



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
FAMILY PLANNING
PATTAYA CITY, THAILAND • 14-17 NOVEMBER 2022



World Health Organization

WHO ICFP Scientific Writing, Mentoring and Coaching Course

14-17 November 2022



Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health



Rationale

- Junior scientists can face career growth limitations if they lack the skills to publish their work in international peer-reviewed journals.
- For many, ICFP may be their first international conference
- Whilst many scientific writing courses are available internationally, access and cost can be prohibitive
- Junior scientists need to be aware of the ethical obligation to report research findings to the academic community and the best way to do this

Target audience for course

Junior scientists who have abstracts accepted at ICFP2022

- Students (undergraduate and postgraduate)
- Clinical and public health trainees
- Health Care Workers
- Employees of implementing partners
- Government employees
- Junior academics/faculty

Aims of the course

Participants to develop the motivation, skills, and confidence to write a high-quality scientific manuscript on a family planning topic.

- **Most participants submit their manuscripts to a peer-reviewed journal within six months of the conference.**

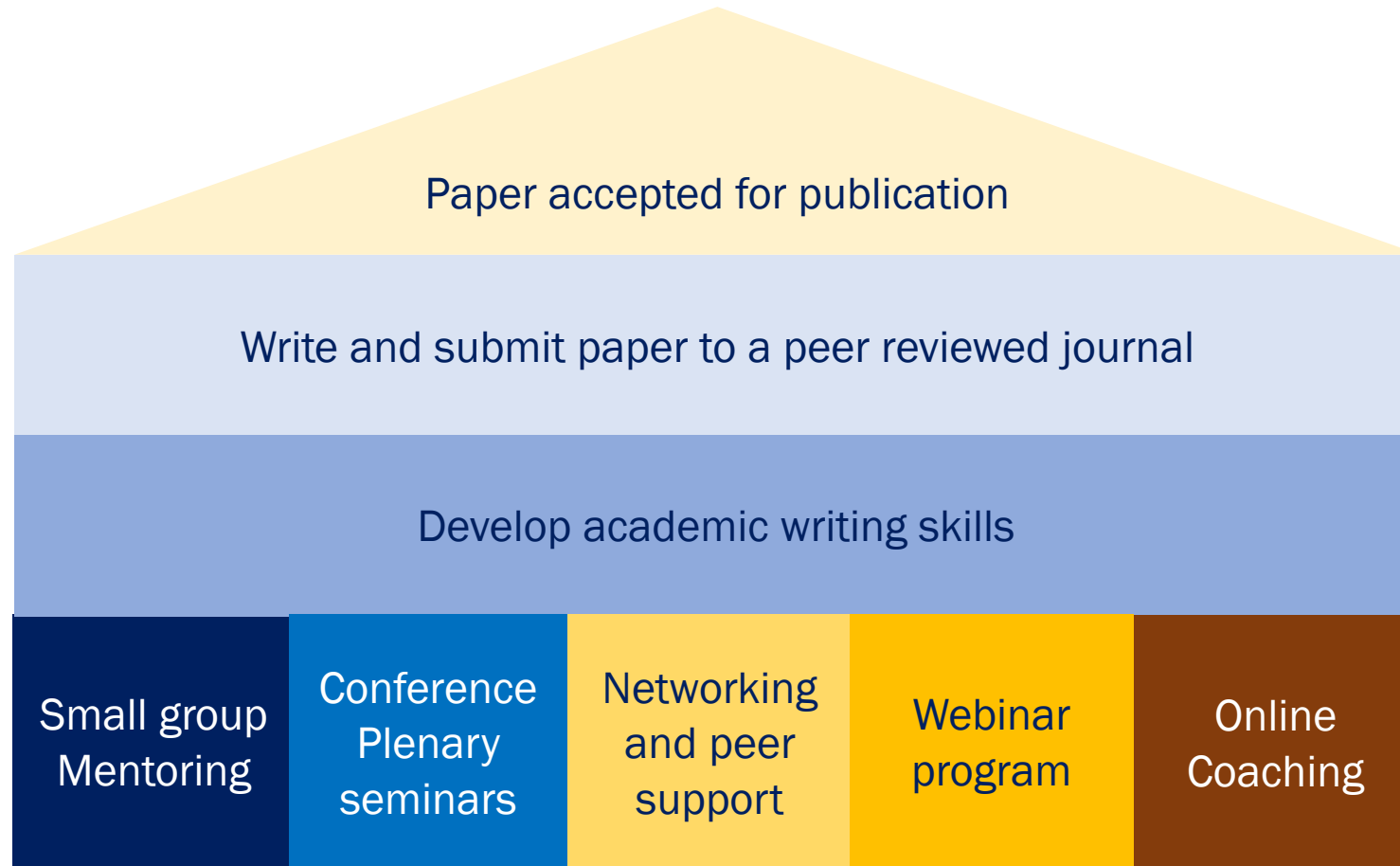
It is anticipated that a large proportion of these submissions will be accepted for publication within 12 months.

Longer-term aims: to develop the research capacity of LMIC scientists and practitioners working in family planning.

Course objectives

- Be aware of the parts of a scientific manuscript and the fundamentals of good scientific writing.
- Have the skills to craft a scholarly and lucid argument.
- Develop their abstract into a scientific manuscript and navigate the process for submission and peer review.
- Participate in a network of junior scientists, facilitators and mentors who have similar interests.

Course overview



Conference plenary seminars

- Four 1-hour sessions
- Introductory keynote to set the scene (20 minutes)
- Moderated expert panel discussion (25 minutes)
- Audience Q&A and interaction (15 minutes)

Session themes

Day 1 Introduction: Why do I publish?

Day 2 The anatomy of a scientific paper

Day 3 What journals want: getting your research noticed

Day 4 Practical steps to getting published

Day 1 Introduction: Why do I publish?

Introduction to the course and mentoring program and discuss why scientific writing skills and publishing are essential.

Intended learning outcomes

- Understand the purpose and structure of the course
- Develop tips to start writing and move from a conference abstract to a full manuscript
- Learn tips for successful academic writing
- Understand authorship etiquette and rules

Day 1 Introduction: Why do I publish?

Keynote

Jane Hirst (University of Oxford)

Panel

Moderator Rita Kabra (WHO)

- Jane Hirst (University of Oxford)
- Simon Binezera Mambo (Youth Alliance for Reproductive Health)
- Lale Say (WHO)

Day 2 The anatomy of a scientific paper

This session will help students structure and write each section of the manuscript to best display their work and convey their findings to other scientists and the general public.

Intended learning outcomes

- Understand the general purpose/goal of writing the paper.
- Understand the structure for writing a scientific article and the purpose of each section of the manuscript
- Be aware of reporting guidelines for different types of research and how to use them to your advantage.
- Develop strategies for approaching complex parts of the manuscript, including writing abstract results and conclusions that don't just repeat what is already in the tables

Day 2 speakers

Keynote

Moazzam Ali (WHO)

Panel

Moderator J Hirst (University of Oxford)

- Moazzam Ali (WHO)
- Unnop Jaisamrarn (Chulalongkorn University)
- Stella Babalola (JHU)

Day 3 What journals want: getting your research noticed

To understand what journal editors are looking for and how to grab their attention; how to pick the right journal; understand what Article processing charges (APCs) are; learn tips from journal editors about how to make their manuscript stand out from the crowd.

Intended learning outcomes

- Understand the different journal types, costs and submission requirements and how to locate the best journal for your article
- Present your work in a way that will appeal to journal editors
- Be aware of the peer review process, how to take criticism constructively, and how to respond to reviewers
- Understand what is meant by open access, including sharing your data sets

Day 3 speakers

Keynote: V Chandra-Mouli (WHO)

Panel (moderator Rita Kabra)

- V Chandra-Mouli (WHO)
- Hannah Wilson (Gates Open Research)
- Ruwaida Salem (Global Health Science and Practice)
- Angel Foster (Contraception)

Day 4 Practical steps to getting published

Students will learn about the Gates Open Gateway, the post-conference coaching program and how to gain the most from it, gain tips on managing their workload and being productive writers, and have an opportunity to give feedback on any comments to the faculty about the course.

Intended learning outcomes

- Tips for how to "sell" your paper to a journal editor and reviewer, including compelling visualisations, tables, figures and video abstracts
- Discuss what makes a good peer review and how to respond to peer review
- Address any outstanding questions about the material covered in the previous sessions
- Present details of the upcoming coaching and webinar program to the students

Day 4 speakers

Keynote: Hannah Wilson (Gates Open Gateway)

Panel (moderator James Kiarie WHO)

- Hannah Wilson (Gates Open Gateway)
- Funmi OlaOlorun (University of Ibadan/ JHU)
- Volashnee Grover (WHO)
- Linnea Zimmerman (JHU)

Mentoring program

- During the conference, mentors will meet with their mentees ideally twice
- Each mentor will be allocated 3-5 mentees
- Where possible, mentors and mentees will be matched by topic area of interest to facilitate peer- network building

Aims of the mentoring sessions

- Consolidate learnings from the seminar sessions
- Create peer networks of junior scientists
- Allow junior scientists to discuss specific issues with an experienced researcher

Post conference coaching session

- Two webinars to consolidate learnings
- GFMER coaching program to support students for six months

Course evaluation

- Kirkpatrick approach
- Pre- and post-course questionnaires at ICFP and after the coaching program
- Metrics of manuscript completion/submission/acceptance
- Feedback from faculty and mentors