



End of Year Brief 2024

Dear GVN Friends and Colleagues,

As we close out another year, the Global Virus Network (GVN) reflects on an exciting period of growth and transformation. The relocation of GVN's [international headquarters](#) to the University of South Florida (USF) has been smooth and successful. This move also enhances collaboration with the new USF Health Virology Institute at the University of South Florida and establishes a Microbial Oncology Program at Tampa General Hospital Cancer Institute (TGHCI), both led by GVN co-founder and chair of the Scientific Leadership Board, Dr. Robert Gallo.

In a significant personal update, I am honored to begin my new role as Distinguished University Health Professor and dean of the USF Health College of Public Health at the University of South Florida while also serving as associate vice president of USF Health. Given my new responsibilities at USF, I have stepped into the role of chief medical officer for GVN, with the president's position remaining vacant as determined by our board of directors. This unique partnership between GVN and USF paves the way for further impactful work in global virus research and public health.

Please take a moment to read my holiday message from last month, which includes [key highlights](#) from the GVN over the past year.

Warm regards,

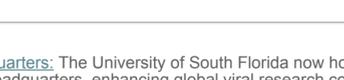
Sten Vermund
Chief Medical Officer, Global Virus Network

New Projects and Collaborations



Attendants of the 2024 GVN Annual Meeting

[GVN Annual Meeting Durban](#): The Global Virus Network's annual meeting (16-18 September 2024), co-hosted by CAPRISA, addressed mpox outbreaks, misinformation in health crises, and pandemic preparedness. Experts discussed advancing science, improving health systems, forecasting models, and ensuring vaccine and treatment access. A press conference concluded the event.



[GVN becomes a member organization of the WHO International Pathogen Surveillance Network](#): IPSN is a global network of pathogen genomic actors brought together by the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence to accelerate progress in pathogen genomics and improve public health decision-making.

[GVN becomes a member organization of the United Nations Global Wastewater Initiative](#): GWWI encompasses an integrated perspective of wastewater, which includes domestic effluent, stormwater, industrial effluent, and agricultural effluent and run-off.

[GVN International Headquarters](#): The University of South Florida now hosts the Global Virus Network's international headquarters, enhancing global viral research collaboration. Renowned virologist Dr. Robert Gallo, and other colleagues, joined USF, to establish the USF Health Virology Institute and advance research in infectious diseases, diagnostics, therapies, and vaccine development worldwide.



University of South Florida is the international headquarters for the Global Virus Network (GVN)

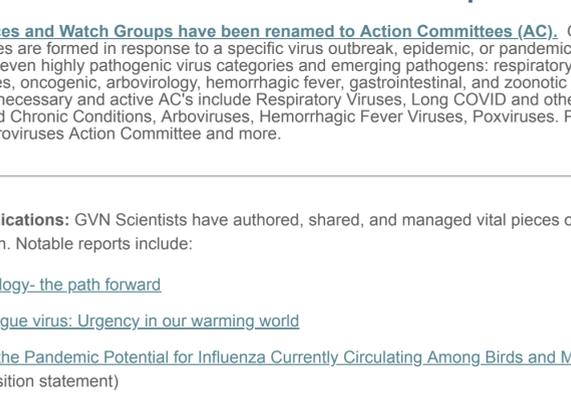


Dr. Maggie Bartlett visiting NIVB Facilities

GVN leadership participated in several conferences and site visits to revitalize and strengthen the network. Program Director Maggie Bartlett was invited to the [CEPI Summit on Disease X](#) in Rio, hosted in July by the GVN Center of Excellence (COE) Fiocruz, where she engaged with both current GVN members and the CEPI network. She also represented GVN at the [World Science Forum](#) in Budapest in November, presented her research at the [Keystone +ssRNA viruses meeting in Ireland](#), toured the first BSL3 facility in the Czech Republic, and met with leadership at the [Robert Koch Institute](#) (a GVN COE) and the [London School of Tropical Medicine](#). Meanwhile, Chief Medical Officer Sten Vermund visited GVN COE Director Linfa Wang in Singapore and established new partnerships with leaders in Mozambique and Kazakhstan.

In Memoriam

[The Global Virus Network \(GVN\) mourns the loss of Dr. Diane Griffin](#), a pioneering virologist, esteemed mentor, and invaluable GVN leader. Her groundbreaking contributions to measles and arbovirus research, and her dedication to science and global health, have left an indelible mark on the field.



2024 GVN Research Roundup

[Task Forces and Watch Groups have been renamed to Action Committees \(AC\)](#). GVN Action Committees are formed in response to a specific virus outbreak, epidemic, or pandemic. They also focus on seven highly pathogenic virus categories and emerging pathogens: respiratory, retroviruses, oncogenic, arboviral, hemorrhagic fever, gastrointestinal, and zoonotic infection. Currently necessary and active AC's include Respiratory Viruses, Long COVID and other Infection-Associated Chronic Conditions, Arboviruses, Hemorrhagic Fever Viruses, Poxviruses. Plans for 2025: Retroviruses Action Committee and more.

GVN Publications: GVN Scientists have authored, shared, and managed vital pieces of virology information. Notable reports include:

- [Virology- the path forward](#)
- [Dengue virus: Urgency in our warming world](#)
- [On the Pandemic Potential for Influenza Currently Circulating Among Birds and Mammals](#) (Position statement)
- [Battling Pandemic Viruses Like Avian Influenza](#) (Position Statement)
- [Leveraging one health as a sentinel approach for pandemic resilience](#)

Training and Education

[GVN-Abbott Pandemic Defense Postdoctoral Fellowship Program](#): This program trains junior scientists in virology and builds a global network for early pandemic detection. The program offers a one- to two-year fellowship for MD, PhD, or DVM graduates, focusing on disease surveillance, genomic analysis, and bioinformatics while fostering global scientific collaboration.



- **Dr. Karl Ciuoderis**, Ph.D., from Columbia, matched with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Veterinary Medicine, USA.

[GVN Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program \(GPFTP\)](#): This program meets one of GVN's core goals: to nurture junior scientists in pursuing their careers in virology. GPFTP will also ensure emerging leaders in medical virology receive top-flight training and have opportunities to engage with either industrial or academic partners globally. One postdoc is supported by this program for two years.



From Left:

- **Dr. Birendra Gupta**, Ph.D., from Nepal, matched Institute of Human Virology, University of Maryland School of Medicine, USA
- **Dr. Rubaiyea Farrukee**, Ph.D., from Australia, matched University of Melbourne, Australia
- **Dr. William M. de Souza**, Ph.D., from Brazil completed his GVN Fellowship and joined the University of Kentucky as an Assistant Professor

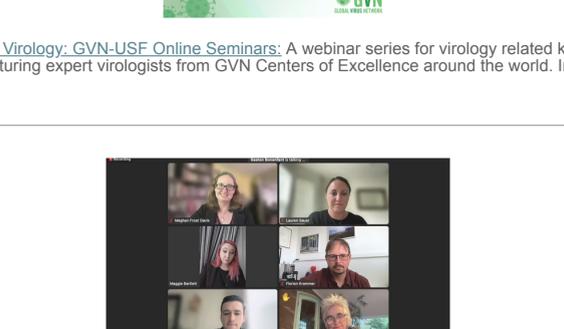
[GVN Rising Star Mentorship Program](#): GVN identifies and supports promising early-career investigators who will lead the field of infectious diseases by developing innovative diagnostic and interventional strategies to combat human pathogens through the Rising Star Program. 10 rising stars successfully graduated from the 2023-2024 program. Currently accepting applications until January 31st.



From Top Left:

- **Dr. David Martinez**, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Epidemiology/Microbiology, and Immunology, USA
- **Dr. Poonam Mathur**, DO, MPH, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, USA
- **Dr. Christine O'Connor**, Ph.D., Associate Staff, Cleveland Clinic, Lerner Research Institute, Infection Biology, Doherty Institute, Mubarak Global Center for Pathogen Research & Human Health, Ohio, USA
- **Dr. Annie Elong Ngono**, Ph.D., Research Instructor, La Jolla Institute for Immunology, USA
- **Dr. Leen Delang**, Ph.D., Assistant Research Professor, Rega Institute for Medical Research, University of Leuven, Belgium
- **Dr. Sushama Telwatte**, Ph.D., Instructor at the SF Veteran Affairs Medical Center, University of Melbourne, Doherty Institute, Australia
- **Dr. Joseph Anejo-Okopi**, MSc, MBA, Ph.D., Professor and Dean, Federal University of Health Sciences, Nigeria
- **Dr. Sudheesh Nittur**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Deputy Quality Manager, Manipal Institute of Virology (MIV), MAHE, India
- **Dr. Marielton dos Passos Cunha**, Ph.D., Professor (MS-3.1 level) of Bioinformatics with an emphasis on Microbiology at the Department of Genetics, Evolution, Microbiology, and Immunology at the Institute of Biology (IB) at the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP) (formerly Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil)
- **Dr. Michael Brighi Yakass**, Ph.D., Clinical Embryologist, Lister Hospital & Fertility Centre, Ghana

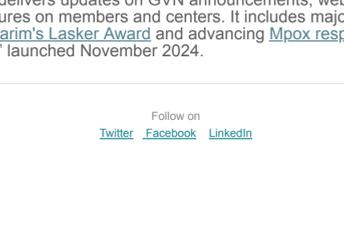
[GVN Short Course in Translational Virology](#): The 2024 GVN Short Course in Translational Virology set new records, offering an expanded two-week program with experts from the Institute of Human Virology, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the United States Department of Defense, the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), among other prestigious institutions. Participants benefited from enhanced learning opportunities, including lab tours and interactive sessions, fostering meaningful relationships, debate, and potential collaborations. Stay tuned for more information on the 2025 Short Course.



Participants of the 2024 GVN Short Course in Translational Virology

Advocacy, Communications, and Public Education

The GVN advises on viral threats, promotes research and training, and shares information globally. Its initiatives include workshops, webinars, congressional testimony and government briefings, and publications, fostering informed public discourse and uniting the scientific community to address global viral challenges collaboratively.



[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.

[Forefront of Virology: GVN-USF Online Seminars](#): A webinar series for virology related knowledge sharing, featuring expert virologists from GVN Centers of Excellence around the world. In 2024: 12 seminars.

[H5N1 Influenza Ad Hoc Panels](#): The Global Virus Network (GVN) hosted a series of panels on the H5N1 influenza virus in 2024, gathering global experts to discuss its implications for public health and strategies for prevention and response. Topics included improving diagnostics, tackling virus genetic variability, enhancing biosecurity, and the role of vaccination. The discussions also focused on pandemic preparedness, misinformation challenges, and bolstering global health security through innovative research collaborations



[GVN Monthly Newsletter](#) delivers updates on GVN announcements, webinars, and scientific highlights, along with features on members and centers. It includes major statements, such as celebrating [Drs. Abdool Karim's Lasker Award](#) and advancing [Mpxv responses](#), plus the [Grants and Publications Bulletin](#), launched November 2024.

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Our mailing address is:
12901 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
MDC02
Tampa, FL 33612
U.S.A