



Ministry of Health

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

THE 4TH NATIONAL HEALTH AND RESEARCH CONFERENCE

8-10 NOVEMBER, 2017

ROYAL SWAZI CONVENTION CENTRE

THEME:

**RESEARCH-BASED EVIDENCE FOR IMPROVED POLICY,
PROGRAMMING AND PRACTICE**

Submission Deadline:

31 July, 2017 at 5PM SAST

Introduction

The Ministry of Health will be holding the fourth National Health Research Conference towards the end of the year. This is a forum where experts in the field of health and related disciplines within and outside the borders of Swaziland come together to share scientific knowledge on cutting edge research and programme/projects whose findings have and continue to be instrumental in shaping health policy, programming and practice. The conference is therefore a must-attend event for leaders, policy makers, change agents, health and development practitioners, scientists, researchers and participants from all walks of life who have an interest in health. To this end the Ministry of Health is calling on individual researchers, scholars, organisations, institutions who have carried out research between 2012 and 2017 to submit for high quality oral or poster presentation abstracts relating to any of the conference subthemes.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- i. To bring together experts, policy leaders, health programmers, economists and service providers to interrogate existing evidence and experiences on the importance of health research in improving the health system;
- ii. To disseminate the most recent research and best practices on health efficiency models in addressing the health burden of diseases;
- iii. To enhance scientific and strategic collaborations for resource mobilization towards sustainable health financing;
- iv. To promote effective action through leadership and shared responsibility at all levels of all sectors (government, private, civil society) to invest in health and achieve vision 2022
- v. To promote accountability among all stakeholders in equitable financing and health investment for sustainable development.

THE CONFERENCE WILL HAVE FOUR SUBTHEMES AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. Advancing clinical and biomedical research for improved health outcome**
- 2. Health Systems Strengthening: A journey towards policy-research connection**
- 3. Social, environmental and population research: advancing research and science in partnership with consumers of health services**
- 4. Health research financing, innovation and resource for sustainable development**

1. ADVANCING CLINICAL AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH FOR IMPROVED HEALTH OUTCOMES

Biomedical research is research with the goal of understanding normal and abnormal human functioning, at the molecular, cellular, organ system and whole body levels, including development of tools and techniques to be applied for this purpose; developing new therapies or devices that improve health or the quality of life of individuals, up to the point where they are tested on human subjects. Biomedical research may also include studies on human subjects that do not have a diagnostic or therapeutic orientation. Clinical research is research with the goal of improving the diagnosis, and treatment (including rehabilitation and palliation), of disease and injury; improving the health and quality of life of individuals as they pass through normal life stages. Clinical research usually encompasses research on, or for the treatment of, patients.

Abstracts for this sub-theme can be submitted under the following tracks:

Track 1a: Health across the lifespan

Track 1b: Prevention, control and management of communicable diseases

Track 1c: Prevention, control and management of Non-Communicable Diseases

Track 1d: HIV Prevention, Antiretroviral treatment & HIV Care

Track 1e: Sexual & reproductive health and rights

2. HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING: A JOURNEY TOWARDS POLICY-RESEARCH CONNECTION

This sub-theme focuses on analyzing, engaging, and challenging power and politics, in health systems research (HSR), health systems development or learning strategies, in relation to the broad conference theme of Research-Based Evidence for Improved Policy, Programming and Practice. Health Systems Strengthening research includes health services research which focus on research with the goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of health professionals and the health care system, through changes to practice and policy. Health Systems research is a multidisciplinary field of scientific investigation that studies how social factors, financing systems, organizational structures and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviors affect access to health care, the quality and cost of health care, and,

ultimately, health and well-being. This sub-theme incorporates research and experience from different settings, that explore the nature of, and strategies for building, resilience to unexpected shocks and in the face of the ongoing daily demands of every health system (such as funding, human resources and data for decision-making needs). Submissions under this sub-theme can address areas of ongoing and/or emerging and as-yet unidentified future needs (e.g. climate change, urbanization, unforeseen outbreaks), as well as efforts to improve health care access and intersectoral action on the social determinants of health related to unfinished and emerging needs, sustaining gains and absorbing (or averting) shocks. They may also present innovative research approaches around these issues or relevant experience of learning communities, for example.

Abstracts for this sub-theme can be submitted under the following tracks:

Track 2a: Health governance: power and politics of health systems

Track 2b: Human resource for health-staffing norms

Track 2c: Continuous Quality Improvement for better health outcomes

Track 3d: Organisational culture and system performance

Track 3e: Health system response to changing demographics

Track 3f: Health access for key and vulnerable populations

3. Social, Environmental and Population Research: Advancing research and science in partnership with consumers of health services

Population and public health research comprises research with the goal of improving the health of the population, or of defined sub-populations, through a better understanding of the ways in which social, cultural, environmental, occupational and economic factors determine health status including the priorities and realities of populations facing vulnerability and marginalization in order to put into practice and sustain our value base of gender, social and health equity, social inclusion, and ethics in policy, practice and research. This sub-theme also proposes new partnerships and collaborations through which the symposium themes can be advanced. Examples of possible submissions under this theme might include (but are not limited to):

Abstracts for this sub-theme can be submitted under the following tracks:

Track 3a: Developing system-focused multi-actor partnerships to increase availability, access, affordability, and use of medicines and services

Track 3b: Communication, negotiation, and mediation skills and processes for effective partnerships

Track 3c: New mechanisms and approaches to enhancing research use by communities and health systems practitioners

Track 3d: Community/civil society engagement

Track 3e: Innovative ways and strategies to address Stigma & discrimination

Track 3 f: Ensuring Quality and Socially Responsive Health Services for key and vulnerable populations

4. Health Research financing, innovation and resources for sustainable development

Fiscal space is commonly defined as the budgetary room that allows a government to provide resources for public purposes without undermining fiscal sustainability. Macroeconomic conditions, budget reprioritization towards health and measures to improve efficiency are the three most important drivers for enlarging fiscal space for health. Health research needs to be prioritized within the fiscal space. Funding of the national health agenda and synergy to ensure availability of research funding aligned with the principles of responsible innovation, creating value for society in an ethical and responsible way. Responsible innovation in health service delivery is a process that seeks to promote creativity and opportunities for service delivery science and innovation that are socially desirable and undertaken in the public interest. Successful research projects, pilots and innovations need to be scaled up but often time, financial resources are limited. Abstracts in a given sub-theme may address any of funding and resource mobilization for, cutting-edge research, innovative research approaches and measures, Novel strategies for developing capacity, Learning communities and knowledge translation, Innovative practice in health systems development.

Abstracts for this sub-theme can be submitted under the following tracks:

- Track 4a: Economics, financing, policy, regulatory and ethical issues
- Track 4b: Sustainable development through Health research Financing
- Track 4c: Resource mobilization for health investments
- Track 4d: Sustainable public, private, and civil society partnerships
- Track 4e: Health and Research Finance and Regulatory Mechanisms

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Abstracts can be submitted based on option 1 or option 2 submission guidelines

Author(s) can submit at most five (5) abstracts for presentation at the conference.

OPTION 1: Focus on original descriptive or analytic studies using quantitative or qualitative methods. Option 1 is most suited for scientific research

Authors are urged to follow the guidelines when developing and submitting their abstracts:

1. The abstract should not exceed 300 words
2. Have a title, name(s) of author(s), author(s) affiliation, maximum five (5) key words and contacts (preferably email address) of the corresponding author.
3. Structured with introduction/background, aim/objective, methods, key findings, conclusion, and recommendation
4. Should be in English
5. Abstracts submitted before and presented at international conferences cannot be resubmitted. However, abstracts that have been submitted to other conference and not accepted can be submitted to the NHRC as long as they are in line with the conference theme and tracks.

OPTION 2: Describe best practices/innovative practices and policy issues in the general field of investing in health. Option 2 is most suited for presenting best practices, new knowledge or analyses that are important for understanding and responding to the investments in health for development and its future implications. It is suited for information that was gained through systematic forms of knowledge production/management, by means other than scientific research or evaluation. This process must include some evidence provided through some data obtained. Abstracts presented under the second option should contain concise statements of:

Background/Issues: a summary of the issue(s) addressed by the abstract, or a description of the problem being analysed or evaluated.

Description: a description of the intervention, project, experience, service and/or advocacy including the setting/location, design, affected population, data collection and methods of evaluation used.

Lessons learned: conclusions and implications of the intervention or project. Data that support the lessons learned and provide evidence must be included. A clear and succinct statement of its relevance to policy change and intervention is essential.

Conclusion/Recommendations: possible next steps for implementation. Clearly state how the best practice/ intervention/study can influence policy and identify the priority health areas results can be useful.

SPECIAL SESSION, SYMPOSIA AND SATELLITE CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Any interested person may submit a proposal to host a special session, symposia or workshop at the conference. All sessions should relate to the theme of the conference. Deadline for submission of special sessions is August 15, 2017

- Each session will be allocated a maximum of 2 hours
- Available space is for 50-100 persons. Bigger space can be arranged on special request
- Each sessions must have at least 2 facilitators and a rapporteur
- Submit a proposal/concept of 1-2 page outlining:
 - Title of the session, symposia, satellite workshop
 - Target audience
 - Background and learning objectives
 - Linkage of the topic to the objectives of the conference
 - Learning objectives of the session, symposia/satellite workshop
 - List of topics to be discussed/presented
 - List of presenters/facilitators for each topic and their qualifications

Only a limited number of slots are available for special sessions, symposia or satellite workshops will be available. The submitted proposals will be evaluated by the Abstract Review Committee.

Submission of electronic or hard copy abstracts

Authors are **urged to submit abstracts can be submitted electronically** via email to any of the addresses below:

MOH Health Research Unit Website

Log in <http://shrswaziland.com>

Steps to follow

1. Conferences and workshops
2. National Health Research Conference 2017: <http://shrswaziland.com/nhrc2017>
3. Click here to submit Abstract submission form
4. Click here to load registration form.
5. Click to submit evidence to payment

UNISWA Website

UNISWA: Link <http://www.uniswa.sz/academics/healthsciences/nhrc2017>

Steps to follow:

1. Login www.uniswa.sz
2. Academics
3. Faculty of health Sciences
4. Conferences and workshops
5. National Health Research Conference 2017
6. Abstract submission form

OR

Government Website

Swazi government: <http://www.gov.sz>

Steps to follow:

1. Login www.gov.sz
2. Ministry of Health
3. 4rd National Health Research Conference
4. Click here to load registration form.
5. Click to submit registration form and abstract form.

In the event that it is not possible to submit electronically, hard copies can be delivered in a sealed envelope and clearly marked “4th National Health Research Conference 2017 abstract” to secretariat at the following address:

The Secretariat
Health Research Unit
Ministry of Health
Swaziland Christian University building, Mbabane
P. O. Box 5
Mbabane
Tel: 2404 7253/5469

Authors are urged to clearly mark whether the submitted abstract is for oral or poster presentation. An author can submit a maximum of five abstracts.

PRESENTATION DURING THE CONFERENCE

The author(s) will be responsible for the preparation of an oral and/or poster presentation during the conference as determined by the Abstract Review Committee (ARC). However, the author(s) can indicate the type of presentation they wish to make (Oral or Poster, Poster only). However, ARC reserves the right to re-allocate the chosen format. Abstracts that are highly rated in the review process but not accepted for a formal Oral presentation will be invited as a poster presentation.

Oral presentations

Oral presentations shall be made in a 15 minute time limit.

Poster Presentations

Space will be reserved to display poster presentations. Poster presentation will occur in a marketplace fashion, where all posters will be presented in a separate poster presentation session. Poster presentation sessions will be included in the conference programme, and the author will be requested to be present during the allocated session. The poster size should be 60cmx 85cm, landscape orientation. Authors will be responsible for mounting posters, being available to discuss their exhibit, and removing posters.

Detailed guidelines for abstract development & submission

Detailed abstract guidelines can be found at the Ministry of Health website www.gov.sz or Ministry of Health Research Unit

Registration details:

1. Registration opens on May 1, 2017
2. Conference delegates are encouraged to register on line and also take advantage of the early registration discounts:
3. Tertiary level students with a valid Student ID card: E 300
4. Early bird registration: May 1- August 31, 2017, E600
4. Late/Onsite registration: E850
5. International Delegates: US\$100
6. Symposia/Special sessions: E15, 000
7. Account Number FNB IHM-MOH 6236 967 8316

NB: All Abstract presenters are expected to register!!!

KEY DATES**THE 4TH NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

KEY DATES	OPEN	CLOSE
<i>Call for Abstracts</i>	March 22,2017	31 July, 2017
Early registration	May 1,2017	August 31, 2017
Regular registration	September 1,2017	October 31,2017
Late /Onsite registration	November 1,2017	November 9,2017
Reviewing abstracts	August, 2017	30 August, 2017
Notice of abstract acceptance	5 September, 2017	15 September, 2017