely to need additional discussion (e.g. due to highly divergent scores).

At the EAC review meeting, the Lead Reviewer will then lead discussion of the proposal by the EAC, before the EAC members are invited to revise their scores.

The EAC will score each application under the following rubric:

- Research reputation of the Chinese investigators and their institution (30%)
 - This score will be based on the application form section entitled "Your interest in the China-based Investigator(s) and their Institution"
 - Highest scores will be awarded for Chinese investigators with outstanding research performance relative to career stage, and institutions with high reputations for research performance within China and internationally
- Scientific fit of the proposed collaboration with the objectives of the C-MWC (20%)
 - This score will be based on the application form section entitled "The Exchange plan"
 - Highest scores will awarded for applications in fields that leverage complementary skills in both countries to advance research into human diagnostics and therapeutics (as defined in the footnotes on page 3)
- Ability of the proposed collaboration to broaden contact between biomedical / clinical scientists in NZ and China (10%)
 - This score will be based on the application form section entitled "The Exchange plan"
 - Highest scores will be awarded to applications that involve new or nascent research collaborations



- Sustainability of the proposed collaboration (20%)
 - This score will be based on the application form section entitled "Future plans"
 - Highest scores will be awarded to applications where the NZ-based investigators
 clearly have the potential to continue contact with their Chinese counterparts well
 beyond the end of the proposed Exchange. Applicants who are early-career
 investigators, who might feel disadvantaged by less certainty about their future
 access to research resources, may wish to state clearly how sustained contact will be
 supported by more senior colleagues and/or accessible institutional resources.
- Potential impact of the proposed collaboration (20%)
 - This score will be based on the application form section entitled "Potential impact"
 - Highest scores will be awarded to applications where substantial impact on the health
 of people in both countries is possible; and where there is a high likelihood that the
 Exchange will lead to expanded biomedical or clinical collaboration between NZ and
 China well beyond 2025.

Based on how the blinded scores of the projects cluster, the EAC will determine a minimum score for funding, then review the projects in descending score order to determine whether the project can be fully or partially funded. As each project is discussed, the C-MWC executive team will record any revisions to the project plan or budget deemed necessary by the EAC. Projects will only be unblinded once the fundable threshold has been agreed.

Funding recommendations will then be sent to the MWC Board for review and ratification. As soon as Board approval for funding is obtained, the executive team will negotiate final project plans and budgets with each project team, according to the recommendations of the EAC.

Conflicts of interest or perceived conflicts of interest will be managed according to principles established by the host institution, the University of Auckland, as summarised in **Appendix 2**. These principles will be circulated to committee members ahead of time, and their participation in the EAC will be taken as an agreement to follow these policies.



Appendix 2 Conflict of Interest Policy

(based on University of Auckland Guidelines)

The guiding principles for the identification and management of conflicts of interest within the C-MWC programme are:

- 1. All participants in the C-MWC programme must be seen at all times to behave in an impartial and transparent manner.
- 2. It is important to understand that the existence of a conflict of interest does not necessarily imply wrong-doing on the part of any person. However, any interests which could give rise to a conflict of interest must be disclosed.
- 3. Participants need to be alert to situations in which they, or the people that they manage or supervise, may have a conflict of interest and ensure that the situation is recognised and handled appropriately.
- 4. Conflicts of interest must be dealt with quickly and transparently, that is they must be: acknowledged, disclosed, put on record, where appropriate, and effectively managed or avoided.
- 5. If a participant has any doubt as to whether a conflict of interest exists, they must disclose the matter to the Programme executive team.
- 6. Participants must consider how an impartial observer might reasonably *perceive* a potential conflict of interest, whether or not they believe a conflict of interest exists.
- 7. Conflicts of interest may raise complex issues and members and the Programme executive team must judge each situation that arises in a prudent manner.
- 8. Disclosure of conflicts of interest may involve disclosing personal information. This information must be handled with due regard to the privacy of the individual concerned.
- 9. If a participant has a conflict of interest in the matter being considered, they must not take part in any discussion or decision on the matter giving rise to the conflict unless the Programme executive team can justify their participation can be managed in a manner that is transparent to all other participants.
- 10. However, a person who has a direct or indirect financial interest in the matter being considered must not take part in any decision about the matter.



Identification and effective management of conflicts of interest within the Exchange Assessment Committee process:

- 11. As soon as applications are received, EAC members must identify and disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest that may affect, or may be seen to affect, their impartiality when acting on the Exchange Assessment Committee.
- 12. The programme executive team will assess these conflicts of interest and determine whether they are manageable using the EAC's processes; if not, the conflicted investigator will be recused from the EAC.
- 13. EAC members will be asked to update potential conflicts of interest both immediately before and during the EAC meeting, and any newly arising conflicts will be managed by the EAC Chair after discussion with the EAC.
- 14. No member of the EAC will be present in the room during the discussion or scoring of any application on which they are named as an investigator or if they have declared any other conflict of interest.
- 15. Final compiled scores will be blinded before the committee decides the score threshold where it recommends funding, so that there is no possibility of committee members influencing the final status of projects on which they are conflicted.
- 16. At the conclusion of the EAC meeting, the EAC will be invited to comment on the processes, especially how well conflicts of interest were managed during the meeting, and any workable suggestions for improvements to the processes used for future funding rounds.
- 17. The C-MWC Programme executive team will continue to build awareness of conflict of interest situations, and support those who report to them to comply with their obligations under this policy.



Appendix 3 C-MWC Programme 2020-2025

Mission

The Maurice Wilkins Centre (MWC) is a national biomedical network that discovers and develops new human therapies and diagnostics. Since 2012, the MWC has engaged successfully with scientific partners at prestigious Chinese institutions, especially the Chinese Academy of Sciences. These partnerships have produced exciting scientific findings and new therapies that are poised to enter clinical trials.

The new C-MWC programme will allow the MWC to generate new scientific knowledge that can be translated into new treatments for cancer and metabolic, infectious, neurologic and degenerative disease. These treatments will not only benefit the health of the people of both countries, but are likely to also provide strong economic benefits. The programme will also deepen the relationship between NZ and China in a crucial high technology field, thereby increasing NZ's international reputation for world-class research. NZ scientists will benefit, especially at an early career stage, through access to expertise, technology, and equipment / facilities not available within NZ, and through lifting their vision of what they can achieve through active engagement of leading scientists and institutions outside NZ.

The C-MWC will discover and develop new human therapeutics, aiming to alleviate human suffering through the development of highly innovative, world-leading approaches to treating human disease, using both drugs and cellular therapy. Integration across the programme will be achieved by exploiting a shared set of fundamental capabilities in therapeutics discovery, with team members working across multiple projects where appropriate, and accessing common pathways for research translation through to the clinic.

This programme will benefit patients in both NZ and China, by enabling clinical trials of new therapies, leading to their adoption in clinical medicine in both countries, and around the world. Commercialisation of these therapies is intrinsic to this vision, so the programme will also seek to develop shared intellectual property (IP) between NZ and Chinese investigators. Throughout this "bench-to-bedside" process of discovery and translation to clinical use, C-MWC will offer new opportunities for our diverse researchers to acquire new skills, lift their vision of their international potential, and develop as leaders of translational research. The programme will also create new opportunities for NZ scientists, entrepreneurs and companies to drive economic development through technological innovation, acting as a conduit to such opportunities in China.

Outcomes sought

This collaborative programme will produce outstanding internationally-competitive research results that garner high quality publications and patent applications with shared authorship and inventorship between the two countries. Shared IP will then lead to co-development of each therapeutic, using resources and personnel at whichever site/s across the two countries provide the best opportunity for rapid translation into the clinic, so patients can benefit directly. Clinical trials and eventual clinical adoption of new therapies will lead to improved health outcomes for communities in both countries, including disadvantaged groups such as Māori that suffer disproportionately from the diseases being targeted. Successful commercialisation will deliver economic benefit to both countries through the founding of new spin-out companies and licensing to existing companies.



The programme will deepen cooperation between NZ and China in research, science and technology, and enhance NZ's reputation for cutting-edge research both within China and around the world. At the same time, the programme will enable access to complementary research ideas, technology and facilities for scientists from both countries. A major outcome of the programme will therefore be upskilling and mentoring of NZ's biomedical research workforce, not only by enabling this access but also by providing new leadership opportunities in large-scale internationally-focused translational research. A commitment to diversity in the biomedical workforce engaged in the programme will include facilitating exchange of knowledge about characterisation of natural products and their extracts between iwi-led groups and leading experts in Traditional Chinese Medicine.



Appendix 4 List of Chinese Academy of Science institutes that undertake biomedical or clinical research

Titles are hyper-linked to institutional webpages

- Beijing Institute of Genomics, Chinese Academy of Sciences (China National Center for Bioinformation)
- CAS Institutes of Science and Development
- Center for Excellence in Brain Science and Intelligence Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Center for Excellence in Molecular Cell Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Center for Excellence in Molecular Plant Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Guangzhou Institutes of Biomedicine and Health, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Institute of Biophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Institute of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- National Center for Nanoscience and Technology
- Ningbo Institute of Materials Technology & Engineering, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Qingdao Institute of Bioenergy and Bioprocess Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Saived Medical School, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences
- School of Nanoscience and Engineering, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Shanghai Institute of Immunity and Infection, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Shanghai Institute of Nutrition and Health, Chinese Academy of Science
- Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Wuhan Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Sciences