8th SA AIDS CONFERENCE ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

You are invited to submit an abstract for consideration by the Scientific Programme Committee for participation at the 8th SA Aids Conference programme. The conference is scheduled to place at the Durban International Convention Centre from 13 -15 June 2017. The theme of the conference is The Long Walk to Prevention: Every Voice Counts. Abstracts will be reviewed according to the following tracks:

Track 1: Basic and Clinical Sciences
Basic science topics covered in this track will encompass, but not be limited to, mucosal immunity to HIV, HIV transmission, TB/HIV co-infection, viral fitness and the role of host factors and host genetics. This track will also focus on new advances in HIV vaccines, neutralizing and non-neutralizing antibody therapies, cure strategies, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and microbicide development, including pre-clinical studies. Clinical science topics covered by this track will include issues relating to antiretroviral (ARV) treatment, including new drugs and salvage therapy, in adult and paediatric infections; ARV complications including immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome, drug resistance, side effects and drug interactions. Strategies for promoting long-term health in virally suppressed individuals including management of non-communicable diseases will be discussed. Approaches to treatment for vulnerable groups such as injecting drug users, men-who-have sex with men and sex workers will be explored, as well as novel ways of promoting treatment or PrEP adherence. This track will also include presentations and discussions on new developments in laboratory and diagnostic tools, nutrition, and the role of complementary and traditional medicines.

Track 2: Epidemiology, Prevention and Public Health
Epidemiological topics covers by this track will include issues related to the dynamics of the HIV epidemic, both at the molecular and population level. It will also cover the full spectrum of methodological and technological advances in surveillance, mathematical modeling and transmission dynamics. Prevention topics will focus on aspects of treatment (i.e., PrEP, treatment as prevention, MMC and PMTCT) as well as early HIV testing and linkage-to-care. The link between TB, HIV treatment and prevention will also be covered by this track. Given the central role of public health programmes to provide prevention and treatment, presentations related to operational and implementation science will also be covered in this track.

Track 3: Social, Political, Economic and Health Systems
This track explores the social, political, economic and health systems issues that act as barriers or facilitators to an individual’s or community’s response to the HIV epidemic. Models of cross-sectorial interventions, as well as social change programmes and examinations of the political and economic environment as they impact on the epidemic will be explored. Presentations relating to the links between HIV and AIDS, and substance use, poverty, education, gender-based violence, patriarchy and other living social and environmental issues will be discussed.

Track 4: Ethics, Marginalization and the Protection of Human Rights
This track provides an opportunity for conference attendees to examine and share issues relating to marginalized groups such as sex workers, LGBTIQA, miners, farm workers and travelers, and their
challenges and successes that relate to the AIDS epidemic. It offers the opportunity for marginalized communities to be center stage and engage with how the marginalization has affected the response to the epidemic and approaches to overcoming these challenges.

**Track 5: Best Practices: Programmes, Communications and Community Engagement**

This track will focus on issues relating to ordinary people and communities who are broadly defined to include people living with HIV, impacted by HIV and, people vulnerable to HIV infection and those who interact with communities on issues relating to HIV and AIDS. Organization, collective action and sustainable community based approaches and the means by which these are achieved will be highlighted. Communication in recent times includes a range of tools from traditional tools such as books, radio and television to cell phone apps, and social media. This track will provide a platform to engage with evidence of success and challenges relating to the use of these tools and mobilising and managing resources to increase control of the AIDS epidemic.

Abstracts can only be submitted electronically through the SA AIDS Conference website. Abstracts submitted to the conference secretariat directly through any other means will not be accepted for review. Please draft your abstract according to the headings listed below in no more than 300 words in total. You may draft your abstract in text format only using a word processing software i.e MS Word and then copy and paste the text in the abstract submission box. Note that no graphic images, tables, graphs or columns should be submitted with your abstract.

**Deadline for abstract 20 January 2017**

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**Guidelines for abstract submissions**

The on-line abstract submission system is user friendly. You will be guided through the submission procedure. Please follow the instructions as shown on the webpage. The submitted abstract should contain the following information:

1. Background and Objectives
2. Method
3. Results
4. Conclusion

**Abstract Submission Information**

TIP: Draft your abstract in text format in MS Word or a similar programme according to the fields described in Step 3 below. Please only use Arial plain font in 10 point. Save it as a document once you are sure the content is ready for submission as an abstract. Copy and paste the text from this document into the field provided under Step 2 of the submission process.
**Step 1: Abstract Details**
You will be required to complete the following fields:
- Track
- Submission type
- Was the same or similar talk given in SA or abroad
- Declaration of conflict of interest
- Association with trade firm; stock, consultant etc
- Abstract title
- Authors
- Author's Mobile Number
- Author's Work Number
- Short bio of author
- E-mail address for nominated author (for reader queries and correspondence)

**Abstract Text as per the guidelines below**

**Step 2: Submission of Abstract Content**

**Abstracts that report research findings should contain the following concise statements:**

**Background:** The description of the problem or the hypothesis, the study objectives

**Methods:** Study methods used or approaches taken

**Results:** Specific results in summarized form

**Conclusions:** Statement about the main outcomes.

**Abstracts for reporting on strategies / projects should contain the following concise statements:**

**Background:** Short statement summarizing the issue(s) addressed by the abstract

**Methods:** A brief description of the project, experience, program, or research

**Results:** A brief description of the results or lessons learned

**Conclusions:** A brief statement of next steps / recommendation

*The following fields will need to be completed under their respective headings:*

**Abstract Information**
- Abstract Title
- Has the material presented in this abstract been published previously?
- Preferred presentation: (poster or oral presentation)
- Preferred track
- Project Scalability: To scale the described project/activity described to a district/regional/national level, what are the requirements? (new or amended policies, operations, human resources, and financial implications)
Combined text in these fields should not exceed 300 words.
Abstracts can only be submitted in text format – no images or graphs should be included.

**Step 3: Verification of information provided in steps 1 – 2.**
All the details that have been provided in the abstract submission process will be presented for verification.