



UNIVERSITY *of the*
WESTERN CAPE

EMERGING
VOICES 2013

Call for Emerging Voices for Global Health (EV4GH): AIDS in Africa, ICASA 2013

Introduction. Emerging Voices for Global Health (EV4GH) is a blended training program for young researchers on health research and scientific communication. EV4GH trains “Emerging Voices” to participate actively in international conferences and to raise their voice in the scientific debate.

The Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), Antwerp organised two previous editions of EV4GH. In 2010 EV4GH was linked to the First Global Symposium of Health Systems Research in Montreux, and in 2012 to the Second Global Symposium in Beijing. The next EV4GH 2013 edition will be linked to the AIDS in Africa Conference ([ICASA](#)), ‘*Now more than ever: targeting zero*’ in Cape Town, South Africa, 7 to 11 December 2013; and will be hosted by the School of Public Health and Centre for Research in HIV and AIDS at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa.

Within the broad field of HIV in Africa, EV4GH 2013 will have 3 thematic tracks: a clinical track, a prevention track, and a health systems track (see below). EV candidates can only apply for one track.

What is the EV4GH training? EV4GH comprises several phases. The face-to-face phase will take place in Cape Town from 25 November till 13 December 2013.

The full EV4GH 2013 training consists of:

- 1) *E-coaching and distance learning in preparation of the face-to-face phase (Sept-Nov 2013)*
- 2) *Face-to-face training: scientific presentation and communication skills using innovative formats, and content training (Cape Town, Nov 25 – Dec 2, 2013)*
- 3) *Young researchers pre-conference hosted by the University of Western Cape School of Public Health (4-5 Dec 2013)*
- 4) *Participation in the [ICASA conference](#) (Cape Town, Dec 7-11 2013)*
- 5) *Wrap-up, towards publication, and field visits to the South African health system (Dec 12-13, 2013)*
- 6) *Distance coaching towards a publication in the scientific literature.*

Timeline EV2013:



Expected outputs for each Emerging Voice participant:

1. poster
2. oral presentation using an innovative format (Pecha Kucha or Prezi)
3. video of your oral presentation (Camtasia – YouTube)
4. publication in a peer-reviewed journal

Who can apply? We are looking for young individuals who want to deepen their own expertise in the field of HIV; to cross disciplinary and sectoral boundaries and learn from and with colleagues who are addressing HIV in Africa, using different perspectives, and who are committed to turn the key messages from their abstract into a well-argued viewpoint and to make their voice heard.

If you fit this profile, are under 40 years of age (born after 1 January 1973); are a researcher, a decision maker, or a practitioner involved in HIV/AIDS in Africa; and can dedicate

considerable time to this training including full three weeks in Cape Town from 25 November till 13 December 2013; you are invited to apply.

EV4GH is in English. Participants thus need a fair command of English to participate in EV4GH. Participants whose main scientific language is French or Portuguese will be specifically coached to enable them to present and discuss in English.

Themes (tracks) are:

Track 1 (*clinical track*). Theme: HIV co-infection: clinical challenges anno 2013

HIV in low resource settings has raised many challenges in prevention, treatment, care and support. With the scaling up of HAART both morbidity and mortality have declined. However, due to late presentation of patients diagnosis and treatment of opportunistic infections remain challenging in sub-Saharan Africa. This track invites contributions based on original research on HIV co-infections, such as TB, cryptococcal meningitis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases.

Track 2 (*prevention track*). Theme: Combination prevention for HIV

Reducing the rate of new HIV infections remains top priority in addressing the HIV epidemic. There is now a broad consensus that combining different tools and approaches addressing individual biological and behavioral factors, with social and contextual factors, offers the best promise of success. Uncertainty remains about the optimal mix of such a “combination prevention package” as well as how to best evaluate its effectiveness in real life. This track invites contributions related to design and/or evaluation of combination prevention for HIV in Africa.

Track 3 (*health systems track*). Theme: HIV & Health Systems Strengthening

Health system weaknesses have been identified since long as key obstacles, hampering the achievement of HIV program targets. Now that HIV has become a chronic disease, the need for continuity of care and lifelong retention in care for the growing caseloads of people living on ART is only further adding health systems challenges, particularly in the context of large scale internal and cross-border migration triggered by urbanization, conflict, and unemployment. There is now a broad consensus on the need for Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) in Africa, but there is a wide range of HSS interventions. This track invites contributions related to HIV & HSS, including research on innovative models of HIV care.

How to apply

A full application consists of 2 steps:

- Step 1: **online registration** (preferably by June 1st). Applicants are invited to express their intention to apply for the EV4GH training by filling out all fields in the online form:
<http://bit.ly/ev4gh2013>
- Step 2: send a **mail to *ev4gh@itg.be*** containing **3 attachments** (at the latest on June 20th) :

- (1) the **abstract** you submitted to the ICASA conference (check the [ICASA official website](#) for more info on abstract requirements);
- (2) a short **CV**;
- (3) a well-elaborated **motivation letter** explaining why you want to participate in the EV4GH training. The motivation letter is crucial and must argue convincingly why you are an excellent Emerging Voice candidate.

The mail to ev4gh@itg.be should contain “**EV2013application_your chosen track**” (eg: EV2013application_clinical track) as subject line and 3 documents (abstract, CV & motivation letter) as 3 e-mail attachments named respectively:

given name_surname_abstract.pdf;

given name_surname_cv.pdf;

given name_surname_letter.pdf.

All the above should be completed at the latest by 20 June 2013. A full application consists of completion of both steps.

Travel grants:

A limited number of travel grants can be awarded to Emerging Voices who lack sufficient financial means for participation. There will be some full grants, and also partial grants. Please indicate in your motivation letter whether you would need a grant and which other possible (partial) funding you can explore if selected. We strongly recommend you also apply for an [ICASA scholarship](#).

For **further information**, explore [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) or contact us at ev4gh@itg.be or find additional information at [the Emerging Voices for Global Health website](#).