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Networking global health professionals

NEWS OF THE MONTH - JANUARY 2026

Dear Readers,

We hope you have started the new year well and in good health. In 2026, the FESTMIH News of the Month team will continue to stay on track for you, curating timely **opportunities** and **reliable information**. You can count on us to remain a trusted source for events, funding opportunities, and free **online learning** resources. We will also keep building our **mini Journal Club** through the Editors' Choice section, offering concise highlights from the literature that are easy to digest and practical to take forward.

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

Warm regards,

The FESTMIH NOTM Team

TOPICS

Editors Choice

Challenges and Strategies for the Development and Implementation of Climate-Informed Early Warning Systems for Vector-Borne Diseases

Global Career and Funding Opportunities

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

Events

Conferences, webinars, and networking opportunities

Digital

- FAO One Health Course
- WHO Academy



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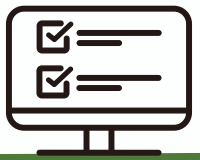


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SURVEY



Shape the Future of ECTMIH 2027 – Your Voice Matters! 🌍

Are you passionate about Tropical Medicine and Global Health? The ECTMIH 2027 planning is already underway and your input will help ensure the congress reflects what the community truly needs, whether you are a senior expert or an Early Career Scientist. Please take just 5 minutes to share your thoughts in our anonymous survey. We would especially like to learn more about:

- **Motivation:** What drives you to attend an international congress?
- **Formats:** Which session types excite you most (e.g., interactive workshops, hackathons, debates)?
- **Youth Focus:** Which offers for younger participants (mentoring, networking, grants) should be prioritised?

Your feedback will directly influence the programme and the overall congress experience.

[Take Survey](#)



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Challenges and Strategies for the Development and Implementation of Climate-Informed Early Warning Systems for Vector-Borne Diseases: A Systematic Review

Pham et al. 2025

KEY POINTS

- Bottom line: Climate-informed EWSs can support earlier action, but real-world impact is often limited by implementation, not modelling.
- Main barrier: Fragmented and delayed epidemiological, entomological, and climate data reduce reliability and local usefulness.
- Weakest link: Communication and usability: outputs are often too technical and not consistently tied to clear actions.
- Response gap: Many papers describe forecasting, fewer show how warnings trigger preparedness and response.
- What enables scale: Integrated data pipelines, user-centred products, sustained capacity building, and institutional ownership.
- Evidence limits: Operational literature is still small and largely centred on mosquito-borne diseases; rigorous impact and economic evaluations remain scarce.

Vector-borne diseases are increasingly shaped by climate variability, accelerating demand for climate-informed early warning systems (EWSs) that can move from prediction to prevention. In this PRISMA-based systematic review, Pham and colleagues synthesised 11 operational or implementation-stage EWS studies and show a consistent pattern: the main constraints to impact are practical and organisational, not the lack of modelling ideas.

Across the included systems, the most persistent barrier was fragmented and delayed data across epidemiological, entomological, and meteorological sources, which undermines forecast reliability and makes local decision-making difficult. Even when prediction models were technically sophisticated, their value was limited if data streams were inconsistent, not integrated, or not available in time.

The review also identifies risk communication and usability as a recurring weak link. Forecast outputs are frequently too technical, uncertainty is hard to interpret operationally, and warnings are not consistently tied to clear, actionable decisions. This can erode trust, particularly when stakeholders perceive false alarms or misunderstand that successful prevention may avert a visible outbreak. Practical improvements repeatedly highlighted include clearer interfaces, intuitive visualisations, and structured feedback loops between developers and end users. Finally, the evidence base reveals a response gap: many studies describe forecasting but fewer demonstrate how warnings translate into preparedness and action. The authors argue that sustainable EWS impact requires institutional ownership, ongoing capacity building, and interdisciplinary co-development so that warnings are embedded into routine public health workflows. Overall, the operational literature remains narrow, largely focused on mosquito-borne diseases, and rigorous impact and economic evaluations are still scarce.

Takeaway message: Climate-informed EWSs can strengthen outbreak preparedness, but success depends on integrated data pipelines, user-centred communication that supports action under uncertainty, and sustained capacity and governance to turn warnings into response.





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GLOBAL CAREER & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI) annual call



LEPROSY RESEARCH INITIATIVE

- Who it is for: Researchers proposing projects aligned with LRI's defined leprosy research priorities (as set out in the LRI joint policy and its online submission procedures).
- Typical timing: LRI generally launches an annual call for proposals in December.
- Two-step application: Start with a Letter of Intent (LoI); selected applicants are then invited to submit a full proposal.
- Peer review and decision flow: Independent external review plus scientific and steering committee assessment, followed by an executive-level funding decision.
- Monitoring once funded: Funded projects submit two progress reports per year; continuation is linked to progress review.

The Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI) announces its funding calls typically on an annual cycle, with a streamlined but rigorous selection pathway. Applicants begin with a Letter of Intent that is screened for strategic fit and relevance. Shortlisted teams are invited to submit a full proposal, which undergoes independent peer review and committee-based scientific assessment before a final executive funding decision. For awarded projects, LRI emphasises accountability and continuity through structured monitoring, including twice-yearly progress reporting that informs continuation of funding.

[Apply here](#)

WHO

Call for public consultation: Target Product Profiles for *Taenia solium* taeniasis in humans, and cysticercosis in humans and pigs



- What it is: WHO public consultation on draft Target Product Profiles (TPPs) for diagnostics for *Taenia solium* taeniasis in humans and cysticercosis in humans and pigs (One Health focus).
- Timeline: Open **16 Dec 2025 to 20 Jan 2026 (deadline 20 Jan 2026)**.
- Who should respond: Stakeholders with technical expertise (diagnostics, One Health, NTDs, veterinary/public health, implementation) able to comment on feasibility, clarity, and performance requirements.
- How to participate: Download the draft TPPs and complete the official comments form, including line-by-line feedback and general comments; submit to the listed WHO contacts by the deadline.

WHO has opened a public consultation on new draft Target Product Profiles for diagnostics targeting *Taenia solium* taeniasis in humans and cysticercosis in humans and pigs. The drafts were prepared by the WHO DTAG subgroup on One Health and are now available for stakeholder input ahead of finalisation. Experts are invited to review the documents, flag ambiguities, and provide technical feedback via the official comments form. Submissions are accepted until 20 January 2026, after which inputs will be reviewed and considered before WHO publishes the final TPPs.

[Apply here](#)



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GLOBAL CAREER & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Call for Submissions: Special Research Topic “Better Health for All in a Changing World”



- Special Research Topic: “Better Health for All in a Changing World” (Frontiers in Tropical Diseases), inspired by ECTMIH.
- Guest Editors: Dr Benno Kreuels (BNITM) and Dr Marco Albonico (FESTMIH).
- Deadlines: Summary by 30 April 2026, full manuscript by 30 July 2026.
- Support: 10 fee waivers for selected articles (plus prize-winner waivers) and LMIC discounts.
- Scope: Tropical medicine and global health, including One Health, climate, equity, emerging infections, and implementation.

Special Research Topic: “Better Health for All in a Changing World” – Call for Submissions! Frontiers in Tropical Diseases has launched a new Research Topic inspired by the 14th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH), creating a dedicated space to take forward the most relevant debates and research showcased at the congress. The special issue, guest edited by Dr Benno Kreuels (BNITM; Head of the Scientific ECTMIH Committee) and Dr Marco Albonico (FESTMIH President), follows the publication of the ECTMIH abstracts book and aims to translate congress momentum into a focused, peer-reviewed collection. To support broad participation, 10 publication fee waivers are available for selected articles (in addition to prize-winner waivers), and discounted publication fees are offered to authors from low- and middle-income countries. Researchers and practitioners are encouraged to submit a manuscript summary by 30 April 2026, with full submissions due by 30 July 2026.

[More Information](#)



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EVENTS



INSTITUTE
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MEDICINE
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Be-cause
health
Belgian
platform for
global health



HIGHER EDUCATION
& SCIENCE
FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

Decolonising Global Health and Education, a conversation with Dr Seye Abimbola

- Date and time: 5 February 2026, 2 to 6 pm
- Format: Hybrid (in-person in Antwerp or online)
- Fee: Free of charge, registration required
- Language: Simultaneous English-French translation available online only
- Host: Be-cause health in collaboration with the Joint Strategic Framework on Higher Education and Science for Sustainable Development

Decolonisation has become a central, and often contested, theme in global health and higher education. This event brings the discussion into an institutional context: What does meaningful change look like beyond statements of intent, and how can universities and global health organisations translate reflection into practice?

The session features Dr Seye Abimbola, Professor of Public Health at the University of Sydney, ITM alumnus, and former Editor-in-Chief of BMJ Global Health, who has published widely on decolonisation and has supported institutions navigating decolonisation processes. Participants will engage with questions around power, history, and justice in global health, and explore practical “good practices” for institutional decolonisation with a specific focus on higher education. The hybrid format aims to make the discussion accessible to a broad audience, from students and early career researchers to institutional leaders and policy-facing practitioners.

Get involved: Participation is free, but registration is required

[Register here](#)



Diploma Course in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DTM&H) 2026, BNITM Hamburg

- When: 30 March to 26 June 2026 (full-time)
- Where: Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNITM), Hamburg, Germany
- Format: In-person only (no online participation)
- Who can apply: Medical doctors (MD/MBBS or equivalent) with a valid licence to practise
- Registration deadline: 31 January 2026
- Language: English
- Fee: EUR 4,900 (regular) or EUR 3,900 (LMIC rate)

Get involved: Registrations are open until 31 January 2026. The course is taught in English and concludes with a written multiple-choice exam and a practical microscopy exam (minimum attendance requirement applies).

[More Information](#)



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World NTD Day 2026, Uncover Hope (Art Competition, Vernissage)

- **Date:** 30 January 2026 (World NTD Day)
- **Partners:** DTG Working Group for NTDs (AG NTD), Ethiopian NTD Youth Initiative Alert Gursha, and Ethiopian artist Solomon Kifle (supported by FESTMIH)
- **Elements:** Art competition, public mural on skin NTDs (Addis Ababa), and vernissage with expert panel (Hamburg)
- **Vernissage:** 30 January, 6 pm, 1000 Satellites, Hamburg Speicherstadt (Am Sandtorkai 25 to 27), no registration required
- **Participation:** Public invited to attend and contribute; community voting for the art contest encouraged

To mark World NTD Day 2026, a new transnational art and awareness initiative, “Uncover Hope”, connects NTD advocacy in Germany and Ethiopia. The project brings together the DTG Working Group for NTDs (AG NTD), the Ethiopian NTD Youth Initiative Alert Gursha, and Addis Ababa based visual artist and public art curator Solomon Kifle. Its aim is to shift attention from abstract statistics to lived experience, using art to make neglected tropical diseases visible, discuss stigma and equity, and create space for dialogue beyond academic settings.

The initiative combines an art competition themed “Bandage the Pain. Uncover the Hope”, a public mural at the ALERT Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Addis Ababa, and a vernissage in Hamburg’s Speicherstadt as part of the World NTD Day celebrations organised by BNITM in cooperation with DZIF. The mural, developed under the motto “Unite. Act. Eliminate.”, focuses on skin NTDs and will be revealed on 30 January 2026. In line with Kifle’s participatory approach, visitors are explicitly invited to help finalise the mural by adding their own thoughts and experiences directly onto the artwork, turning the piece into a collective statement against neglect and stigma. The winning artworks will be announced in January 2026 and exhibited at the Hamburg vernissage, which also features an expert panel discussion on NTDs.

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FAO self-paced One Health course**KEY INFORMATION**

- **Format:** Self-paced e-learning via FAO Virtual Learning Centers (VLCs)
- **Study time:** About 4 hours total
- **Languages:** English and Russian
- **Structure:** Five short modules (self-paced)
- **Topics:** Introduction to One Health; putting One Health into practice; environmental sector; sources of pathogens; anthropogenic drivers of disease emergence
- **Learning goals:** Understand the history and relevance of One Health, apply it to emerging diseases and global challenges, and differentiate One Health from related frameworks (ecohealth, ecosystem health, planetary health). Includes the “Triple Planetary Crisis” context (climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution).
- **Outcome:** Certificate of participation after completion and assessment (as described in the FAO course information)

FAO's One Health course on the Virtual Learning Centers platform provides a structured, introductory pathway into One Health, emphasizing the connections between human, animal, plant, and environmental health. Beyond defining the concept, it explicitly links One Health to major global pressures, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and emerging diseases, and highlights how environmental degradation and other anthropogenic drivers shape pathogen emergence and transmission. A distinctive feature is its deliberate positioning within the broader landscape of related frameworks, helping learners distinguish One Health from ecohealth, ecosystem health, and planetary health while clarifying when each lens is most useful.



Introduction to One Health

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Free learning opportunity: WHO Academy Air Pollution and Cancer

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.



Course at a glance

- Format: Self paced, 100% online
- Time commitment: ~ 3 hours
- Structure: 5 modules plus a final quiz
- Language: English
- Availability: Ongoing (started 17 March 2025, accessible long term)
- Certificate: "Confirmation of Participation" after completing all modules and scoring at least 80% on the quiz

Key questions covered

- How do spatiotemporal patterns of ambient and household air pollution vary globally?
- How does cancer research measure and study these exposures?
- What is the health burden attributable to air pollution exposure?

What you will learn

- Core characteristics of ambient vs. household air pollution and their geographic variation
- How to describe the burden of disease linked to air pollution exposure
- What the current data show on exposure and cancer risk for both ambient and household pollution
- Examples of effective public health strategies that reduce cancer risk related to air pollution

Who should take it

Health and environmental professionals, researchers, technical advisers, and policy makers working at the interface of environmental exposure and cancer prevention.

[Learn now!](https://www.festmih.eu/)





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CLOSING NOTE

News of the Month – January 2026

Thank you for reading and for helping us keep NOTM a community driven resource. 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 bringing you the latest 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.



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