



Networking global health professionals

News of the Month

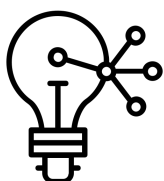
February 2025
In this month you can expect



U.S. Decision on WHO Funding

FESTMIH's Response to the U.S. Decision on WHO Funding

[Jump to Article](#)



NOTM-News

Upcoming Newsletter
Survey
FESTMIH Webinar
Research Call

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Upcoming Events

Numerous events scheduled this month for health and research professionals

[See the full list of all upcoming Events](#)



Editors Choice

Burden of Snakebite
Envenoming

[See recent Publications](#)



ECTMIH2025

ECTMIH 2025 - February News

[ECTMIH](#)



Global Career and Funding Opportunities

African Snakebite Alliance

[Grant / Career Opportunities](#)



Digital

E-Learning Spotlight: Mastering Grant Applications

[Jump to Digital Content](#)

FESTMIH's Position Statement and Call for Action on USA's suspension of USAID Funding and WHO Exit

In light of the recent developments concerning the **United States' decision on WHO funding**, FESTMIH published an official **position paper**. This paper reflects our stance on the potential implications of this decision for **global health governance**, **international cooperation**, and the **sustainability of critical health programs** worldwide.

The position paper will address key concerns, including:

- The impact of funding shifts on **global health initiatives** and **emergency response capacity**
- The role of **multilateral collaboration** in addressing global health crises
- FESTMIH's recommendations for strengthening support for the WHO and ensuring **equitable health access**

We believe it is essential for the global health community to unite and advocate for sustained, coordinated efforts to tackle health challenges that transcend borders.

Your engagement and support in amplifying this message will be crucial as we stand together for global health solidarity.

[Read Response](#)



Upcoming FESTMIH Initiatives

Quarterly Newsletter

We are thrilled to announce the second edition of the **FESTMIH Quarterly Newsletter**, set to be released at the end of March 2025. This edition continues to provide a platform for the global health community to share insights, projects, and ideas inspired by **UN International Days observed in Q2 2025**.

Themes for the Second Edition

In the upcoming newsletter, we invite contributions aligned with the following **UN International Days** in Q2 2025:

- **World Chagas Disease Day** (April 14)
- **World Immunization Week** (April 22–28)
- **World Malaria Day** (April 25)
- **World No Tobacco Day** (May 31)
- **World Blood Donor Day** (June 14)
- **World Day Against Child Labour** (June 12)
- **World Refugee Day** (June 20)
- **International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking** (June 26)

Contributors are encouraged to approach these themes creatively. Whether it's sharing research, case studies, or advocacy projects, we welcome diverse perspectives and innovative ideas. **Submissions on other UN International Days observed in Q2 are also welcome**, providing contributors with the flexibility to explore a wide range of topics.

Call for Contributions

FESTMIH invites **working groups, researchers, and professionals** to submit their articles and ideas by **March 14, 2025**. If you're looking for inspiration, the **previous newsletter** serves as an excellent resource, showcasing impactful initiatives and creative storytelling. You can download it [here](#).

Why Participate?

The newsletter is a valuable platform to:

- **Share your work:** Showcase your projects and ideas to a global audience.
- **Collaborate:** Connect with peers and organizations working on similar topics.
- **Raise awareness:** Highlight pressing global health issues and your efforts to address them.


Get Involved

We are excited to see your contributions and ideas, which will help make the second edition as impactful and engaging as the first. For submission guidelines or further inquiries, please contact us at this [email](#). Let's build on the success of the previous newsletter and continue driving innovation and collaboration within the global health community!

UN's List

We Value Your Feedback!

Your opinion matters to us! To ensure that the *News of the Month (NOTM)* continues to meet your expectations, we've created a short survey to gather your thoughts on the **content, format,** and overall **reading experience.**

 [Take the survey here](#) - it only takes a few minutes!

Thank you for your support and for helping us make the NOTM even better! 

Survey

!Short notice! FESTMIH Webinar

**Infectious Diseases in Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFRs) -
*Where Migration, Public Health, and Travel Medicine Intersect***



Francesca Norman



Francesco Castelli



Günter Fröschl

This session, chaired by Miriam Navarro (Spain) and Michele Spinicci (Italy), explores the intersection of infectious diseases and travel medicine among individuals visiting friends and relatives abroad (VFRs).

The program includes:

- **Introduction (10 minutes)**
- **Lectures (20 minutes each):**
 - *People Visiting Friends and Relatives: Aspects in Pre-Travel Medicine* by Günter Fröschl (Germany)
 - *Travel-Related Infections Among VFRs* by Francesco Castelli (Italy)
 - *VFRs and Arbovirolosis: Challenges in Europe* by Francesca Norman (Spain)

The session concludes with a **20-minute discussion**, providing an opportunity for dialogue on key public health challenges and strategies to improve care and prevention for VFR populations.

Please note that there is no charge for this course. CME credits have been applied for.

[Register here](#)

Research Call

During the **National Congress organized by SIMET** (*Italian Society of Tropical Medicine and Global Health*), we were contacted by **Dr. Valeria Silvestri**, a **vascular surgeon** actively collaborating with **Prof.**

Billy Ngasala from the **Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS)** in Tanzania.

Dr. Silvestri and Prof. Ngasala recently published a book entitled "[Vascular Damage in NTDs](#)" ([Vascular Damage in Neglected Tropical Diseases: A Surgical Perspective](#)), a comprehensive **literature survey** of case reports and studies focusing on **vascular damage** caused by **Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)**.

Their **new project** aims to collect **unpublished case reports, imaging data, and anatomopathological findings** related to **vascular damage of surgical interest** (e.g., **aneurysm, compartment syndrome**) in patients affected by NTDs. The goal is to compile these findings into a **second book**.

If you have relevant cases to share or are interested in contributing, please contact:

[Dr. Valeria Silvestri](#)

Editors Choice

Epidemiological Models to Estimate the Burden of Snakebite Envenoming:

A Systematic Review

 **Published in Tropical Medicine & International Health** (January 2025)

 [Read the full article here](#)

Snakebite envenoming (SBE) is a severe yet often overlooked public health issue, causing over **5.4 million envenomings** and around **140,000 deaths annually**, predominantly in **South Asia, Africa, and Latin America**. Despite its high mortality and morbidity, data on SBE is fragmented, making it challenging to allocate resources effectively.

In this comprehensive **systematic review**, **Gololo et al.** analyze **39 epidemiological studies** to understand how **modelling techniques** can fill data gaps and support the **WHO's goal of halving snakebite-related deaths by 2030**.

Key Findings:

Diverse Modelling Approaches:

- **76.9%** of studies used **statistical models** such as **regression analysis**, **geostatistical mapping**, and **time series forecasting**.
- **23.1%** applied **mathematical models** like **compartmental**, **agent-based**, and **transmission dynamics models** to simulate disease spread and intervention outcomes.

Regional Focus:

- High concentration of studies from **South Asia (35.9%)** and **Latin America (35.9%)**, with limited data from **Africa**, despite its high burden.
- Only **5.1%** of models provided **global burden estimates**.

Risk Factors Identified:

- **Environmental Factors** (climate change, deforestation, agricultural practices) influence snake habitats and human exposure.
- **Socio-demographic Variables** (occupation, rural residency, poverty) increase vulnerability, especially among **farmers** and **children**.

Data Gaps:

- Limited **community-based data**, with most studies relying on **hospital records**, underestimating the true burden.
- **Standardization issues** in model methodologies hinder global comparisons.

Why It Matters:

This review highlights the urgent need for:

- **Improved data collection** in high-burden regions like **Africa**.
- **Stakeholder engagement** to enhance model accuracy and public health relevance.
- **Standardized methodologies** to ensure comparability across studies.

Future Directions:

To meet WHO targets, future research should:

- Expand **mathematical modelling** to predict **resource needs** (e.g., antivenom distribution).
- Incorporate **real-time data** for dynamic risk assessments.
- Foster **international collaborations** to address global data gaps.

This review serves as a **call to action** for researchers, policymakers, and health organizations to invest in **robust epidemiological modelling**, ensuring **data-driven strategies** to combat snakebite envenoming effectively.

[Full Article](#)

Global Career and Funding Opportunities

African Snakebite Alliance – Call for Research Grant Applications



African Snakebite Alliance

The **African Snakebite Alliance (ASA)**, funded by the **Wellcome Trust**, is committed to improving health outcomes for individuals affected by **snakebite envenoming** in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). With an estimated **32,000 annual deaths** due to snakebites in SSA—accounting for up to **one-third of global fatalities**—there is an urgent need to address **evidence gaps** in policy and clinical practice. To support this mission, the ASA has launched an **Open Grant Call** to attract multidisciplinary talent at different career stages to conduct high-quality research that will inform public health strategies and improve patient outcomes.

Funding Opportunities

In this call, **two types of proposals** will be funded:

Three Network Research Proposals

 Duration: **2 years**

 Budget: Up to **£100,000** per proposal

Two Postdoctoral Research Proposals

 Duration: **2 years**

 Budget: Up to **£50,000** per proposal

Priority Areas for Funding

Proposals should address at least one of the following focus areas:

1 Research Activities Related to Burden

- **Reduce data gaps** between actual SBE incidence and available statistics
- **Identify hotspots** through data capture, mapping, and surveillance
- **Assess long-term consequences**, including the **economic burden** on society and healthcare systems

2 Research Activities Related to Treatment

- **Optimize antivenom distribution** and supply chain efficiency
- **Evaluate decentralization strategies** for treatment at the community level
- **Improve access** to healthcare facilities for snakebite victims
- **Enhance rehabilitation** and quality of life post-envenoming

Who Can Apply?

Network Research Proposals (£100,000):

- Lead applicants must hold a **PhD** in a relevant field
- Multidisciplinary teams with members from **at least two different African countries**
- Applicants must be affiliated with a **university, research institute, or NGO** in Africa

Postdoctoral Research Proposals (£50,000):

- PhD obtained within the last **5 years** or expected within **1 year** after application deadline
- Alternatively, a **Medical/Veterinary Degree** with **2–5 years of research experience**
- Projects should be based in **at least one African country**



Key Dates:

- **Application Deadline: March 4, 2025, 23:59 GMT**
- **Announcement of Awards: May 5, 2025, 15:00 GMT**



Application Process:

All application materials, including the **checklists, application forms, and budget templates**, can be found here:

 **African Snakebite Alliance – Apply Now**

The review process will be supported by the **African Research Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases (ARNTD)**. Final selections will be made by ASA based on scientific merit and policy relevance. Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to life-saving research and become part of the **African Snakebite Alliance Community of Practice**.

[More Information](#)


Upcoming Events



Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (DTM&H)

Study in Hamburg, Spring 2025

Are you passionate about **global health** and eager to deepen your knowledge of **tropical medicine**? Don't miss the opportunity to join the prestigious **Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (DTM&H)** at the renowned **Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNITM)** in **Hamburg, Germany**.

 **Course Dates:** 31 March – 27 June 2025

 **Location:** Hamburg, Germany

Founded in **1900**, the BNITM has been at the forefront of tropical medicine research and education. The DTM&H, running since **1905**, offers a comprehensive and **clinically focused curriculum**, perfect for healthcare professionals looking to expand their expertise in tropical and travel-related diseases.


What Will You Learn?

- **Epidemiology**, pathophysiology, clinical presentation, treatment, and prevention of tropical diseases
- **Pre-travel medical consultations** and prophylactic measures
- **Occupational health principles** for travelers
- Core concepts in **clinical medicine** and **public health** for low- and middle-income countries
- Hands-on training in **laboratory techniques**, including **helminth microscopy**

[More Information](#)



16th Malaria Meeting – Join the Global Discussion on Malaria Research

 **Date:** 3–4 April 2025

 **Location:** Institute of Tropical Medicine, Tübingen, Germany

The **16th Malaria Meeting**, organized by the **German Society for Tropical Medicine, Travel Medicine and Global Health (DTG)**, the **German Center for Infection Research (DZIF)**, and the **Paul-Ehrlich Society for Infection Therapy (PEG)**, will take place from **3–4 April 2025** at the **Institute of Tropical Medicine, University of Tübingen**, Germany.

This event offers a **unique platform** to present and discuss the **full spectrum of malaria research**, bringing together experts from around the world to foster collaboration and scientific exchange.

Call for Abstracts

We warmly invite researchers to present their work to an **international audience** and receive feedback from leading **malaria experts**.

- **Submission Deadline:** *Extended to 20 February 2025*
- **Language:** Abstracts must be submitted in **English**
- **Length:** Maximum **2,000 characters** (including spaces; excluding title and author names)

Abstract Categories:

- **Epidemiology**
- **Diagnostics**
- **Clinical Research & Translation**
- **Immunology**
- **Parasitology**

Note: Please indicate if you prefer a **poster presentation** only. Accepted abstracts will be integrated into the program as either **oral** or **poster presentations**. Oral presentations will be **10 or 25 minutes** long—final details will be provided upon acceptance.

Important: The presenting author must be a **registered participant**. Submitting an abstract does **not** automatically register you for the event.

Register & Submit Your Abstract:

 **Online Registration and Abstract Submission**

Organized by:

Institute of Tropical Medicine, University of Tübingen

For more information, visit the **event webpage** or contact the organizers directly.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with global malaria experts, showcase your research, and engage in meaningful scientific discussions! 

[More Information](#)

ECTMIH 2025

ECTMIH-News February



Dear All,

ECTMIH 2025 is taking shape, and we're excited to keep you updated on the latest developments. With the program coming together and key milestones ahead, we're looking forward to an engaging and impactful conference. Here are some important updates for you!

Call for Abstracts – Deadline Extended!

Good news for researchers and practitioners: The **Call for Abstracts deadline has been extended until March 15, 2025!** This gives you more time to submit your work and be part of the vibrant discussions shaping the future of global health.

 **Submit your abstract here**

 **New Deadline:** March 15, 2025

Abstract Topics:

Take an active part in the scientific programme and submit your results from science and practice. We look forward to your contributions!

Track 1: Interfaces – Immunology and Interaction

Track 2: Emerging Infections – Pandemics and Control

Track 3: Tropical Medicine – Diseases and Care

Track 4: One Health – Approaches and Solutions

Track 5: International Health – Travel and Migration

Track 6: Vulnerable Populations – Poverty and Neglect

Track 7: Non-Communicable Diseases – Challenges and Society

Cross-Cutting Themes:

- Climate & environmental changes
- Equality & equity
- Behavioural research & implementation
- Digital innovations

Program Development in Progress

We are thrilled to have received **95 proposals for organized sessions**, and we are currently finalizing the conference program. The selection process is ongoing, and we appreciate the high level of engagement from the community.

Keynote Speakers Confirmed

Speaker invitations have been sent out, and we are delighted to share that the **first keynote speakers have officially committed!** Stay tuned as we announce them soon.

Thank you for being part of this exciting journey. We look forward to your contributions and to welcoming you to an inspiring and dynamic global event.

Warm regards,

Prof. Jürgen May,

Prof. Marylyn Addo,

Prof. Cornelia Betsch,

Prof. Michael Ramharter


Digital



ELSEVIER

E-Learning Spotlight: Mastering Grant Applications

 **Duration:** 20 minutes

 **Presenter:** *Annalisa Montesanti* – Programme Manager, R&D for National Health

Are you looking to enhance your grant-writing skills and boost your chances of securing research funding? Don't miss this insightful **webinar** featuring **Annalisa Montesanti**, a seasoned expert in health research funding.

In this **20-minute session**, Annalisa shares valuable tips on what **funders truly look for** when reviewing grant applications. Drawing from her extensive experience at the **Health Research Board (HRB)** in Ireland, she highlights key elements that make applications stand out and provides practical advice for **early-career researchers** navigating the competitive landscape of research funding.

Key Takeaways:

- What makes a grant application **stand out** to funders
- Common mistakes to **avoid** when applying for research funding
- How to **assess your readiness** for grant applications
- Strategies to improve your chances as an **early-career researcher**

About the Presenter:

Annalisa Montesanti manages the **Health Research Careers portfolio** at HRB, focusing on building capacity and fostering a skilled health research workforce in Ireland. With a background in **cancer biology**, Annalisa holds a **PhD from Oxford University** and has completed postdoctoral research at **University College Dublin (UCD)**. She is also an advocate for **open science**, **FAIR data**, and **research data stewardship**, actively engaging in international collaborations.

This webinar is a must-watch for anyone looking to improve their grant application skills and gain insights from a funder's perspective.

 **Don't miss it—watch the recording now and take your grant applications to the next level!**

[Website](#)

Dear FESTMIH Readers and Contributors,

As we step into **February 2025**, we extend our warmest wishes for a month filled with health, inspiration, and new opportunities. We hope the year has started positively for you, bringing fresh perspectives, meaningful collaborations, and impactful progress in the field of **global health and research**.

The "**News of the Month**" newsletter continues to be a cornerstone of our efforts to connect, inform, and inspire the FESTMIH community. Published on the **15th of every month**, it remains your trusted source for the latest updates, opportunities, and achievements in the field. Your contributions and insights have been invaluable in making this platform a collective voice for advancing global health.

As we step into another year, we invite you to keep the momentum going by sharing your stories, projects, and innovations with us. Submissions for each edition are due by the **10th of the month**, and we encourage contributions that reflect the diverse expertise and perspectives of our community.

Let's make 2025 a year of growth, discovery, and impact. Together, we can strengthen our global network and continue fostering collaboration to address the most pressing challenges in tropical medicine and international health.

Would you like to contribute to the News of the Month or get in touch?

We'd love to hear from you! Please send us an **email** with your submissions or inquiries.

Here's to a successful and inspiring year ahead!

Warm regards,
The FESTMIH Team.



FESTMIH

<https://www.festmih.eu/>

[E-Mail](#)