



IAGG Global Research Network on Health & Ageing Questionnaire for selection process

Name of the Centre: **Africa Unit for Transdisciplinary Health Research (AUTHeR)**
Key Investigator / Head of Department: **Prof Vera Roos**
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Description of the Centre:

a) Type of investigations:

- Basic Science / Fundamental
- Clinical Research
- Health Services Research
- Epidemiologic/Public Health Research
- Other

b) Themes investigated (please specify):

- Dementia
- Frailty
- Sarcopenia
- Other Neurodegenerative Disorders
- Geriatric Disorders
- Cardiovascular Risk Factors
- Metabolism
- Ageing research
- Genetics
- Gerontechnology
- Other

c) Number of investigators in ongoing positions:

- Less than 5
- to 10
- More than 10

d) Number of investigators funded by specific projects:

- 1 to 3
- 4 to 5
- More than 5

e) Does your Centre have a:

- Clinical affiliation
- Academic affiliation

f) Does your Centre have a basic sciences program? (Please specify topic)

- Yes
- No

If your Centre is affiliated to a Geriatric Department, please provide the following information:

a) Types of units:

- Acute Ward - **Number of beds: 0**
- Outpatient Ward - **Number of patients/year: 0**
- Community Care Unit - **Number of visits/year: 0**

- Day Hospital - **Number of places/day: 0**
- Geriatric Rehabilitation Unit - **Number of beds: 0**
- Long-Term Care - **Number of beds: 0**
- Special Units (stroke, memory, ortho-geriatric, psycho-geriatric) - **Number of beds: 0**

b) Number of staff in the Department:

Geriatric: **0**
 Gerontology: **0**
 Other: **0**

c) Does the Day Hospital have specialist services?

- Dementia / Memory
- Cardiovascular clinic
- Rehabilitation
- Falls assessment clinic
- Parkinson's disease clinic
- Other

d) Does your Geriatric Department already cooperate with supervising clinical trials?

- Yes
- No

Management of the Centre:

a) Is your Centre an existing national or government recognized medical research Centre?

- Yes
- No

b) Does the Centre receive funded grants? (Please specify source)

- Yes **SANPAD, Medical Research Council, PHIRI, Sanlam (Community research projects)**
- No

c) Does the Centre collaborate with trials funded by pharmaceutical companies?

- Yes
- No

d) Will the Centre shortly begin investigation projects?

- Yes
- No

Indicate the three main publications over the last 2 years:

1/ Name of Journal: **Journal of Psychology in Africa**

Title of article: **Older persons? experiences of loneliness: A South African perspective**

2/ Name of Journal: **Indigilinga: African Journal of Indigenous knowledge systems**

Title of article: **Older persons? coping with drought: Indigenous Knowledge application in rural South Africa**

3/ Name of Journal: **PRACTICE: Social Work in Action**

Title of article: **The future of community-based services for older persons in South Africa**

Please add short biographies (maximum 1 page) of the Key Investigators and Head of Department

Annamarie Kruger Annamarie Kruger is the research director of the Africa Unit for Transdisciplinary Health Research at the North-West University's Potchefstroom Campus since October 2008. Her research focus is on Urban and Rural Epidemiology, Nutrition, Health Transition and Development Studies. To date 29 of her papers have been published in peer reviewed scientific national and international journals, she attended various national and international conferences where she presented papers and posters, she serves on several national and international scientific and research councils and 16 of her research funding applications (national and international) have been successful. In 2001 she designed and

implemented the FLAGH-study (Farm Labour and General Health), a multidisciplinary intervention study with the aim of improving the quality of life of farm dwellers in the province of South Africa. This study is ongoing. Since 2005 she is also the main researcher for the PURE-study (Prospective Urban and Rural Epidemiology) in Africa. This study aims to track changing lifestyles, risk factors and chronic disease in order to decrease the burden of disease. Vera Roos Vera Roos is a Professor of Psychology at the North-West University's Potchefstroom Campus since 2004. To date she has published 37 peer reviewed papers in national and international journals and contributed to 18 chapters in textbooks. She has also presented various papers and posters at national and international conferences on topics related to community psychology with a focus on enabling contexts, relational wellbeing and the contributions of older persons in challenged contexts. Vera's theoretical approach, namely that the broader social environment informs the dynamic processes in complex systems, provided the background for the development of the Mmogo-method?. This method assists social researchers to access the dynamic interactions between people in relation to their communities within a particular context in a culturally sensitive manner. The Mmogo-method? is regarded as a visual narrative that assists people to recount experiences and to make sense of the context in which they function. Vera is committed to promote the relational and collective wellbeing of older people and communities in relation to the contextual realities by eliciting strengths and competencies. Vera Roos is a NRF-rated scientist on level C2. Herman Strydom Prof Herman Strydom was previously attached to the University of Pretoria and has since 1987 been appointed as associate professor and since 1999 as professor and subject head of Social Work at the Potchefstroom Campus of the North-West University. His interest regarding subject matter focuses on HIV and AIDS, gerontology, crime and research methodology. He is author and co-author of 80 accredited journal articles, while he is also author and co-author of 20 chapters in various text books and related publications. He is co-author of the following text book: De Vos, A.S., Strydom, H., Fouche, C.B. and Delport, C.S.L. Research at grass roots: for the social sciences and human service professions. This book has already had three editions, namely in 1998, 2002 and 2005, with a planned fourth edition for 2010. He often acts as external examiner for post-graduate candidates and modules of a variety of universities. He acted as study leader/co-leader for 39 master's students and as promoter/co-promoter for 21 doctoral students. Herman Strydom is a NRF-rated scientist on level C3. He has already presented 66 papers at national, and 69 at international, conferences.