



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MUHIMBILI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH AND ALLIED SCIENCES



**OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR –
PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT**

24th June, 2021

NIH AWARD FOR SPARCO CLINICAL COORDINATING CENTER

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) through National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has awarded a grant to SPARCo Clinical Coordinating Center through Sickle Cell Programme at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) for 5 years (2021-2026).

Grant Number: U24 RFA-HL-21-006

Principal Investigator: Prof Julie Makani

Programme Manager: Ms. Malula Nkanyemka

Department of Haematology and Blood Transfusion, School of Medicine

SPARCo Center will build on achievements made, coordinating and expanding the consortium to be a sustainable continent-wide resource to facilitate Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) research to improve understanding of disease epidemiology in Africa, through a robust framework for research, health and education. The Overall Aim is to develop sustainable continent - wide SCD resources for multidisciplinary research that will increase understanding of and improve health outcomes in Africa.

The Sickle Pan-African Research Consortium Clinical Coordinating Center (**SPARCo Center**) along with Sickle Africa Data Coordinating Centre (SADaCC) with six (6) Consortium sites from Mali, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Nigeria and Tanzania will form, the SCD in SSA Consortium (SickleInAfrica).

The specific aims of SPARCO Center will be to i) provide governance, oversight and operations, ii) expand the sickle cell registry and database to a total of 34,000 participants, iii) integrate SCD standards of Care into healthcare, iv) coordinate cohort and implementation research studies v) facilitate participation in short, medium and long-term skills development programs, and vi) facilitate engagement with public and private partners across the globe.

On behalf of the MUHAS Community, the University Management wishes to congratulate the Principal Investigator and her research team for the award and wish them all the best in implementation. The University also extends gratitude to the NHLBI and NIH for the award and for continued support to MUHAS.

Issued by:

Public Relations Unit, MUHAS