Call for Mentees: Publication Mentorship for Women in HPSR

The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (AHPSR) is committed to supporting institutional capacity for the conduct and uptake of health policy and systems research (HPSR). Peer-reviewed publications are important for communicating scientific work, recognition within the research community and career progression. However, women lag behind their male colleagues in publications. Women face unique challenges (e.g. competing professional and personal roles, self-confidence, male-dominated professional environments) which hamper amongst other things, their ability to publish their work.

AHPSR is seeking to address the challenge faced by women in the field of HPSR in publishing their research through initiating a publication mentorship programme. This programme will be carried out by linking women intending to publish, with experienced research mentors, who will be tasked with supporting and guiding the publication. For this programme, AHPSR will partner with selected journals in the field of HPSR, and the published articles will be compiled as special supplements of these journals. The Alliance will cover all costs of publication of articles emanating from this programme.

THIS CALL

The Alliance invites early-career women working in HPSR in LMICs, who are motivated to publish their research but require guidance and support, to submit a manuscript which has the potential to be published in a peer-review journal. The research should be in topics covering the field of health policy or health systems.

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1 Nygaardab, LP and Bahgata K (2018). What’s in a number? How (and why) measuring research productivity in different ways changes the gender gap.


ELIGIBILITY

- Early-career women between the ages of 25 and 35 years;
- Working as a researcher or practitioner (i.e. decision-makers, implementers) in HPSR;
- Holds a Masters or Medical degree;
- Located and resident in a LMIC;
- No previous publications; and
- Requires guidance through a one-to-one mentorship with publishing a draft manuscript in a peer-reviewed journal.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINES

- Deadline for application for mentorship: 27 April, 2018
- Notification of successful applicants: 25 May, 2018
- Linking of mentees with mentors: 1 July, 2018

APPLICATION PROCESS

All submissions must be sent to the alliancehpsr@who.int by the deadline of 27 April, 2018.

Please use the subject: Call for Mentees: Publication Mentorship for Women in HPSR

Submissions in English of not more than 10 pages, should include the following:

- **Applicant details:** Name and age of the applicant including contact details, current position, institutional affiliation and country location;
- **Motivation for applying:** In no more than 500 words, the applicant 1) describes the challenges that she experiences in publishing research and specifically the challenges relating to the research submitted for this application and 2) ways in which she expects to benefit from mentorship; and
- **Draft manuscript:** In no more than 3,000 words, including the background, methods, results and discussion/conclusions of the research project which will be converted into a publication.
REVIEW CRITERIA
Candidate submissions will be reviewed by an independent panel of experts including AHPSR Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and Secretariat. Applications will be judged based on:

- Strength of argument in motivation for applying; and
- Quality of manuscripts in terms technical merit, relevance for the field of HPSR and potential for being converted into a peer-reviewed publication.

NOTE FOR APPLICANTS

1. WHO may, at any time before the closing date, for any reason, whether on its own initiative or in response to a clarification requested by a (prospective) applicant, modify the call by written amendment. Amendments could, inter alia, include modification of the project scope or requirements, the project timeline expectations and/or extension of the closing date for submission.

2. All prospective applicants that have submitted an application will be notified in writing of all amendments to the call and will, where applicable, be invited to amend their submission accordingly.