

From: [Fouche, Malene, Mrs \[mfouche@sun.ac.za\]](mailto:mfouche@sun.ac.za)
To: [Fouche, Malene, Mrs \[mfouche@sun.ac.za\]](mailto:mfouche@sun.ac.za)
Subject: MRC Call for Proposals: Effective implementation and monitoring of COVID-19 vaccines
Date: Monday, 20 September 2021 12:11:47
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[SAMRC Terms and Conditions of Funding.pdf](#)
[SAMRC Terms and Conditions of Funding.pdf](#)
[SAMRC Project Proposal Template Abridged.docx](#)
[SAMRC Project Budget Template 1 PI 1 Yr Single PI.xls](#)
[SAMRC Project Budget Template 1 Yr Multiple PIs.xlsx](#)
Importance: High

Let asb daarop dat hierdie inligting aan 'n verspreidingslys van alle US-navorsers gestuur word. Dit mag dus wees dat hierdie spesifieke oproep nie van toepassing is op u studieveld nie. Hierdie oproep dek wel onderwerpe wat normaalweg onder die breë Geestes- en Sosiale Wetenskappe val. / Please note that this information is sent to a distribution list of all SU researchers. It may, therefore, be that this specific call is not applicable to your specific research field. This call do include topics that normally fall within the broad social sciences and humanities.

Dear colleagues

There is now funding opportunity to support research to guide the effective implementation and monitoring of COVID-19 vaccines and address the long-term effects of COVID-19 in South Africa. The SAMRC invites proposals addressing specific topics around COVID-19 vaccination, including vaccine safety and effectiveness and impact on the epidemic, genomics and immunology, and vaccine uptake and messaging, as well as topics on COVID-19 natural history and impact.

Please note the following about this call:

- Projects will be supported for a **maximum period of 12 months** and should be budgeted accordingly.
- Applicants already funded by the SAMRC for COVID-19-related research must indicate how their new proposal differs from and complements the currently funded project(s).
- Preference will be given to projects that are collaborative and bring together all the required expertise.
- Projects will be prioritized for funding based on scientific merit and the potential to have an impact on the epidemic.
- Funding levels for individual projects have not been prescribed; however, these must be commensurate with the proposed work and timeline.
- The principal investigators (PIs) must be South African citizens or permanent residence holders.
- While there is no limit to the number of applications submitted per organization, PIs may only submit one application each as the principal investigator but may be involved in more than one application as a co-investigator.

Please study the attached guidelines carefully before completing your application. Completed applications, together with either proof of ethics clearance or proof of an ethics application in process (where relevant) must be submitted to Maléne Fouché (mfouche@sun.ac.za) and Shannon Faro (sbrooks@sun.ac.za) by **14:00 on 4 October 2021**.

Hierdie kennisgewing is aan u gestuur deur die Afdeling Navorsingsontwikkeling (ANO) van Universiteit Stellenbosch.
[Sit my by](#) | [Haal my af](#)
die verspreidingslys van kommunikasie rakende befondsingsgeleenthede en werksinkels.

This notice was sent to you by the Division for Research Development (DRD) of Stellenbosch University.

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me to communication regarding funding opportunities and workshops.

Regards

Maléne

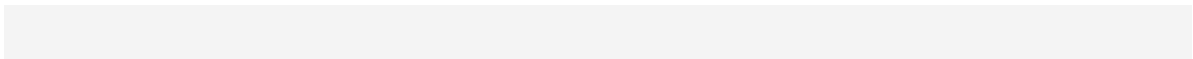
Maléne Fouché | BScAgric (Biochemistry); MScAgric (Genetics); BCom (Informatics); PGDip:Applied

Ethics

Direkteur: Navorsingsintegriteit en Nasionale Befondsing | Director: Research Integrity and National Grants

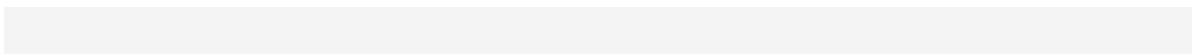
Afdeling Navorsingsontwikkeling | Division Research Development

e: mfouche@sun.ac.za | t: +27 21 808 4622 | a: Krotoa Building 2048A, Ryneveld Straat | Ryneveld Street



STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

Call for Proposals: Research to support and guide the effective implementation and monitoring of COVID-19 vaccines



South African Medical Research Council Call for Proposals

Research to support and guide the effective implementation and monitoring of COVID-19 vaccines and address long term effects of COVID-19 in South Africa

SAMRC-RFA-GIPD-03-2021

Application Closing Date: 8 October 2021

Dear Colleagues

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), through its Grants, Innovation and Product Development division, and with support from the National Treasury, is pleased to

announce a funding opportunity to support research to guide the effective implementation and monitoring of COVID-19 vaccines and address the long-term effects of COVID-19 in South Africa. We invite proposals addressing specific topics around COVID-19 vaccination, including vaccine safety and effectiveness and impact on the epidemic, genomics and immunology, and vaccine uptake and messaging, as well as topics on COVID-19 natural history and impact.

The SAMRC invites researchers from recognised South African public universities, science councils and public research organisations, including the SAMRC's intra- and extramural units and collaborating centres, to apply.

[Click here](#) for more information and to download the relevant documents.

We would appreciate it if you could distribute this information to all of your researchers.

Please direct any queries or requests for information on this RFA to:

Zoleka Ngcete

Grants, Innovation and Product Development

E-mail: zoleka.ngcete@mrc.ac.za

Kind regards

GRANTS, INNOVATION AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT



South African Medical Research Council

T: +27 21 938 0911 F: +27 21 938 0200 E: info@mrc.ac.za W: www.samrc.ac.za

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Vision

Building a healthy nation through research, innovation and transformation

Mission

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

Our Values

PIONEERING | PARTNERING | EXCELLENCE | RESPECT | INTEGRITY | CITIZENSHIP



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Die integriteit en vertroulikheid van hierdie e-pos word deur die volgende bepalinge bereël. [Vrywaringsklousule](#)



South African Medical Research Council Terms and Conditions of Funding

2021

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) plays a key role in developing, facilitating and supporting high quality and relevant health research in South Africa. The SAMRC has a number of ongoing research and career support mechanisms and continues to enter into new partnerships with local and international partners to bring in additional funding to support key health research and product development priorities. These Funding Terms and Conditions set out the general terms under which funding is provided by the SAMRC and the obligations of funding recipients. Certain grant programs may have specific requirements that differ from these Terms and Conditions. These requirements, where applicable, can be found in the relevant Request for Applications (RFA) documents and will take precedence for that particular grant program only.

The SAMRC reserves the right to amend these Terms and Conditions from time to time at its discretion. Changes will be applicable from the date of posting on the SAMRC website.

Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility criteria for application for SAMRC funding differ depending on the type of funding. SAMRC funding mechanisms are generally aimed at investigators from South African universities and other public research organizations who are either South African citizens or permanent residents.

Private companies (South African and foreign entities registered as private, for-profit companies) are generally ineligible to apply for SAMRC funding unless specifically stated in the funding call, but may be included as sub-contractors if they provide a service or capability that is not available among the project partners but is essential for the completion of project deliverables. Any individual involved either directly or indirectly in any of the SAMRC granting processes may not apply for funding from the SAMRC.

All applications / proposals submitted to the SAMRC for funding must be signed off by an authorized representative of the applicant's institution. It is the responsibility of host institutions to verify and certify the appropriateness, completeness and correctness of all information submitted by their researchers to the SAMRC as part of their applications for funding. By co-signing applications institutions commit themselves to administering the funding, if awarded, according to the relevant Terms and Conditions of Funding.

Project Selection

The selection of projects for funding by the SAMRC is based on scientific quality (as assessed through independent peer review), relevance to South African health priorities and the specific call, and transformation imperatives. The SAMRC may also consider additional factors such as a balance in the range of topics and institutions supported in its funding decisions. The SAMRC is committed to applying fair and consistent processes for selecting projects for funding, taking into account the above criteria. The Executive Management Committee of the SAMRC must approve all funding decisions and may take into account other SAMRC strategic considerations in making the final decisions. The SAMRC reserves the right not to make any awards for a particular RFA if no applications are deemed to be suitable, if funds are no longer available or for any other justifiable reason.

Allowable Costs

Allowable costs for most SAMRC funding mechanisms include the following (all direct line items must be auditable):

- Personnel: Soft-funded posts for individuals working on the project (e.g. post-docs, students, technicians, project managers) will be funded, provided an accurate estimation of time allocation is provided and they are not already funded from other means.
- Consultants: These may include both local and/or foreign consultants who provide a service or capability that is not available among the project partners but is essential for the completion of project deliverables.
- Equipment: Partial or full support for the cost of equipment may, in some instances, be requested, provided that it is directly required for the project. A budget limitation may apply.
- Supplies, consumables and other direct laboratory or research costs.
- Sub-contracts: These may be to any local or international organization that provides a service or capability that is not available among the project partners but is essential for the completion of project deliverables.
- Travel and accommodation that is directly related to the execution of the project.
- Institutional overhead: An indirect costs rate of 5% (or any revised indirect costs rate specified by the SAMRC from time to time) is allowed on selected funding mechanisms only, e.g. for SHIP grants. An institutional overhead is not permissible on self-initiated research and Extra Mural Unit funding.

Non-allowable costs include the following:

- Salaries of permanent or fixed term staff, e.g. tenured staff, professors etc., that are fully covered by the host institutions.
- Purchase or construction of a building.
- Rental costs for space that is owned by the institutions participating in the project.
- Recruitment or retrenchment costs for staff.
- Purchase of office furniture.

If research equipment is purchased using SAMRC funding, unless specified otherwise by the specific funding mechanism, it becomes the property of the host institution. Under no circumstances may equipment become the property of the individual researcher to whom the funding was allocated. The equipment may not be removed from the host institution and/or transferred to another institution

without the express written approval of the host institution and concurrence by the SAMRC. The institution must take responsibility for any necessary maintenance and insurance of the equipment.

Disbursement of Funds

Successful applicants must enter into a Funding Agreement or sign a Letter of Acceptance of Grant Conditions with the SAMRC before any funds are disbursed. The Funding Agreement will usually be with the primary /lead institution (lead consortium member), which will also be responsible for managing all sub-contracts with and disbursements to project partners. No administration fee may be charged by the institutions for disbursements to sub-contractors or other project partners.

The frequency of funding disbursements will be as stipulated in the approved budget. Funding disbursements are subject to the submission of ethics approvals and satisfactory progress and financial reports. Funding disbursements may be delayed or altered, at the discretion of the SAMRC, if insufficient spending has occurred on previous instalments. The SAMRC may, in some cases and at its sole discretion, withhold 10% of the final instalment amount until the final report for the project has been received and approved.

Funding disbursements will only be processed on receipt of an original VAT invoice in a format acceptable to the SAMRC. The standard payment term of 30 (thirty) days from receipt of the invoice will apply for all invoices.

Fund Management

The host institution and Principal Investigator are required to ensure that the procurement of any goods, equipment and/or services for the purposes of the project are in strict accordance with the provisions of the institution's procurement and travel policies. Funds may be spent solely according to the approved project budget and proposal and any required movement of funds between budget categories that exceeds 15% of the annual budget shall be subject to the agreement of the SAMRC in writing. If this agreement is not obtained, the institution will be responsible for covering the non-approved amounts.

The institution must open a separate project or book of accounts to record all sums received from the SAMRC for the project and all expenses incurred, and is obliged to invest unexpended funds from the funding in a separate interest bearing cost centre at the institution. Any interest earned on such unexpended funds shall accrue to the institution to disburse on the project and must be reported in the financial statements. At the end of the contractual term and/or upon completion of the project deliverables, any surplus project funds are to be re-paid to the SAMRC unless an alternative use for the funds by the institution has been agreed in writing by the SAMRC.

The SAMRC is entitled, at any reasonable time during or after the project, to appoint an independent team of auditors to inspect and take copies of the project books of account, records and supporting documents of the institution to the extent necessary to verify any statement on reasonable notice and during office hours. The institution must for this purpose provide the auditors with reasonable access to the books of account, technical reports and all records relating to the management of the project together with any other information required by the auditors for this purpose.

The Institution is also required to inform the SAMRC in writing of any and all prospective funding for the

project from third parties, which is used in the furtherance of the project. The institution may not accept any funding from a third party for the purposes of furthering the project without the prior written consent of the SAMRC.

Reporting

The reporting requirements differ depending on the type of funding or grant program. For most SAMRC grant programs, Principal Investigators are required to submit to the SAMRC written biannual reports within 14 (fourteen) days of the end of each 6 month period following execution of the Funding Agreement and a final report within 30 (thirty) days of completion of the project. The reporting dates for each project will be determined and communicated by the relevant SAMRC Program or Project Manager. The reports must follow the format provided by the SAMRC and provide details on the progress in terms of completion of deliverables as set out in the approved project proposal. Each report must be accompanied by a financial report in a manner and form prescribed by the SAMRC.

Funds must be used for the purpose and the research activities for which they were intended and approved by the SAMRC. Any deviations from the approved project objectives, methodology, milestones and/or deliverables must be approved by the SAMRC in writing prior to implementation.

Publication

Recipients of SAMRC funding are expected to maximize the impact and utility of their work, including through timely dissemination of their findings, preferably through open access publication. Recipients may delay the publication of data and results generated from the projects in order to first protect any potential intellectual property therein. Recipients are also encouraged to make research data available in public databases after a reasonable period of exclusivity to allow the recipient and their collaborators to complete their data analysis and publication.

All publications, press releases and other documents which include results obtained in projects funded by the SAMRC must acknowledge the SAMRC in the form indicated in the relevant Funding Agreement or Letter of Acceptance of Grant Conditions. If no statement is stipulated then the following general statement should be used: *“Research reported in this [publication/press release] was supported by the South African Medical Research Council”*. Publications, press releases and other documents from Extra Mural Research Units and Collaborating Centres of the SAMRC must further include the SAMRC as a secondary affiliation of any authors from the Unit or Centre. Principal Investigators are required to report on their publications on a quarterly basis, and to submit a copy of each publication to the SAMRC. Publications which do not contain the correct acknowledgement and/or affiliation will not be accepted as outputs of the project or Unit.

Intellectual Property

Ownership of any intellectual property (IP) and associated rights arising from SAMRC-funded projects (Foreground IP) shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the Intellectual Property Rights from Publicly Financed Research and Development Act, 51 of 2008 and associated regulations, as amended from time to time (IPR Act), and the institution’s Intellectual Property Policy. The institution is obliged to appropriately protect, manage and commercialize the Foreground IP in accordance with all applicable provisions of the IPR Act and, in the case of some funding mechanisms, in consultation with the SAMRC. The institution / Principal Investigator is required to report any Foreground IP developed to

the SAMRC as part of the reporting requirements.

The SAMRC is committed to ensuring that any Foreground IP resulting from research conducted with public funds (through the SAMRC) is commercialized to the benefit of the people of South Africa. Recipients of SAMRC funding are therefore required to ensure that any agreement concluded for the commercialization of Foreground IP provides that any resulting products shall be made available and accessible at an affordable price to people most in need within developing countries, including the Republic of South Africa.

In some instances, the SAMRC may require participation in the sharing of benefits that may arise from the commercialization of Foreground IP. The participative interest of the SAMRC will be negotiated with the institution and any other relevant parties on a case by case basis, based on the relative contributions of the parties.

Regulatory and Ethical Compliance

All SAMRC grantees are required to obtain approval for any research involving human or animal subjects or samples therefrom from the appropriate institutional review board or ethics committee and provide the SAMRC with a copy of such approval prior to embarkation on the research. This requirement extends to all sites participating in the research. Any such research must, in addition to ethical approval compliance, be conducted in accordance with the generally accepted principles of “Good Clinical Practices”, which shall include but not be limited to, requiring prior informed consent from the human subjects and shall be conducted in accordance with all applicable national and international regulations and guidelines pertaining to research involving human subjects, management of data confidentiality, research involving animals, use or release of genetically modified organisms, research use of recombinant DNA, and/or use of any organism, substance or material considered to be a biohazard, including adherence to all applicable standards for transport of specimens, both locally and internationally, as appropriate.

Contacts

Each project and grant program funded by the SAMRC is managed by specific Program and/or Project Managers who will be the primary contact for all queries and communications thereon. Any general queries in relation to these Funding Terms and Conditions may be addressed to:

Michelle Mulder
Senior Programme Manager
Grants, Innovation and Product Development
Tel: 021 938 0937
Email: michelle.mulder@mrc.ac.za

Or

Clive Glass
Programme Manager
Grants, Innovation and Product Development
Tel: 021 938 0225
Email: clive.glass@mrc.ac.za



**GRANTS INNOVATION AND
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT**

SAMRC PROPOSAL TEMPLATE ABRIDGED

SECTION 1: Summary Proposal Information

Project Title	
Research Area	<i>Priority area of RFA where applicable</i>
Requested Funding	<i>Insert total budget amount</i>
Intended Start	<i>Month and year</i>
Intended Duration	<i>X years</i>
Lead Principal Investigator (Main Applicant)	
Title First Name Surname	
ID Number	
Organization	
Organization Address	
PI E-mail Address	
PI Telephone Number	
PI Gender	Male / Female
PI Ethnic Group	African / Coloured / Indian / White / Other (please specify)
*Co-applicant(s) / Co-investigator(s)	
Title First Name Surname	
Institution	
Demographic Details of Co-investigators	Name: Gender: Male / Female Ethnic Group: African / Coloured / Indian / White / Other (please specify) Name: Gender: Male / Female Ethnic Group: African / Coloured / Indian / White / Other (please specify)

*Note that Co-applicants/Co-investigators are investigators that are also applying for funding from the SAMRC as part of this application. Other collaborators and project team members not applying for funding directly from the SAMRC should be listed under 2.5.

SECTION 2: Scientific Details

2.1 Abstract

(Please include only a short non-confidential summary of the proposed work and outcomes)

Maximum 1 page

2.2 Overview of the relevant background literature and the applicant's own research/experience relevant to the project

(Please include all relevant data generated to date to support and justify the proposed project and describe the current stage of development) - Maximum 1 page

2.3 Detailed Research Plan

2.3.1 Goals, objectives, activities and methodology

(Please include sufficient detail to enable reviewers to assess the technical merit of the project, including sample sizes, methods and approaches)

Maximum 4 pages

2.3.2 Intellectual Property (IP)

(Discuss the IP position relevant to the project, including any known or potential IP restrictions that may impact on the project)

Maximum ½ page

2.3.3 Milestones and Deliverables

Milestone 1: <i>(Include a short description/title of the milestone here)</i>		
Key Tasks	Duration (Start-End Date)	Deliverable(s)*
Milestone 2: <i>(Include a short description/title of the milestone here)</i>		
Key Tasks	Duration (Start-End Date)	Deliverable(s)*
Milestone 3: <i>(Include a short description/title of the milestone here)</i>		
Key Tasks	Duration (Start-End Date)	Deliverable(s)*

*Please include scientific/product development deliverables here and not publications, presentations or personnel capacity development

2.4 Project Team

(Please complete the table below and include all co-applicants/co-investigators as well as senior project team members and collaborators that are involved in the project but not necessarily applying for funding directly from the SAMRC)

Name and Surname	Institution	Role in Project

Please include as an attachment Curriculum Vitae for the Principal Investigator and all Co-investigators For profit and not-for-profit companies must submit company registration details and SARS clearance certificate

2.5 Available Infrastructure

*(Please describe the infrastructure directly available to the applicants and relevant to the project)
Maximum 1 page*

2.6 Expected Outputs, Outcomes and Impact

*(Please include any potential capacity development, IP and new products, practices and/or solutions that may result from the project as well as benefits that may accrue to South Africa)
Maximum ½ page*

SECTION 3: Funding

3.1 Summary Budget

Please provide a detailed yearly budget for the principal investigator and each co-investigator in the attached excel spreadsheet

(Include only summary information for the full project in the table below)

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Personnel Costs			
Laboratory Costs			
Travel Costs			
Other Direct Costs			
Equipment / Capital Costs			
Total Direct Costs			
Indirect Costs			
Total Annual Costs			
Total Project Budget			

3.2 Budget Motivation

(Please provide a motivation for the budgeted personnel and other costs)

3.3 Funds Requested and/or Received

(Please provide details of any other funding applied for and/or received for this project or parts thereof and/or any contributions from the host organization or collaborators)

SECTION 5: Certification by Applicant and Organization

I herewith declare that to the best of my knowledge

- **the work outlined in this proposal is my own original work and that the inputs, contributions and the work of others have been appropriately acknowledged where relevant;**

- all co-investigators and collaborators listed in the proposal are aware of this proposal and have agreed to their inclusion herein;
- I have undertaken due diligence to ensure that the work proposed has not been done elsewhere in a manner identical to or having an identical process and outcome as that which I propose to do;
- I have permission from the Department/Division/Directorate/Faculty to undertake the proposed work within the precincts of said entity and will have access to all required facilities and other forms of support;
- the work will be undertaken strictly according to accepted ethical and professional research practice, within the provisions and regulations of my host institution and any other applicable national or international prescriptions;
- the information provided in this proposal is true, correct and accurate and I understand and accept that the SAMRC reserves the right to cancel any grant awarded on the basis of false or inaccurate information.

I accept that the SAMRC reserves the right to reject incomplete, inappropriate or inadequate proposals/applications.

Full name (print).....

Signature..... Date.....

Institutional approval

This is to certify that this research proposal (tick applicable box)

			Reference no., date or comment
Has been approved by the applicable research committee or authorized structure	YES	NO	
Is hereby approved for submission to the SAMRC for funding	YES	NO	
Name of authorizing official			
Designation of authorizing official			
Signature of authorizing official			
Date of authorization			

Project Title:
Principal Investigator:

BUDGET ITEMS			Year 1
PERSONNEL COSTS	Annual Salary	% Effort	
PI			R 0
Researcher 1			R 0
Researcher 2			R 0
Researcher 3			R 0
Researcher 4			R 0
Total - Personnel Costs			R 0

LABORATORY COSTS	Unit Cost	No.of Units	
			R 0
			R 0
			R 0
			R 0
			R 0
Total - Laboratory Costs			R 0

TRAVEL COSTS	Unit Cost	No.of Units	
Local Airfares			R 0
Local Ground Travel			R 0
Local Accommodation			R 0
Local S&T			R 0
Total - Travel Costs			R 0

OTHER DIRECT COSTS:	Unit Cost	No.of Units	
			R 0
			R 0
			R 0
			R 0
			R 0
Total - Other Direct Costs			R 0

EQUIPMENT / CAPITAL ITEMS			
			R 0
			R 0
Total - Capital Costs			R 0

TOTAL: DIRECT COSTS **R 0**
INSTITUTIONAL LEVY 5% R 0

TOTAL COST **R 0**

SUMMARY PROJECT BUDGET

Project Title:

BUDGET ITEMS	Year 1
PERSONNEL COSTS	
PI	R 0
Co-I 1	R 0
Co-I 2	R 0
Total - Project Personnel Costs	R 0

LABORATORY COSTS	
PI	R 0
Co-I 1	R 0
Co-I 2	R 0
Total - Project Laboratory Costs	R 0

TRAVEL COSTS	
PI	R 0
Co-I 1	R 0
Co-I 2	R 0
Total - Project Travel Costs	R 0

OTHER DIRECT COSTS:	
PI	R 0
Co-I 1	R 0
Co-I 2	R 0
Total - Other Direct Project Costs	R 0

EQUIPMENT / CAPITAL ITEMS	
PI	R 0
Co-I 1	R 0
Co-I 2	R 0
Total - Project Capital Costs	R 0

TOTAL: DIRECT COSTS	R 0
INSTITUTIONAL LEVY	R 0

5%

TOTAL COST	\$0
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