CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

We invite you to submit an abstract for the World Congress of Epidemiology 2020. **Abstracts relating to any *aspect of epidemiology* are welcome.** Those that have relevance to the congress theme are strongly encouraged.

The main theme is **Methodological Innovations in Epidemiology**, embracing innovation in areas as diverse as theoretical epidemiology and data collection methods, adapting from other disciplines (e.g., econometrics), and more.

In addition to contributions on all other aspects of epidemiology, we welcome abstracts on:	
	Teaching and communicating epidemiology and biostatistics: Abstracts could, for examples, involve innovative approaches to teaching different aspects of epidemiology and/or biostatistics (e.g., counterfactual thinking, a new analysis method), novel approaches to assessing understanding, educational research in our discipline, and more.
	Translation from research to policy and practice: Those abstracts might focus on the methods and process of translation, for example, or relate to the benefits and pitfalls of translation and the ethical issues involved. In particular, we welcome country-specific or culturally-relevant insights into these matters.
	Career development for Early to Mid-Career Epidemiologists: We invite contributions that provide advice and share wisdom relevant to planning, fostering or enhancing the career and professional advancement of students and practitioners. Of special interest is the alignment (or lack thereof) of national, regional and international supports with the needs for professional development that exist.
	The abstract templates are sufficiently flexible to accommodate different types of presentation content.

Presentation Formats

The following presentation formats are available:	
	Long Presentation: 12 minutes + 3 minutes for questions
	Snapshot Presentation: 5 minutes with a maximum of three slides, focused on **a single finding or message** (similar to a **Brief Report or Letter to the Editor** in a journal). It will be presented with other snapshot presentations on a similar theme. There will be opportunity for questions and discussion at the end of each session.
	Oral Poster: posters (A0 in size) presented with 3 minutes to discuss.
	Poster (traditional): posters (A0 in size) in portrait page orientation.
	Video: three-minute video-taped presentation open to for applicants who meet the AEA eligibility criteria for Early Career Researcher (see following).
	Early Career Workshop: This is an Australasian Epi Association (AEA)-sponsored event using the AEA eligibility criteria for Early Career: *currently enrolled in a postgraduate degree in epidemiology, biostatistics or a related discipline, or have completed a postgraduate degree in epidemiology, biostatistics or a related discipline within 2 years of the closing date of this application (documentary evidence of eligibility required).* A maximum of three ECRs to present a methodological problem to a plenary meeting and to receive advice and guidance from a discussant and other experienced epidemiologists/ biostatisticians in the audience. In case they are unsuccessful, applicants should consider submitting additionally an abstract for another form of presentation (i.e., another version of EC Workshop submission).
	Symposia: up to 90 minutes for a self-contained session on a topic relevant to the congress theme or sub-theme. Each symposium would include 6 or more presentations, but fewer if the program includes an extended address by a leading international authority. We also encourage symposia that allow researchers from different countries or regions to explore a shared issue. Even if including an extended address, symposia proposals should include at least 3 - 4 speakers.
	The presenting author must indicate their preferred presentation format when completing the Online Submission Form. Every effort will be made to accommodate that preference, but the Program Committee reserves the right to allocate presentations in a manner most suitable for the entire program.

Before Commencing Your Abstract Submission:	
	All abstracts must be submitted using one of three templates: the Abstract Template, the Early Career Workshop Template or the Symposium Template. Information on downloading and completing the templates is provided.
	Abstracts submitted for presentation may be published exactly as received and should be checked for spelling and grammar prior to submission. We recommend you ask a colleague to read and check the abstract.
	The presenting author will be identified during the abstract submission process. All correspondence will be conducted with the presenting author.
	Presenting authors must pay registration fees and cover their own travel and accommodation expenses.
	If the project involves members of an Indigenous population, we encourage the submitting author to include at least one of the authors identifies as Indigenous.

Content and Format of Submissions:

It is required that all submissions use an abstract submission template. Failure to use a template will result in submissions being rejected. The abstract submission templates can be downloaded from the official WCE20 website (link to website). This is an easy to use Microsoft Word template and all submissions **must be completed in this format**.

Please note that:

To facilitate a blind review of the abstracts for presentations or posters, do not include identifying information on authors or their affiliations in the title or text of the abstract or in the name of the file submitted. You will be prompted to provide author names and affiliations elsewhere in the abstract submission.

Abstracts (excluding title) must not exceed 250 words (presentations and posters), 2000 words (early career workshop) or 1000 words (symposia). Text in excess of those limits will be excluded.

Paragraphs – insert one carriage return between paragraphs.

Footnotes – should not be included.

References – are not required. If you really need to include one, put it in the main text and enclosed in brackets.

The body of the Abstract Template should be arranged as follows:

Empirical Results style: Title (maximum 15 words), Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions, Key messages (one or two sentences) or

Narrative style: Title (maximum 15 words), Focus of Presentation, Findings, Conclusions/ Implications, Key messages (one or two sentences).

Assessment of abstracts:

By submitting an abstract, all authors agree to the terms and conditions that follow:

The work described in the abstract is the original work of the authors.

The work described in the abstract does not conflict with any existing copyright agreements with alternate publishers.

The work described in the abstract has appropriate approval under local requirements and human and animal experimentation ethics rules.

A presenting author may submit more than one abstract (as presenting author), but we may need to limit Long or Snapshot presentations to one per presenting author.

If the abstract is accepted as a presentation or poster, the presenting author will register and pay registration fees to attend WCE2020.

If the abstract is accepted as a symposium, all presenters will register and pay registration fees to attend WCE2020. Presenting authors accepted for a Symposium may also be accepted for a Long Presentation or a Snapshot Presentation on a different topic.

Submission of an abstract implies the agreement of all authors to the publication of the abstract in the Congress program, and for any video/audio recordings taken during your presentation to be used and published by WCE2020, including provision of these materials to WCE2020 delegates.

Terms and conditions:

The Scientific Committee will be responsible for the assessment and selection/allocation of individual abstracts and symposia. **All abstracts will be assessed by two reviewers independently.**

The following criteria will be used for scoring abstracts for presentation or poster:

The background/context (including aims and purpose) of the presentation is clearly stated and relevant to the congress theme/sub-theme. **10 points**

The methods/processes are described clearly and are conceptually sound. **10 points**

The results/analyses are detailed, clearly expressed and related to the aims. **10 points**

The conclusions/outcomes are clearly stated and are relevant to and follow logically from the aims and methods/processes. **10 points**

The presentation adds new information, offers original research or innovative applications and/or provides critical or reflective comment, and is likely to stimulate discussion and debate. **20 points.**

Reviewers will score each criterion on a ten-point scale (ranging from 1 = poor to 10 = outstanding). The score for the final criterion will be doubled when the scores are aggregated (maximum score 60 points).

Keywords:

The Scientific Committee will allocate abstracts to proffered paper or poster sessions.

To assist the Scientific Committee, presenters will be asked to nominate two or three keywords from the table below during the abstract submission, with at least one keyword describing the content and one the method/processes.

Please choose carefully because these keywords will be used to allocate abstracts to reviewers.

Content

Alcohol and other drugs	Environmental health	Indigenous health	Political economy of health
Built environment	Environmental sustainability	Injury	Population health practice
Cancer	Ethics	Intervention	Primary health care
Cardiovascular disease	Food, nutrition, obesity	Justice health	Refugee health
Career development for epidemiologists	Global health	Maternal and child health	Rural health
Chronic disease prevention and management	Health economics	Men's health	Sexual health
Climate change and health	Health equity	Mental health	Social epidemiology/determinants
Clinical Epidemiology	Health promotion	Mentoring	Systems approaches
Communicable diseases	Health-related behaviours	Musculoskeletal health	Teaching and learning in epidemiology
Community development	Health services	Occupational health	Tobacco
Cultural adaption	Health statistics	Oral health	Translation
Demographics of health	Health Technology Assessment	Perinatal health	Women's health
Emergencies	Implementation science	Physical activity	

Methods/processes

Communication technology	Implementation	Program evaluation	Systems thinking
Clinical Trials	Knowledge translation	Research – clinical	Teaching epidemiology
Data linkage	Longitudinal studies	Research – community or action	Systems thinking
Demographics	Mentoring	Research – population	Teaching epidemiology
Geographic information systems	Methodological issues	Research – qualitative	Trials - clinical
Health services evaluation	Policy development and/or analysis	Surveillance	Trials - group/community

Early Career Workshop:

The Australasian Epidemiological Association (AEA) will host a plenary workshop for ECRs. The workshop allows an ECR to make a presentation that highlights a methodological issue or problem that has arisen in their research. In response, they will receive advice from a discussant, and from experienced epidemiologists / biostatisticians in the audience, on how it might be solved.

For this AEA Workshop, an ECR is a student currently enrolled in, or a graduate in the past two years of a postgraduate program in epidemiology/biostatistics (with proof of eligibility required). Applicants should be a current member of the International Epidemiological Association (IEA) or their national/regional association.

ECR's who would like to be considered to present in this workshop must provide an extended abstract (2000 words) using the Early Career Workshop Template and, during the abstract submission process, nominate that they wish to be considered for the early career workshop.

Up to three successful applicants will be chosen on merit based on review of their abstract for which they will be the presenting author. Each will receive a monetary prize.

Successful applicants must engage in dialogue with their discussant prior to the congress.

Because some applications may be unsuccessful, applicants should consider submitting additionally an abstract for presentation or poster.

Congress awards:

Congress awards may be awarded to presenting authors who are:

Citizens of countries classified by the World Bank as a low or lower-middle income country (LMIC);

Students or early- to mid-career researchers (0–10 years postdoctoral).

Successful applicants will be chosen on merit, based on review of an abstract for which they are the presenting author.

Applicants from a LMIC who are a co-author, but not the presenting author, may apply for a congress award by writing to the Deputy Chair of the Scientific Committee to make a case for selection based on the important role they played in the work reported in the abstract.

The number and monetary value of each congress award will be announced closer to the congress. Irrespective of value, the congress award will be accompanied by a waiver of the registration fee. The combined value of congress award and fee waiver *will not cover all costs* of attending the congress.

Presenting authors will be asked to identify during the abstract submission process whether they wish to be considered for a congress award and, if so, whether they are a current member of IEA.

Successful applicants will be required to provide additional information to establish proof of eligibility. It should be provided to the Deputy Chair of the Scientific Committee.

Please note the following important dates:	**12 August** - Abstract submission opens
	November 2019 - Registration opens
	March 2020 - Abstract submission closes
	May 2020 - Abstract notifications
	30 June 2020 - Early bird registration closes

| Contacts: | **For further information or to submit required documentation:** |
| | **Please contact Michelle Tan** - program@wce2020.org |

CALL FOR SYMPOSIA

Only a very limited number of symposia will be available. After an initial assessment of proposals for symposia by the Scientific Committee, the Program Committee will make the final choice based on the quality of each proposal, its fit with the remainder of the program, and its capacity to enhance the program.

Assessing proposals for symposia:	
	The following criteria will be used for assessing proposals for symposia. They are that the symposium:
	Has a focused topic that is aligned with the congress theme or sub-theme
	Provides new information or critical comment, or offers new research insights or innovative applications or approaches, and is likely to stimulate discussion and debate
	Has clear outcomes and/or offers training opportunities unlikely to be accessible to many attendees through other means
	Will be conducted by people with relevant skills
	To apply, submit a symposium proposal (max 1000 words) though the submission portal. **The proposal should be structured as follows:**
	Title – (maximum 15 words)
	Organisation(s) involved and key contact person details
	Focus and outcomes for participants
	Rationale for the symposium, including for its inclusion in the Congress
	Presentation program
	Names of presenters
	Short biography of presenters and the facilitator or chair (maximum 100 words each)
	Name of facilitator or chair
	The organiser will be able to make limited changes to the list of presenters prior to the finalisation of the program (end June 2020). Note that the symposia will be run in parallel with proffered paper sessions and other symposia. Further information may be requested before or during the assessment process.
	Should you require any clarification, please contact Michelle Tan at: **program@wce2020.org**