



“ACCELERATING PROGRESS TO END TB”

The **South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC)** was established in 1969 and is dedicated to improving the health of people in South Africa, through **research, innovation, development, and technology transfer**.

SAMRC-Tuberculosis Platform:

Goals

1. Improve the health of the nation through research on:
 - Tuberculosis (TB) epidemiology (incidence, prevalence, economic cost, burden, mortality)
 - Current diagnostic tools
 - Tuberculosis prevention
 - Carries out research in developing novel knowledge and tools for TB infection.
2. Train new scientist generations (local and international) with cutting-edge skills.

Tuberculosis is an airborne disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB). It remains the 2nd leading cause of death killing over 3,500 people per day. South Africa is among 30 highly burdened countries. **Some of the strategies to accelerate efforts to “END TB” by the SAMRC-TB Platform include:**

- **Community engagement:**
 - Raise awareness,
 - Reduce stigmatization,
 - Promote TB prevention (adequate ventilation of public settings, TB vaccination).
- **Capacity building:**
 - Training of healthcare workers and researchers on how to adequately enhance skills in TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.
- **Research and innovation:**
 - Investigate new mechanisms of resistance and lineage determinants for the development of new diagnostic tools and drugs.
 - Investigate the antimicrobial effects of medicinal plants to improve treatment options.
 - Computer-aided drug development by analyses of gene expression of MTB strains.
- **Advocacy and policy influence:**
 - Funding for TB control at local, national, and international levels.
 - Influence policy development and implementation to prioritize TB on the public health agenda.

Tuberculosis claims more than 1.3 million lives globally each year. However, researchers are collaborating through different research ideas to accelerate the End-TB progress strategy. Thus, research institutions, and healthcare facilities, working in the field of TB need to bring together their expertise, resources, and network for a more coordinated and effective response to TB.