

The Role, Needs and Requirements of the Provisional Research Committee

Prof Keolebogile Motaung
Chairperson : PHRC



OUTLINE

- National Health Act
- Role of PHRC
- Goals of PHRC
- Expectation from PHRC

NATIONAL HEALTH ACT

National Health Act (No 61 of 2003) establishes the *National Health Research Committee* (NHRC) [Section 69 (1-5)], to:

- Determine the health research to be carried out by public health authorities
- Ensure that health research agendas focus on priority health problems
- Develop and advise the Minister on the application and implementation of an integrated national strategy for health research
- Coordinate the research activities of public health authorities

ROLE OF PHRC

- Currently, all nine provinces have established PHRCs
- All health-related research conducted in the provinces, including health facility-based, community-based and laboratory-based studies, must be recorded in the National Health Research Database (NHRD)
- Permission to conduct research in these facilities must be obtained from the PHRC after approval by a Research Ethics Committee (REC) registered with the NHREC based in South Africa

- Reports of completed research conducted in the province must be submitted to the PHRC for coordination and determination of the research agenda.
- The PHRC as the provincial arm of the NHRC, with the sole mandate to foster the aims of the NHRC shall provide the NHRC annually with information regarding the functional status of health research in the province

GOALS OF PHRC

1. Coordination

- i) To coordinate and lead the process of priority setting, to develop and continuously review health research priorities, and to develop a research agenda for the province
- (ii) To coordinate research undertaken in the province;
- (iii) To mobilise resources for research undertaken in the province;
- (iv) To promote the use of health research outcomes in policy development and service provision at all levels of the health care system within the province
- (v) In collaboration with research stakeholders, to develop and implement a capacity development strategy to strengthen research capacity in the province.

- (vi) To support the development and appropriate use of the NHRD as a research coordination tool;
- (vii) To use international best practices in setting the provincial health research agenda, including:
 - Identifying provincial research needs and gaps to inform the relevant research stakeholders in the province; and
 - Identifying research priorities for health facility based research

2. RESOURCES MOBILIZATION

- The PHRC will mobilise resources for health research undertaken in the province by:
- Lobbying and giving advice to the provincial department on equitable use of internal research funding; and
- Promoting training and research capacity development

3. RESEARCH TRANSLATION

The PHRC is required to promote the use of health research outcomes in policy development and service provision at all levels of the provincial health care system by:

- a. Reviewing preliminary and final research reports and giving advice on policy implications of completed research and facilitate the implementation thereof; and
- b. Organising and coordinating the dissemination of research findings from research conducted in the province through activities such as seminars, symposia, open research days etc

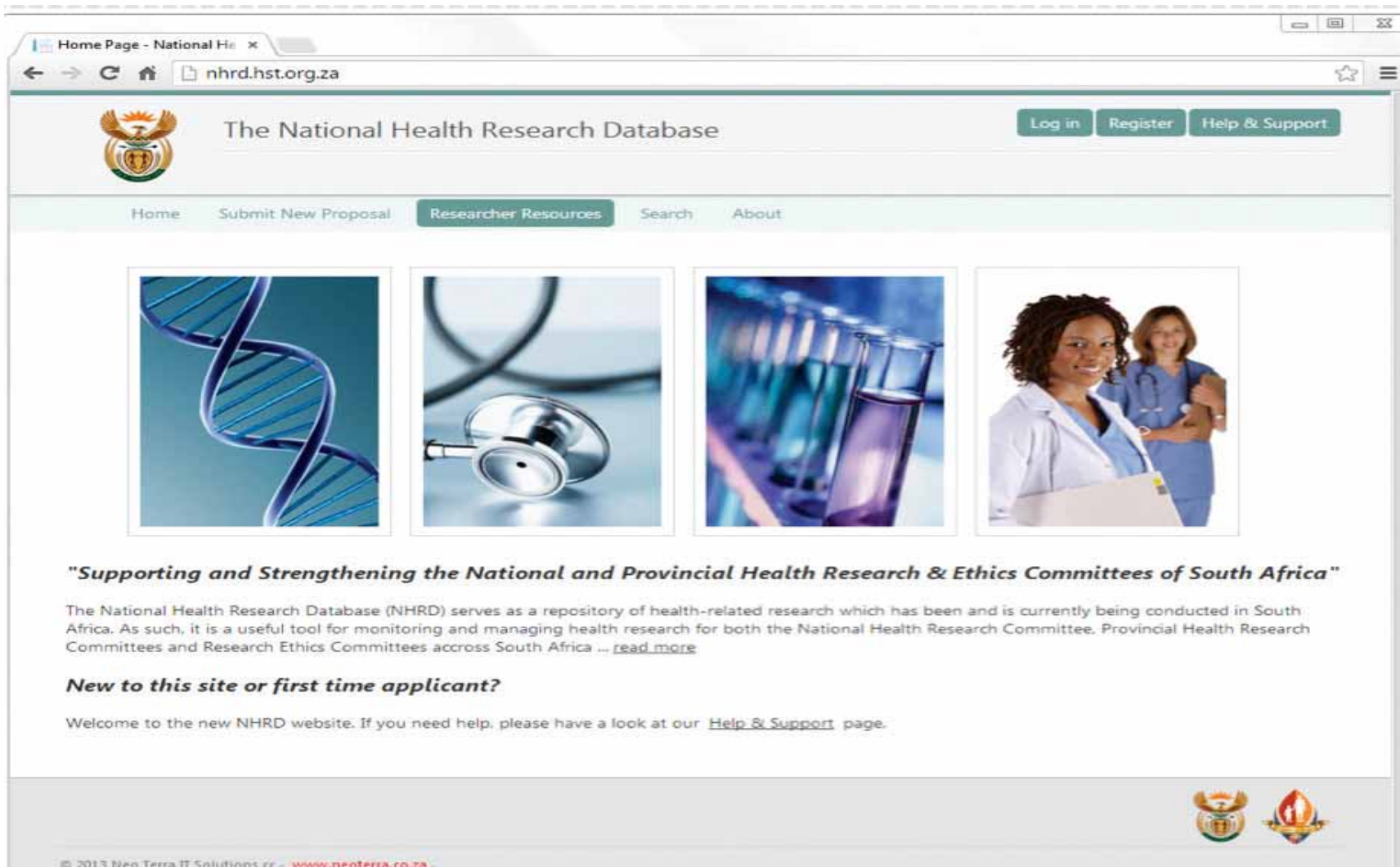
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

- 1st PHRC appointed in 2012
- 2nd appointed in 2015
 - Laurel Baldwin-Ragaven (Chair)
Clinical HoD Family Medicine – GDoH &
Professor – Wits University
- 3rd PHRC appointment done through a transparent process.
- Members appointment through advertisement.
- MEC




INSTITUTION	REPRESENTATIVE	DESIGNATION
TUT	Professor Shirley Motaung	Assistant Dean: Research, Postgraduate studies and Innovation
UP	Professor Jannie Hugo	HOD: Family Medicine
SMU	Professor Lekan Ayo-Yusuf	DVC: Research, Postgraduate and Innovation
WITS	Professor Maria Papathanasoupulus	Assistant Dean: Research and Innovation
UJ	Professor Christopher Stein	Chair of Faculty of Health Sciences Ethics Committee
WITS	Professor Albert van Rensburg	
CSIR	Dr Lee Ann - Noach	Research and Development Strategic Programme Officer
SMU	Dr Matsontso Mathebula	
GDOH	Professor Golele	HOD: Hand and Microsurgery
GDOH	Dr Xavier Padalanan	Family Physician
GDOH	Ms Salamina Hlahane	Director: Sedibeng District
AURUM	Ms Thandi Chaane	Programme Manager

Research Application Process



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the homepage of the National Health Research Database (NHRD). The browser's address bar shows the URL nhrd.hst.org.za. The website header features the South African coat of arms, the title "The National Health Research Database", and navigation buttons for "Log in", "Register", and "Help & Support". Below the header is a secondary navigation menu with "Home", "Submit New Proposal", "Researcher Resources", "Search", and "About". The main content area contains four images: a DNA double helix, a stethoscope, laboratory test tubes, and two healthcare professionals. Below these images is a quote: **"Supporting and Strengthening the National and Provincial Health Research & Ethics Committees of South Africa"**. A paragraph follows, describing the NHRD as a repository of health-related research. Below this is a section titled **New to this site or first time applicant?** with a welcome message and a link to the [Help & Support](#) page. The footer includes the South African coat of arms, a logo, and the copyright notice: © 2013 Neo Terra IT Solutions cc - www.neoterra.co.za.

APPLICATION PROCESS



Select Health Research Co x

nhrd.hst.org.za/Proposal/SelectCommittee



The National Health Research Database

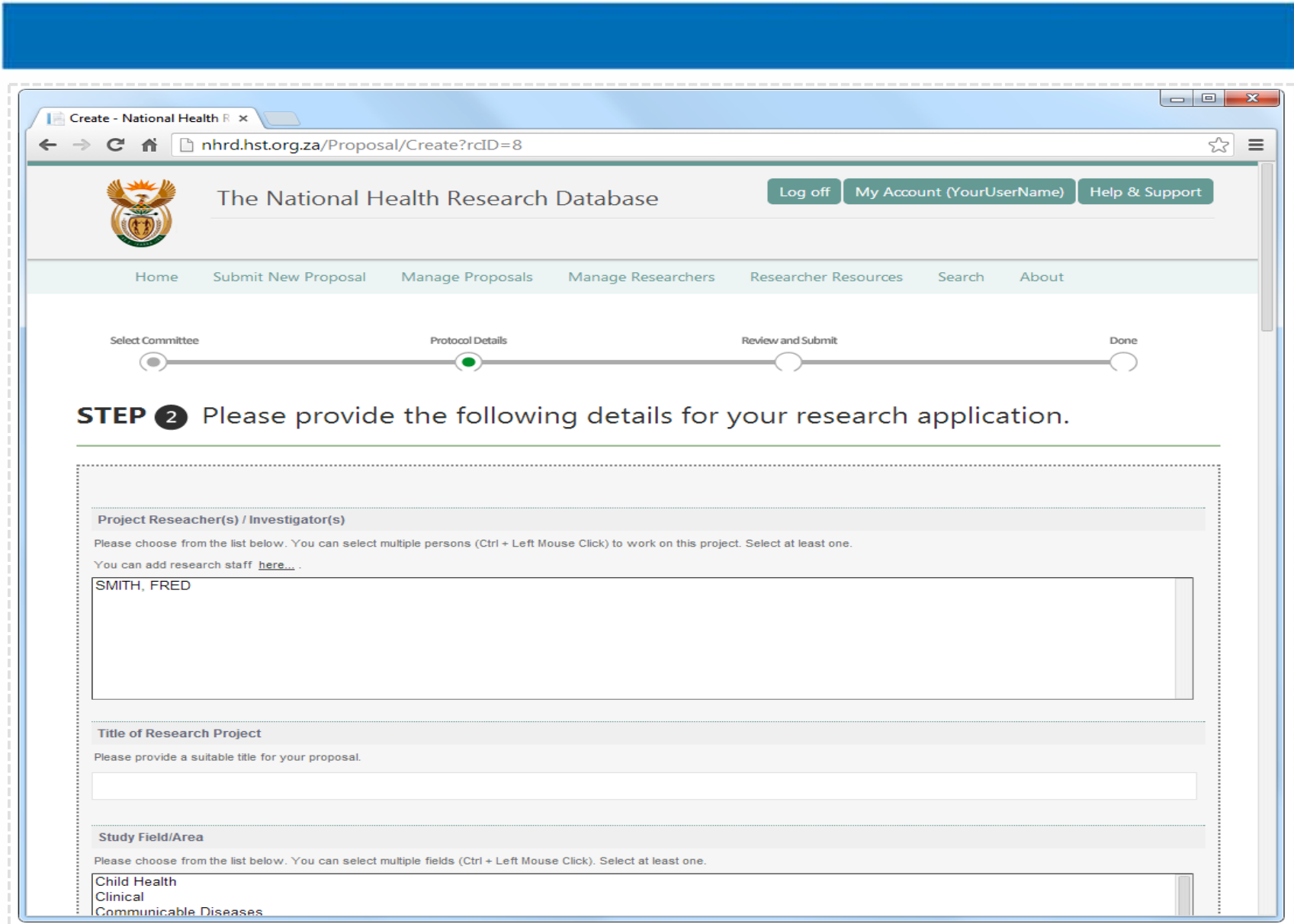
Log off My Account (YourUserName) Help & Support

Home Submit New Proposal Manage Proposals Manage Researchers Researcher Resources Search About

Select Committee Protocol Details Review and Submit Done

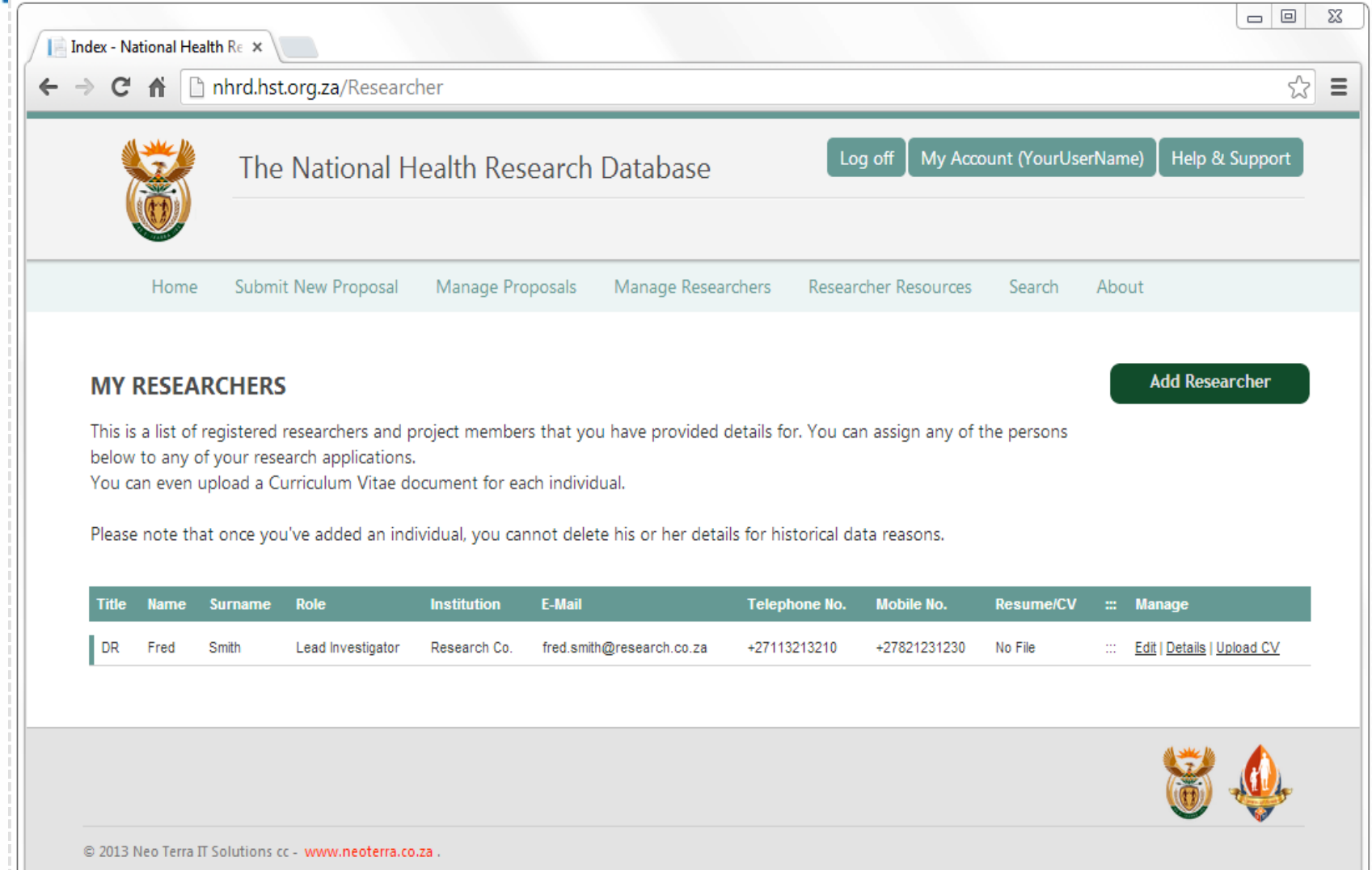
STEP 1 Please select the Health Research Committee relevant to your research application.

Eastern Cape Provincial Health Research Committee 	Free State Provincial Health Research Committee 	Gauteng Provincial Health Research Committee 
Kwa-Zulu Natal Provincial Health Research Committee 	Limpopo Provincial Health Research Committee 	Mpumalanga Provincial Health Research Committee 
Northern Cape Provincial Health Research Committee 	North West Provincial Health Research Committee 	Western Cape Provincial Health Research Committee 



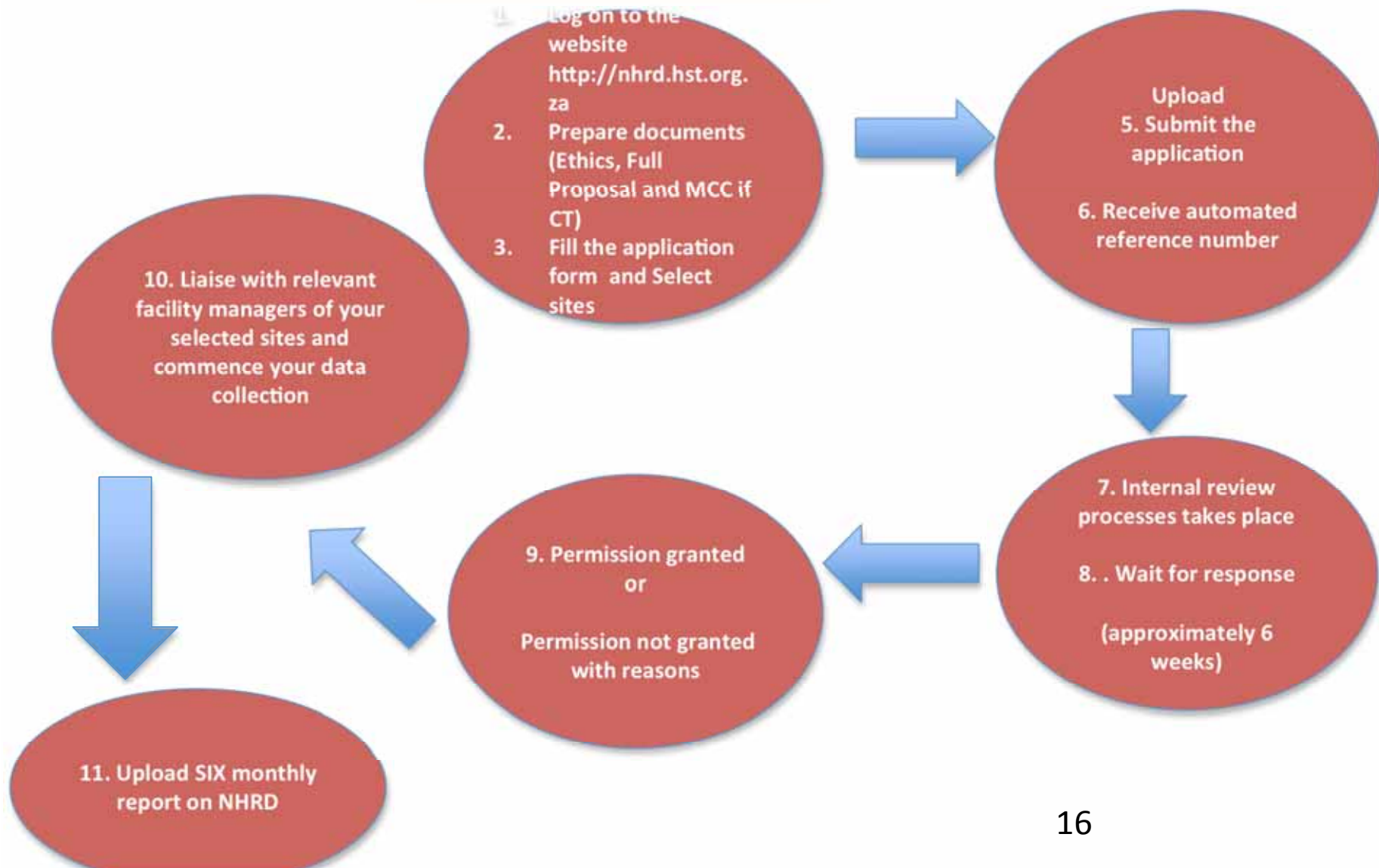
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `nhrd.hst.org.za/Proposal/Create?rcID=8`. The page title is "The National Health Research Database". The navigation menu includes: Home, Submit New Proposal, Manage Proposals, Manage Researchers, Researcher Resources, Search, and About. A progress bar at the top shows four steps: "Select Committee" (inactive), "Protocol Details" (active, highlighted with a green dot), "Review and Submit" (inactive), and "Done" (inactive). Below the progress bar, the main heading is "STEP 2 Please provide the following details for your research application." The form contains three sections: 1. "Project Researcher(s) / Investigator(s)" with instructions to choose from a list and a text area containing "SMITH, FRED". 2. "Title of Research Project" with instructions to provide a suitable title and an empty text input field. 3. "Study Field/Area" with instructions to choose from a list and a list box containing "Child Health", "Clinical", and "Communicable Diseases".

INTERNAL MANAGEMENT



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `nhrd.hst.org.za/Researcher`. The page title is "The National Health Research Database". The navigation menu includes: Home, Submit New Proposal, Manage Proposals, Manage Researchers, Researcher Resources, Search, and About. The main content area is titled "MY RESEARCHERS" and includes an "Add Researcher" button. Below the heading is a paragraph explaining that this is a list of registered researchers and project members that the user has provided details for, and that they can assign any of these persons to their research applications. A note states that once an individual is added, their details cannot be deleted for historical data reasons. A table lists the researchers, with one entry for "Fred Smith" as a "Lead Investigator" at "Research Co." with contact information. The table has columns for Title, Name, Surname, Role, Institution, E-Mail, Telephone No., Mobile No., Resume/CV, and Manage. The Manage column for Fred Smith includes links for Edit, Details, and Upload CV. The footer contains the copyright notice: © 2013 Neo Terra IT Solutions cc - www.neoterra.co.za.

RESEARCH APPLICATION PROCESS



Internal Review Process for Research Permission

Researcher submits application online – on the NHRD

Applications that are downloaded daily by the Provincial Database administrator

NHRD administrator distributes application documents forms to appropriate review committee within 48 hours. DRCs and some HRCs meet once a month to review and grants permission, except for CTs which are reviewed by the PHRC and granted permission by DDG: Clinical Services.



Permission letter / comments of review is uploaded on NHRD for applicant to download

Applicant submits first research progress report to GDOH research administrator (subsequent progress reports to be submitted 6-monthly)

JHB DISTRICT PROCESS

DRC administrator downloads protocol documents and submits to DRC for allocation



Researcher send application back with 2 hard copies



Protocol is reviewed by the committee and recommends / not recommend permission



District CD signs permission for district protocols and Executive Director signs for LA



Permissions letters uploaded on NHRD by respective District administrators and Provincial administrator downloads that letter and upload it on researchers' profile

Researcher checks the NHRD after 6 weeks of submission and downloads the permission letter

Tshwane DISTRICT PROCESS

DRC administrator downloads protocol documents and submits to DRC for allocation



DRC send research application form to PHC Manager



Protocol is reviewed by the committee and recommends / not recommend permission



District CD signs permission for both district protocols and Local Authority



Permissions letters uploaded on NHRD by respective District administrators and Provincial administrator downloads that letter and upload it on researchers' profile



Researcher checks the NHRD after 6 weeks of submission and downloads the permission letter

EKURHULENI DISTRICT PROCESS

DRC administrator downloads protocol documents and submits to DRC for allocation



Researcher send signed application back to DRC



DRC presents present the study to District Service Delivery Task Team (PHC managers, sub – district managers and clinic managers to recommends / not recommend permission



District chair signs permission for both District protocols and Local Authority



Permissions letters uploaded on NHRD by respective District administrators and Provincial administrator downloads that letter and upload it on researchers' profile

Researcher checks the NHRD after 6 weeks of submission and downloads the permission letter

SEDIBENG DISTRICT PROCESS

DRC administrator downloads protocol documents and submits to DRC for allocation



Protocol is reviewed by the committee and recommends / not recommend permission



District chair signs permission for both District protocols and Local Authority



Permissions letters uploaded on NHRD by respective District administrators and Provincial administrator downloads that letter and upload it on researchers' profile



Researcher checks the NHRD within one week of submission and downloads the permission letter

WEST DISTRICT PROCESS

DRC administrator downloads protocol documents and submits to DRC for allocation



Protocol is reviewed by the committee and recommends / not recommend permission



District chair signs permission for both District protocols and Local Authority



Permissions letters uploaded on NHRD by respective District administrators and Provincial administrator downloads that letter and upload it on researchers' profile



Researcher checks the NHRD within two weeks of submission and downloads the permission letter

HOSPITALS PROCESS

- Not all hospitals have research committees.
- Protocols are sent directly to CEO.
- Protocols reviewed by delegated clinical managers.
- Permission granted by CEO.

Streamlining permission to conduct research

- Consultations done with DRCs and some hospitals to develop:
 - Common application
 - Common criteria
 - Common protocol review
 - Common permission letter
- Common application form will be uploaded on NHRD. HREC approves and Province grants permission.
- Draft SOP is developed

Criteria for Permission

- Feasibility
- Financial implications
- Service implications
- Staff implications
- Reputational considerations
- Q six monthly interval reporting & feedback at the end of the study

Common Mistakes of Applications

Necessary forms not uploaded:

- Full protocol
- HREC /HREC form has expired
- Incomplete application form, e.g sites not listed
- Data collection tools
- Informed consent
- Names of PIs

PROVINCIAL RESEARCH CHIEF DIRECTORATE

Mr Mpho Lethata

Mpho.Lethata@gauteng.gov.za / 011 2415823 /

Ms Nomonde Dinga

Nomonde.Dinga@gauteng.gov.za / 0824946061 / 011
3553503

Dr Bridget Ikalafeng

Bridget.ikalafeng@gauteng.gov.za / 079 083 2669
/0824619354

Ms Sellinah Dumela 0828294080

Sellinah. Dumela@gauteng.gov.za / 0828294080

Ms Tsholofelo Adelekan

Tsholofelo.Adelekan@Gauteng.gov.za / 0722304542



EXPECTATION?



THANK YOU