



THE HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION SOUTH AFRICA

RESEARCH GRANTS LAUNCH: 2018

Call for applications for Heart and Stroke Foundation South Africa (HSFSA) Research Grants Launch 2018: two broad focus areas

- (1) Applied and basic biomedical and clinical research projects associated with onset of cardiovascular disease [CVD; heart diseases and stroke]***
- (2) Evaluation of the HSFSA's health risk assessment project***

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1. Background

The Heart and Stroke Foundation South Africa (HSFSA), a not-for-profit organization, invites applications for funding for basic and clinical research from non-profit entities and tertiary institutions in South Africa.

The research funding will initially be awarded for 24 months with a possibility of additional funding (depending on the project outcomes in the initial award and resources available at the Foundation). The Foundation aims to support innovative research projects that pursue novel hypotheses and with ground-breaking potential. Here there is a strong emphasis on projects that match the Foundation's aims and objectives, and with strong clinical and epidemiological advancement and impact. Basic research projects can also be submitted but support will depend on overall funds available. There will also be at least one grant awarded to evaluate the health risk assessment programme, which is an on-going process at the Foundation. Research questions should focus on factors influencing heart diseases and stroke onset, while for those with established disease it should be on pathophysiological pathways between unmodifiable and modifiable factors and health outcomes. Examples of calls that will be short-listed are studies investigating high disease burden, selected poorly resourced communities, impact of behavioural risk factors (such as tobacco smoking, poor dietary habits, obesity, HIV) and the mechanisms underlying these choices, determination of risk factors within the South African context and the role of bio-behavioural pathways in this process.

2. Objectives of the programme

Research Focus Areas (RFAs):

1. Rheumatic heart disease
2. Cerebrovascular disease
3. Congenital Heart Disease in pregnancy
4. HIV-linked CVD onset
5. Bio-behavioural pathways for CVD onset and its prevention
6. Risk-factor modification and secondary prevention of CVD
7. Surgical interventions of choice in limited-resourced public -sector health facilities
8. Quality of care and access to care for CVD in the public sector
9. Pathological/physiological pathways to CVD onset
10. Evaluation of the Heart and Stroke Foundation South Africa Health Promotion Programme

Research questions should be very specific and have a public health focus that can be beneficial at a population health level. Either qualitative, quantitative or mixed-methods research designs are encouraged. Projects cannot be conducted exclusively in a private setting. Projects can, however, be based on a comparative design investigating differences between private and public-sector facilities if the research questions arise from intervention studies pertaining to quality of care issues.

Investigators from the medical, pharmaceutical, public health, nutrition, exercise, smoking cessation programmes and behavioural sciences are encouraged to apply. Multi-disciplinary, cross-provincial and multi-country projects are encouraged. Applications for supplementary funding for an existing project in the focus areas may also apply.

3. Budget and Financial allocation

In this call a total of R600 000 will be allocated for a maximum of three projects, each project not exceeding a total budget of R300, 000. Only one application per principal investigator will be allowed. The budget will be over a 24-month period from the date of the signing of the Grant Agreement. The Foundation reserves the right to increase the award for a project proposal with a potential for high impact.

The application process will entail a two-step process, i.e. a one-page summary of the proposed study together with a brief budget should initially be submitted by the first deadline indicated. Such proposals will then be screened after which the most highly ranked ones will be requested to submit a full proposal (together with a detailed budget) by the second deadline indicated. Such proposals will then undergo a full peer-review and the final grantees then be announced.

4. Rules for this call for proposals

4.1. Application forms

Phase One

One-page proposal and budget

Phase 2

Full proposal and budget

4.2. Deadlines for submission of applications

Phase One: One Page Proposal and Budget: 20 September 2018

Phase Two: Full Proposal and Budget (Invited Applicants): 23 November 2018

Shortlisted candidates will be notified by the 12 October 2018 and be invited to submit a full proposal and budget by 23 November 2018. Successful candidates will be contacted by email by the 4 February 2019 and Year #1 for successful applications shall begin by 1 May 2019.

Deadline	Date
One-pager and budget	20 September 2018
Full Proposal and budget	23 November 2018

4.3. Eligibility criteria

- The call is open to established and mid-term researchers, including post-doctoral students and those doing PhD studies working at accredited higher education institutions within South Africa.
- NGOs/Public Sector organisations may also apply
- Masters level students may apply provided that an established researcher is a co-applicant and supervises the project.
- Non-South Africans may apply provided they are registered at/or working for a South African University/Stroke Institute or Institution of Higher Learning.

4.4. Eligibility

Non-South Africans are not eligible to apply. Africans from other countries are eligible to apply provided that they are working or studying in South Africa under the supervision of an established South African PI. In the case of non-South African applicants, it is necessary to have a South African co-applicant or in the case of a senior academic or researcher, a South African student whose career will benefit from the proposed research. Evidence of diversity and inclusion of females in the research team will be an advantage.