

# THS

## RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING



### WORKSHOP REPORT

## Abstracts: Effective Writing and Presentation Skills

16-17 March 2023, Zanzibar

Collaborating Partners



## 1.0 ABOUT TANZANIA HEALTH SUMMIT

Tanzania Health Summit is a not-for-profit organization founded in May 2014. The aim is to promote healthcare to the underprivileged and vulnerable (70% of the population) who cannot easily access health services in the country by facilitating health information dissemination to the public taking into account that only 32.9% of the population has adequate literacy level in the country, mostly living in resource-poor settings. The health summit is governed by seven board of directors and the executive team which implements its objectives.

The annual health summit is jointly coordinated by seven institutions, including the Ministry of Health (MoH), PORALG, Ministry of Health – Zanzibar (MoHz), Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC), National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA), Association of Private Health Facilities (APHFTA) and TMHS.

## 2.0 THS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HEALTH SECTOR

In the last ten years, Tanzania Health Summit have made significant contributions to advancing national health goals and improving health outcomes. Some notable achievements include:

- THS has provided a platform for discussing strategies for strengthening health systems. Every year more than 600 health stakeholders from the private and public sector discuss critical health matters on improving workforce, increasing access to essential medicines and technologies and developing sustainable financing mechanisms for health. These discussions have contributed to the development of new programs and national plans.
- Advancing research and innovation in health, water and sanitation: Around 200 research presentations are done yearly by project leaders and academic researchers. Innovations, new technologies, diagnostic tools and treatment options are also shared. These research and innovation have helped to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of health interventions in the country
- Capacity Building: THS has provided training, skills development and mentorship to more than 100 youths in the last three years. Its skills development workshop on HIV/AIDS and First AID.

## 3.0 INTRODUCTION TO ABSTRACT WRITING WORKSHOP

The Abstract Writing Workshop took place in Zanzibar on 16-17 March 2023 with the objective of enhancing participants' skills in crafting concise, coherent, and compelling abstracts for research papers, and conference presentations. The workshop was organized by the Tanzania Health Summit in collaboration with the Ministry of Health Zanzibar, and it attracted 18 participants working in the health ministry in Zanzibar, who has various academic and research backgrounds.

The workshop started by opening speech by Dr. Salim Slim, the deputy director of prevention and health promotion, Ministry of Health Zanzibar. He started by narrated the importance of research for social change. He gave several examples where research was key in developing the health sector specifically in vaccination.



## 4.0 WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

1. Help participants to understand the structure and format of abstracts including the appropriate length, language and level of detail
2. To guide participants on writing effective abstracts that clearly articulate the key findings in a concise and compelling way
3. To familiarize participants with the templates used for abstract presentation during Tanzania Health Summit
4. To give participants an opportunity to practice presenting abstracts in academic and professional settings including body language, tone and pacing.

## 5.0 WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

The workshop was led by Dr. Fedirick Mashili, a renowned expert in academic writing and communication with a number of publications and conference abstract presentations. The workshop was also co-facilitated by Dr. Omary Chillo both from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences. The full two-days program was divided into six main sessions, which covered the essential aspects of abstract writing, including:

Day 1

### *Session 1: Introduction to Abstract Writing (1 hour)*

This session provided an overview of the purpose and importance of abstracts writing and presentation, key components of an abstract, strategies for writing effective abstracts and how to understanding your audience.

### *Session 2: Writing and Revising Abstracts (2 hour)*

Participants were introduced to tips and techniques for writing clear and concise abstracts, the common mistakes to avoid in abstract writing and different strategies for revising and refine your abstract

### *Session 3: Practical Exercises and Peer Review:*

In this session, participants had the opportunity to apply the concepts and techniques they had learned by drafting their abstracts, followed by peer review and feedback from the workshop facilitator.

Day 2

The second day focused on designing poster presentations with minimal assistance from the facilitators addressing. It was then followed by group presentations of posters and feedback from instructors and peers on content, organization and consistency in style and format.





## 6.0 WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

The workshop proved to be highly beneficial for the participants, as they gained valuable insights into abstract writing and its critical role in the research and academic communities. By the end of the workshop, participants demonstrated a marked improvement in their abstract writing skills, as evidenced by the quality of their revised abstracts and the feedback provided by the facilitator and their peers.

The participants provided overwhelmingly positive feedback on the workshop, expressing appreciation for the practical exercises and the opportunity to receive constructive criticism on their work. They also commended the facilitator for their expertise and engaging teaching style, which made the workshop both informative and enjoyable.

## 7.0 RECOMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

Based on the success of this workshop and the feedback received from participants, it is recommended that similar workshops be organized in the future. Additionally, it would be beneficial to explore opportunities for follow-up sessions or webinars, allowing participants to continue refining their abstract writing skills and receive further guidance from experts. In addition, all participants agreed to submit their abstract in the upcoming Tanzania Health Summit in October.

The Abstract Writing Workshop in Zanzibar was a resounding success, providing participants with valuable knowledge and skills to improve their abstract writing abilities. As a result, participants are better equipped to communicate their research effectively and contribute to the academic and research communities. The workshop's positive outcomes suggest that there is a strong demand for similar initiatives in the future.

## 8.0 CLOSING AND CERTIFICATION

The guest of honor, Minister for Health Zanzibar, Hon. Nassor Ahmed Mazrui graced the closing of the Abstract Workshop. He commended THS and the planning department in the ministry of health for the successful organization of the workshop. He said the workshop topic and coverage was in line with the government's focus to improve science and further enable the health workers to effectively communicate their findings with the policy makers. The closing session went along with certificates awarding ceremony.

