

2 December 2019

Dr Rendani Ladzani
Director: Reviews and Evaluations
National Research Foundation
Meiring Naude Road
Brummeria
P.O. Box 2600
Pretoria, 0001
Email: rendani.ladzani@nrf.ac.za

Dear Dr Rendani

RE: HIV Prevention CoE Draft Review Report

Thank you very much for sending the final report with the recommendations. Our response to the report is provided below:

1. We are in broad agreement with reviewer comments.
2. We were particularly pleased to see that the reviewers supported the CoE's approach of high impact journal articles leading to change in global and local policies and practice in the HIV response.
3. The CoE is prepared to implement the recommendation relating to new NRF CoE funds being made available specifically to expand the CoE's research to include socio-behavioural studies. It should be noted that CAPRISA has not undertaken socio-behavioural research until now as there are many other groups (HSRC, HEARD, Africa Centre, etc) that have substantial capability in this area that we did not wish to duplicate.
4. The recommendations relating to student funding and information on students are being implemented.
 - a. A competitive process has been instituted with funding being made available for postgrad students to attend local conferences.
 - b. The confusion related to postgrads holding more than one bursary has been clarified and the postgrads have been informed that they are allowed to have more than one bursary, provided that only one is from a government source and the others are from private non-governmental sources.
 - c. Granular data on student demographics is being collected.
5. Community programmes will in future include specific capacity building activities and the evaluation process will include community members being asked to provide specific examples of training they acquired.
6. The CoE Director met with Professor Christoffels in Addis Ababa and they are working on resolving the matter of UWC involvement in the CoE.
7. Fund raising activities for the \$50 million (R700 million) CHEVA study is underway.
8. The CoE will engage with CAPRISA over the next year to reassess the relationship between the CoE and CAPRISA.
9. For complete financial transparency, all of the audited CoE financial statements are in the public domain and can be viewed on the CAPRISA website at the following address:
<https://www.caprisa.org/Pages/FinancialStatements>.

We are grateful to the review panel for their thorough and diligent review and helpful recommendations. We would like to thank the NRF team who did a superb job in organising the review.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Salim S Abdool Karim, FRS

Director: CAPRISA

CAPRISA Professor of Global Health, Columbia University

Director: DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in HIV Prevention

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research): University of KwaZulu-Natal

Adjunct Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Harvard University

Associate, Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard University

Adjunct Professor of Medicine, Cornell University