

2025 Semi-Annual Report

Dear Global Virus Network Partners,

We're pleased to report significant progress for the Global Virus Network (GVN) in the first half of 2025, as we continue to refine our organization around three core pillars: Education & Training, Research, and Global Health Strategies & Solutions.

In Education & Training, we've launched new programs such as the Global Guardians Summer Camp, expanded Educational Grants, and continued the success of our Rising Stars program, now with additional research support. Our commitment to nurturing junior scientists is further exemplified through initiatives such as the Virology internship program.

Our efforts in strengthening scientific impact and partnerships have also yielded impressive results. We held our first in-person 2025 GVN Regional Meeting: Caribbean and Latin America, fostering vital collaboration. Scientific publications on urgent topics have increased, and we've deepened our collaboration with industry partners such as Sanofi, Moderna, Abbott, and Gilead, with BD recently added to our Coalition & Collaboration Program. In a significant step to further our scientific impact, we also launched seed-grant programs for pandemic preparedness surveillance, viral pathogen predictive bio analytics and AI, and wastewater viral pathogen surveillance. Nine grants were awarded to GVN Centers of Excellence and Affiliates. This period also saw growing high-profile media coverage, underscoring our expanded influence in advancing global health solutions.

We look forward to your continued partnership as we work together to advance global virus research, education, and health solutions.

Sincerely,

Sten H. Vermund
Sten H. Vermund, MD, PhD
Chief Medical Officer
Global Virus Network

Matthew L. Evins
Matthew L. Evins
Managing Executive
Global Virus Network

Core Pillars



Education & Training
Advancing virology knowledge through mentorship and intensive training.

Research
Fostering innovation to combat emerging health threats through research, diagnostics, antivirals, and vaccines.

Global Health Strategies & Solutions
Equipping thought leaders with virology insights, strategic alliances, and accurate information to combat misinformation.

Photo of New Core Pillars

Pillar I: Education & Training

Educational Grants: GVN's Educational & Training Grants support virology research, mentorship, and global collaboration. In 2025, affiliated graduate and postdoctoral researchers can apply for up to \$20,000 in funding to train at GVN sites.



Rising Star Mentorship Program: This two-year program provides mentorship, resources, and up to \$10,000 in seed funding to support early-career virologists. The 2025–2027 cohort includes five scientists from Senegal, USA, Australia, Ghana, and Zimbabwe, advancing research in genomic surveillance, immunology, and outbreak response. The 2025–2027 cohort will be announced soon.

GLOBAL GUARDIANS: YOUTH FOR PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

Global Virus Network's Summer Camp
GRADES 9-12

FREE
July 23-25, 2025
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

BECOME A GUARDIAN OF GLOBAL HEALTH

- Explore the science behind pandemics.
- Meet real virus hunters.
- Think like a public health leader.
- JOIN US THIS SUMMER.

Global Guardians Summer Camp (July 23-25, 2025): This free camp invites 15+ Tampa-area high schoolers (grades 9–12) to explore virology, pandemics, and global health through hands-on learning at the GVN International Headquarters at the University of South Florida.

Short Course in Translational Virology: This 10-day course offers foundational and applied virology training led by global experts. Since launch, 109 participants from six continents have been trained. The next course will be held December 3–12, 2025, in Tampa and online. Registration is currently open.

2025 Short Course Translational Virology

Early Bird In-Person Discount: \$1,900 (USD) to \$1,700 (USD)
Available until July 31st

Join global virology leaders for a dynamic short course hosted by the Global Virus Network.

Explore high-impact pathogens, cutting-edge research, and pandemic preparedness through lectures, site visits, and hands-on learning.

Gain access to experts in vaccines, antivirals, One Health, and AI, with tailored mentorship and global networking.

Deadline: September 1, 2025, 11:59 PM Eastern time.

Flyer for 2025 Short Course

Alumni Support: GVN supports over 150 certified alumni worldwide through mentorship, career development, and collaboration. Travel awards will be provided to 10 alumni with selected abstracts to attend the 2026 Annual Meeting.

Virology Internship Program: Launched in 2024 in partnership with USF College of Public Health, this internship introduces MPH students to virology careers. To date, the program has supported four interns.



Photos of GVN Interns

Pillar II: Research

Center of Excellence & Affiliate Support and Site Evaluation: GVN's program strengthens global capacity in virology by enhancing lab infrastructure, biosafety, and training through regular evaluations and support. New COEs and Affiliates in 2025 include: Czech National Institute of Virology and Bacteriology, University of Pennsylvania, Yale School of Public Health, Duke University, University of Florida Emerging Pathogens Institute (EPI), and Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (Brazil).

Global Virus Network Expands Global Capacity with New Centers of Excellence

- Czech National Institute of Virology and Bacteriology
- University of Pennsylvania
- Yale School of Public Health
- Duke University
- The Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais
- The University of Florida Emerging Pathogens Institute

Photo of Centers Announcement

Research Grants & Discretionary Funds: GVN funds high-risk, high-impact research across its network and supports specialized Action Committees focused on urgent viral threats. 2025 Action Committees include: Long COVID and other Infection-Associated Chronic Conditions, Hemorrhagic Fever Viruses, Arboviruses, Poxviruses, Retroviruses, and Respiratory Viruses.

Regional Scientific Meetings: In 2025, GVN held its first in-person regional scientific meeting in Latin America and the Caribbean, co-hosted by the University of the West Indies Mona Campus (Kingston, Jamaica) and SUNY Buffalo. The meeting convened leading experts from across the region to address pressing issues such as arboviruses, One Health, pediatric infections, and climate-driven viral threats. During the event, Dr. Christine Carrington was recognized with the inaugural Regional Leadership Award for her contributions to virology in the region.

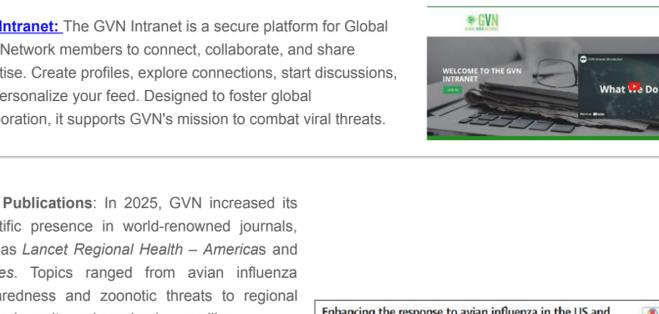


Photo of Participants from 2025 GVN Regional Meeting

2026 GVN Annual International Scientific Meeting
TAMPA, FLORIDA, U.S.A.
March 4-6, 2026

SAVE THE DATE

Annual International Scientific Meetings: GVN's gathering brings together global leaders in virology and public health. The 2026 event (March 4-6, 2026) will occur in Tampa, FL. Co-hosted by USF Health and in partnership with Tampa General Hospital (TGH) Cancer Institute.

Request for Proposals



Request for Proposals Flyer

GVN Intranet: The GVN Intranet is a secure platform for Global Virus Network members to connect, collaborate, and share expertise. Create profiles, explore connections, start discussions, and personalize your feed. Designed to foster global collaboration, it supports GVN's mission to combat viral threats.



GVN Publications: In 2025, GVN increased its scientific presence in world-renowned journals, such as *Lancet Regional Health – Americas and Viruses*. Topics ranged from avian influenza preparedness and zoonotic threats to regional research equity and pandemic surveillance.

- Enhancing the response to avian influenza in the US and globally (June 2025):** GVN experts co-authored a 2025 *Lancet Regional Health* – Americas viewpoint calling for stronger U.S. and global responses to H5N1. The article highlighted key preparedness gaps in surveillance, zoonotic risks, and vaccine strategy.
- Navigating Virology's Frontiers in Africa: Global Virus Network 2024 Durban Meeting (April 2025)** GVN experts co-authored a 2025 *MDPI Viruses* report from the Durban meeting, highlighting Africa's role in virology and calling for stronger global collaboration, research investment, and pandemic preparedness.

Abstract of *Lancet Regional Health – Americas* Publication

Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement: In 2025, GVN deepened cross-sector partnerships to expand its impact and align efforts across public health, research, and industry. This included participation in the WHO's International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN) and the United Nations' World Warning Initiative (UN-WWI), strengthened collaboration with CEPI, and the award of GVN's first CDC grant. GVN also submitted a collaborative grant to the World Bank in partnership with Prezode, co-hosted a Long COVID symposium with Keystone Symposia, and partnered with ERINHA for a webinar, with additional joint efforts planned for 2026. Engagements continued with major industry stakeholders, including BD, Moderna, Gilead, Abbott, and Sanofi.

Media Engagement & Resources

GVN's media outreach shares accurate, science-based information on virology and global health, building public trust and countering misinformation. In the first half of 2025, GVN's media presence grew significantly:

- 5,963 media mentions across 1,654 unique outlets in 58 countries.
- Top outlets: MSN.com, Yahoo! News, Associated Press, and Daily Mail.
- Several articles reached over 12 million readers, covering urgent topics like Measles outbreaks and Avian influenza (H5N1)
- GVN's H5N1 call to action, featured in a [Financial Times article](#), sparked global discussion and highlighted GVN's international reach leading to a letter to the editor from the UN FAO and a [Project Syndicate op-ed](#) by former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Most commonly occurring words and phrases in the titles of media mentions.