

Call for Research Proposals: Project Africa GRADIANT: Genomic Research Approach for Diversity and Optimising Therapeutics

Dear Colleague/Beste Kollega,

Please note that this information is sent to a distribution list of all SU researchers. It may, therefore, be possible that these specific calls are not applicable to your specific research field. We trust that future calls will be relevant./

Let asb. daarop dat hierdie inligting aan 'n verspreidingslys van alle US-navorsers gestuur word. Dit mag dus wees dat hierdie spesifieke oproepe nie van toepassing is op u studieveld nie. Ons vertrou dat toekomstige oproepe wel relevant mag wees.

Call for Research Proposals: Project Africa GRADIANT: Genomic Research Approach for Diversity and Optimising Therapeutics

Call for Research Proposals	Call Focus	Launch date	Application for Intent to submit	Letter of Intent deadline
Project Africa GRADIANT	Evaluate genetic diversity as the contributing factor to variability in exposure and/or safety and efficacy to drugs used to treat tuberculosis and malaria in Africa	Monday, 18 January 2021	Monday, 1 March 2021	Monday, 29 March 2021

Project Africa GRADIANT (Genomic Research Approach for Diversity and Optimising Therapeutics) was initiated in 2018 as a collaboration between GSK and Novartis. The primary aim was to establish a consortium to collaborate with expert academic centers and organisations in Africa to support high quality research on African genetic diversity of relevance to drug therapeutics.

The primary focus will be to evaluate genetic diversity as the contributing factor to variability in exposure, efficacy and/or safety to drugs used to treat tuberculosis (TB) and malaria in Africa. All datasets collated or generated through the program are intended to be released in a public database with the ultimate goal of catalyzing a positive change in approaches to understanding treatment efficacy and toxicity for regionally appropriate standards of care for patients across the continent.

GSK and Novartis have partnered with the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) to facilitate the administration of Project Africa GRADIANT. The mission of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) is to improve the nation's health and quality of life by conducting and funding relevant and responsive health research, development, innovation and research translation. The SAMRC is the largest local funder of health research in Southern Africa and supports high quality research, innovation and capacity development through a variety of grant programs and strategic partnerships.

Project Africa GRADIANT aims to provide funding for up to 5 years, in two independent stages with the possibility of extensions.

Request for applications (RFA)

The [RFA](#) will be conducted in two phases. Phase 1 will be a Letter of intent submission. Applicants successful during Phase 1 will progress to Phase 2 and be invited to submit a full proposal.

The applicants will have the opportunity to apply for one of two initiatives:

1. Fellowship for individual researcher
2. Investigator sponsored research

Eligibility criteria

This is an open call for proposals from researchers based at African (Northern, Western, Eastern, Central, and Southern Africa) universities or institutions, science councils (including the SAMRC) and other public research organizations, including:

- African registered not-for-profit research organizations whose primary purpose is to conduct research and/or product development – such entities should preferably have at least one local university or science council collaborator and may be subject to due diligence prior to the award of funds.
- African private/for-profit small-medium enterprises are eligible to apply as co-applicants/co-principal investigators if their expertise are required to execute the project.

The following entities are not eligible to apply for funding through this RFA but may be included as sub-contractors if they provide a necessary service or capability that is required by the project partners or organizations:

- Non-African private/for-profit companies and institutions;
- Non-African not-for-profit companies, research institutions, universities, civil society groups and non-governmental organizations.

In addition to the above, applicants/principal investigators must be African citizens or permanent residence holders.

Applicants must have a PhD or equivalent qualification as a minimum requirement.

While there is no limit to the number of applications submitted per institution, principal investigators may only submit one application each as the principal investigator but may be listed as co-investigator in other applications.

Application process

- Applicant to complete an online form indicating their intention to submit by **01 March 2021** using the following link:

<https://forms.gle/XgyYma468P26m7jd6>

- Letter of intent application to be submitted via email to gradient@mrc.ac.za by **29 March 2021** at 23h59 SAST.
- Clearly specify Initiative A or Initiative B in the subject line.
- No late applications will be considered.
- All applications must be submitted in English using the SAMRC letter of intent (LOI) application form.
- All budgets to be submitted in South African Rands (ZAR), including all applicable taxes.
- Funding to all institutions will be disbursed in ZAR.

It is critical that applicants follow the instructions in this [RFA](#).

Applications will not be considered for review if they:

- Are received after the deadline for submission;
- Are not aligned to the specific topics included in this RFA;
- Are from non-eligible institutions or organisations;
- Are incomplete, i.e. all sections of the LOI templates are not completed and all requested supporting documents are not attached;
- Do not comply with the SAMRC sub-award due diligence.

Documentation

- [Complete Request for Applications](#) (RFA): SAMRC-RFA-GSK/NVS 01-2021

Required documentation to be submitted:

- [Online intention to submit](#) deadline: 01 March 2021.
- [LOI application](#): 29 March 2021 at 23h59 SAST
- [SAMRC sub-award due diligence](#) document
- CVs of PI and Co-PI(s)

Any queries or questions related to this program can be addressed to the following email address: gradient@mrc.ac.za

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