East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The 12th ECSA Best Practices Forum and 28th Directors Joint Consultative Committee Meeting

Theme: Innovation and Accountability in Health Towards achieving Universal Health Coverage

19 to 21 June 2019, Arusha, Tanzania.

Background

The East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC) is an inter-governmental organization, which was established to foster regional cooperation to address priority health problems, in order to attain the highest possible standards of health for the people of the region. Its member states include Lesotho, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Mauritius, eSwatini, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In pursuit of its mandate, ECSA-HC facilitates the convening of regional meetings namely; the Best Practices Forum (BPF) and the Directors Joint Consultative Committee (DJCC).

The meetings bring together senior officials from Ministries of Health, Health Research Institutions and Heads of Health Training Institutions from Member States; diverse collaborating Partners and Experts from the region and beyond.

Aim and Scope of the Conference
The aim of the BPF and DJCC meetings is to share best practices and research evidence, identify relevant health policy issues and making recommendations to the Health Ministers Conference, towards the improvement of health programming and outcomes in the region.

The upcoming conference will provide a forum for health scientists, policy makers, development partners and other stakeholders in health, food and WASH to present their best practices and research evidence that inform policies and programming in the ECSA region.

The Conference will be organized in two parts as follows;

- The Regional Forum on Best Practices; 19 to 20 June 2019
- The Directors Joint Consultative Committee; 21 June 2019

**Conference Theme and Sub-themes**

The theme for the 12th BPF is **Innovation and Accountability in Health Towards achieving Universal Health Coverage.**

The theme will be addressed through the following sub-themes:

1. Efforts to improve adolescent and young people’s health
2. Opportunities for achieving water and sanitation health global target
3. Equity and access to eye healthcare in the ECSA region
4. Innovative approaches towards achieving food safety and improving quality of life
5. Prioritizing substance use and mental health challenges in the ECSA Region
6. Tackling emerging and re-emerging health threats: A regional One Health approach to managing recurrent outbreaks in the region.

**Call for Abstracts**

ECSA-HC invites submission of abstracts for best practices and scientific papers that are relevant to the conference theme or sub themes.
The scientific papers and best practices should consist of case studies and evidence based programme experiences that are innovative, unique or have added value and new thinking in health. The papers will form the basis for the recommendations that will be presented to the Health Ministers for further deliberation and adoption as resolutions.

From the accepted abstracts, some best practices and scientific papers will be selected to undergo further review and validation and thereafter published in the upcoming issue of *Africa Health* publication, for wider dissemination in the region.

Abstracts submission is open until 3\(^{rd}\) May 2019. Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified on or before 17\(^{th}\) May 2019.

Kindly prepare your abstracts using the Abstract Submission Form provided below and submit through email abstracts2019@ecsahc.org.

**Conference Fees**

The following are the Conference Fees, which will be paid during registration at the Conference:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Fees in US Dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participants from ECSA Member States and those sponsored through ECSA-HC Projects</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants from other African countries</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants from the Rest of the World</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presenters of accepted Abstracts</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Enquiries**

Enquiries relating to the submission and presentation of abstracts may be directed to the Director of Programmes at dop@ecsahc.org and the Manager for Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Evaluation at nomsam@ecsahc.org.

Updates and further information relating to the conference will be posted on the ECSA-HC website: www.ecsahc.org.

Click [HERE TO DOWNLOAD AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM](#)