



*Developing science leaders today  
for a healthy South African future*

# **SAMRC INAUGURAL ANNUAL RCD GRANT HOLDERS' MEETING**

SAMRC Head Office, Cape Town  
5-6 February 2019



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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIVISION MANAGER

It is with great excitement that in 2019, the Division of Research Capacity Development ( RCD) launches the first ever meeting of grant holding scientists awarded to do health, clinical and or medical research.

These scientists, who come from various universities in South Africa are funded under various strategic programs or projects including:

- i) the Research Capacity Development Initiative which is ringfenced support for scientists within eight historically underresourced institutions,
- ii) the Mid Career Scientist Program for researchers who show exceptional potential in special nodes of research which are strategic to the agenda of the SAMRC
- iii) the intramural Post-doctoral Program which aims to give support to intramural units as they develop research capacity within their specific research agendas and accelerate the development of young PhD graduates in their units
- iv) the Researcher Development Grant which is a program that supports (mostly) employed staff who are in their last year of a PhD and need relief for dedicated time to do their write up
- v) the International Master in a Vaccinology program supporting candidates with their PhD (or in instances an MBChB)



Dr Thabi Maitin

With much satisfaction, through these and other programs, the SAMRC today has evidence of transformation in funding research, as well as in responding to the urgent need to develop health researchers in identified areas of need for the health of South Africa.

The new RCD Grant Holders Meeting is a natural extension to the well-established SAMRC Early Career Scientists Convention for young MSc and PhD scholars funded by the SAMRC which has been running for at least ten years. We look forward to refining this planned annual meeting so that the researchers know the high value put on them by the SAMRC, and that they have a contribution to make in assisting the SAMRC continue excelling in the delivery of its mandate.

I wish you the best during the proceedings of this inaugural meeting!

## CONTRIBUTORS

Name & Surname	Role	University/Research Unit
1. Prof Bavesh kana	Main Facilitator	University of Witwatersrand
2. Prof Nox Makunga	Facilitator	University of Stellenbosch
3. Prof Johan Louw	Chair: RCDs Grants and Scholarships Selection Committee (MSc/PhD and Postdoc programmes)	Director Biomedical Research and Innovation Platform (SAMRC)
4. Dr Shaheen Mowla	Member RCD's Grants and Scholarships Selection Committee	University of Cape Town
5. Dr Rabia Johnson	Facilitator	Biomedical Research and Innovation Platform (SAMRC)
6. Dr Alfred Thutloa	Facilitator	Head: Corporate & Marketing Communication (SAMRC)
7. Dr Phiyayinkosi Dlodla	Speaker	Biomedical Research and Innovation Platform (SAMRC)
8. Ms Nikiwe Momoti	Speaker	Head: Knowledge and Information Management Services (SAMRC)
9. Ms Noluthando Sikhutshwa	RCD Finance oversight	Contracts and Budgets (SAMRC)
10. Ms Sumaya Behardien	Advisor: RCD legal matters, processes and resources	Legal Division (SAMRC)
11. Mr Pierre Boshoff	Research contracts pre/post award	Contracts and Budgets (SAMRC)

# DIVISION OF RESEARCH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT: RCD Grant Holders' Inaugural Annual Meeting 2019

Developing science leaders today for a healthy South African future

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

5 February 2019

### Day 1: Grant Holders' Meeting

Program Director: Prof Bavesh Kana

09h00 - 09h30	Arrival/ Registration with Tea/Coffee	
<b>Session 1:</b>	<b>Opening ceremony</b>	<b>Chair: Prof Bavesh Kana</b>
09h30 - 09h35	Opening remarks	Prof Bavesh Kana
09h30 - 09h40	Welcome address from RCD	Dr Thabi Maitin
09h40 - 09h50	The Science of Research Funding	Prof Jeffrey Mphahlele
<b>Session 2:</b>	<b>Scientific journeys</b>	<b>Chair: Dr Thabi Maitin</b>
09h50 - 10h15	Science: Towards a brighter future	Prof Bavesh Kana
10h15 - 10h30	My scientific journey: Not easy but possible!	Dr Phiyayinkosi Dlodla
10h30 - 11h00	Tea	
<b>Session 3:</b>	<b>Building the future of science in South Africa</b>	<b>Facilitator: Prof Bavesh Kana</b>
11h00 - 11h15	Facilitator's address	Prof Bavesh Kana
11h15 - 12h45	<b>Program 1:</b> Research Capacity Development Initiative (RCDI)	Rapporteurs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof Les Mampuru</li> <li>• Prof Pascal Bessong</li> </ul>
12h45 - 13h30	Lunch	
13h30 - 14h15	<b>Program 2:</b> Mid-Career Scientist Program (MCSP)	Rapporteur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof Kebogile Mokwena</li> </ul>
14h15 - 15h00	<b>Programs 3 &amp; 4:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Master in Vaccinology (IMVACC)</li> <li>• Research Development Grant (RDG)</li> </ul>	Rapporteurs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Tladi Ledibane</li> <li>• Dr Lungiswa Nkonzombi Mtingi</li> </ul>
15h00 - 15h50	<b>Program 5:</b> Post Doctorate	Rapporteur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Vundli Ramokolo</li> </ul>

15h50 - 16h00 Tea

16h00 - 16h45	Discussion	Discussant 1 (Facilitator): Prof Bवेश Kana
		Discussant 2 (SAMRC): Prof Johan Louw
		Discussant 3 (University - UCT): Dr Shaheen Mowla
16h45	Closing remarks	Dr Thabi Maitin
17h00 - 17h30	Group photos	Allen Jefthas
17h30 -	Social event	Interviews: Dr Alfred Thutloa

**6 February 2019**

## Day 2: Grant and report writing

(RCDI project teams and Post Doctorate fellows)

09h00 - 09h30	Arrival Tea and coffee	
<b>Session 1:</b>	<b>Writing grants and reports: Why excellence is necessary</b>	<b>Chair: Dr Thabi Maitin</b>
09h30 - 10h00	Welcome and introductory remarks	Dr Thabi Maitin
	Grants and Reports: Tips, tricks and tools	Prof Nox Makunga
<b>Session 2:</b>	<b>Information session</b>	<b>Chair: Prof Johan Louw</b>
10h00 - 10h45	Grants and Reports: SAMRC and RCD perspectives and expectations	Prof Johan Louw
	Budgeting and financial reports	Pierre Boshoff Noluthando Sikhutshwa
	Reporting on outputs	Ms Nikiwe Momoti
10h45 - 11h00	Tea	
<b>Session 3:</b>	<b>Reflection on progress and planning for 2019/2020 (RCDI Teams)</b>	<b>Facilitator: Dr Anniza de Villiers</b>
11h00 - 12h30		
<b>Session 4:</b>	<b>Grant writing (Post docs)</b>	<b>Facilitator: Dr Rabia Johnson</b>
12h30	Lunch	

## SAMRC RESEARCH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE PROGRAMME (RCDI)

This is a strategic initiative of the President of the SAMRC. The objective of the project is for the SAMRC to increase its footprint nationally to include all strata of universities - particularly to include under resourced universities otherwise referred to as Historically Disadvantaged Institutions (HDIs). To date, eight universities have been invited for participation under this initiative, namely: i) University of Limpopo, ii) University of Venda, iii) University of Zululand, iv) University of Fort Hare, v) Walter Sisulu University, vi) University of the Western Cape, vii) Mangosutho University of Technology and viii) Sefako Makgatho University. Each university is awarded one million rand per financial year for five years. Currently there are 16 funded PIs hosted in the eight universities.



Ms Philistia Joshua  
Program Administrator

### SAMRC RESEARCH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (RCDI) GRANT HOLDERS

NO.	INITIALS	SURNAME	UNIVERSITY/ RESEARCH UNIT	PROJECT TITLE
1	Dr . M.	Singatha-Madliki	University of Fort Hare	The Cohere Project: Contraceptive options for health: Evidence, Research and Education
2	Prof. E.	Seekoe	University of Fort Hare	Mentoring for sustainable rural community resilience and public health in the Eastern Cape
3	Dr. T.	Apalata	Walter Sisulu University	The management and building of bridges for selected Non-Communicable Diseases and HIV Risk Factors, Mortality in the Eastern Cape Province, Laboratory and Community Study
4	Prof. L.	Netshikweta	University of Venda	Environment factors influencing women and children health status in rural areas of Limpopo Province
5	Prof. P.	Bessong	University of Venda	Transmitted and Acquired HIV drug resistance in Limpopo



## SAMRC RESEARCH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (RCDI) GRANT HOLDERS (continued)

NO.	INITIALS	SURNAME	UNIVERSITY/ RESEARCH UNIT	PROJECT TITLE
6	Prof. S.	Mathebula	University of Limpopo	Biochemical Analysis, Pharmaceutical Formulation Development, and indigenous Knowledge Systems in the Management of HIV/TB Patients in Limpopo Province
7	Prof. L.	Mampuru	University of Limpopo	In vitro screening of plant extracts using liver, cervical cancer, breast and other cell lines to identify compounds with anti-cancer potential. In vitro and in vivo testing of novel compounds in type 2 diabetes, cancer and obesity
8	Dr. AP.	Kappo	University of Zululand	Development of capacity in phytotherapeutics derived from indigenous plants of South Africa, aimed at improving or preventing the development of metabolic disease
9	Dr. M.	Seheri	Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University	Understanding virus-host interactions and rotavirus vaccine impact at the Dr Goerge Mukhari Academic Hospital and Oukasie Primary Healthcare Centre
10	Prof. M.	Nchabeleng	Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University	The Stop RHD A.S.A.P. Research Programme: Longitudinal Studies of primary and secondary Prevention of Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD)
11	Prof. M.	Benjeddou	University of the Western Cape	Precision Medicine: Pharmacogenomics and Development of individualized drug therapy for Sub-Saharan African Populations
12	Prof. A.	Rhoda	University of the Western Cape	Improving Health Systems for Traumatic Spinal Cord injury in South Africa and Sweden: A novel investigation of processes and outcomes
13	Dr. NJ.	Gumede	Mangosuthu University of Technology	Molecular modelling design, synthesis and bio-analytical tests of new small molecules to target enzymes and receptors for cancer treatment
14	Dr. ZM.	Kwitshana	Mangosuthu University of Technology	The effects of helminths on human immunodeficiency Virus and Mycobacterium tuberculosis diseases, immune responses and treatment outcomes: Human and murine models

## SAMRC MID-CAREER SCIENTIST PROGRAMME (MCSP)

The MCSP is a strategic initiative of the President of the SAMRC. The objective of the project is the establishment of a two-year pilot mid-career scientist program to fast-track and transition mid-career scientists to independent researchers who will become equipped to write their own grants and thereby secure their own salary and research support. The MCSP will invest in promising mid-career scientists to facilitate their retention in the public sector in areas of strategic interest to both the NDoH and the SAMRC.

To date, five mid-career scientists have been invited for participation under this project, namely : i) University of Cape Town, ii) University of the Western Cape, iii) Walter Sisulu University, vi) Sefako Makgatho University and v) University of Stellenbosch.

Each mid-career scientist is awarded one million two hundred and fifty thousand rand for the first year (R1 250 000.00 per FY) and one million and five hundred thousand rand for the remaining four years (R1 500 000.00 per FY).



**Ms Philistia Joshua**  
Program Administrator

SAMRC MID-CAREER SCIENTIST (MCSP) GRANT HOLDERS				
NO.	INITIALS	SURNAME	UNIVERSITY/ RESEARCH UNIT	PROJECT TITLE
15	Prof. K.	Mokwena	Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University	Adolescent Mental Health & Drug Abuse (NYAOPE)
16	Prof. A.	Christoffels	University of the Western Cape	Big data bio-informatics mid-career scientist to support big data analysis at a national level
17	Dr. S.	Sibeko	University of Stellenbosch	HIV infection in women
18	Prof. N.	Khumalo	University of Cape Town	Proteomics/Genomics, Pathologist, mid-career scientist at the NRF-SARCHI Dermatology and Toxicology at UCT

## SAMRC RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT GRANT (RDG)

The SAMRC Researcher Development Grant is a strategic Staff PhD Development Grant.

The value is R250 000.00 once off to fund the last year of a PhD.



Ms Jorene Naidoo  
Program Administrator

### SAMRC RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT (RDG) GRANT HOLDERS

NO.	INITIALS	SURNAME	UNIVERSITY/ RESEARCH UNIT	PROJECT TITLE
19	Ms. P.	Simelane	North West Universty	Socio-demographic factors affecting adherence to anti-retroviral therapy in a wellness centre in South Africa
20	Ms. S.	Mokitimi	Universty of Cape Town	Child and Adolescent Mental Health

## SAMRC INTRAMURAL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The purpose of the research fellowship is to contribute and assist in accelerating the building of intramural research capacity and scientific leadership within the SAMRC. This is done by creating opportunities for intramural research units within the SAMRC to host post-doctoral scientists that have demonstrated a potential to become established researchers.

The value of the grant is R350 000.00 p.a per fellow for three years with an option to extend to further two years subject to satisfactory performance and the availability of funds.

As at January 2019, the Research Capacity Development (RCD) Division boasts seven units hosting a total of fourteen post-doctoral fellows. The host research units are: Centre for Tuberculosis Research Unit (CTR), Biomedical Research Innovation Platform (BRIP), Health Systems Research Unit (HSRU), Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Research Unit (ATODRU), Cochrane South Africa, Gender & Health Research Unit (GHRU) and TB platform (Pretoria).



Mr Thobile Mabuya  
Program Administrator

### SAMRC INTRAMURAL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP GRANT HOLDERS

NO.	INITIALS	SURNAME	UNIVERSITY/ RESEARCH UNIT	PROJECT TITLE
21	Dr. A.	Ngwane	Centre for Tuberculosis Research Unit (SUN)	Activity evaluation, repositioning, optimization of compounds and host immune factors/interactome for anti-TB drug development
22	Dr. M.	Klopper	Centre for Tuberculosis Research Unit (SUN)	Understanding the evolution of drug resistant tuberculosis: a molecular epidemiology and bioinformatics analysis of Mycobacterium tuberculosis strains acquiring drug resistance
23	Dr. C.	Naidoo	Centre for Tuberculosis Research Unit (SUN)	The longitudinal microbiome of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) patients on treatment and association with outcome (project acronym: TB-BIOME)

## SAMRC INTRAMURAL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP GRANT HOLDERS (continued)

NO.	INITIALS	SURNAME	UNIVERSITY/ RESEARCH UNIT	PROJECT TITLE
24	Dr. T.	Sylvester	Centre for Tuberculosis Research Unit (SUN)	Into Africa: Closing the knowledge gap through molecular epidemiology of resistant M: tuberculosis
25	Dr. P.	Dludla	Biomedical Research and Innovation Platform (BRIP)	Establishing the cardioprotective mechanism of aspalathin against lipid toxicity and its potential effect to enhance coenzyme Q9/co-enzyme Q10 (CoQ9/CoQ10) biosynthesis
26	Dr. N.	Thovhogi	Biomedical Research and Innovation Platform (BRIP)	Effects of Rooibos Phenolic compounds on Microbiota Regulation and Prevention of the Metabolic Syndrome
27	Dr. V.	Ramokolo	Health Systems Research Unit (HSRU)	The Child Support Grant (CSG) and Child Nutrition: A Birth cohort assessing the utilisation of the CSG and its link to dietary diversity, and child growth
28	Dr. W.	Chirinda	Health Systems Research Unit (HSRU)	A Pilot cohort monitoring project to strengthen retention in care of mother-infant pairs at district level in South Africa
29	Dr. E.	Sambala	Cochrane South Africa	Missed opportunities for Vaccination in Sub-Saharan Africa
30	Dr. A.	Jaca	Cochrane South Africa	Understanding the individual-community and society level factors associated with missed opportunities for vaccination in Sub-Saharan Africa
31	Dr. B.	Pearce	University of the Western Cape (RCDI)	Precision Medicine: Pharmacogenomics and development of individualized drug therapy
32	Dr. J.	Coetsee	Gender and Health Research Unit	Modelling trends over time in HIV drug resistance, HIV infection, treatment adherence and PrEP adherence among sex workers in South Africa
33	Dr. A.	Mutshembele	TB Platform (Pretoria)	The role of region-specific SNPs in virulence genes in Mycobacterium tuberculosis
34	Dr. J.	Dietrich	Health Systems Research Unit (HSRU)	Impact evaluation of the global fund young women and girls intervention in ten South African Districts (HERSTORY STUDY)
35	Dr. C.	Brooke-Sumner	Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Research Unit (ATODRU)	Assessing implementation readiness and organisational support for the implementation of project MIND







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