

Workshop Title

Professionalisation of research management in the context of low and middle income countries (LMICs)

Workshop Overview

Professional research managers are an essential enabler of the research enterprise. While the profession is well established in most developed countries, it is still in a very early stage of development in LMICs. Professional associations in LMICs therefore have a vital role to play in the professionalization of research management within their own context. They have much to gain from sharing challenges, experiences and successes in this area in addition to learning from practices of associations in developed countries. This workshop will highlight the challenges of research managers in LMICs.

The Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) is developing a Professional Competency Framework of research managers in Southern Africa and will share the outcome of this project with local and international partners. Furthermore, the perspectives from funders of research in LMICs as well as professional associations in developed countries will emphasise the importance of professional research managers in the context of accountability.

Workshop structure

A key component of the workshop will be group discussions (each facilitated by a Chair) on selected topics related to the professionalization of research management. The workshop will include formal presentations as well as facilitated discussions.

Experience level/ target audience

The primary target audience is representatives from professional associations in LMICs.

Learning outcomes

- Increased understanding of research management related challenges in LMICs.
- Increased understanding of the importance of professional research management in the context of accountability.
- Increased awareness of research management professionalization efforts in developed countries and in LMICs.
- Engagement and networking among professional research management associations in LMICs to support their professionalization efforts.

Workshop presenters

Prof Sibusiso Moyo, SARIMA President and Director of Research and Partnerships, Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI). She has developed active partnerships with other African Research and Innovation Management Associations (RIMAs) and delivered research management related presentations at workshops, conferences and/or training events to various audiences across the African continent, the USA and Europe.

Dr Therina Theron, Senior Director: Research and Innovation at Stellenbosch University (SU). Previous professional roles include research management positions in the Department of Research and Innovation, University of Cape Town (UCT), and in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, SU. Her research management and administration experience stretches over the past 13 years. She previously was an executive committee member and Vice-President for Capacity Development of the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA), and currently is a member of the SARIMA Advisory Committee for professionalisation.

Prof Michael Khor, Director Research Support Office and Bibliometrics Analysis, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He has facilitated many workshops and delivered numerous presentations in the research and administrative appointments that he has held. He is also instrumental in promoting research administration in Singapore and Asia. He is Convenor for the Singapore Chapter of ARMS since 2013.

Prof Aldo Stroebel, Executive Director: International Relations and Cooperation, National Research Foundation, South Africa He has been involved with SARIMA as a member of the Executive Committee since 2002. He serves as immediate past President of SARIMA. He has delivered numerous presentations in his current role at the NRF, as South Africa's National Contact Point for the ERC to H2020 and through his association with SARIMA.

Prof Thandi Mgwebi, Director of Research, University of the Western Cape, South Africa. She previously held the positions of Executive Director for Research Chairs & Centers of Excellence at the National Research Foundation, South Africa and Executive Director: Institutional Engagement and Partnership Development at the same organisation. She has vast experience in executive management, research capacity development and support and internationalisation in research and served as a member of a number of related Ministerial Task Teams.

Programme outline:

Workshop Chairperson: Dr Garry Aslanyan, WHO/TDR and ESSENCE on Health Research initiative

Time	Topic/Presenter
5 min	Workshop introduction <i>Chairperson</i>
10 min	Challenges of research managers in low and middle income countries <i>Prof Sibusiso Moyo , Vice-President Research Management, SARIMA</i>
30 min	Professional competencies of research managers in Southern Africa <i>Dr Therina, Theron, SARIMA</i>
60 min	Importance of professional research managers in the context of accountability: Research Management Association, Funders and University perspectives (1) <i>Prof Michael Khor (Singapore Chapter, ARMS)</i> (2) <i>Prof Aldo Stroebel (Executive Director: International Relations and Cooperation, National Research Foundation, South Africa)</i> (3) <i>Prof Thandi Mgwebi, (Director of Research, University of the Western Cape, South Africa)</i>
90 min	Discussion & Reporting Back Group discussion topics: (1) Professional competencies and career paths for research managers (<i>Chair: Dr Paul Ivey, President of the Caribbean Research and Innovation Management Association, CabRIMA</i>) (2) Interacting with other Associations on Professionalisation routes (<i>Chair : Dr John Kirkland, Deputy Secretary General, Association of Commonwealth Universities</i>) (3) Innovation and entrepreneurship skills requirements for research managers (<i>Chair: Dr Aravind Chinchure, Chair Professor of Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Symbiosis International University, India</i>)
15 min	Summary of key messages & Closing remarks <i>Chairperson</i>