

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

A PRESENTATION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

08 OCTOBER 2025

The Art of Science

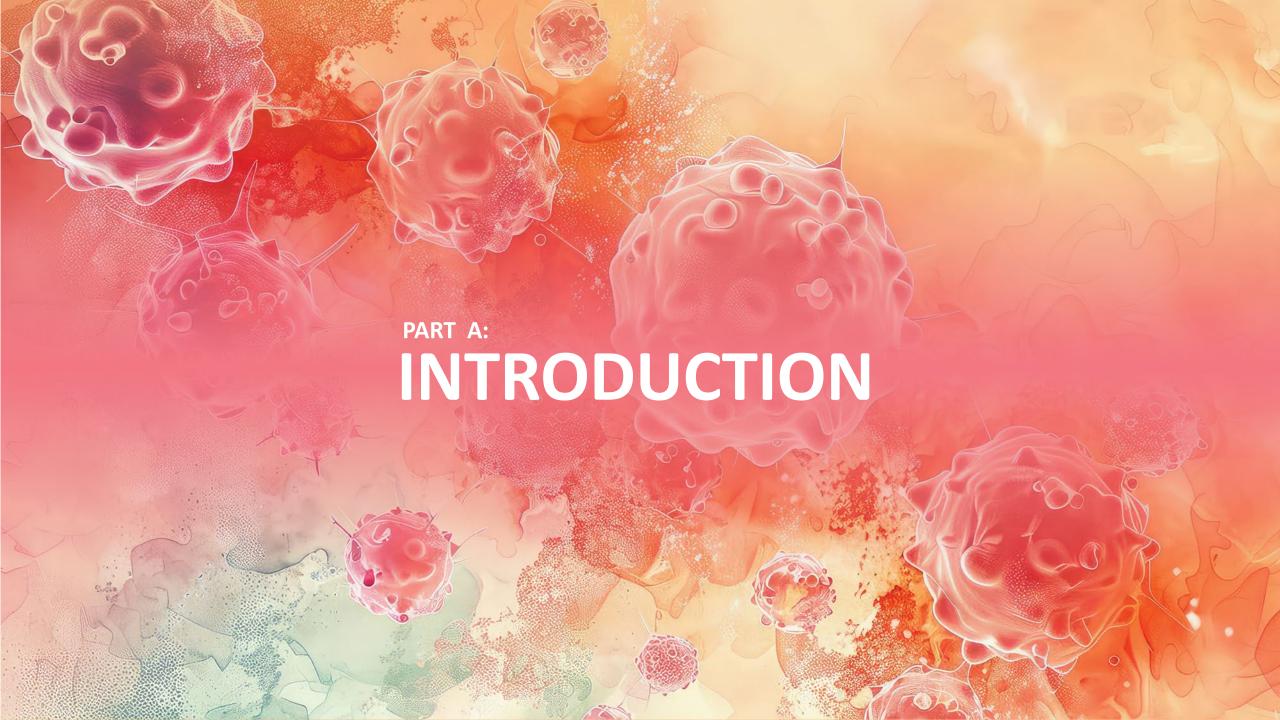




SCOPE OF PRESENTATION

Part C Part B Part D Part E Part A Financial Stakeholder Performance Introductions Information Resources Information Engagement

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SAMRC HISTORY AND HEALTH STATEMENT

The South African Medical Research Council recognises the catastrophic and persisting consequences of colonialism and apartheid, including land dispossession and the intentional imposition of educational and health inequities.

Acknowledging the SAMRC's historical role and silence during apartheid, we commit our capacities and resources to the continued promotion of justice and dignity in health research in South Africa.





ABOUT US

OUR MANDATE

The mandate of the
South African Medical
Research Council (SAMRC),
in terms of the MRC Act 58,
1991 (as amended), is to
improve the health and
quality of life of South Africans.
This needs to be realised
through research,
development, and
technology transfer.

OUR VISION

Building a healthy nation through research, innovation and transformation

OUR MISSION

To advance the nation's health and quality of life and address inequality by conducting and funding relevant and responsive health research, capacity development, innovation, and research translation.

OUR VALUES



Pioneering



Excellence



Respect



Partnering



Integrity



Citizenship

SAMRC BOARD MEMBERS



PROF JOHNNY MAHLANGU CHAIRPERSON



PROF BONGINKOSI CHILIZA DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON



PROF TRACEY NALEDI



DR ZINHLE MAKATINI



MS DORIS DONDUR



PROF BRUCE BICCARD



PROF LUFUNO MATHIVHA



PROF MOSA MOSHABELA (RESIGNED AUGUST 2023)



DR MZIWANDILE MADIKIZELA



PROF EMMANUEL MUKWEVHO



PROF RONELLE CAROLISSEN



PROF THANDISIZWE MAVUNDLA



PROF TIMOTHY TUCKER



PROF EUNICE SEEKOE



ADV DOROTHY KHOSA



PROF TAHIR PILLAY



PROF NTOBEKO NTUSI SAMRC PRESIDENT AND CEO (JOINED 1 JULY 2024)

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (EMC)



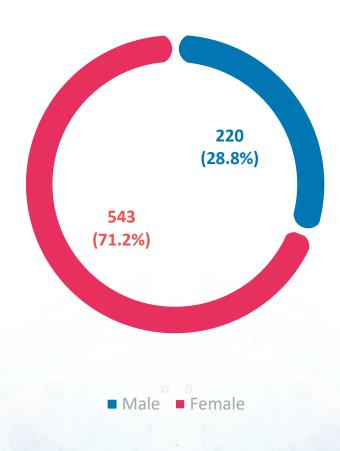
Prof Ntobeko Ntusi

SAMRC President & CEO

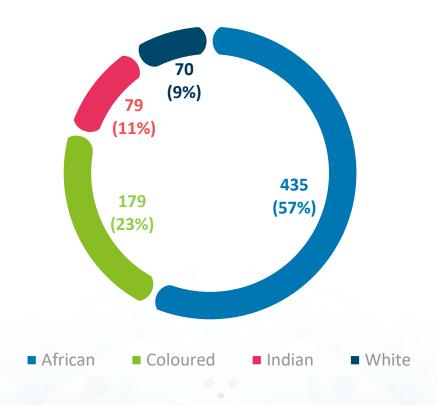




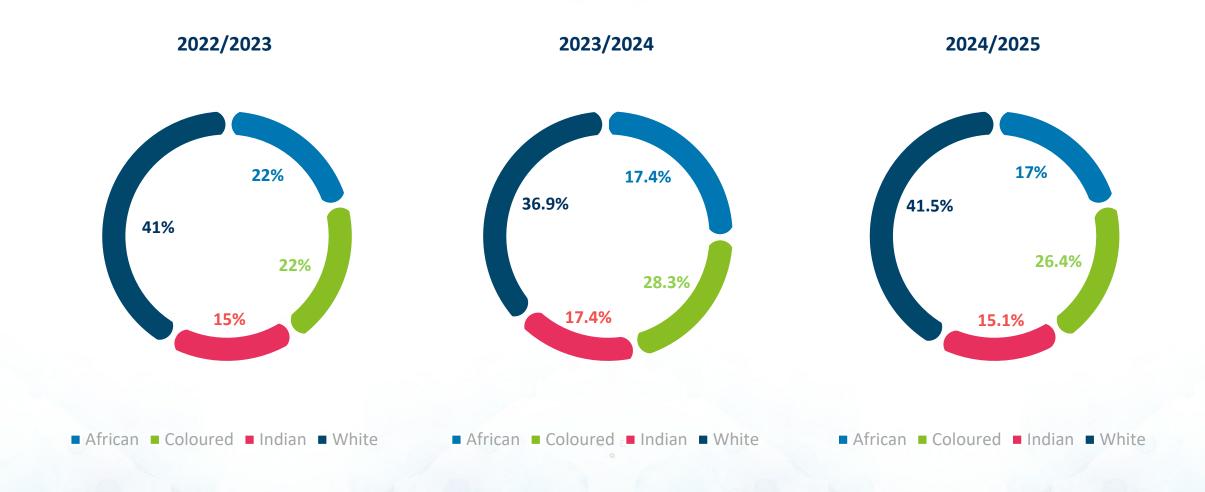
EMPLOYEES PROFILE BY GENDER ON 31 MARCH 2025: TOTAL NUMBER = 763



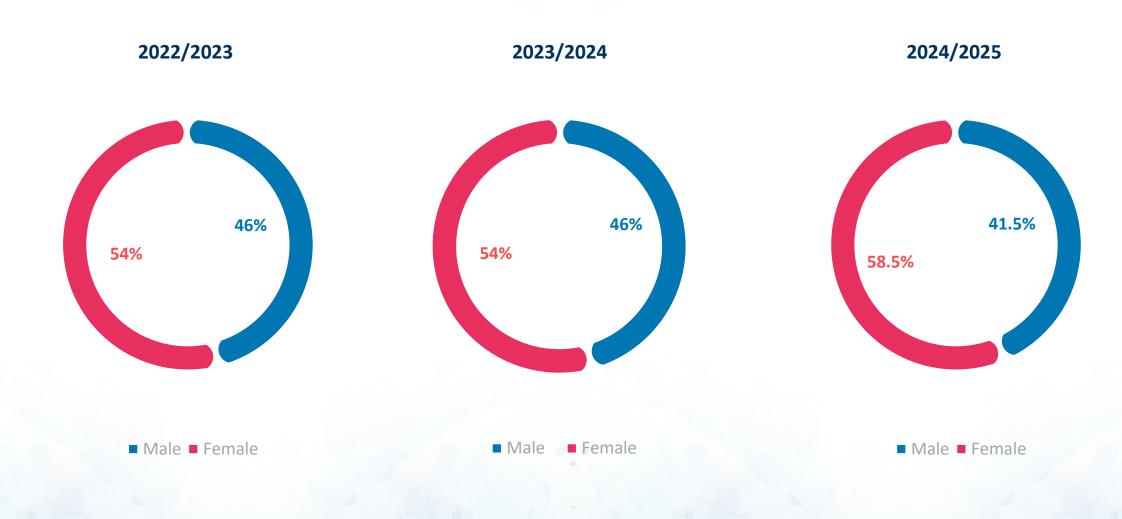
EMPLOYEES PROFILE BY RACE ON 31 MARCH 2025: TOTAL NUMBER = 763



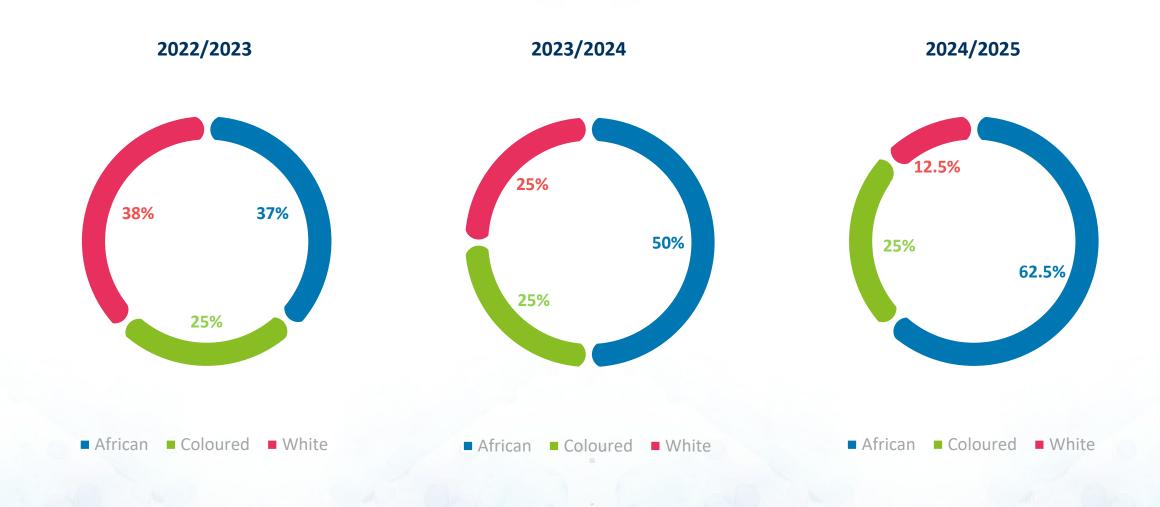
SENIOR MANAGEMENT BY RACE: 3-YEAR PERIOD



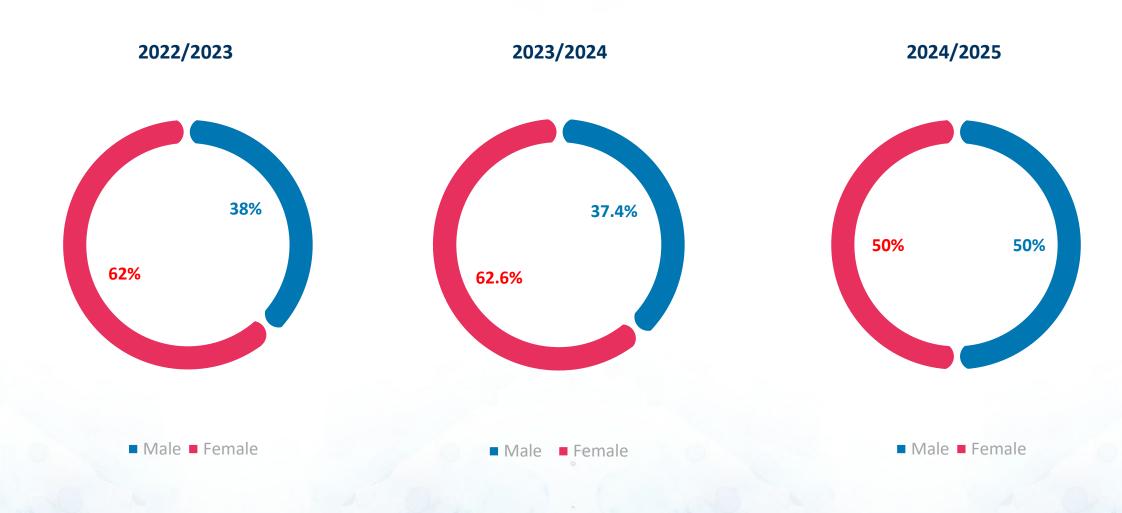
SENIOR MANAGEMENT BY GENDER: 3-YEAR PERIOD



EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT BY RACE: 3-YEAR PERIOD



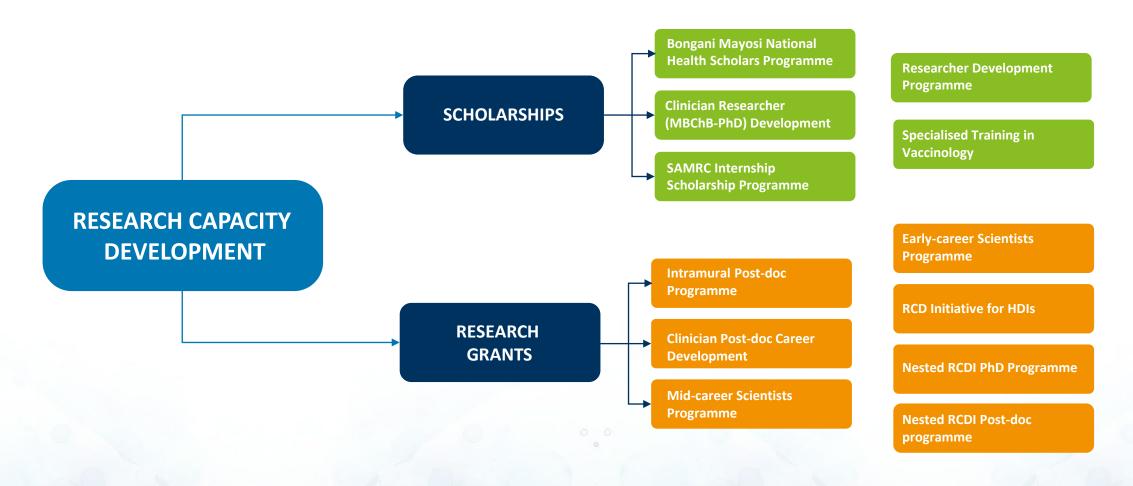
EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT BY GENDER: 3-YEAR PERIOD





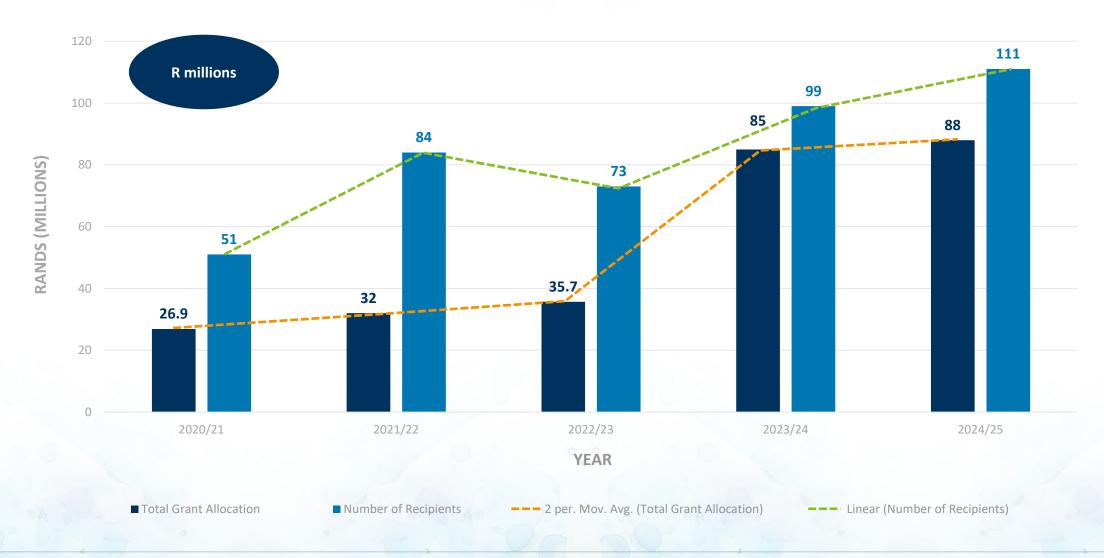
SAMRC RESEARCH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT | OUTLINE OF PROGRAMMES





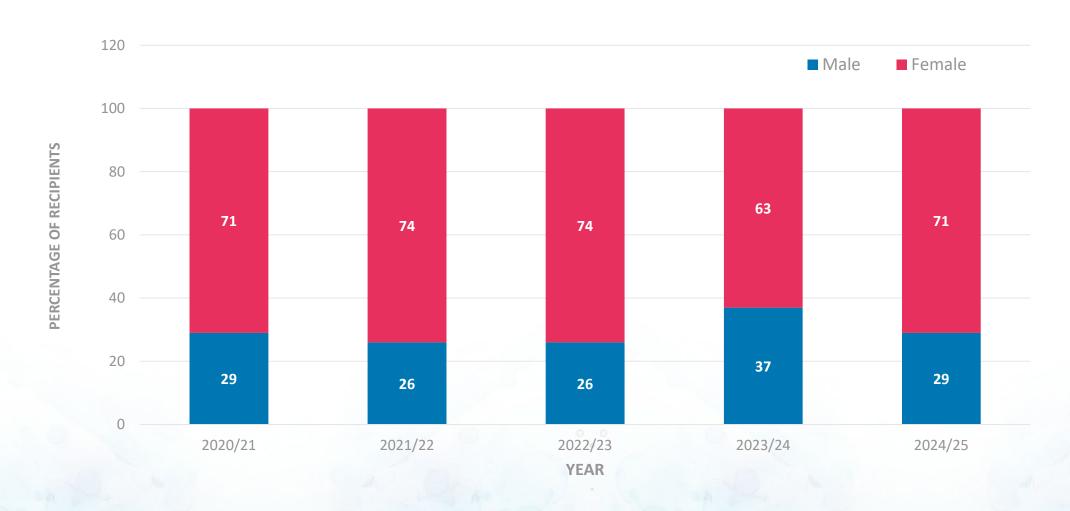
GROWTH IN RESEARCH GRANT FUNDING ALLOCATION & RECIPIENTS: 2021 – 2025



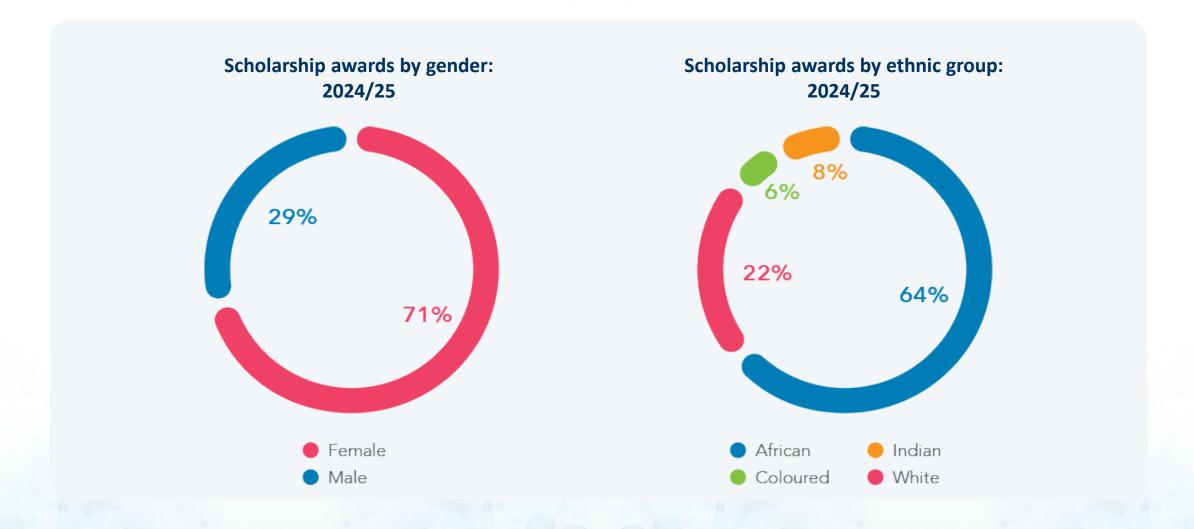


GENDER OF RESEARCH GRANT AWARDEES: 2021–2025

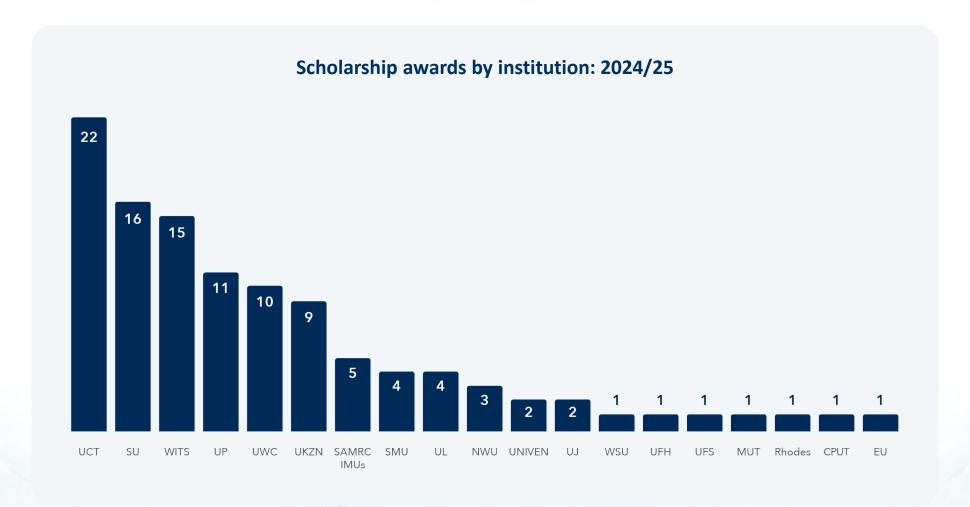




OVERALL DISTRIBUTION OF SAMRC SCHOLARSHIPS BY ETHNIC GROUP AND GENDER

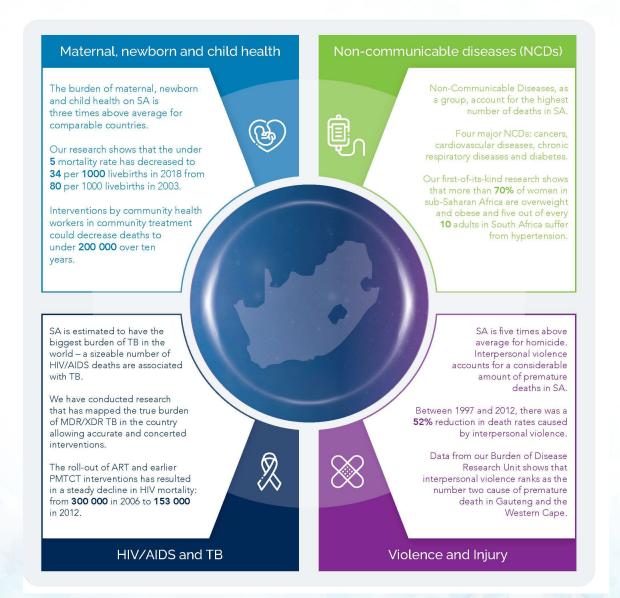


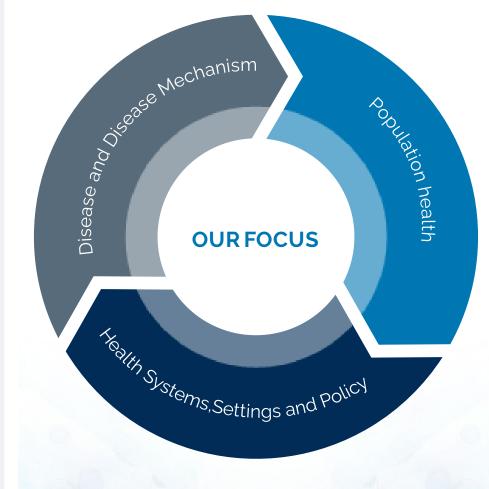
OVERALL DISTRIBUTION OF SAMRC SCHOLARSHIPS BY INSTITUTIONS





RESEARCH PRIORITIES





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HEALTH RESEARCH PRIORITIES – RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Our research priorities and programmes

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
10 units

Maternal, Child and Women's Health 3 units

HIVAIDS, TB and, Other Communicable Diseases 9 units

Health Systems
Strengthening
5 units

Public Health Innovation 6 units

Biomedical Research 8 units

SAMRC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SUPPORT

Intramural Research Units

10 IMUs

Research focuses on the leading causes of death in South Africa

- Baseline allocation
- Performance allocation
- Contract funding

Platforms

PUDAC BRIP

SAMRC Genomics Centre Malaria Research Group

- Baseline support
- Contract services
- Contract funding

Strategic Research Initiatives

Strategic partnerships
Designated Authority
(NRF, CDC, EDCTP)
SAMRC grant mechanisms
(Cancer centres and strategic projects)

Extramural Research Units & Centres

25 EMUs

Units at universities affiliated to the SAMRC centred around recognized experts

- Baseline allocation
- Performance allocation

Centres: 2 Cancer; 10 HIV/TB

Research Capacity Development

Scholarships and career awards including PhD support, clinician awards, early- and mid-career investigator support, internships

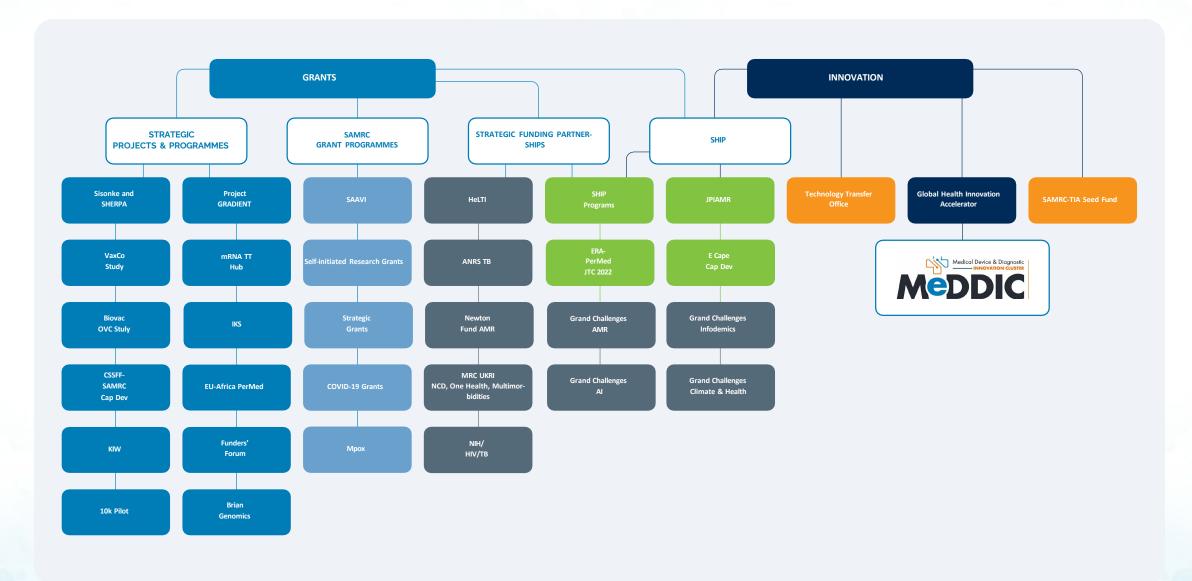
Grants Innovation & Product Development

SAMRC grant mechanisms
Strategic projects
Strategic partnerships
Innovation grants
Innovation support mechanisms

SUPPORTING HEALTH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION THROUGH BASELINE FUNDS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- SAMRC funding and innovation activities in 2024 focused on driving an ecosystem approach to ensure that the organisation not only supports cutting edge research but is also able to facilitate the translation of this research into policy, products and practice.
- Fully capacitated and well-coordinated ecosystems enable aligned and efficient research and development efforts that can be applied in all priority areas to address national health needs, including during pandemics
- The SAMRC's Grants Innovation and Product Development (GIPD) focused on building research and innovation ecosystems for vaccines, medical devices and diagnostics and indigenous knowledge system/ plant-based medicines.
- Local and international partnerships were critical for funding and general ecosystem participation and support.

SAMRC FUNDING PROGRAMS



SAMRC SHIP PROGRAM AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD



- The SHIP Program is a partnership between the SAMRC and the DSTI to facilitate and support health innovation to address national priorities and enable the national system of innovation more broadly.
- Over 30 postgraduate students have been supported through SHIP-funded projects and several are receiving drug discovery training through a capacity development and transformation initiative supported by the UCT H3D team at the University of Limpopo and University of Venda.
- The UCT H3D team, led by Prof K Chibale, has developed a late lead compound with very good *in vitro* and *in vivo* anti-M. TB activity and safety profile. This has led to a collaborative effort with the Gates Medical Research Institute to advance this candidate toward preclinical candidate development.
- Dr G Munhenga's team at the NICD has made significant strides in optimizing mass-rearing and transportation of sterilized male mosquitoes, resulting in over 230 000 sterile mosquitoes released in a small-scale field trial in KwaZulu-Natal.
- With the renewed commitment of funds for SHIP from the DSTI to 2025/26 and the invitation to submit a 10-year business plan, the SHIP team successfully hosted priority-setting meetings to engage key stakeholders to inform the SHIP and SAMRC funding strategy for the next 5 10 years.

PRIORITY AREAS SUPPORTED THROUGH SHIP



| Focus | HIV | ТВ | NCD | МСН | AMR | Malaria | COVID-19 |
|--------------------|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|---------|----------|
| Treatment | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Diagnosis | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Prevention | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Digital Health | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Precision Medicine | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ |

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GRAND CHALLENGES SOUTH AFRICA

An innovation partnership between the SAMRC/DSTI and BMGF as part of the global Grand Challenges partner network

Prior Programs

- Maternal and Child Health (2014)
 - R30M SAMRC, \$3M BMGF
 - Launched as part of a global Grand Challenges call with Brazil & India
 - 2nd MCH call with GC Africa: Transition to scale: **2019**
- AMR (2018)
 - ~\$1M over 2 years, 50% from NDoH
 - Joint call with GC Africa, Brazil, India

Current Programs

- Climate and Health challenge (2022) 4 projects
 - Global call with Grand Challenges Canada
 - ~\$400 000 towards RSA-led projects (R4.2M SAMRC)
- Public health information (2023/24) 6 projects
 - ~\$1M from BMGF, Africa focus
- Artificial Intelligence (2023/24) 11 projects
 - \$300 000 from BMGF & R5M baseline and SHIP

Close cooperation with Grand Challenges Africa & Grand Challenges Canada

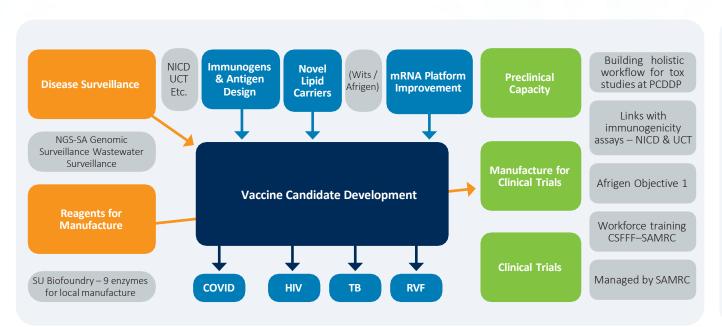




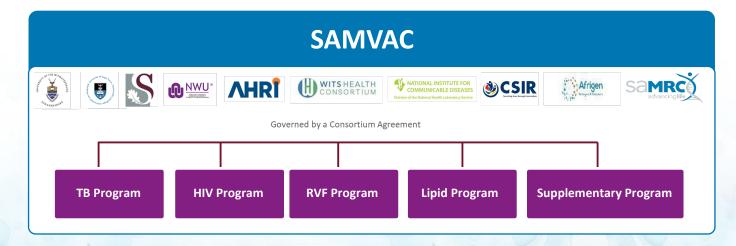


Participated in establishment of additional Grand
Challenges Partners in Africa

mrna technology transfer hub r&d program











CSSFF-SAMRC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Studentships

Hands-on training focused on laboratory techniques, bioprocessing, soft skills and includes industry rotation to prepare health and allied sciences graduates for employment in industry

Aimed at graduates in the health, life and allied sciences

Most trainees are women graduated from historically disadvantaged institutions

High proportion of uptake in industry after completion of training

Donation from CSSFF & contribution from SAMRC





Scholarships



MSc and PhD scholarships in vaccine production, efficacy and R&D, molecular biology, virology, immunology, chemical and process engineering

diverse disciplines including Biochemistry, Microbiology, Biotechnology, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pharmacy, Pharmacology, Physiology, Molecular biology, Virology, Vaccinology and Zoology



MSc Pharmacy Administration and Policy Regulation

online part-time course targeting pharmacists to equip them for roles in industry and regulation

18 months course work with 6-month industry relevant project



Supporting programs



SAHPRA interns in regulatory compliance, clinical evaluation and quality assurance trained in managing the process in inspectorate, communicating with reviewers, contributing to guidelines and collaborating on dossier changes



CSIR mechanical engineers –
hands on training in an industrial
setting including risk
assessment, equipment
maintenance, procurement and
inventory management, safety,
inspection and quality,
operations management and
quality control



SAMRC internships for trainees who completed studentships for further laboratory skills development and training opportunities

KFW-DSTI INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT PROGRAM





Implemented by:





Purpose: To address the gaps and strengthen the infrastructure for vaccine research, development, pre-clinical testing, pilot-scale production and regulation in South Africa

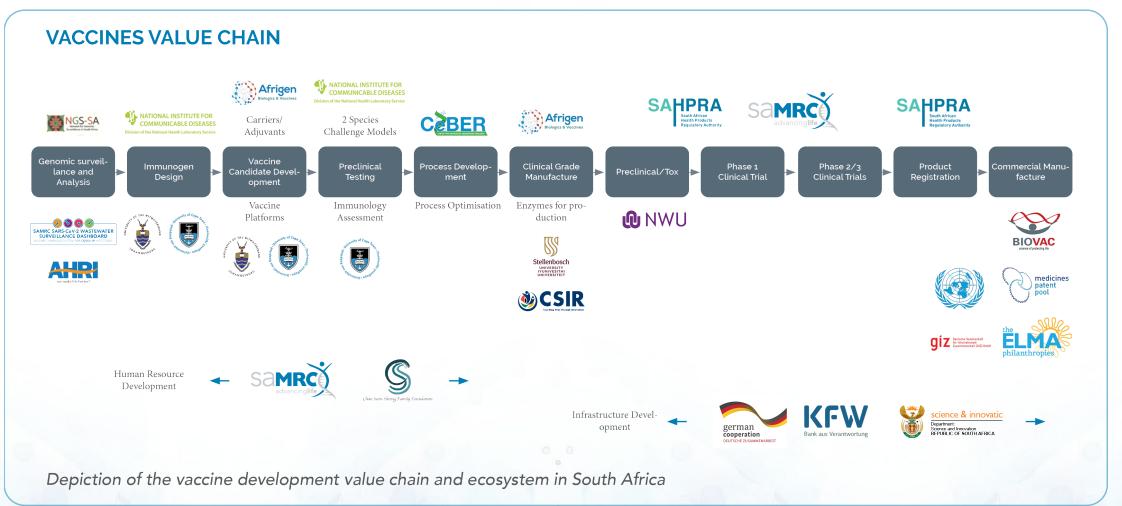
| Output 1 | Procurement and installation of equipment at a pilot plant for active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) using mRNA technology |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Procurement and installation of equipment at a pilot plant for API with other than mRNA technology |
| Output 2 | Procurement and installation of vaccine technology laboratory training equipment potentially attached to a pilot plant or equivalent facility |
| Output 3 | Procurement and installation of laboratory equipment and support infrastructure for upgrading and modernizing research facilities including animal facilities and laboratories |
| Output 4 | Procurement and installation of equipment supporting the digitalization as well as the regulation capacities of SAHPRA |

RFA launched June 2024 and closed July

18 awards made + SAHPRA

Procurement in progress

These programs have led to strengthening of the vaccine development value chain and ecosystem in South Africa as depicted below



OTHER PROGRAMS & STRATEGIC PROJECTS

INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FUND (ISPF)

Partnership with MRC-UKRI to support research in:

- Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)
- Multimorbidity
- One Health and climate and health

3 RFAs run in 2024





13 awards made in October 2024 (4 NCD, 3 multimorbidity and 6 One Health)

SAMRC-ANRS PARTNERSHIP FOR TB RESEARCH

Partnership with ANRS-MIE to support TB research collaborations between SA and French scientists in the following priority areas:

- Epidemiology, Pathogenesis, Transmission, and Management of Subclinical TB
- Identification of Biomarkers for Disease Progression and Development of Novel Diagnostics
- Development of Rapid Diagnostic Tools for Drug Resistance and Precision Medicine
- Advancing TB Vaccine Strategies
- Evaluation of New Drugs and Shortened Regimens, Especially for Pediatric Populations







5 awards made in March 2025

OTHER PROGRAMS & STRATEGIC PROJECTS

NEWTON AMR DRUG DISCOVERY

Builds on existing AMR DD Hubs funded by Newton Fund and SAMRC







Extension of current Partnership Hub projects New applicants to advance candidates from existing hubs

New projects that expand the existing UK-SA AMR DD Partnership Hub

3 awards made April 2025

MPOX RESEARCH IN SA

- RFA run in September/October 2024
- 6 awards approved January 2025 contracted and disbursed
- 2 Vaccines
- 2 Diagnostics
- 1 Surveillance
- 1 Therapeutics





Funding for 2 years from SAMRC and SHIP

OTHER PROGRAMS & STRATEGIC PROJECTS

NIH



US-South Africa Program for Collaborative Biomedical Research

RFA run up to 12 March 2025 on the following topics:

- HIV/AIDS
- HIV/AIDS co-morbidities and co-infections
- HIV/AIDS-associated implementation science
- HIV/AIDS-associated data science

Co-contribution from SAMRC and NIH over 5 years Awards by Dec 2025



AMED



Joint Call for Research Projects on Genomic Insights into the Pathogenesis of Cancer and Infectious Diseases – to support partnerships between SA and Japan

3 awards made in April 2025



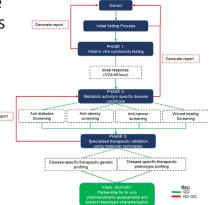
IKS



Strategic co-funded projects to test the product development pathway towards clinical trials

- Project Nkabinde
- MoliHerb Mr Molefi
- BRIP ATM Platform
- SIR and RCD awards





HELTI



Testing a package of interventions in a Soweto-based cohort from pre-conception to early childhood to prevent obesity and non-communicable diseases – part of a 4-country linked intervention



Funding over 10 years



NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION STRATEGY (NCRIS)

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) hosted a Cancer Research Strategy regional meeting, as part of a five-part consultative process, bringing together stakeholders from government, academia, science councils, and civil society to define cancer research priorities for South Africa.





science, technology & innovation

Department: Science, Technology and Innovation REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



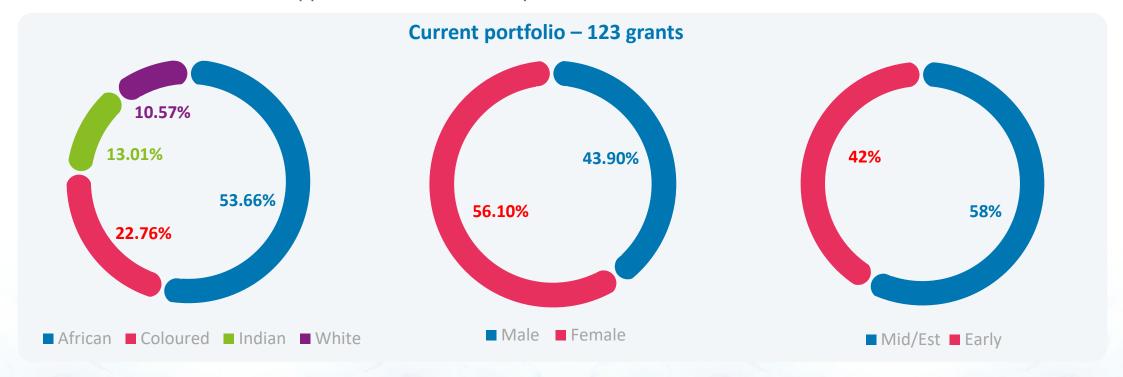




SELF-INITIATED RESEARCH GRANTS

- Annual RFA Priority areas are determined on an annual basis
- Funding amount up to R200k per project per annum for 3 years
- 2 Categories: Early-stage investigators and Mid-level and established researchers
- Receive around 150-300 applications per year all need 2-3 peer reviews
- Transformation matrix is applied in addition to the peer review scores





Year-on-year increase in the number of awards to black applicants - total proportion of awards to black applicants increased from 27% in 2012/13 to 89% in 2024/25

SAMRC INNOVATION PROGRAMMES

Technology Transfer Office

Manages and commercializes
SAMRC Intellectual Property

Global Health Innovation Accelerator

Focused on driving global health technologies to market (previous partnership with PATH)

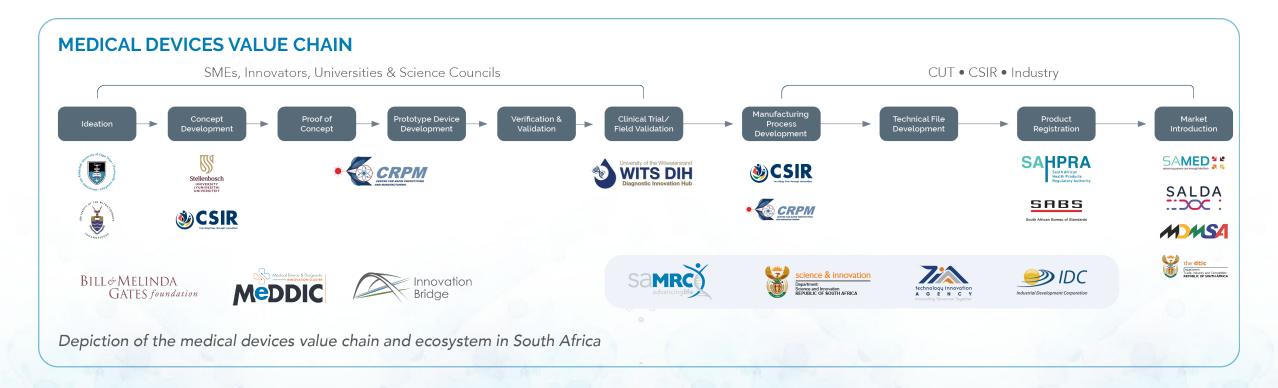


Funded by TIA / DSTI and focused on building the medical device and diagnostic innovation sector SAMRC-TIA Seed Fund

To fund development of new medical device and diagnostic innovations

MEDICAL DEVICE AND DIAGNOSTICS ECOSYSTEM

The SAMRC, through SHIP, the Global Health Innovation Accelerator (GHIA) and the Medical Device and Diagnostic Innovation Cluster (MeDDIC) Programme, has driven a variety of initiatives, together with partners and other funders, to build and support a coherent and functioning medical devices ecosystem as depicted below.



STRATEGIC RESEARCH INITIATIVES



For the global development and delivery of antibiotic treatments for drug-resistant bacterial infections SAMRC is co-funding a clinical trial on neonatal sepsis



STI program
COVID
AMR diagnosis and treatment
Simulation and big data analytics
BRICS TB Research Network
SAMRC funds SA component



Hosting agreement with SAMRC SHIP reports on complementary funding and in-kind contributions from SA as an EDCTP participant

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REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO PARLIAMENT ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Report on the audit of the annual financial statements and basis for opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the South African Medical Research Council as at 31 March 2025 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) and the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act 1 of 1999 (PFMA).

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Report on the audit of the annual performance report

I did not identify any material findings on the reported performance information for the selected indicators.

Report on compliance with legislation

I did not identify any material non-compliance with the selected legislative requirements.

Internal control deficiencies

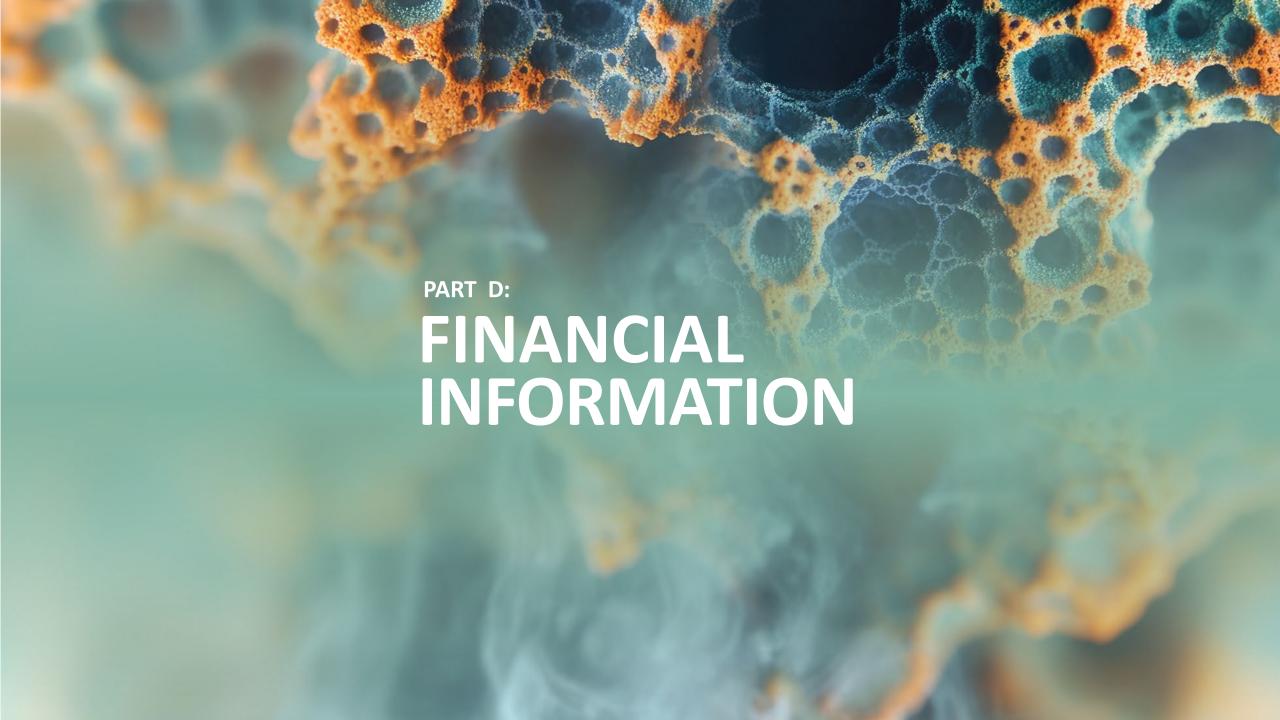
I did not identify any significant deficiencies in internal control.

SAMRC PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

| Programme | Output Indicator | SP Target 2020/21 – 2024/25 | APP 2023/24 Actual Performance | APP 2024/25 Performance Target | APP 2024/25 Actual Performance |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Administer health research effectively and efficiently in South Africa | A clean audit opinion on the SAMRC from the Auditor-General | Clean Audit | Clean Audit | Clean Audit | Clean Audit |
| | % of baseline budget spent on administration | 20% | 19% | 20% | 19.53% |
| 2. Lead the generation of new knowledge | Accepted or published outputs by SAMRC affiliated and funded authors | 3550 | 1 294 | 600 | 1 339 |
| | Accepted or published outputs by SAMRC grant-holders acknowledging of SAMRC | 930 | 373 | 170 | 465 |
| | Accepted/published outputs by SAMRC-affiliated first and/or last author | 1925 | 646 | 255 | 673 |
| | Research grants awarded by the SAMRC | 750 | 221 | 170 | 197 |
| 3. Support, through funding and other mechanisms, technology development and implementation, translation of research into policy and practice, and innovations in health and technology delivery to improve health | SAMRC new innovation and technology projects | 20 | 26 | 4 | 28 |
| | SAMRC funded ongoing Innovation and technology projects | 150 | 48 | 30 | 50 |
| | Innovation disclosures made by SAMRC intramural research and innovation | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

SAMRC PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

| Programme | Output Indicator | SP Target 2020/21 – 2024/25 | APP 2022/23 Actual Performance | APP 2024/25 Performance Target | 2023/24 Actual Performance |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4. Build human capacity for the long-term sustainability of the South African health research | Awards (scholarships, fellowships and grants) for MSc, PhD, Postdocs and Early Career Scientists | 660 | 171 | 130 | 199 |
| | Awards to female MSc, PhD, Postdocs and Early Career Scientists | 488 | 120 | 108 | 137 |
| | Awards to Black South African citizens and permanent resident MSc, PhD, Postdocs and Early Career Scientists classified as African | 495 | 118 | 90 | 127 |
| | Awards to MSc, PhD, Postdocs and Early Career Scientists from historically disadvantaged institutions (HDIs) | 368 | 60 | 83 | 71 |
| | MSc and PhD students graduated or completed | 360 | 93 | 50 | 113 |
| 5. Translate new knowledge into policies and practices to improve health | Local or international policies, reports and guidelines that reference SAMRC research | 27 | 120 | 6 | 304 |
| | Reports and guidelines (co)produced by the SAMRC intramural researchers | 25 | 68 | 9 | 66 |
| | National or international bodies/committees that SAMRC employees serve | 250 | 205 | 50 | 266 |
| | Conferences, seminars and continuing development points workshops supported by the SAMRC | 50 | 73 | 10 | 175 |



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 31 MARCH 2025

| Descriptions | 2024/25 R | Variance R | 2023/24 R |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Revenue | 1 408 845 749 | 4,6% | 1 347 255 678 |
| Other income | 26 792 641 | 29,8% | 20 648 418 |
| Operating expenses | (1 430 555 110) | -1,5% | (1 451 905 870) |
| Operating Surplus / (Deficit) | 5 083 280 | -106,1% | (84 001 774) |
| Investment income | 54 392 992 | -13,4% | 62 795 287 |
| Fair value adjustments | 1 477 299 | 598,7% | 211 431 |
| Finance costs | (287 363) | -22,7% | (371 551) |
| Surplus for the year | 60 666 208 | | (21 366 607) |

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – VARIANCES

Total Income increased by 4,23% to R1 491m

- Baseline grant increased by 9,65% to R724m
- Contract income decreased by 0,3% to R684m
- Rental Income decreased by 3% to R6m
- Investment income decreased by 13,4% to R54,2m
- Value of new research contracts awarded R678m

Expenses decreased by 1% to R1 430m

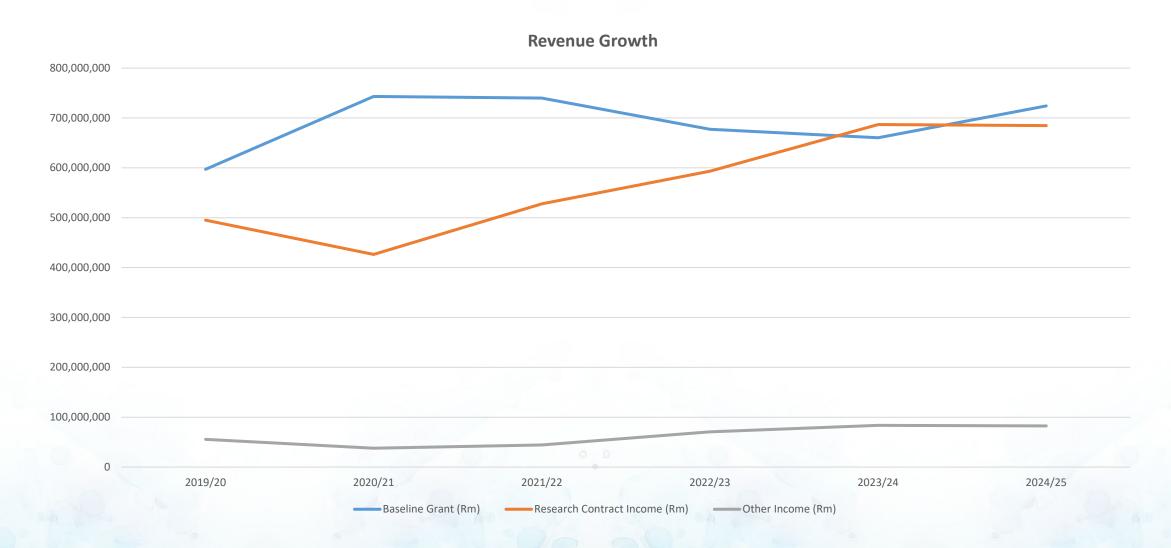
- Collaborative research costs decreased by 14% to R473m
- Travel costs decreased by 1,12% to R56,8m
- Lab Costs decreased by 1,88% to R49,9m
- Staff costs increased by 8,57% to R599,2m
- Consulting costs increased by 8,52% to R17m
- Audit fees decreased by 0,12% to R3,3m

REVENUE VS EXPENDITURE

Revenue vs Expenditure

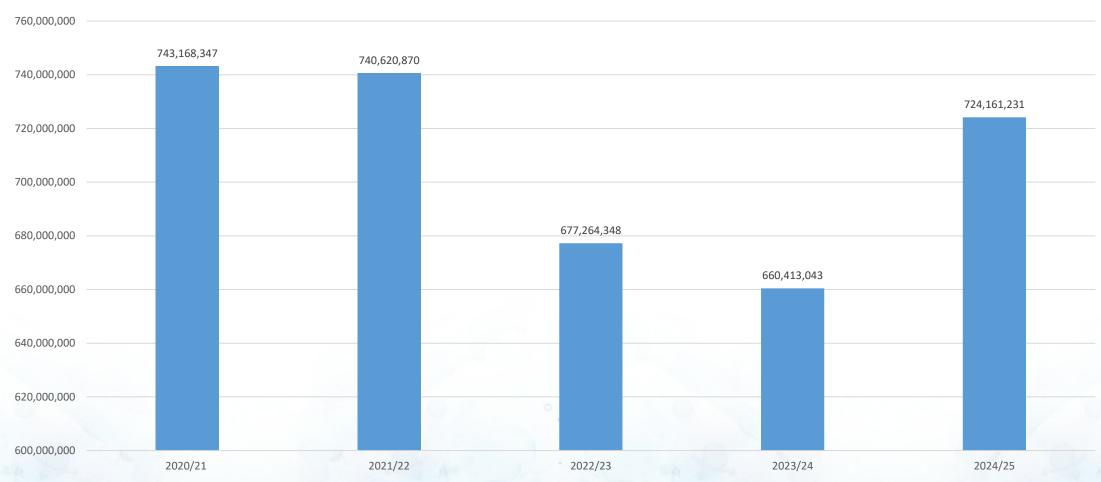


REVENUE GROWTH



BASELINE GRANT TRENDS 2021-2025 (R EXCL. VAT)





PART E: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



SAMRC Football Club – SAMRC FC's community Engagement & tournament Journey Nov 2024.



SAMRC Football Club donating school shoes and personal hygiene materials.



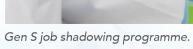
SAMRC Health awareness walk.





Nelson Mandela Jar Of Hope initiative.







SAMRC DIGITAL PLATFORMS



fFacebook



in LinkedIn

88 million hits

for 2024/2025 financial year

194 thousands hits

for 2024/2025 financial year

145 thousands hits

for 2024/2025 financial year

1,5 million hits

for 2024/2025 financial year

