

**The 9th Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities (AFHC)
3-5 November 2021**

Young Investigator Awards

Purpose

This brief outlines the mechanisms for the **Young Investigator Awards** for the 9th Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities (AFHC) to be organised by the China Hong Kong Chapter of the AFHC and conducted as a webinar during 3-5 November 2021.

Background

The Healthy Cities approach was initiated by the World Health Organization (WHO). It is based on the concept that the social, economic and physical environment is the key to the health of city dwellers and aims to cope with health issues that have emerged with urbanisation. In Hong Kong, the first Healthy Cities Project was initiated in Sai Kung District in 1997.

The AFHC, founded in October 2003, is a network founded on the international efforts on Healthy Cities worldwide. Its current membership comprises over 200 cities and organisations. The China Hong Kong Chapter of the AFHC was established in September 2007.

Since 2004, the Global Conference of the AFHC has been organised biennially except in 2020 due to the COVID-19 epidemic. The 6th Global Conference of the AFHC was held in Hong Kong from 29 October to 1 November 2014 with “Health in All Policies” as the main theme.

The China Hong Kong Chapter of the AFHC will organise the upcoming Global Conference of the AFHC, namely, the 9th Global Conference of the AFHC, again. The main theme of the conference will be “**Smarter Healthy Cities beyond COVID-19**”.

Proposed mechanism for poster presentation and competition

The proposed awards, eligibility, judging criteria of judging panel, mechanism of voting by conference participants and schedule of the poster presentation and competition are outlined below.

Proposed awards

There will be **TEN “Young Investigator Awards”** to be announced on the second day of the conference. The purpose is to encourage young researchers to participate in the competition. Different authorities have different definitions for “youth”. For example, the Home Affairs Bureau adopts the age range of 18 to 35 for the “Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth”. For this award, we propose to adopt the age limit of 35. As such, candidates who are age 35 or below and the first author of an abstract can also compete for the “Young Investigator Awards”. The TEN candidates who attain the highest total score among those who are eligible will receive the awards.

To uphold the professional standard of the “**Young Investigator Award**”, a judging panel comprising representatives from the academia, professionals and experts in relevant fields and sectors is formed to appraise the posters based on a set of agreed criteria. The TEN candidates with the highest total score will receive the “**Young Investigator Awards**”. To engage participants of the conference, their opinion will also be taken into consideration in identifying the **THREE “My Favorite Young Investigator Awards” out of the TEN Young Investigator Award winners**. Opinion from participants will be collected by means of online voting on the second day of the conference, therefore, 4th November, 2021 and will be announced on the third day of the conference during the award ceremony. Award Certificate will be sent to your registered address shortly after the conference.

Eligibility

To join the poster competition, the candidate must submit an abstract. The eligibility for the abstract to enter the poster competition is as follows:

- Abstracts should be submitted using a standard electronic abstract form (Annex I).
- One candidate may submit more than one abstract.
- For each abstract, the candidate must indicate clearly whether the abstract is **research-based** or **practice-based**.
- For research-based abstracts, the body of the abstract should be organised as follows:
 - Provide the title and background of the study;
 - State the objective of the study;
 - Describe the methods used;
 - Summarise the results; and

- State the conclusions reached.
- For practice-based abstracts, the body of the abstract should be organised as follows:
 - Provide the title and background of the programme;
 - State the objective of the programme;
 - Describe the programme content;
 - Summarise the findings/ observation; and
 - Describe the application.
- Abstracts should not exceed 350 words.
- Additional eligibility criteria for competing for the “**Young Investigators Award**”:
 - The candidate must be aged 35 or below on 5 November 2021 [Submission of the abstract online together with a scanned copy of identity document (such as passport) showing the date of birth is mandatory]
 - The candidate must have a primary role in the research/ project reported in the abstract, i.e. he must be the first-author of the abstract.
- All candidates with their abstracts accepted for poster presentation must register for the conference.

Candidates whose abstracts are accepted for poster presentation will be notified to submit posters. Posters must be submitted in electronic format (e.g. as a PDF file). The organiser will upload the posters and afterwards, the posters of the TEN Young Investigator Award Winners to the conference website for viewing by conference participants and voting.

Judging criteria of judging panel

Based on the assessment and scoring criteria of the poster presentation of the 6th Global Conference of the AFHC, a set of assessment criteria (Table 1) and weighting (Table 2) is developed. The judging panel will appraise the posters based on this assessment criteria and weighting.

Assessment criteria	Description
Programme design	Whether it is well-planned and well-structured with good parameters to evaluate the outcomes
Creativity and innovation	Whether the project is an innovative approach rather than conventional approach with high degree of creativity

Impact of project	Whether the project has led to changes of public policies and/or service delivery models and/or health status of the population
Layout of the poster	Is the format easy to read and interpret, and also the design not only would attract the attention of audience easily but easy to interpret

Table 1. Assessment criteria for poster appraisal for the judging panel

Research-based posters		Practice-based posters	
Content	Weighting	Content	Weighting
I. Background	10%	I. Background	10%
II. Objectives	20%	II. Objectives	20%
III. Methodology	20%	III. Programme Content	20%
IV. Result	20%	IV. Findings/ Observation	20%
V. Conclusion	20%	V. Application	20%
VI. Layout of the poster	10%	VI. Layout of the poster	10%

Table 2. Weighting for each component of the poster

Mechanism of voting by conference participants

The submitted posters and then the posters of the TEN Young Investigator Award winners will be displayed online during the conference and all conference participants can vote for their **THREE My Favourite Young Investigator Awards on the second day of the conference**. Each participant can vote for not more than THREE posters through an online platform. The organiser will compile the final score of each poster and identify the winners of the THREE awards and will be announced on the third day of the conference, therefore, 5th November, 2021

Schedule

The proposed schedule of the poster competition is shown in Table 3.

Event	Date
Call for abstract	20 September

Deadline for abstract submission	18 October
Notification of acceptance of abstract	21 October
Deadline for poster submission	26 October
Judging panel to have zoom meeting for poster presentation (HK time 18:00-20:00)	28 October
Voting by conference participants	4 November
Organiser to compile the scores and announce winners	5 November

Table 3. Proposed schedule of the poster competition and presentation

Conclusions

The mechanisms for the Young Investigator Awards of the 9th Global Conference of the AFHC will be using an approach to balance the opinions of judging panels and conference participants.

Abstract Form

**The 9th Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities (AFHC)
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“Smarter Healthy Cities beyond COVID-19”

Type of this abstract: Poster presentation COVID-19 Global
 Poster presentation Community Project
 (Young Investigator)

For poster presentation only:

Nature of abstract: Research-based Practice-based

For COVID-19 Global Community Project only:

Country or area of the COVID-19 Global Community Project: _____

(Please insert your abstract in the space below, not exceed 350 words)

Full Name of principal author: Prof / Dr / Mr / Mrs / Ms _____

Organisation: _____

Correspondence address:

Email address: _____

Tel No.: _____ Fax No.: _____

[] I certify that this presentation has not been published anywhere nor been presented at any international meeting. I also grant the organiser permission to publish the abstract in event publications, electronically or on the web.

Date: _____

Abstract Deadline Date: 30 September 2021