



## **MHIRST CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: HEALTH ECONOMICS EVALUATION SHORT COURSE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The College of Medicine (CoM) was established in 1991 as a constituent college of the University of Malawi. Its mission is “to be an academic centre of excellence in the training of doctors and other health professionals in clinical service and medical research, responsive to the health needs of Malawi and its neighbours within the Southern African region”. Since 2015, the National Institutes of Health-Fogarty International Centre in the USA has been funding the CoM and University of North Carolina to establish and roll-out the Malawi HIV Implementation Science Research Training (M-HIRST) Program which aims at building and strengthening local capacity for designing and conducting research studies to generate evidence that accelerates the scale up of evidence-based HIV interventions. In 2020, the Kamuzu College of Nursing (KCN) joined the M-HIRST program which will operate until 2025.

The Malawi HIV Implementation Research Scientist Training (M-HIRST) program is seeking applications from postgraduate students, academics, research scientists, program implementers or policy makers from institutions that conduct health-related research or implement HIV programs in Malawi, who have interest in or are currently conducting Health Economics Evaluation (HEE) activities. Applicants will complete a blended virtual and physical online course in collaboration with the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill – UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and the College of Medicine.

### **COURSE SUMMARY:**

Health care technology is defined broadly as: “programs, processes, procedures, drugs or other interventions aimed at improving health, preventing disease, alleviating symptoms or postponing death of human populations”. This course provides an introduction to the methods and application of economic evaluation to health care technologies. Policy makers should allocate resources to the most efficient competing technologies and ensure equity in access to cost-effective technologies; these decisions can be informed, but not dictated by, quantitative analyses of costs and benefits. Topics covered in the course include basic methods used to identify when an economic evaluation may be useful, measure and summarize health outcomes and estimate their value to patients or to the public, identify resources used and estimate their costs, and understand and interpret cost-effectiveness results. *Please note that this short course provides a basic framework for the data and information you will need to understand economic evaluations; at the end of this short course, you will not have comprehensive knowledge or expertise.*

This course is fully funded by MHIRST and will be a blended delivery i.e. virtual and in-person sessions in Blantyre from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021, with a reduced number of participants to comply with all COVID-19 preventive measures.

## INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course has two broad learning objectives: to teach students techniques enabling them to: (1) to understand when health economic evaluations may be useful and basic requirements for conducting one, and (2) understand and interpret results of economic evaluations.

**I. Techniques for Economic Evaluation of Health Care** - Students will learn about the rationale for conducting a health economic evaluation and be able to describe health outcomes and cost measures that are relevant to healthcare decisions, reflecting the perspective of the analysis. Students also will learn how to identify relevant data and adjust these as needed for analyses and interpretation (Objectives 1-5).

**II. Understand, Report and Interpret Results of Economic Analyses** - Students are expected to understand the requirements for reporting economic analyses and be able to critique in a clear and appropriate manner economic evaluations (Objective 6).

## ELIGIBILITY

1. Currently enrolled in or completed a health-related postgraduate training program ( Master's degree or PhD);
2. Prior completion of introductory modules in statistics and epidemiology.
3. Basic working knowledge of Microsoft Excel.
4. Employed in an academic or research institution, government or non-governmental organization implementing HIV-related or HEE programs in Malawi or have strong linkages with public institutions or non-governmental institutions that have a track history of delivering HIV services.
5. Able to identify and conduct a health economic evaluation research project at their respective institution (applicants with an identified health economics evaluation research question to pursue will be prioritized).
6. Have a supervisor or mentor with strong background in HIV or HEE research or service delivery.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested applicants are required to:

- Fill-out an application form using the following link: [HEE Short Course Application Form](#)
- Submit a motivation or letter of interest (not more than one page) detailing why they want to do the course.
- Submit a one-page summary of their proposed HEE research idea.
- Submit their updated Biosketch or Curriculum Vitae and all documents as a single PDF document to the CoM M-HIRST Project Coordinator – [mhirstcoordinator@medcol.mw](mailto:mhirstcoordinator@medcol.mw)

The deadline for receiving applications is **Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 at 17:00 hrs**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.