

Emerging Researcher Award



Award Overview: Emerging Researcher Award

The Emerging Researcher Award recognises outstanding **early-career scientists** who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement, research excellence, and strong potential to become future leaders in health and medical research. The award is intended for scientists who are **under the age of 40** and have completed their PhD within the **past five years**. It aims to acknowledge and support scientists whose work contributes significantly to the SAMRC's vision of improving health outcomes and strengthening the South African health research ecosystem. Scientists should demonstrate excellence and exceptional promise appropriate to their career stage.

The Emerging Researcher Award seeks to celebrate young researchers who have excelled academically, demonstrated strong research productivity, shown promise as future research leaders, and made meaningful contributions to advancing health research in South Africa and beyond.

Criteria for the Emerging Researcher Award:

- a) **Academic Excellence:** Demonstrated outstanding academic performance throughout previous qualifications, including excellence in undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral studies, reflecting a strong foundation for a successful research career.
- b) **Research Outputs and Citations:** Evidence of exceptional research ability, demonstrated through a sustained record of scholarly outputs. At least 5 publications published in leading journals, with citation rates ($\geq 10-25$); **AND** 5 Peer-reviewed Conference presentations/Abstracts; **OR** 2 Book chapters; **OR** 5 Policy briefs and Technical reports; **OR** 1 Patent/Software/Innovative product; **OR** Other impactful research contributions relevant to health and biomedical sciences.
- c) **Research Potential and Emerging Leadership:** Demonstrated ability to conduct independent and innovative research, with evidence of emerging leadership through supervision and mentoring of students, peer support, capacity development activities, leadership roles, and active participation in national and international research collaborations and networks.
- d) **Recognition and Achievements:** Recognition through prestigious awards, scholarships, fellowships, invited presentations, professional appointments, or other indicators of excellence that demonstrate outstanding achievements and the potential to make a significant contribution to health research and innovation.

Please note that to be considered, the award form must be completed in full, signed and submitted before or on the closing date.

Document requirements

Please have the following documents available for upload as part of this form. These documents will be used to evaluate the nomination.

1. **Nominee CV**
2. **Copy of Identity Document or Passport**
3. **PhD Qualification**
4. **Output Summary**
5. **Evidence of Academic Excellence**

Please read the [Award Guidelines](#) before completing this form.

For general queries, awards@mrc.ac.za

Technical queries, redcap.support@mrc.ac.za

The deadline for submitting the completed nomination form is 21 September 2026.

Personal Details

Title *	
Full Names *	
Surname *	
All other given names *	
Sex/Gender *	
Current Position/s *	
Institution/s *	
Highest Qualification/s *	
Year of Qualification *	
Date of birth *	
Age *	
Country of citizenship *	
Research area/niche *	
Telephone number *	
Mobile number *	
Email *	
NRF Rating	
Physical Address *	
Postal Address *	
Previous SAMRC Award Recipient	☐ Yes ☐ No
If Yes: Indicate the year and Award	

1. Academic Excellence (Criterion a)

*List outstanding academic achievements throughout your academic journey and highlight indicators of exceptional academic potential such as academic excellence in undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral studies, reflecting a strong foundation for a successful research career. Examples include degree awarded with distinction or Cum Laude, Dean's Merit Award, Faculty Research Day Awards or Conference presentation awards. **[Minimum 2]**

Academic Excellence	Awarding Institution	Year

- **Upload Evidence of Academic Excellence**

2. Research Outputs and Citations (Criterion b)

*Please provide the information below for the nominee:

Databases/Search Engine	H-index	Relevant link and Date drawn	Total Publications	Total Citations
Scopus				
Web of Science				
Google Scholar				
ORCID number				

Output Summary

Please provide the following:

- Your 5 research outputs with citation rates ($\geq 10-25$) **AND** 5 Peer-reviewed Conference presentations/Abstracts;
- **OR** 2 Book chapters;
- **OR** 5 Policy briefs and Technical reports;
- **OR** 1 Patent/Software/Innovative product;
- **OR** Other impactful research contributions.

Use the Vancouver referencing style for the list.

[Author(s) name (indicate your name in **Bold**), Article title, Journal title, Volume, Year, Page number, DOI.]

- **Output Summary: Upload**

Intellectual Property

List your Patents/Software/Innovation products and year received/filed **OR** Other impactful research contributions relevant to health and biomedical sciences.

Patents/Software/Innovation products		Year
1.		
2.		

Other impactful research contributions relevant to health and biomedical sciences		Year
1.		
2.		

3. Research Potential and Emerging Leadership (Criterion c)

*Provide a brief overview of your ability to conduct independent and innovative research, with evidence of emerging leadership through supervision and mentoring of students, peer support, capacity development activities, leadership roles, and active participation in national and international research collaborations and networks.

3.1 Research Potential and Emerging Leadership

Leadership	Institution	Description
Peer support		
Capacity development activities		
Leadership roles		
Active participation in national and international research collaborations and networks		
Other (please specify)		

3.2 Summary of Student Supervision/Mentoring and Graduated

Qualification	Institution	Role (Primary/Co-supervisor/ Mentor)	Number of Students	
			Completed	Ongoing
Honours				
Masters'				
PhD				
Postdoctoral				

4. Recognition and Achievements (Criterion d)

*List and provide a brief description of recognition through prestigious awards, scholarships, fellowships, invited presentations, professional appointments, or other indicators of excellence that demonstrate outstanding achievements and the potential to make a significant contribution to health research and innovation. [**Minimum 2**]

	Awards and Professional Appointments	Awarding Body/Institution	Year
1.			
2.			

Recognition and Achievements	Institution	Description
Scholarships and/or fellowships		
Invited presentations		
Other indicators of excellence		

*Where did you hear about the 2026 SAMRC Scientific Merit Awards?

- ☐ Emails from the SAMRC RCD and SAMRC Vice-President's Office
- ☐ Online Advertising
- ☐ Organisational / Institutional Announcement
- ☐ Research Administration Office / Grants Office Communication
- ☐ SAMRC Announcement
- ☐ SAMRC Website
- ☐ Social Media
- ☐ Word of Mouth
- ☐ Other (please specify):

*Documents required for completion of the form

1. Upload CV
2. Upload Identity Document or Passport
3. Upload PhD Qualification

•Declaration by Nominee

I, _____ (nominee) hereby accept my nomination for a SAMRC Scientific Merit Award and understand the criteria and eligibility.

Signature:

Date:

***I declare that all information provided above is true and accurate.**