**October 2024**

**57039**

**SAMRC INTRA-MURAL POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAMME**

**Request for Applications 2024/2025**

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), through its Division of Research Capacity Development (RCD), is pleased to invite applications for its Intra-mural Postdoctoral Programme. This funding opportunity is available to individuals who have obtained their doctoral degrees within the last five years from the date of application.

Details about the projects and the hosting units can be accessed here.

Please note that these positions are based at the SAMRC Intramural Research Units. Applicants must contact the Unit Director/Manager or Research Mentor for further information on the project before submitting their application.

**Aim of the award**

The purpose of the SAMRC Intra-mural Postdoctoral Programme is to contribute to and assist in accelerating research capacity development and scientific leadership by creating opportunities to host and retain postdoctoral scientists who have demonstrated the potential to become established researchers. Postdoctoral fellows play a crucial role in strengthening the research team and student supervision.

**Value and duration of the award**

The value of the award is R350 000 (Three hundred and fifty thousand Rand) (tax-free funding) p.a. with a taxable top-up amount of R50 000 p.a. The period for the award is five years, comprising an initial three (3) years and a further extension for two years, subject to satisfactory performance and the availability of funds. The renewal of the funding for each year is subject to the submission of a satisfactory progress report and the availability of funding for the programme.

The hosting Unit shall provide the necessary research running expenses, infrastructure, capacity development, supervision, and mentorship.

**Obligations of the Postdoctoral Fellow**

The Fellows shall act as researchers on the project they apply for and will spend a minimum of 80% of their working hours on the project. The Fellows will negotiate a performance contract with their supervisors as approved by the Unit Directors/Managers.

**Eligibility**

The following eligibility criteria are applicable to this request for applications:

* Only South African citizens and permanent residents may apply.
* Applicants must have obtained their Doctoral degree no more than five (5) years prior to application.
  + Candidates who are waiting for graduation need a strong motivation from the hosting Unit/Centre.
  + Motivation from female candidates who graduated more than 5 years prior to application and are returning after a period of absence from research due to family responsibilities may be considered.
* Applicants must be younger than 40 years - candidates older than 40 years need a strong motivation from the Unit/Centre/Platform
* Preference will be given to young female candidates and historically disadvantaged groups. For this reason, we require race and gender to be specified.
* Disabled individuals are strongly encouraged to apply.

The SAMRC reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications, change the conditions of the award, extend the closing date or make no award at all. Please note that regarding this request for application, successful candidates will be contacted within 60 days after the closing date. Successful candidates must be ready to start working on their projects.

**Application process**

The applications must reach the RCD Division by no later than **11 November 2024**.

Step 1: The online application form must be completed here.

Step 2: The comprehensive application form with supporting documentation (including a full CV, certified copies of ID and PhD certificate, and letter of motivation) and the names and contact details of two academic referees must be emailed to [RCDgrants.applications@mrc.ac.za](mailto:RCDgrants.applications@mrc.ac.za) before or on the closing date. Late submissions will not be considered.

**Contact details**

For further enquiries, contact Dr Frederic Nduhirabandi (email: frederic.nduhirabandi@mrc.ac.za or Tel: +27 21 938 0461).

**Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA)**

Please note that by submitting your application and other supporting documents, the SAMRC concludes that you are a competent person to consent and that you are giving consent to the SAMRC to process and further process all personal information contained in the application forms and supporting documents in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA), Act No 4 of 2013 (as amended). You can read the full details on the act here: <https://popia.co.za/>. **Should you not approve of such use of your personal information, please refrain from applying.**

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| Logo, company name  Description automatically generated | **DIVISION OF RESEARCH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**  **(RCD)** |

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**APPLICATION FORM**

* **Postdoctoral Project:** Select one project you are applying for from the available projects below (mark with X; only one choice is allowed)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Choice | Project # | Title |
|  | 1 | HIV Vaccine Innovation, Science and Technology Acceleration in Africa: for the BRILLIANT Consortium (Strategic Research Initiatives/SRI) |
|  | 2 | Comorbid Diabetes and Depression (CODAD) Study (Non-Communicable Diseases Research Unit) |
|  | 3 | National survey of university students' mental health care needs in South Africa (Mental Health, Alcohol, Substance Use and Tobacco Research Unit/MASTRU) |
|  | 4 | A comparison of adherence to RR-TB treatment in pregnant and non-pregnant women (HIV and other Infectious Diseases Research Unit/HIDRU) |
|  | 5 | Enhancing evidence synthesis production and knowledge translation evaluation within the E2D initiative (Health Systems Research Unit) |
|  | 6 | Linkages between College Men's Masculinities, poor Mental Health, perpetrations of Violence Against Women (Gender and Health Research Unit) |
|  | 7 | Correlation Between Basal Autophagic Flux and Control of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection (Genomics Centre) |
|  | 8 | Identifying structural variants associated with Tuberculosis and Type 2 Diabetes Comorbidity using long read sequencing technology (Centre for Tuberculosis Research-CTR) |
|  | 9 | Enhancing Healthcare Insights: Building Qualitative Evidence Synthesis in South Africa and Beyond (Cochrane SA) |
|  | 10 | Catalysis in the synthesis of aspalathin, an antidiabetic compound from South African rooibos (Biomedical Research and Innovation Platform/BRIP) |
|  | 11 | Identification of Novel Phenotypic Groups in Hypertension Using Machine Learning Approaches: A Data-Driven Strategy for Personalized Treatment (BRIP) |

* **Personal Details of the Applicant**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name and surname** |  | | | |
| **Gender** |  | | | |
| **Race** |  | | | |
| **Address** |  | | | |
| **Telephone number** |  | | | |
| **Mobile number** |  | | | |
| **Email address** |  | | | |
| **Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)** |  | | | |
| **Citizenship (mark with an X)** | South African Citizen |  | Permanent Resident |  |
| **If South African Permanent resident, indicate the date of permanent residency** |  | | | |

**Details of Doctoral Studies**

Other graduate and post graduate studies to be detailed in the CV.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **University** |  |
| **Faculty** |  |
| **Department/Division/School** |  |
| **Title of thesis/Dissertation** |  |
| **Year first registered for your PhD** |  |
| **Graduation date** |  |
| **Supervisor** |  |

* **Details of Research Experience After Completion of Doctoral Studies**

Please complete if applicable. Non-research-related work experience can be detailed in the CV.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **University/Research institution** |  |
| **Department/Division/School** |  |
| **Research project title** |  |
| **Role in the project** |  |
| **Duration of involvement** |  |

* **Details of Your three Latest Publications**

Please provide a full reference using the Harvard or Vancouver referencing style. Include the number of citations for each where applicable.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Number | Reference |
| **1** |  |
| **2** |  |
| **3** |  |

* **Additional Documents**

Please note that the supporting documents must be sent in separate files to the programme administration at [RCDgrants.applications@mrc.ac.za](mailto:RCDgrants.applications@mrc.ac.za) before or on the closing date.

Please confirm if each required document has been sent by ticking the appropriate box below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Full CV |  |
| 1. Completed application form (in addition to the online application) |  |
| 1. Certified copy of Identification document |  |
| 1. Certified copy of PhD certificate or Proof of PhD completion (if applicable) |  |
| 1. A written motivation letter by the candidate detailing their suitability for the position in relation to the selected research project (maximum 500 words) |  |
| 1. Contact details of Two confidential referees (an academic or research supervisor) |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name and Surname (Applicant): | |
| Signature (Applicant): | Date: ............... |

**Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA)**

*Please note that by submitting your application and other supporting documents, the SAMRC concludes that you are a competent person to consent and that you are giving consent to the SAMRC to process and further process all personal information contained in the application forms and supporting documents in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA), Act No 4 of 2013 (as amended). You can read the full details on the act here:* [*https://popia.co.za/*](https://popia.co.za/)

*The SAMRC, as a responsible statutory science council, will comply with POPIA. The SAMRC will receive personal information through applications submitted to the SAMRC for the purposes of applying for funding. The personal information requested on the application template is necessary for the SAMRC to fully evaluate the applications for funding. This information will be shared with members of the Selection Committees of the SAMRC and external funders and/or stakeholders where applicable, as well as the SAMRC management for the purposes of processing the applications. The SAMRC will process this personal information strictly in accordance with POPIA. The SAMRC undertakes specifically to process the personal information on the basis that (a) it was provided voluntarily and (b) the information will be processed only as far may be necessary and within the limitation and ambit of the purpose of evaluating the application for funding (i.e., the purpose with which the personal information was received). The SAMRC confirms that it is lawfully processing the information since the purpose of processing is to seek quality research proposals for funding which the SAMRC is mandated to do in terms of Section 4 of the SAMRC Act 58 of 1991. Thus, the SAMRC is fulfilling its legislated and lawful mandate, and strategic objectives as provided for in the SAMRC Act.* *Should you not approve of such use of your personal information, please refrain from applying.*