

SUMMATIVE REPORT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (SAMRC) ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015/16 REPORTING PERIOD

DIRECTOR, PUBLIC ENTITIES GOVERNANCE

Department of Health
 PRETORIA
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The mandate of the Council is to conduct world-class medical research that focuses on the top 10 causes of mortality in the Republic. In doing so, the SAMRC collaborates and forms viable partnerships with other organisations to fund opportunities for the development and promotion of new knowledge in health science research.

SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS

- Fourth consecutive clean audit
- Formation of Grant Innovation and Product Development (GIPD) platform to accelerate the agenda of developing health-related products
- The SAMRC Board approved budgetary adjustments to optimise organisational efficiencies
- The SAMRC, together with National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) and National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), collaborated to fund research for Ebola outbreaks in the country
- Invested in five- country research study, comprising the Canada Institute of Health Research, Brazil, India, China and South Africa, to address child obesity
- Allocated in excess of R30 million to the country's historically under-resourced universities to develop the next generation of African medical scientists
- The SAMRC, together with the Gates Foundation, UK-MRC, Newton Fund and PATH, secured R100 million of funding for medical innovation and development of technology in the country
- Increased the number of extra-mural research units by eight and cancer centres by three
- Funded 31 innovation projects and awarded 101 research grants during the reporting period

GENERAL FINANCIAL REVIEW

- Strong financial performance during 2015/16 resulted in revenue showing increase of 27.3 %, R849 722 (R667 406)
- Government grant increased by 39.8% to R 547 274
- Improved operation surplus to R37 352 compared to the operating deficit of R22 167 during the 2014/15 reporting period

ECONOMIC VIABILITY

- An increase in funding allocations of 5.4% to R657 590 for 2016/17 has been approved by government through the MTEF process.
- This, together with accumulated reserves of R303 958 and a significant increase anticipated in grant income, will ensure that the SAMRC will continue to operate as a going concern.
- The Council remains strong with accumulated reserves of R303 958 (R243 218).
- Positive operating cash flow of R179 624 compared to a negative flow of R7 329 in the previous reporting period.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Funded 47 research units including centres
- All 2015/16 publications received an impact factor greater than 5
- Provided 65 bursaries, scholarships and fellowships to postgraduate students at different universities
- 680 published journals articles, book chapters and books with acknowledgement of SAMRC funding support
- Ministers of Health and Finance granted approval for new remuneration system for the organisation

- A bi-lateral agreement coupled with R30 million investment was signed between Sweden-FORTE research institution and the SAMRC to address inequalities in health, health systems and health systems policies in both countries
- Established a dedicated Transformation Forum to address new transformation targets for the organisation
- Secured collaborations with the Gates Foundation to focus on interventions that impact neonatal mortality as well as maternal health
- Established a Scientific Advisory Committee to lead strategic oversight
- Introduced the benefit of SAMRC scientists being rated according to the NRF rating system
- Expanded the strategic research agenda into anti-microbial research

The struggle of addressing the country's burden of disease continues to be the main agenda of the SAMRC as mandated by the National Department of Health (NDoH). As the leader in medical research, the Council considers its journey ahead to include:

- finding new rapid diagnostics for TB
- promoting interventions that will significantly curb violence against women and children
- collaborating and partnering with global institutions to license a HIV vaccine aimed at slowing down the global epidemic
- providing evidence-based interventions that will change the landscape of alcohol and drug abuse in the country
- developing African medical scientists.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Not applicable

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN **MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL**
SUMMATIVE REVIEW

of the annual report for the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) for the financial period

2015 **2016**

