

Instructions for MicroResearch (MR) Coaches

What does a MR Coach Do?

The coach's job is to encourage/guide and review MR project proposals as they are formed, reviewed, submitted for funding and implemented.

The Initial Phase:

- Research project proposals are initially developed by the groups participating in MR workshops in Africa.
- After the workshops, each group may apply for a MR grant (May and November deadlines) using the MR application form and process.
- The group will need to refine the original proposal and develop a budget with help from the coach and others, in preparation for submissions for funding (and ultimately submission for Research Ethics Committee (REC) approval).
- The groups will be encouraged to contact their coach early in the process, even when the idea is relatively rough. Early contact with the group is VERY important to establish a positive relationship. You may need to initiate contact and ongoing communication by email and/or Skype. We are trying to provide a secure internet access for them so that Skype will be tenable. Depending on access and cost the groups may not be able to use Skype, but we hope it will work.
- You will be expected to offer advice and support for them over the initial grant preparation process.
- Estimate 1-3 hours of your time as coach in this initial phase.

Grant Application:

- The application for their MR grant will be reviewed by three reviewers (one of whom may be you). MR office will send you and the group a summary of the reviews and list specific questions they must answer to improve the application and make it scientifically acceptable.
- The research team should work with you, their coach, to answer the questions and revise the original application.
- Depending on the changes needed, these revisions and answers to the reviewers' questions may take 2 or 5 more hours of your time.
- Before the group can resubmit the application, you must review their changes and state if you think the questions asked from MR reviewers have been answered. Your approval to resubmit the application is a requirement.
- After the MR grant application is accepted, your role is to assist them in preparing the REC submission and then coach the research team through implementation of the project and writing their final report/publication.
- Depending on the quality of their work and level of your involvement this may result in a co-authorship.

Outcome: Whatever the ultimate result, we hope you will feel a great deal of satisfaction at the outcome.