

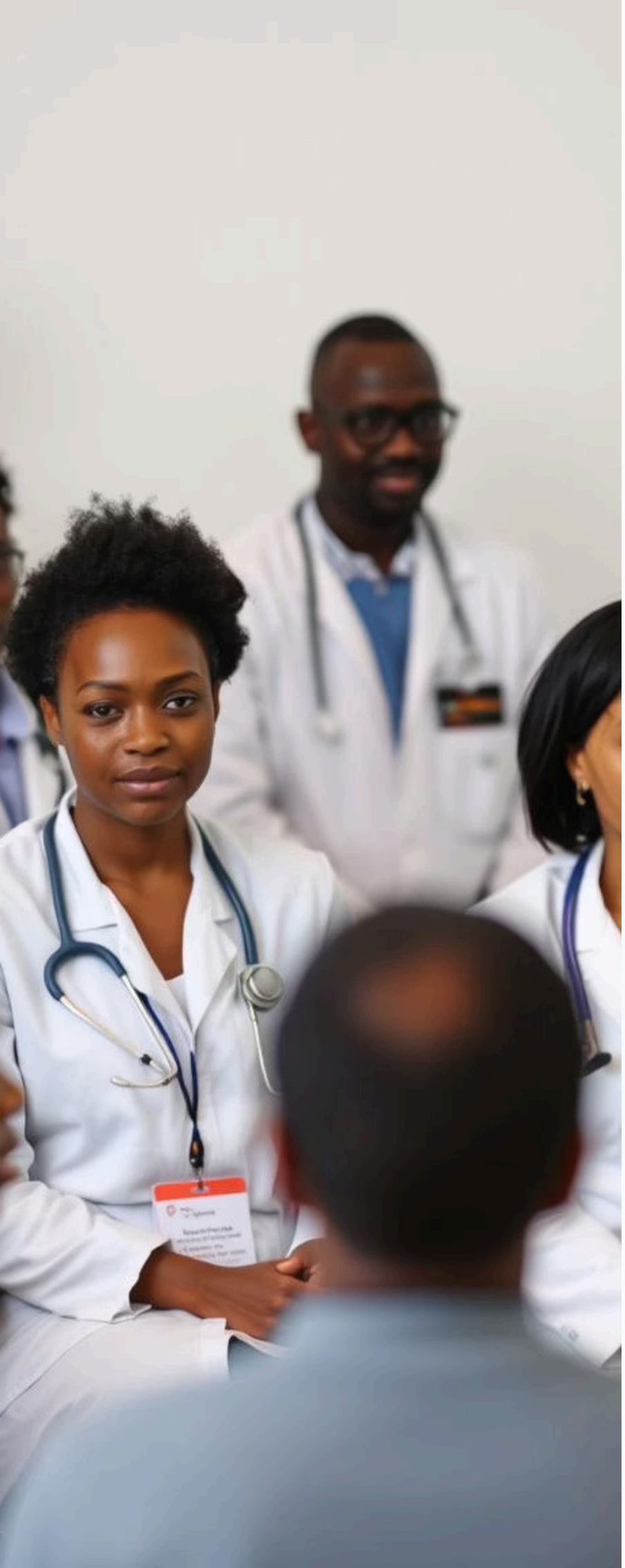
International Conference

Language, Communication, and Healthcare Delivery in Multicultural Societies

12 – 14 Mach, 2026

University of Douala

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Call for Papers

Healthcare delivery in most African countries is done in official languages which for the most part are colonial. Cameroon for example has 283 languages (Eberhard, Simons and Fennig, 2023) with an Official bilingual (English and French) policy which government thrusts ferociously with little or no realistic sociolinguistic foundation. Many other African countries have adopted colonial languages as official languages (English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, etc. depending on whom their colonial master is/was, at the detriment of hundreds of local languages which for the most part are not used in life-saving situations like healthcare delivery. This ethnically, linguistically and culturally diverse setting spells variations in patients' varied perspectives, values, and behaviours about health and well-being. Medical personnel are mainly trained in official languages and they are supposed to work with populations which, in the main, do not speak, write or understand these languages. These people have their cultural perceptions and perspectives which may be generally ignored within this multicultural context. Failure to understand and manage social and cultural differences may have significant health consequences for minority groups in particular (Betancourt, 2002). For example, failure to understand communication habits in hospitals obviously results in communication breakdown, unnecessary cost and in the worst-case scenario, to wrong diagnosis and consequently to high death rates. Candlin & Candlin (2002) and Youdelman & Perkins (2002) underscore the growing realisation that language is one of the critical components in any health service delivery; be it the provision of therapy and curative drugs or the provision of health education. Other cultural aspects of communication are not left out. Unfortunately, research on language use and communication in healthcare delivery in Africa is sparse. The present conference hopes to bring together researchers, practitioners, policy makers and stakeholders who would come together and share ethnographical data and best practice on language use and communication systems in healthcare delivery and well-being in multicultural contexts.

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Abstracts of about 250 words are invited on the following, or related themes:

- Language choice and use in healthcare delivery
- Health communication and Government policy
- Health literacy in multicultural societies
- Healthcare choices and healthcare delivery in multicultural contexts
- Healthcare management in multicultural societies
- Culture and healthcare delivery
- Health narratives and healthcare delivery
- Patient-Nurse communication during consultations
- The psychology of healthcare delivery
- Medical literature and healthcare provision
- Discourse about western medicine and tradi-practitioners
- Issues of advertising in healthcare provision
- Cultural barriers in healthcare delivery in multicultural societies
- User inherent linguistic preferences in effective healthcare delivery
- Linguistic and non-linguistic barriers to health communication
- Medical prescriptions and patient discipline in healthcare delivery
- Patient feedback in healthcare delivery
- Patients' attitudes towards medical facilities
- Cultural considerations in the training of health personnel
- Language considerations in the training of health personnel
- Government policy, communication and healthcare delivery
- Provision of language services in healthcare settings
- Cultural perceptions and healthcare delivery
- Religious believes and healthcare delivery
- Communication on pandemic diseases like HIV AIDS and COVID 19
- Official communication and disease prevention
- The role of literature in healthcare delivery in multicultural contexts
- The role of theatre in sensitising the masses about healthcare delivery
- Health pedagogy in multicultural societies

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NB: Case studies are of prime importance

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Submission Guidelines

Interested contributors should submit an abstract of 250 words in Microsoft Word following APA 7th edition style sheet to **contact@collaborativeresearch.org** Contributions are welcome in English and French.

NB: Presentations at the conference will lead to a publication that may inform policy elaboration for effective healthcare communication and delivery in multicultural contexts.

Contributions are expected in English and in French.

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Registration Fee

$100

International Participants

(50.000frs)

$50

National Participants

(25.000frs)

$25

Students

(15.000frs)

Please send registration fee to **+237 677123000 (Eunice)**





Important Dates

1. Abstract Submission Deadline: 30/11/2025
2. Notification of Acceptance: 15/12/2025
3. Registration Deadline: 30/12/2025
4. Conference Date 12 – 14 March, 2026

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We look forward to seeing you at this community impacting research and best practice sharing conference

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