



# AHILA e-Newsletter



The Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa (AHILA) is a professional association founded in 1984 with 46 member countries, partners and collaborators worldwide. Its aims and objectives are to: improve provision of up-to-date and relevant health information; encourage professional development of health librarians; promote resource sharing in Africa and exchange of experiences; promote the development, standardisation and exchange of health databases in Africa

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## FAREWELL



Congratulations to the Local Organizing Committee headed by Professor Elizabeth Kiondo for a wonderful welcome and hugely enjoyable as well as stimulating event. We acknowledge with gratitude the Guests of Honour - Dr Mohamed Gharib Bilal Vice President of Tanzania and the Hon. Rashid Seif Suleiman, Minister of Health for

Zanzibar for gracing AHILA 14 with their presence and their wise words. We are deeply grateful also to the speakers, the workshop facilitators, the sponsors and all of the delegates. Thanks and congratulations to Nasra Gathoni who has guided AHILA through the four years of her Presidency with great success, dedication and wisdom. We thank the Executive who have supported her. We send the new President, Dr Rehema Chande-Mallya and her Executive members every good wish as they take AHILA forward to the next Biennial Congress.

We hope all have returned to their countries and workplaces refreshed and stimulated from the Congress programme. This is the last Newsletter for this truly memorable Congress as a new team will take over following the General Assembly elections.

## Day 4 - Workshops at AHILA 14

Both the workshops were well attended and greatly appreciated

**EBH and Critical Appraisal Skills facilitated by Ms Blessing Chataira, ITOCA & Drs Ewaldo Kamba, Tandi Lwoga & Rehema Chande-Mallya, MUHAS**

**Authorship/ Publishing skills & Research4Life Programmes facilitated by Prof Lenny Rhine, Librarians without Borders/MLA(USA) & Ms Gaby Caro, HINARI/WHO Geneva**

*"This has influenced how I will design and recommend health IT solutions to customers. This will also help in my own research efforts on clinical topics."* Comment from a workshop participant attending the EBH/critical appraisal skills workshop

## DAY 5 - General Assembly In Memoriam

All stood in silence in memory of Micheline Palenfo, who was MoH librarian and Head of the Burkina Faso chapter of AHILA (RIDS BF). She passed away at Ouagadougou National Hospital in June 2013. May her soul rest in peace.

### Announcement by the President - CABI Discount offer for AHILA members

Global Health is a unique database covering Public Health in depth and including research from many low / middle income countries. The publisher CABI is offering a major discount on the subscription price to the institutions of AHILA members so long as they remain either individual members and remain working at that institution; or their institutions are paid up African institutional members.

**Global Health Subscription.** For each AHILA member subscribing individually, there is a 75% discount from the Global Health list price of \$3,665 to £913 (1 simultaneous user) for a price per institution offer of GBP 913. For five or more AHILA members subscribing as part of a consortium there is an 80% discount from the list price of GBP 12,650 for a price per institution offer of GBP 731.

Similarly large discounts are available for the purchase of the **Global Health Archive** purchase or the purchase of the **E-book public health collection**.

Further information from: Ray Lewis [r.lewis@cabi.org](mailto:r.lewis@cabi.org) or Sheila Bell [s.bell@cabi.org](mailto:s.bell@cabi.org)

Material on public and global health is collected by CABI and cannot easily be retrieved from elsewhere. Jean Shaw, Phi

### Highlights from Executive reports

**Secretary General's Report:** Compiled by Solomon Suleiman and Chipso Msengezi this showcased the activities that have been carried out in support of AHILA objectives. AHILA's profile has been raised in forums in Africa and Europe in the last four years. New activities in support of AHILA's strategy on improving public access to health information (PAHI) have included: Workshops organized by Country chapters in association with IFLA & Phi in Kenya, Uganda & Tanzania, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia & Senegal. PAHI Grants in 2013 & 2014. Commonwealth Professional Fellowships and CASP training courses for AHILA members.



**President's Report:** Nasra Gathoni thanked AHILA Executive for their support, the LOC for a job well done and all AHILA members for the privilege of serving them for four years.

Drawing on her experience she spoke of ways forward for AHILA including the need to update AHILA strategy which ended in 2015 for the period 2016 – 2020 and the need for a revised constitution especially a review of the election processes and of procedures for paying membership dues. She also made a number of recommendations focused on strengthening AHILA to enable the Association to tackle the challenge of fulfilling its role as Leader in promoting access and use of **health information in Africa**.

**Closing Ceremony** - This was graced by Hon. Rashid Seif Suleiman, Minister of Health for Zanzibar, who presented certificates to a number of sponsors in appreciation of their support of AHILA and the Congress.



In an inspiring speech the Minister complimented delegates "...from several countries joining forces...with the ultimate objective of promoting the health of African people by using the power of information and communication technologies". He commended AHILA's work at country as well as regional level saying 'Your work underpins the health of the citizens of Africa'.

This is a thought to reflect on as we return to our homes and workplaces

### Election results

Congratulations to the elected 2014-2016 Executive Committee and Council members

 <p><b>President</b> - Rehema Chande Mallya (Dr), Tanzania</p>	<b>Treasurer</b> - Blessing Chataira (Ms), South Africa
	<b>Editor</b> - Cynthia Kimani (Ms), Kenya
	<b>Council Members</b>
<b>1st Vice President</b> - Flatiel Vilanculos (Mr), Mozambique	Nasra Gathoni, Kenya (Ms), (ex-officio)
<b>2nd Vice President</b> - Pascal Soubeiga (Mr), Burkina Faso	Kenneth U. Okereafor (Mr), Nigeria
<b>Secretary General</b> - Charles Marwa (Mr), Tanzania	Alison Kinengyere (Dr), Uganda
<b>Vice Secretary General</b> - Francois Djamba (Mr), Democratic Republic of Congo	One vacancy

**AHILA 15** will be hosted in 2016 and the host country is to be confirmed.