



Saudi NIH
المعهد الوطني لأبحاث الصحة



الهيئة السعودية للتخصصات الصحية
Saudi Commission for Health Specialties

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Title:

Saudi Commission for Health Specialties
Strategic Challenges Research Support Opportunity

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

YEAR: 2024

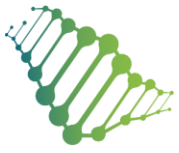
Proposal Submission Deadline: 30 January 2025

Funding Opportunity Announcement Synopsis

General information		Code
Funding Organization	Saudi NIH	
Administration Information	Research Office	RO
Application Type	New	
Opportunity Title	Saudi Commission for Health Specialties Strategic Challenges Research Support Opportunity	SNIH-RO-RSO-2501
Open Survey of Interest Submission	21-10-2024	
Survey of Interest Deadline	01-12-2024	
Open Proposal Submission	01-01-2025	
Proposal Submission Deadline	30-01-2025	
Awardee Announcement	30-04-2025	
Earliest Project Start	01-06-2025	
Project Period	12 months	
Clinical Trial Allowability	Not allowed	

Eligibility	
Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) holders in related fields. • Affiliation with a local entity. • Open to both Saudi citizens and non-Saudi residents.

Additional information	
Scope	To enhance the scientific contributions of its members, the SCFHS has introduced the SCFHS Strategic Challenges Research Support Opportunity aimed at tackling the strategic challenges outlined by the SCFHS.
Description	This collaborative initiative between the SCFHS and the Saudi NIH aims to focus research efforts on addressing the SCFHS strategic challenges in collaboration with internal and external partners. Awardees will receive non-monetary support, which includes access to secondary data services, primary data collection through survey distribution services, and qualitative data gathering via social media sensing services.
Tracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Practitioner Track ○ Institutional Track ○ Curricula and Education Track
Mapping to the Saudi NIH Strategic Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Optimize infrastructure. ○ Apply knowledge.
Indicators of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Publications in Web of Science indexed journals (Q1 and Q2). ○ Direct Influence on SCFHS strategies or guidelines particularly those contributing to the Health Sector Transformation Program under Vision 2030.
Contact Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GRANTS@SNIH.GOV.SA

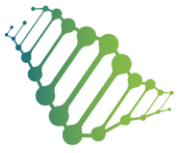


Executive Summary

The Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCFHS), in collaboration with the Saudi National Institutes of Health (Saudi NIH), is pleased to announce the launch of the SCFHS Strategic Challenges Research Support Opportunity.

Through the Saudi NIH-SCFHS collaboration, researchers will gain access to essential health informatics and supportive services, enabling groundbreaking health research. The award provided through this opportunity is comprised of research resources only, such as data, services, and logistical support, and does not entail any financial support.

Researchers involved in health research are invited to apply. Applications will be evaluated based on eligibility, scientific merit, and competitiveness. Research resources and support will be given based on the Saudi NIH's discretion, without a commitment to award any specific application.



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Background

The Saudi National Institute of Health

A vibrant society, a thriving economy, and an ambitious nation. These are the pillars of the Saudi Vision 2030, which is the foundation upon which the Saudi Health Sector Transformation Plan is built, and the Saudi National Institute of Health (Saudi NIH) is established. The Saudi NIH will help to achieve the strategic healthcare objectives of the Saudi Vision 2030 and make the Kingdom a pioneer in medical and health-based research. In addition, it aims to address the challenges that hinder the development of effective and high-quality research and cultivate an environment that enables research excellence through bridging gaps, enhancing coordination, integration, research capacity, and improving the impact of the research and innovation system in the health sector.

The Saudi Commission for Health Specialties

The Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCFHS) was established in 1992 as a scientific professional body to regulate the work of health practitioners. It undertakes the tasks of documenting and evaluating the qualifications and experience of health practitioners, in addition to registering and classifying them to practice health professions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The SCFHS also supervises the Saudi Board Certification programs for health training in all health specialties, approves training centers, and issues Saudi Board certificates.

The SCFHS also supervises the improvement of the level and efficiency of health workers by approving centers and programs for continuing education and professional development, in addition to approving the establishment of specialized scientific health associations and supervising them.

Opportunity Announcement

The Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCFHS), in collaboration with the Saudi National Institutes of Health (Saudi NIH), is pleased to announce the launch of the SCFHS Strategic Challenges Research Support Opportunity. This initiative is designed to support PhD holders, postgraduate researchers, and other professionals from diverse health backgrounds.

The initiative aims to channel research efforts toward addressing the strategic challenges identified by the SCFHS, focusing on three core tracks:

1. **Practitioner Track:** Advancing the professional development of health practitioners through research that addresses the challenges they encounter in health practice.
2. **Institutional Track:** Enhancing the services provided by institutions within the health system, including educational and training facilities, hospitals, workplaces, and academic societies.
3. **Curricula and Education Track:** Improving health education and training programs to align with global standards and evolving market demands.

This initiative seeks to generate impactful, data-driven research that supports Saudi Arabia's health system in alignment with Vision 2030, fostering innovation and excellence in the health domain.



Scope

To enhance the scientific contributions of its members, the SCFHS has introduced the SCFHS Strategic Challenges Research Support Opportunity aimed at tackling the strategic challenges outlined by the SCFHS. This initiative reflects the SCFHS's commitment to supporting data-driven decision-making and encompasses three core strategic dimensions:

1. **Practitioner Track:**

This track focuses on understanding the challenges faced by health practitioners and offering solutions. It covers the broad concept of defining health practice within and beyond the health sector.

2. **Institutional Track:**

This track emphasizes understanding and enhancing the services provided by institutions. It aims to build and develop a system that supports health practitioners by improving educational and training facilities, hospitals, workplaces, and academic societies.

3. **Curricula and Education Track:**

This track is dedicated to understanding challenges and identifying opportunities to improve educational curricula and training for health professionals. The goal is to ensure alignment with the latest global standards and market requirements.

Description

Based on the goal of enabling the scientific contributions of the SCFHS members, the SCFHS, together with the Saudi NIH, has established the SCFHS Strategic Challenges Research Support Opportunity. This initiative aims to focus research efforts on addressing the SCFHS strategic challenges in collaboration with internal and external partners. Awardees will receive non-monetary support, which includes access to secondary data services, primary data collection through survey distribution services, and qualitative data gathering via social media sensing services.

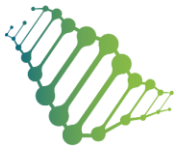
Tracks

Practitioner Track:

- Analyzing the impact of SCFHS decisions from the practitioner's perspective.
- Assessing and analyzing workplace burnout and stress.
- Assessing practitioner experience of SCFHS services in evaluation, registration, classification, and training.

Institutional Track:

- Optimizing value chains across institutions: Aligning supply and demand systems, assessing needs, and planning workforce requirements.
- Evaluating the effectiveness and outcomes of training Programs and Educational Institutions.
- Assessing job attractiveness across health professional sectors: investigating factors that influence job appeal in various health professions.



Curriculum and Education Track:

- Identifying the gap between local competencies and future international trends in health practice.
- Identifying the competencies and skills required in the future health professions and their alignment with modern health systems.
- Exploring modern technologies for assessing practitioner competencies: investigating opportunities to integrate advanced technology for evaluating and analyzing health professional skills.

Expected Outcomes

- Enhance the practitioner's experience by providing the necessary support to develop their skills and competencies, thereby maximizing their contribution to the job market.
- Improve the experience of institutions in their interactions with the SCFHS, while also enhancing practitioners' experiences within those institutions.
- Upgrade educational curricula and training programs for health practitioners to ensure alignment with the latest global standards and specialized market demands.

Indicators of Success

- Publications in Web of Science indexed journals (Q1 and Q2).
- Direct Influence on SCFHS strategies or guidelines particularly those contributing to the Health Sector Transformation Program under Vision 2030.

Eligibility

Applicants for this opportunity may apply either as a Principal Investigator (PI) or as a member of a research team. The eligibility criteria are outlined below for both categories:

General Requirements for All Applicants:

- Affiliation with a local entity.
- Open to both Saudi citizens and non-Saudi residents.

Additional Requirements for Principal Investigators (PIs):

- Must hold a PhD or an equivalent degree in a relevant field.

Certifications and Compliance

- Applicants must comply with the policies on ethical standards, human subjects' protection, data sharing, and other regulations in Saudi Arabia.
- Applicants must obtain approval from their institution's Scientific Research Ethics Committee after receiving the initial approval from the Saudi NIH.

Allowable Costs

The Saudi Commission for Health Specialties shall cover the costs associated with publishing in Web of Science indexed scientific journals, including those classified within the Q1 and Q2 categories. The researcher is obligated to acknowledge the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties and the Saudi National Institute of Health in the acknowledgment section of the



research papers and in the appropriate place in other scientific contributions, such as scientific lectures and presentations, in recognition of the support provided by the Commission in facilitating the publication of this research in accordance with the format prescribed by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties.

Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

Receiving Survey of Interest Entries

October 21, 2024 – December,01, 2024

- The SCFHS will launch a survey of interest for researchers to register their interest in applying (optional).

Orientation Workshop

December 16, 2024

- The Saudi NIH and the SCFHS will extend an invitation to applicants for an optional orientation workshop scheduled for December 16, 2024.

Submitting Research Proposals

January 1, 2025 – January 30, 2025

- Applicants must submit their proposals (full applications) by January 30, 2025.

Evaluating and Filtering Research Proposals

January 30, 2025 – March 30, 2025

- **Prescreening:**
The Saudi NIH will screen applications for eligibility, plagiarism, completeness, compliance with requirements, and adherence to Saudi NIH and SCFHS policies.
- **Scientific Review:**
A review panel composed of internal and external reviewers assesses and scores the applications based on their scientific merit.
- **Ethical Review:**
Proposals and all documents and approvals, including IRB approvals, will be reviewed to ensure alignment with the National Committee of Bioethics.
- **Final Approval:**
The Saudi NIH and SCFHS will select the winning research proposals in each track.

Awardee Announcement

April 16, 2025 – April 30, 2025

- The Saudi NIH and SCFHS will notify the selected awardee(s) of their successful application.

Contracting Stage

May 1, 2025 – May 26, 2025

Following final approval, the awardee will sign the necessary contracts.

Data providing stage

15 days from research project start execution date.



- Upon completing the contracting process, the awardee will begin receiving data services, survey distribution services, and social media analysis services.

Research Execution

Commencing July 2025 and concluding on the date specified in the project contract.

Reporting and monitoring

After an applicant is informed that their application is selected for the award, they are required to agree to undergo monitoring by the Saudi NIH for the duration of the research project.

A final technical report will be required at the end of the research project. The Saudi NIH will provide the awarded applicant with a deadline specifying the date for submitting the final report.

Award Close-Out

Concluding on the date specified in the project contract.

The Saudi NIH will conclude the award period once it is confirmed that all agreed-upon milestones have been achieved.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- The integrity and originality of the work.
- The significance of the problem and its relevance to the strategic challenges outlined by SCFHS.
- The proposed approach for addressing the problem.
- The soundness and justification of the rationale.
- The realistic estimation of expected outcomes.
- Risk management strategies.
- Alignment with SCFHS strategic objectives and the National Vision 2030.

Other Information

How to Apply

The application process is entirely paperless. The Saudi NIH and SCFHS will only accept applications submitted through the Saudi NIH Application Platform.

Applying for this opportunity will be through the following stages. Please note that Stage 1 is optional.

Stage 1 (from October- December 2024)

1. Take the [short survey linked here](#) to register for the opportunity and indicate your track of interest. Applicants who have not taken the survey while it is open may still apply with their proposals in Stage 2.
2. Attend the Orientation Workshop (see Review Process and Evaluation Criteria section above for the specific date). Applicants who did not attend the workshop may still apply with their proposals in Stage 2.

Stage 2 (January 2025)

1. Register to apply on the Saudi NIH Application Platform. Please take advantage of the submission manual provided to you here to guide you through the registration and submission processes.
2. Submit a full application through the Saudi NIH Application Platform beginning January 1,



2025 and before 5:00 PM on January 30, 2025.

Extension of the Project Execution Period

If additional time is required beyond the originally agreed period without incurring financial obligations, awarded researchers must submit a request for an extension at least 40 working days before the project's end date.

Data Sharing

- Data and products generated from the awarded project are subject to intellectual property and data-sharing conditions and policies established by the Saudi NIH and SCFHS.
- Applicants may need to provide approval from their institution's Scientific Research Ethics Committee following the initial research opportunity approval.
- Extracted data will be preserved for research purposes and may be reused by other researchers in the same field.
- Research outcomes will be used for decision-making, awareness, and may be further applied in subsequent studies.

Confidentiality

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

Templates for Full Applications

- Research Proposal Form
- Project Management Plan Form
- Research Team Biosketch Form
- Conflict of Interest Form

End of Opportunity Announcement