



News of the Month

June 2025

In this month you can expect



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ECTMIH2025

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Digital

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Launch of Global Health Perspectives Platform

Key Points:

 Launch of *Global Health Perspectives* – successor to *MTb Journal*

 Name change: Netherlands Society for Global Health (NSGH)

On May 15, the Third Global Health Day in the Netherlands was held under the theme “*Appropriate Care*”. This event marked two important milestones for the Dutch global health community.

First, the Netherlands Society officially launched its new online platform: **Global Health Perspectives**.

This platform replaces the traditional *MTb Journal*, which was published in print from 2023 to 2025. The new digital format aims to increase visibility and accessibility for articles, research findings, and opinion pieces related to global health. Colleagues and contributors are warmly invited to visit the platform at globalhealthperspectives.com and submit their work.

Second, the society announced its official name change to **Netherlands Society for Global Health (NSGH)**, underlining its renewed focus and commitment to the global health agenda. During the event, attendees received the **final printed edition** of *MTb Journal* – closing a chapter and opening a new one for digital engagement and knowledge sharing.

[Jump to new Platform](#)

Editors Choice


Scrub typhus-associated movement and gait disorders: A systematic review with principal component analysis and in silico mechanistic modelling

Key Points:

 Scrub typhus can cause *opsoclonus-myoclonus syndrome*, *parkinsonism*, and *cerebellar ataxia*

 76 cases analysed using **PRISMA**, **PCA**, and **correlation modelling**

 In-silico modelling reveals **molecular mimicry** targeting brain-specific host proteins

 Novel framework to **classify syndromes and guide therapy** in infection-associated movement disorders

Scrub typhus (*Orientia tsutsugamushi*) is typically associated with fever and rash, but this review by **Mondal et al. (2025)** reveals it as a **significant yet under-recognized cause of neurological disorders**, particularly **movement and gait impairments**. The study, published in *Tropical Medicine & International Health*, marks a **methodological innovation** by combining:

Systematic Review (PRISMA)

Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to uncover clinical patterns

In-silico protein–protein interaction (PPI) modelling to explore mechanisms

Findings

Out of 76 scrub typhus cases with confirmed neurological involvement:

66% had movement disorders, especially:

Opsoclonus-myoclonus (64%)

Parkinsonism (26%)

Tremor, chorea, and dystonia (less frequent)

Ataxic gait was the most common gait abnormality (96%), predominantly **cerebellar** in origin

PCA revealed **five clinical clusters**:

Cerebellar dysfunction

Parkinsonian syndromes

Sensory ataxia with spinal involvement

Brainstem-related myoclonus

Prolonged recovery with cranial nerve involvement

Neuroimaging in selected cases revealed abnormalities in the **cerebellum**, **basal ganglia**, and **leptomeninges**, consistent with neuroinflammatory damage.

Mechanistic Insights

The in-silico analysis (via STRING) identified **molecular mimicry** as a likely mechanism:

Orientia surface proteins (TSA56, OtDUB, HtrA) were shown to potentially cross-react with **human neural proteins**:

Fibronectin-1 (FN1)

Golgi-associated proteins (GOLGA1/2)

HTRA1 – linked to **cerebellar and basal ganglia expression**

These **host-pathogen interactions** point to **neuroimmune injury** and could explain the **regional vulnerability** observed in patients (e.g., cerebellar ataxia, parkinsonism).

Relevance and Outlook

This is the **first comprehensive syndromic framework** for neurological complications of scrub typhus. It suggests that early recognition of subtle motor signs may allow **prompt doxycycline therapy** and reduce long-term disability.

Moreover, this work underscores the need for:

Mechanistic validation of immune targets

Biomarker development (e.g. HTRA1, MAPT, FN1)

Clinical trials of immunomodulatory therapies

Citation & Link

Mondal R, Deb S, Dhauria M, et al. *Scrub typhus-associated movement and gait disorders: A systematic review with principal component analysis and in silico mechanistic modelling*. **Trop Med Int Health**. 2025;30(6):459–480.




Full Paper

Global Career and Funding Opportunities



Tony Robbins Foundation: 2025 Grant Applications Open

Key Points:

-  Global grant opportunity for nonprofit organizations
-  Submit an online *Letter of Intent* (max. 3 pages)
-  No fixed deadline – applications reviewed *on a rolling basis*

The Tony Robbins Foundation is calling for **grant applications** for 2025 from nonprofits aiming to make a lasting social impact. The foundation supports organizations that **empower individuals and communities** and improve the **quality of life for underserved populations**.

To apply, organizations must:

Be a **registered nonprofit** (U.S. 501(c)(3) or international with proof)

Show **at least one year of activity**

Align with the foundation's **mission and values**




Important: The foundation does **not fund individuals, start-ups**, or groups outside its core focus areas.

The first step is to submit an **online Letter of Intent** via the application form, after which selected applicants will be invited to submit a full grant proposal. All applications are evaluated **continuously**, with no specific deadline.

[More Information](#)


Call for Applications: 2026 OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Awards

Key Points:

- Open to early-career **women scientists from the Global South**
-  Focus: **Sustainable, affordable, and reliable energy (SDG7)**
-  Deadline: **31 August 2025**
-  Prize: **USD 5,000 + fully-funded conference trip**

The **Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)** has opened the call for the **2026 OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Awards**, honoring outstanding early-career women scientists conducting impactful research in the energy sector. The award supports those advancing **SDG7** and working under often challenging conditions in **scientifically lagging countries (STLCs)**.

Eligibility Criteria:

- PhD awarded within the last 10 years
- Minimum 5 years of residence in an eligible STLC
- Active research in STEM fields related to clean energy
- Applicants must submit:
 - Evidence of contribution to SDG7
 - Motivational statement, CV, PhD certificate, proof of residency
 - Two signed reference letters
-  Apply online in English by **31 August 2025**. For full eligibility details and application guidelines, visit their website

[Call to action](#)

Upcoming Events

NTDs around the World

COLOMBIA

WEBINAR JUNE 25, 2025
10:30 AM COT / 12:30 PM BRT /
5:30 PM CET



supported by:



THE WEBINAR IS FREE

SCAN



<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/7w2cSAytVP>

NTDs Around the World – Spotlight on Colombia

Key Points:

Date: 25 June 2025 | Time: 10:30 COT | 12:30 BRT | 17:30 CEST

Focus on **neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)** in Colombia

Topics: *Dermatological conditions, mHealth for leishmaniasis, novel Chagas therapies*

FESTMIH and the German Society for Tropical Medicine (DTG) invite you to the next session of their **NTDs Around the World** webinar series, this time focusing on Colombia. Experts will explore **tropical dermatology in the Pacific region, remote surveillance of leishmaniasis, and new therapeutic approaches to Chagas disease**, including insights from DNDI's novel compound evaluations.

Speakers:

Andrea Vanegas Ramirez (BwK/BNITM, Hamburg): Dermatological challenges in Pacific Colombia

Jonny Alejandro Garcia Luna (CIDEIM, Cali): mHealth strategies for cutaneous leishmaniasis

María Jesús Pinazo (DNDI, Rio de Janeiro): Innovations in Chagas disease therapy

Moderators:

Barbora Jara-Režnáková (University Düsseldorf)






 **Registration is open** – Don't miss this session on **tropical medicine at the intersection of innovation and regional reality**.

Registration



Short Notice! Essentials of Global Health Practice Summer School 2025

Key Points:

-  **Dates:** July 14–18, 2025 |  **Location:** Centre for Global Health, Trinity College Dublin
-  **37 CPD points** |  **Registration deadline:** June 15, 2025
-  **Hands-on training** for global health professionals, students, and researchers

The **Irish Global Health Network (IGHN)** invites applications for its renowned **five-day in-person Summer School: Essentials of Global Health Practice**. Held in the heart of Dublin, this intensive course is designed to prepare participants for leadership roles in **global health, development, and humanitarian response**, especially in resource-constrained settings.

Programme Overview

Through lectures, real-world case studies, and interactive group sessions, participants will build practical skills across several thematic tracks:

- Day 1:** Fundamentals of global health and resilient health systems
- Day 2:** Advocacy, SRHR, and cultural competence in low-resource settings
- Day 3:** Monitoring, evaluation, digital health tools, and mental health
- Day 4:** Sustainability, planetary health, and the One Health approach
- Day 5:** NGO management, volunteerism, leadership, and partnership strategies

Each day combines theoretical foundations with applied skills relevant to project implementation and fieldwork.

Who Should Attend?

This summer school is ideal for:

- Health professionals (clinical and non-clinical)
- Postgraduate and undergraduate students
- NGO staff in operational or strategic roles
- Aspiring global health practitioners
- Researchers seeking applied experience in programme evaluation

What You'll Gain

-  Cultural competency for overseas work
-  Project management & evaluation skills
-  Understanding of key global health challenges
- Exposure to interdisciplinary research and innovation
-  Networking with experts and international peers

Fees & Registration

General admission: €1150
Student rate: €950 (instalment options via Eventbrite)
Scholarships: Two partial scholarships were available (applications now closed)
Accommodation tips: Download guide here
Visa support & invitation letters: Available upon request

 **Register by June 15, 2025**

ECTMIH 2025

June Update



Dear All,

Summer is just around the corner – and so is the next exciting phase of **ECTMIH 2025**! As we enter June, we're thrilled to share some fresh updates and opportunities with you.

ECTMIH 2025 – Programme Now Online

We're proud to announce that the full programme of the ECTMIH is available on our website!

Create Space for Your Ideas – Meeting Rooms Available

Whether you're planning a side event, a working group meeting, or a networking session, we invite you to book one of our meeting spaces during the conference.

These rooms provide a perfect platform to connect with peers, showcase your work, and contribute to the vibrant ECTMIH 2025 atmosphere.

Availability is limited, so be sure to [book early here](#).

Last Call – Academy Tickets Going Fast

This is your final chance to grab one of the remaining Academy tickets!

Secure your place today and be part of an inspiring event of collaboration, exchange, and learning in Hamburg.

We can't wait to see what June brings – and to see you in person in 2025!

Warm regards,

Prof. Jürgen May, Prof. Marylyn Addo, Prof. Cornelia Betsch, Prof. Michael Ramharter
ECTMIH 2025 Organizing Committee

Enabling Global Collaboration Through Infectious Disease Data

New Podcast Series by IGHN

Key Points:

- 🌐 Platform for standardized **individual-patient data sharing**
- Supports rigorous **meta-analyses, outbreak response, and drug evaluation**
- 👥 Community-driven model with a strong LMIC focus

The **Infectious Diseases Data Observatory (IDDO)**, based at the University of Oxford, provides a collaborative platform for the global infectious disease community. IDDO enables researchers and clinicians to **share, standardize, and pool data** across disease areas, accelerating evidence generation for better treatments and control strategies.

Building on the success of **WWARN** (WorldWide Antimalarial Resistance Network), IDDO now spans eight disease areas:

🦠 COVID-19 | 🦟 Malaria | 🩺 Chagas | 🩺 Schistosomiasis/STH | 🩺 Medicine quality | 🧑 Ebola | 🧑 Febrile illness | 🧑 Visceral leishmaniasis

Through adherence to **FAIR data principles** (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-usable), IDDO ensures that research efforts in **low- and middle-income countries** are recognized and supported.

[More Information](#)



Researcher Academy

How to Produce Highly Visible Research

Key Points:

- 📊 Strategies to increase **research visibility and citations**
- 👥 Emphasis on **multidisciplinary and collaborative research**
- 🎓 Tailored for both **early-career and senior researchers**

In a new **1-hour online module** hosted by Elsevier, Dr. Mustapha Belkhouja (Grenoble Ecole de Management) and Dr. Hyungseok Yoon (Leeds University) explore how research collaboration—across disciplines and institutions—**directly affects citation impact**.

The video presents:

Data-driven insights on **academic visibility**

Best practices for **attracting citations**

How collaboration enhances your reach and relevance

This resource is especially valuable for those navigating international or interdisciplinary work and seeking to **amplify the real-world relevance** of their research.


[Watch Now!](#)

Welcome to the June Edition of the News of the Month,

As summer begins to unfold, we hope this edition brings a sense of inspiration and renewed energy.

June marks a season of connection, collaboration, and continued progress across the FESTMIH network. Let's make the most of this vibrant time to exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships, and move forward—together.

The **News of the Month (NOTM)** continues to serve as your monthly hub—published on the 15th—for updates, funding calls, training opportunities, and upcoming events in the field of tropical medicine and international health. Your ongoing contributions are the heart of this platform, and we thank you for keeping the exchange active and inspiring.

 *In case you missed it:* The most recent **FESTMIH quarterly newsletter** remains available for download via the FESTMIH website.

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



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