

Request for applications: SAMRC early investigators programme

For attention: Early investigators in health/medical research

UFS internal closing date for budget approval	10 September 2024	@Sugandren Moodley @Zusake Sokutu
UFS internal closing date for online proposal	16 September 2024	@Eleanor Van Der Westhuizen
SAMRC final closing date	20 September 2024	RCDgrants.applications@mrc.ac.z

The South African Medical Research Council's (SAMRC) Division of Research Capacity Development (RCD) is pleased to request applications from **early investigators in health/medical research**.

The 2024 request for applications seeks to attract scientists within the following research priority areas:

- Non-communicable diseases
- Brain, behaviour, and mental health
- Climate change, environmental health, and occupational health
- Communicable diseases (e.g. HIV, TB and other infectious diseases)
- Health systems strengthening (e.g. health economics, NHI)
- Maternal and child health; violence and injury
- Public health innovation (e.g. genomics and bioinformatics, digital health)
- Vaccines, diagnostics, and drug discovery (including African traditional medicines).

Value and period of the award: Up to R500 000 per year for three years, subject to satisfactory performance and availability of funds. Payment of the grant funding will be linked to clear milestones and deliverables and subjected to the terms and conditions of the awards.

Conditions of the award

The grant will be used for research purposes as per the agreed-upon budget, including R200 000 for research expenses and R300 000 towards the awardees' salary. Since the grant is partially used as a salary, a formal letter must be included in the initial application, stating the institution's commitment to (i) appoint the applicant as a researcher, (ii) fund the running expenses of the applicant's research project, and (iii) provide infrastructure support for the applicant.

The award must demonstrate an intentional and measurable contribution to the objectives of the programme to facilitate retention in the public sector in areas of strategic interest to both the NDoH and the SAMRC.

Eligibility criteria

- Only South African citizens and permanent residents may apply.
- Applicants must have a research doctorate in health / medical research with three to five years of demonstrated postdoctoral research experience or at least one year of post-PhD research experience for clinician scientists.
- Applicants must be younger than 45 years; applicants over 45 years of age require a strong motivation from the institution.

- Applicants must be affiliated with a recognised academic or health research institution for at least the duration of the project or have secured a commitment from the institution to host the proposed project and provide the necessary financial support to the applicant for the duration of the grant.
- Applicants who are in an academic or research position fully remunerated by their institutions or those who have already demonstrated independence as evidenced by substantial grant income as principal investigators or have already established their research groups (for more than three years) are not eligible.
- The SAMRC Early Investigators Programme award may not be held concurrently with another SAMRC capacity development grant. Any other funding received needs to be declared in the application.
- Full-time employees of the SAMRC Intramural Research Units may not hold the SAMRC Early Investigators award.

Application process

Applicants must complete the [Online Application](#) and also submit the following supporting documents to RCD Grants Administration at RCDgrants.applications@mrc.ac.za

- [Application form](#)
- [Milestone table](#)
- [Budget form](#)
- [Reviewers](#) nomination (four forms in total per application)

The full application includes an application form with a full research proposal and annexures, an applicant motivation letter, a CV with a complete publication list, contact details of two confidential referees, a supporting letter with a written commitment by the host institution to provide the infrastructure and enabling research environment, as well as a matching contribution towards the applicant's remuneration and running expenses of the research project.

Enquiries:

Contact Dr Frederic Nduhirabandi by email at frederic.nduhirabandi@mrc.ac.za or +27 21 938 0461.