The goal of the Union’s Abstract Mentor Programme is to provide an opportunity for young and/or less experienced abstract submitters to ask for feedback from experienced abstract submitters. The programme is especially targeted at researchers from resource-limited settings who lack access to opportunities for rigorous mentoring in research and writing.

The programme is completely independent of the abstract review and selection process and is entirely dependent on volunteer experienced researchers acting as mentors.

Mentors will provide one-time, anonymous feedback on the writing and format of an abstract. Minimal feedback on the content or science presented may also be done.

**Abstract Mentor Programme Steps**

- Prepare a draft abstract in accordance with the conference abstract submission guidelines.
- If possible, ask a supervisor or colleague to review your draft abstract and give you feedback.
- If available, use spelling and grammar check (e.g. Office Word spelling and grammar function).
- Submit your draft abstract for mentoring by sending it to mentoring@theunion.org.

**General Rules**

- The mentor process is anonymous in that the author and mentor will not know who the other is.
- The draft abstract submitted to the mentor must follow the submission guidelines.
- Each delegate is allowed to submit only 1 abstract for mentoring.
- Each submitted abstract is allowed only 1 round of mentoring support.
- The administrator of the mentor programme will immediately return draft abstracts to the submitter if they do not follow the submission guidelines.
- Mentors will help the abstract submitters by review the writing and format. They may provide minimal technical support on research methods, analysis, or the report of results.
- Mentors cannot indicate if they think that the abstract is likely to be selected or not.

**Deadline to send your abstract for mentoring programme: 29 March 2014**