**SAMRC RESEARCH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (RCDI)**

**RCDI-Nested Postdoctoral Fellowship and PhD Scholarship Programme |**

**New Intake: 2024/25- Readvertised January/February 2025**

**Expression of interest Nomination Form: Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme**

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| **Instructions*** The form must be completed by the eligible Principal Investigator and not the nominee. Use Calibri font size 11, single spacing, to complete the proposal. DO NOT COMPLETE THE FIRST PAGE OF THIS FORM
* Completed application forms must be sent to RCDgrants.applications@mrc.ac.za
* Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA)

*Please note that by submitting the 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, Act No 4 of 2013 (as amended).* |

**FOR OFFICE USE:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| University/Institution | Name: |
| Address: |
| School/Faculty/Department  |  |
| Principal investigator | Title:  |
| Name and Surname: |
| Contact Details  | Tel (work): | Mobile: |
| Email (work): | Other: |
| Title of RCDI-funded project  |  |
| Proposed research project for Postdoc fellow |  |
| Nominated Candidates (Name and Surname) |  |
| Administration | Date | Name | Designation | Signature |
| First received |  |  |  |  |
| Reviewed |  |  |  |  |
| Decision |  |  |  |  |
| Approval | Yes: | No: | Comments: |

**RCDI PROJECT DETAILS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Principal Investigator** |  |
| **RCDI project title** |  |
| **RCDI year award** | *First Year/date:* | *Amount (p.a):* |
| *Duration:* |
| **University** |  |
| **Department** |  |
| **School/Faculty** |  |
| **Mentorship/supervision experience within 5 years** | *# Postdoctoral fellows:**# PhDs:* *# Masters:* | *#RCDI- Nested postdoc* |
| *# RCDI-Nested PhD* |
| **Publication Citation Index** **Google Scholar (last five years)** |  |

**DETAILS OF THE POSTDOCTORAL PROJECT**

|  |
| --- |
| **PROJECT TOPIC** *(Abstract form) also explain how this topic fits in your RCDI funded project, maximum 1000 words)* |
|  |
| **PROPOSED ROLE OF THE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW IN THE PROJECT *(****maximum 500 words)**Role and Deliverables (performance objectives)* |
|  |
| **DESCRIBE HOW THE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW WILL IMMEDIATELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MILESTONES OF RCDI PROJECT** *(maximum 500 words)* |
|  |
| **RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE FELLOW** *(maximum 500 words)**Describe the availability/access to research infrastructure, laboratory resources, patient populations, databases, biobanks and other unique technologies that will enhance the research endeavours*  |
|  |
| **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN** *(maximum 500 words)**Provide details of the capacity development plans and possibility for retention of the postdoctoral fellow* |
|  |
| **ETHICAL APPROVALS OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT***: date and number (Please attach copy)* |
|  |

**NOMINEE DETAILS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** |  |
| **Name (s)** |  |
| **Surname** |  |
| **SA ID number** |  |
| **Address** |  |
| **Telephone number** |  |
| **Mobile number** |  |
| **Email address:** |  |
| **Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY):** |  |
| **Gender** |  |
| **Race** |  |

**DETAILS OF DOCTORAL STUDIES (NOMINEE)**

*Other graduate and postgraduate 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 DOCTORAL STUDIES (NOMINEE)**

*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 project** |  |
| **Duration of involvement** |  |

**DETAILS OF THREE (3) LATEST PUBLICATIONS (NOMINEE) (if applicable)**

*Please provide full reference using Vancouver referencing style*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1** |  |
| **2** |  |
| **3** |  |

|  |
| --- |
|  I……………………………………………. (PI full names), hereby confirm that the details above are correct and true and commit to undertake the mentorship of the postdoctoral fellow nominee ………………………………. ……………………….(full names) |
|  |
|  |
|  Signature: |  Date: |

**CHECKLIST**

*Please confirm sending all the required document by ticking in the appropriate box below*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Completed expression and nomination form |  |
| 2 | Motivation letter to host the postdoc fellow (expression of interest by the host/ PI) demonstrating your previous mentorship ability and experience how the postdoctoral fellow will contribute to your research team capacity building (maximum <500 words). |  |
| 3 | Comprehensive CV of the nominee |  |
| 4 | Copy of Identification document of the nominee |  |
| 5 | A written motivation detailing the suitability for the nominee by the nominee and how he/she fits into your research program/project (max 500 words) |  |
| 6 | Proof of Ethical approval (where applicable) |  |
| 7 | PhD Certificate or Proof of completion of PhD/ Thesis submission [motivation by the supervisor, if the candidate is waiting for graduation] |  |
| 8 | Proof of fair selection process (advertisement and selection process report) |  |

**SAMRC RESEARCH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (RCDI)**

**RCDI-Nested Postdoctoral Fellowship and PhD Scholarship Programme**

**FY 2024/25-Readvertised**

**Request for Expression of Interest: January-February 2025**

The South African Medical Research Council’s Division of Research Capacity Development (RCD) invites Principal investigator (PI) beneficiaries of the Research Capacity Development Initiative (RCDI) funding to submit their expression of their interest to host Postdoctoral Research Fellows and PhD students under the RCDI-Nested Postdoctoral and Scholarship Programmes.

The purpose of the RCDI grant is to provide an opportunity for funding researchers at universities and research institutions previously constrained by inadequate access to resources. The RCDI aims to support research capacity and scientific leadership in areas that contribute to the mandate of SAMRC and demonstrate potential for public health impact. The RCDI-nested research fellowship/scholarship programme is an intervention to accelerate the building of research capacity and scientific leadership by strengthening the research team and improving the supervision experience of the RCDI-principal investigators. This will be done by creating opportunities to host and retain early career scientists who have demonstrated the potential to become established researchers.

Current RCDI PIs are eligible to participate in the call for expression of interest to host postdoctoral fellows and doctoral students*.* It is expected that the candidate’s project will have funding for the period of the fellowship and scholarship. Selected institutions (historically disadvantaged institutions (HDIs)) for this request are the *University of Fort Hare, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, Walter Sisulu University, University of Limpopo, and University of Zululand*.

**The submission of an expression of interest is not a guarantee of an award**. The Postdoctoral fellow and the Doctoral candidate projects must be part of or contribute to the funded project of the PI. The PI on the funded project must be the mentor or supervisor of the research fellow or the PhD student. The PI and their nominees must meet the eligibility criteria.

**RCDI-Nested Postdoctoral Fellowship**

**Value and duration of the award**

The value of the fellowship is **R350 000.00** per year. The RCDI-Research Fellow will be appointed for one year, renewable up to three years, subject to satisfactory performance and the availability of funds. The funds will be released once all the requirements are fulfilled and an agreement has been signed between the SAMRC, the host institution (HDI), the PI and the fellow. Fellows will be obliged to spend 80% of their time on the RCDI project and 20% on career development.

**Eligibility of the Principal Investigator to host a Research Fellow**

* Evidence of an approved research proposal with ethical approval, if applicable.
* Evidence of a proven research supervision and mentorship record.
* Evidence of available support structures and infrastructure to host a postdoctoral researcher.
* Clear plan for academic development for the nominee (mentorship plan).
* Must be a university-recognised mentor of the research fellow.
* Proof of fair selection/nomination (advertising the post at the institutional level for at least five days and submission of the selection process report).

**Eligibility for nomination**

* Candidates must be South African citizens or permanent residents younger than 40 years (nominees over 40 years need a strong motivation from the PI and post-PhD experience of less than three years).
* Candidates must be within five years of graduating with their PhD health/medical-related research doctorate.
* Women and disabled individuals are encouraged to apply.
* Preference will be given to candidates from historically disadvantaged groups.
* Research project must be part of the funded RCDI project.
* Full-time employees may not hold an RCDI-Nested Postdoctoral Fellowship.

**RCDI-Nested PhD Scholarship**

**Value and duration of the award**

The value of the scholarship is **R250 000.00** per year. Renewal of the funding for each year will be subject to receipt of satisfactory progress reports and funding availability. The funds will be released once all the requirements are fulfilled and an agreement has been signed between the SAMRC, the host institution (HDI), the PI and the student.

**Eligibility to host a Doctoral student**

* Evidence of an approved research proposal with ethical approval, if applicable.
* Evidence of a proven research supervision and mentorship record.
* Evidence of available support structures and infrastructure to host a doctoral candidate.
* Plan for academic development for the nominee (mentorship plan).
* Must be a university-recognised supervisor of the candidate.
* Proof of fair selection/nomination process (advertising at institutional level for at least five days submission of the selection process report).

**Eligibility for nomination**

* Candidates must be South African citizens or permanent residents and registered in a health/medical science-related research programme.
* Individuals with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.
* Preference will be given to candidates from historically disadvantaged groups.
* Research project must be part of the funded RCDI project.
* Full-time employees may not hold an RCDI-Nested PhD Scholarship.

The South African Medical Research Council (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 awards at all. Please note that only successful PIs will be contacted within 60 days after the closing date. Successful PIs and their nominees will be required to sign a contractual agreement with the SAMRC.

**Application process**

The PIs advertise and conduct fair selections accepted by their Institutions. RCD does not receive applications from candidates or nominees. Only the PI submits the expression of interest with the nomination, including proof of the advertisement and the selection process report, and may follow up the outcome process. The expression of interest forms must reach RCD no later than **Friday 7, February 2025**. The online expression of interest form must be completed online here.

*Please note that by submitting the 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, Act No 4 of 2013 (as amended).*

A completed expression of interest/nomination form with supporting documentation (as listed on the form) must be sent by the Principal Investigators to RCDgrants.applications@mrc.ac.za, **before or** **on** **Friday 7, February 2025.**

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