



online

The 2021 Southern Africa
FETPs Virtual **Conference**

**Theme: Emerging public health threats in Southern Africa:
Covid-19, natural disasters and beyond**

Zoom link; <http://bit.ly/Southern-Africa-FETP-conference>

25th – 27th of August **2021**



Call for Abstracts

The 2021 Southern Africa FETP Virtual Conference: Emerging public health threats in Southern Africa: Covid-19, natural disasters and beyond

The theme for the 2021 Southern Africa Field Epidemiology Training Program conference is “**Emerging public health threats in Southern Africa: Covid-19, natural disasters and beyond.**” The conference will provide a platform for the FETP residents and graduates to showcase their work over the past several years.

Residents and graduates of FETPs in Southern Africa (advanced, intermediate and frontline) are invited to submit abstracts. Only current or recent graduates (during 2020) are eligible. Abstracts should cover original field investigations or projects undertaken and completed during training and should not have been published in a peer-reviewed journal or presented at another international conference/meeting. Of particular interest are abstracts on applied epidemiology or public health practice related to Covid-19 and public health disasters. All abstracts should be submitted online at <http://bit.ly/salc-abstract-submission> before **31 May 2021** at 23:59hrs, SAT.

All accepted abstracts will be 10-minute oral presentations, with ten additional minutes for questions and answer. Subthemes are drawn from various topics related to Covid-19 public health and health security, natural disasters, and other public health threats. We encourage you to submit analytic and descriptive presentations of your work and interventions.

Conference sub-themes

Disease Detection and Outbreaks

Surveillance strategies, evaluations, and analyses

Outbreak investigations (vaccine-preventable diseases, acute gastroenteritis, etc.)

Laboratory methods

Information and communication technology (ICT)

Disease Prevention, Control, and Preparedness

Non-pharmaceutical interventions

Infection prevention and control

Vaccines

Border screening and protection

Emergency management and operations

Community engagement (risk communication, KAP surveys, etc.)

COVID-19

Outbreak investigations

Surveillance, epidemiology, and risk factors

Clinical outcomes and co-infections

NPIs, IPC, and vaccines

Border health, EOC/IMS

Risk communication and KAP surveys

Natural and Humanitarian Disasters

Rapid public health assessments

Droughts, floods, cyclones, earthquakes and more

Mass migration

Other public health topics of interest

COVID-19, HIV, TB, and malaria

Neglected tropical diseases

Non-communicable diseases

Drug use and abuse

Other topics of interest

Abstract Submission Procedures

- **Submission is limited to current FETP residents and recent graduates (during 2020) from Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe**
- Residents should submit their abstracts through their respective faculty and program directors.
- All abstracts must be uploaded via the conference website: <http://bit.ly/salc-abstract-submission>
- **Deadline** for abstract submissions is **31 May 2021 at 23:59hrs, SAT**
- **Conflict of interest and biographical information:** Authors of accepted abstracts will be asked to submit a disclosure of conflict of interest form. Biographical information will also be collected.

Structure of abstracts: Abstracts must include the following sections:

- **Title:** The title should be informative but concise. Avoid subtitles if possible. Write the title in sentence case and only capitalize proper nouns and scientific names where appropriate e.g. *Plasmodium falciparum*. Do **NOT** use abbreviations or acronyms in the abstract title.
- **Introduction/Background:** Address the scientific background, rationale for the study as well as the public health significance of the subject. Because of the anticipated diversity of the reviewers and those attending the conference, do not assume that everyone will be familiar with your topic. Explain why your study is important and what question(s) it will answer.
 - o 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 in this section are:
 - o Study design
 - o Study setting
 - o Study population
 - o Eligibility criteria and case definitions if any
 - o Sample size and sampling methods
 - o Data 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 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 significant changes are made (e.g., additional data collection occurs) after submission of the abstract, the changes should be highlighted during abstract presentation.

Word count: The abstract should not exceed **300 words** (excluding sub-headings, title, key words, authors, and affiliation).

Formatting

- Text should be left aligned.
- Use font Times New Roman, Calibri or Arial, size 12 and 1.5 spacing.
- Each sub-heading should be in bold font, and followed by a colon
- Do not include any tables, figures or pictures in the abstract
- Avoid using abbreviations that are not standard or universally known; however where used, they should be written in full the first time they appear.
- Scientific names should be italicized

Authors

- **First author:** Provide first name, initials of the middle name (if any), and the last name e.g. Floyd R. Kambiri
- **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. W. Banda, MK. Kaziwe)
- 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

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>)

Evaluation Criteria

- Three independent reviewers using the following criteria will evaluate each abstract:
 - Background and rationale of the study
 - Appropriateness of methods
 - Presentation of results
 - Conclusion and interpretation of results
 - Public health significance
 - Overall clarity of the abstract
 - Novelty of the study

Further questions concerning the abstract submission should be addressed to the Chair, Scientific Committee at **conference@afenet.net**

For further details about 2021 Southern Africa FETPs Conference on COVID-19 Response, contact the organizers at **it@afenet.net** or visit the conference website at :

<http://afenet.net/index.php/news/events/908-the-2021-southernafrica-fetp-virtual-conference>