The World Heart Federation’s Emerging Leaders Programme is developing a long-term cadre of experts who collaborate to *create and achieve their biggest possibility* to improve global heart health. To do this, the program brings together the experience, knowledge, energy, and ambition of Emerging Leaders to develop innovative and world leading approaches. At the same time, each participant will grow their leadership skills to be able to have the biggest possible impact in their country and sector. The programme aligns with the World Health Organization’s goal to reduce premature mortality from cardiovascular disease (CVD) globally by at least 25% by 2025, and the programme’s focus will be on tobacco prevention and control for the 2015-16 cycle. Prior Emerging Leader cohorts have focused on secondary prevention of cardiovascular diseases and raised blood pressure. Through this programme, Emerging Leaders will participate in online training and in a five-day, face-to-face think tank seminar at St. John’s Research Institute in Bangalore, India from February 15-19, 2016 to develop their own leadership and technical skills from world-class faculty who lead global efforts to improve heart health. Participation in the think tank seminar is essential.

The World Heart Federation wants to reach as many outstanding candidates who are passionate about tobacco prevention and control, as well as their own leadership development, as possible. Candidates from academic, clinical, civil society, non-governmental, media, and private sector organizations are encouraged to apply to achieve a diverse group. Candidates are encouraged to be part of an association that is a member organization of the World Heart Federation, but this is not mandatory.

To learn more about the Emerging Leaders programme and the other supporting activities, please visit [whfel.org](http://whfel.org).

**Selection Criteria**
Candidates are asked to provide:

1. 1,000 word personal statement demonstrating:
   a. rationale for applying,
   b. prior experience working with local, regional, or national governments, non-governmental agencies, or private industry to improve cardiovascular health
   c. unique attributes that each candidate brings to the programme
   d. demonstration of creativity, disruptive innovation, or both to spark change.

2. Current curriculum vitae, including membership in a World Heart Federation member organization, if applicable.

3. One writing example (if multi-author publication, candidates should select an example where they are either first or last author).
4. Letter(s) of support from local mentor and departmental head (joint letter acceptable), outlining support for participation in the programme.

5. Two-minute video presentation outlining why the candidate wants to participate in the Emerging Leaders Programme.

**Candidates will be evaluated by:**

1. Candidates must be able to communicate fluently in verbal and written English.

2. Emerging leaders will generally be considered to be early to mid-career applicants who have completed their training.

3. Demonstration of leadership abilities and skills, either through positions of leadership or examples of leadership during recent or current projects.

4. Demonstration of written communication abilities and skills through a recently published manuscript or other scholarly article.

5. Demonstration of productivity relevant to applicant's particular field as demonstrated through peer reviewed publications, grants awarded, projects led and completed, or other field-specific metrics of productivity.

6. Demonstration of creativity or potential for development, implementation, or dissemination of disruptive innovations that have previously demonstrated rapid uptake and implementation given improvements in outcomes, costs, or both.

7. Conducive home eco-system, including local mentor and supportive local institution.

8. Career goals aligned with focus area, namely evidence-based treatment and prevention, health system strengthening, implementation science, and knowledge transfer related to cardiovascular disease.

9. Demonstration of prior or current collaboration with or work in local, regional, or national governments/ministries of health or with health promotion agencies/non-governmental organizations preferred.

10. Experience of translating knowledge into action in the field of cardiovascular disease is an advantage.

**Expected output and participation of the programme**
Emerging Leaders will participate in monthly online seminars covering fundamental topics in the field of cardiovascular disease, including:
Emerging Leaders then meet collectively and with programmatic faculty in February 2016 to develop ideas for improving tobacco prevention and control, as well as their own leadership skills, during the five-day, face-to-face think tank seminar. Emerging Leaders will work together in groups to develop global, collaborative research proposals in the areas of knowledge translation, health systems research, and health policy research, which will be eligible for potential seed funding. Previous Emerging Leaders have developed and are collaborating on research proposals such as:

**Secondary prevention**
- Mobile phone provider- and patient-level interventions for improving medication and health behaviour adherence in patients with cardiovascular disease
- Crowdsourcing to increase transparency and to promote use of medicines for secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease
- Systematic review and key stakeholder interviews to compare barriers and facilitators to optimal pharmacotherapy for secondary prevention of cardiovascular diseases

**Raised blood pressure**
- Home blood pressure monitoring intervention trial for individuals with raised blood pressure
- Evaluating physico-chemical equivalence of generic antihypertensive medicines
- Developing a dynamic online library of NCD policies and actions to track progress towards the 25x25 goals

**Process for nominations**
Candidates may either apply for selection themselves or be nominated by an existing World Heart Federation member, as long as all the selection criteria are satisfied.

Please use the application form to ensure you have satisfied the criteria for selection. Nominations are open from September 1, 2015 for a period of 30 calendar days. Any changes to this will be notified on the whfel.org website.

Once applications are closed there will be a period of review and selection and successful candidates will be notified by November 15, 2015.

Intake is restricted but candidates are invited to reapply if they have previously submitted an application. Nominations will only be accepted via the online system. Applications will not be considered via other means.