Dear Colleagues,

We welcome abstracts of all types and from all members of the multidisciplinary team and NGOs.

**General Points** to note before submitting an abstract:

- This is a rural conference so the presentation should be **applicable to rural** situations
- Oral presentations are 15 minutes with 5 minutes discussion or time for questions
- Posters should be accompanied by an oral presentation of 10 minutes
- Oral and Poster Presentations can be about case studies, descriptions of programmes, formal research projects, ethical issues, highlighting service related problems, new ideas in prevention or care, etc.
- Workshop times are either 60 or 90 minutes. It is possible to have 2 workshop times back to back but this can only be confirmed once the draft programme is developed.
- Workshop presentations should always include **active participation of the delegates** and so need to be either developing a skill, group exercises to understand concepts/issues, strategic planning etc. A series of oral presentations on the same topic is **NOT** a workshop.
- Longer Pre-Conference Workshops are possible but require separate CPD points and must have a confirmed delegate list. Pre-Conference Workshops must be in partnership with one of the Conference Partners (RuDASA, RuReSA, PACASA or RuNurSA). These workshops can be attended by a wider range of people who do not have to sign up for the entire conference i.e. they can just attend the Pre-Conference Workshop.
- If you think your presentation fulfils the criteria for ethics points, please give reasons in the “Comments” section.
- Maximum words for the Abstract = 300
- Person presenting at the conference should be the first name if there are several authors
- Contact details and biosketch should be for the person presenting the paper
- Abstracts must be submitted by the Due Date
- All abstracts go through a peer review system in the month after the due date
- A draft programme is developed after all abstracts are reviewed
- The authors will be contacted to confirm their abstract has been accepted and for them to confirm they will attend once the draft programme has been developed. If you need to be confirmed early because you are trying to get funding to attend please contact us.
- If there are still spaces in programme at this point there will be a Final Call for Abstracts
- **All abstracts to be submitted online** [www.ruralhealthconference.org.za](http://www.ruralhealthconference.org.za)
SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR RHC2018

Theme: Building the Legacy of Rural Health: Leadership, Advocacy & Clinical Care

We have a rich history from our “real health veterans” but now is the time to develop a new generation of rural health professionals to lead the rural health movement. The conference story line will move from how we recognise young leaders and develop their leadership skills, to building clinical expertise for all rural health professionals, and ensuring that it is easier for us all to “stay rural” through learning how to manage rural stressors. Concluding with identifying work that has to be done by the organisations the delegates represent in order to create long term solutions. Each conference day will focus on one of the components in the story line.

Opening Ceremony and Day 2 (21st & 22nd) “Building a leadership legacy: what do young professionals want and what do they need to know?

A focus on what is needed for young professionals to be attracted to rural and stay rural. This would include what knowledge/skills gaps there are, and build on the SAAHE Statement on Training from RHC2017.

Abstract submissions on:
- How do we recruitment and support the new generation of leaders for the rural health movement?
- Identifying what young professionals want from their profession - to determine what we (as organisations) can offer
- Determining what skills are needed by new graduates to cope in a rural setting and identifying the GAPs in current training
- Decolonising the curricula to ensure it is afrocentric
- Promoting Integrated Professional Learning to ensure understanding of the MultiDisciplinary Team
- Mentoring and skills based workshops on how to supervise students or mentor young professionals

RHC2018 Organising Committee will also organise the following:
Panel discussion from previous RuDASA/PACASA/RuReSA/RunurSA chairs on leadership skills needed to lead the organisation

Standard Workshop: Rural Seeds Cafe 2018 developing relationships between veteran rural and students & young professionals

Day 2 (22nd): Building a clinical care legacy: taking specialist care skills into rural

A focus on closing the gaps identified earlier in the conference by updating and upgrading our clinical skills

Abstract submissions on:
- Clinical decision making in a rural setting
- Building links between rural asked professionals and urban based experts
- Best practice models
• Workshops and demonstration in which experts teach practical clinical skills to young professionals for specific professions e.g. how to suture an eyelid
• Multidisciplinary skills workshops e.g. burns management.
• Using technology to develop clinical skills

RHC2018 Organising Committee will also organise the following:
Exhibitors to demonstrate medical equipment and assistive devices at their exhibition stands
Standard workshop: Stop Stock-outs

Day 3 (23rd): Building on the Advocacy Legacy
The current economic constraints will continue and we need to do more with less. This creates a number of stressors for rural based professionals; so how do we look after ourselves as well as our patients?

Abstract submissions on:
• Workshops on burnout and stress management so we can retain staff
• Controversial clinical and management issues in rural and how to handle them
• Standing up for rural health - being a modern day advocate on rural health issues
• Alternative human resources to reduce our workload

RHC2018 Organising Committee will also organise the following:
Standard: Mini strategic planning sessions/Indaba’s for RuDASA, RuReSA, PACASA & RuNurSA
Standard workshop: VOICE

Day 4 (24th): Taking the legacy forward
The Final Day will include workshops and debates to draw together the various strands of the conference and develop “key take home” messages for delegates

Abstract submissions on:
• What can you/your organisation do to change rural health service for the better?
• Building momentum - the need to work together for the future of rural health
• Health Goals 2020-2030 - what does rural health need to work on next?