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CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF STUDENTS AND YOUNG ACADEMIC RESEARCH OR INNOVATION PROPOSALS FOR THE UNITED FOR HEALTH DAYS 2023.

Background

The University of Rwanda (UR) is driven by a compelling vision to establish itself as a regionally renowned institution that stands out in the domains of cutting-edge research and innovation, exceptional teaching and learning methodologies, and active involvement within the community. By consistently pushing the boundaries of knowledge generation, fostering meaningful connections with local and international communities, UR is dedicated to achieving distinction on the global stage of higher education.

UNITED for Health (Universities, NGOs, Industry, The Government working collaboratively towards Expertise Development for Health) is an initiative of the University of Rwanda (UR) in collaboration with Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC). Its main objective is to strengthen the local healthcare system by facilitating synergistic collaborations between universities, care providers, NGOs, the private sector and policy makers. In particular, the UNITED for Health initiative has the following specific objectives:

- Facilitating student internships, student theses and joint research projects
- Promoting events and sharing opportunities on research funding, research trainings and scholarships
- Supporting knowledge and technology transfer to the private sector

These objectives are being implemented through two major program components:

- The UNITED for Health portal that allows for organizations to upload opportunities and for users of the portal to be informed about opportunities tailored to their interests. (<https://unitedforhealth.rw/>)
- The UNITED for Health Days, a physical yearly exhibition event where the Who-is-Who in the health sector presents the concrete opportunities they have on offer, while exhibition visitors come to “shop” for opportunities.



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Criteria for selection

All students and academic staff who are not PhD holders at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Rwanda are invited to submit an application for an exciting research or innovation project. The objective of this call is to gather research or innovation proposals that demonstrate a collaborative spirit, uniting diverse talents to address pressing health issues. The selection committee will be looking for small pilot studies that will lead to an international publication, an innovation product, with a clear plan for follow up work.

The research proposal must meet the following criteria:

- Project proposal should be jointly developed by a team from CMHS students or staff with their partners from any other colleges within University of Rwanda, or external partners.
- The research or innovation concept should contribute to country priorities as defined in the National Health Research Policy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The research or innovation proposal should demonstrate a high degree of local appropriateness and degree of responsiveness to local community problems.
- The research or innovation proposal should demonstrate sustainability in terms of its proposed concept models for research project implementation.
- The research or innovation proposal should clearly demonstrate a unique value proposition and alternative solution.
- The research or innovation proposal should meet rigorous scientific criteria.

Female applicants are highly encouraged to apply.

Submission

The submitted research or innovation proposal should include a brief description of the following:

1. Title of the project proposal
2. Brief description of the project proposal, including background, problem statement or rationale, methodology, analysis plan or evaluation plan, feasibility plan, and way forward. (max 600 words)
3. Brief description of team members and their specific roles where applicable
4. One sentence describing why this is an important project

Supporting documents: Complete project proposal in PDF with above sections as described, scan of ID, scan of student or staff card of main applicant.



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Selection process

Selection: A selection process based on the selection criteria mentioned above will be conducted by the UR-CMHS UNITED for Health scientific committee.

What to expect: We will provide feedback to applicants on strong areas of their application and areas where there is a need for improvement.

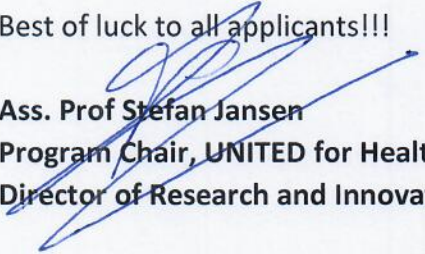
Final Step: Applicants with the best proposals will be contacted and supported to pitch their project proposal during the UNITED for Health Days. The overall winning team of the competition will receive 2,000 USD to support the implementation of their project. The teams in second to fourth positions will receive 1,000 USD to support the implementation of their project.

The deadline for submission is set for October 26th, 2023 at 11.59 PM CAT

Application for all project proposals should be submitted through this application link: <https://unitedforhealth.rw/submission-for-innovation-proposals/>.

For any additional information, clarifications, or inquiry, please contact Mr Kalisa Francois at kalisafrancois@gmail.com Tel: 0787536042

Best of luck to all applicants!!!


Ass. Prof Stefan Jansen
Program Chair, UNITED for Health
Director of Research and Innovation, UR-CMHS