SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Call for Abstracts on Sanitation Workers
&
2021 Research Award on Sanitation Workers

The 2021 UNC Water and Health Conference is issuing a special call for abstracts on the topic of sanitation workers. **Submissions are due by 3 May 2021.** This includes, but is not limited to, research in the following areas: (a) Health and safety - access to PPE and its use, mechanisation, COVID pandemic; (b) Labor rights, wages, working conditions, access to social security; (c) Livelihoods, rehabilitation; (d) Social challenges - caste/ethnic identity, social discrimination, exclusion; (e) Gender dimensions, disparities, intersectionality; (f) Policies, regulation, SOPs and enforcement; (g) Interventions to support sanitation workers- good practices and learnings.

As part of this special call for abstracts, the Water Institute at UNC and the Initiative for Sanitation Workers (ISW: WaterAid, World Bank, SNV Netherlands Development Organization, World Health Organization, and International Labor Organization) will present awards for the:

(1) Best Original Research Abstract
(2) Best Published Paper from 1 January 2019 – 3 May 2021

**Winners in each category will receive** an award certificate, a spotlight opportunity to present their work at the 2021 UNC Water and Health Conference, a cash award of $500 USD, waiver of conference fees for the next in-person conference, support for open access publication of the research paper in a peer-reviewed journal (for original research), and an opportunity to get their work featured in an ISW-partner’s blog. **The runner-up in each category will receive** an award certificate, support for open access publication of the research paper in a peer-reviewed journal (for original research), and an opportunity to get their work featured in an ISW-partner’s blog.

**Guidelines for Submission:**

1. Submit your entry using the [abstract submission form](#). Specify 'Sanitation Workers' as the category, by selecting the 'Others' option. Select 'Verbal Presentation' in the Preferred Presentation type.

2. If you are applying for the Best Published Paper award, please mention this and add the publication link in the abstract.

The Water Institute at UNC and the Initiative for Sanitation Workers are pleased to announce this Research Award related to sanitation workers. Sanitation workers – including pit emptiers, sewer workers, and others involved in faecal waste management – provide an essential public service but often at the cost of their dignity, safety, health, and living conditions. Often invisible, unquantified, and ostracized, they are exposed to serious health and safety hazards risking illness, injury, or even death. Sanitation workers deserve more recognition and attention, and policy and regulatory reforms aimed at safeguarding their rights. We hope that this award will encourage greater evidence building on this issue.