

# Epidemiology 101 for journalists in Africa

July 13 - 31, 2020

90 minutes, Mondays & Thursdays, via Zoom [7 PM South Africa Time]

Cost: Free

Capacity: 50 journalists

## Instructors:

Madhukar Pai, MD, PhD

Ngozi Erondu, MPH, PhD

## Teaching assistants:

Iya Saidou Conde, MD, MSc

Chido Dziva Chikwari, MSc, PhD

## Co-hosted by:



# Instructors

**Madhukar Pai, MD, PhD** is a Canada Research Chair in Epidemiology & Global Health at McGill University, Montreal. He is Director of the McGill International TB Centre.

**Ngozi Erundu PhD, MPH** is an Infectious Disease Epidemiologist. She currently consults as an Associate Fellow at the Chatham House and a Senior Public Health Advisor at Public Health England.



# Teaching assistants

**Iya Saidou Conde, MD, MSc** received his MSc from the London School of Hyg & Trop Med. He is currently supporting the WHO Covid19 response in DR Congo.

**Chido Dziva Chikwari, MSc, PhD** received her PhD from the London School of Hyg and Trop Med. She works at the Biomedical Research and Training Institute in Zimbabwe.



# RATIONALE

The COVID-19 crisis has put health reporting on the front pages of all media worldwide, but has also raised big challenges with fast-tracked research that is often contradictory, compromised normal standards of scientific peer-review and dissemination, sensationalized media reporting, and confused policy makers making irrational decisions.

All health and science journalists will benefit from understanding the fundamentals of epidemiology, so they can critically read medical research studies and media releases, and report them in an accurate and balanced manner. But many health journalists lack training in epidemiology and public health.

- This short, introductory course builds on a similar course offered to Indian health journalists, aims at health/science journalists in Africa, and will use topical examples from COVID-19, to cover issues such as types of epidemiologic studies, how to measure disease frequency and risk, importance of bias and confounding, and review various common study designs, including observational studies and randomized trials.
- The main emphasis would be on how to consume and critically read literature.
- A certificate of completion will be given by Bhekisisa, MESHSA, Chatham House, and McGill TB Center for those who complete the full course

# Who is eligible & expectations



Must be a health or science journalist based in Africa



Must be willing to invest time and able to participate in at least 80% of the webinar lectures



Must be willing to catch up on missed lectures by reviewing video recordings



Must be willing to read and complete assignments



Must be an active participant by asking questions & sharing experiences



Take an entry and exit quiz/exam

# How to apply

- Submit your application at: \_\_\_\_\_
- You will be required to submit two of your writing samples and enter your journalist credentials
- After a selection process, you will be informed about the outcome
- Those who are not selected for this course, will be considered for similar trainings in future