



## Welcome from the Global Virus Network



Dr. Sten Vermund,  
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Welcome to the 2024 Global Virus Network (GVN) Scientific Meeting in Durban, South Africa. This gathering brings together leading experts and partners from around the world to engage in meaningful discussions, foster collaborations, and share groundbreaking research and innovations.

Graciously co-hosted by the Center for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and generously supported by Gilead, Altesa, Drive, Regeneron, Abbott, and USF Health, we are proud to host this meeting in Durban, a city that embodies the dynamic spirit of our collective mission to advance global health through scientific excellence. This year's meeting holds special significance as it marks our first annual conference in Africa and embraces a hybrid format, enabling widespread participation both in-person and virtually. We look forward to exploring the theme of "Navigating Virology's Frontiers in Africa," delving into the unique challenges and opportunities that shape our field on this vibrant continent.

Since the 2023 meeting in Monaco, we have relocated the GVN's international headquarters to the University of South Florida (USF), a move that strengthens our global partnerships and enhances collaboration between USF Health scientists and GVN experts worldwide. Additionally, our new partnerships and memberships with corporate, institutional, and governmental programs, such as WHO International Pathogen Surveillance Network and the UN Wastewater Surveillance Initiative, position the GVN to better monitor and respond to emerging viral threats through enhanced international partnerships.

As we convene over the next three days, we encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunities to connect with peers, engage with insightful presentations, and contribute to discussions that will shape the future of virology and public health. With a greater representation of African virologists and epidemiologists, we look forward to a focus on One Health and emerging pathogens, to name two themes of urgent priority in Africa.

Your participation is invaluable in our shared pursuit of discovery, prevention, and control of viral diseases worldwide. Thank you for joining us for this important event and we wish you a productive and inspiring meeting. For those of you joining us in person, have an enjoyable stay in Durban and uMhlanga.

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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 80+ Centers of Excellence and Affiliates in 40+ countries, working collaboratively to train the next generation, 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 [www.gvn.org](http://www.gvn.org)