

News of the Month

April 2025

In this month you can expect



Webinar

NTDs Around the World

Jump to Section



Editors Choice

Spotlight on Antimicrobial Resistance in Southeast Asia

Jump to Section



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

See the full list of all upcoming Events



ECTMIH2025

ECTMIH 2025 - April News

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Digital

Podcasts, free online learning opportunities & more

Jump to Digital Content



WEBINAR 07.05.2025 3:30 PM GMT / 5.30 PM CET



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NTDs Around the World – Focus on Burkina Faso

Date: 7 May 2025

Use Time: 15:30 GMT / 17:30 CET

Online Event | Free Registration

The next session of the "NTDs Around the World" series spotlights Burkina Faso and brings together local experts to share insights on the burden, control, and specific challenges of **neglected tropical** diseases (NTDs) in the country.

This is a unique opportunity to engage directly with professionals working on the ground and learn from their practical experience.

Featured Talks:

- NTDs in Burkina Faso: Current situation, control strategies and outlook by **Dr. Guétawendé Job Wilfried Nassa** (MD, MPH)
- Maladies tropicales négligées à manifestations cutanées : contexte et prise en charge by Dr. Cheick Ismael Traoré (Dermatologist) – presentation in French with English subtitles
- Prevalence of some NTDs in populations living around the Soum dam by **Sountong-Noma Faizatou Sorgho** (PhD candidate)

Register here

Organised by **FESTMIH**, this series continues to highlight context-specific approaches to NTDs through voices from endemic regions. Don't miss the chance to gain deeper understanding and connect with the global NTD community.

Register online

Editors Choice



(Kadariswantiningsih et al., Tropical Medicine & International Health, 2025, DOI:

10.1111/tmi.14090)

IIII New Meta-Analysis: ESBL-Producing Bacteria in Indonesia (2008–2024)

Published in: Tropical Medicine & International Health, April 2025

DOI: 10.1111/tmi.14090

Key Findings:

- · Pooled national prevalence: 46.4% ESBL-producing bacteria
- · Highest regional burden: Sumatra (64%)
- · Hospital and community prevalence: Nearly equal (47%)
- E. coli & K. pneumoniae dominance: 57.8% and 51%, respectively
- \cdot Children affected less than adults
- Marked heterogeneity: 1² = 99%, underscoring methodological inconsistencies

A recently published **systematic review and meta-analysis** by Kadariswantiningsih et al. sheds light on the widespread presence of **extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL)-producing bacteria** in Indonesia — one of the most populous countries in Southeast Asia, where surveillance data on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has long been fragmented.

By synthesising data from **48 eligible studies** covering **more than 12,000 samples** collected between 2008 and 2024, the authors reveal a **national pooled ESBL prevalence of 46.38%**. This alarming figure spans both hospital (47.13%) and community (47.26%) settings, suggesting extensive community transmission in addition to nosocomial spread.

Regional Differences: A Patchwork of Resistance

The prevalence varied significantly by region:

- Sumatra: 63.99%Sulawesi: 52.26%
- · Bali: 60.82% (based on limited data)
- **Java**: 24.62%
- · Kalimantan: 15.24%

These discrepancies reflect not only epidemiological differences but also variations in study design, diagnostic methodology, and regional laboratory capacities. For example, the **Double-Disk Synergy Test (DDST)** was the most commonly used detection method, but its sensitivity may differ from more advanced techniques like Vitek 2 or PCR.

Demographics & Bacterial Species

Adults were more frequently affected than children (44.6% vs. 32.4%), though the clinical significance in paediatric populations remains high, especially in immunocompromised settings.

The dominant pathogens were:

- ESBL-producing E. coli: 57.8%
- ESBL-producing K. pneumoniae: 51.0%

Both organisms are major contributors to urinary tract infections and sepsis — and increasingly resistant to multiple antibiotic classes.

Implications for Policy and Practice

The authors highlight the **urgent need for standardized surveillance systems** like GLASS and the WHO's Tricycle Project to bridge diagnostic disparities across the archipelago. They also stress the importance of:

- · Tailored regional AMR interventions
- · Robust antimicrobial stewardship
- · Improved infection control protocols
- · Consistent laboratory methodologies to reduce heterogeneity

Given that many of the studies included in the review were conducted in **referral hospitals**, the true community burden may still be underestimated — underscoring the need for greater focus on **community-level data collection**.

Conclusion

This landmark study provides one of the most comprehensive views to date of **antibiotic resistance patterns in Indonesia**, offering critical insights for national and international stakeholders. The **high ESBL prevalence**, coupled with the diversity of settings and populations affected, emphasizes the **need for urgent, coordinated action** to strengthen Indonesia's AMR response.

Full article available open access:

Antibiotic resistance in Indonesia: A systematic review and meta-analysis (TMIH)

Full Article

Global Career and Funding Opportunities





Fully Funded Stipend Program

📍 Berlin, Germany | 🗓 12–14 October 2025

Application Deadline: 30 April 2025, 11:45 PM CEST

The World Health Summit 2025 invites applications for its fully funded Stipend Program, tailored to emerging global health changemakers from low- and middle-income countries. Up to 15 individuals will be selected to attend the summit in Berlin and engage with international leaders in health, science, and policy.

What the Stipend Covers:

- Free registration for the World Health Summit 2025
- · Invitation to the exclusive Kick-Off Reception
- · Round-trip flights to Berlin
- Four nights of hotel accommodation
- · Visa cost reimbursement and local transport support

Who Should Apply:

- · Health professionals, advocates & researchers from LMICs
- · Individuals with lived experience in health system transformation
- Early-career professionals engaged in community health, equity, or policy reform

How to Apply:

- Submit your application
- 📋 Read full program details
- Applications may close early if all spots are filled!

Don't miss this opportunity to become part of one of the world's leading strategic forums for global health.

More Information





Africa CDC Fellowship: Short-Term **Bioinformatics Training**

🌍 For public health professionals in AU Member States

Application Deadline: 20 April 2025

100 Fully Funded Fellowships Available

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) is offering 100 short-term bioinformatics fellowships through its Pathogen Genomics Initiative (Africa PGI). This fully funded program is tailored for public health professionals working in national public health institutions or reference labs across African Union Member States.

The fellowship aims to strengthen Africa's bioinformatics capacity by equipping participants with essential skills in:

- Genomic data analysis and interpretation
- · Pathogen surveillance
- · Data-informed public health decision-making

Participants will attend intensive short courses focused on practical, hands-on training relevant to modern public health systems.

Eligibility Criteria:

- · Affiliation with a public health institution or reference lab in an AU Member State
- · Bachelor's degree or higher in a relevant field (e.g. bioinformatics, molecular biology, medical
- Demonstrated interest or experience in bioinformatics and public health
- · Age under 35

Why Apply?

- ✓ Receive specialised bioinformatics training
- ✓ Join a continent-wide network of skilled professionals
- ✓ Contribute to Africa's genomic surveillance and response capacity
- Apply now via this form
- Contact: e-mail

This fellowship is co-funded by the European Union and implemented in partnership with the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM).

Call to action





- Q Deadline: 19 April 2025
- Open to researchers from LMICs and underrepresented groups

The Wellcome Trust is offering early-career researchers the opportunity to observe funding decision committees — a rare and valuable chance to gain behind-the-scenes insight into how major grants are evaluated.

By observing how decisions are made on key schemes such as the Early-Career Award, Career Development Award, and Discovery Research Award, participants can strengthen their own future grant applications and better understand the dynamics of large-scale funding systems.



💡 What's Involved?

Observers will:

Attend a real committee meeting (half day)

Witness expert deliberations on actual applications

Gain practical insight into Wellcome's assessment and decision-making process



Applicants must:

- Be based in a low-, middle-, or lower-middle-income country
- Be eligible for an Early-Career Award, or have applied recently for Discovery Research funding
- Not be a current or former Wellcome grantee
- · Not have previously observed or served on a Wellcome panel

Researchers from underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply, including:

Those with a Bangladeshi, Black, or Pakistani background in the UK

Researchers based at **LMIC institutions**

Early-career researchers at non-Russell Group UK universities



How to Apply !Short Notice!

Applications are open until 19 April 2025. You'll be asked to provide brief information about:

· Your career stage and funding experience

- · Your research interests
- · Why you wish to attend a funding committee
- **S** Apply via the Wellcome Trust website

More Information





- 📍 Dresden, Germany | 🗓 January 15 July 17, 2026
- () Application Deadline: 23 April 2025
- > Full-time | Fully funded | In-person

The UNEP/UNESCO/BMUV Postgraduate Course on Environmental Management for Developing Countries is a prestigious six-month programme hosted by TU Dresden. It is tailored to professionals from the public sector, civil society, and science in developing and emerging economies, aiming to build advanced capacities in sustainable environmental governance and resource use.

What to Expect

The course links the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** with real-world, interdisciplinary solutions. Participants will gain theoretical and hands-on training in areas such as:

- Conservation and restoration ecology
- ♦ Water and atmospheric management
- **Sustainable urban and regional development**
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency
- 🤝 Climate change, communication, and cross-sectoral governance

Additional components include **excursions**, **group work**, and a **research project** culminating in a final symposium. A visit to the **International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm** offers firsthand insight into field-level conservation strategy.

Who Can Apply?

Eligible applicants should be:

Mid-career professionals in environmental governance, public administration, or science From developing or emerging countries

Holders of at least a bachelor's degree in a relevant field

Proficient in English

Nominated by their home institution

🧕 Women and professionals from underrepresented countries are strongly encouraged to apply.

Funding & Benefits

Selected participants receive:

- Full financial support (flights, accommodation, insurance, public transport, excursions)
- · Monthly €550 stipend
- · Single studio accommodation
- · Postgraduate Diploma upon successful completion

Timeline & Application

Application period: 18 March - 23 April 2025

Selection results: July 2025

Course dates: 15 January - 17 July 2026

Apply online: CIPSEM Application Portal

Q&A Zoom Session: 3 April 2025, 13:00 CET (Join here)

Contact: e-mail

More Information





Michelson Prizes - Next Generation Grants 2025/26



The Michelson Prizes: Next Generation Grants offer an exceptional funding opportunity for earlycareer researchers who are pursuing innovative, high-risk ideas in the fields of human immunology, vaccine development, and immunotherapy.

Each prize consists of a \$150,000 grant to support disruptive approaches to address major global diseases. The initiative specifically seeks out promising individuals whose work challenges conventional paradigms and holds transformative potential for global health.



Focus Areas

- · Human immune system innovation
- Next-generation vaccines (platforms, antigens, delivery)
- Immunotherapies for infectious diseases
- · Novel research tools and technologies enabling immunological breakthroughs



Who Should Apply?

These awards are geared toward early-stage researchers, typically under 35 years of age, who demonstrate originality, creativity, and a bold scientific vision. Applicants from all nationalities and institutional settings are encouraged to apply.



How to Apply

- · Applications are submitted via the SurveyMonkey Apply platform
- Log in or create a new account to access the Michelson Prizes program page
- · Detailed eligibility criteria and review process available on the site
- 🟅 Application deadlines and timeline to be announced on the Michelson Medical Research Foundation website

More Information





🗓 Announced: 31 March 2025 | 📍 Norway

The **Research Council of Norway** is strengthening researcher training with **NOK 112 million** in new funding for **seven national PhD research schools**. These schools aim to make doctoral education more **interdisciplinary**, **labour-market relevant**, and responsive to **societal challenges**.

Slobal Health & Innovation in Focus

Several newly funded schools are highly relevant to international and public health:

Global Health for Sustainable Futures

- · Host: University of Bergen
- Focus: Health equity, SDG3, low-resource settings
- · Grant: NOK 16 million

Mima: Microbiology Matters

- · Host: UiT
- · Focus: Infectious diseases, host-microbe interaction, new antimicrobials
- · Grant: NOK 16 million

Partners-inCare

- · Host: OsloMet
- · Focus: Innovation in municipal primary health care
- · Grant: NOK 16 million

NORA-HS

- · Host: University of Oslo
- · Focus: Al's impact on society, governance, and health
- Grant: NOK 15.5 million

These programmes offer specialised courses, mentoring, and professional networks, and are key to building stronger links between academia, health systems, and policy.

More info:

More Information

Upcoming Events



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

P Dublin, Ireland | 🗓 14–18 July 2025

Early Bird Fee: €820 (valid only until *today*, 15 April!)

Standard Tuition: €1150 | Student Rate: €950

Registration closes: 15 June 2025

The Global Health & Humanitarian Action Summer School, hosted by the Irish Global Health Network (IGHN) at Trinity College Dublin, is a five-day intensive in-person programme designed to build practical skills and interdisciplinary knowledge for those working or aspiring to work in global health, development, or humanitarian response.

Whether you're a medical trainee, NGO staff member, graduate student, or early-career researcher, this course provides a rare opportunity to gain hands-on experience in:

- Project Management in Humanitarian Settings
- Digital Health Tools & Innovation
- Global Mental Health and One Health Concepts
- Leadership, Budgeting, and Emergency Preparedness
- Climate Justice and Health Systems Resilience

Daily themes, expert facilitators, and interactive workshops will help participants navigate complex global health challenges while building their international networks.

⚠ Important: Today (15 April) is the final day to register at the reduced Early Bird rate!

After today, regular fees apply — so if you're planning to attend, now is the time to act.

Website

Summerschool UTRECHT

Utrecht Summer OBGYN

- ↑ Utrecht, The Netherlands | 🗓 7-11 July 2025
- Regular Fee: €695 | LMIC Fee: €545
- (S) Application Deadline: 31 May 2025

Hosted by Utrecht University's Faculty of Medicine, this summer school offers a one-week intensive on **global surgery, maternal care, and reproductive health**. The course brings together health professionals, researchers, and students from around the world to explore the challenges and innovations shaping equitable surgical care.

You'll learn through a dynamic mix of **lectures**, **case studies**, **small group sessions**, and **practical workshops**, all led by experienced faculty and international experts.

Course Highlights:

- Strengthening surgical care systems in low-resource settings
- Maternal health, safe motherhood & reproductive justice
- Surgical oncology & the cancer epidemic in LMICs
- · G4 Alliance Anaesthesia
- Equitable global research practices and partnerships
- SDGs, human rights, gender, and social determinants of health

Target Audience:

Ideal for OBGYNs, surgeons, midwives, NGO staff, residents in international or tropical medicine, and advanced students (master's level or above) with relevant field experience.

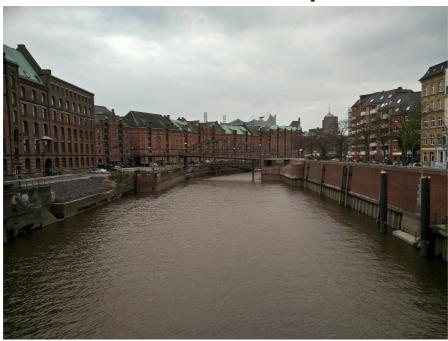
What's included:

- ✓ All course materials
- ✓ Certificate of attendance
- ✓ Coffee, tea, fruit, Dutch cookies, and daily vegetarian lunch.
- ✓ Optional housing (€200 extra via Utrecht Summer School)

A limited number of **discounted spots for LMIC-based participants** remain available. Early bird registration closed on 1 April — standard fees now apply.

More Information

ECTMIH-News April



Latest Updates & Registration Open

Dear All.

As we move into April, the preparations for ECTMIH 2025 are gaining more momentum each week. With several key milestones already achieved and the planning process advancing at full speed, we are excited to share the latest updates with you and invite you to become part of this dynamic journey.



Registration Now Open

We are delighted to announce that registration for ECTMIH 2025 is now officially open!

We warmly invite you to join us in Hamburg for what promises to be a vibrant and impactful gathering of the global health community.

Take advantage of our early bird rates, available till May 31st, and secure your place today. All registration details, including fees and deadlines, are available on our website.

ECTMIH Academy – Program Now Online

We are also happy to announce that the full program of the ECTMIH Academy is now live on our website

The Academy will take place on 28 September 2025, just prior to the main conference, and will offer a variety of hands-on, capacity-building workshops and training sessions designed for early-career researchers, practitioners, and students working in global health.

Participation in the Academy is a unique opportunity to deepen your knowledge, strengthen your skills, and connect with peers and mentors from around the world.

Registration for the Academy is also open, and places are limited - so we encourage you to register early to secure your spot here.

We are thrilled by the high level of interest and engagement from the community so far, and we look forward to welcoming you all in Hamburg for a week of exchange, inspiration, and collaboration.

Thank you for being part of this journey!

Warm regards,

Prof. Jürgen May, Prof. Marylyn Addo, Prof. Cornelia Betsch, Prof. Michael Ramharter

<u>Digital</u>





Essential Elements of Ethics

Free e-Learning Resource

¶ Hosted by the International Society of Travel Medicine (ISTM)

Available on the ISTM website

Whether you're a global health professional, an avid traveller, or simply curious about how health and mobility intersect, Travel Unravelled is your passport to timely, practical, and often surprising insights into travel medicine.

Led by ISTM President-Elect Dr. Anne McCarthy, Travel Doctor Corporate CEO Dr. Albie de Frey, and Podcast Director Dr. Aisha Khatib, this engaging podcast series brings together voices from the field to explore topics ranging from vaccine-preventable outbreaks to malaria prevention, climate change, and even disease surveillance using travellers themselves as sentinels.

Each episode blends scientific depth with practical advice, making it accessible and valuable for clinicians, researchers, and travellers alike.



🔍 Episode Highlights – Quick Overview

• Ep. 9 - Every Vaccine Is a Travel Vaccine

Vaccines don't just protect individuals — they safeguard global mobility. From measles to polio and mpox, this episode explores why all vaccines should be seen as essential tools for travellers.

Ep. 8 – The History of IAMAT

A fascinating dive into the origins of travel medicine through the eyes of Assunta Uffer-Marcolongo, featuring early disease maps, multilingual resources, and IAMAT's legacy of risk communication before the internet era.

¶ Ep. 7 – Dengue, Chikungunya and Emerging Risks

Why arboviruses like dengue and chikungunya are no longer "tropical" threats—and how climate change and global travel are accelerating their spread to new regions.

• ¶ Ep. 6 - The ITIT App: Illness Tracking in Travellers

Prof. Patricia Schlagenhauf introduces a free mobile app that empowers travellers to contribute to global disease surveillance—grassroots public health in your pocket.

▼ Ep. 5 – Travellers as Sentinels for Disease

How data from travellers feeds into global networks like GeoSentinel to help detect and prevent emerging health threats. Includes real-world outbreak case studies.

■ ¶ Ep. 4 – Amazon River & Toxoplasmosis?

A medical mystery: Could a traveller have contracted toxoplasmosis from pink dolphins in the Amazon? This episode explores unusual exposure routes and parasite ecology.

PEp. 3 – Journey to Wellness

Co-sponsored by IAMAT, this episode focuses on the health benefits of travel—reduced stress, lower cardiovascular risk, and greater global understanding.

PEp. 2 – Rabies, Risk and Travellers

One of the most fatal diseases on earth, rabies still threatens travellers globally. This episode uncovers the history, modern protocols, and personal protection strategies.

¶ Ep. 1 – Malaria for Travellers

The "most dangerous animal in the world" isn't what you think. This pilot episode unpacks everything you need to know about malaria prevention, treatment, and post-travel symptoms.

Why You Should Listen

- Up-to-date content from leading global experts
- Direct links to articles from the *Journal of Travel Medicine*
- Applicable to both practice and personal safety
- · Topics at the intersection of infectious disease, climate, public health, and mobility



WHO Academy – Learn Global Health in Your Language

📚 300+ free courses | Multilingual | Self-paced & WHO-certified

The **WHO Academy** stands out as a global learning hub offering **free**, **high-quality courses** in **over 25 languages** – designed to empower health workers, researchers, and decision-makers worldwide with up-to-date knowledge and practical skills.

From contraceptive counselling to mass casualty management, from cancer prevention to mental health integration, the course catalogue reflects the realities of global health practice and policy.

Available Languages

Courses are available in all UN languages:

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

...plus many additional languages, including:

- · Amharic, Bosnian, Czech, Estonian, Filipino, Hausa, Hindi
- · Croatian, Armenian, Indonesian, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish
- · Portuguese, Romanian, Slovenian, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese

This ensures that health professionals in **diverse linguistic regions** can access content in a language they truly understand.

🤵 Featured Topics

- Counselling and prescribing contraception (available in 6+ languages)
- Risk management fundamentals
- Mass casualty and trauma response
- mhGAP: Integrating mental health into primary care
- Medical abortion: protocols and person-centred care
- HPV vaccination and cancer prevention
- Social inequalities and cancer research
- · Training of trainers in global health

All courses are **self-paced**, with **certificates of completion**, and optimized for **desktop and mobile** learning.



Access all courses: academy.who.int

📥 Sign up for updates or explore via the WHO Academy App (Android & iOS)

More Information



WHO eLearning Course: Noma – Training for National and District-Level Health Workers

↑ Online & Self-paced | 🧠 Course duration: ~1 hour

🌐 Languages: Français | Português | Hausa | हिन्दी (Hindi)

Noma (Cancrum oris) is a **rapidly progressing**, **gangrenous infection** of the mouth and face, mainly affecting **children aged 2–6 years** living in conditions of **extreme poverty**, **malnutrition**, **poor oral hygiene**, **and immunosuppression**. It carries a **70–90% mortality rate** if untreated and leads to severe disfigurement and stigma in survivors.

This new **WHO training course** is tailored to **front-line health professionals** at national and district level and aims to **improve detection, treatment, and prevention of noma** as part of a broader push to integrate **skin-related NTDs** into primary health care.

@ What You Will Learn

Participants will be able to:

- ✓ Describe the epidemiology and pathogenesis of noma
- ✓ Identify its clinical signs and stages
- ✔ Apply correct diagnosis and treatment protocols
- ✓ Understand its socioeconomic and human rights impact
- ✓ Implement public health and early intervention strategies

About the Course

- Target group: Health workers and public health professionals in endemic settings
- Duration: Approx. 1 hour
- Certificate: Confirmation of participation upon completion
- **Content warning:** Includes clinical imagery for educational purposes
- Note: Developed prior to WHO's formal designation of noma as an NTD (15 December 2023)



Register and begin learning

More Information

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

As we move through April and embrace the full arrival of spring, we wish you a season of **fresh energy, collaboration, and renewed focus** in global health. With everything in bloom, it's a great moment to reflect on our shared commitment to equitable and impactful global health initiatives.

The **News of the Month (NOTM)** continues to serve as your trusted space—published on the **15th of each month**—for updates, funding calls, training opportunities, and events across the **FESTMIH community**. Your contributions are what make this platform vibrant and relevant—thank you for continuing to share your news, insights, and initiatives.

♠ In case you missed it: The latest quarterly FESTMIH newsletter was released a few weeks ago and is now available for download on the FESTMIH website. We encourage you to explore and share it with colleagues, students, and collaborators.

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