REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Opportunity Title: Health Research Priorities: Translating Population Health Research to Practice

Code: SNIH-RO-HRP-RG03-2504

FUNDING YEAR: FY 2025

OPEN PROPOSAL SUBMISSION: 01 July 2025
PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 31 August 2025

2025

Research Office

Saudi National Institute of Health

Synopsis

General information

		Note
Funding Organization	Saudi NIH	
Administration Information	Research Office	
Application Type	New	
Funding Mechanism	Small Research Grant	Mechanism Code: RG03
Opportunity Title	Health Research Priorities: Translating Population Health Research to Practice	Opportunity ID: SNIH-RO-HRP-RG03-2504
Opportunity Announcement	01-07-2025	
Open Proposal Submission	01-07-2025	
Proposal Submission Deadline	31-08-2025	
Notice of Award	Within 4-5 months of submission	
Earliest Project Start	01-02-2026	
Targeted Priority Fields	All fields under Saudi NIH Health Research Priorities	

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants	• The applicant must be affiliated with a Saudi governmental or semi-governmental entity, including academic institutions, research organizations, and hospitals. • The applicant must hold a doctorate degree, or an equivalent, in a related field. • The applicant must demonstrate previous experience and publication history in the proposed research area. • Both Saudi citizens and non-Saudi residents are eligible to apply.
Additional Eligibility Requirements	• The applicant must serve as the Principal Investigator (PI) for the proposed research project. • The PI must not be leading any other currently active project funded by Saudi NIH. • Each PI is permitted to submit only one research proposal under this funding opportunity. • A Co-Investigator may participate in up to five active Saudi NIH-funded research projects across all grants. • It is highly encouraged that the project includes a graduate student (i.e. master's or PhD students) or trainee (i.e. residents or fellows). • The PI's organization must have an established grant management process with an Authorized Organization Representative.

Additional information

Description and Scope	The Saudi National Institute of Health (Saudi NIH) invites research proposals for Funding Year 2025, in alignment with its Health Research Priorities Strategic Plan and in support of Vision 2030 and national research and development priorities. This funding opportunity aims to support health research on diseases of major public health importance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It aligns with national health priorities and seeks to bridge knowledge gaps to inform regulatory and clinical decision-making.
Clinical Trial Allowability	Clinical Trial Not Allowed: Applications that propose clinical trial(s) are not accepted.
Eligible Types of Studies	Observational case-control, observational cross-sectional, Observational retrospective cohort/ case-series, and systematic review with meta-analysis.
Maximum Duration	12 months
Maximum Budget	Up to 200,000 ﷼
Contact Information	GRANTS@SNIH.GOV.SA

Executive Summary

Saudi National Institute of Health (Saudi NIH) invites research proposals for Funding Year 2025 under its Health Research Priorities Strategic Plan, which is aligned with Vision 2030 and the national research and development priorities. This opportunity is designed to support health research that addresses diseases with significant public health relevance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia within the fields and research areas specified in the [Saudi NIH Health Research Priorities](#).

Researchers are encouraged to submit proposals that will contribute to a deeper understanding of these diseases and help guide strategies for improving public health outcomes in the Kingdom. Thereby, researchers awarded under this funding opportunity will play a pivotal role in advancing the national health research agenda.

Researchers applying for this opportunity must thoroughly read this funding opportunity announcement and ensure that they follow the application guidelines and eligibility criteria. The applicant must be affiliated with a Saudi governmental or semi-governmental entity, including academic institutions, research organizations, and hospitals. He or she must hold a doctorate degree, or an equivalent, in a related field and must demonstrate previous experience and publication history in a related area.

Additionally, the applicant must serve as the Principal Investigator (PI) for the proposed project. The PI must not be leading any other currently active Saudi NIH-funded project. Each PI is permitted to submit only one research proposal under this funding opportunity. A Co-Investigator may participate in up to five active Saudi NIH-funded research projects across all grants. The PI's organization must have an established grant management process with an Authorized Organization Representative. It is highly encouraged that the project includes a graduate student or trainee as a Co-Investigator.

Both Saudi citizens and non-Saudi residents are eligible to apply.

The budget limit for each project is 200,000 Saudi Riyals, with a maximum proposed project period of one year.

To apply, PIs must register with the Saudi NIH Application Platform and start an application.

Contents

Background

Saudi National Institute of Health

Saudi National Institute of Health (Saudi NIH) focuses on implementing a strategy based directly on prioritizing translational research and clinical trials to meet public health needs while working to identify and mitigate challenges that hinder the development of effective and high-quality research, strengthening coordination and scientific collaboration, and improving the impact of the research and innovation system in the health sector. Therefore, one of the ways through which the Saudi NIH aims to achieve its goals is to create funding opportunities for promising clinical and translational health research.

Research Office

The Saudi NIH Research Office is responsible for overseeing the design, implementation, and evaluation of the Saudi NIH's funding programs and opportunities. It manages the full grant lifecycle, including announcing funding opportunities, processing applications, overseeing peer-review processes, contracting, and monitoring funded research projects. Additionally, the Research Office establishes administrative, technical, and financial policies for NIH-funded health research, ensuring alignment with both the needs of researchers and regulatory frameworks within the Kingdom and internationally.

Opportunity Description and Scope

Description

Translational population health research is a critical element of research that informs researchers, healthcare providers, and policymakers about the health needs and gaps within a population. It contributes to identifying the prevalence, local and global burden of disease, disease patterns, risk factors, and effectiveness of interventions, ultimately shaping health strategies and policies. The Saudi NIH plays a critical role in supporting and advancing translational research in the Kingdom.

This funding opportunity is designed to support health research that addresses diseases with significant public health relevance in the Kingdom within the fields and research areas specified in the Saudi NIH Health Research Priorities (See Scope), align with national health priorities, and inform regulatory and policy decisions.

Moreover, this opportunity aims to support the translation of research findings into practice and to enhance national capabilities in translational research, thereby strengthening the impact of evidence-based health interventions.

Eligible types of studies are: observational case-control, observational cross-sectional, observational retrospective cohort/case series, and systematic review with meta-analysis.

Scope

This funding opportunity supports health research that addresses diseases with significant public health relevance in the Kingdom within the following fields:

- Cardiovascular diseases
- Endocrine and metabolic disorders
- Cancer
- Rare and inherited diseases
- Infectious diseases
- Population and public health
- Neurological diseases
- Kidney diseases
- Lung diseases
- Gastrointestinal and liver disorders
- Newborn, child, and adolescent health
- Dental and craniofacial diseases
- Women's health
- Musculoskeletal, pain, skin, and autoimmune diseases
- Mental disorders
- Eye diseases
- Deafness and communication disorders

Applicants must align their proposals with a specific disease identified as a priority within these aforementioned fields, and the specific focus areas related to each priority, ensuring that funded projects directly contribute to national health goals and the evidence base needed for effective policy and intervention planning.

Eligibility

Minimum Eligibility Requirements

- The applicant must be affiliated with a Saudi governmental or semi-governmental entity, including academic institutions, research organizations, and hospitals.
- The applicant must hold a doctorate degree, or an equivalent, in a related field.
- The applicant must demonstrate a history of previous experience and publications in the proposed research area.
- Both Saudi citizens and non-Saudi residents are eligible to apply.

Preferred Qualifications

- A record of previous or current research grants as a Principal Investigator (PI) or research team member.
- Publications in Q1 indexed journals.

Additional Requirements

- The applicant must serve as the Principal Investigator (PI) for the proposed research project.
- The PI must not be leading any other currently active project funded by Saudi NIH.
- Each PI is permitted to submit only one research proposal under this funding opportunity.
- A Co-Investigator may participate in up to five active Saudi NIH-funded research projects across all grants.
- It is highly encouraged that the project includes a graduate student (i.e. master's or PhD students) or trainee (i.e. residents or fellows).
- The PI's organization must have an established grant management process with an Authorized Organization Representative (See Authorized Organization Representative Criteria).

Funding Allocation

Awardees will receive the funding amount according to their signed contract. The Saudi NIH has the authority to determine the allocation of funding in accordance with its established policies and regulations. The budget limit for each project is 200,000 Saudi Riyals, with a maximum proposed project period of one year.

Allowable Costs and Budget Guidelines

Detailed allowable costs and budget guidelines are available in the Saudi NIH Policies and Regulations.

Review Process and Timeline

Table 1: The Saudi NIH review process and timeline

Stage	Description	Timeline
Proposal Submission	• Applicants will submit their full research proposal through Saudi NIH Application Platform.	July 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025
Prescreening	• Saudi NIH will begin prescreening applications as soon as they are submitted. • Applications are screened for eligibility, originality, completion, and compliance with the Saudi NIH Grants Policy.	September 1, 2025 – December 1, 2025

Technical Review	• Saudi NIH will conduct a technical review of applications that passed the prescreening stage. • Applications will be reviewed to ascertain that all therequirements have been fulfilled.	
Scientific Review	• The scientific review committee will assess and score applications based on scientific merit.	
Ethical Review	• Saudi NIH will review all the documents and approvals, including the Institutional Review Board approval, to ensure they are aligned with the National Committee of Bioethics.	
Notice of Award	• The final approval will be held by at least five review members, with the presence of the Board Chair to discuss the scored research proposals received from Saudi NIH. • The final approval is made by the Chief Executive Officer of Saudi NIH. • Saudi NIH will communicate with the applicants to inform them that they have been nominated to receive the award.	December 15, 2025 – January 31, 2026
Contracting	• Following the receipt of the notice of award, the awardee and the institution's Authorized Organizational Representative are required to sign the contract and submit all required documentation to facilitate the disbursement of the award.	
Project Start	• Projects may commence after receiving the Project Execution Notice from Saudi NIH	February 1, 2026
Reporting and Monitoring	• After receiving the Notice of Award, applicants are required to agree to undergo monitoring by Saudi NIH for the duration of the research project. • Systems will be in place for monitoring all activities involving human subjects. • Saudi NIH has the right to conduct periodic visits to the awarded institutions' research sites to conduct evaluations. • A final technical report will be required at the end of the research project. Saudi NIH will provide the awarded applicant with a deadline specifying the date for submitting the final report.	Starting February 1, 2026, and ending at the date specified in the project contract.
Award Close-out	• Saudi NIH will end the award period, ensuring that agreed-upon milestones have been reached. • The awardee must present all the necessary documentation for the scientific review committee and the Ethics and Compliance Department to issue approvals for award close-out. • The results of the research project are subject to disclosure according to the Saudi NIH Grants Policy.	Starting and ending at the date specified in the project contract.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to the priority research fields defined by Saudi NIH
- The integrity of the work
- Scientific and technical merit
- Significance of the problem
- Approach to addressing the identified problem
- The soundness of the rationale
- The realistic estimation of outcomes
- Risk management criteria
- Alignment with the Saudi NIH strategy and the National Vision 2030

Expected Research Outcomes

- Proposed policies, guidelines, and recommendations
- Recommendations for public health programs
- Evidence that contributes to national health strategies or policy decisions
- Measurable improvements in service delivery, access, or health outcomes
- Publications in scientific journals and scientific meetings (i.e. research papers, scientific reports, abstracts, scientific lectures, etc…)
- Awards and acknowledgement

Reporting and Monitoring

Awarded projects will be monitored by Saudi NIH for the duration of their research project. The monitoring process may involve periodic site visits and requires the completion of progress reports submitted by the awardees. A final technical report will be required at the end of the project.

Other Information

How to Apply

Researchers interested in applying must register to the Saudi NIH Application Platform to submit the application, then apply through the following link: Start an application

Saudi NIH will only accept applications submitted through its Application Platform. Please take advantage of the submission manual tool provided to you here to guide you through the registration and submission processes.

Confidentiality

All information submitted by applicants is confidential. In accordance with the Saudi NIH Grants Policy, all application reviewers must adhere to the confidentiality guidelines set forth by Saudi NIH.

Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) Criteria

An Authorized Organization Representative is the designated individual within the organization responsible for overseeing all aspects of the grant administration. This person ensures that the organization meets key eligibility and compliance requirements, including:

- Financial management systems and operational capacity
- Availability of an organizational bank account

The AOR also serves as the primary point of contact with Saudi NIH during the contracting stage.

Sub-Grants

Sub-grants to collaborating organizations are not permitted within this opportunity. However, organizational diversity within the research team is accepted. Additional conditions for collaboration apply in accordance with [Saudi NIH policies and regulations](#).

End of Request for Proposals