The Water Institute at UNC and the Initiative for Sanitation Workers are pleased to announce the second edition of the Sanitation Workers Research Awards at the 2022 UNC Water and Health Conference.

Sanitation workers – including pit emptiers, sewer workers, and others involved in faecal waste management – provide an essential public service. This often comes 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. Read about the 2021 Sanitation Workers Research Awards here.

As part of this special call, 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 (since 4 May 2021)

We welcome submissions on the health, safety and dignity of sanitation workers (engaged in faecal sludge management), including but not limited to the following areas:
- Health and safety- mechanisation, access to PPE and its use, COVID-19 pandemic
- Labor rights, wages, working conditions, access to social security
- Livelihoods, rehabilitation
- Social challenges - caste/ethnic identity, social discrimination, exclusion
- Gender dimensions, disparities, intersectionality
- Policies, regulation, standard operating procedures and enforcement
- Interventions to support sanitation workers- good practices and learnings.

**Prizes**

*Winners in each category will receive* an award certificate, a spotlight opportunity to present their work at the 2022 UNC Water and Health Conference, a cash award of $500 USD, **waiver of conference fees for the next in-person conference**, 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, and an opportunity to get their work featured in an ISW-partner’s blog.

*Submissions are due by 2 May, 2022.*

**Guidelines for submission**

1. Submit your entry by submitting your abstract through the Water and Health Conference 2022 abstract submission form. Specify ’Sanitation Workers’ as the category. 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.
3. For the purpose of this announcement, ’sanitation workers’ refers to those directly involved in the management of faecal waste along the sanitation service chain. Submissions around other categories of work such as solid waste management will not be considered for the awards.

*Please email waterinstitute@unc.edu with any questions.*