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|  | **sTRATEGIC HEALTH**  **INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS** |

**SAMRC PROPOSAL TEMPLATE**

**RFA: Longitudinal Samples for Whole Genome Sequencing in the South African 110,000 Human Genome Pilot Programme**

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| **SECTION 1: Summary Proposal Information**  |

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| **Project Title** |  |
| **RFA**  | **RFA-COHORTS-SA-PILOT-HGP** |
| **Research Area** | *Name the disease research areas being addressed by the proposed patient cohort* |
| **Requested Funding** | *Insert total budget amount [Note: sequencing costs will be covered by the central programme. Budget for logistics, personnel, and tertiary analysis].*  |
| **Intended Start** | *Month and year* |
| **Intended Duration** | *X years* |
| **Institutional Type***(Tick all that apply)* | * University
* Hospital
* Research Institution
* Clinical Trial Network
* Other (please specify):
 |
| **Lead Principal Investigator (Main Applicant)** |
|  **Title First Name Surname** |  |
|  **SA ID/ Passport Number** |  |
| **Residential status**  | **South African Citizen** |  |  **Permanent Residence** |  |
|  **Institution** |  |
|  **Institution Address**  |  |
|  **PI E-mail Address** |  |
|  **PI Telephone Number** |  |
|  **PI Gender** | Male / Female |
|  **PI Ethnic Group** | African / Coloured / Indian / White / Other (please specify) |
| **\*Co-applicant(s) / Co-investigator(s)** |
| **Title First Name Surname** |  |
| **Institution** |  |
| **Demographic Details of Co-investigators** | **Name:****Gender:** Male / Female**Ethnic Group:** African / Coloured / Indian / White / Other (please specify)**Name:****Gender:** Male / Female**Ethnic Group:** African / Coloured / Indian / White / Other (please specify) |

\*Note that Co-applicants/Co-investigators are investigators that are also applying for funding from the SAMRC as part of this application. Other collaborators and project team members not applying for funding directly from the SAMRC should be listed under 2.5.

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| **SECTION 2: COHORT OVERVIEW** |
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| **2.1. Cohort Details** |
| **Cohort Title / Name:** |  |
| **Disease Focus / Clinical Condition:** |  |
| **Number of Samples Proposed for Submission:** | *minimum 500*  |
| **Participant Demographics Summary:** | *Also upload an excel list of de-identified samples outlining the stipulated demographic data*  |
| **Age range:** |  |
| **Sex distribution:** |  |
| **Ethnic/geographic representation:** |  |
| **Are pseudonymised or anonymised IDs used?** |  |
|  |
| **How is sample and data identity tracked through the workflow?** |
|  |
| **Describe sample traceability from the point of collection to current storage, and quality**  |
| What Sample labelling and chain of custody procedures exist? |  |
| What Storage conditions and facilities are being used? |  |
| What Quality assurance measures are taken to preserve sample integrity? |  |
| Any quality metrics already assessed (e.g., DNA yield, purity) |  |
| **Please attach supporting documentation such as SOP’s or QC reports if**  |
|  |
| **2.2. Convey a brief description of the Cohort (max 500 words):** |
| (*Include details on the clinical study background, design, timeline, and objectives.)* |
| **2.3. Describe what Phenotype data is already generated on this COHORT**  |
| (*Include data that is relevant to your proposed incorporation of WGS to achieve the scientific objectives proposed in section 3****)***  |
| **What types of data are collected?** *(e.g., diagnosis, treatment history, lab values* |
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| **How is this data stored?** *(e.g., REDCap, Excel, hospital EMR)* |
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| **Is the data standardised using any coding systems?** *(e.g., ICD-10, SNOMED)* |
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| **SECTION 3: Scientific and Clinical Justification** |

**3.1 Abstract (Max 1 page)** *(Please include only a short summary of the proposed work and outcomes)*

*Please provide a summary of the proposed cohort and its relevance to whole genome sequencing (WGS). Highlight how your project supports clinical, diagnostic, or therapeutic advances.)*

**3.2 Background Literature (Max 1 page)**

*(Please summarise relevant literature, disease focus, current genomic knowledge gaps, and why your cohort is suitable for WGS.)*

**3.3 Overview of the applicant’s own research relevant to the project (Max 1 page)**

*(Please include all relevant data generated to date to support and justify the proposed project and describe the current stage of development.)*

**3.4 Detailed Bioinformatics Research Plan (Max 8 pages)**

*(Please include sufficient detail to enable reviewers to assess the technical merit of the project, including sample sizes, methods and approaches. Cohorts should be embedded in active or planned clinical trials)*

**3.4.1 Objectives to be achieved by including WGS to your cohort study**

*(Stipulate the planned research questions for your analysis)*

*(Define the objectives of the proposed analysis plan***)**

**3.4.2. Scientific Rationale:**

*Indicate if the cohort is part of an active or planned clinical trial.*

*Explain the Clinical Utility- how WGS will improve diagnosis, treatment stratification, or patient outcomes.*

*Specify available clinical outcome data, trial endpoints, or treatment responses*

*Describe the potential to identify novel variants, disease mechanisms, or biomarkers etc*

*.*

**3.4.4. Analysis Methods and Tools**

*The programme aims to deliver 30X WGS sequencing data in FASQ, VCF ,BAM and CRAM formats, elaborate the analysis methods you propose for this data e.g., GWAS, gene prioritization, annotation tools you aim to utilize.*

*Describe the expected Scientific or Clinical Impact of the Analysis*

**3.4.5. Milestones and Deliverables**

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| **Milestone 1:** *(Include a short description/title of the milestone here)* |
| Key Tasks | Duration (Start-End Date) | Deliverable(s)\* |
|  |  |  |
| **Milestone 2:** *(Include a short description/title of the milestone here)* |
| Key Tasks | Duration (Start-End Date) | Deliverable(s)\* |
|  |  |  |
| **Milestone 3:** *(Include a short description/title of the milestone here)* |
| Key Tasks | Duration (Start-End Date) | Deliverable(s)\* |
|  |  |  |

\*Please include scientific development deliverables here and not publications, presentations or personnel capacity development.

**3.4.6. Assumptions (Max ½ page)**

*(Please list any pivotal assumptions being made, if any)*

**3.4.7. Intellectual Property (IP) (Max ½ page)**

*(Discuss the IP position relevant to the project, including any known or potential IP restrictions that may impact on the project. Furthermore, address data sharing, sample ownership, and IP considerations relevant to sequencing and secondary analysis.)*

**3.5 Available Infrastructure and Resources (Max 1 page)**

*(Please describe the infrastructure directly available to the applicants and relevant to the project also -state the resources to be used to support your Analysis.)*

**3.6 Project Team**

*(Please complete the table below and include all co-applicants/co-investigators as well as senior project team members and collaborators that are involved in the project even if they are not necessarily applying for funding directly from the SAMRC)*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name and Surname** | **Institution** | **Role in Project** |
|  |  |  |
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*\**Please include as an attachment Curriculum Vitae for the Principal Investigator and all Co-investigators.

**3.7 National and International Collaboration**

*(List collaborators (local/international) contributing to cohort development, sequencing, bioinformatics, or analysis.)*

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| **SECTION 4: Project Significance and Unique Contributions** |

**4.1 Expected Scientific or Clinical Impact of the Analysis /The overall Outputs, Outcomes and Impact (Max 1 page)**

*(Please include any potential capacity development, and, applicants should demonstrate how genomic insights from this study will convey any substantial outcomes – such as impact on policy, or clinical care guidelines or enhance diagnostics, therapeutic stratification, or understanding of disease etiology in current or future studies. )*

**4.2 Contribution to Population Diversity (Max 1 page):**

*Outline how the cohort enhances representation across regions, ethnicities, and disease profiles*

**4.3. Describe any Planned Publications, Presentations or Reports (max 500 words)**

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| **SECTION 5: Ethics and Data Governance** |
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| **5.1. Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) Approval** |
| Approval number: |  |
| Date of approval: |  |
| Committee name: |  |
| ***5.2. Patient inclusion and consent strategy***  |
| Have you received Consent for WGS: | **YES** |  | **NO** |  | ***Still have to apply*** |  |
| Have you received consent for Data Sharing: | **YES** |  | **NO** |  | ***Still have to apply*** |  |
| **If you answered YES to the above**  |
| Does Consent include data reuse:  |  |
| Does Consent include the deposit of data in a shared archive: |  |
| Informed consent forms attached: | **YES**  |  | **NO** |  |  |
| **5.3. Genomic Data Consent and Compliance**  |
| *Confirm that your cohort participants provided informed consent for genomic data generation and secure data sharing. Attach or describe the consent language used. All genomic data generated must be submitted to the National Genomics Archive under the programme’s data governance framework.* |
| **5.4. FAIR Principles Compliance** |
| *Briefly describe how your project aligns with FAIR data principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable), or how you intend to ensure FAIR compliance through data management and metadata practices.* |
| **5.5. Describe the Data Sharing Plan & Consent Framework that may exist** |
| *It is beneficial for the programme to understand -Whether participants consented to data sharing, and under what terms* |
| **5.6. Describe any current Clinical and Genomic Data management plan you have (If Applicable)** |
| *This information may assist the programme in developing internal systems, storage, linkage, security, and readiness for integration. Outline How data (clinical + genomic) is stored, secured, linked, and structured* |
| **5.5. Proposed Data Access Committee members (***List names and affiliations max 3 and motivate for extra):* |
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| **SECTION 6: Funding** |

**6.1 Summary Budget**

Please provide a detailed yearly budget for the principal investigator and each co-investigator in the attached excel spreadsheet

(*Include only summary information for the full project in the table below*)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Budget Item** | **Year 1** | **Year 2** | **Year 3**  |
| **Personnel Costs** |  |  |  |
| **Laboratory Costs**  |  |  |  |
| **Travel Costs** |  |  |  |
| **Other Direct Costs** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Total Direct Costs** |  |  |  |
| **Indirect Costs**  |  |  |  |
| **Total Annual Costs** |  |  |  |
| **Total Project Budget** |  |

**6.2 Budget Motivation**

*(Please provide a motivation for the budgeted personnel and other costs)*

**6.3 Funds Requested and/or Received**

*(Please provide details of any other funding applied for and/or received for this project or parts thereof)*

**6.4 SAMRC Associations and Funding**

*(Please provide details of any direct affiliations or associations [excluding research collaborations] you have with the SAMRC, including positions on the SAMRC Board or other committees, as well as other grants from the SAMRC currently held)*

**6.5. Potential Reviewers** *(optional)*

*(Please provide a list of potential international reviewers for this project)*

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| **SECTION 7: Certification by Applicant and Organization** |

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| **I herewith declare that to the best of my knowledge*** **the work outlined in this proposal is my own original work and that the inputs, contributions and the work of others have been appropriately acknowledged where relevant;**
* **all co-investigators and collaborators listed in the proposal are aware of this proposal and have agreed to their inclusion herein;**
* **I have undertaken due diligence to ensure that the work proposed has not been done elsewhere in a manner identical to or having an identical process and outcome as that which I propose to do;**
* **I have permission from the Department/Division/Directorate/Faculty to undertake the proposed work within the precincts of said entity and will have access to all required facilities and other forms of support;**
* **the work will be undertaken strictly according to accepted ethical and professional research practice, within the provisions and regulations of my host institution and any other applicable national or international prescriptions;**
* **the information provided in this proposal is true, correct and accurate and I understand and accept that the SAMRC reserves the right to cancel any grant awarded on the basis of false or inaccurate information.**

**I accept that the SAMRC reserves the right to reject incomplete, inappropriate or inadequate proposals/applications.****Full name (print)……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..****Signature………………………………………………………… Date……………….……………………** |
| **Institutional approval** |
| **This is to certify that this research proposal (tick applicable box)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Reference no., date or comment** |
| **Has been approved by the applicable research committee or authorized structure** | **YES** | **NO** |  |
| **Is hereby approved for submission to the SAMRC for funding** | **YES** | **NO** |  |
|  |
| **Name of authorizing official** |  |
| **Designation of authorizing official** |  |
| **Signature of authorizing official** |  |
| **Date of authorization** |  |

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| **SECTION 6: Attachments required for SA110K-HGP RFA** |

**Please include the following:**

☐ Completed project proposal

☐ Completed project Budget

☐ Ethics approval (for sequencing & data sharing)

☐ Informed Consent forms

☐ List of deidentified Samples with participant demographics such as Age, sex and ethnicity

☐ Supporting information for Sample Traceability and QC

☐ Data sharing plan and consent framework

☐ Clinical and genomic data management plan (if available)

☐ CVs of all investigators

*Please ensure that your application is complete, including all required documents, attachments, institutional approvals, and any supporting materials. Incomplete applications may not be considered for review.*