



# BUILDING A LEADERSHIP CAREER IN SCIENCE



**SAMRC ANNUAL RCD GRANT HOLDERS' MEETING**

SAMRC Head Office, Cape Town  
6 February 2020



## MESSAGE FROM DIVISION MANAGER

### Dr Thabi Maitin

We are delighted to see a consolidation of this new forum for Grant-holders funded through the Division of Research Capacity Development.

I am indebted to the tireless efforts of Dr De Villiers to bring my dream to life: creating a dedicated forum to enhance efforts to building not just excellent researchers, but leaders in their own fields. This forum lends itself very well to such discussions.

In this year's forum, we celebrate having grown the Mid-Career Scientist programme, a proud initiative of the SAMRC President from just four researchers at inception of the programme to seven in 2019/20; all in distinct and very strategic research nodes.

We are also celebrating the imminent end of the first five-year funding of a successful pilot phase of the Research Capacity Development Initiative (RCDI) in Selected institutions ("HDI Programme").

The Division is excited to report some unexpected outputs that confirm the correctness of the decision by the SAMRC five years ago to increase its footprint where funding research is concerned and be unequivocally visible in the HDI space.

The leadership of Professor Mphahlele in this programme of funding to HDIs has been an amazing impetus to us as a Division.

I wish each and every Grant-holder participant in this forum the most productive year in 2020, and continued growth in your leadership.

Best!

Thabi

# PROGRAMME

	TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR/SPEAKER
	10h00 – 10h30	Arrival/ Registration with Tea/Coffee	
SESSION 1	<b>10h30 – 11h15</b>	<b>Opening ceremony</b>	<b>Dr Thabi Maitin</b>
	10h30 – 11h00	Opening remarks and welcome	Dr Thabi Maitin
	11h00 - 11h15	Perspectives from the vice-president's office	Prof Jeffrey Mphahlele
SESSION 2	<b>11h15 – 13h30</b>	<b>Panel presentations and discussions</b>	<b>Prof Himla Soodyall</b>
	11h15 – 11h40	The pipeline for research within the National System of Innovation: How do we make science impactful?	Prof Himla Soodyall
	11h40 – 12h05	Dream big and have faith in your dreams	Prof Charles Wiysonge
	12h05 – 12h30	Determination, being self-driven and constant mentorship, not your background, are key elements to building a successful Leadership Career in Science	Prof Zodwa Dlamini
	12h30 – 13h30	Discussion and conclusion	Prof Himla Soodyall
<b>13H30 - 14H15</b>		<b>Lunch</b>	
SESSION 3	<b>14h15 – 15h00</b>	<b>Open discussion with the President of the SAMRC</b>	<b>Prof Glenda Gray</b>
	14h45 – 15h15	Final remarks	Prof Himla Soodyall
SESSION 4	<b>15h30 – 17h00</b>	<b>Breakaway sessions</b> Post Doctorate Fellows	Dr Lindokuhle Ndlandla/ Dr Lawrence Mabasa RCD team
		RCDI Mid-career scientists	Prof Glenda Gray
SOCIAL	<b>17h30 – 19h00</b>	<b>Social event</b>	<b>Dr Thabi Maitin</b>
		Guest speaker	Prof Collet Dandara SAMRC Board member

## OVERVIEW OF BENEFICIARIES

SAMRC RESEARCH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (RCDI)	GRANT HOLDER	UNIVERSITY RESEARCH UNIT	PROJECT TITLE
	Dr. M. Singatha-Madliki	UFH	The Cohere Project: Contraceptive options for health: Evidence, Research and Education
	Prof. D. Goon	UFH	Mentoring for sustainable rural community resilience and public health in the Eastern Cape
	Dr. T. Apalata	WSU	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
	Prof. L. Netshikweta	UniVen	Environmental factors influencing women and children's health status in rural areas of Limpopo Province
	Prof. P. Bessong	UniVen	Transmitted and Acquired HIV drug resistance in Limpopo
	Prof. S. Mathebula	UL	Biochemical Analysis, Pharmaceutical Formulation Development, and indigenous Knowledge Systems in the Management of HIV/TB Patients in Limpopo Province
	Prof. L. Mampuru	UL	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
	Prof. AP. Kappo	UniZulu	Development of capacity in phytotherapeutics derived from indigenous plants of South Africa, aimed at improving or preventing the development of metabolic disease
	Prof. M. Seheri	SMU	Understanding virus-host interactions and rotavirus vaccine impact at the Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital and Oukasie Primary Healthcare Centre
Prof. M. Nchabeleng	SMU	The Stop RHD A.S.A.P. Research Programme: Longitudinal Studies of primary and secondary Prevention of Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD)	

	GRANT HOLDER	UNIVERSITY RESEARCH UNIT	PROJECT TITLE
	Prof. M. Benjeddou	UWC	Precision Medicine: Pharmacogenomics and Development of individualized drug therapy for Sub-Saharan African Populations
	Prof. A. Rhoda	UWC	Improving Health Systems for Traumatic Spinal Cord injury in South Africa and Sweden: A novel investigation of processes and outcomes
	Dr. NJ. Gumede	MUT	Molecular modelling design, synthesis and bio-analytical tests of new small molecules to target enzymes and receptors for cancer treatment
SAMIRC MID-CAREER SCIENTIST PROGRAMME	GRANT HOLDER	UNIVERSITY RESEARCH UNIT	PROJECT TITLE
	Prof. K. Mokwena	SMU	Adolescent Mental Health & Drug Abuse (NYAOPE)
	Prof. A. Christoffels	UWC	Big data bio-informatics mid-career scientist to support big data analysis at a national level
	Dr. S. Sibeko	SUN	HIV infection in women
	Prof. N. Khumalo	SUN	Proteomics/Genomics, Pathologist, mid-career scientist at the NRF-SARCHI Dermatology and Toxicology at UCT
	Prof. J. Bantjes	SUN	An investigation of students' mental health care needs and the development of innovative e-mental health interventions to promote student wellness
	Prof. L. Kwitshana	UKZN	The effects of helminths on human immunodeficiency Virus and Mycobacterium tuberculosis diseases, immune responses and treatment outcomes: Human and murine models

SAMRC RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT GRANT (RDG)

GRANT HOLDER	UNIVERSITY RESEARCH UNIT	PROJECT TITLE
Prof. Z. Dlamini	UP	Bioinformatics and Genomics Institute (BIG) for training to support the 4th Industrial Revolution and High performance Computing (HPC) at MUT
Dr. O. Adeleke	SMU	“Design and Evaluation of a Combined Heme Oxygenase-1 Inhibitor-Antibiotic Loaded Flexible Delivery System for Site-Specific and Accelerated Treatment of Active Tuberculosis.”
Dr. L. Phahladira	SUN	The clinical course and outcomes of first episode psychosis: A study of the acute, medium and long-term outcomes in a cohort rigorously treated in the early phase of illness.
Ms. B. Zani	UCT	The effectiveness of a collaborative care model for the detection and management of depression in antiretroviral therapy patients at risk of depression
Ms. S. Muttoo	UKZN	The impact of nitrogen oxides and particulate matter exposure on infant lung function development
Ms. S. Maddocks	UKZN	Saving Futures: Developing an integrated model of rehabilitation and paediatric HIV care to foster success at school
Mr. B. Boggenpoel	UWC	Development of a healthcare decision making model for mortality and morbidity after traumatic spinal cord injury.
Dr. P. Madlala	UKZN	Effect of transmitted/founder (T/F) viruses 5' Long Terminal repeat (LTR) and Transactivation of Transcription (tat) Genetic Variation on viral reservoir size and latency reversal potential
Ms. N. Banda	UCT	The effect of visual aids on the understanding of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) health information in persons with low literacy

SAMRC INTRAMURAL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

GRANT HOLDER	UNIVERSITY RESEARCH UNIT	PROJECT TITLE
Dr. J. Dietrich	Health System Research Unit	Impact evaluation of the global fund young women and girls' intervention in ten South African Districts (HERSTORY STUDY)
Dr. J. Coetzee	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.
Dr. N. Thovhogi	Biomedical Research and Innovation Platform (BRIP)	Effects of Rooibos Phenolic compounds on Microbiota Regulation and Prevention of the Metabolic Syndrome
Dr. K. Nguyen	Non-Communicable Disease Research Unit	Nutrition-related metabolism evidence syntheses, comorbid NCDs and HIV infection
Dr. W. Chirinda	Health Systems Research Unit	A pilot cohort monitoring project to strengthen retention in care of mother-infant pairs at district level in South Africa
Dr. E. Sambala	Cochrane South Africa	Understanding the individual, community and society-level factors associated with missed opportunities for vaccination in sub-Saharan Africa
Dr. T. Sylvester	Centre for Tuberculosis Research Unit	Into Africa: Closing the knowledge gap through molecular epidemiology of resistant M. Tuberculosis in Namibia
Dr. A. Ngwane	Centre for Tuberculosis Research Unit	Activity evaluation, repositioning, optimization of compounds and host immune factors/interactome for anti-TB drug development
Dr. M. Klopper	Centre for Tuberculosis Research Unit	Understanding the evolution of drug resistant tuberculosis: A molecular epidemiologic and bioinformatics analysis of Mycobacterium tuberculosis strains acquiring drug resistance
Dr. C. Naidoo	Centre for Tuberculosis Research Unit	The longitudinal microbiome of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) patients on treatment and association with outcome.

GRANT HOLDER	UNIVERSITY RESEARCH UNIT	PROJECT TITLE
Dr. P. Dlodla	Biomedical Research and Innovation Platform	Establishing the cardioprotective mechanism of aspalathin against lipid toxicity and its potential effect to enhance co-enzyme 09/co-enzyme Q10 (CoQ9/CoQ10) biosynthesis
Dr. E. Samodien	Biomedical Research and Innovation Platform	Developing an advanced cell culture model for pancreatic beta cells
Dr. C. Brooke Sumner	Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Research Unit	Improving organizational capacity to integrate treatment for mental illness into chronic disease care
Dr. B. Pearce	University of the Western Cape	Precision Medicine: Pharmacogenomics and development of individualized drug therapy
Dr. A. Mutshembele	TB Platform	The Role of Region-Specific Based on Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms in Virulence Geneses in Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Genotyping
Dr. H. Sibiya	Gender and Health Research Unit	Inter-section of gender violence and biological HIV related outcomes
Dr. K. Jonas	Health Systems Research Unit	Impact Evaluation of the Global Fund Young Women and Girls (YW&G) Intervention in Ten South African Districts (HERStory Study)
Dr. V. Ramokola	Health Systems Research Unit	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
Dr. I. van de Heijden	Gender and Health Research Unit	Disability and Gender Based Violence
Dr. A. Jaca	Cochrane South Africa	Understanding the individual, community and society-level factors associated with missed opportunities for vaccination in sub-Saharan Africa



## SAMRC'S SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP



### SAMRC BOARD AND RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER

Professor Collet Dandara



### CEO AND PRESIDENT OF THE SAMRC

Professor Glenda Gray



### SAMRC VICE PRESIDENT RESEARCH

Professor Jeffrey Mphahlele

## PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTORS



### Prof Himla Soodyall

Is Executive Officer of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). She is a Research Professor in Human Genetics at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and was Principal Medical Scientist at the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) previously. Soodyall has done ground-breaking genetic research into the peoples of sub-Saharan Africa in which her studies have identified some of the oldest DNA found in living people today, adding weight to the theory that modern humans evolved in the area now known as Southern Africa.



### Charles Shey Wiysonge

Is the Director of Cochrane South Africa, an Extraordinary Professor of Global Health at Stellenbosch University, and an Honorary Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Cape Town. His previous appointments include Deputy Director of the Centre for Evidence based Health Care at Stellenbosch University; Project Manager of the Vaccines for Africa Initiative and Chief Research Officer at the University of Cape Town; Chief Research Officer at the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS in Geneva; Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Central Technical Group in charge of the Expanded Programme on Immunisation in Cameroon; and Medical

Epidemiologist at the Pasteur Centre of Cameroon in Yaoundé. Professor Wiysonge sits on multiple high-ranking scientific and policy advisory bodies on research, vaccination, and evidence-based health care at national, continental, and global levels. He has a B2 rating from the National Research Foundation of South Africa, and his current research is devoted to understanding vaccination barriers and finding tailored evidence-based solutions for these barriers.



## Professor Zodwa Dlamini

Works in the highly specialised area of molecular oncology for which she has been recognized extensively locally and internationally. She is the Founding Director for the University of Pretoria Pan African Cancer Research Institute (PACRI) and has recently been awarded the Scientific Directorship for the SA-MRC/UP Precision Prevention & Novel Drug Targets for HIV-Associated Cancers (PPNDTHAC) Extramural Unit. She is a member of the Council for Scientific Advisers of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM). She furthermore received the SA-MRC Silver Award in 2018, as an outstanding South African

Scientist who has contributed to raising the profile of Science in South Africa. She also is an elected member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), a C2 National Research Foundation (NRF) rated researcher and an Honorary Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand, School of Clinical Medicine. Among her other outstanding achievements are the following appointments: Visiting Professor at the University of Bristol UK; Vice Chairperson of the SA-MRC Board for two terms; Panel member of the Research Outputs Main Evaluation Panel of the Ministry of Higher Education and Training; Advisory Board member representing the National Department of Health (DoH) in the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) Scientific Advisory Board on Preclinical Drug Development Platform and lastly member of the DST/SAMRC National Genomics and Precision Medicine Think Tank.

