

RESEARCH CHAIR POSITION IN RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT



ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

Together with the Department of Science & Technology of South Africa, COHRED has created a Research Chair position in Research for Development. Research Chair positions are crucial, as they attract and retain the best research talent from around the world. In addition, Research Chair holders advance the frontiers of knowledge in their fields through their research, teaching and publications. In this case, the position will be jointly funded by the Department of Science and Technology and through funds sourced by COHRED.

The COHRED Group



Supporting research and innovation systems for health, equity and development



THE CHALLENGE

The world lacks a good understanding of the precise links between investments made in research and science in low and middle-income countries and the resulting positive impacts on health, equity and development. Furthermore, the world lacks a widely accepted metric for measuring the impacts and return on investments (ROI) in these areas. Without these, it is difficult to develop and implement consistent and measurable approaches to improved health, equity and development via Research for Health and to attract funds that are often channeled into more “measureable” activities.

THE SOLUTION

The COHRED/DST Research Chair in Research for Development will be hosted by a South African University or another research institution. The Research Chair holder will address the noted challenges and will focus on two key areas:

- i) increasing our understanding of the link between investments in research, science & technology and innovations and improvements in health, equity and development; and
- ii) work on a metric to assess progress and impact.

WHO BENEFITS AND HOW?

The work that will be done by the Research Chair will benefit not only COHRED and our partners & donors, but also the entire “research for health and development” field. Having a better understanding of the links between investments in research, science & technology and innovation and the resulting impacts on health, equity and development will help to develop more strategic approaches to investments and better results. In addition, having an agreed upon metric for measuring success and accessing progress and impact should lead to the more efficient and effective use of funds. Having proven and measurable results that emphasize ROI should help to attract attention to and funds for the most successful approaches.

SUCCESS STORIES

The Research Chair position is in its early days still. However the aim is to have this position in place and active by mid-2012. COHRED is proud to announce that we have secured 50% of the required long-term funding for this position.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

To ensure the continued long-term viability of the Research Chair position, COHRED seeks funds to match those which have been given already by the South African Department of Science & Technology. These combined funds will be used to support the research chair’s efforts to develop a better understanding of the link between and the ROI in research, science & technology and innovation in low & middle-income countries and the positive impact on health, equity and development. Furthermore, the Research Chair will focus on the development of a metric to assess progress and impact.