

ENHANCING RESEARCH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The SAMRC, with the intention to achieve its strategy of redress and to develop the next generation of scientists, initiated the Historically Disadvantaged Institutions (HDI) fund in the financial year 2014/15.

THE HDI FUND HAS INJECTED AN ESTIMATED R 30 MILLION TO THE FOLLOWING PREVIOUSLY UNDER-RESOURCED UNIVERSITIES:

- University of Limpopo (UL)
- Fort Hare University (FHU)
- University of Venda (Univen)
- University of Zululand (UZ)
- Walter Sisulu University (WSU)



Strategy funded and employed by the SAMRC to develop the next generation of scientists.

TRANSFORMED FUNDING STREAM

IN 2012 OUR FIGURES REVEALED THE FOLLOWING:



White 72% Indian 11% African 11% Coloured 5%

IN 2013 OUR FIGURES REVEALED THE FOLLOWING:



White 83% Indian 0% African 10% Coloured 7%

IN 2014 OUR FIGURES REVEALED THE FOLLOWING:



White 48% Indian 15% African 33% Coloured 4%

IN 2015 OUR FIGURES REVEALED THE FOLLOWING:



White 34%. Indian 12% African 27% Coloured 27%

IN 2016 OUR FIGURES REVEALED THE FOLLOWING:



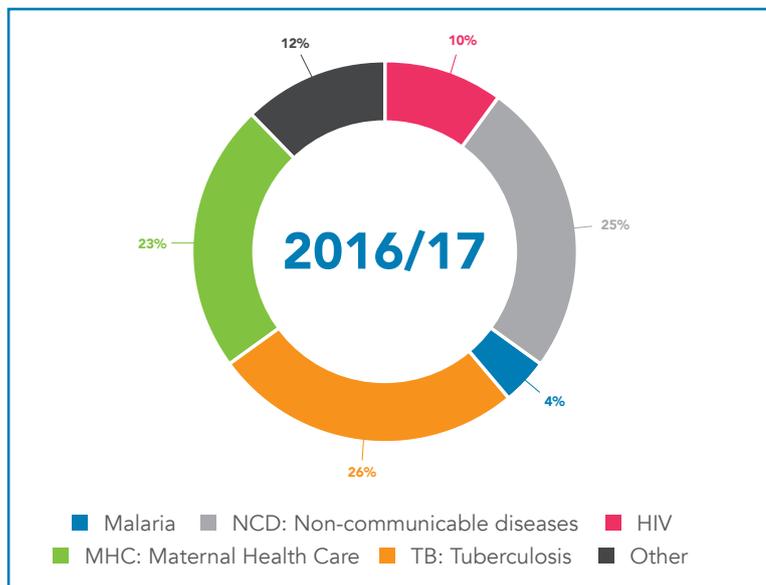
White 37% Indian 22% African 31% Coloured 10%

In 2012, allocated grants were skewed with most grants awarded to Whites (73%), and Africans only securing 11% of the grants. New guidelines have been applied to the awarding of grants in order to avoid established researchers competing with emerging researchers. These include separating the researchers according to their level of experience and taking cognisance of the historical under-resourcing of selected universities. In 2015, we awarded 34% of Self Initiated Grants (SIR) to whites and 27% to africans.



TRANSFORMING RESEARCH SCOPE TO INCORPORATE MEDICAL INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

The SAMRC increased its budget allocation to innovation and technology by 51.2% in the financial periods: 2013/14 - 2016/17. We have optimised our response to the ten highest causes of death in our country by investing into the innovation and technology space, and as such have expanded our medical research capabilities.



In the financial year 2016/17, the organisation's Grants, Innovation & Product Development (GIPD) division awarded grants to more than 168 research projects in excess of ZAR 270 million in the areas of research for drug discovery, vaccines, novel diagnostic tools, medical devices and genetics.

STRATEGICALLY TRANSFORMED ORGANISATION

The SAMRC has escalated transformation and succession as strategic priorities.



MEASURABLE TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY
A deputy directors programme that supports the SAMRC's Transformation Strategy, has been initiated in order to allow a seamless progression to leadership levels within the organisation. Four deputy directors were appointed in four research units in 2016.



APPLIED STRATEGIES TO ENSURE SOUND GOVERNANCE
We have shown transformed strategic impetus and boast five consecutive clean audits.



TRANSFORMED PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY
Following the introduction of a formal programme for scientists to acquire an NRF rating, we can confirm the following NRF Ratings at the SAMRC: 2 A-Rated, 7 B-Rated, 11 C-Rated and 4 Y-Rated scientists. The number of NRF-Rated scientists at the SAMRC has grown from 9 in 2014 to 24 in 2016.



MID-CAREER SCIENTISTS PROGRAMME
In the financial year 2016/17, we initiated a new programme to develop mid-career scientists into autonomous researchers who will have the capacity to develop grants independently and subsequently secure research support. These successful Black scientists represent the following institutions: University of Cape Town, University of the Western Cape, Sefako Makgatho Health Science University and Walter Sisulu University.



RESEARCH CAPACITY AND BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS
In the financial year 2016/17, 120 research grants were awarded to SAMRC scientists.

