

## **Mentorship program for abstract presenters to Annual Scientific Conference of the Tanzania Public Health Association**

As quality has always been the driving factor behind any success of a presentation made at the annual Tanzania Public Health Association (TPHA) Scientific Conferences, we present hereby a new innovation to improve the quality of abstracts to be submitted and presented.

Vast experienced scientists who are members of TPHA as well have indicated their willingness to provide individual mentoring in a virtual way to public health professionals considering submitting an abstract on a topic they feel being worthwhile to be presented. These topics could be on the broad realm of public health experiences in Tanzania as long as the presenter has shown a keen interest in presenting what has been experienced in studying that topic over time. After submitting that topic of interest and the way the presenter has observed or studied that topic, the mentor identified by the scientific committee of the Conference will get back to the submitter (through email/telephone) with guidance material on how to formulate an abstract. During these exchanges the abstract will be improved, finalized and eventually be submitted to the scientific committee for consideration to be presented during the Conference.

The abstract author/submitter can be anyone who has an experience in implementing an aspect of public health and has some data, being it quantitative or qualitative to beef up the experience. Also points of view or opinions or state of the art overviews could be considered in this mentorship program.

The mentors identified have each a vast experience and expertise in the various public health domains as there are, disease control including epidemiology, mental health and non-infectious health issues, health economics, social science and behavioural change, gender and human rights in relation to health and development and One Health.

For potential author the following steps are to be followed in order to be assured a mentor:

**Step 1:** The author expresses willingness to prepare an abstract and has formulated a working title with a description of data (qualitative/quantitative) or ideas documented and has contacted the scientific committee of TPHA through its website [www.tpha.or.tz](http://www.tpha.or.tz)

**Step 2:** Scientific Committee considers merits of the submitted idea and allocates a mentor to that particular idea

**Step 3:** Mentor contacts the author with the standard guidelines on 'Do's and Don'ts's of writing an abstract (a PP document already available at TPHA) and develops together with the author a plan with a clear timeframe on how to improve the abstract

**Step 4:** After the intensive consultation and approval of a final draft of the abstract by the mentor, the presenter submits the abstract before the official deadline of abstract presentation to TPHA Scientific Committee to the TPHA website on line

**Step 5:** Scientific Committee judges the abstract as any other and excludes the mentor from decision making in accepting the abstract as an oral or poster