

Center for Vaccine Ethics & Policy (CVEP) Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review 13 December 2025 :: Issue 826

This weekly digest targets news, events, announcements, articles and research in the vaccine and global health ethics and policy space and is aggregated from key governmental, NGO, international organization and industry sources, key peer-reviewed journals, and other media channels. This summary proceeds from the broad base of themes and issues monitored by the Center for Vaccine Ethics & Policy in its work: it is not intended to be exhaustive in its coverage.

Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review is published as a PDF and scheduled for release each Saturday [U.S.] at midnight [0000 GMT-5]. The PDF is posted at https://centerforvaccineethicsandpolicy.net. This blog allows full text searching of over 27,000 entries.

Comments and suggestions should be directed to

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Request email delivery of the pdf: If you would like to receive the PDF of each edition via email [Constant Contact], please send your request to <u>david.r.curry@centerforvaccineethicsandpolicy.org</u>.

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Milestones, Perspectives

Vaccines - Autism

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WHO expert group's new analysis reaffirms there is no link between vaccines and autism
11 December 2025 Statement

New analysis from a WHO global expert committee on vaccine safety has found that, based on available evidence, no causal link exists between vaccines and autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The conclusion reaffirms WHO's position that childhood vaccines do not cause autism.

The Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS), established in 1999, brings together international experts to provide independent and authoritative scientific advice to WHO on global vaccine safety related priorities.

The latest analysis, discussed by the Committee on 27 November 2025, focused first on the relationship between thiomersal-containing vaccines and ASD, and the association between vaccines in general and ASD. Evidence based on 31 primary research studies, published between January 2010 and August 2025, including data from multiple countries, strongly supports the positive safety profile of vaccines used during childhood and pregnancy, and confirms the absence of a causal link with ASD.

The Committee also assessed the review of potential health risks associated with vaccines with aluminum adjuvants, drawing on studies conducted from 1999 through March 2023. In addition, it reviewed a recent large cohort study analyzing nationwide registry data of children born in Denmark between 1997 and 2018. In summary, the available high-quality evidence shows no association between the trace amounts of aluminum used in some vaccines and ASD, supporting the ongoing use of vaccines with aluminum adjuvants.

Following its review, GACVS reaffirms its previous conclusions from 2002, 2004 and 2012: vaccines, including those with thiomersal and/or aluminum, do not cause autism.

WHO advises all national authorities to rely on the latest science and ensure vaccine policies are grounded in the strongest available evidence. Global childhood immunization efforts represent one of the greatest achievements in improving lives, livelihoods and the prosperity of societies. During the past 50 years, childhood immunization has saved at least 154 million lives.

<u>Statement of the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) on vaccines and autism</u>

<u>and autism</u>	
11 December 2025	Statement

Gavi 6.0

A new era dawns for Gavi, as Board underlines strategic shift towards country ownership and increased support for the most vulnerable

- :: Board decisions place country ownership at the heart of a new operating model, reflecting key elements of the <u>Gavi Leap</u> transformation agenda
- :: Despite funding constraints, Gavi will increase investment in fragile & humanitarian settings by 15%
- :: José Manuel Barroso, Chair of the Gavi Board: "Gavi is in a strong position to protect more children than ever before in its next strategy period."

Geneva, 4 December 2025 – The Board of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance today concluded its **final meeting before the start of Gavi's next strategic period from 2026 to 2030 (Gavi 6.0)**, taking a series of decisions that will further place country ownership at the heart of the Gavi model, increase focus on protecting the most vulnerable despite financial constraints, and support expanding equitable access to key vaccines.

In a major strategic shift that further centers country ownership, nearly 90% of the budget available to Gavi for vaccine procurement in its next strategic period will be allocated directly to countries through "country vaccine budgets".

In a time of financial constraints, countries will have full control of how to optimise and prioritise immunisation programmes per their national strategies and context. By shifting away from rolling applications, country vaccine budgets ensure countries that apply more quickly do not have an advantage in terms of access to Gavi financing. They also mean that all countries have an advance view of resources available for the next five years – and can clearly identify in advance areas to supplement with domestic financing.

"Through the Gavi Leap, we are putting in place an ambitious programme of reforms that will enable countries to have increased agency and ownership over use of resources and decreased administrative burden, which will help our Alliance achieve its programmatic objectives. These changes are well on their way to implementation, with grant management reform – a key pillar of the Gavi Leap – already in place and a year-long Secretariat review that will see our headcount reduce by 33% now complete. I want to thank the Board for their support and guidance as we migrate to our new country-centric operating model and pay tribute to José Manuel Barroso for his leadership as Chair of the Gavi Board over the past five years," said Dr Sania Nishtar, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

Building on an earlier decision, Gavi's Board also finalised an approach to further sharpen the Alliance's focus on the most vulnerable. Gavi will overall increase its support for fragile and conflict-affected settings by 15% compared to its last five-year strategic period, despite cuts elsewhere. As a result, more than a third of Gavi's overall funding for countries will be focused on the 25% most vulnerable children. Allocations for country vaccine budgets will also prioritise the lowest income countries with the highest number of deaths amongst children under five. A new agile funding mechanism, called the Gavi Resilience Mechanism, will provide flexible support to countries and partners in fragile and humanitarian settings around the world.

The Board also provisionally approved the addition of nine-valent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines to Gavi's portfolio of offerings to countries – signalling Gavi's continued commitment to fighting cervical cancer. Gavi's ambitious push to revitalise the HPV programme has saved more than a million lives.

The Board also agreed to add vaccines against tuberculosis, mpox, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) to the list of priority antigens supported by Gavi's <u>African Vaccine</u> <u>Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA)</u>, a financing mechanism dedicated to supporting efforts to build sustainable regional manufacturing on the African continent.

New approach aligns ambitions with available resources

Gavi's Board also finalised decisions designed to recalibrate its ambitious strategy in line with available resources, which are estimated to reach US\$ 10 billion for the next five years.

In order to protect funding for country vaccine budgets, the Board agreed to reduce Gavi's financial forecast for global stockpiles by US\$ 200 million and halve the US\$ 200 million budget set aside for vaccine procurement contingencies.

It also agreed that US\$ 100 million in co-financing waivers for fragile & conflict-affected countries would be financed through a separate pot set aside for funding work in these settings. Building on decisions made at its June 2025 meeting, the Board also agreed on a final set of programmatic choices that will reduce the overall cost of procuring vaccines for the next strategic period. These savings will be achieved by better targeting introductions and campaigns across several vaccine programmes. In June 2025, the Board agreed that Gavi will introduce country co-financing requirements for preventive campaigns, in line with those currently implemented for routine vaccine programmes. To ensure a smooth transition in 2026, the Board has now approved a one-year waiver of these co-financing requirements for preventive campaigns in the lowest-income countries...

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100 Days Mission Partners - G20

Statement by 100 Days Mission Partners on the conclusion of the G20 Presidency of South Africa

IPPS - International Pandemic Preparedness Secretariat December 8, 2025

We acknowledge the conclusion of the 2025 G20 Presidency of South Africa and welcome the Leaders' Declaration. The outcome of South Africa's presidency serves as an important contribution to advancing multilateral collaboration, equity, and scientific innovation in global health. The Declaration reflects renewed momentum for coordinated international action to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPPR).

We applaud G20 Health Ministers for resolving to foster scientific collaboration to accelerate the development, scale up and equitable access to safe and effective vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics (VTDs) across all regions, as rapidly as possible in the face of an epidemic or pandemic threat.

The 100 Days Mission, the global target to ensure safe, effective, and affordable VTDs are ready and available for scale up within 100 days of a pandemic threat being identified, continues to serve as a guiding benchmark for this ambition. Achieving it will require deeper coordination across R&D, manufacturing, and regulatory systems, strong commitment to embedding equitable access provisions across the innovation lifecycle, and sustained political and financial commitment from G20 Member States.

Yet, as illustrated in the 100 Days Mission Scorecard, the limited pipeline of global vaccines, diagnostics and in particular therapeutics, leaves the world vulnerable to the next viral threat. Accelerated investment in broad-spectrum antivirals, monoclonal antibodies, platform technology, and clinical trial networks, alongside R&D in vaccines and diagnostics, should therefore be a priority for the international community. Partners across the 100 Days Mission are working towards setting up the necessary enabling elements and programs to help address such gaps, with international support.

We commend the Declaration's support for the Pandemic Agreement and the ongoing Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) negotiations. This normative framework is essential to ensuring that the benefits of scientific progress – including for pandemic countermeasures – are accessible to all, regardless of geography or income.

The G20's determination to build resilient, equitable, sustainable, and inclusive health systems, guided by the climate-health nexus and a One Health approach, is a welcome recognition of the interconnected challenges we face.

Finally, we underline the need for long-term investment to strengthen geo-diversified, local and regional, sustainable research & development, manufacturing, and delivery capacity. This is vital to enable rapid scale-up of pandemic-related health products and to ensure global readiness for future outbreaks.

In support of South Africa's G20 Presidency, CEPI and RVMC, with partners such as Unitaid and IPPS, co-hosted a series of technical sessions bringing together global leaders, scientists, and policymakers to advance pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR). Discussions focused on operationalising the 100 Days Mission, enhancing regulatory coordination, and investing in equitable access, regionalized manufacturing, data-sharing, antigen libraries, AI-enabled early warning systems, and tracking progress. To put these principles into practice, CEPI and partners led a 100 Days Mission Simulation Exercise, highlighting the urgency of preparedness and the need for coordinated, end-to-end readiness across the global health ecosystem.

Looking ahead to the UN High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) on PPR and continued engagement through the G7 and G20 in 2026, it is vital that epidemic and pandemic preparedness remains high on the global political agenda. The 100 Days Mission partners and community stands ready to support these efforts and to work with governments, civil society, and the private sector to deliver on our shared ambition: a world better equipped to prevent, prepare for, and respond to future pandemics.

Endorsing 100 Days Mission partner organisations: Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) FIND Impact Global Health International Pandemic Preparedness Secretariat (IPPS) Pandemic Sciences Institute READDI Regionalized Vaccine Manufacturing Collaborative (RVMC) Resilience Action Network Africa (RANA) Resilience Action Network International (rani) South African Medical Research Agency (SAMRC) Unitaid

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Featured Journal Content

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

Volume 103, Number 11, November 2025, 641-752 https://www.who.int/publications/journals/bulletin/

Digital transformation and the Immunization agenda 2030

<u>Mickey Chopra</u> a, ⊠, <u>Christopher Wolff</u> b, <u>Zulfiqar A Bhutta</u> c, <u>Francesco Checchi</u> d, <u>Mira Johri</u> e, <u>Thabani Maphosa</u> f, <u>Barni Nor</u> g, <u>Katherine L O'Brien</u> h, <u>Ephrem Tekle Lemango</u> i PMCID: PMC12665274 PMID: 41328208

Digital transformation is the intentional, systematic implementation of integrated digital applications that change how governments plan, execute, measure and monitor programmes. **This transformation can accelerate progress towards the Immunization agenda 2030, which aims to ensure that everyone, everywhere, at every age, fully benefits from vaccines.** Here we describe how digital transformation can help achieve equitable immunization outcomes, and outline recommendations for governments and global partners to ensure that children in low- and middle-income countries benefit fairly...

[Closing paragraphs]

...Artificial intelligence (AI) can also improve programme performance. AI is currently used sporadically and inconsistently for immunization programming, but case studies demonstrate its utility in identifying and targeting the unreached, identifying critical service bottlenecks, combating misinformation and optimizing task management through innovative applications. 9 Additional strategic applications include analysing population-level data, predicting service needs and spread of disease, identifying barriers to immunization, and enhancing nutrition and health status assessments via mobile technology. Given the proliferation of AI, exploring how it can benefit immunization programming is timely, with a focus on improving practices and standards on data quality, privacy, security and ethics.

A global blueprint and increased investments in digital public infrastructure are critical starting points to enable governments to develop digital health roadmaps and build the foundation needed for digital transformation. The blueprint, based on the Lusaka Declaration principles, 10 should be the backbone for country support and for developing a common vision for digital transformation of primary health-care programmes. The blueprint should outline technical and operational principles and key first steps, build on work already underway and recognize fast healthcare interoperability resources, 11 as the global standard for exchange of health data.

Governments and immunization partners should develop country-specific roadmaps using building blocks and interoperable capabilities that drive integration of immunization data with other primary health-care programme data. Furthermore, governments in collaboration with their partners can support digital transformation by pooling resources for digital public infrastructure, bolstering local talent and expertise, and shaping robust regional and local markets for technical services and technologies.

Digital transformation efforts must aim to reduce existing equity gaps within and between countries. Primary health-care digitalization in low- and middle-income countries currently lags behind that of high-income countries, with a few notable exceptions, resulting in a digital divide that hinders development. However, because low- and middle-income countries are less constrained by earlier investments, they have an opportunity to advance to more effective, less expensive and more user-friendly solutions and infrastructure. Moving forward, all digital solutions should be tailored to meet local needs and built on human-centred design principles to benefit all stakeholders, including health workers and beneficiaries.

In conclusion, digital transformation is a unique opportunity to address many longstanding challenges in immunization. Given stalled progress in vaccination coverage and reductions in financing, now is the time for bold, new approaches. Technological developments, connectivity and reduced costs increase the feasibility of digital transformation in low- and middle-income countries. Stakeholders have a strong common interest in digital health solutions, and should embrace digital transformation as an enabler for achieving the ambitious Immunization agenda 2030 goals. Prioritizing investments in digital public infrastructure, cross-functional collaboration and the power of case-based data and AI analytics can protect more children from vaccine-preventable diseases and promote immunization equity.

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IFPMA

The innovation development and access pathway: A holistic approach to accelerating access to innovative medicines and vaccines

Innovative medicines and vaccines have transformed healthcare around the world, extending life expectancy and improving quality of life.

Report 12 December 2025

PDF: https://www.ifpma.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/20251212 IFPMA Innovation-Development-Access-Pathway-IDAP.pdf

These achievements are the result of sustained investment in scientific research, pharmaceutical innovation, and close collaboration between public and private stakeholders across the entire value chain – from product development to implementation planning and patient access.

Yet, too often, innovative medicines and vaccines do not reach the people who need them in a timely way and in appropriate volumes, facing barriers and impediments at critical stages of drug development and health system delivery. This is particularly acute in lower-resource settings. To address this, it is important to establish a shared understanding of the end-to-end pathway for health products — from the laboratory to a person in need at the point of care — with particular focus on identifying the barriers that hinder access, and to propose a way forward.

In this paper, we share the perspective of the innovative pharmaceutical industry on key elements of the innovation and access ecosystem in which we operate, in order to build a common understanding and identify opportunities for collaboration. We outline the key stages that any medicine or vaccine must navigate from the laboratory to people at the point of care globally.

We describe this process as the "Innovation Development and Access Pathway" (IDAP).

We recognize that specific steps and relevant stakeholders will vary between countries and product or market archetypes. However, most medicines and vaccines follow four common phases:

- :: Research & Development (R&D) and the innovation ecosystem
- :: Regulatory processes, product registration and life cycle management
- :: Listing, treatment guidelines, procurement and payment or reimbursement
- :: Health service delivery to patients, including distribution, supply chain, workforce capacity, diagnostics or referral networks, treatment, and follow-up

Focusing on the end-to-end pathway highlights critical bottlenecks. This approach helps illustrate where different stakeholders' accountabilities may lie along the development-to-delivery

chain , recognizing that delays or bottlenecks at any point can prevent timely access for people,
resulting in preventable mortality, poorer clinical outcomes, and increased costs to healthcare systems
and society.

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Polio Eradication

Global Leaders pledge US\$ 1.9 billion in Abu Dhabi to End Polio and protect children worldwide

08/12/2025

- :: New funds will help protect 370 million children from polio each year and brings the world closer to eradicating polio
- :: The pledging moment was hosted by the Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity in partnership with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative

ABU DHABI, UAE (8 December 2025) **International leaders, philanthropists, and global health partners announced today in Abu Dhabi a collective US\$ 1.9 billion to advance polio eradication.** This includes approximately \$1.2 billion in newly pledged funds that will reduce the remaining resource gap for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's (GPEI) 2022-2029 Strategy to \$440 million. The funds will accelerate vital efforts to reach 370 million children each year with polio vaccines, alongside strengthening health systems in affected countries to protect children from other preventable diseases...

Pledges were made from a diverse group of donors and countries, including:

- \$1.2 billion from the Gates Foundation;
- \$140 million from the Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity;
- \$450 million from Rotary International;
- \$100 million from Bloomberg Philanthropies;
- \$154 million from Pakistan and
- \$62 million from Germany;
- \$46 million from the United States of America;
- \$6 million from Japan;
- \$4 million from the Islamic Food & Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA); and
- \$3 million from Luxembourg.

"We are on the cusp of eradicating polio and securing a historic win for humanity. But we need all countries, partners and donors to step up now to get the job done," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization. "The new support pledged in Abu Dhabi will be instrumental in helping the GPEI reach all children in the final endemic countries and stop variant polio outbreaks around the world."...

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With Child Deaths Projected to Rise for the First Time in a Century, Gates Foundation and Mohamed Bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity Urge Action as World Faces Critical Turning Point - BMGF - Gates Foundation

:: At Goalkeepers Abu Dhabi, global leaders outline a path to improve and save the lives of millions of children through lifesaving innovation and renewed investment

:: Partners announce \$1.9 billion to advance polio eradication

:: Event held in partnership with the Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity highlights urgency, honors leadership, and showcases champions advancing progress despite historic global funding cuts

ABU DHABI (December 8, 2025) – At Goalkeepers Abu Dhabi, **leaders from government**, **philanthropy**, **business**, **and civil society issued a unified call to accelerate progress on child survival and infectious disease eradication**. The appeal was anchored by US\$1.9 billion in commitments to advance polio eradication <u>announced</u> earlier in the day at Abu Dhabi Finance Week.

The Gates Foundation contributed US\$1.2 billion, reflecting its long-term commitment to a future where no mother, baby, or child dies from preventable causes, and where deadly infectious diseases like polio are eliminated forever.

Co-hosted by the Gates Foundation and the Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity, Goalkeepers Abu Dhabi **brought together more than 500 global leaders**. The leaders delivered a clear message: the world must act now to reverse rising child deaths, stop preventable maternal deaths and finish the job of ending preventable diseases, starting with polio.

Held in the Middle East and North Africa region for the first time, the event marks a significant expansion of Goalkeepers to audiences across the region and underscores the UAE's growing leadership in child health. Together, the leaders delivered a clear message: the world must act now to reverse rising child deaths and finish the job of ending preventable diseases, starting with polio.

New data from the Gates Foundation's 2025 Goalkeepers Report shows that the number of children dying before age 5 is projected to rise for the first time in a century. Leaders stressed that this turning point demands bold choices, renewed financing, and commitment to scaling innovations that can save millions of lives by 2045...

"Far too many children are still dying from diseases we know how to prevent," said Bill Gates, chair of the Gates Foundation. "The tools exist—vaccines, treatments, and proven delivery strategies—and countries are working hard to get them to those who need them most. The support announced today will strengthen those efforts, protect the most vulnerable children, and help the world stay on course to end polio for good."

The pledges reflect the growing recognition that even in a constrained global fiscal environment, strategic investment in human health delivers unmatched returns. A significant portion of the funding will support child survival efforts: expanding vaccine access, protecting newborns, and sustaining critical immunization programs in fragile and conflict-affected settings...

Polio this week [03 December 2025]

Headlines [Selected]

:: Global leaders pledge US\$1.9 billion in Abu Dhabi to end polio and protect children worldwide

Meeting this week in Abu Dhabi, international leaders, philanthropists and global health partners announced a collective US\$1.9 billion in pledges towards polio eradication. The event was hosted by the Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity, convening leaders from governments, civil society,

philanthropy and global health from across the world. All stood shoulder to shoulder, powerfully demonstrating that governments, communities and civil society remain fully united behind this mission. More.

:: GPEI welcomes Rotary's Michael McGovern as next Polio Oversight Board Chair

The GPEI is pleased to announce that Michael (Mike) McGovern, Chair of the International PolioPlus Committee, Rotary International, will serve as the next Chair of the Polio Oversight Board (POB), effective 1 January 2026. After five years of dedicated service as the GPEI's POB Chair, Dr Chris Elias, President of Global Development, Gates Foundation, will hand over the role. More.

:: Polio EB report published

The polio report for the upcoming WHO Executive Board meeting (EB), taking place in Geneva during the week of 2 February 2026, has now been published. This report will inform Member State discussions at the EB. It provides an overview of progress in implementing and financing the Polio Eradication Strategy, including in the current geopolitical context. It also outlines ongoing planning to secure a lasting polio-free world, such as polio transition efforts and the development of Sustaining a Polio-free World: A Strategy for Long-term Success. The link to the report is available here.

Summary of new polioviruses this week:

:: Angola: two cVDPV2 cases :: Nigeria: one cVDPV2 case

:: Somalia: two cVDPV2-positive environmental samples

:: Yemen: one cVDPV2 case

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WHO & Regional Offices [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.who.int/news

Selected News/Announcements/Statements

11 December 2025 Statement

WHO expert group's new analysis reaffirms there is no link between vaccines and autism

11 December 2025 Statement

<u>Statement of the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) on vaccines</u> and autism

10 December 2025 Departmental update

WHO and the European Commission expand partnership to combat antimicrobial resistance

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WHO Vaccines and Immunization [IVB]

https://www.who.int/health-topics/vaccines-and-immunization#tab=tab_1 News

11 December 2025 Statement

WHO expert group's new analysis reaffirms there is no link between vaccines and autism

11 December 2025 Statement

<u>Statement of the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) on vaccines</u> and autism

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WHO Regional Offices

Selected Press Releases, Announcements

WHO African Region AFRO

:: 12 December 2025

Community midwives helping to lower maternal deaths in Central African Republic

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

:: 12 Dec 2025

<u>PAHO calls for strengthened vaccination and surveillance in the Americas amid a global increase of influenza A(H3N2) subclade K</u>

Washington, D.C., 12 December 2025 (PAHO/WHO) – The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has issued a briefing note, updating countries on the increasing circulation of the influenza A(H3N2) subclade K (J.2.4.1) virus in several regions of the world, and to reiterate the call to strengthen surveillance and promote vaccination—particularly among...

:: 11 Dec 2025

<u>PAHO urges countries of the Americas to prioritize financial protection to advance towards universal health</u>

Washington, D.C., December 11, 2025 (PAHO) – On Universal Health Day, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) highlighted the growing impact of out-of-pocket health care spending across the region and called on countries of the Americas to strengthen public investment and financial protection mechanisms—key measures for achieving universal...

:: 9 Dec 2025

PAHO renews call to close vaccination gaps amid whooping cough resurgence in the Americas

Washington, D.C., December 9, 2025 (PAHO) – The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has renewed its call for countries in the Americas to close vaccination gaps amid a resurgence of pertussis, or whooping cough, which has been steadily increasing since 2023, according to the latest epidemiological update released yesterday. Globally,...

:: 8 Dec 2025

<u>PAHO updates influenza situation in the Americas as the winter season advances in the Northern Hemisphere</u>

Following a 29% increase in severe cases in the Southern Hemisphere in 2025 and the onset of winter in the north, PAHO calls for strengthened preparedness to reduce the impact of respiratory viruses. Washington, D.C., December 8, 2025 (PAHO) – The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is urging countries in the Americas to adjust their health

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

No new digest content identified.

WHO European Region EURO

:: 8 December 2025 News release

<u>UHC Watch: the platform powering health financing policy debates in Europe and Central Asia</u>

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

No new digest content identified.

WHO Western Pacific Region

<u>Fiji's HIV epidemic escalates: New rapid assessment highlights urgent gaps in access to sa...</u>

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WHO - Emergency situation reports

Latest WHO official reports for emergency situations. Latest WHO official reports for emergency situations.

8 December 2025

Multi-country outbreak of mpox, External situation report #60 - 8 December 2025

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Disease Outbreak News (DONs)

Latest WHO Disease Outbreak News (DONs), providing information on confirmed acute public health events or potential events of concern.

10 December 2025 | Seasonal influenza - Global situation

Situation at a glance

... Seasonal influenza activity has increased globally in recent months, with an increased proportion of seasonal influenza A(H3N2) viruses being detected. This rise coincides with the onset of winter in the northern hemisphere and an increase in acute respiratory infections caused by influenza and other respiratory viruses typically observed at this time of year. Although global activity remains within expected seasonal ranges, early increases and higher activity than typical at this time of year have been observed in some regions. Seasonal influenza viruses, including A(H3N2) viruses, continually evolve over time.

Since August 2025, there has been a rapid increase of A(H3N2) J.2.4.1 alias K subclade viruses detected from several countries based on available genetic sequence data. These subclade K viruses have several changes from related A(H3N2) viruses. Current epidemiological data do not indicate an increase in disease severity, although this subclade marks a notable evolution in influenza A(H3N2) viruses. Early estimates suggest that the influenza vaccine continues to provide protection against hospital attendance in both children and adults, even though its effectiveness against clinical disease during the current season remains uncertain.

Vaccines remain essential, especially for people at high risk of influenza complications and their care givers. Even if there are some genetic differences between the circulating influenza viruses and the strains included in the vaccines, the seasonal influenza vaccine may still provide protection against drifted viruses and the other virus strains included in the vaccine. Vaccination is still expected to protect against severe illness and remains one of the most effective public health measures. WHO continues to monitor global influenza activity and influenza viruses, supports countries in surveillance capacity and updates guidance as needed.

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Weekly Epidemiological Record

Vol. 100, No. 50, pp. 627–642 12 December 2025 https://www.who.int/publications/journals/weekly-epidemiological-record :: Routine vaccination coverage – worldwide, 2024

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New WHO Publications

https://www.who.int/publications Selected

12 December 2025

<u>Establishing quality specifications for medicines, vaccines and in vitro diagnostics: week of quality 2024 training kit</u>

Ensuring quality of the health product ensures its safety and efficacy. Manufacturers in lowand middle-income countries (LMICs) face challenges to achieve quality in local production, such as the lack of an available manufacturing workforce trained in quality and understanding regulatory quality standards and difficulties in implementing a quality culture in the manufacturing facility.

12 December 2025

<u>Lessons from case studies of social participation and its role in the pandemic response in the WHO South-East Asia Region, 2025</u>

11 December 2025

Low health literacy is costing health

Overview

This document highlights health literacy as a critical determinant of health and a foundation for empowering individuals to make informed choices amid growing volumes of information and misinformation. It underscores that improving health literacy goes beyond communication or education and requires strengthening the skills, systems, and environments that enable people to access, understand, and use health information effectively. Low health literacy contributes to poorer health outcomes and increased costs, while investment in health literacy may deliver stronger social and economic benefits. The document calls for sustained action to embed health literacy within national strategies and public health systems.

Africa

Africa CDC [13 Dec 2025]

https://africacdc.org/

Press Releases, Statements [Selected]

Press Releases

Africa CDC and Zipline Partner to Advance Health System Responsiveness and Epidemic Preparedness Across Africa

11 December 2025

Communiqué

<u>Communiqué: Outcome Statement by Africa CDC's Primary Health Care (PHC)</u>
Digitalization Expert Committee

11 December 2025

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China - CDC+

http://www.chinacdc.cn/en/

National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China [13 Dec 2025]

http://en.nhc.gov.cn/

News

No new digest content identified.

National Medical Products Administration – PRC [13 Dec 2025]

http://english.nmpa.gov.cn/

News

No new digest content identified.

China CDC

CCDC Weekly Reports: Current Volume (7)

2025-12-12 / No. 50

PDF of this issue

- Policy Notes: Technical and Implementation Guidelines for the Introduction of Human Papillomavirus Vaccine into China's National Immunization Program
- Commentary: Progress and Challenges in the Global Elimination of Viral Hepatitis D
- <u>Preplanned Studies: Unmet Healthcare Needs Among People with Herpes Zoster 25 PLADs, China, 2019–2024</u>
- Preplanned Studies: Serological Survey of Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis Virus (LCMV) Infection —
 Gansu Province, China, 2023
- <u>Preplanned Studies: Analysis of the Characteristics of Measles Virus D8 Genotype Based on the Nucleoprotein (N-450) Gene Region Gansu Province, China, 2024</u>

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Europe

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en

News/Updates/Reports/Publications [Selected]

ECDC to lead the integration of wastewater-based surveillance into infectious disease surveillance at the European level

10 Dec 2025 ECDC is announcing its plan to strategically and scientifically lead the consolidation and integration of wastewater-based surveillance (WBS) as a complementary infectious disease surveillance tool at the EU/EEA level, in a framework document published today.

Surveillance and monitoring

External quality assessment of European SARS-CoV-2 and zoonotic influenza Bioinformatics (ESIB-EQA), 2024

10 Dec 2025

SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses are significant public health threats with varying impacts on global health. SARS-CoV-2, the virus behind the COVID-19 pandemic, exhibits high transmissibility and recurrent waves driven by new variants.

European Medicines Agency [EMA]

https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news

News & Press Releases

Meeting highlights from the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) 8-11 December 2025

Seven new medicines recommended for approval; another 12 medicines recommended for extension of their therapeutic indications

12 December 2025

EMA welcomes political agreement on new EU pharmaceutical legislation

Reform to enhance patient access, strengthen medicine supply security and boost innovation 11 December 2025

New data on antimicrobials sales and use in animals in the EU

Report showing small increase in sales, new dashboard launched 9 December 2025

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India

National Centre for Disease Control

Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Announcements
No new digest content identified.

U.S. Immunization and Public Health Governance/Policy/Funding

Given the continuing extraordinary situation in the U.S., we have established a separate section of the digest to capture and organize key content. Please note that we will selectively include external analysis and comment, indenting this content under the relevant organization/action. We recognize that despite the volume of content in this section, this summary is indicative and not exhaustive.

Executive Branch - White House, State, HHS, FDA, CDC+

White House

<u>Presidential Actions – Executive Orders; Memoranda; Proclamations</u> No new digest content identified.

Department of State

<u>Press Releases</u> - Selected Press Statement

<u>Supporting Breakthrough Health Advancements in Eswatini Under the America First Global Health Strategy</u>

Thomas "Tommy" Pigott December 12, 2025

Press Statement

<u>Strengthening Health Ties with Uganda and Lesotho under the America First Global Health Strategy</u>

Thomas "Tommy" Pigott December 10, 2025

Press Statement

<u>Leveraging Momentum of the America First Global Health Strategy with the Signing of the United States-Liberia Bilateral Health Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding</u>
Thomas "Tommy" Pigott December 9, 2025

HHS

<u>Press Room</u> - Selected No new digest content identified.

NIH [to 13 Dec 2025] http://www.nih.gov/ News Releases No new digest content identified.

FDA

<u>Press Announcements</u> - Selected FDA News Releases

<u>December 9, 2025 - First Approval in Commissioner's National Priority Voucher Pilot Program Strengthens Domestic Antibiotic Manufacturing Capacity</u>

FDA CBER

<u>What's New for Biologics</u> No new digest content identified.

FDA VRBPAC [Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee]

Advisory Committee Calendar

No future meetings posted.

FDA Pediatric Advisory Committee Meeting

Advisory Committee Calendar

No future meetings posted.

CDC

http://www.cdc.gov/media/index.html Latest News - Selected No new digest content identified.

CDC – Immunization Safety Office (ISO)

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccine-safety-systems/about/cdc-monitoring-program.html *No new digest content identified.*

ACIP

2026 Meetings Schedule

- February 25-26
- June 24-25
- October 21-22

MMWR Weekly

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/index2025.html

December 11, 2025 / No. 40

PDF of this issue

:: <u>Effectiveness of 2024–2025 COVID-19 Vaccines in Children in the United States — VISION, August 29, 2024–September 2, 2025</u>

:: Rabies Cluster Among Steers on a Dairy Farm — Minnesota, 2024

<u>Effectiveness of 2024–2025 COVID-19 Vaccines in Children in the United States — VISION, August 29, 2024–September 2, 2025</u>

Weekly / December 11, 2025 / 74(40);607-614

Stephanie A. Irving, MHS¹; Elizabeth A.K. Rowley, DrPH²; Sean Chickery, DHSc²; Karthik Natarajan, PhD³,4; Nicola P. Klein, MD, PhD⁵; Shaun J. Grannis, MD⁶,7; Toan C. Ong, PhD®; Sarah W. Ball, ScD²; Malini B. DeSilva, MD9; Kristin Dascomb, MD, PhD¹0; Allison L. Naleway, PhD¹; Melissa S. Stockwell, MD⁴,1¹; Ashley B. Stephens, MD⁴,1¹; Ousseny Zerbo, PhD⁵; John Hansen, MPH⁵; Lawrence Block, MPH, MPA⁵; Karen B. Jacobson, MD⁵; Brian E. Dixon, PhD⁶,1²; Colin Rogerson, MD⁶,1³; Tom Duszynski, PhD⁶,1⁴; Michelle A. Barron, MD®; David Mayer®; Catia Chavez, MPH®; Zachary A. Weber, PhD²; Sarah E. Reese, PhD²; Inih Essien, OD9; Tamara Sheffield, MD¹0; Daniel Bride, MS¹0; Julie Arndorfer, MPH¹0; Josh Van Otterloo, MSPH¹0; Padma Koppolu, MPH¹; Josephine Mak, MPH¹5; Amber Kautz, PhD¹5,16; Jennifer DeCuir, MD, PhD¹5; Ryan E. Wiegand, PhD¹5; Amanda B. Payne, PhD¹5; Ruth Link-Gelles, PhD¹5

What is already known about this topic?

In June 2024, CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccination for all persons aged ≥6 months to provide additional protection against severe COVID-19.

What is added by this report?

During August 29, 2024—September 2, 2025, within a multisite network including nine states, vaccine effectiveness of 2024—2025 COVID-19 vaccination was an estimated 76% against COVID-19—associated emergency department or urgent care (ED/UC) visits among immunocompetent children aged 9 months—4 years and an estimated 56% among children and adolescents aged 5–17 years, compared with those who did not receive a 2024—2025 vaccine. What are the implications for public health practice?

In a population with some persons having preexisting levels of protection from previous vaccination, previous infection, or both, 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccination provided children with additional protection against COVID-19—associated ED/UC encounters compared with no 2024–2025 vaccination.

Abstract

During September 2023–August 2024, approximately 38,000 COVID-19–associated hospitalizations occurred among children and adolescents aged <18 years in the United States, a rate of approximately 53 per 100,000 children, ranging from 600 per 100,000 children aged <6 months to 21 per 100,000 children and adolescents aged 5–17 years. On June 27, 2024, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended that all persons aged ≥6 months receive a 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine, which targeted Omicron JN.1 and JN.1-derived sublineages. Investigators used a test-negative case-control design to estimate vaccine effectiveness (VE) of 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccines against COVID-19–associated emergency department or urgent care (ED/UC) visits during August 29, 2024–September 2, 2025, among immunocompetent children aged 9 months–4 years and children and adolescents aged 5–17 years in the CDC-funded Virtual SARS-CoV-2, Influenza, and Other respiratory viruses Network (VISION), a multisite electronic health record–based network in nine states. Among children aged 9 months–4 years, VE against COVID-19–associated ED/UC visits was estimated at 76% (95% CI = 58%–87%) during the first 7–179 days after vaccination. Among children and

adolescents aged 5–17 years, VE against COVID-19–associated ED/UC visits was an estimated 56% (95% CI = 35%–70%) during the first 7–179 days after vaccination. These findings suggest that vaccination with a 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine dose provided children with additional protection against COVID-19–associated ED/UC encounters compared with no 2024–2025 dose.

National Vaccine Program Committee (NVAC)

https://www.hhs.gov/vaccines/about/index.html
Upcoming Meetings/Latest Updates
No 2025 meeting dates posted.

Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines (ACCV)

https://www.hrsa.gov/advisory-committees/vaccines/meetings

Next ACCV Meeting - TBD [To be re-scheduled from original date January 29, 2025]

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NSF

News

NSF announces new initiative to launch and scale a new generation of transformative independent research organizations to advance breakthrough science

NSF invites feedback on its Tech Labs Initiative — a program designed to fund research teams outside of traditional academic institutions — through a request for information.

December 12, 2025

The U.S. National Science Foundation Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (NSF TIP) on Friday announced the launch of a new initiative designed to launch and scale a new generation of independent research organizations. These organizations will focus on technical challenges and bottlenecks that traditional university and industry labs cannot easily solve on their own. NSF seeks feedback on this initiative through a <u>Request for Information (RFI)</u>.

"As scientific challenges have become more complex and dependent upon the work of crossdisciplinary teams of experts, our nation must expand its scientific funding toolkit to adapt," said Erwin Gianchandani, NSF TIP Assistant Director. "Tech Labs will provide entrepreneurial teams of proven scientists the freedom and flexibility to pursue breakthrough science at breakneck speed, without needing to frequently stop and apply for additional grant funding with each new idea or development."

The NSF TIP Tech Labs initiative is grounded in the recognition that many of the technology acceleration and translation challenges of today require new approaches with coordinated, interdisciplinary teams to achieve success. The Tech Labs initiative will support full-time teams of researchers, scientists, and engineers who will enjoy operational autonomy and milestone-based funding as they pursue technical breakthroughs that have the potential to reshape or create entire technology sectors. Tech Labs teams will move beyond traditional research outputs (e.g., publications and datasets), with sufficient resources, financial runway, and independence to transition critical technology from early concept or prototypes to commercially viable platforms ready for private investment to scale and deploy. NSF anticipates significant investment later in FY 2026, featuring large, multi-year awards for selected teams.

To help shape this initiative, TIP is inviting input from the broader community – including from academia, policymakers, nonprofits, philanthropy, state and local government, venture capital, the private sector and any other interested parties – through an RFI.

To learn more, read the RFI and plan to join a webinar on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025, at 11 a.m. EST. Please register in advance for the webinar ::::::: **U.S.** Congress **House of Representatives** No new digest content identified. **U.S. Senate** Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee No new digest content identified. **Supreme Court, Federal & Appellate Courts** Supreme Court Questions N.Y. Ban on Religious Exemptions for Vaccines The U.S. Supreme Court directed a lower court to review the ban, which applies to strict vaccine requirements in New York schools. The New York Times, Dec 10, 2025 [paywall] :::::::: :::::::: **U.S. States** No new digest content identified.

U.S. Medical Societies, Health Organizations

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American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)

https://www.aafp.org/news/media-center.html (Accessed 13 Dec 2025)

No new digest content identified.

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases-from-the-aap/ (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) News No new digest content identified.

American College of Physicians (ACP)

https://www.acponline.org/more-acp-news (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) ACP News

<u>Media Briefing: ACP and other Medical Groups Offer Insight on Federal Vaccine</u> Recommendations

12/11/25 [Video: 1.07

A joint briefing from the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American College of Physicians and the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy to discuss recommendations made during the December Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices meeting. Groups will also share updates on Vaccine Integrity Project guidelines that will ensure clinicians and patients have access to evidence-based immunization recommendations.

- :: Reactions to votes on hepatitis B and committee discussions
- :: Implications of recent federal actions
- :: Updates from the Vaccine Integrity Project

America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)

https://www.ahip.org/news (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) News No new digest content identified.

American Geriatrics Society (AGS)

https://www.americangeriatrics.org/media-center (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) Recent Press Releases No new digest content identified.

American Medical Association (AMA)

https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) Press Center - Latest News No new digest content identified.

American Osteopathic Association (AOA)

https://osteopathic.org/news/ (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) Latest News No new digest content identified.

American Public Health Association (APHA)

https://www.apha.org/news-and-media/news-releases?sortFieldName=ItemDate&sortDisplayName=Newest&sortMode=desc (Accessed 13 Dec 2025)

No new digest content identified.

Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)

https://www.idsociety.org/ (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) News releases and statements

IDSA Media Briefing: Six Medical Groups to Offer Insight on Federal Vaccine Recommendations

Webinar, December 9, 2025

Massachusetts Public Health Alliance (MPHA)

https://mapublichealth.org/press-room/ (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) Press Room No new digest content identified.

National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID)

https://www.nfid.org/news-updates/ (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) News and Updates No new digest content identified.

National Medical Association (NMA)

https://nmanet.org/blog/ (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) Latest News No new digest content identified.

Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS)

https://pids.org/news-announcements/ (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) News & Announcements

Dec. 12, 2025

FDA Announced Review of RSV Treatments Concerns PIDS

The Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society is concerned by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announcing it will open an unprompted safety review of respiratory syncytial virus treatments nirsevimab and clesrovimab....

Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)

https://shea-online.org/news/ (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) No new digest content identified.

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM)

https://www.smfm.org/ (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) News No new digest content identified.



Civil Society – Individuals, Organizations, Institutions

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Autism Science Foundation [to 13 Dec 2025]

https://autismsciencefoundation.org/ No new digest content identified.

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Brookings [to 13 Dec 2025] http://www.brookings.edu/

Regulatory Policy

Tracking regulatory changes in the second Trump administration

No new digest content identified.

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Kaiser Family Foundation/KFF [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.kff.org/search/?post_type=press-release Newsroom No new digest content identified.

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O'Neill Institute – Health Care Litigation Tracker [Georgetown University]

https://litigationtracker.law.georgetown.edu/

No new digest content identified.

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Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 13 Dec 2025]

https://www.rwjf.org/en/about-rwjf/newsroom.html Latest News and Highlights No new digest content identified.

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Vaccine Integrity Project – CIDRAP [to 13 Dec 2025]

https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/vaccine-integrity-project

No new digest content identified.

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Paul Offit, MD – Beyond the Noise

Substack: https://pauloffit.substack.com/ No new digest content identified.

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Seth Berkley

10 Dec 2025 LinkedIn Post

As someone who was in the original trial of the Hepatitis B vaccine and has worked to bring this safe and life saving vaccine to countries around the world, the decision to stop recommending the birth dose of the Hepatitis B vaccine, without any new data is very sad. Although it is true that some other countries do not use it routinely, that is because they have universal health coverage and a system that can routinely test for Hepatitis B. In the US, which has the highest inequities of the high income countries, most people who are infected with Hepatitis B are unaware of their status. This means many infants will be infected from their mothers and will ultimately develop chronic liver disease and die prematurely. To watch this destruction of the data/scientifically driven CDC which was respected as the authority on these issue is heartbreaking. Even some panel members could not believe the poor quality of the presentations and the non-scientific nature of the recommendations. A disgrace.

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Deb Houry, MD, MPH

5 days ago

Today I shared my perspective with TIME on what has happened at CDC in the past 100 daysfull article in the link below- but here are the last two paragraphs. I hope you will read what is happening, share with others, and use your networks and platforms to ensure we support health and public health in our country so that all can thrive and have healthier lives.

At the 100-day mark, we have enough data points to know this is not a series of isolated missteps. It is a purposeful reshaping of CDC away from evidence-based practice and toward ideology-driven governance. Today, I am asking again: Congress, governors, health systems, scientific societies, and the private sector must act. Not with statements, but with oversight, pressure, and protection for the career staff who continue to serve with integrity. Just as physicians must always do what is right for their patients, I hope national leaders will do what is right for their constituents and not just what will secure re-election—and that professional organizations and institutions will speak out on behalf of the health of Americans, and not stay silent for fear that they'll lose funding.

I did not resign to make a symbolic point. I resigned because staying silent would have made me complicit. I spoke up because the stakes for children, communities, and our preparedness are too high. What happens next will determine whether the damage becomes permanent. https://lnkd.in/eNfUJrNp

I Left the CDC 100 Days Ago. My Worst Fears About the Agency Are Coming True time.com

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Contents [click to move among sections]

:: Milestones, Perspectives

:: WHO

:: Organization Announcements

:: Journal Watch

:: Pre-Print Servers

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Organization Announcements

https://alleninstitute.org/news-press/

News

No new digest content identified.

BMGF - Gates Foundation [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.gatesfoundation.org/ideas/media-center

Press Releases & Statements

With Child Deaths Projected to Rise for the First Time in a Century, Gates Foundation and Mohamed Bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity Urge Action as World Faces Critical Turning Point

- :: At Goalkeepers Abu Dhabi, global leaders outline a path to improve and save the lives of millions of children through lifesaving innovation and renewed investment
- :: Partners announce \$1.9 billion to advance polio eradication (December 8, 2025)

CARB-X [13 Dec 2025]

https://carb-x.org/

News

12.09.2025

<u>CARB-X to support investigation of Exhalon's breath-based lower respiratory tract infection testing platform</u>

CARB-X has awarded Exhalon US\$1M in seed funding to evaluate whether exhaled breath can be used as a non-invasive sample type to aid in the rapid and accurate diagnosis of lower-respiratory tract infections (LRTIs).

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative [13 Dec 2025]

https://chanzuckerberg.com/newsroom/

Newsroom

No new digest content identified.

CEPI – Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations [13 Dec 2025]

http://cepi.net/

CEPI News, Blog

News

Sinergium paves the way for Latin American mRNA vaccines with new preclinical study

9 Dec 2025

News

University of Oxford launches world's first Phase II Nipah virus vaccine trial

8 Dec 2025

News

Scientists in Korea to create mRNA vaccine against emerging Asian tick-borne virus

8 Dec 2025

CIOMS – COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF MEDICAL SCIENCES [to 13

Dec 2025]

https://cioms.ch/

News; Publications; Events

CIOMS Glossary of ICH terms and definitions: Version 9 now available

Version 9 of the CIOMS Glossary of ICH terms and definitions is now freely available <u>here</u>. It can also be accessed from the ICH webpage <u>here</u>.

DARPA - Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency [U.S.] [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.darpa.mil/news

News

No new digest content identified.

DNDI – Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative [13 Dec 2025]

https://dndi.org/press/press-releases/

Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

Duke Global Health Innovation Center [13 Dec 2025]

https://dukeghic.org/

News

[Website not responding at inquiry]

EDCTP [13 Dec 2025]

http://www.edctp.org/

The European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) aims to accelerate the development of new or improved drugs, vaccines, microbicides and diagnostics against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as well as other poverty-related and neglected infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on phase II and III clinical trials

News

<u>Strengthening the HIV response through African leadership and global collaboration</u> 01 December 2025

As the world marks World AIDS Day 2025, we reflect on the progress made and the ongoing challenges that remain in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The recent shifts in international research funding highlight a critical truth: overcoming HIV/AIDS requires both sustainable global commitment and locally driven solutions. By supporting collaborative research, strengthening the research ecosystem, and empowering African scientists and communities through EDCTP-funded research, we are helping to build a more sustainable, inclusive, and effective global HIV response.

Emory Vaccine Center [13 Dec 2025]

http://www.vaccines.emory.edu/ Vaccine Center News No new digest content identified.

European Vaccine Initiative [13 Dec 2025]

http://www.euvaccine.eu/

News

<u>Proving the value of malaria vaccines: how case-control studies can guide immunisation strategies</u>

A newly released video titled Proving the value of malaria vaccines: how case-control studies can guide immunisation strategies looks at the value of case control studies. EVI

Global consortium launched to develop next-generation malaria vaccine

EVI is committed to supporting a development pathway that ensures the highest scientific standards from early

Fondation Merieux [13 Dec 2025]

http://www.fondation-merieux.org/

Actualités

No new digest content identified.

Gates Medical Research Institute [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.gatesmri.org/news

The Gates Medical Research Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to the discovery, development and effective use of novel biomedical interventions addressing substantial global health concerns, for which investment incentives are limited.

News: Articles and Publications No new digest content identified.

Gavi [to 13 Dec 2025] https://www.gavi.org/ News Releases 4 December 2025

A new era dawns for Gavi, as Board underlines strategic shift towards country ownership and increased support for the most vulnerable

3 December 2025

Gavi and Global Polio Eradication Initiative Boards convene for second joint session

3 December 2025

Morocco pledges US\$ 5 million to Gavi, debuts as a donor to global immunisation efforts

GE2P2 Global Foundation [13 Dec 2025]

www.ge2p2.org

News/Analysis/Publications-Digests/Statements

Digests

- :: Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review Current edition
- :: Informed Consent: A Monthly Review May 2025
- :: Public Consultations Watch :: Global Calls for Input/Public Comment 12 Nov 2025
- :: <u>Genomics, Gene Editing, Convergent Biosciences: Governance, Ethics, Policy, Practice A Monthly</u> Review Nov 2025

https://www.ghitfund.org/newsroom/press

Press Releases
December 8, 2025

<u>Investment of Approx. USD 460,000 for the Development of a Prototype Mpox Detection</u> <u>Test with NIPRO, TBA, Japan Institute for Health Security and others</u>

Global Fund [to 13 Dec 2025]

https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/ News Releases No new digest content identified.

Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness [GloPID-R] [13 Dec

2025]

https://www.glopid-r.org/ News & Events

No new digest content identified.

Hilleman Laboratories [13 Dec 2025]

http://www.hilleman-labs.org/ News & Insights No new digest content identified.

HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.hhmi.org/news

Press Room

No new digest content identified.

Human Immunome Project [nee Human Vaccines Project] [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.humanimmunomeproject.org/

News

No new digest content identified.

IAVI [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.iavi.org/ Press Releases, Features

Features

The potential of new TB vaccines offers hope at the Union Conference in a year of crisis

December 10, 2025

The global TB community reaffirmed its commitment to develop and deliver accessible new TB vaccines

INSERM [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.inserm.fr/en/home/

Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities [ICMRA]

http://www.icmra.info/drupal/en/news Selected Statements, Press Releases, Research No new digest content identified.

ICH [International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use] [to 13 Dec 2025]

https://www.ich.org/

News/Pubs/Press Releases [Selected]

11 December 2025

Recommendations for Future Guidelines Related to Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products

The Cell and Gene Therapy Discussion Group, which was established in May 2023, has just published its recommendations paper, Recommendations with Regard to Future Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products-related Guidelines.

Ongoing Public Consultations		^	
>	Q3E EWG	Guideline for Extractables and Leachables	
>	E22 EWG	General Considerations for Patient Preference Studies	

https://www.ich.org/page/public-consultations

ICRC [to 13 Dec 2025]

https://www.icrc.org/en/news

News

<u>South Sudan: ICRC-supported hospitals deliver critical care as conflict-related casualties reach highest level in eight years</u>

Article 12-12-2025

Humanitarian Outlook 2026: A world succumbing to war

Article 11-12-2025

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Jordan and the ICRC convene a high-level regional conference to advance global commitment to international humanitarian law

News release 10-12-2025

UN General Assembly: Principled humanitarian action is under increasing pressure *Statement* 10-12-2025

<u>Cambodia-Thailand: ICRC calls for restraint and protection of civilians amid latest border clashes</u>

News release 09-12-2025

IFFIm [13 Dec 2025] http://www.iffim.org/ Press Releases/Announcements No new digest content identified. **IFRC** [to 13 Dec 2025]

http://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/news/press-releases/

Press releases

<u>IFRC unveils 2026 Global Plan to address rising humanitarian needs with stronger locally</u> led action

12/12/2025 | Press release

Geneva, 12 December 2025 - The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has today launched a <u>summary of its Global Plan for 2026</u>, outlining the organisation's operational priorities for the coming year as humanitarian needs reach unprecedented levels - while funding for humanitarian action continues to shrink.

The plan highlights the urgent challenges facing communities worldwide, from more frequent climate related disasters to protracted conflicts, rising displacement, health emergencies and growing vulnerabilities. In many crises, IFRC, Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers are increasingly the only humanitarians still present as other actors scale down or leave.

IPPS - International Pandemic Preparedness Secretariat [13 Dec 2025]

https://ippsecretariat.org/news/

News

<u>Statement by 100 Days Mission Partners on the conclusion of the G20 Presidency of South Africa</u>

December 8, 2025

Institut Pasteur [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.pasteur.fr/en/press-area

Press Documents

No new digest content identified.

ISC / International Science Council [to 13 Dec 2025]

https://council.science/current/

ISC is a non-governmental organization with a unique global membership that brings together 40 international scientific Unions and Associations and over 140 national and regional scientific organizations including Academies and Research Councils.

10 December 2025 - 7 min read

<u>In memoriam: Anne Husebekk, a champion of freedom and responsibility in science</u>

blog

10 December 2025 - 5 min read

Scientific freedom as a human right: Insights from the dedicated ISC meeting in Aotearoa New Zealand

bloa

09 December 2025 - 6 min read

What the world needs now is both 'science advocates' and 'science diplomats'

International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS)

https://iuis.org/

News, Resources No new digest content identified.

IVAC [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/ivac/index.html

Updates; Events

No new digest content identified.

IVI [13 Dec 2025] http://www.ivi.int/

IVI News & Announcements

Scientists in Korea to create mRNA vaccine against emerging tick-borne virus in Asia

- :: KDCA, IVI, ST Pharm and Seoul National University to develop AI-designed SFTS vaccine
- :: The deadly severe fever with thrombocytopaenia syndrome (SFTS) virus affects regions in Asia
- :: \$16m CEPI-funded research could see an SFTS vaccine tested in people for the first time
- :: Research will generate vital scientific knowledge that could accelerate vaccine development against similar viruses in as little as 100 days
- 9 December 2025,

Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security [13 Dec 2025]

https://centerforhealthsecurity.org/newsroom Center News [Selected] No new digest content identified.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 13 Dec 2025]

https://www.rwjf.org/en/about-rwjf/newsroom.html Latest News and Highlights No new digest content identified.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 13 Dec 2025]

http://www.msf.org/ Latest [Selected Announcements] Democratic Republic of Congo

MSF briefs UN Security Council on staggering violence in DRC

Speech 12 Dec 2025

Myanmar

Deadly airstrike on a hospital in Mrauk-U, Myanmar

Statement 11 Dec 2025

Nigeria

MSF launches emergency medical services in Gwoza, Borno state

Project Update 11 Dec 2025

Brazil

MSF wraps up activities in northern Brazil

Project Update 11 Dec 2025

Palestine

Palestinians are preparing themselves for loss in the West Bank

Voices from the Field 10 Dec 2025

National Academy of Medicine - USA [to 13 Dec 2025]

https://nam.edu/programs/ News, Stories, Insights Dec 11, 2025 News

National Academy of Medicine Announces Steering Group for Patient Safety in the Era of AI Initiative and Upcoming 2026 Launch

Dec 9, 2025 *News*

National Academy of Medicine Launches the Building Trust in Health Science Through
Community Partnership and Lived Experience Action Collaborative; Over 30 Members Will
Co-Develop Community-Driven Approaches

National Academies-Sciences-Engineering-Medicine [NASEM]- USA [to 13 Dec 2025]

https://www.nationalacademies.org/newsroom

News

<u>Search for Life Should Be Top Science Priority for First Human Landing on Mars, Says New</u> Report

Research and Standards

PATH [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.path.org/media-center/ Newsroom [Selected] No new digest content identified.

Sabin Vaccine Institute [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.sabin.org/press/ Latest News & Press Releases No new digest content identified.

UNAIDS [13 Dec 2025] http://www.unaids.org/en News, Stories, Updates Press Statement

<u>Inclusive</u>, rights-based HIV services a key component to Universal Health Care

GENEVA, 12 December 2025—For the past four decades, the HIV response has worked hard advocating for HIV treatment but also other HIV and health services that are free, without stigma or discrimination, people-centred, and grounded in human rights. It is by delivering inclusive, rights-based HIV and health services, that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) can be achieved. On Universal Health Coverage Day, UNAIDS stresses the importance of UHC so that everyone has access to the quality health services they need without suffering financial hardship due to the cost of paying for those services. UHC should include quality essential HIV services from prevention to treatment through a clearly defined health benefit package.

Press Release

<u>UNAIDS</u> calls on African leaders to resource the HIV response, protect human rights, and seize the opportunity of new innovations to end AIDS

The Executive Director of UNAIDS Winnie Byanyima made the call during the African AIDS conference ICASA in Accra, Ghana saying "ending AIDS is a political choice" ACCRA/GENEVA, 10 December 2025

Press Statement

Human Rights Day statement

Geneva, 10 December 2025 – This Human Rights Day the global HIV response is facing its most challenging moment in decades.

A new UNAIDS report released last month ahead of World AIDS Day 2025, <u>Overcoming Disruption</u>, <u>Transforming the AIDS Response</u> details the far-reaching consequences of international funding reductions. Millions of people have lost access to HIV prevention services and the critical support to access life-saving treatment services. A deepening funding crisis, geopolitical fragmentation, and rollback of human rights protections have disrupted services and jeopardized decades of progress.

The advocacy of people living with, affected by and vulnerable to HIV, communities and civil society allies, who have built and sustained significant community health systems and have championed a human rights and gender transformative approach, has made an unparalleled contribution to the progress made to date in reaching people with HIV prevention, treatment and care services...

UNICEF [to 13 Dec 2025]

https://www.unicef.org/media/press-releases

Latest press releases, news notes and statements [Selected]

Press release 10 December 2025

<u>UNICEF calls for urgent investment in life-saving services for children as global humanitarian needs reach new extremes</u>

NEW YORK, 10 December 2025 -, Surging conflicts, rising hunger, global funding cuts, and collapsing basic services are driving humanitarian needs for children to extreme levels worldwide. As UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children 2026 (HAC) appeal is launched today, US\$7.66 billion is urgently required to prov...

Unitaid [13 Dec 2025]

https://unitaid.org/

News releases

<u>Unitaid marks the 10-year anniversary of the Paris Agreement with the launch of its Climate action roadmap to 2035</u>

12 December 2025

News releases

<u>Unitaid concludes 48th Executive Board in Japan with renewed focus on access and innovation</u>

11 December 2025

Vaccine Equity Cooperative [nee Initiative] [13 Dec 2025]

https://vaccineequitycooperative.org/news/

News

No new digest content identified.

Vaccine Confidence Project [13 Dec 2025]

http://www.vaccineconfidence.org/ News, Research and Reports No new digest content identified.

Vaccine Education Center – Children's Hospital of Philadelphia [13 Dec 2025]

http://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center
News

No new digest content identified.

Wellcome Trust [13 Dec 2025]

https://wellcome.org/news/all
News. Opinion, Reports
No new digest content identified.

The Wistar Institute [to 13 Dec 2025]

https://www.wistar.org/news/press-releases

Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

World Bank [to 13 Dec 2025]

http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/all

News [Selected]

No new digest content identified.

WFPHA: World Federation of Public Health Associations [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.wfpha.org/

Blog, Events

No new digest content identified.

World Medical Association [WMA] [to 06 Sep 025]

https://www.wma.net/news-press/press-releases/

Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

World Organisation for Animal Health [OIE] [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.oie.int/

Press Releases, Statements

No new digest announcements identified.

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ARM [Alliance for Regenerative Medicine] [13 Dec 2025]

https://alliancerm.org/press-releases/ Selected Press Releases No new digest announcements identified.

BIO [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.bio.org/press-releases

Press Releases

No new digest announcements identified.

DCVMN – Developing Country Vaccine Manufacturers Network [13 Dec 2025]

http://www.dcvmn.org/
News; Upcoming events

No new digest announcements identified.

ICBA – International Council of Biotechnology Associations [13 Dec 2025]

https://internationalbiotech.org/news/

News

No new digest announcements identified.

IFPMA [13 Dec 2025]

https://ifpma.org/ News & Resources Report 12 December 2025

The innovation development and access pathway: A holistic approach to accelerating access to innovative medicines and vaccines

IFPMA introduces the "Innovation Development and Access Pathway" (IDAP), a framework designed to build a shared understanding of the end-to-end pathway of how medicines and vaccines move from discovery to delivery at the point of care. The paper maps the four critical pillars of this journey: R&D and the innovation ecosystem; regulatory processes and life cycle management; listing, procurement and reimbursement; and health service delivery. It identifies systemic challenges, and proposes collaborative solutions to overcome them, and shows that improving access requires coordinated action across stakeholders, with governments playing a central role in enabling timely and equitable access to innovation.

Position paper 11 Dec 2025

<u>The role of assessment reports in enabling regulatory reliance – perspectives from the pharmaceutical industry</u>

Reliance in decision-making offers a pathway for national regulatory authorities (NRAs) to consider evaluations conducted by other NRAs while maintaining accountability for their decisions. By avoiding duplicative reviews and optimizing resource allocation, the use of regulatory reliance can lead to faster patient access to safe, effective, and high-quality medical products in a timely manner. A...

International Alliance of Patients' Organizations – IAPO [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.iapo.org.uk/news Press and media [Selected] No new digest announcements identified.

International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association [IGBA]

https://www.igbamedicines.org/

News

No new digest announcements identified.

PhRMA [13 Dec 2025]

http://www.phrma.org/

Press Releases

No new digest announcements identified.

Vaccines/Therapeutics/Medicines - Selected Developer/Manufacturer Announcements

We recognize that this listing is indicative but certainly not exhaustive. We invite nomination of other vaccine developers for potential addition to those monitored below.

AstraZeneca

<u>Press Releases</u> - No new digest announcements identified.

Bavarian Nordic

<u>Latest News</u> - No new digest announcements identified.

BioCubaFarma – Cuba

<u>Últimas Noticias</u> - No new digest announcements identified.

Biological E

<u>News</u> - No new digest announcements identified.

BioNTech

<u>Press Releases</u> - No new digest announcements identified.

Boehringer

<u>Press Releases</u> - No new digest announcements identified.

CanSinoBIO

News - Website not responding at inquiry.

CIGB

Latest News - No new digest announcements identified.

CinnaGen

Recent News - No new digest announcements identified.

Clover Biopharmaceuticals – China

News - No new digest announcements identified.

CSL Sequirus

News Releases - No new digest announcements identified.

Curevac

<u>News</u> - No new digest announcements identified.

Dailchi Sankyo

<u>Press Releases</u> - No new digest announcements identified.

Gamaleya National Center/Sputnik

<u>Latest News and Events</u> - No new digest announcements identified [Last: 09 Nov 2020] <u>https://sputnikvaccine.com/</u> - No new digest announcements identified [Last: 31 Aug 2022]

GSK

Press releases for media

GSK's RSV vaccine, Arexvy, receives positive CHMP opinion for all adults 18 years and older

- :: Marketing authorisation expected in February 2026
- :: Every year an average of 158,000 adults are hospitalised with RSV-related illness in the EU1 12 December 2025

EuBiologics, S Korea

<u>News</u> - No new digest announcements identified.

HIPRA

<u>Press releases</u> - No new digest announcements identified.

IMBCAMS, China

<u>Home</u> - Website not responding at inquiry.

JNJ Innovative Medicine [Janssen]

Press Releases - No new digest announcements identified.

Merck

News releases - No new digest announcements identified.

Nanogen

<u>News</u> - No new digest announcements identified.

Novartis

News - No new digest announcements identified.

Novavax

Press Releases - No new digest announcements identified.

Pfizer

Recent Press Releases - No new digest announcements identified.

R-Pharm

https://rpharm-us.com/index.php

[No news or media page identified]

Sanofi Pasteur

<u>Press Releases</u> - No new digest announcements identified.

Serum Institute

News & Announcements - No new digest announcements identified.

Sinopharm/WIBPBIBP

<u>News</u> - No new digest announcements identified.

Sinovac

<u>Press Releases</u> - No new digest announcements identified.

SK Biosciences

<u>Press Releases</u> - No new digest announcements identified.

Takeda

<u>Newsroom</u> - No new digest announcements identified.

Valneva

Press Releases

December 10, 2025

Valneva Reports Positive Final Phase 2 Antibody Persistence and Safety Results in Children for its Chikungunya Vaccine IXCHIQ®

WestVac Biopharma

<u>Media</u> - No new digest announcements identified.

Zhifei Longcom, China

[Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biologic Pharmacy Co., Ltd.] <u>Website</u> [No News/Announcements page identified]

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Contents [click to move among sections]

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- :: WHO
- :: Organization Announcements
- :: Journal Watch
- :: Pre-Print Servers

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Journal Watch

Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review continues its weekly scanning of key peer-reviewed journals to identify and cite articles, commentary and editorials, books reviews and other content supporting our focus on vaccine ethics and policy. Journal Watch is not intended to be exhaustive, but indicative of themes and issues the Center is actively tracking. We selectively provide full text of some editorial and comment articles that are specifically relevant to our work. Successful access to some of the links provided may require subscription or other access arrangement unique to the publisher.

If you would like to suggest other journal titles to include in this service, please contact David Curry at: david.r.curry@centerforvaccineethicsandpolicy.org

AJOB Empirical Bioethics

Volume 16, 2025 Issue 4 https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/uabr21/current [Reviewed earlier]

AMA Journal of Ethics

Volume 27, Number 12: E823-875 December 2025 https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/issue/electronic-health-record-evolution

Aging Is Bad for You?

At some point along life's trajectory, growing becomes aging. Gerotherapeutics—biologically-based approaches to health that target processes of aging—seem poised to respond. This theme issue investigates ethical valences of what gerotherapeutics suggest about our socially, culturally, and historically entrenched patterns of pathologizing and medicalizing aging. Advancement in our understanding of physiological mechanisms of aging has prompted some to reconceive lifespans as health spans. Geroscience also suggests the need to critically evaluate whether and to what extent we should think of anti-aging ventures as legitimate enterprises of health care. Normative roles played by aging in our personal and relational narratives, in our expectations about how duration and quality of life confer value to life, and in how life extension promotes or undermines our notions of wisdom and a good life are all at stake.

American Journal of Human Genetics

Dec 04, 2025 Volume 112 Issue 12 p2815-3048

https://www.cell.com/ajhg/current

This month in The Journal

Paul W. Hook, Alyson B. Barnes

Through paleogenomics, the study of ancient DNA (aDNA), scientists have been able to construct chronologies of human evolution, detailing interactions between *Homo sapiens*, other species, and past environments. Paleogenomics differs from modern genomics in that aDNA is typically extracted from skeletal remains and other finite organic sources, often destroying irreplaceable samples. Once destroyed, recovery of additional endogenous aDNA is not possible, and re-analysis is limited to the reprocessing of raw data sequence.

ASHG Perspective

Collaborative science in genomics: The value of data sharing and thoughtful stewardship

Large-scale data sharing is indispensable for advancing human genetics and genomics (HGG) research and medicine. The willingness of study participants and researchers to share data has been the foundation of rapid advancements of the HGG field for decades. If the potential benefits of HGG research are to be fully realized, maintaining a broad data-sharing ethos and policy environment is vital. ASHG reasserts the HGG community's commitment to responsible data stewardship and emphasizes the role of researchers in working alongside other interested parties to create a secure research enterprise without imposing undue restrictions on researchers' ability to collaborate, share data, and advance knowledge while also protecting the will and privacy of participants.

Year in review

Genomic medicine year in review: 2025

Teri A. Manolio, Alauna Rupert, Jahnavi Narula, Carol J. Bult, Rex L. Chisholm, Geoffrey S. Ginsburg, Gillian W. Hooker, Gail P. Jarvik, George A. Mensah, Dan M. Roden, Robb Rowley, Casey Overby Taylor, Simona Volpi, Marc S. Williams

Starting in 2019, AJHG has published an annual feature 1,2,3,4,5,6 identifying ten key advances in applying genomic information to clinical care that were reported in the previous 12 months of published

literature. The Genomic Medicine Working Group of the National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) has authored these reviews based on its broader effort to identify notable accomplishments in genomic medicine on a monthly basis and post them on a searchable website (see web resources).

Forum

How to create personalized gene editing platforms: Next steps toward interventional genetics

Rebecca C. Ahrens-Nicklas, Kiran Musunuru

How do we go from a single individual receiving a personalized gene-editing therapy to a future of "interventional genetics" in which such therapies are the standard of care? First and foremost: regulatory innovation.

American Journal of Infection Control

December 2025 Volume 53 Issue 12 p1243-1366 http://www.ajicjournal.org/current Editorial

<u>Safeguarding America's health: the critical role of public health infrastructure in an era of erosion and uncertainty</u>

Carol M. McLay, David J. Weber Published in issue: December 2025

Effectiveness of a mRNA vaccine booster dose against COVID-19 among Oregon health care personnel, January 2021 to June 2023

Madysen Schreiber, et al.

Published online: August 27, 2025

p1282-1291

<u>Latent profiles in herpes zoster vaccine hesitancy among middle-aged and elderly adults: A cross-sectional study in Shanghai, China</u>

Xiaolong Wang, et al.

Published online: August 12, 2025

p1305-1312 Open Access

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

December 2025 Volume 69 Issue 6 https://www.ajpmonline.org/current Reviewed earlier

American Journal of Public Health

January 2026 116(1) http://ajph.aphapublications.org/toc/ajph/current EDITOR'S CHOICE

Scientific Independence and Public Health Trustworthiness

Denys T. Lau PhD and Jennifer D. Schoendorf PhD 116(1), pp. 4–5

TRUST IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Restoring and Expanding Public Trust in Public Health

Denys T. Lau PhD 116(1), pp. 31–34

The Role of Uncertainty in Rebuilding Trust in Science

Kevin McCain PhD 116(1), pp. 35–37

Public Health, Science, and the Public's Trust

Kenneth Rochel de Camargo MD, PhD 116(1), pp. 38–41

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Volume 113 (2025): Issue 6 (Dec 2025) https://www.ajtmh.org/view/journals/tpmd/113/3/tpmd.113.issue-6.xml [New issue; No digest content identified]

Annals of Internal Medicine

November 2025 Volume 178, Issue 11 https://www.acpjournals.org/toc/aim/current [Reviewed earlier]

Artificial Intelligence - An International Journal

Volume 349 December 2025 https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/artificial-intelligence/vol/349/suppl/C [Reviewed earlier]

BMC Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

http://resource-allocation.biomedcentral.com/ (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) [No new digest content identified]

BMC Health Services Research

http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmchealthservres/content (Accessed 13 Dec 2025 [No new digest content identified]

BMC Infectious Diseases

http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcinfectdis/content (Accessed 13 Dec 2025)

Evaluating the effectiveness of the 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine and clinical and demographic characteristics on pneumococcal carriage density in young children in Papua New Guinea, Lao PDR, and Mongolia

Claire von Mollendorf, Isatou Jagne, for the PneuCaPTIVE Research Group *Research* Open access 13 December 2025

<u>Factors associated with the circulation of vaccine-derived polioviruses in children under</u> five in Kilwa, Haut-Katanga province, Democratic Republic of Congo, 2022–2023

Jean Blaise Yobo Iyala, Comlan Cyriaque Degbey, Jean Paul Makala *Research* Open access 11 December 2025

BMC Medical Ethics

http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmedethics/content (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) [No new digest content identified]

BMC Medicine

http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmed/content (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) [No new digest content identified]

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcpregnancychildbirth/content (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) No new digest content identified]

BMC Public Health

http://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) Articles

HPV vaccination and cervical cancer control in Georgia: evidence and projections

Irakli Khuntsaria, Konstantine Gachechiladze, Ekaterinai Kldiashvili Research Open access 13 December 2025

HPV knowledge and acceptance of HPV vaccination among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Germany: a multicenter, observational, cross-sectional study

Cornelia Wähner, Lisa M. Lang, Agnes Luzak Research Open access 12 December 2025

<u>Parental concerns, behaviours, and attitudes associated with childhood vaccinations in Albania: a cross-sectional study</u>

Ledia Qatipi, Albana Fico, Mandy Biles Research Open access 11 December 2025

BMC Research Notes

http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcresnotes/content (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) [No new digest content identified]

BMJ Evidence-Based Medicine

December 2025 - Volume 30 - 6 https://ebm.bmj.com/content/30/6 [New issue; No digest content identified]

BMJ Global Health

November 2025 - Volume 10 - 11 https://gh.bmj.com/content/10/11 [Reviewed earlier]

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

DIGITAL MAGAZINE - September 2025 https://thebulletin.org/magazine/2025-09/#post-heading [Reviewed earlier]

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

Volume 103, Number 11, November 2025, 641-752 https://www.who.int/publications/journals/bulletin/ [Reviewed earlier]

Cell

Dec 11, 2025 Volume 188 Issue 25 p7017-7332 https://www.cell.com/cell/current [New issue; No digest content identified]

Cell and Gene Therapy Insights

May 2025 Issue Volume 11 Issue 4 https://www.insights.bio/cell-and-gene-therapy-insights/journal/250/volume-11-issue-4 [Reviewed earlier]

Child Care, Health and Development

Volume 52, Issue 1 January 2026 https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/13652214/current [New issue; No digest content identified]

Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics

Volume 118, Issue 5 Pages: 969-1224 November 2025 https://ascpt.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15326535/current [Reviewed earlier]

Clinical Therapeutics

December 2025 Volume 47 Issue 12 p1089-1184 http://www.clinicaltherapeutics.com/current [New issue; No digest content identified]

Clinical Trials

Volume 22 Issue 6, December 2025

https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/ctja/22/6

Reviews

Approaches to ensure quality of information provision and consent processes for vaccine clinical trial participation in Sub-Saharan Africa: A scoping review

Aitana Juan-Giner, Elena Carrillo-Alvarez, Cristina Enguita-Fernàndez

To respect the rights and wellbeing of research participants, these should receive information at all stages of the trial, and procedures should be put in place to ensure a valid consent that promotes an informed, autonomous and voluntary decision-making. This review focuses on the extent and type of evidence available in relation to best practices in the information provision and consent processes for vaccine trials conducted in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Conflict and Health

http://www.conflictandhealth.com/ [Accessed 13 Dec 2025] [No new digest content identified]

Contemporary Clinical Trials

Volume 158 November 2025 https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/contemporary-clinical-trials/vol/158/suppl/C [Reviewed earlier]

The CRISPR Journal

Volume 8, Issue 6 / December 2025 https://www.liebertpub.com/toc/crispr/8/6 First Cuts

<u>Cosmopolitan Bioethics Under Pressure: Reflections on the Global Observatory for Genome</u> **Editing International Summit**

Nils Schütz

Pages:391–397 Published Online:13 November 2025

https://doi.org/10.1177/25731599251387607

Current Genetic Medicine Reports

Volume 13, Issue 1 December 2025 https://link.springer.com/journal/40142/volumes-and-issues/13-1 [Reviewed earlier]

Current Medical Research and Opinion

Volume 41, Issue 3 2025 https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/icmo20/current [Reviewed earlier]

Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases

October 2025 - Volume 38 - Issue 5 https://journals.lww.com/co-infectiousdiseases/pages/currenttoc.aspx PAEDIATRIC AND NEONATAL INFECTIONS

Current Protocols in Human Genetics

https://currentprotocols.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/19348258 [Accessed 13 Dec 2025] [No new digest content identified]

Cytotherapy

December 2025 Volume 27 Issue 12 p1363-1486 https://www.isct-cytotherapy.org/current Review

Cell and gene therapy approvals in Asia: regulatory landscape, access and affordability

William Ying Khee Hwang, et al. Published online: August 22, 2025 p1363-1374

Perspective

Universities can do more to prepare the biomedical workforce for the cell-, tissue- and gene-manufacturing industry

Ashley How, Min Thu Ta, Duc Tuan Thanh Phan, Andy Tay Published online: August 28, 2025

p1375-1383

Developing World Bioethics

Volume 25, Issue 4 Pages: 253-323 December 2025 https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14718847/current ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Open Access

Why the South African National Health Research Ethics Council is wrong about ownership of human biological material and data

Donrich Thaldar, Uyanda Maboea, Amy Gooden

Pages: 259-267

First Published: 03 February 2025

Abstract

The South African National Health Research Ethics Council (NHREC) states in its 2024 Ethics Guidelines that human biological material (HBM) and data cannot be privately owned under South African law. This position conflicts with established legal principles, guidelines by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), and South African university policies, all of which support private ownership of HBM and data. Private ownership is not only legally sound but also ethically necessary, providing a framework for accountability, ensuring fair recognition of institutional contributions, and enabling responsible custodianship over these valuable resources. The NHREC's denial of private ownership of HBM and data undermines South African research institutions' ability to control their research assets and leaves them vulnerable to exploitation by foreign entities. The NHREC should issue a corrigendum to delete its incorrect position on private ownership of HBM and data.

Development in Practice

Volume 35, Issue 5, 2025

https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cdip20/35/5?nav=tocList

[Reviewed earlier]

Development Policy Review

Volume 43, Issue 5 September 2025 https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cdip20/35/5?nav=tocList [Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 19 - 2025

https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/disaster-medicine-and-public-health-preparedness/latest-issue

[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters

Volume 50, Issue 1 January 2026 https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14677717/current [Reviewed earlier]

eBioMedicine

Volume 122 December 2025 https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/ebiomedicine/vol/121/suppl/C [Reviewed earlier]

EMBO Reports

Volume 26, Issue 23 December 2025 https://www.embopress.org/toc/14693178/current [New issue. No digest content identified]

Emerging Infectious Diseases

Volume 31, Number 11—November 2025 http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/ [New issue. No digest content identified]

Epidemics

Volume 53 December 2025

https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/epidemics/vol/53/suppl/C

Review article Open access

Artificial intelligence for health security in Africa: Benefits, risks and opportunities
Claire J. Standley, J. Gabrielle Breugelmans, Amol Chaudhari, Neil Cherian, ... Andrew Hebbeler
Article 100870

Epidemiology and Infection

Volume 153 - 2025

https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/epidemiology-and-infection/latest-issue

[Reviewed earlier]

Ethics & Human Research

Volume 47, Issue 5 Pages: 1-43 September–October 2025 https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/25782363/current [Reviewed earlier]

Ethics & International Affairs

Volume 39 - Issue 3 - Fall 2025

<u>https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/ethics-and-international-affairs/latest-issue</u> [
[New issue. No digest content identified]

Ethics, Medicine and Public Health

Volume 33 2025

https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/ethics-medicine-and-public-health/vol/32/suppl/Cc [Reviewed earlier]

The European Journal of Public Health

Volume 35, Issue 5, October 2025 https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/issue/35/5 [Reviewed earlier]

Expert Review of Vaccines

Volume 24, 2025 Issue 1 https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ierv20/current [Reviewed earlier]

Foreign Affairs

November/December 2025 Volume 104, Number 6 https://www.foreignaffairs.com/issues/2025/104/5 [Reviewed earlier]

Forum for Development Studies

Volume 52, 2025 - Issue 2

http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/sfds20/current

The Rebirth of the Global South: Geopolitics, Imageries, and Developmental Realities [Reviewed earlier]

Frontiers in Genetics

https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/genetics [Accessed 13 Dec 2025] Systematic Review Accepted on 08 Dec 2025

A Systematic Review on the Generative AI Applications in Human Medical Genetics

Anton Changalidis, et al.

Although traditional statistical techniques and machine learning methods have contributed significantly to genetics and, in particular, inherited disease diagnosis, they often struggle with complex, high-dimensional data, a challenge now addressed by state-of-the-art deep learning models. Large language models (LLMs), based on transformer architectures, have excelled in tasks requiring contextual comprehension of unstructured medical data. This systematic review examines the role of generative AI methods in human medical genomics, focusing on the genetic research and diagnostics of both rare and common diseases. Automated keyword-based search in PubMed, bioRxiv, medRxiv, and arXiv was conducted, targeting studies on LLM applications in diagnostics and education within genetics and removing irrelevant or outdated models. A total of 195 studies were analyzed, highlighting the prospects of their applications in knowledge navigation, analysis of clinical and genetic data, and interaction with patients and medical professionals. Key findings indicate that while transformer-based models perform well across a diverse range of tasks (such as identification of tentative molecular diagnosis from clinical data or genetic variant interpretation), major challenges persist in integrating multimodal data (genomic sequences, imaging, and clinical records) into unified and clinically robust pipelines, facing limitations in generalizability and practical implementation in clinical settings. This review provides a comprehensive classification and assessment of the current capabilities and limitations of LLMs in transforming hereditary disease diagnostics and supporting genetic education, serving as a guide to navigate this rapidly evolving field, while outlining application use cases, implementation guidance, and forward-looking research directions.

Frontiers in Genome Editing

https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/genome-editing [Accessed 13 Dec 2025] [No new digest content identified]

Frontiers in Medicine

https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/medicine/volumes?volume-id=1463 [Accessed 13 Dec 2025] [No new digest content identified]

Gene Therapy – Nature

Volume 32 Issue 5, October 2025 https://www.nature.com/gt/volumes/32/issues/5 [Reviewed earlier]

Genetics in Medicines

Volume 27, Issue 12 December 2025 https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/genetics-in-medicine/vol/27/issue/65 [Reviewed earlier]

Genome Medicine

https://genomemedicine.biomedcentral.com/articles [Accessed 13 Dec 2025] [No new digest content identified]

Global Health Action

Volume 18, Issue 1 (2025) https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/zgha20/current?nav=tocList [Reviewed earlier]

Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)

August 2025 | Volume 13 | Number 1 http://www.ghspjournal.org/content/current [Reviewed earlier]

Global Legal Monitor & Legal Reports – Library of Congress/USA

https://www.loc.gov/collections/global-legal-monitor/

https://www.loc.gov/books/?q=legal+reports&fa=partof%3Alegal+reports+%28publications+of+the+law+library+of+congress%29&sb=date_desc

[Accessed 13 Dec 2025]

[No new digest content identified]

Global Public Health

Volume 20, Issue 1 (2025) http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rgph20/current [Reviewed earlier]

Globalization and Health

http://www.globalizationandhealth.com/ [Accessed 13 Dec 2025] [No new digest content identified]

Health and Human Rights

Volume 27, Issue 2, December 2025

https://www.hhrjournal.org/volume-27-issue-2-december-2025/

Special Section: Exploring Accountability for Health Rights

Special Section: Institutional Corruption and Human Rights in Mental Health

General Papers

Health Economics, Policy and Law

Volume 20 - Issue 4 - October 2025 https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/health-economics-policy-and-law/latest-issue [Reviewed earlier]

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 40, Issue 10, November 2025 https://academic.oup.com/heapol/issue/40/10 [Reviewed earlier]

Health Research Policy and Systems

http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content [Accessed 13 Dec 2025] [No new digest content identified]

Human Gene Therapy

Volume 36, Issue 23-24 / December 2025 https://www.liebertpub.com/toc/hum/36/23-24 [New issue. No digest content identified]

Humanitarian Practice Network

https://odihpn.org/
[Accessed 13 Dec 2025]
Featured Publications
[No new digest content identified]

Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics (formerly Human Vaccines)

Volume 21 Issue 1, 2025 https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/khvi20/21/1?nav=tocList Selected Content [Reviewed earlier]

Immunity

Nov 11, 2025 Volume 58 Issue 11 p2609-2916 https://www.cell.com/immunity/current [Reviewed earlier]

Infectious Agents and Cancer

http://www.infectagentscancer.com/ [Accessed 13 Dec 2025] [No new digest content identified]

Infectious Diseases of Poverty

http://www.idpjournal.com/content]
[Accessed 13 Dec 2025]
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International Health

Volume 17, Issue 6, November 2025 https://academic.oup.com/inthealth/issue/17/6 [Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 14 (2025): Issue 1 (Jun 2025)

https://brill.com/view/journals/hrlr/14/1/hrlr.14.issue-1.xml [Reviewed earlier]

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Vol. 12 No. 12 (2025): December 2025 https://www.ijcmph.com/index.php/ijcmph/issue/view/131 [Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Epidemiology

Volume 54, Issue 5, October 2025 https://academic.oup.com/ije/issue/54/5 [Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 18, Issue 4 22 October 2025 https://www.emerald.com/ijhrh/issue/18/4 Table of contents [Reviewed earlier]

JAMA

December 9, 2025, Vol 334, No. 22, Pages 1963-2048 https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/currentissue [New issue; No digest content identified]

JAMA Health Forum

November 2025, Vol 6, No. 11 https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama-health-forum/issue [Reviewed earlier]

JAMA Pediatrics

November 2025, Vol 179, No. 11, Pages 1139-1248 https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/currentissue [Reviewed earlier]

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November 2025 Volume 77 Issue 5 p797-1008 https://www.jahonline.org/current [Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research

Vol. 83 (2025)

https://www.jair.org/index.php/jair

[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 22, Issue 3 September 2025 https://link.springer.com/journal/11673/volumes-and-issues/22-3 [Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 50, Issue 6 December 2025 https://link.springer.com/journal/10900/volumes-and-issues/50-6 [Reviewed earlier]

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...a peer-reviewed, international journal for the rapid publication of original research on new and existing drugs and therapies, and post-marketing investigations. Equivalence, safety and efficacy/effectiveness studies are especially encouraged.

Vol. 8 No. 01 (2025)

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Volume 178 January 2026 https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-development-economics/vol/178/suppl/C [Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 20 Issue 5, December 2025 http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/jre/current [Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health

November 2025 - Volume 79 - 11 https://jech.bmj.com/content/79/11 [Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Evidence-Based Medicine

Volume 18, Issue 3 September 2025 https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/17565391/current [Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 21, Issue 2 (2025) http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjge20/current [Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved (JHCPU)

Volume 36, Number 4, November 2025 https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/55986 *Table of Contents*[New issue; No digest content identified]

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Volume 37, Issue 8 Pages: 1-1697 November 2025 https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/10991328/current [Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 53 - Issue 3 - Fall 2025 https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-law-medicine-and-ethics/latest-issue **Public Health, Markets, and Law** [Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 12, Issue 3 (2025) https://institutionalrepository.aah.org/jpcrr/ [Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 286 November 2025

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Volume 18, 2025 Issue 1 https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/jppp20/18/1?nav=tocList [Reviewed earlier]

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Journal of the Royal Society - Interface

Volume 22, Issue 233 1 December 2025 https://royalsocietypublishing.org/toc/rsif/current Review articles

A brief natural history of misinformation Open Access

Ling-Wei Kong; Lucas Gallart; Abigail G. Grassick; Jay W. Love; Amlan Nayak; Andrew M. Hein

Journal of Travel Medicine

Volume 32, Issue 6, August 2025 https://academic.oup.com/jtm/issue [Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Virology

Volume 99 • Number 10 • October 2025 http://jvi.asm.org/content/current [Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet

Dec 13, 2025 Volume 406 Number 10521 p2727-2864 https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/current Editorial

Universal health coverage: necessary, but not enough

The Lancet

Articles

<u>Safety and immunogenicity of a Nipah virus vaccine (HeV-sG-V) in adults: a single-centre, randomised, observer-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 1 study</u>

Robert W Frenck Jr,, et al.

Countdown

The 2025 report of the *Lancet* Countdown on health and climate change: climate change action offers a lifeline

Marina Romanello,

Viewpoint

<u>Inclusion of women who are pregnant, lactating, or of reproductive potential in clinical trials: health, ethical, and regulatory considerations</u>
Lana Moayad, et al.

The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health

Dec 2025 Volume 9 Number 12 p817-890, e24-e27 https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/issue/current [Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Digital Health

Oct 2025 Volume 7 Number 10 https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landig/issue/current [Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Global Health

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Lancet Infectious Diseases

Nov 2025 Volume 25 Number 11 p1159-1264, e621-e675 https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/issue/current [Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Public Health

Nov 2025 Volume 10 Number 11 e890-e1005 https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/issue/current [Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Respiratory Medicine

Nov 2025 Volume 13 Number 11 p951-1040, e56-e58 https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanres/issue/current [Reviewed earlier]

Maternal and Child Health Journal

Volume 29, Issue 10 October 2025 https://link.springer.com/journal/10995/volumes-and-issues/29-10

Medical Decision Making (MDM)

Volume 45 Issue 8, November 2025 http://mdm.sagepub.com/content/current [Reviewed earlier]

The Milbank Quarterly

A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy Volume 103, Issue 3 Pages: 639-939 September 2025 https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14680009/current [Reviewed earlier]

Molecular Therapy

Dec 03, 2025 Volume 33 Issue 12 p5909-6566 https://www.cell.com/molecular-therapy/current In this issue

Myotonic dystrophy type 1 (DM1) is a rare, progressive genetic disease caused by CTG repeat expansion in the 3' untranslated region (UTR) of the dystrophia myotonica protein kinase (*DMPK*) gene. The resulting DMPK mRNA forms aggregates of insoluble ribonuclear foci that sequester RNA-binding proteins and causes mis-splicing of factors responsible for muscle differentiation. Thus, RNA interference, paired with an efficient muscle-targeted delivery vehicle, may provide an approach to reducing *DMPK* RNA.

Reviews

<u>Immunology of RNA-based vaccines: The critical interplay between inflammation and expression</u>

John S. Tregoning, et al.

Given the explosion of RNA vaccines in the last 5 years, this review explores gaps in knowledge and what is needed to fill these. Tregoning and colleagues focus on the immune response to RNA vaccines, specifically on the interplay of expression and inflammation and how formulation affects this.

Nature

Volume 648 Issue 8093, 11 December 2025 https://www.nature.com/nature/volumes/647/issues/8093 Editorial 10 Dec 2025

China is leading the world on AI governance: other countries must engage

The nation's regulators are attempting to match the rapid pace at which AI is evolving. That needs to become a global initiative.

Nature Biotechnology

Volume 43 Issue 11, November 2025 https://www.nature.com/nbt/volumes/43/issues/11 [Reviewed earlier]

Nature Communications

https://www.nature.com/subjects/health-sciences/ncomms (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) [Reviewed earlier]

Nature Genetics

Volume 57 Issue 11, November 2025 https://www.nature.com/ng/volumes/57/issues/11 Reviewed earlier]

Nature Human Behaviour

Volume 9 Issue 10, October 2025 https://www.nature.com/nathumbehav/volumes/9/issues/10 [Reviewed earlier]

Nature Medicine

Volume 31 Issue 11, November 2025 https://www.nature.com/nm/volumes/31/issues/11 [Reviewed earlier]

Nature Reviews Drug Discovery

Volume 24 Issue 11, November 2025 https://www.nature.com/nrd/volumes/24/issues/11 [New issue; No digest content identified]

Nature Reviews Genetics

Volume 26 Issue 12, December 2025 https://www.nature.com/nrg/volumes/26/issues/12 Comment

<u>Harnessing functional annotation to improve the accuracy and transferability of polygenic scores</u>

The accuracy of polygenic scores (PGS) remains limited and poorly transferable across ancestries. In this Comment, Zeng and Visscher discuss how integrating functional annotations with whole-genome sequencing data can improve PGS by prioritizing likely causal variants shared across populations and by assigning greater weight to variants in biologically relevant regions.

Jian Zeng, Peter M. Visscher

Comment 05 Sept 2025

Prompt-based bioinformatics: a new interface for multi-omics analysis

Prompt-based methods, which involve the careful design of inputs to guide large language model (LLM) outputs, are beginning to reshape bioinformatic analytical workflows. The authors compare prompt-driven approaches to conventional bioinformatics pipelines, outline their potential for multiomics analysis and explore how these models may shape the future of computational biology. Ali R. Awan, Mehrdad Oveisi, Mohammad M. Karimi

Nature Reviews Immunology

Volume 25 Issue 12, December 2025

https://www.nature.com/nri/volumes/25/issues/12

[New issue; No digest content identified]

New England Journal of Medicine Volume

Volume 393 No. 23 December 11, 2025

https://www.nejm.org/toc/nejm/medical-journal

Original Articles

High-Dose Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness against Hospitalization in Older Adults

N.D. Johansen and Others

<u>High-Dose Influenza Vaccine to Reduce Hospitalizations</u>

J. Pardo-Seco and Others

Editorials

Current and Emerging Approaches to Evaluating Influenza Vaccine Performance

K.M. Neuzil

NEJM Evidence

Volume 4 No. 12 December 2025

https://evidence.nejm.org/toc/evid/current

NEJM Evidence, a new monthly digital journal from NEJM Group, presents innovative original research and fresh, bold ideas in clinical trial design and clinical decision-making.

Original Articles

<u>Human Challenge Trial of a Nucleoside-Modified Messenger Ribonucleic Acid Influenza</u> Vaccine

K.A. Lindert and Others

Editorials

An Early Look at mRNA Vaccines to Prevent Influenza

H.M. El Sahly and R.L. Atmar

njp Vaccines

https://www.nature.com/npjvaccines/

[Accessed 13 Dec 2025]

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Pediatrics

Volume 156, Issue 6 December 2025

https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/issue/156/6

Research Briefs

Effectiveness of 2023–2024 COVID-19 Vaccines in Children in the United States

Stephanie A. Irving, MHS; Elizabeth A.K. Rowley, DrPH; Sean Chickery, DHSc; Kristin Dascomb, MD, PhD; Allison L. Naleway, PhD ...

From the American Academy of Pediatrics

Policy Statement

Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2025–2026: Policy

Statement

Committee on Infectious Diseases

PharmacoEconomics

Volume 43, Issue 12 December 2025 https://link.springer.com/journal/40273/volumes-and-issues/43-12 [Reviewed earlier]

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https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/ (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) [No new digest content identified]

PLoS Genetics

https://journals.plos.org/plosgenetics/ (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) [No new digest content identified]

PLoS Global Public Health

https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/search?sortOrder=DATE NEWEST FIRST&filterStartDate=2 021-10-01&filterJournals=PLOSGlobalPublicHealth&q=&resultsPerPage=60 (Accessed 13 Dec 2025)
[No new digest content identified]

PLoS Medicine

https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/ (Accessed 13 Dec 2025)

<u>Vaccines to prevent bacterial sexually transmitted infections: Promise, progress, and public health potential</u>

Sami L. Gottlieb, Helen Rees, Remco P. H. Peters Perspective | published 09 Dec 2025 PLOS Medicine https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1004849

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

http://www.plosntds.org/ (Accessed 13 Dec 2025) [No new digest content identified]

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http://www.plosone.org/ [Accessed 13 Dec 2025]

Prevalence of sexually transmitted infections and immunization status among registered sex workers: A pilot study in lower Bavaria, Germany

Fabian Standl, Lena Senger, Heribert Stich Research Article | published 12 Dec 2025 PLOS ONE https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0338710

<u>Cross-national disparities in healthcare workers' perceptions: Examining fear of infection and confidence in the received COVID-19 vaccines amid emerging variants</u>

Mai Hussein, Assem Gebreal, Ahmed Naeem, Asmaa Mohammed AboElela, Hoda Ali Ahmed Shiba, Jargaltulga Ulziijargal, Aesha L. E. Enairat, Ibrahim Adel, Bayan Ayash, Shehata Farag Shehata, Safar Abadi Alsaleem, Ahmed A. Mahfouz, Omar Alwakaa, Logina Ezz Elarab, Vanessa Pamela Salolin Vargas, Fabio Massimo Oddi, Hala Bakro, Dennis Brempong, Muhereza Morgan Meike, Ramy Mohamed Ghazy Research Article | published 12 Dec 2025 PLOS ONE https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0318788

PLoS Pathogens

http://journals.plos.org/plospathoge ns/ [Accessed 13 Dec 2025] [No new digest content identified]

PNAS - Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States

December 9, 2025 vol. 122 no. 49 https://www.pnas.org/toc/pnas/122/49 Core Concepts December 3, 2025Front Matter Digital twins come to the life sciences David Adam

PNAS Nexus

Volume 4, Issue 11, November 2025 https://academic.oup.com/pnasnexus/issue/4/11 [Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 40 - Issue 5 - October 2025 https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/prehospital-and-disaster-medicine/latest-issue [Reviewed earlier]

Preventive Medicine

Volume 200 November 2025 https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/preventive-medicine/vol/200/suppl/C [Reviewed earlier]

Proceedings of the Royal Society B

Volume 292, Issue 2060 December 2025 https://royalsocietypublishing.org/toc/rspb/current [New issue; No digest content identified]

Public Health

Volume 249 December 2025 https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/public-health/vol/249/suppl/C

Research article Abstract only

<u>Public health effects of adult pneumococcal vaccination choice amid increased serotype 4 rates in US subpopulations</u>

Kenneth J. Smith, Angela R. Wateska, Mary Patricia Nowalk, Chyongchiou J. Lin, ... Richard K. Zimmerman Article 106022

Public Health Ethics

Volume 18, Issue 2, July 2025 http://phe.oxfordjournals.org/content/current [Reviewed earlier]

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2025, Vol. 28, No. 1 https://karger.com/phg/issue/28/1 [Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 140 Issue 5-6, Sep-Oct/Nov-Dec 2025 https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/phrg/140/5-6 [Reviewed earlier]

Qualitative Health Research

Volume 35 Issue 13, November 2025 https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/QHR/current [Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 21 Issue 4, October 2025 http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/reab/current [Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 45, Issue 11 Pages: 3331-4076 November 2025 https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15396924/current [Reviewed earlier]

Risk Management and Healthcare Policy

https://www.dovepress.com/risk-management-and-healthcare-policy-archive56 [Accessed 13 Dec 2025] [No new digest content identified]

Royal Society Open Science

November 2025 Volume 12 Issue 11 https://royalsocietypublishing.org/toc/rsos/current [Reviewed earlier]

Science

Volume 390| Issue 6778| 11 Dec 2025 https://www.science.org/toc/science/current Editorial

Pandemic security needs national leadership

BY Maria D. Van Kerkhove. Chikwe Ihekweazu 11 Dec 2025

Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 31, Issue 6 December 2025 https://link.springer.com/journal/11948/volumes-and-issues/31-6 [Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 17| Issue 828| 10 Dec 2025 https://www.science.org/toc/stm/current [New issue; No digest content identified]

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https://www.nature.com/srep/articles?type=article [Accessed 13 Dec 2025] [No new digest content identified]

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Volume 386 December 2025 https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/social-science-and-medicine/vol/386/suppl/C [Reviewed earlier]

Systematic Reviews

https://systematicreviewsjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles

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Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics

Volume 46, Issue 6 December 2025 https://link.springer.com/journal/11017/volumes-and-issues/46-6 [Reviewed earlier]

Travel Medicine and Infectious Diseases

Volume 68 November–December 2025 https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/travel-medicine-and-infectious-disease/vol/68/suppl/C [New issue; No digest content identified]

Tropical Medicine & International Health

Volume 30, Issue 11 Pages: 1145-1260 November 2025 https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/13653156/current [Reviewed earlier]

Vaccine

Volume 69 1 January 2026 https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/vaccine/vol/69/suppl/C Discussion

"Beyond promises: Why India must act now to deliver HPV vaccination"

Ravivarman Lakshmanasamy, Sathishrajaa Palaniraja, Partha Basu Article 127974

Review article Open access

<u>Public trust and mistrust of COVID-19 vaccines: A systematic meta-narrative review</u> Loni Ledderer, Kristian H. Nielsen, Lea Skodborg, Antoinette Fage-Butler Article 127947

Review article Abstract only

<u>Acceptance, hesitancy, and ethical challenges of the COVID-19 vaccine in sub-Saharan</u>

Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Denise P. Ilboudo, Abibou Simpore, Joseph Sawadogo, Abdoul Karim Ouattara, ... Jacques Simpore Article 127966

Research article Abstract only

<u>Socioeconomic deprivation and human papillomavirus vaccination inequities: evidence</u> from Southern Italy

Claudio Fiorilla, Fabio Contarino, Michele Sorrentino, Francesca Bella, ... Raffaele Palladino Article 127986

Research article Open access

<u>Evaluating the implementation of the 20-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine for paediatric immunization in Australia</u>

Valda Anne Struwig, An Ta, Amit Vilas Thorat, Aleksandar Ilic, Sophie Warren Article 127996

Research article Open access

Knowledge and acceptability of male HPV vaccination among young people and community stakeholders in northwest Tanzania: social sciences in the Add-Vacc trial

Susan A. Kelly, John Changalucha, Donati Malibwa, Victoria L. Ewing, ... Shelley Lees Article 128002

Research article Abstract only

<u>Funding the priorities of the influenza vaccines research and development roadmap: an evaluation of global investment</u>

Angela K. Ulrich, Lauren Bigalke, Meredith Arpey, Sydney Redepenning, ... Eve M. Lackritz Article 127967

Research article Abstract only

An impact and cost-effectiveness analysis of rotavirus vaccine introduction in Egypt
Mohamed N.F. Shaheen, Andrew Clark, Ahmed Zaghlol, Mohammed K. Rashed, ... Frédéric Debellut
Article 128010

Vaccines

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/vaccines

[Accessed 13 Dec 2025]

Open Access Article

Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices of Paediatricians in the West Bank, Palestine, Regarding COVID-19 Vaccination Among Children Younger than 12 Years: A Cross-Sectional Study, October to November 2023

by Yousef Mosleh, Kostas Danis, Pawel Stefanoff and Diaa Hjaija Vaccines 2025, 13(12), 1236; https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines13121236 - 11 Dec 2025 **Abstract*

Background/Objectives: Paediatricians' recommendations influence parental decisions to vaccinate their children. On 19 January 2022, the World Health Organization authorized the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (BNT162b2) under Emergency Use Listing for children under 12 years as a measure to mitigate disease spread and direct [

Value in Health

November 2025 Volume 28 Issue 11 p1601-1784 https://www.valueinhealthjournal.com/current [Reviewed earlier]

World Development

Volume 196 December 2025 https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/world-development/vol/196/suppl/C [Reviewed earlier]

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Pre-Print Servers

arXiv

https://arxiv.org/ [Accessed 13 Dec 2025]

[Filters: Emerging Technologies; Neural and Evolutionary Computing; Computers and Society; Computational Engineering, Finance, and Science; General Literature; Genomics; Neurons and Cognition; Populations and Evolution; Other Quantitative Biology; General Economics] arXiv:2512.08226 [pdf, other]

<u>ImmunoNX: a robust bioinformatics workflow to support personalized neoantigen vaccine</u> trials

Kartik Singhal, Evelyn Schmidt, Susanna Kiwala, S. Peter Goedegebuure, Christopher A. Miller, Huiming Xia, Kelsy C. Cotto, Jinglun Li, Jennie Yao, Luke Hendrickson, Miller M. Richters, My H. Hoang, Mariam Khanfar, Isabel Risch, Shelly O'Laughlin, Nancy Myers, Tammi Vickery, Sherri R. Davies, Feiyu Du, Thomas B. Mooney, Adam Coffman, Gue Su Chang, Jasreet Hundal, John E. Garza, Michael D. McLellan, Joshua F. McMichael, John Maruska, William Blake Inabinett, William A. Hoos, Rachel Karchin, Tanner M. Johanns, Gavin P. Dunn, Russel K. Pachynski, Todd A. Fehniger, Jeffrey P. Ward, Jennifer A. Foltz, William E. Gillanders, Obi L. Griffith, Malachi Griffith

Personalized neoantigen vaccines represent a promising immunotherapy approach that harnesses tumor-specific antigens to stimulate anti-tumor immune responses. However, the design of these vaccines requires sophisticated computational workflows to predict and prioritize neoantigen candidates from patient sequencing data, coupled with rigorous review to ensure candidate quality. While numerous computational tools exist for neoantigen prediction, to our knowledge, there are no established protocols detailing the complete process from raw sequencing data through systematic candidate selection. Here, we present ImmunoNX (Immunogenomics Neoantigen eXplorer), an end-toend protocol for neoantigen prediction and vaccine design that has supported over 185 patients across 11 clinical trials. The workflow integrates tumor DNA/RNA and matched normal DNA sequencing data through a computational pipeline built with Workflow Definition Language (WDL) and executed via Cromwell on Google Cloud Platform. ImmunoNX employs consensus-based variant calling, in-silico HLA typing, and pVACtools for neoantigen prediction. Additionally, we describe a two-stage immunogenomics review process with prioritization of neoantigen candidates, enabled by pVACview, followed by manual assessment of variants using the Integrative Genomics Viewer (IGV). This workflow enables vaccine design in under three months. We demonstrate the protocol using the HCC1395 breast cancer cell line dataset, identifying 78 high-confidence neoantigen candidates from 322 initial predictions. Although demonstrated here for vaccine development, this workflow can be adapted for diverse neoantigen therapies and experiments. Therefore, this protocol provides the research community with a reproducible, version-controlled framework for designing personalized neoantigen vaccines, supported by detailed documentation, example datasets, and open-source code.

<u>arXiv:2512.08355</u> [pdf, html, other]

<u>Joint economic and epidemiological modelling of alternative pandemic response strategies</u>

M J Plank, M Sushames, T Fisher-Taylor, R N Thompson, A Hurford, S C Hendy

In an emerging pandemic, policymakers need to make important decisions with limited information, for example choosing between a mitigation, suppression or elimination strategy. These strategies may require trade-offs to be made between the health impact of the pandemic and the economic costs of the interventions introduced in response. Mathematical models are a useful tool that can help

understand the consequences of alternative policy options on the future dynamics and impact of the epidemic. Most models have focused on direct health impacts, neglecting the economic costs of control measures. Here, we introduce a model framework that captures both health and economic costs. We use this framework to compare the expected aggregate costs of mitigation, suppression and elimination strategies, across a range of different epidemiological and economic parameters. We find that for diseases with low severity, mitigation tends to be the most cost-effective option. For more severe diseases, suppression tends to be most cost effective if the basic reproduction number R_0 is relatively low, while elimination tends to be more cost-effective if R_0 is high. We use the example of New Zealand's elimination response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 to anchor our framework to a real-world case study. We find that parameter estimates for Covid-19 in New Zealand put it close to or above the threshold at which elimination becomes more cost-effective than mitigation. We conclude that our proposed framework holds promise as a decision-support tool for future pandemic threats, although further work is needed to account for population heterogeneity and other factors relevant to decision-making.

Gates Open Research

https://gatesopenresearch.org/browse/articles

[Accessed 13 Dec 2025] [Filter: All articles]

[No new digest content identified]

medRxiv

https://www.medrxiv.org/content/early/recent

[Accessed 13 Dec 2025] [Filter: All articles]

<u>Planning robust clinical trials for Shigella vaccines: A simulation-based evaluation of the impact of naturally-acquired immunity on vaccine performance</u>

Avnika B. Amin, Maria Garcia Quesada, Natalie E Dean, Benjamin A Lopman, James A. Platts-Mills, Elizabeth Tacket Rogawski McQuade

medRxiv 2025.12.11.25341848; doi: https://doi.org/10.64898/2025.12.11.25341848

<u>How COVID-19 vaccination in England varied by geography, demography, deprivation and registry:</u> Bayesian ecological modelling

Greg Dropkin

medRxiv 2025.12.01.25341337; doi: https://doi.org/10.64898/2025.12.01.25341337 Revision

<u>Do community pharmacies add value to immunization programs? A systematic review from the UK between 2015-2025</u>

KA Thomas, SA Ismail, T Chantler, S Perman, J Pryce

medRxiv 2025.09.12.25335325; doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.09.12.25335325 Revision

Contact in context: Animal profiles, human activities, and land use histories shape humananimal contacts with implications for zoonotic spillover in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Romain Duda, Victor Narat, Thibaut Langlois, Robert Monfura, Marc Allassonnière Tang, Placide Mbala, Claude Monghiemo, Tamara Giles-Vernick

medRxiv 2025.12.07.25341615; doi: https://doi.org/10.64898/2025.12.07.25341615

<u>Estimating the impact of decreasing vaccination response times for outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases in low and middle-income countries</u>

Dominic Delport, Alina M. Muellenmeister, Jane Greig, Romesh G. Abeysuriya, Nick Scott medRxiv 2025.02.04.25321698; doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.02.04.25321698 Revision

OSF Pre-prints

https://osf.io/preprints/discover?provider=OSF&subject=bepress%7 CLife%20Sciences
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[No new digest content identified]

Wellcome Open Research

https://wellcomeopenresearch.org/browse/articles

[Accessed 13 Dec 2025]

Review Open Access

Ethical considerations in research priority setting on health: a review of Philippine research priority-setting cases

[version 1; peer review: awaiting peer review]

Reneepearl Kim Sales, Lynnell Alexie Ong, Soumyadeep Bhaumik

Abstract

Background

Setting priorities for research is an essential function of health systems management and policy development. In the Philippines, national policy mandates the establishment of a research agenda as a prerequisite for securing government-supported funding, or for receiving foreign aid. While the process for research priority setting (RPS) is well established, its ethical dimensions have not been systematically assessed. Our study aims to fill this gap by conducting an interpretive review of all RPS exercises designed and implemented by the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes between 2016 and 2024.

Research Article Open Access

Adoption and use of the 7-1-7 metrics for effective detection, notification, and early response actions to public health events: A mixed-methods study in Cambodia, January 2023 to July 2025

[version 1; peer review: awaiting peer review]

Sokly Mom, et al.

Abstract

Background

The 7-1-7 metrics with \leq 7days for detection, \leq 1 day for notification, \leq 7 days to complete early response actions during public health outbreaks, enable early detection, notification, and rapid response. We evaluated the adoption, use of 7-1-7 metrics, and the bottlenecks and enablers for achieving the metrics in the public health sector of Cambodia.

Study Protocol Open Access

Living Rapid Research Needs Appraisal (RRNA) for Priority Diseases Protocol

[version 1; peer review: awaiting peer review]

Marieke de Swart, et al.

Abstract

Systematic reviews require time and resources to conduct that might not be available in a rapidly developing context such as during new and (re-) emerging infectious disease outbreaks. As part of the Pandemic-PACT program at the Pandemic Sciences Institute at the University of Oxford we have, in collaboration with Cochrane Response and Cochrane South Africa, developed a "living" Rapid Research Needs Appraisal (RRNA) methodology. The aim is to develop a protocol for rapidly and robustly identify key evidence gaps across pre-defined research domains to inform research prioritisation and

coordination in preparedness time and during outbreaks. The RRNA utilises modified systematic review methods, a global relay of reviewers, and systematic review software. The objective is to strengthen capability for carrying out RRNAs, and establish a baseline evidence platform for priority infectious diseases that can be readily updated as new evidence emerges, utilising an adaptable "living" RRNA protocol. This data will be of relevance to funders, researchers, clinical and public health stakeholders involved in management of infectious diseases of epidemic and pandemic potential.

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Think Tanks

Brookings [to 13 Dec 2025] http://www.brookings.edu/

Research, Events

Bridging Africa's health financing gap: The case for remittance-based insurance

Pedro Pinheiro Project Manager

December 11, 2025

- :: Remittances already function as a de facto, informal health insurance system for millions of African households, but they operate inefficiently, reactively, and without risk pooling or regulatory protection.
- :: Scaling formal remittance-based insurance requires solving a three-part coordination failure across product design, regulation, and market incentives.
- :: By serving as a neutral ecosystem orchestrator, HealthBridge could transform remittances in Africa into a scalable complement to Universal Health Coverage by standardizing products, harmonizing cross-border regulation, and brokering viable partnerships.

Center for Global Development [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.cgd ev.org/ All Research Research, Events No new digest content identified.

Chatham House [to 13 Dec 2025]

https://www.chathamhouse.org/ Selected Analysis, Comment, Events

Global security continued to unravel in 2025. Crucial tests are coming in 2026

Alarming events in nuclear proliferation, space security and hybrid warfare meant 2025 was a year in which the international security order deteriorated.

Expert comment

Published 12 December 2025 4 minute read

Council on Foreign Relations [13 Dec 2025]

https://www.cfr.org/media/news-releases
New Releases [Selected]
No new digest content identified.

CSIS [13 Dec 2025] https://www.csis.org/ Reports [Selected]
No new digest content identified.

McKinsey Global Institute [to 13 Dec 2025]

https://www.mckinsey.com/mgi/overview Featured Research No new digest content identified.

ODI [Overseas Development Institute] [to 13 Dec 2025] https://odi.org/en/publications/
Publications [Selected]
No new digest content identified.

Pew Research Center [to 13 Dec 2025]

https://www.pewresearch.org/ Latest Publications No new digest content identified.

Rand [to 13 Dec 2025] https://www.rand.org/pubs.html Published Research [Selected] Research Dec 12, 2025

<u>Ethical Criteria for Self-Identifying Societal Risk Associated with Dangerous Gain-of-</u> Function Research

We suggest a layered review process for the assessment of societal consequences to inform implementation of the 5 May 2025 executive order "Improving the safety and security of biological research."

Urban Institute [to 13 Dec 2025]

https://www.urban.org/research New Research Publications - Selected No new digest content identified.

World Economic Forum [to 13 Dec 2025]

https://agenda.weforum.org/press/
Media [Selected]
No new digest content identified.

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Public Consultations/Call for Inputs/Call for Papers

Malaria: Developing Drugs for Treatment; Draft Guidance for Industry; Availability

A Notice by the Food and Drug Administration on 09/23/2025. Comment period ends 12/22/2025.

Docket No. FDA-2025-D-0918

Background

FDA is announcing the availability of a draft guidance for industry entitled "Malaria: Developing Drugs for Treatment." The purpose of this draft guidance is to assist sponsors in the overall development program for drug and biological products for the treatment of malaria, caused by clinically relevant Plasmodium species. Specifically, this draft guidance is intended to serve as a focus for continued discussions on the design of malaria treatment trials among the Agency, pharmaceutical sponsors, the academic community, and the public.

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- :: Milestones, Perspectives
- :: <u>WHO</u>
- :: Organization Announcements
- :: <u>Journal Watch</u>
- :: Pre-Print Servers

Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review is a service of the Center for Vaccine Ethics and Policy (<u>CVEP</u>) / GE2P2 Global Foundation, which is solely responsible for its content.

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