

● **Journeying Towards a Utopia for Research Management and Administration Professionals in LMICS**

The workshop will focus on three main sessions. The first is understanding the key drivers of and barriers for professionalisation of RMA in selected LMIC regions. This session will highlight regional differences and similarities and will provide the context for the second session. The second session will involve a panel discussion exploring the vision for professionalisation of RMA in the regions represented by the panellists and the current efforts and initiatives to support professionalisation. The panellists will share their lessons learnt and consider the potential synergies to strengthen professional RMA across LMICs. During the third session, the third principle of the Hiroshima Statement that was released by INORMS in 2021 will be unpacked. The Hiroshima Statement identifies a set of common principles for RMAs to improve their local, national, and global research landscapes. The third principle deals with professionalism and states that “RMAs have a responsibility to develop their knowledge and skills, and to mentor and train future RMA professionals and researchers”. Unpacking this principle will support the RIMAs in LMICs to guide their members in their conduct as professionals. This part of the workshop will be conducted through small group discussions. Finally, a closing session will provide a summary and identify actions that RIMAs or RMAs can take individually or jointly to further their professionalisation efforts. During this session, the theme for a potential future workshop for RMAs in LMICs will also be discussed.

Presenters | Facilitators:

- Dr Garry Aslanyan, TDR | World Health Organisation (Switzerland)
- Dr Elliott Kulakowski, University of Utah (United States)
- Mr Jagdees Pabla, Coventry University (United Kingdom)
- Ms Allen Mukhwana, Science for Africa Foundation (Kenya)
- Dr Paul Ivey, University of Technology (Jamaica)
- Mr Dembo Kanthe, The Gambia at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (Gambia)
- Prof Shaliza Ibrahim, Universiti Malaya (Malaysia)
- Dr Savita Ayyar, Wellcome Trust India Alliance (India)
- Ms Katrina Lawson, University of Oxford (Vietnam)
- Ms Adriana Gisela Rosillo Guerrero, Universidad de La Sabana (Colombia)
- Dr Pamisha Pillay, Wits Commercial Enterprise (South Africa)
- Dr Karin Dyason, SARIMA (South Africa)

Draft Programme Layout:

08:30 – 08:40	Welcome and setting the scene
08:40 – 09:35	The key drivers for and barriers to professionalise research management and administration in LMICs Questions and discussion
09:35 – 10:35	Panel discussion The vision for and key efforts to professionalise RMA in LMICs, areas for shared learning and potential synergies
10:35 – 10:50	Tea break
10:50 – 11:10	Panel discussion (continued)
11:10 – 12:10	Working session Unpacking the third principle of the Hiroshima Statement-“ <i>Professional</i> : RMAs have a responsibility to develop their knowledge and skills, and to mentor and train future RMA professionals and researchers.”
12:10 – 12:30	Summary, actions and closure
Lunch	