

# EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

## EAST AFRICAN HEALTH RESEARCH COMMISSION



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### CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE YOUNG EAST AFRICAN HEALTH RESEARCH SCIENTISTS FORUM (YEARS' FORUM)

#### 1. YEARS' Forum

The Young East African Health Research Scientists Forum (YEARS' FORUM) is an initiative of East African Health Research Commission aiming to empower East African Community (EAC) young researchers to be able to shape the future of research for health in the region.

YEARS Forum was approved by the 15<sup>th</sup> EAC Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health (EAC/Health/15SCM/Decision 22) as one of the pre-conference meetings of the East African Health and Scientific Conference.

#### 2. Organization of YEARS

The YEARS' Forum will take place prior to the East African Health and Scientific Conference or any other time. It will last three days. The YEARS' forum will bring together post graduates students in health sciences from each of the EAC Partner States. During the forum, students will present and share work, receive training and mentorship on key areas of research. Students will have the opportunity to identify mentors. During the three days, selected candidates will present and share their work, be trained on key areas of (research as a career), receive mentorship during the sessions and identify mentors who will continue with their mentorship.

They will attend presentations from seniors who may serve as their role model for their career, and they will participate in social/cultural events as part of EAC integration and establishing collaborations among themselves. They will form one of the professional groups that will be communicating through the Web portal for health information in EA and Web portal social media. EAHRC will develop a Career Development Plan for the group and supervise their mentorship.

### **3. Program and Mentors**

EAHRC will identify a team of mentors who will facilitate the YEARS' Forums. The team will be mainly composed of researchers and academicians. A program for YEARS' Forums will be proposed and will be regularly updated.

### **4. Eligibility for applying**

YEARS is open to Young East African Health Research Scientists who meet the following criteria:

- Officially registered as PhD Student with an approved research thesis proposal;
- Citizens of EAC Partner States (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda);
- Less than 35 years of age at the time of application submission;
- Proficient in reading, writing, listening and speaking English;
- Working in the EAHRC NFP or NFP affiliated institutions or academia (added value).

### **5. Selection process**

Selection for participation in the YEARS' Forum will be conducted as an open competition. All eligible applications will be reviewed by a selection panel coordinated by the EAHRC Secretariat. The selection panel will use the criteria above to evaluate applications. Six (6) outstanding PhD candidates in health sciences from each of the EAC Partner States will be selected. An invitation to join the forum will be sent to selected candidates.

### **6. Sponsorship**

Selected candidates will be sponsored by the EAHRC in partnership with its National Focal Points, National Stakeholders and Development Partners. EAHRC will coordinate resource mobilization for YEARS' Forum.

### **7. Application form**

- Application via online application, in English (put the link for the application form)
- Only applicants who fully complete the online application will be considered.

- Applications and information submitted through email or other means will not be considered.

#### 7.1. General information

- First/Given Name (as it appears on the passport or national identification card)
- Surname or Family name (as it appears on the passport or national identification card)
- Gender: Male, Female. A gender balance will be applied
- Date of Birth
- City/Town/Village of birth
- Country of birth
- Country of legal Citizenship
- Current country of residence

#### 7.2. Contact information

- email address which is checked regularly
- Primary phone number.
- Another phone number (this could be a parent, spouse, other family member, or work phone number)
- Whatsapp number
- Twitter account
- Skype ID
- Facebook ID

#### 7.3. Education and languages

- Educational background: highest level of education completed, and course of study.
- University where registered for PhD
- Year of registration
- PhD research thesis title

- Supervisor (names and contacts)
- Languages: English language skills (Basic, Intermediate or Advanced) as accurately as possible.
- Official signed letter by the university of registration for PhD. NB: official headed-paper, name of the officer, signature, and stamp

#### 7.4. Employment/Professional experience

- Organization/Company Name
- Current position/Job Title
- Key Responsibilities and Achievements (100 words maximum)
- Official signed letter from your employer. NB: official headed-paper, name of the officer, signature, and stamp

#### 7.5. Certification

In order to participate in the YEARS Forum, I understand that I must meet the minimum eligibility requirements for admission, that I must be a citizen and resident of one of the EAC partner states, and that my admission is subject to the determination by the selection committee. I have read, understand, and will comply with the terms and conditions of the YEARS's Forum. I hereby certify that I have completed this application fully and accurately to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any falsification, omission, or concealment of material fact may subject me to disqualification.

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