



News of the Month

March 2025

In this month you can expect



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Dr. Özge Tunçalp

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Editors Choice

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Global Career and Funding Opportunities

Numerous funding and career opportunities available this month for applicants

[Grant / Career Opportunities](#)



Upcoming Events

Numerous events scheduled this month for health and research professionals

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ECTMIH2025

ECTMIH 2025 - March News

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Digital

Essential Elements of Ethics

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supported by:



TRADITIONAL MEDICINE IN AFRICA

WEDNESDAY 19
MARCH 2025 18.00-
19.00 HRS CET



Dr KROA Ehoulé,
MD, MPH, PhD



Marco Albonico
Moderator



the webinar is free
CME points requested

<https://forms.office.com/e/gWD2dh4ZK3>

SCAN



@CTV News

FESTMIH Webinar Traditional Medicine in Africa

Date: 19 March 2025

Time: 18:00–19:00 CET

Location: Online (Zoom/Virtual Platform)

Overview

Join us for this **free** webinar exploring the cultural significance and practice of **Traditional Medicine in Africa**. Hosted by FESTMIH with support from SIMET, the session brings together leading experts to discuss the role of traditional healing methods in modern healthcare systems.

Key Details

- **Speaker:** Dr. KROA Ehoulé, MD, MPH, PhD
- **Moderator:** Marco Albonico
- **Language:** English
- **Audience:** Health professionals, public health experts, global health researchers, and anyone interested in the interplay of traditional and contemporary medicine.

How to Register

Reserve your spot by clicking on the **registration link** or scanning the QR code on the event flyer. Feel free to share with colleagues and friends to ensure a diverse turnout!

More Information



Leadership Spotlight: Dr. Özge Tunçalp Appointed Executive Director of ITM

The Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) in Antwerp has a new Executive Director at its helm: Dr. Özge Tunçalp. A distinguished physician and epidemiologist, Dr. Tunçalp brings an impressive background from the World Health Organization and a focus on enhancing healthcare in low- and middle-income countries—particularly in maternal and perinatal care.

"I am honoured to lead an institute with such a rich network in tropical medicine and public health. Together, we can continue to push boundaries and contribute to a world where quality healthcare is accessible and equitable for all." — *Dr. Özge Tunçalp*

Under Dr. Tunçalp's leadership, ITM aims to bolster its status as a premier academic institution in tropical medicine and public health by **2035**, driven by groundbreaking research, world-class medical services, and a commitment to equal partnerships. Talent development will also be a central focus, as Dr. Tunçalp strongly believes that **"Strengthening health systems starts with knowledge and collaboration."** The appointment marks the end of an interim leadership led by Professor Lut Lynen. Going forward, Dr. Tunçalp will share leadership responsibilities with General Manager Ann Peters, ensuring that **scientific** and **managerial** expertise move forward in unison.

Who is Dr. Tunçalp?

- Former Medical Officer at WHO's Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research.
- Recipient of the **Maternal Health Visionary Award** from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.
- Holds an MD from Istanbul School of Medicine, an MPH and PhD from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Yale School of Medicine.
- Honorary Professor at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, with over **200 publications** to her name.

With Dr. Tunçalp taking the reins, ITM looks forward to an exciting new era of innovation and global impact in tropical medicine and public health.

[Full Article](#)

Editors Choice

Phenotypic and Genotypic Landscape of Antibiotic Resistance in Sri Lanka

★ Key Highlights

- **One Health Perspective:** Humans, animals, and the environment are all connected in the spread of antibiotic resistance (ABR).
- **Cross-Domain Risk:** Over **50% resistance** seen in *E. coli* to common antibiotics (e.g. sulfamethoxazole, trimethoprim, ampicillin).
- **Resistant Genes:** 21 resistance genes identified in *E. coli*, with *tet-A* reaching up to **48.5%** prevalence.
- **Policy Gaps:** Few studies capture **environmental** samples (water, soil), and limited data exist on **wildlife** or more complex ecosystems.

Why This Matters

🦠 **Rising Global Threat:** Antibiotic resistance is a leading cause of mortality worldwide—this study shows how quickly it can escalate in lower-resource settings like Sri Lanka.

🌍 **One Health Overlook:** ABR doesn't respect borders. Livestock, wastewater, and community drinking water all play a role in transmitting resistant bacteria across the human–animal–environment interface.

💊 **Treatment Challenges:** Many front-line antibiotics are losing effectiveness. Carbapenems (like imipenem) were among the few options that still worked against *E. coli* in the studies.

What Did the Researchers Do?

🔍 **Methodology:** A systematic review of **37 studies** published between 2016 and 2023 examined phenotypic (lab-tested) and genotypic (gene-level) antibiotic resistance in Sri Lanka.

🏥 **Focus:** Most studies looked at *E. coli*, MRSA (*Staphylococcus aureus*), and Extended-Spectrum Beta-Lactamases (ESBL) from **hospitals**, **farms**, and **wastewater** sites.

⚠️ **Gaps:** Only **two** studies simultaneously analyzed humans, animals, and environment. This leaves a big knowledge gap about how resistance genes move among these three domains.

Takeaways & Action Steps

1. **Enhanced Surveillance:** More **multidisciplinary** (One Health) studies are urgently needed—especially in **wildlife** and environmental samples.
2. **Stricter Regulations:** Implement wastewater treatment and **antibiotic stewardship** programs (both human and veterinary) to curb resistance spread.
3. **Better Data:** Distinguish **colonization** from **infection** in clinical studies to avoid inflating ABR prevalence rates.

Final Word

Sri Lanka's rising antibiotic resistance exemplifies the **urgency** of addressing ABR from all sides—healthcare, farming, and environmental regulation. By focusing on **One Health** strategies, we can slow the surge of resistant bacteria and safeguard the effectiveness of our remaining treatments.

"ABR is a ticking time bomb in healthcare. When farm runoff, hospital effluent, and community antibiotic misuse collide, the fallout can be global."

[Full Article](#)

Global Career and Funding Opportunities

**The VALIDATE Network - Vaccine
development for complex intracellular
neglected pathogens**



The **VALIDATE Network** has officially launched the **Round 5 VALIDATE Fellowships**, a program aimed at advancing vaccine development for neglected intracellular pathogens like *Mycobacteria*, *Leishmania*, and *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. These pathogens are responsible for significant global morbidity and mortality, particularly in LMICs.

Key Details

- **Objective:** Support two years of independent research for LMIC-based associate members to:
 - Produce pilot data.
 - Build experience for future funding opportunities.
 - Lay the foundation for leadership roles in research.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Applicants must be VALIDATE associate members based at LMIC institutes.
 - Individuals who have not previously received a VALIDATE Fellowship.

Research Focus

Projects should align with VALIDATE's mission to accelerate vaccine development. This includes research across biological, physical, social sciences, and humanities, emphasizing scientific excellence and innovation.

Support for LMIC Applicants

VALIDATE offers tailored assistance to LMIC applicants:

- **Mentorship:** Grant writing mentors available for guidance. Register by **7 February 2025**.
- **Language Support:** Translation services offered if English is not the applicant's first language.
- **Resources:** Templates, guidance documents, and FAQs are accessible on VALIDATE's website.

Timeline

- **Call Opens:** 18 December 2024
- **Q&A Seminar:** 5 February 2025, 1400 GMT
- **Mentorship Registration Deadline:** 7 February 2025
- **Application Deadline:** 11 April 2025, 1600 BST
- **Fellowships Start:** June/July 2025

Application Process

Applications are reviewed by the Network Management Board, with short-listed candidates invited for interviews in May/June 2025. Successful applicants will present their project plans at the **2025 VALIDATE Annual Meeting**, with travel costs covered.

Why Apply?

This fellowship provides a platform for early-career researchers to:

- Conduct high-impact research in vaccine development.
- Build a competitive academic profile.
- Access mentoring and networking opportunities within a prestigious global network.

For more information and access to application resources, visit the VALIDATE website or **email**

[More Information](#)

Leading Scholarship 2025: Join the One Young World Summit in Munich



Are you a young leader committed to creating a sustainable future? Apply for the **Leading Scholarship 2025** to attend the **One Young World Summit** in **Munich, Germany** (November 3–6, 2025).

Scholarship Benefits

- Full access to the Summit.
- Hotel accommodation (November 2–6).
- Catering during the Summit.
- Travel expenses to and from Munich.

Note: Visa application fees and related costs are the applicant's responsibility.

Eligibility

- **Age:** 18–30 (exceptions for impactful leaders over 30).
- Proven leadership and innovation driving positive change.
- Focus on critical local or global issues.

Priority is given to underrepresented countries and first-time attendees.

Application Deadline

July 7, 2025

Apply Now and take your place among global changemakers!

[Apply Now](#)



G-WAC Call for Applications: 3-Month Research Stay at KNUST (2025)

About G-WAC

The **German-West African Centre for Global Health and Pandemic Prevention (G-WAC)** is hosted by the **College of Health Sciences at KNUST**, in partnership with **Technical University Berlin**, **Charité–Universitätsmedizin Berlin**, and **University of Bonn**. G-WAC addresses pandemic threats through **One Health** approaches, focusing on drivers of disease spread and the resilience of health systems.

Opportunity

A **3-month research stay** at KNUST for **researchers and PhD candidates** in:

- Bacteriology & Parasitology
- Community Engagement & Social Sciences
- Epidemiology & Surveillance
- Digital Health
- Health Systems & Economics
- Virology & Diagnostics
- Zoonoses

Eligibility

- Master's research students from German collaborating institutions or any African university
- Background in **public health, veterinary, medical, natural, or social sciences**
- Proficiency in English
- Able to live in Ghana for 3 months

For details and to **apply**, refer to the official G-WAC form or contact their program team.

[More Information](#)

African STARS Fellowship Programme

Applications Now Open (**Deadline: 31 March 2025**)

The **Centre for Epidemic Response and Innovation (CERI)** at Stellenbosch University and the **Institut Pasteur de Dakar (IPD)** invite young African professionals to apply for the **African STARS Fellowship Programme**, supported by the Mastercard Foundation. This initiative fosters the next generation of leaders in **genomics, diagnostics, vaccine development, and biotech innovation**.

Two Fellowship Paths

Advanced and Translational Training (ATT) Fellowship (4 months)

- Advanced genomics for public health
- Genomic diagnostic design
- Vaccine & biomanufacturing

Young Professional Programme (YPP) Fellowship (12 months)

- Research management
- Innovation & entrepreneurship
- Infectious diseases R&D for diagnostics
- Innovations for patient outcomes in Africa

Why Apply?

- **Fully funded** (travel, visa, accommodation)
- **Monthly stipend**
- **Mentorship & career development**
- Placement in **leading research institutes**, biotech hubs, and industry partners
- Membership in the **African STARS Alumni Network**

Eligibility

- Born in and/or living in Africa
- **35 years old or younger**
- Relevant degree (Bachelor's min; MSc/PhD preferred)
- Experience in **genomics, diagnostics, biotech, or vaccine development**
- Demonstrated leadership potential & commitment to African scientific progress
- Fluent in **English or French** (both a plus)
- **Women encouraged** to apply

Application Deadline: 31 March 2025

- Apply for ATT Fellowship
- Apply for YPP Fellowship

Apply now!



**One Health-Emerging
Infectious Diseases
GRADUATE SCHOOL**

**One Health-Emerging Infectious
Diseases Graduate School:**

PhD Scholarships 2025/2026

The **One Health–Emerging Infectious Diseases (1H-EID) Graduate School** is offering **two** key funding opportunities for doctoral research in **(Re)Emerging Infectious Diseases**:

3-Year PhD Contracts

- Applications open **6 February – 27 March 2025**
- Available for French and international students
- Fully funded for 3 years, allowing recipients to devote themselves entirely to PhD research
- Must apply jointly with a thesis supervisor, submitting a detailed and innovative project proposal

Supplementary PhD Funding

- 3, 6, or 12-month extensions for French or international students
- For students in the **healthcare sector**, funding may be used any time during the PhD or as an extension
- For **life sciences** students, funding is available exclusively for extensions

Scholarship recipients gain access to a **dynamic, collaborative research environment** dedicated to understanding and combating (Re)Emerging Infectious Diseases through the **One Health** lens. This includes **financial support**, networking opportunities, and interdisciplinary mentorship.

[More Information](#)



Bayer Foundation Fellowships 2025

Overview

The Bayer Foundation is offering fellowships to empower the “boundary-breakers of tomorrow,” supporting students, teachers, and early career professionals in STEM, medicine, agriculture, and more. Recipients gain **financial support**, **mentorship**, and **global networking** opportunities to elevate their research or training.

Who Can Apply?

Master, PhD & Medical Students

- health
- Up to **€10,000** for international research stays (3–6 months)

STEM Student Teachers & Teachers (Germany only)

- Enhance STEM education skills via **research projects** or **trainings**

Apprentices & Early Career Professionals (Germany, Austria, Switzerland)

- For individuals without a university degree (<5 years of employment)
- **Internships**, research, personal development, or language courses

Key Details

- **Application Window: 14 February – 11 April 2025**
- **Formats:** Research projects, internships, training programs, personal development activities
- **Locations:** Exchanges must take place in a **different country** or institution (for those studying in Germany, fellowship occurs abroad; for international students, fellowship occurs in Germany)

Why Apply?

- **Financial Support:** Up to €10,000
- **Global Exposure:** Opportunities for cross-border research and professional development
- **Networking:** Access to Bayer Foundation's boundary-breaking science community
- **Inclusivity:** Strong encouragement for women, individuals from LMICs, parents, and those with German as a second language

Interested?

- Review guidelines and FAQs on the **Bayer Foundation** website.
- Prepare documents and submit via the digital portal.
- For questions, contact this **mail**.

Don't miss this **exceptional chance** to advance your skills, research, or training with support from the Bayer Foundation's prestigious fellowship programs!

Upcoming Events



1st TropNet Travel Medicine Spring School

Date: 27–28 May 2025

Location: Centro Didattico Morgagni, University of Florence

The **TropNet Travel Medicine Spring School** offers a hands-on, interactive learning experience designed for **young trainees and healthcare professionals** eager to advance in the field of travel medicine. Organized in collaboration with the Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine at the University of Florence and the Regional Referral Center for Tropical Diseases, this in-person course will delve into:

- **Pre-Travel Considerations:** Key vaccinations, destination-specific risks, and effective travel counseling.
- **Post-Travel Management:** Real-world clinical cases focusing on neurologic, gastrointestinal, dermatologic, and febrile illnesses in returned travelers and migrants.
- **Extreme & Wilderness Medicine:** Preparedness for high-risk environments and emergencies that may arise during travel.
- **One Health Approaches:** Understanding how human, animal, and environmental health intertwine in travel medicine.

Call for Abstracts

- **Submission Deadline:** 10 March 2025
- Accepted abstracts will highlight real-life cases, enriching group discussions and providing valuable insights for all attendees.

Registration Fees

- **Until 14 April 2025**
 - Regular: 100€
 - Young (≤30 years): 80€
- **After 14 April 2025**
 - Regular: 130€
 - Young (≤30 years): 130€

[More Information](#)

Upcoming Event: Essentials of Global Health Practice – Five-Day Summer Programme 2025

Date: 14–18 July 2025

Location: Centre for Global Health, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Hosted by the Irish Global Health Network (IGHN), this **in-person** programme provides an immersive experience for healthcare professionals, researchers, and students interested in **resource-limited settings** and humanitarian response. Over five days, participants will strengthen their practical skills in project management, digital health, and interdisciplinary collaboration—all essential for thriving in the global health arena.

Programme Highlights

- **Hands-On Learning:** Real-world case studies, interactive sessions, and workshops on everything from **global mental health** to **one health** and **climate justice**.
- **Leadership & Management:** Budgeting, cross-cultural communication, and organizational strategies for humanitarian emergencies and long-term development projects.
- **Expert Instructors:** Learn from seasoned professionals in academia, NGOs, and clinical practice who bring firsthand experience from diverse global contexts.
- **Daily Themes:** Dive into topics like community empowerment, health systems resilience, infectious disease responses, planetary health, and much more.

Scholarship Opportunities

Two **tuition scholarships** are available:

1. **For Students from Lower-Middle-Income Countries**
2. **Open to Students from Any High-Income Country**

Application Deadline: 21 March 2025

Successful candidates will be announced in early April.

Registration & Fees

- **Early Bird (until 15 April 2025):** €820 (limited availability)
- **Full Tuition:** €1150
- **Student Rate:** €950 (installment plans available)
- **Registration Closes:** 15 June 2025

Note: Medical trainees in Ireland may qualify for TSS and HST funds. Other participants are encouraged to seek funding from their institutions.

Who Should Attend?

- Current health professionals (clinical and non-clinical)
- Students and recent graduates aiming to enter global health or humanitarian fields
- NGO staff seeking advanced project management skills
- Researchers looking to apply evidence-based methods to health interventions

Don't Miss This Opportunity

Enhance your capacity to address **global health challenges**, build your professional network, and develop the real-world skills needed to lead impactful programmes around the globe.

For details, **apply for scholarships**, or request a formal Letter of Invitation, visit the [webpage](#) or [email](#).

Website

ECTMIH 2025 ECTMIH-News March



Dear All,

ECTMIH 2025 is taking shape, and we are excited to share the latest updates with you. With key milestones being reached and the program coming together, we are looking forward to an inspiring and impactful conference.

Call for Abstracts – Closed on March 15

The Call for Abstracts officially closed on March 15th. We would like to thank everyone who submitted their work!

Program Development in Progress

All organized session holders have now received their feedback, and we are currently in the process of planning the session schedule. With a great response from the community, we are now working on finalizing the conference program. We appreciate the high level of engagement and look forward to presenting a diverse and thought-provoking agenda.

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

Best regards,

Prof. Jürgen May

Prof. Marylyn Addo

Prof. Cornelia Betsch

Prof. Michael Ramharter

Digital



Essential Elements of Ethics

Free e-Learning Resource

Looking to strengthen the ethics section of your clinical trial protocol? The Global Health Training Centre's **Essential Elements of Ethics** online course guides you step by step through the key ethical considerations in clinical research. Developed in collaboration with leading institutions, this free resource offers:

- **11 Modules & Quizzes:** Covering topics like choice of control, informed consent, community engagement, return of results, and more.
- **Practical Tools:** Accompanying **Points to Consider** workbook and checklist help integrate ethics seamlessly into your protocol.
- **Certification:** Successfully complete all quizzes with a score of 80% or higher to earn a downloadable certificate.

Visit the **Global Health Training Centre** to explore this powerful, open-access course and enhance the ethical rigor of your studies.

[More Informations](#)

Dear FESTMIH Readers and Contributors,

As we step into **March** and welcome the **first days of spring** after the long winter months, we extend our warmest wishes for a season of renewal, fresh perspectives, and inspiring progress in global health research.

Our **News of the Month (NOTM)** remains your go-to platform—published every 15th—to share the latest opportunities, achievements, and insights from across the FESTMIH community. Your contributions are what keep this newsletter vibrant and relevant. We encourage you to keep sending in your stories, projects, and innovations—submissions for each edition are due by the **10th** of the month.

Exciting news: Our **newsletter**, packed with many fascinating topics and updates, will be released **about one week** after this NOTM. We'd love your support in ensuring it reaches the broadest possible audience. Feel free to **share** it with colleagues, fellow researchers, and anyone interested in the critical work happening in tropical medicine and international health.

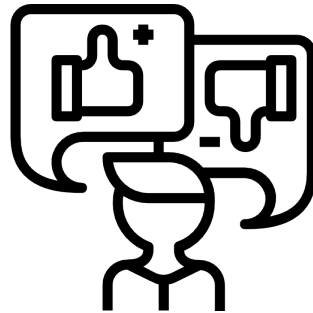
Let's make this spring a season of **collaboration** and **impact**, uniting our global network to tackle the most pressing challenges in global health.

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.



With the 'News of the Month' we try to communicate relevant information in the field of FESTMIH and also cover interdisciplinary topics. We would like to know how the News of the Month has been received and if there is **anything we can improve**.

Feedback is anonymous, so no personal details will be included.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the FESTMIH secretariat.

Give us Feedback



FESTMIH

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

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