



Dear Colleagues,

Huge congratulations to Brain Infections Global, who have successfully developed and implemented an intervention that improved the diagnosis and management of brain infections such as meningitis in hospitals across Brazil, India and Malawi. Read their findings, published in *The Lancet Global Health*, below.

Following on from the World Health Organization's launch of the 'Guidance for best practices for clinical trials', *The Lancet Global Health* has launched the Clinical Trials in Global Health 2025 series that aims to strengthen the clinical trial ecosystem, emphasising ethical research, stakeholder collaboration, and quality improvement through strategic investments. The series features an article on engagement and good participatory practice with contributions from Mesh - The Global Health Network.

And don't miss this month's free and open-access events to support your professional development and research, including the upcoming workshop introducing LactaMedia, a curated collection of clinical breastfeeding photos and videos to improve maternal and newborn health education.

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

## Events

### Malaria Burden in Southeast Asia: Research Findings and Community Engagement Impact

# Malaria Burden in Southeast Asia: Research Findings and Community Engagement Impact

April 23 2025

12:00 BST | 18:00 ICT | 19:00 MYT/SGT/PHT



Register



Date / Time: Wednesday 23 April 2025 at 12:00 UTC+1

Researchers will discuss the regional malaria research portfolio in southeast Asia. This includes their historic role in developing artemether-based drugs, surveillance of drug-resistant malaria, treatment trials, the importance of trials in pregnant women, and more.

The webinar also highlights innovative community engagement initiatives, including bringing community voices to the fore, engaging with hard-to-reach communities in challenging contexts, and using creative approaches to build awareness and understanding.

Organised by The Global Health Network, the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit (OUCRU) and the Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU), the webinar aims to provide deep insight into malaria, an often-overlooked burden in Southeast Asia.

**Register for Malaria Burden in Southeast Asia: Research Findings and  
Community Engagement Impact**

## ACROSS Seminar: Barriers and Facilitators to Group Interventions for People Living with Long-Term Conditions in South Asia

Date / Time: Thursday 24 April 2025 at 09:00 UTC+1

ACROSS (Affordable Cardiac Rehabilitation: An Outreach Interdisciplinary Strategic Study) will present preliminary findings from a meta-synthesis exploring barriers and facilitators to accessing and engaging with group interventions for people living with long-term conditions (Eg. diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and COPD) in South Asia.

This session will also provide insights into the meta-ethnography method and foster discussion on implications for future intervention development.

Guest speakers: Emma Victoria Shiel, Rory Myles and Elizabeth Broom.

**Learn more: Affordable Cardiac Rehabilitation: An Outreach Inter-disciplinary Strategic Study (ACROSS) Events**

## Universal Newborn Screening in Low and Middle-Income Countries

Date / Time: Thursday 24 April 2025 at 14:00 UTC+1

The World Health Assembly Resolution 77.5 (Accelerating progress towards reducing maternal, newborn and child mortality in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal targets 3.1 and 3.2) invites member states to consider the implementation of a universal newborn screening programme, which includes comprehensive birth defects screening with consideration of the specific needs for the diagnosis, management and long-term care of children with birth defects (WHA77.5; June 1 2024).

Situating screening for structural congenital anomalies within the broader context of universal newborn screening represents a change in approach. The World Health Organization is currently chairing a consultation process on newborn screening.

The panel will consider the implementation of this approach in low and middle-income countries with reference to specific screening practices.

**Register for Universal Newborn Screening in Low and Middle-Income Countries**

## Nepal's Success in Reducing Maternal and Newborn Mortality: A Focus on Inequality and the Learning Health System Approach

Date / Time: Monday 28 April 2025 at 13:15 UTC +1

In Nepal, significant progress in maternal health has been achieved through strategic policies, community-based interventions, and improved healthcare access. However, challenges such as geographical barriers, resource limitations, and healthcare disparities persist.

Dr Sudha Sharma will share her insights on 'Increased Utilization and Quality: A Focus on Inequality and the Learning Health System Approach - Explaining Nepal's Success in Reducing Maternal and Newborn Mortality.'

She will highlight the impact of government initiatives, the role of skilled birth attendants, and the effectiveness of policies in improving maternal and newborn health outcomes.

**Register for Nepal's Success in Reducing Maternal and Newborn Mortality: A Focus on Inequality and the Learning Health System Approach**

# Empowering Health Education Using Clinical Breastfeeding Images in Nursing, Midwifery, and Maternal Care

Date / Time: Tuesday 6 May 2025 at 14:00 UTC +1

Languages: English and Spanish

Join this interactive 90-minute workshop introducing LactaMedia, a curated collection of clinical breastfeeding photos and videos, freely accessible on LactaHub.

This unique resource supports healthcare professionals, educators, students, and policymakers in strengthening breastfeeding education through high-quality visual materials.

International experts will guide participants through the purpose and significance of LactaMedia, how to access and use it, and how clinical images can improve maternal and newborn health education.

Speakers: Dr Faith Nawagi (Chair), Monica Flores, Prof Rose Nabirye and Jesse Oyieke.

A Certificate of Attendance will be issued upon full participation.

**Register for Empowering Health Education Using Clinical Breastfeeding Images in Nursing, Midwifery, and Maternal Care**

## News

### Call for Research Nurses & Midwives: Share Your Leadership Experience

Are you a nurse or midwife who has led a research study in a low and middle-income country (LMIC)? The Global Health Network wants to hear from you.

The Global Health Network aims to explore the experiences of nurses and midwives who have led research studies in LMICs, and to understand their barriers and enablers for research leadership.

The study seeks nurses and midwives who have taken on the lead investigator in a research study (not undergraduate coursework) to share their experiences conducting research within community and patient-care settings. Participation will involve a one-on-one interview conducted online in English, lasting approximately 30 minutes.

To learn more about this study, visit [Voices from the Frontline Study](#)

To participate, complete the following form.

**Voices From the Frontline - Research Nurses Participation Form**

## Applications Open for New Clinical Research Scholarships in Latin America and Caribbean

As part of The Global Health Network's regional project to strengthen research capacity, the Institute for Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy (IECS) is launching a scholarship programme aimed at health professionals from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Explore the available scholarships, which are open to applicants from across the region, and take this opportunity to enhance key research skills and contribute to advancing health knowledge in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Programa de Becas para Miembros de The Global Health Network Latin America and the Caribbean**

## Watch Again: Engaging with Communities – Lessons learnt from Africa and the United Kingdom

This webinar featured four panel members working in community engagement across Africa and the United Kingdom, who shared their experiences, challenges, and top tips in an engaging discussion.

This is the seventh webinar in the popular series to inform and promote discussion about different roles in clinical trials.

The event was chaired by Annabelle South, Policy and Impact Research Coordinator at the MRC Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) at UCL, London. 149 people attended live from 49 countries.

**Watch Engaging with Communities – Lessons learnt from Africa and the United Kingdom**

## The Mesh Online Network Gets a New Look, Making it Easier to Discover Community Engagement Resources for Health Research

The Global Health Network is excited to share the newly updated Mesh Knowledge Hub, the online hub and community of practice for public, community and stakeholder engagement and involvement with global health research.

Changes have been made to improve the layout of the hub and accessibility, where you can explore these up-to-date resources:

- Funding for community engagement.
- Free online training for community engagement and involvement in research.
- Toolkits to support the establishment and implementation of Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) groups and Community Advisory Boards.
- Webinars featuring speakers from across the world sharing successful practices in engagement and involvement that you can implement.

## Strengthening Good Clinical Trials Practice in Latin America: Workshop on Implementing New WHO Guidelines

On 18 March 2025 The Global Health Network and the Good Clinical Trials Collaborative (GCTC) conducted an in-person workshop focused on the practical implementation of the new WHO Guidance for best practices for clinical trials.

The workshop, titled 'Strengthening Good Clinical Practices in Latin America' took place at the Institute for Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy (IECS) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It brought together 21 participants, including researchers, ethics committee members, and representatives from the Argentine regulatory agency.

Workshop themes included adaptive clinical trial designs, data governance, ethical regulations, and the main challenges of implementing the new recommendations in local contexts.

By convening this workshop, The Global Health Network is committed to strengthening health research and innovation capacities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Fortaleciendo buenas prácticas en ensayos clínicos en Latinoamérica:  
Actualización de las guías de GCP y la Organización Mundial de la Salud**

## Connected for Change: The Global Health Network Highlights from the Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC) 2025

From 2 – 5 March 2025, The Global Health Network participated in the Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC) in Kigali, Rwanda, joining policymakers, researchers, and health leaders to redefine the future of health in Africa and challenge inequities.

The Global Health Network was represented by Dr Elizabeth Allen, Course Director for the University of Oxford's Postgraduate Diploma in Global Health Research, and Gloria Rukomeza, Coordinator of The Global Health Network Rwanda.

The Africa Oxford Initiative (AfOx) funded participation for sixteen AfOx scholars including current students and alumni of the diploma programme to enhance their learning and professional development.

Through initiatives like these, The Global Health Network continues its mission to advance equitable health research across Africa, ensuring that every healthcare setting can generate, access and apply life-saving evidence.

**Connected for Change: The Global Health Network Highlights from the  
Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC) 2025**



## Mesh and Partners are Developing a New Engagement and Involvement Course for Clinical Trials to Align with WHO Guidance

Community engagement and involvement experts from Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, and South Africa were hosted by Amref International University on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 in a working meeting aimed at developing an online training course on public, community, and patient engagement and involvement in clinical trials.

Similar working meetings are planned for Nepal and the Dominican Republic at the end of April and May, respectively, to gather further regional knowledge and expertise. The course is aimed at strengthening public, community and patient engagement and involvement with clinical trials, aligning with the WHO's Guidance on Best Practices for Clinical Trials (2024).

**Mesh and Partners are Developing a New Engagement and Involvement Course for Clinical Trials to Align with New WHO Guidance**

## Brain Infections Global Develop Intervention to Improve Diagnosis and Management of Acute Brain Infections

Brain Infections Global have successfully developed and implemented an intervention that improved the diagnosis and management of brain infections such as meningitis in hospitals across Brazil, India and Malawi.

In a study published in *The Lancet Global Health*, the group shared results of an intervention package to improve diagnosis and early management of hospitalised patients with suspected acute brain infections.

*The Lancet Global Health*, featured an editorial on this study and said: "This is the first study to report the positive effect of an intervention package for a central nervous system infection that is generalisable across [low and middle-income countries]."

The Global Health Network is proud to partner with Brain Infections Global, an NIHR Global Health Research Group on Improving the Management of Acute Brain Infections, by enabling knowledge sharing and collaboration that drives equity in who takes part and who benefits from health research.

**A Multifaceted Intervention to Improve Diagnosis and Early Management of Hospitalised Patients with Suspected Acute Brain Infections in Brazil, India, and Malawi: An International Multicentre Intervention Study**

## The Lancet Global Health Launches Clinical Trials in Global Health 2025 Series

What's next after the launch of the World Health Organization (WHO) Guidance for best practices for clinical trials?

The landscape of clinical trials has undergone significant changes and faces numerous challenges, such as fragmented governance, underrepresentation of key populations, and inefficient approval processes that limit their impact.

To address this, *The Lancet Global Health* has launched a new series to help align with ongoing efforts to strengthen clinical trials worldwide, with six articles that explore key reforms needed to strengthen clinical trial design, ethics, regulation, and infrastructure. Mesh contributed to the article on good participatory practice.

Mesh – The Global Health Network contributed to one of the articles on: [Better engagement, better evidence: working in partnership with patients, the public, and communities in clinical trials with involvement and good participatory practice](#)

To learn more about the guidance and watch the launch webinar visit: [Shaping the future of clinical trials: Building an ethical, efficient, and equitable ecosystem.](#)

[Read The Lancet's Clinical Trials in Global Health 2025 Series](#)

## The Global Health Network Training Centre

Access free, peer-reviewed training and resources to support your career and conduct high-quality research. The Global Health Network Training Centre offers an extensive online catalogue of resources from eLearning courses to toolkits, covering diverse global health research topics for all roles and regions — driving impactful research worldwide.

Join professionals around the world in accessing:

- eLearning courses
- Webinars & workshops
- Regional activities
- Resources gateway

[The Global Health Network Training Centre](#)

## Have you taken a course, attended a webinar or used a resource to advance your career?

Let's make sure others can benefit from The Global Health Network's free and open-access resources too.

Your support will help keep resources free and accessible to everyone, especially when colleagues face a public health emergency and need to respond fast.

Please give what you can today to help continue this vital work.



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