



**CALL FOR
ABSTRACTS
SUBMISSIONS**

Rwanda 2nd FETP Scientific Conference

Where: **Kigali Convention Centre**

When: **September 29th - 30th, 2021**

Theme: **"Building Resilient, Sustainable and Innovative Public Health Systems through Field Epidemiology Training"**



SUBMISSION DEADLINE

September, 16th 2021 at 11.59, CAT.



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Health



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



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The Rwanda Field Epidemiology and Training Program (FETP) is organizing the 2nd FETP Scientific Conference with the theme, “**Building Resilient, Sustainable and Innovative Public Health Systems through Field Epidemiology Training**”. The conference will be held at the KIGALI CONVENTION CENTRE From September 29 to 30, 2021, and will host around 250 participants, 200 of them on site and another 50 joining virtually.

Residents and graduates from the two tiers (Advanced, and Frontline) of the Rwanda FETP are invited to submit their abstracts. The abstracts should be in the areas of outbreak investigations, implementation and evaluation of public health programs or surveillance activities, zoonoses and other intervention areas in applied epidemiology or public health practice and demonstrate how findings were used to inform public health action. These should be documented from field activities or projects undertaken and completed during training and not earlier than 1 January 2017.

Submitted abstracts will be reviewed by the scientific committee based on the quality and clarity of the message and selected for oral or poster presentation.

The deadline for submission is September, 16th 2021 at 11.59, CAT.

Abstracts will be submitted online through the Link for: <https://bit.ly/Rwanda-FELTP-Conference>

Selected abstracts will be notified to all authors by September, 22nd 2021.

Details about the conference theme and sub-themes under which abstracts can be submitted and abstract submission guidelines can be found Below

Conference Themes and Subthemes

The theme for the Rwanda FETP Scientific Conference “**Building Resilient, Sustainable and Innovative Public Health Systems through Field Epidemiology Training**”. Subthemes are drawn from various topics that affect public health and health security as shown below.

1. Health Security and Emergency Response

- Anti-microbial Resistance (AMR)
- Emerging and re-emerging pandemic threats
- Biosafety, biosecurity & bioterrorism topics
- Refugee and Internally Displace Person’s health issues

2. Public Health Surveillance, Outbreak Investigation and Response

- Outbreak Preparedness, Investigation and Response
- Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) strengthening, analysis and evaluation
- Other public health surveillance system assessment and evaluation

3. Vaccine Preventable Diseases

- Polio and Acute Flaccid Paralysis surveillance
- Measles and Rubella Surveillance
- Recently introduced vaccines in developing countries e.g., IPV, Rotavirus, Human Papilloma Virus, Yellow fever, Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines
- Surveillance of other vaccine preventable diseases

4. Epidemiology, surveillance, prevention and control interventions for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other opportunistic Infections

- HIV/AIDS including ART, PMTCT/EMTCT, Healthcare delivery models for HIV/AIDS
- Tuberculosis including drug resistant TB.
- Other opportunistic infections and malignancies

5. Vector-borne and Neglected Tropical Diseases

- Malaria
- Neglected Tropical Diseases
- Other Vector borne diseases

6. Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs), Injuries & Mental Health

- Cardiovascular diseases
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Road traffic injuries and occupational hazards
- Substance abuse and Mental health
- Chronic Respiratory illness

7. Maternal, Reproductive and Child Health

- Sexual and reproductive health including Maternal and Obstetric health, Family planning, Antenatal and post-natal care
- Adolescent health
- Sexually transmitted infections

8. Public Health Laboratory Systems & Infection Prevention Control

- Laboratory CQI and Accreditation
- External Quality Assurance
- Infection Prevention Control
- Capacity building (training, mentoring, infrastructure improvement)

9. One Health & Climate change issues.

- Avian influenza, Zika, RVF and other Zoonotic disease surveillance and response
- Innovations for one health approach in surveillance and outbreak response
- Pollution and environmental impact on public health

10. Public Health Systems Strengthening Initiatives

- Health Policy and leadership
- Human Resources for Health
- Health Financing
- National Institutes of Public Health

11. Information Communication Technological innovations for Public Health

- e-Surveillance and e-Health
- Public Health Informatics

Submission guidelines

- Please note that abstracts outside the above list may also be accepted.
- Residents and graduates should submit their abstracts in consultation with their respective faculty and Program Directors.
- All abstracts should be submitted in English.
- All abstracts must be uploaded via the conference website under the "submit abstract" link: <https://bit.ly/Rwanda-FELTP-Conference>.
- **Deadline** for abstract submission is September, 16 2021 at 1159hrs, CAT.
- **Conflict of interest and biographical information:** Authors of accepted abstracts will be asked to submit a disclosure of conflict-of-interest form. Biographical information will also be collected to facilitate continuing education accreditation of the Conference.
- **Structure of abstracts:** Abstracts must include the following sections:

Title: The title should be informative but concise. Avoid subtitles if possible. Write the title in sentence case and only capitalize proper nouns and scientific names where suitable. Do **NOT** use abbreviations or acronyms in the abstract title.

Introduction/Background: Address the scientific background, rationale for the study as well as the public health significance of while considering that everyone is not familiar with your topic. Explain why your study is important and what question(s) it will answer.

A clearly stated background sets the stage for the reader and includes:

- A brief description of the topic and its public health significance
- Study Objectives
- Research questions or study hypothesis if applicable

Methods: Describe the methods used for the study. Essential points to be included in this section are:

- Study design
- Study setting
- Study population
- Eligibility criteria and case definitions if any
- Sample size and sampling methods

Results: Present the significant findings (both positive and negative) of the study that are directly related to the study objectives. This section should **not** include discussion of the results. Provide both absolute numbers and their percentages/proportions, rates and ratios where applicable.

Please note that since an abstract is a stand-alone and citable document, the results section must contain data. It should not include such statements as "Data will be discussed." If considerable work is still pending before the conference submission, please indicate that the results are preliminary.

Conclusion: Be as concise as possible. Do not re-state data that are included in the results. This section may include:

- An interpretation of key findings and their implications for public health practice
- Public health actions that are recommended and/or have been implemented as a consequence of the study

Note: Changes cannot be made to the final abstract after it has been submitted. However, in the event that significant changes are made after submission of the abstract, the changes should be highlighted during abstract presentation.

- **Word count:** The abstract should not exceed **300 words** (includes subheadings but does not include the title, list of authors and their addressees or key words).
- **Formatting**
 - Text should be left aligned.
 - Use font Times New Roman, Calibri or Arial, size 12 and 1.5 spacing.
 - Each subheading should be in bold font, and followed by a colon
 - Do not include any tables, figures or pictures in the abstract
 - Avoid using abbreviations that are not standard or universally known; however, where used, they should be written in full the first they appear.
 - Scientific names should be italicized

Authors

First author: Provide first name, initials of the middle name (if any), and the last name e.g., David W. Meyers

Co-authors: List each co-author in order of contribution by typing their first and middle names as initials followed by their last name in full (e.g., W. Grisham, M. S. Pollock)

Provide the organizational affiliations of the first author and all co-authors

Indicate the corresponding author with an Asterix* and provide their email address and telephone number plus their alternate contacts

Key words: Please include 4 – 6 key words. Use terms listed in the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) from the Index Medicus (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html>)

Evaluation Criteria

Each abstract will be evaluated by three independent reviewers using the following criteria:

- Background and rationale of the study
- Appropriateness of methods
- Presentation of results
- Conclusion and interpretation of results
- Public health significance
- Overall clarity of the abstract
- Novelty

Further questions concerning the abstract submission should be addressed to the Chairs, of the Scientific Committee Prof Joseph Ntaganira – Rwanda FETP Director jntaganira@nursph.org, FETP Resident Advisor Dr Jared Omolo at wtq0@cdc.gov or fetp-scientificconference@rbc.gov.rw.