

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS – THET CONFERENCE 2021

POWER OF PARTNERSHIP: SOLIDARITY IN THE SHADOW OF COVID

Stark inequities in the availability of COVID-19 vaccines globally and draconian reductions in UK Aid have defined the first half of 2021. What does this mean for a Health Partnership community intent on working in solidarity across borders?

Our 2021 Annual Conference will examine the myriad forms of solidarity across the Health Partnership community in this International Year of the Health and Care Worker and look to the future, as the UK hosts the UN Climate Change Conference in November and works to define itself on a global stage.

Bringing together leading voices from across the health, development, academic and government communities, conference participants will be invited to discuss how the Health Partnership approach has evolved in response to the pandemic, conflict and cuts over the past year; celebrate the continuing exchanges of expertise that have characterised this year; and consider how global solidarity can help to sustain the mental wellbeing of health professionals at a time of unprecedented strain.

In an era of climate crisis THET believes there can be no justification for holding large conferences with heavy carbon footprints. Our Conference this year will therefore remain online and will be held over four mornings to ensure the greatest access for our partners around the world. Supported by Health Education England, Johnson & Johnson and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, join us for our largest and most international conference yet!

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

We are delighted to invite health partnerships, individuals, institutions, organisations, private companies, within and across the sector, interested in sharing their evidence of success, challenges and lessons learnt under the below key themes to submit abstracts to THET.

Selected partners will be invited to present their findings in the form of oral presentations or poster displays at the conference. This is an opportunity to showcase your work to a wide audience of global health professionals across different sectors, including health service delivery, academia and research, professional bodies, companies and not for profits, and make meaningful connections for stronger collaboration.

We ask for relevant abstracts to be submitted under one of the following categories:

RESILIENCE

Stream Title and Session:	Global Health Engagement and Wellbeing
Session Overview and Aims:	Health workers at the forefront of the COVID-19 response in the UK, have acquired new skills but have also been exposed to trauma and what has been termed 'moral injury' in the face of unprecedented challenges. This trauma experienced by health workers in the UK is echoed globally. The mental health consequences of the pandemic on health workers will be felt for years to come. Health workers are at considerable risk of work-related stress, burnout, and mental health problems such as depression and anxiety.
Questions for abstracts to respond to:	What is the evidence base for how global engagement opportunities benefit the wellbeing of NHS staff?
Core components you would like submissions to address:	We are interested in hearing about: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Requirements – what are the requirements, both technical and financial, for improving well-being through global health volunteering?- Approach – what are the most useful forms of global engagement to impact well-being?- Feasibility - what supply, in the availability of health worker time and engagement opportunities, and demand, the desire of health workers to engage, is there for global health volunteering?- System - what are the benefits to organisations and systems of supporting global health opportunities for their workforce?- Bi-lateral benefits – how can global health volunteering positively impact the well-being of health workers in low- or middle-income countries (LMICs)?

N.B. Submissions to this call may be invited to present at an event chaired by David Nicholson on 3rd September 2021.

SOLIDARITY	
Stream Title and Session:	Health Partnerships and solidarity during COVID-19
Session Overview and Aims:	Health Partnerships have demonstrated remarkable support and commitment to each other since the start of the pandemic. This session examines how the support provided between partners has adapted and evolved in the last 18 months, particularly given the reduction in international travel and capacity across all partners, and the growing need to switch to a crisis response.
Questions for abstracts to respond to:	How have Health Partnerships demonstrated solidarity during COVID-19?
Core components you would like submissions to address:	<p>We are interested in hearing about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both the UK support to overseas countries, and vice-versa. • How different intersectional groups have been affected and the support provided. • Whether and how partnerships have switched from long-term capacity development to crisis-oriented support, and how this has affected the nature of the partnership. • Intra- and inter-partnership solidarity

RESILIENCE	
Stream Title and Session:	Health System Resilience in a time of Crisis
Session Overview and Aims:	The COVID crisis is exerting enormous pressure on health systems across the world, and has laid bare a lack of resilience to crises in both LMICs and High-Income Countries. Health system resilience can be defined as the capacity of health systems to absorb, adapt or transform when exposed to a shock (e.g. pandemic, civil unrest, natural disaster) and still retain the same control within their structure and functions. This session aims to explore how health partnerships can and/or should be ensuring that their activities are contributing to health system resilience, and also to explore how that could be applied bi-directionally.
Questions for abstracts to respond to:	How are health partnerships building resilience in health systems through their partnership work in light of new situations. How has the COVID crisis changed your approach?
Core components you would like submissions to address:	<p>We are interested in hearing about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempts at embedding your partnership work in the health system through a focus on networking. • Trialling of 'horizontal' or holistic approaches rather than 'vertical' programming. • How your partnership work improves the amount and quality of information available to planners and decision makers within the health system. • How COVID has affected your partnership, and how you might focus efforts on building resilience in the future. • Examples of innovations or practices linked to resilience in LMICs that have or could be adopted in the UK. <p>The above list is by no means exhaustive.</p>

Please note that for all categories, descriptions of health partnership activities, context and management can be presented as background to such evidence, but are not acceptable as the core of a presentation. Candidates can submit more than one abstract if they wish to, however, please submit one abstract per email.

TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT, PLEASE COMPLETE THE [ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM](#) AND SEND IT TO COMMS@THET.ORG NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT GMT ON 15TH AUGUST 2021.

ABSTRACTS WILL BE REVIEWED AND SELECTED BASED ON A SPECIFIC SET OF CRITERIA, INCLUDING:

- Submission in the correct format following the guidance in [Abstract Submission Form](#).
- Fit to the criteria above.

- Fit to the conference purpose and objectives.
- Quality of the research presented, including pertinence of the issue, appropriateness of research methods, significance of results and critical analysis.
- Significance to the conference audience including health partnerships, global health professionals and researchers more widely.
- Potential contribution to policy and practice.
- Suitability of the content to the format of the conference (oral presentation or poster, see details in 'Other information' section below).

PUBLICATION OF ABSTRACTS

Abstracts selected for presentation will be published as part of the conference proceedings and made available on the THET website and the Conference website.

OTHER INFORMATION

Once you have submitted your abstract(s) you should receive an email acknowledging receipt within 48 hours. **If you have not received an email within this time, please consider that your abstract has not been received.** In this case, please contact charlotte.ashton@thet.org to check the status of your submission.

Successful applicants will be asked to present their research on either Friday 8th October or Tuesday 12th October of the conference in one of the following formats:

- 10-15 minute online oral presentation during the breakout session, followed by a Q&A with the audience
- A poster displayed online on the conference platform