



**FESTMIH
NOTM**



NEWS OF THE MONTH - FEBRUARY 2026

Dear Readers,

We hope you have returned well from the winter break and have settled smoothly into the new year. With February underway, there is a first sense of spring in the air: days across Europe are slowly getting longer again, and the rhythm of work, teaching, and projects is picking up pace.

In 2026, the FESTMIH News of the Month team will continue to keep you on track with curated, reliable updates. You can count on us as a practical source for upcoming events, funding opportunities, and free online learning resources. We will also keep expanding our mini Journal Club through the Editors' Choice section, highlighting selected papers in a concise format that is easy to digest and useful to take forward.

Thank you for reading, sharing, and supporting NOTM. If you come across relevant calls, events, or open resources, please send them our way. We are always happy to feature contributions from across the FESTMIH network.

Warm regards,
The FESTMIH NOTM Team



TOPICS

Editors Choice

Prevalence and Determinants of Hand Hygiene Knowledge, Compliance, and Practices Among Indian Healthcare Workers

Global Career and Funding Opportunities

Wide range of international grants, fellowships, awards, and career calls

Events

Conferences, webinars, and networking opportunities

Digital

- World NTD Day 2026
- WHO Academy



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Good News of the Month is a short monthly format that highlights encouraging developments from medicine, politics, and nature conservation. Instead of focusing on crises, it curates a small selection of verified, concrete wins: new treatments and public health progress, policy decisions with measurable benefits, and conservation successes such as species recoveries or protected areas.

The idea is not to downplay real problems, but to balance the picture. In uncertain times, this section helps readers keep track of what is improving, what is working, and where collective action is already making a difference.



picture alliance / kolbert-press



On one of the world's biggest sporting stages, the Super Bowl halftime show was used for more than entertainment. It became a cultural and political moment that highlighted belonging and solidarity across the American continents, especially for communities whose identities are often reduced to, or eclipsed by, a US-centered narrative.

Instead of loud slogans, the message was carried through symbols: language, music, everyday scenes, and the deliberate visibility of Puerto Rican and broader Latino culture in front of a global audience. In a time marked by polarisation and pressure on migrant and minority communities, simply placing these stories at the center of the broadcast conveyed something powerful: "We are here, we are part of this, and our history and culture matter."

At its core, the performance offered a broader understanding of identity, one that reaches beyond the familiar image of "America" as the United States alone. It reminded viewers that the Americas are diverse, interconnected, and shaped by many nations, territories, and communities, each with their own voice. By turning a pop culture spectacle into a moment of recognition, the show gave people a shared point of pride and a sense of unity that transcended borders, politics, and stereotypes.

[Watch Clip](#)



Prevalence and Determinants of Hand Hygiene Knowledge, Compliance, and Practices Among Indian Healthcare Workers: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Tropical Medicine & International Health (2026).

KEY POINTS

- Observed hand hygiene compliance in India was low: pooled 44% across more than 84,000 opportunities, with extreme variation (3% to 94%). *campaign_17*
- Knowledge gaps are substantial: pooled prevalence of adequate knowledge 39%, and self reported adequate practice 45%. *campaign_17*
- The most frequently reported barriers clustered around implementation failures (71.1%), insufficient training (57.8%), attitudinal issues (33.3%), resource shortages (24.4%), and workload constraints (15.6%). *campaign_17*
- Behavioural and multimodal interventions worked, often producing marked improvements in compliance and knowledge in intervention studies.

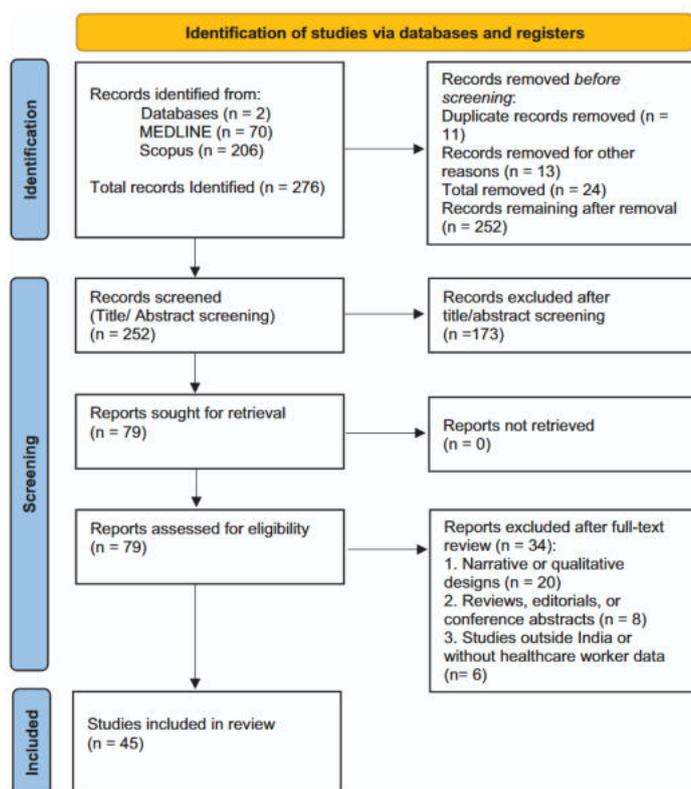


FIGURE 1 | PRISMA flow diagram illustrating the selection process of studies included in the review.

Hand hygiene is often described as a low cost, high impact cornerstone of infection prevention, yet this synthesis shows that routine clinical practice still falls short across many Indian healthcare settings. The meta analysis quantifies a persistent gap between guidelines and reality: a majority of observed opportunities were missed and knowledge levels remained inconsistent across cadres and institutions. *campaign_17* Importantly, the authors highlight that the variation is not just “resources vs no resources”. Study heterogeneity suggests that monitoring intensity, local safety culture, leadership, and implementation quality can substantially influence compliance.

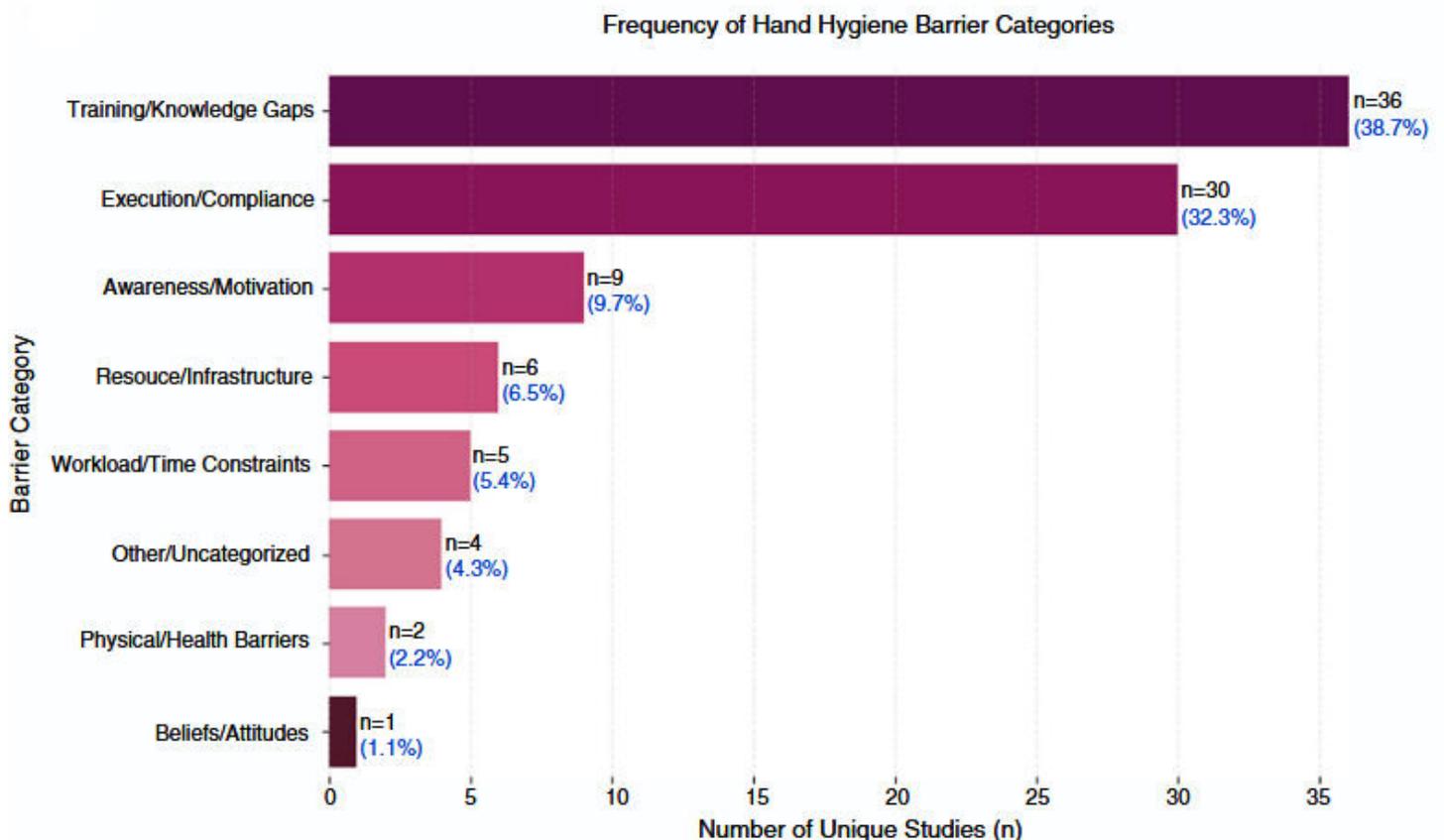
Selected findings worth remembering

- WHO 5 Moments adherence varies by moment, with lower adherence commonly reported “after touching patient surroundings”, a classic weak point in many settings.
- Intervention examples in the review show that training plus reminders plus audit and feedback can shift compliance meaningfully within months, and in some studies coincided with reductions in healthcare associated infection rates (for example NICU settings).

Prevalence and Determinants of Hand Hygiene Knowledge, Compliance, and Practices Among Indian Healthcare Workers: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Tropical Medicine & International Health (2026).

GLOBAL HEALTH RELEVANCE

- Healthcare associated infections remain a major patient safety burden, and hand hygiene is one of the few interventions with wide applicability across pathogens, including drug resistant organisms. This review is a reminder that behaviour change and system design (placement of dispensers, workflow compatibility, accountability, leadership) are often as decisive as knowledge alone.
- Practical takeaways
 - Treat hand hygiene as a systems problem, not an individual compliance problem.
 - Prioritise multifaceted programs: practical training, reliable supplies, point of care access, routine audits, feedback loops, visible leadership support.
 - Use implementation data to target the weakest moments (often patient surroundings) and the highest risk units first.





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GLOBAL CAREER & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



O'Shaughnessy Fellowships and Grants 2026

The O'Shaughnessy Fellowships and Grants is a one year program supporting researchers, builders, and creatives to move ambitious projects forward while keeping 100% ownership.

The flagship track awards 10 Fellowships of \$100,000 each. In addition, OSV offers a Grants program with up to 20 awards of at least \$10,000. Fellowship applicants are automatically considered for grants. The program is cross disciplinary (science, technology, education, media, arts, social impact) and aims to provide flexible, non dilutive funding and a strong peer network.

Application timeline (2026)

- Apply: 1 January to 30 April 2026 (rolling review).
- Shortlist calls: 1 February to 30 May 2026.
- Final decisions: by 1 June 2026.

What the application requires

- A clear, jargon free project description and three exceptional achievements.
- A video pitch (under 1 minute) via link (public or unlisted).
- A one page PDF action plan outlining approach, costs, and timeline (format requirements are specified in the form).

Deadline

- Applications close: 30 April 2026

How to apply

- Submit via the official O'Shaughnessy Fellowships and Grants 2026 application form on the OSV website.

[Apply here](#)

MSc Skin Neglected Tropical Diseases (University of Milan)



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DEGLI STUDI
DI MILANO

We are very delighted and proud to put into your knowledge that at the University of Milano we created the first ever master MSc in skin neglected tropical diseases, the only one on this topic globally. If you could be so kind to give the information to your member societies or if anybody from your working environment is interested in doing the master or and is interested in applying, having more information about inscriptions or scholarships please feel free to contact Prof. Dr Giovanni Damiani, director of the master, in copy of this email or myself. The master is opened to medical doctors, pharmacists, biologists etc.

[More Information](#)



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GLOBAL CAREER & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

HIAS Fellowships 2027 to 2028 (Hamburg Institute for Advanced Study, Germany)

HIAS

HIAS invites applications for its 2027 to 2028 fellowship programme for outstanding scholars and scientists (doctoral degree required) as well as artists and cultural professionals of all career levels and nationalities. Fellows are expected to work on site in Hamburg, engage interdisciplinarily, and collaborate with a Hamburg-based tandem partner. HIAS particularly welcomes applications from early career researchers and candidates from underrepresented regions.

Key facts

- Location: Hamburg, Germany (projects must be feasible on site)
- Duration: minimum 3 months (academic year usually 1 Sept to 30 June; July/August not fellowship months)
- Not eligible: applicants from the metropolitan region of Hamburg
- Support: stipend or teaching replacement reimbursement; workspace and staff support; family support and possible guesthouse accommodation
- Application deadline: 2 March 2026
- Submission: one single PDF in English via the application form

[Contact](#)

Seed Grant for New African Principal Investigators (SG NAPI)



THE WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
for the advancement of science in developing countries

Key points

- Up to USD 67,700 for equipment and consumables (typically 30 months)
- For early career PIs in eligible African countries lagging in science and technology
- Deadline: 31 March 2026
- Contact: sgnapi@twas.org
- Funded by: German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR)

Eligibility

- PhD required, obtained abroad (not in home country) within the last 5 years
- Age: 40 or younger (not eligible if turning 41 in the application year)
- Must have returned within 36 months or will return before end of 2026 and hold or be offered a position at an academic or research institution in the home country
- Must not hold an active TWAS research grant or OWSD ECWS Fellowship; one TWAS/OWSD programme per year

Fields

Agriculture, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Engineering, ICT, Mathematics, Medical Sciences, Physics. Projects aligned with priorities such as AI, quantum, microelectronics, biotech, fusion, climate neutral energy/mobility are encouraged.

How to apply

Apply online via the TWAS SG NAPI page while the call is open; follow the programme guidelines.

[More Information](#)



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EVENTS



NECTM10: Northern European Conference on Travel Medicine (Belfast, Northern Ireland)

The 10th Northern European Conference on Travel Medicine (NECTM10) will take place from 3 to 5 June 2026 in Belfast, Northern Ireland, hosted at the ICC Belfast. NECTM is a biennial conference and has previously been held in Edinburgh, Bergen, Hamburg, Dublin, Helsinki, London, Stockholm, Rotterdam, and Copenhagen. It brings together a broad travel medicine community and offers a strong platform for professional exchange, continuing education, and networking.

Who should attend

NECTM10 targets a wide range of professional groups engaged in travel medicine and related fields, including:

- Nurses, medical doctors, and pharmacists
- Professionals working in infectious diseases, migrant health, and epidemiology
- Clinicians and practitioners involved in pre travel counselling, risk communication, and post travel care

With its focus on risk communication and traveller empowerment, NECTM10 addresses practical challenges that are highly relevant for daily travel medicine work. The meeting is well suited for anyone interested in evidence based counselling, emerging infectious risks, and cross disciplinary exchange between clinical care and public health perspectives.

Key information

- Dates: 3 to 5 June 2026
- Venue: ICC Belfast (iccbelfast.com)
- City: Belfast, Northern Ireland

Important dates

- Registration opens: 1 September 2025
- Early Bird deadline: 7 April 2026
- Abstract submission opens: 1 September 2025
- Abstract submission deadline: 12 February 2026

Sponsorship contact

Is your company interested in participating as a [sponsor](#)?

[Register here](#)



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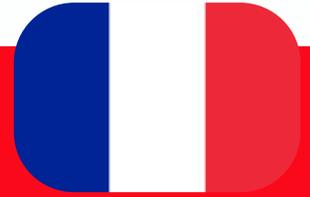


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EVENTS



Malaria Webinar



- **Date:** 12 March 2026
- **Time:** 13:00 to 14:00
- **Format:** Online webinar
- **Language:** French

As part of the Coordinated Malaria Action of the IT I3M, the steering committee is pleased to invite you to the next webinar in this series (12 March 2026). The aim is to strengthen mutual awareness across teams, support interaction and collaboration between members, and provide better visibility of ongoing work and research activities.

[Registration](#)

1st International Workshop “Virus and Brain”

- **Dates:** 2 to 3 June 2026 (Montpellier, France)
- **Format:** In person workshop
- **Organiser:** Centre International de Recherche en Infectiologie (CIRI) / I3M network

The first international workshop “Virus and Brain” will take place in Montpellier on 2 and 3 June 2026. A detailed programme and further practical information will be announced soon. In the meantime, interested participants are invited to join the national thematic network “Virus et Cerveau”.

[More Information](#)



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ANRS MIE Vietnam Partner Site Scientific Days 2026

- Dates: 10 and 11 March 2026
- Location: Hanoi Medical University, Hanoi (Vietnam)
- Format: Hybrid (on site in Hanoi or online via videoconference)

The ANRS MIE Vietnam Partner Site is hosting its Scientific Days 2026 at Hanoi Medical University on 10 to 11 March 2026. After registering, participants will later receive recommended hotels, the detailed scientific programme, and any follow up requests if further information is needed. The registration information is used solely for organising the event.

- Programme (by day)
 - Tuesday, 10 March 2026
 - Theme: Arboviruses and Emerging Infectious Diseases
 - Wednesday, 11 March 2026
 - Theme: HIV, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis and STI

Participants can choose to attend one day or both days.

- On site (in person) in Hanoi
- Online (videoconference)

Networking

- If attending on site, participants can also indicate whether they plan to join a cocktail reception at the French Embassy.

[Registration](#)

SFMTSI Spring Meeting | Tropical Envenomations

- Date: 21 May 2026
- Format: Hybrid (in person and online)
- Venue: French Red Cross, 21/23 rue de la Vanne, 92220 Montrouge (France)

This meeting focuses on tropical envenomations, defined as the inoculation of venom by terrestrial or aquatic animals. Envenomations represent a major share of non communicable pathology in tropical settings and are classified by the World Health Organization as neglected tropical diseases. The programme addresses the topic through epidemiology, pathophysiology, symbolic representations, and clinical management.

Scientific Committee: Jacques Chandenier; Jean Philippe Chippaux; Alain Epelboin; Pierre Gazin; François Moutou; Eric Pichard; Jacques Sevestre

Organising Committee: Paul Henri Consigny; Jean François Faucher; Pierre Gazin; Sylviane Le Gurun

Registration

- SFMTSI member: 15 €
- Non member: 30 €
- Free of charge: Students of health professions; online participation subject to conditions (geographical distance)

[Registration](#)





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EVENTS



ESCMID Global

Munich, Germany
17 - 21 April 2026

#ESCMIDGlobal2026
Building a healthier tomorrow, together

[Registration](#)

ESCMID Global 2026

ESCMID Global is one of Europe's major congresses in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases, bringing together clinicians, microbiologists, researchers, and public health professionals for high level education, science, and research updates.

When and where

- 17 to 21 April 2026
- Munich, Germany
- Hybrid format: onsite plus full online access for registered participants

Why it matters

Expect a broad programme spanning diagnostics, antimicrobial resistance, infectious diseases, and translational research, with plenaries, expert sessions, interactive formats, and extensive networking across the ESCMID community.

Registration deadlines (CET)

- Standard registration: until 11 March 2026
- Late registration: from 12 March 2026
- Day tickets: available from 12 March 2026
- Day tickets: ~EUR 360 to 370

Good to know

Registration includes access to scientific sessions and the exhibition (and replay access via the online platform, depending on ticket type).



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World NTD Day 2026: Art as Advocacy

KEY INFORMATION

- For World NTD (Neglected Tropical Diseases) Day 2026, the AG NTD of the German Society for Tropical Medicine, Travel Medicine and Global Health (DTC) partnered with Ethiopian artist Solomon Kifle (founder of Addis Street Art) and Dr. Tsion Tesfa (founder of the Ethiopian NTD Youth Initiative “Alert Gursha”). The collaboration resulted in:
- An NTD art project, including an international art contest, funded by the Andreas Ruppel Fund
- An NTD mural on the campus of ALERT Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, funded by the DTC
- The video documents the creation of the mural and features interviews with Solomon Kifle, his team, and Tsion Tesfa. It highlights how art can build bridges between professionals, patients, and the general public, and how creative engagement can support awareness and advocacy in the fight against NTDs.



[Watch the Video](#)



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Free learning opportunity: WHO Academy Social protection for people affected by TB

The WHO Academy offers free, high quality online courses designed for health professionals worldwide. Courses are accessible from mobile or desktop, and many include certificates upon completion, making them a practical option for continuing professional development in global health topics ranging from emergency care to cancer prevention and environmental health.



- Format: Self paced online course (8 modules)
- Language: English
- Approximate duration: About 2.5 hours
- Enrollment open until: 21 February 2030
- Course start window: 21 February 2025 to 21 February 2030

[Learn now!](#)

What this course covers

This course builds on the WHO/ILO guidance on social protection for people affected by TB (2024) and focuses on practical, programmatic steps for planning and implementing social protection measures that support TB affected people and strengthen TB sensitive social protection systems.

Learning objectives

Participants will learn how to:

- Outline the steps for planning social protection programmes
- Explain the purpose and activities of each planning step
- Choose an appropriate social protection approach for a given setting
- Describe the role of TB programmes in improving TB sensitivity of existing social protection programmes
- Identify barriers to expanding coverage for TB affected people
- Understand monitoring aims and key indicators for coverage among TB affected people



Who it is for

Designed for professionals who support countries in implementing WHO guidance, including:

- National TB programme managers and Ministry of Health staff
- WHO staff, technical agencies, consultants
- Social protection stakeholders

Certificate

A Confirmation of Participation is awarded after completing all modules and the final assessment (not a professional qualification).





News of the Month - February 2026

Thank you for reading and for helping keep NOTM a community-driven resource. As the days in Europe slowly grow longer and many of us return from winter breaks, we are looking ahead with fresh energy to the months ahead. If you have upcoming events, funding calls, training opportunities, or notable publications you would like to share, please send them to us for the next edition. We look forward to staying connected throughout 2026 and continuing to bring you timely opportunities across the FESTMIH network.

SHARE YOUR EVENTS & FEEDBACK

Do you have an upcoming event from within your institution, society, or network that you would like to see featured in the News of the Month?

We invite our cooperation partners to share relevant announcements with the FESTMIH Secretariat. Submissions received before the 10th of each month will be considered for inclusion in the following edition.

We also value your thoughts on the NOTM. You can provide feedback anytime by simply scanning the QR code included in this newsletter.

Your contributions and ideas help us keep the NOTM a vibrant and useful resource for the FESTMIH community.

