Call for submissions - Covid 19 related Oral and Poster abstracts.

The International Conference on Communication (ICCH) will be held as an online conference from 9-11 September 2020, followed by a smaller in-person spring event in April 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic is heavily impacting on healthcare systems and communication. We are therefore re-opening calls for orals and posters related to COVID-19 topics for the online event this September. This will enable us to share recent developments with the wider healthcare community. Abstracts will be considered if they include at least preliminary evaluation or outcome data – research and intervention plans without data will not be accepted.

Areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Infectious disease communication
- Mass/public communication
- Strategies for discussing infectious disease
- Health Equity, Social Justice and Health Disparities during COVID-19
- How clinicians and health systems have maintained relationship-centered care
- Impact of health technology on patient-provider communication
- Implementation of telehealth visits
- Virtual teaching of communication skills
- Communication with relatives/healthcare providers (death and dying in times of corona)
- Mental health/Psychosocial communication support/Psychotherapy
- Communication & social distancing (e.g. relatives/old peoples homes; protective clothing)
- Impact of COVID-19 on shared decisions (e.g. due to IC-bed shortages)
- Other health communication topics relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic

The deadline for abstract submissions is **Thursday 25th June 2020**

General submission guidelines

All submissions must adhere to the following:

- All submissions must be entered electronically via the conference website
- Do not include identifiable author details in the title or body of the abstract, to enable blind marking; author details should only be present within the author section of the electronic submission form
- Write the abstract in English
- Use single line spacing throughout the document
- Do not use all uppercase letters in the text or title, or when entering author names
- Do not include a list of references in your abstract

In the submission form, you can select your work to be considered for (1) either a poster or an oral presentation, or (2) a poster presentation only.

Submission focus

Oral and poster presentation abstracts relate to communication in health care and can have any of the following foci:

- Research
- Teaching/Assessment
- Policy or practice

Submissions without any results will not be accepted. Both 'Teaching/Assessment' and 'Policy and practice' abstracts need to present evaluation data to indicate the effectiveness of the intervention.

Research abstracts may describe research projects on any subject on communication in healthcare.

Teaching/Assessment abstracts may describe novel curricula, teaching, evaluation or assessment strategies, or instructional materials related to teaching/assessment of health professional learners at any level.

Policy or practice abstracts may describe policy initiatives, implementation strategies, guideline development, panel studies (e.g. Delphi) and practical testing of new directives.

Fields for completion within the electronic form

The electronic form will contain 5 areas: title, author details, category and body. The body will be a blank unstructured form.

- *Title:* A title of 100 characters (including spaces) or less
- *Author(s) details:* For all authors - title, first and last names, email address, department and institution. Indication of who will be the presenting author.
- *Category:* Research, Teaching/Assessment or Policy/practice
- *Area of interest:* You will be asked to select from a list of areas of interest that best describe your work.
- *Body:* The body of the structured abstract should be limited to 300 words (submissions exceeding this word limit will not be processed) and include the following headings according to the type of project:

Specific instructions for each submission focus

Research

- Background: State primary objective, including main research questions, aims or hypotheses to be tested.
- Methods: Include design, participants, method of data collection and analysis.
- Findings: Include a summary of the main results/findings. Note that it is not acceptable to refer to 'results will be discussed'.
- Discussion: Discussion of the (possible) contribution to, or implications for, communication in health care.

Teaching/Assessment

- Background: Introduction with institutional context and educational objectives.
- Methods: Instructional, evaluation or assessment methods.
- Findings: Include a summary of the evaluation data to indicate the effectiveness of the intervention. Note that it is not acceptable to refer to 'data/evaluation will be discussed'.
- Discussion: Discussion of the (possible) contribution to, or implications for, communication in health care.

Policy & Practice

- Background: Introduction with context, including clear problem statement and objective of the policy/practice innovation.
- Methods: Description of policy or practice innovation, implementation strategy, guideline development or panel study.
- Findings: Evaluation data to indicate the effectiveness of the innovation. Note that is not accepted to refer to 'data will be discussed'.
- Discussion: Discussion of the (possible) contribution to, or implications for, communication in health care.

If your abstract gets accepted for an oral presentation, you will be asked to prepare a 6-minute presentation for the online conference. If your abstract is accepted for a poster presentation, you will be asked to prepare a poster to be presented online.

Review criteria
Oral and poster abstracts will be evaluated according to:

Research
1. Relevance and importance for healthcare communication research
2. Innovative in healthcare communication research
3. Clarity of research questions, aims or hypotheses
4. Appropriateness and quality of methods
5. Clear description of the findings
6. Discussion of the meaning of the findings for communication in healthcare
7. Overall clarity of the abstract

Teaching/Assessment
1. Relevance and importance for healthcare communication teaching/assessment
2. Innovative in healthcare communication teaching/assessment
3. Clarity of institutional context and educational objectives
4. Appropriateness and quality of methods
5. Clear description of the findings
6. Discussion of the meaning of the findings for healthcare communication
7. Overall clarity of the abstract

Policy & Practice
1. Relevance and impact for healthcare communication policy/practice
2. Innovative in healthcare communication policy/practice
3. Clarity of the context and objectives
4. Appropriateness and clear description of the methods
5. Clear description of the findings
6. Discussion of the meaning of the findings for healthcare communication policy/practice
7. Overall clarity of the abstract