



11th Zambia Health Research Conference Call for Abstracts



Background

The Zambia Health Research Conference is a prestigious interdisciplinary and international conference that is held biennially and brings together researchers, scientists, health professionals, policymakers, and the general public. The conference provides a platform for disseminating research evidence, sharing best practices and innovations, and exchanging knowledge aimed at improving public health and subsequently, contribute to socio-economic development. The Government of the Republic of Zambia places importance on Research and Development and has challenged health researchers and scientists to be innovative and provide home-grown solutions, including local development of drugs and vaccines. The Conference is a testament to Government's commitment to knowledge translation, and evidence-informed decision-making

The eleventh ZHRC is scheduled to take place from 15th to 17th October 2024 under the theme *“Sustainable and Resilient Health Systems: Accelerating Progress towards Universal Health Coverage in the Face of Service Delivery Challenges, Emerging Diseases, and Pandemics”* at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka, Zambia.

Why the conference and why Universal Health Coverage?

This year's conference focuses on Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which has become increasingly important as the 2030 deadline fast approaches. Universal Health Coverage is at the top of the global development agenda and like many countries, Zambia adopted UHC as part of the Sustainable Development Goals on September 25, 2015. Globally, progress towards Universal Health Coverage has stagnated. In 2021, an estimated 4.5 billion people—nearly half of the world's population—remained without access to essential health services. Even in regions where some strides have been made in expanding service coverage, these gains have often been marked by gross inequalities.

Zambia's pursuit of UHC has been marked by similar trends. Notably, Zambia's UHC service coverage index nearly doubled from 28 to 45 between 2000 and 2010. However, between 2010 and 2019, the index only increased modestly from 45 to 54, signalling a loss in momentum. Zambia continues making strides towards attaining UHC despite a number of challenges related to fiscal space, service delivery, re-emerging diseases, and recurrent cholera outbreaks. Additionally, the Zambian health system is still recovering from the effects of COVID-19 pandemic.

Recognizing that the outlined challenges are not peculiar to Zambia, the eleventh ZHRC will provide a platform for government, development partners, researchers, healthcare professionals, and policymakers to engage in meaningful and evidence informed dialogue on strategic changes that will accelerate progress toward UHC in low and middle income countries.

Call for abstracts & Sub-themes

We are delighted to **call for submission of abstracts** for the **11th Zambia Health Research Conference** to be held under the theme, *“Sustainable and Resilient Health Systems: Accelerating Progress towards Universal Health Coverage in the Face of Service Delivery Challenges, Emerging Diseases, and Pandemics.”*

Local and international officials are hereby invited to submit abstracts aligned with the conference theme, under the following **sub-themes**:

- 1) Financing, governance and leadership for Universal Health Coverage:
- 2) Strengthening health systems to accelerate Universal Health Coverage:
- 3) Building a Green Economy for Health and Sustainable Development.
- 4) Combating Infectious Diseases, Neglected Tropical Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance
- 5) Tackling non-communicable diseases, Mental illnesses, injuries and violence
- 6) Safeguarding health security.
- 7) Health service delivery through innovation and digital transformation
- 8) Strengthening health research systems for equitable, ethical, gender responsive and evidence informed decision making

Important Dates:

Abstract Submission: **28th February 2024**

Deadline for Abstract Submission: **26th April 2024**

Notification: **27 - 29th May 2024**

Conference Registration Opens: **11th March 2024**

Early bird Registration: **11th March, 2024 – 30th June, 2024**

Normal Registration: **1st July 2024 – 14th October, 2024.**

Onsite registration will be available

Pre-Conference Walk: 13th October 2024

Conference Dates: **15 - 17th October 2024**

Venue: **Mulungushi International Conference Centre| Lusaka, Zambia**

[Click here to submit an abstract](#)

[Click here to view the submission guidelines](#)

[Click here to Register](#)

[Click here to view sponsorship packages](#)

For more information and inquiries, please contact the conference secretariat at zhrc@nhra.org.zm