



WORLD CONFERENCE ON DROWNING PREVENTION 2017

VANCOUVER
OCTOBER 17 – 19

Share Globally, Prevent Locally

Themes for World Conference on Drowning Prevention 2017

WCDP 2017 conference themes reflect the challenges of reducing the burden of drowning in the communities, nations and regions of the world.

The themes are:

- Prevention
- Data
- Rescue
- Disaster and Impacts of Climate Change
- Medical
- Swimming and Water Safety Education
- Partnerships

The conference organizers encourage consideration of cross-cutting issues across these themes and provide the following guidance;

Papers and posters are expected to reflect current understanding of at least two of the following:

- Research
- Policy
- Practice

Papers that address or extend the recommendations of the WHO Global Report on Drowning are encouraged across all themes.

Given the location of the event and the nature of drowning issues in Canada, the WCDP 2017 organizers wish to highlight the following sub-themes:

- Marginalized Populations - Indigenous peoples, new Canadians, northern & rural
- Search & Rescue - practices, rescuer safety; military, coast guard, civilian levels

Prevention

The Prevention theme will cover research, policy and case studies that detail strategies, interventions or evidenced based programs to reduce drowning.

Examples of topics within this theme might include:

- Evidence based interventions across the life stages, particularly in high risk demographics including children under five, people over 55 years, men and youth

- Evidence based interventions targeting communities at risk, particularly indigenous populations, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, refugees and economically disadvantaged groups
- Communication, education and advocacy initiatives where evaluation is able to measure impacts
- Activity based drowning prevention examples include occupational, fishing, scuba industry
- Research and policy making, particularly where it addresses any of the above

Data

The Drowning Data theme will cover research, policy and case studies that seek to measure, outline or improve understanding of drowning epidemiology in communities, nations and regions of the world.

Examples of topics within this theme might include::

- Studies that estimate the burden of drowning in a specific population
- Advancing the challenges of data collection including availability, quality and confidence
- Studies that outline and advance our understanding of burden and patterns of drowning
- Studies that advance our understanding of the burden of non-fatal drowning
- Studies that advance our understanding of intentional drowning

Rescue

The Rescue theme covers research, policy and case studies in lifesaving, lifeguarding and rescue services, including flood and maritime rescue; also advancements in standards and techniques across the full range of rescue contexts --- surf, open water, inland waters and swimming pools.

Examples of topics within the Rescue theme might include:

- Innovation and advances in lifesaving and lifeguarding practice, equipment and technologies
- RIPS SAFE, from science to prevention
- Risk management and assessment across all aquatic environments
- Leadership challenges in flood and maritime rescue
- Lifeguard service, workforce and volunteer development
- Lifesaving Sport and its advancement in the service and humanitarian context
- Training, research and practices in marine search and rescue

Disaster & Impacts of Climate Change

The Disaster and Impacts of Climate Change theme covers research, policy and case studies that seek to further understanding and action in reducing drowning and the impacts arising from disaster. Contexts can include maritime, storm surge, flooding and tsunamis.

Examples of topics within the Disaster and Impacts of Climate Change theme might include:

- Drowning prevention in the context of disaster risk reduction efforts
- Impacts of climate change on drowning risk in communities
- Attempts to map the burden of drowning in disaster
- Case studies involving community based disaster reduction
- Case studies outlining the role of lifesaver and rescue services in disaster

Medical

The Medical theme will cover research, policy and case studies focusing on the drowning process, first response and medical treatments following drowning and other aquatic first aid areas.

Examples of topics within the Medical theme might include:

- Drowning resuscitation & guidelines
- Advancements in the medical aspects of rescue, first aid and resuscitation
- Neurological damage after drowning resuscitation
- Drowning resuscitation challenges in low and middle income countries

Swimming and Water Safety Education

The Swimming and Water Safety Education theme will cover research, policy and case studies focusing on the instruction of swimming, basic rescue, personal aquatic survival to all age groups in high, middle and low income contexts.

Examples of topics within the Swimming and Water Safety Education theme might include:

- The science of swimming and water safety
- Evaluation of programs and policies in this area
- Programs targeting at-risk communities
- Instructional effectiveness, evidence based techniques
- Evaluation of programs targeting basic rescue skills
- Evidence based papers exploring the theme of personal aquatic survival skills

Partnerships

The Partnership theme will cover research, policy and case studies focusing on collaborative approaches to addressing drowning prevention.

Examples of topics within the Partnership Theme might include:

- Multi-sectoral approaches to drowning prevention
- Evaluations and/or case studies addressing national or sub-national water safety plans
- Public/private partnerships addressing drowning
- Papers exploring the role of drowning in other development agendas i.e. sustainable development goals, water development sector, child health

The above outline is far from exhaustive; newly emerging topics are encouraged provided that they seek to advance the audience's understanding of the challenges of reducing drowning.



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Abstract Guide

An **abstract guide** has been prepared to assist authors and includes templates for authors seeking guidance.

Note - these are guides only and submissions don't have to follow the exact framework in the templates.

The conference organisers recommend that you use the section headings below to help with the presentation of your information.

Please note that if you feel a particular section heading is not relevant or there is a section heading you would like to add that helps to clarify your abstract then please add or delete at your discretion.

	Research Paper	Practice / program	Policy
Presentation Title	Please provide a title that describes the work.		
Organisation	Who is/has been the leading organisation undertaking the work?		
Background/Introduction	What is/was the issue?	What is the practice/program?	What is the policy? Is it Organisational, Corporate, Legislative?
	Why is/was there a need for the work? i.e. what is the rationale?		
	Is/was there any community participation?		
Aims/Objectives	What are/were the aims and objectives for the work? i.e. what is the rationale? What does it set out to achieve?		
Target	Who are/were the target group/stakeholders? e.g. what age groups, gender, ethnicity, community organisations		
	Where is/was the work located and its geographic impact? e.g. local, state, national, international		
Methods / Implementation	What did you do? (Provide a clear and precise description) Why was this method chosen? How is/was the research implemented? What is/was the timeframe? Were any specialised techniques used? (please describe) What analysis was undertaken and technique(s) used?	How does the practice/program work? How has the practice/program been implemented and who is responsible for implementation? What has been the timeframe?	How does the policy work? What does the policy cover? How has the policy been implemented and who is responsible for its implementation? What has been the timeframe for policy implementation and its milestones?

Results/Evaluation	<p>How have you monitored/evaluated the work? What did you find? Do you have evidence that it works What changes/benefits have been experienced by the target group from the research project/study (Short-term and long term)? Has the work achieved its aims/objectives? Have there been any unexpected outcomes? What were they?</p>		
Discussion	What is the meaning of the results?	How will the practice/program and its benefits continue into the future?	How will the policy and its benefits continue into the future?
	Will the research continue into the future?		
	Can the work be replicated with other groups and in other areas?		
	What did you and other stakeholders learn from the work?		
	What were the main challenges in implementing the work? How did you meet these challenges or difficulties?		
	What would you do the same/differently if you implemented such work again?		
	Do you have any advice for others implementing a similar research project/study?		
Conclusion	Provide a brief summary of the major findings from the work.		
Acknowledgements	<p>What was the research project/study budget and/or funding source? List any partners, contacts, links or resources that you found particularly useful in carrying out your research which could be helpful to others.</p>		
References	<p>To keep abstracts to the word limit, a numerical referencing system has been chosen. A number appearing at the end of a sentence designates a reference has been used. The corresponding reference is to be listed in full in a bibliography following the abstract. If a reference is used more than once, the original number can be used each time. Note: subscript is not permitted within the Abstract Portal. Please place numbers in brackets thus: (1).</p> <p>Reference Bibliography (1) Author's surname, First name, Year, Title, Publication, Edition/Issue, Page Number/s, Publisher, Year of Publication (2) Author's surname, First name, Year, Title, Publication, Edition/Issue, Page Number/s, Publisher, Year of Publication</p>		