

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: CHAIRPERSON & MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENTISTS (AIMS) HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (HREC) – 2025

The African Institute of Medical Scientists (AIMS) is pleased to announce the establishment of the Health Research Ethics Committee (HREC), which will be formally launched in 2025. The committee will play a crucial role in ensuring the ethical conduct of medical research involving human participants across Africa. To that end, AIMS is now inviting nominations for individuals to serve as members of this important body, responsible for upholding the highest standards of ethics in health-related research.

Eligible Nominators for HREC Membership

Nominations can be submitted by:

1. **Leadership of AIMS:** Executive or senior leaders within the African Institute of Medical Scientists may nominate members to ensure alignment with the organization's goals and mission.
2. **Institutional Representatives:** Institutions or organizations collaborating with AIMS in medical research may nominate qualified individuals with relevant expertise.
3. **Professional Bodies:** Representatives from professional associations, such as medical councils, scientific societies, or ethics networks, may propose candidates with suitable experience and qualifications.
4. **Community Leaders or Advocates:** To ensure lay representation and community engagement, recognized community leaders or representatives of advocacy groups may nominate individuals. Nominated community representative must have at least **matric**
5. **Subject Matter Experts:** Specialists in areas such as medicine, law, bioethics, or social science, identified through their contributions to the field, may nominate peers for committee membership.
6. **Self-Nomination:** Individuals who meet the eligibility criteria can self-nominate, provided they submit the required documentation and endorsements.



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HREC Membership Criteria and Requirements

Nominees must meet the following criteria:

Qualifications and Expertise:

- Advanced academic qualifications in Ethics, Medical Sciences, Law, Health, Social Sciences. **NB: nominated candidate for the chairperson role must have NQF L10 (PhD).**
- Extensive experience in ethical oversight, health research, and policy formulation.
- Strong understanding of ethical standards, especially in human participant research.

Specific Expertise:

- Expertise in biostatistics or qualitative and quantitative research methods for rigorous evaluation.
- Experience in ethical review of research involving human participants, especially in clinical trials or health interventions.
- Familiarity with legal frameworks on healthcare, human rights, and bioethics.
- Practical healthcare experience (e.g., counseling, clinical practice) for a well-rounded ethical perspective.

Diversity:

- Prioritization of ethnic, gender, and professional diversity to reflect Africa's population.
- Expertise in various research methodologies should be included to evaluate various projects.

Affiliations:

- Must be affiliated with recognized professional bodies such as HPCSA, SAPC, SANC, SACNASP, or equivalent African bodies.

Appointment Duration:

- Members are appointed for a **three-year term**, with possible renewal based on performance.

Payment for Appointments:

- The position is voluntary, and it does not offer a salary. However, members may receive compensation for their time and expertise, including a small honorarium or reimbursement for expenses incurred while performing committee duties.

How to Submit Nominations

- Submit nominations, including a CV, qualifications, achievement certificates and relevant experience to the AIMS office via the link <https://medicalscientists.co.za/nomination>

Deadline: 17 January 2025.

For more information send an email to recruitment@medicalscientists.co.za

NB: This opportunity is open to individuals across South Africa, encouraging broad participation.

