Abstract guidance

This document outlines the conference themes and provides guidance for preparing an abstract for submission to the Conference Program Committee. Abstracts will be reviewed and evaluated in accordance with this guidance. Scan the QR code, or use the link below, to take you to the abstract submission page,

www.wcdp2019.co.za/abstracts
Conference Themes 2019

The World Conference on Drowning Prevention 2019 themes reflect the challenges of reducing the burden of drowning in all communities, nations and regions of the world. These themes build on the 2014 WHO Global Report on Drowning by aligning with the key action items identified in the WHO implementation guide to preventing drowning. Presentations from each of the themes will be distributed throughout the conference program in crosscutting sessions that address specific issues from many viewpoints. Abstract submissions should reflect current understanding and advances in any of these themes. Submissions that address knowledge gaps in areas of indigenous populations, culturally diverse and vulnerable communities, and low resource settings are encouraged. Specifically, submissions that address drowning prevention across Africa, prepared and delivered by African scholars, NGOs and agencies are strongly encouraged.

**Theme 1: Situational assessments for informed prevention**

This theme encompasses papers that:

- Measure the global, national and community burden of fatal and non-fatal drowning
- Identify barriers to accurate and consistent drowning data collection
- Analyse contributing factors, exposures and social determinants of drowning risk
- Explore drowning risks in migrant and refugee populations
- Address knowledge gaps in drowning epidemiology
- Describe the socio-economic impact of drowning
- Assess the human capacity and financial resources required for prevention
- Explore the impact of disasters and climate change on the drowning burden

**Theme 2: Effective interventions**

This theme encompasses papers that:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of drowning prevention interventions that:
  - Establish safe places and effective barriers controlling access to water
  - Build resilience and manage risk in floods and other disasters
  - Enforce safe boating, shipping and ferry regulations
- Address humanitarian factors contributing to drowning risk in refugees and during migration
- Define measures of effectiveness in drowning prevention
- Describe operational challenges and their practical solutions, in drowning prevention interventions and lifesaving programs

This theme also includes a sub-theme that specifically focuses on investigating the effectiveness of teaching swimming and water safety skills as interventions.
Theme 3: Strategies for supporting sustainable prevention efforts
This theme encompasses papers that:

- Describe measures to improve organisational effectiveness including leadership development and capacity building
- Evaluate approaches for scaling up effective drowning prevention interventions
- Evaluate advocacy, public awareness & strategic communication initiatives
- Review the development and implementation of policy and legislation
- Evaluate national, sub-national and community water safety plans
- Evaluate national, sub-national and community partnerships
- Evaluate multi-sectoral approaches to drowning prevention
- Aid in prioritising the drowning research agenda

Theme 4: Advancements in rescue and resuscitation
This theme encompasses papers that:

- Evaluate advancements in lifesaving, lifeguarding and rescue standards, equipment and practice.
- Evaluate programs that seek to train bystanders in safe rescue and resuscitation
- Present innovative solutions to challenges experienced by rescuers in low resource settings
- Analyse factors influencing the outcome of rescue operations
- Describe operational challenges, and their practical solutions, in rescue organisations

This theme also encompasses evidence-based medical papers that:

- Advance resuscitation guidelines
- Advance medical treatment of drowning patients
- Analyse the impact of neurological and other outcomes following non-fatal drowning

Theme 5: The role of drowning prevention in the development agenda
This theme encompasses papers that explore areas of alignment between drowning prevention and the development agenda, with emphasis on:

- Access to safe and clean water
- Health and development
- Climate change
- The Sendai Framework and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Gender and equality
Abstract guidance

The conference program committee encourages all potential presenters to submit abstracts for presentations that reflect current understanding and advances in any of the thematic areas. This abstract guide has been prepared to assist authors in preparing abstracts for submission to the World Conference on Drowning Prevention 2019. We recommend that you use the following section headings to help present the information clearly. It is not required that you follow this exact framework - you may delete headings, or add in other sections, at your discretion.

Abstract submissions are limited to 300 words. Accepted abstracts will be limited to a maximum of two presentations per individual presenter, however there is no limit to the number of presentations on which an individual may be listed as a co-author.

Title:
The title should be clear and succinct, and should accurately describe the work to be presented. There is a 20-word limit on the title during abstract submission.

Background:
The background should provide a brief introduction to your presentation. Here you will briefly describe the problem you have identified and explain the rationale or need for the work you will present. You should introduce any programs or interventions that you will discuss.

The aim:
The key to a good abstract is a well-defined question or aim that explains what your paper sets out to achieve. We recommend that you start with writing the aim of your presentation.

A good aim includes all of the following PICO elements:

- **P** is for Population: Who are/were the target group included?
- **I** is for the Issue or Intervention: What is the main issue the paper addresses? If you are describing or evaluating an intervention, you should include the intervention in the aim.
- **C** is for context or comparator: What is the setting of your paper? If you are describing or evaluating an intervention, you should consider including the comparison group.
- **O** is for outcome: What are you measuring or describing?
For example, “The aim of this paper is to evaluate the effectiveness of a survival-swimming program in improving water safety skills in South African children under the age of 15 years old”. In this example, the population is South African children under the age of 15 years old, the intervention is a survival-swimming program, the comparator is baseline skill level, and the outcome measure is water safety skills. Once you have a clear aim for your paper, you can use this as a reference point for building your abstract.

**Methods / Implementation:**
In this section you need to indicate what you did to address the aim of the paper. If you conducted a research study, you will briefly describe how you collected your data and what analysis techniques you used. If your paper is related to practice or policy, you will briefly describe how the program works, or what the policy covers. How has it been implemented? Who is responsible for implementation? What has been the timeframe for implementation? Lastly, you should indicate how you have measured impact or evaluated the program.

**Results / Evaluation:**
In this section you should briefly describe what you have learnt in conducting your study or evaluating the program. What changes or benefits were effected on the target group? Has the work achieved its aim? Were there any unexpected outcomes?

**Discussion:**
This section should clearly outline the meaning, relevance and impact of the work presented. Can the work be replicated in other settings? What are the current and future implications of your work? Provide a brief summary of your work – what is the take-home message?

**Acknowledgements:**
You should list any funding sources, partners or participating stakeholders in this section.

**References:**
To keep abstracts within the word limit, a numerical referencing system has been chosen for citing key information sources where appropriate. A number appearing in parentheses at the end of sentence indicates that a reference has been used. If a reference is used more than once, the same number will be used repeatedly. The corresponding reference details should be included in a short bibliography following the abstract. For example, this is how you would indicate your first reference (1).

Bibliography:

(1) Authors surname, First name, Year, Title, Publication, Volume, Issue, Page numbers, Publisher.