

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR THE  
AFRICAN MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE II (AMARI-II)**

**POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS**

**DUE DATE: JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

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## **BACKGROUND**

The **African Mental Health Research Initiative** ([AMARI](#)) is a mental health research capacity building programme. AMARI-II builds on the initial AMARI-I which ran from 2015 - 2022. AMARI-II is being implemented with funding support of the second phase of the Developing Excellence in Leadership, Training, and Science in Africa (DELTAS Africa), an initiative of the Science for Africa Foundation (SFA) with funding support of Wellcome and the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). AMARI-II is a consortium of six African universities whose overall goal is to build excellence in leadership, training, and science amongst African scholars in mental, neurological and substance use (MNS) research in Africa. AMARI-II aims to shift the centre of gravity in global mental health (GMH) by ensuring that African scientists become leaders in GMH research, training and implementation. Key focus will be on strengthening AMARI-II's collective ability to introduce interventions that reduce the treatment gap for mental health disorders in Africa. The AMARI-II project at the University of Zimbabwe Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (UZFMHS) invites applications for Postdoctoral fellowships for the 2024 intake.

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## **PURPOSE**

This funding opportunity is to build scientific excellence in MNS research through collaboration with universities in Africa and the UK. In addition to research training, fellows will be trained in research leadership, management, and mentorship. There will be a strong focus on developing community-based intervention strategies with the aim of addressing the treatment gap that exists in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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## **ELIGIBILITY**

Fellowships are open to candidates who wish to undertake postdoctoral studies in MNS and related areas.

**1. Postdoctoral Fellowship applicants must:**

- have a PhD in a foundational discipline relevant to public mental health (e.g. psychology, public health, medicine, psychiatry, occupational therapy, social work).
- have submitted their PhD thesis by the application deadline or have completed their PhD within the last 5 years.
- show strong personal motivation to complete the programme within the stipulated fellowship time.

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## FELLOWSHIP PACKAGE

AMARI will provide scholarship for a Postdoctoral Fellow and will cover the following:

- Reasonable support for research activities/ fieldwork
- Monthly stipend
- Travel costs for agreed conferences and training workshops

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## RESEARCH AREAS TO BE FUNDED

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What is the acceptability, feasibility, and effectiveness of culturally-appropriate interventions for mental disorders in African countries?
2. What is the validity and reliability of instruments for assessing mental health needs and outcomes in African countries?
3. What are the social determinants of mental health in African countries?
4. What are the effects of COVID-19 on mental health in Africa?
5. What support do early career mental health researchers from Africa need to build sustained, independent research careers?

### Cross Cutting Themes:

Complex interventions	Mental health systems	Multi-morbidity	Ethics	Suicidal behaviour
COVID-19	Climate Change	Gender	Youth	Community and Public Engagement

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Candidates are expected to complete their studies within the stipulated time of their programme.
- Postdoctoral candidates are expected to register for their studies with the University of Zimbabwe and any other institutions in Zimbabwe.
- As a condition of the award, AMARI-II stipulates that the candidate attends specific workshops or summer schools in relevant research methods.
- Involvement in an existing research programme/project will be an added advantage. Please note that AMARI-II may require additional information, over and above information supplied in the application, in order to reach a decision about the suitability of any candidate for the award of the fellowship.

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## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. A fully completed application form.
2. A comprehensive CV including relevant research and work experience.
3. Certified transcripts and copies of post high school qualifications submitted as ONE pdf file.
4. Certified Copy of Passport/ Scanned Copy.

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**SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION PACK TO:**

Research Support Centre,  
University of Zimbabwe Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences  
Parirenyatwa Hospital  
P O Box A178  
Avondale  
Harare  
Zimbabwe

Or Email to: [amariconsortium@gmail.com](mailto:amariconsortium@gmail.com) and cc: [rscsacoreoffice@gmail.com](mailto:rscsacoreoffice@gmail.com)

Deadline for submission: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

\*Incomplete applications will **NOT** be considered.