



7TH ANNUAL AFRICA INTERDISCIPLINARY
HEALTH CONFERENCE (AfIHC 2024)
August 21-23, 2024



AfIHC 2024 CALL FOR ABSTRACTS and FULL PAPERS

We invite you to [submit abstract](#) for oral, poster or panel presentation to share some of your works at the 7th annual Africa Interdisciplinary Health Conference (AfIHC 2024).

AfIHC 2024 will be held in collaboration with **University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa**, from **August 21-23, 2024**. The theme of the conference is ***Healthcare in Africa: Collaboration, Innovation and Sustainability***.

Abstracts and full papers are invited from any clinician or health related professionals, academics in the medical and allied health science, researchers, students, practitioners, educators, innovators, leaders and other professionals and stakeholders. Below are the sub-themes:

- Medical devices, circular economy, and environmentally sustainable healthcare practices in Africa and globally*
- Technology and innovations including telemedicine and telehealth.
- Progress on achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs)
- Sexual and reproductive health including HIV and AIDS
- Burden of chronic diseases
- Climate change and health
- Cultural competence and community engagement in healthcare delivery
- Impact of food insecurity and water insecurity on health
- The role of social sciences in strengthening Africa's healthcare system
- Mental health
- Education and training for healthcare professionals
- Response strategies to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases
- Gender-based violence and health implications
- Healthcare policy and financing

**Special conference track*

Abstracts are invited for the following formats:

- Oral sessions
- Poster sessions
- Panel sessions

Special conference track

Circular Economy, Medical Devices, and Environmentally Sustainable Healthcare Practices in Africa and globally.

Medical devices play a crucial role in healthcare, serving various functions from illness prevention, diagnosis, and treatment to modifying the body's structure for health purposes. However, our current system relies heavily on disposables and linear "take-use-and-throw" use of medical device or healthcare practices. This practice

has substantial economic implications and a notable environmental impact. Shifting away from these disposable practices by integrating Circular Economy (CE) strategies, which promote preserving and prolonging the economic and environmental value of products and materials, can offer sustainable practices. However, research has largely overlooked the application of CE and sustainable strategies within the healthcare sector, which faces challenges such as stringent regulations to prevent shortages and increased risks associated with handling potentially contaminated materials. To address this research gap, a call to action is needed. This special track at the conference aims to gather original studies focusing on the application of CE and sustainable strategies in the healthcare industry. Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- Sustainable medical device design and practices in hospitals.
- The design of new reusable medical devices.
- Designing production processes for sustainable medical devices.
- Design for disassembling of medical devices.
- Design for recycling non-infectious medical devices.
- Practices for the collection and disposal of medical wastes.
- Design for repurposing, refurbishing, and remanufacturing medical devices to enable close the loop.

Due to the research gap in this topic, we encourage papers addressing healthcare systems in Africa and globally.

Submission of Papers

- Full papers should be 8 pages in length, including References.
- Papers submitted must use the recommended [IEEE Manuscript Templates for Conference Proceedings](#) template.
- Papers will undergo a double-blind review.
- Papers accepted for the Conference Proceedings and presented by the author or co-author will be allocated DOI or ISBN numbers.
- The deadline for full paper submission is May 30, 2024.

Submission Details and Timelines

Please submit your abstract online by 15th March 2024, 11:59GMT at: <https://rb.gy/y5e99w>

Submission of abstracts	Opens on Tuesday January 2, 2024 Closes on Friday March 15, 2024
Notification of selected abstracts	April 30, 2024
Deadline for speaker confirmations	May 31, 2024
Conference registration	Opens on January 2, 2024 Closes on June 30, 2024 (Early bird) Closes on August 23, 2024 (Late registration)

Contact Details

Please contact afihcinfo@gmail.com for all conference-related queries.

For more information, kindly visit www.afihc.org.