



# 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on the PEN-Plus Regional Strategy to Address Severe NCDs in Africa (ICPPA)

23-25 April 2024 Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION OVERVIEW AND GUIDELINES



The inaugural annual International Conference on PEN-Plus Regional Strategy to Address Severe NCDs in Africa (ICPPA 2024), provides a unique opportunity for health care leaders and scientists in Africa and beyond to reflect on NCD prevention and management, and lessons learnt to forge a way forward to create more resilient and sustainable health systems for chronic and severe NCDs intervention in Africa.

The WHO Regional Office for Africa in collaboration with the Helmsley Charitable Trust (HCT), NCDI Poverty Network and their partners is convening in Dar es Salaam from 23-25 April 2024 to show the progress made and work done in NCDs in Africa and beyond. This conference will showcase new knowledge and health products in integrated NCD delivery to help build strong and resilient health systems to reduce the burden of NCDs in Africa.



### Open Call for Abstracts

The International Conference on PEN-Plus Regional Strategy to Address Severe NCDs in Africa, 2024 (ICPPA 2024) organizers are pleased to invite abstracts for all conference tracks/themes from all interested parties.

**Abstract Submission:** Authors should upload their abstracts via the web-based [link](#)

**Abstracts submission platform:** Should you have difficulties navigating the platform, please contact [ICPPA2024abstracts@who.int](mailto:ICPPA2024abstracts@who.int)

**Opening of call:** Abstract submissions will be open on 2 February 2024.





**Submission deadline:** The abstract submission deadline is 23 February 2024 at 23:59hrs CAT [21:59hrs UTC]. **\*\*No abstracts will be accepted past the official due date.\*\***

**Evaluation:** All abstracts submitted will be reviewed by a minimum of three reviewers.

**Acceptance:** Applicants will be notified of acceptance by 8 March 2024.

**Accepted abstracts:** Accepted abstracts will be presented as oral and poster at the ICPPA 2024 on 23-25 April 2024

**Topics:** Abstracts will be accepted for the following conference tracks:

-  **Track 1:** Ending the Neglect of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) Across the Life Course in Africa
-  **Track 2:** Beyond Borders, Policy Frameworks, and Strategies for Integrating NCD Interventions in Primary Health Care Towards Universal Health Coverage: From WHO PEN to PEN-Plus
-  **Track 3:** PEN-Plus Unveiled: Pioneering Regional Strategies, Opportunities, and Frontiers
-  **Track 4:** Engage, Empower, Excel: Community-Centric and Person-Centered NCD Prevention and Care for All

**Eligibility of Abstracts and Authors:** Only abstracts with original work within the above tracks will be accepted for the conference. The abstract should not have been previously published or presented elsewhere. The primary author must have participated in the activities showcased in the abstract and obtained the necessary government approvals where sensitive data is used in the paper, as well as any necessary ethical clearance documents

While a person may submit more than one abstract, only one abstract per person (primary author) will be accepted. Research should have been conducted within the last 5 years including landmark studies and must be relevant to the current African landscape.

**Conflict of Interest:** Authors of accepted abstracts will have to submit a disclosure of conflict-of-interest form that will be shared with the acceptance letter.

**Abstract Scholarships:** There is a limited number of scholarships available to cover travel and accommodation expenses. The scholarship will be awarded to individuals based on quality of abstracts submitted.

Decisions about scholarships would be made by the end of February 2024 prior to the Conference. Abstract authors whose abstracts are selected to receive a scholarship will be notified in March 2024 via email.

**Abstract Word count:** The abstract should not exceed **350 words** (which includes sub-headings but does not include the title, key words, list of authors and their addresses).

## Authors

Authors should be listed as follows:

- ▲ First author: Provide first name, initials of the middle name (if any), and the last name (e.g., John M. Kamara).
- ▲ 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., J.K. Thompson, A.H. Karikari).
- ▲ 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.

# Abstract Structure

**Title:** The title should be informative but concise with no subtitles or abbreviations/acronyms. Write the title in sentence case and only capitalize proper nouns and scientific names where appropriate (e.g., *Escherichia coli*).

**Introduction/Background:** Address the scientific background and include the rationale for the study, as well as the public health significance of the subject. Explain why your study is important and what question(s) it will answer. A clearly stated background sets the stage and should include:

- ▲ 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 are:

- ▲ Study design
- ▲ Study setting
- ▲ Study population
- ▲ Sample size and sampling methods
- ▲ Eligibility criteria and case definitions, if any
- ▲ Data collection, management and analysis

**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 should 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 is already 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 your abstract is selected for presentation and has undergone significant changes after acceptance, those changes should be highlighted in the abstract presentation or poster.

**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>)

**Decisions and Next Steps:** Accepted abstracts will be published in the conference book of abstracts. All selected abstract applicants for either oral or poster presentations are expected to attend the conference in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

For more information visit [www.ICPPA2024.who.int](http://www.ICPPA2024.who.int) or email the [ICPPA2024abstracts@who.int](mailto:ICPPA2024abstracts@who.int)



# Abstract Submission - Frequently Asked Questions

## When will I get response for the abstract I have submitted?

- ▲ Applicants will be notified of their abstract acceptance by 8 March 2024 and must confirm participation within a week of notification.

## Can I make edits to my abstract submission?

- ▲ No, you cannot make edits to an abstract once it has been submitted. However, in the event that your work has undergone significant changes after acceptance, those changes should be included and highlighted in the abstract presentation.

## Can I still submit an abstract after the deadline?

- ▲ No, abstracts will not be accepted past the official due date. However, we encourage you to submit your abstract for consideration next year.

## Do abstract presenters need to attend and present in-person at the conference?

- ▲ Yes, abstract presenters are expected to attend the conference in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in person, if selected to give an oral or poster presentation.

## Who can I contact for questions concerning my abstract submission?

- ▲ For other inquiries or questions about your specific submission, please reach out to [ICPPA2024abstracts@who.int](mailto:ICPPA2024abstracts@who.int), and include your submission ID, and the name and email of the person who submitted the abstract.