



Dear Colleagues,

Are you interested in enabling your work in clinical research? You're invited to register for an unmissable global briefing on New Clinical Trials Guidance by WHO's chief scientist. This event is organised by The World Health Organization (WHO) and The Global Health Network.

The Global Health Network is pleased to celebrate the first anniversary of The Global Health Network Latin America and the Caribbean Consortium. The commitment to health equity continues to be reflected in every activity, strengthening research into infectious diseases and driving professional development across the region. Are you involved in capacity building in research? Access free training and tools for researchers in this region.

Are you interested in snakebite research? The Global Health Network has launched a new Global Snakebite Research hub which showcases initiatives, provides resources and encourages researchers to connect and collaborate.

Here's all the latest from The Global Health Network.

## Events

Join the webinar: WHO launches new clinical trials guidance - What do I need to know?

 Live translation

# WHO launches new clinical trials guidance

*What do I need to know?*



Register

13/12/2024, 14:00 CET | 13:00 GMT



**Jeremy Farrar**

Chief Scientist

World Health Organization



**Vasee Moorthy**

Senior Advisor, Research for Health

World Health Organization

Join WHO and The Global Health Network for an in-depth look at the groundbreaking WHO guidance on clinical trials, aimed at sustained capacities, integrating research into health systems, and fostering diverse, active research networks worldwide. This session offers valuable insights directly from WHO leaders on how the new framework can enable patient-centric, ethical research.



**World Health Organization**

Date / Time: Friday 13 December 2024 at 13:00 UTC

The publication of the World Health Organization (WHO) guidance for best practices for clinical trials in September 2024 was a major milestone. For the first time there is global guidance applicable to the design and conduct of all clinical trials (whether or not they include investigational products), also with relevance to observational studies.

WHO and The Global Health Network are convening a global event to present the key aspects of this new guidance. This will be an informative opportunity to hear directly from WHO and learn how this guidance can help support and strengthen your research. Live translation will be available.

#### Agenda:

- Opening remarks, Dr Jeremy Farrar, WHO Chief Scientist
- Presentation, Dr Vasee Moorthy, WHO Senior Advisor, Research for Health
- Q&A Session

Please share this as widely as possible through your networks, collaborators and colleagues. This is an important information session from WHO.

[Register for the webinar: WHO launches new clinical trials guidance - What do I need to know?](#)

## Join the webinar: Overcoming Barriers to Birth Defect Diagnosis and Management in Sub-Saharan Africa

Date / Time: Thursday 28 November 2024 at 13:00 UTC

Birth defects can lead to long-term disability, impacting individuals, families, healthcare systems, and societies. The burden of birth defects is particularly pronounced in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs), where nine out of ten children born with a serious

congenital disorder reside. The subspecialty expertise necessary for diagnosing and treating birth defects is severely underrepresented in LMICs, where over 90% of all babies with birth defects are born. Access to even basic evaluation and surgical treatment services may be limited in these regions.

**Register for the webinar: Overcoming Barriers to Birth Defect Diagnosis and Management in Sub-Saharan Africa**

## Biorepositories for the Public Good, Part II: Benefits and Ethical Considerations for Access to Specimens for Epidemic Preparedness

Date / Time: Thursday 05 December 2024 at 14:00 UTC

Join this webinar to explore the Virtual Biorepository System (VBS), an innovative model for equitable, rapid access to locally managed biological specimens designed to enhance outbreak preparedness. The VBS, developed by the University of Colorado VBS team and The Global Health Network, aims to serve as a “global public good” by facilitating timely access to specimens and data crucial for developing diagnostics, vaccines, and research on infectious diseases.

Launched through the “10x10” pilot project, with EU Horizon funding, VBS partners worldwide are advancing solutions to barriers such as benefit-sharing laws under the Nagoya Protocol. Featured experts, including Dr. May Chu (University of Colorado) and Dr. Rebecca Katz (Georgetown University), will discuss legal frameworks, ethics, governance, and the sustainability of biorepositories.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about VBS's potential for supporting global health security and collaboration.

**Register for the webinar: Biorepositories for the Public Good, Part II: Benefits and Ethical Considerations for Access to Specimens for Epidemic Preparedness**

## Engaging with Communities - Lessons learnt from Africa and the United Kingdom

Date / Time: Monday 09 December 2024 at 10:00 UTC

Four panel members working in community engagement in Africa and the United Kingdom will be sharing their experiences, challenges and top tips and having a discussion for the audience to join in. The webinar will be chaired by Annabelle South, who is the Policy and Impact Research Coordinator at the MRC Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) at University College London (UCL). We will hear from Lungile Jafta who works in Youth Engagement for Penta Foundation in South Africa, Bosco Mukasa who is the Community Advisory Board Liaison at the Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC) in Uganda, Noni Mumba who oversees Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) in

Kilifi, Kenya and Kate Sturgeon who is the PPI Coordinator at the MRC CTU at UCL, London.

**Register for the webinar: Engaging with Communities - Lessons learnt from Africa and the United Kingdom**

## **News**

### **The Global Health Network Launches the Global Snakebite Research Hub**

The Global Health Network announces the launch of the Global Snakebite Research Hub, designed with user feedback at its core to shape future priorities.

Globally, five million people are bitten by venomous snakes annually, causing devastation in low- and middle-income countries. As a neglected tropical disease, snakebite demands research to reduce illnesses and deaths.

The hub showcases initiatives, opportunities and connects researchers with tools, resources, and training. Explore the platform, access resources, and register for upcoming meetings.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far to this initiative - exciting steps lie ahead.

#### **Global Snakebite Research**

### **First anniversary of The Global Health Network Latin America and the Caribbean consortium for capacity building in research**

This month marks the first anniversary of the Consortium for Capacity Building in Infectious Disease Research, part of The Global Health Network Latin America and the Caribbean. This network, comprising organisations across the region, works to tackle public health challenges through collaborative solutions.

Throughout 2024, the consortium has provided free training for local researchers, promoting equitable access to tools and knowledge. These initiatives aim to strengthen research in infectious diseases, driving professional development across the region.

The Global Health Network Latin America and the Caribbean's commitment to health equity is reflected in every activity, striving to influence public health policies based on scientific evidence. The consortium will continue its efforts to enhance research capacity in the region, fostering a collaborative research network. Access the free training for local researchers, promoting equitable access to tools and knowledge.

**The Global Health Network Latin America and the Caribbean: Activities and events**

## eLearning Course Relaunch: The Data Life Cycle: Practices and Policies

The Global Health Network is pleased to announce the update and relaunch of the previous Data Sharing course, now called 'The Data Life Cycle: Practices and Policies.' This course provides practical, up-to-date guidance on data management and sharing, addressing the challenges faced in this area. Each module, written by subject-matter experts and peer-reviewed, incorporates the latest references and best practices.

The expectation for sharing de-identified individual-level health research data has been growing among funders, regulatory agencies, and journals. The benefits of data sharing include maximising data utility, enhancing research transparency, and enabling result verification - all aimed at advancing science and health. Despite this, data sharing remains limited, partly due to insufficient data management skills and uncertainty about sharing processes. This course aims to fill this gap by giving you basic and practical guidance in data management and sharing.

### The Data Life Cycle: Practices and Policies

## Applications open for the University of Oxford's fully online part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Global Health Research

The course is based on the evidence-led Essential Research Skills Training Curriculum for Health Research which was developed as a collaboration between The Global Health Network, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases. The programme is based on a study that involved over 7,000 participants from 153 countries. This makes the diploma the first of its kind where all the core skills and component steps identified to undertake quality, practical and appropriate health research studies are covered, making it relevant for research into any disease, in all types of studies, and in any setting.

This part time course is suitable for busy professionals who want to keep working or cannot travel, and aims to tackle inequities in health research leadership. Learn more:

### Postgraduate Diploma in Global Health Research

## It's World Antimicrobial Resistance Week

This week, The Global Health Network marks [World Antimicrobial Awareness Week \(WAAW\)](#), a global campaign led by the World Health Organization to raise awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The campaign promotes best practices to reduce the emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.

To recognize WAAW, the Antimicrobial Resistance Knowledge Hub organised two key live events, including one in collaboration with The Global Health Network Africa. Although the live sessions have concluded, recordings will soon be available to revisit these insightful discussions:

- Holistic approaches to combating antimicrobial resistance: Lessons from clinical practice and interdisciplinary strategies.
- From knowledge to action: Mobilizing awareness for a resilient future against AMR.

Additionally, the AMR Hub features a rich collection of past events addressing various aspects of antimicrobial resistance, which are available to watch now.

[View past AMR related events](#)

## New toolkits launched by the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team to help address community concerns during health emergencies

Between 2021 and 2024, the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team undertook a study in Sierra Leone and Tanzania to track rumours and concerns about COVID-19 in partnership with the Kambia District Health Management Team (Sierra Leone), National Institute for Medical Research (Tanzania) and Ifakara Health Institute (Tanzania). The aim was to better understand the relative influence and mechanisms of online and offline rumours regarding COVID-19 and to identify solutions to address community concerns during health emergencies. As part of the study, the project team developed a community feedback triage toolkit, which can be used to facilitate community workshops and focus group discussions. The toolkit is available in English and French and can be adapted for use in any outbreak. It has also been tailored for mpox. Learn more about the study and download the toolkits [here](#).

[Online and offline COVID-19 rumours in Sierra Leone and Tanzania](#)

## Share your views on what should be included in WHO guidance for community engagement and social and behavioural research for the mpox response

The World Health Organization (WHO) seeks broad input to help develop these guidelines from diverse settings and roles in health care and research. This survey, therefore, aims to capture information about what WHO should include in the guidance for social and behavioural research for the mpox response.

In just ten days 418 people worldwide shared their views through the Mesh survey. Your views are important and have been shared with WHO – please continue to share views on community engagement and social and behavioural research related to mpox on Mesh.

[Share your views: Help shape WHO guidance on the priorities for social and behavioural research for mpox](#)

## Mesh - Community Engagement Network

Mesh is a free, collaborative, open-access knowledge hub and networking project for people working in community engagement within global health research. It strives to improve human health, especially in regions most affected by health inequality and

disease. Access a wide range of Community Engagement resources including:

- [Guidance for best practices for clinical trials](#)
- [Guide: A Practical Guide to Planning an Engagement Strategy for your Global Health Research funding application](#)
- [Mesh collaborate - Global Community of Practice map](#)

## The Global Health Training Centre

Discover free eLearning courses in global health research for staff of all roles, in all regions and covering all disease areas, developed by The Global Health Network in collaboration with several partners. Explore courses: [eLearning Courses](#)

Catch up on or join the latest workshops and webinars on global health research, spanning research disciplines, regions, and therapeutic areas, aiming to foster collaboration, facilitate discussion, and celebrate advances and achievements towards faster and better research for health: [Webinars & Workshops](#)

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## Your help in Supporting The Global Health Network

The Global Health Network is busy delivering skills and knowledge across the globe, supporting research to happen in places and communities where evidence is needed to change outcomes in the most devastating diseases. Access to all this is free, and always will be, whether an online course or a research support clinic in a hospital.

Over the past 15 years all this has enabled many thousands of frontline health workers and research teams to undertake quality research that otherwise would have been out of reach. This community has responded to outbreaks such as Ebola, Zika, COVID-19 and now mpox, whilst also working every day to tackle the ongoing toll from diseases of poverty that blight communities.

Have you attended a webinar or taken a course? Have you recommended any of the tools and resources to your team or collaborators? Many thousands of people have. This is wonderful and together we are a proud community, working to share quality know-how across disease areas and between types of research and different teams. All aiming to enable equity in access to undertaking and benefiting from research.

If you know how valuable The Global Health Network is, please can you help us to keep this facility being the unique and remarkable source of support and access to information that it is? Can you make a donation?

Or, do you work for an organisation that benefits from this and could also afford to help support this provision? Please can you pass this to the head of training, research or capacity building and explain the value of The Global Health Network to your work and suggest that it would be appropriate, and a good thing, for your organisation to contribute, not just because of the benefits that being able to access The Global Health Network delivers to your research, but also because their contribution would support access for

other organisations and teams who cannot afford to access such training and resources by any other means.

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The Global Health Network, Ewert House, Ewert Place, Summertown, Oxford, OX2 7SG, United Kingdom