

SAMRC Mid-Career Scientist Programme

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

The SAMRC Mid-Career Scientist Programme is an excellent opportunity for South African academic institutions to support future health research leaders to grow their own research teams and make the transition to independent researchers.

For more information about this RFA and the application process, kindly visit:

<https://www.samrc.ac.za/funding/samrc-mid-career-scientist-programme>

For enquiries: please contact Dr Frederic Nduhirabandi by email at frederic.nduhirabandi@mrc.ac.za or +27 21 938 0461.

Deadline for UFS internal budget approval: 9 January 2025 at Sugandren Moodley

Deadline for requesting an institutional supporting letter: 12 January 2025 at [Charelise van Staden](#)

SAMRC final closing date: The completed online application and supporting documents must be submitted on or before **20 January 2026**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Eligibility criteria

- Only South African citizens and permanent residents may apply.
- Applicants must have a research doctorate in health / medical research with at least five years of demonstrated independence, as evidenced by substantial grants as principal investigators with established research teams, but who are not yet international leaders.
- Applicants must be younger than 50 years; applicants over 50 years 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 research and to provide the necessary support, with the potential retention of the applicant.

- Applicants who have already demonstrated independence, as evidenced by substantial grant income as principal investigators, or have already established their research groups for more than 10 years, are not eligible.
- The SAMRC Mid-Career Scientist Programme award may not be held concurrently with another SAMRC capacity development grant. Any other funding received must be declared in the application.
- Full-time employees of the SAMRC Intramural Research Units may not hold the SAMRC Mid-Career Scientist Programme award.

Value and period of the award

This funding amounts to a maximum of R1 250 000 p.a. in the first year of funding and a maximum not exceeding R1 500 000 in the second year of funding. This funding is renewable for a further three years at R1 500 000 p.a. on condition of satisfactory progress and availability of funds.

Conditions of the award

The grant cannot be used for any other purpose without written approval from the SAMRC. Funding for this initiative in the first year is structured as follows:

- R1 000 000 is towards the salary budget of the beneficiary and/or sub-specialists on the project.
- Research costs will be funded up to R250 000

The 2025 request for applications seeks to attract scientists within the following research priority areas:

- Non-communicable diseases
- Brain, behaviour, and mental health
- Disease prevention and health promotion
- 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)
- Behavioural science in relation to the uptake and use of health interventions
- Climate change, environmental health, and occupational health

Research projects that contribute to the mandate of SAMRC and demonstrate potential for public health impact will receive preference.

Supporting documents – request a motivation and institutional supporting letter well in advance of the closing date.

- Include the applicant's curriculum vitae
- Complete publication list and citations
- **Motivation letter** for the proposed research project/programme (HoD)

Institutional supporting letter with a written commitment from the hosting institution to provide the infrastructure and contribution towards the applicant's remuneration and running expenses of the research project – Prof Reddy, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies.

Find here:

- [The APPLICATION- 2025-Reviewer Nomination Form](#)
- [APPLICATION- 2025-Budget Form](#)
- [APPLICATION- MILESTONE TABLE](#)