

# Welcome from the Global Virus Network

Welcome to the Global Virus Network Annual Scientific Meeting in Monaco. This important gathering of GVN Center Directors, Members, and Partners allows for productive discussions, friendly interactions, and energizing opportunities for us all to get to know more about one another's expertise and capabilities.

We are so grateful to the Principality of Monaco and especially the Centre Scientifique de Monaco for hosting the meeting. We are also extremely grateful to the meeting sponsors, namely Raymond F. Schinazi and Family Foundation, USF Health, Gilead Sciences, and European Research Infrastructure on Highly Pathogenic Agents, as well as for the generosity of donors who wish to remain anonymous. Their contribution is highly appreciated.

This 2023 annual meeting is truly special because it is the first in-person meeting after the crisis of COVID-19 and the GVN is in transition: We will discuss GVN's new strategic plan and Sten Vermund will become the GVN's next president, formally taking office on November 1st.

Over the past years, the GVN has significantly evolved. We've grown to 71 Centers of Excellence and 9 Affiliates, developed Watch Groups and Task Forces, initiated a biobanking project, employed an array of new communication tools, launched a webinar program, forged partnerships with industry through our Corporate Partnership Program, and nurtured future virologists and rising stars around the world through the GVN Drs. Yang Liu & Pan Zheng Academy. Going forward, we will continue to contemplate the future, but now is the time for us to concretely prepare for it together. Our best resource for ending viral threats is collaborating with one another.

I wish you an excellent stay in Monaco and a great meeting.

**Christian Brechot**  
President of the Global Virus Network  
Professor of Medicine, University of South Florida



## About the GVN

The GVN is essential and critical in the preparedness, defense, and first research response to emerging, existing, and unidentified viruses that pose a clear and present threat to public health. Working in close coordination with established national and international institutions, the GVN is a coalition comprised of eminent human and animal virologists from 71 Centers of Excellence and 9 Affiliates in 40 countries, working collaboratively to train the next generation of virologists, advance knowledge about how to identify and diagnose pandemic viruses, mitigate and control how such viruses spread and make us sick, as well as develop drugs, vaccines, and treatments to combat them. No single institution in the world has expertise in all viral areas other than the GVN, which brings together the finest medical virologists to leverage their individual expertise and coalesce global teams of specialists on the scientific challenges, issues, and problems posed by pandemic viruses. The GVN is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. For more information, please visit <https://gvn.org/>. Follow us on X at @GlobalVirusNews.

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