



# STRong Heart

Strengthening Trials and Research  
for Rheumatic Heart Disease



## Dr Niresh Bhagwandin

South African Medical Research Council  
Senior Research Administrator

Qualifications: BSc (Hons) MSc PhD MBA

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### About

Dr Niresh Bhagwandin is a senior research administrator with extensive experience in management of strategic research initiatives. He holds a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Cape Town and an MBA (with distinction) from Keele University, UK.

Dr Bhagwandin has held senior leadership positions at the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), including Senior Specialist Scientist and Executive Manager: Strategic Research Initiatives. His work has focused on business development and project management of large-scale national and international research programmes, clinical research platforms particularly in infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and medical technologies.

He has served as Principal Investigator on multiple cooperative agreements, including SAMRC–CDC collaborations and as South Africa’s National Contact Point for Health under the EU Horizon 2020 framework.

Dr Bhagwandin has contributed extensively to advisory boards, grant review panels, and global health initiatives, with a strong focus on strengthening research systems and fostering research excellence in low- and middle-income country settings.

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