



End of Year Report 2025

Dear Global Virus Network Partners,

As we begin 2026, the Global Virus Network (GVN) is pleased to provide you with an overview of what has been accomplished in the past year. As our End of Year Report illustrates, the GVN made meaningful progress in 2025 to strengthen global pandemic preparedness through continued advancement across Education & Training, Research, and Global Health Strategies & Solutions.

The GVN expanded training and mentorship programs, advanced high-impact research collaborations across our Centers of Excellence and Action Committees, and convened global experts through regional scientific meetings and the Forefront of Virology Webinar Series. Together, these efforts reinforced GVN's role in translating virology research into practical preparedness and response.

We look ahead to 2026 with continued momentum and hope you will join us at [GVN's Annual International Scientific Meeting in Tampa, Florida from March 4-6](#), as we convene global leaders to advance collaboration and readiness for future viral threats.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we work together to strengthen pandemic preparedness.

Sincerely,

Matthew L. Evins
Matthew L. Evins
 Chief Executive Officer
 Global Virus Network

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

Foundational Cornerstones



GVN's Recently Updated Foundational Cornerstones

Exploring more: To learn more about any program or initiative, click the **green section titles** throughout this brief to visit the relevant page on the GVN website.

Key Initiatives for 2026

At the December Board meeting, GVN CEO Matthew Evins and CMO Dr. Sten Vermund presented a set of key initiatives that will guide the organization's work in 2026, including the following:

- Virus Outbreak Threat Surveillance System (VOTSS):** Real-time, AI-enabled early warning system for emerging viral threats.
- GVN Expertise Dashboard:** Interactive global map of virology expertise and laboratory capacity.
- Viral Threat Assessment & Classification System (VTACS):** Standardized, tiered framework for infectious disease risk classification.
- GVN / Tampa General Hospital Respiratory Pandemic Playbook:** Evidence-based hospital preparedness framework for respiratory pandemics.
- Hospital Virology Center of Excellence Designation:** Global designation recognizing excellence in clinical virology and pandemic preparedness.
- 2026 Annual International Scientific Meeting, "Pandemic Preparedness?":** Convening global leaders to advance collaboration and preparedness for future viral threats.

Foundational Cornerstone I: Education & Training

Educational & Training Grants

These grants advanced GVN's mission to strengthen global health security through virology research, mentorship, and pandemic preparedness. In 2025, affiliated graduate and postdoctoral researchers applied for up to [\\$20,000 in funding](#) to train at GVN sites. Awardees will be announced in early 2026.

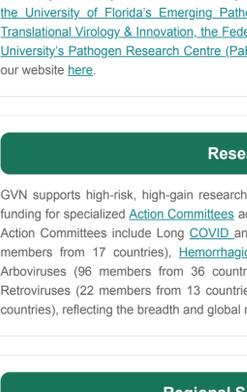
Rising Star Mentorship Program

This two-year program provided personalized mentorship, professional development, site visits, and networking opportunities to support early-career virologists. As of 2025, [the program](#) has supported [20 mentees from 10 countries](#), fostering a diverse global pipeline of scientific leadership. Participants received seed funding of up to \$10,000, with additional funding available to support independent research projects.



2025 Rising Star Mentees

Global Guardian for Pandemic Preparedness High School Program



This first-of-its-kind, interactive [Program](#) took place from July 23–25, 2025 and sparked youth interest in virology, pandemics, and global health. Hosted at the GVN International Headquarters at the University of South Florida, [the Program welcomed 14 high school students](#) (grades 9–12) from the Tampa region for hands-on learning experiences.

Global Guardians Inaugural Program learning about CareComm system at TGH

Short Course in Translational Virology

This intensive 8-day course (December 3–12, 2025) delivered foundational and applied virology training led by global experts. This [program](#) has trained 100+ participants from over 20 countries since its launch. In 2025, the course was held for the first time at GVN's new Global Headquarters in Tampa, Florida, in a hybrid format with 15 in-person and 25 virtual participants from 25 countries, and featured new components including a pandemic preparedness simulation, AI-focused lectures, laboratory and public health site visits, and a tour of Tampa General Hospital's Care Coordination Center, among others.



USF Health Institute for Translational Virology and Innovation (ITVI) tour during the 2025 Short Course

Alumni Support

GVN supports more than 150 certified alumni worldwide through mentorship, career development, and collaborative research opportunities. For the [2026 Annual International Scientific Meeting](#), travel awards will be provided to up to 10 alumni with competitively selected abstracts, prioritizing early-career investigators and participants from low- and middle-income countries.

Virology Internship Program

Launched in 2024 in partnership with the University of South Florida (USF), the [GVN Virology Internship](#) provides hands-on exposure to virology research and public health practice for MPH students exploring careers in global health and infectious disease. To date, the program has supported four interns, building early-career pathways into virology and pandemic preparedness. In 2025, former GVN intern Danielle DeNofrio (August 2024–April 2025) joined the organization full time as Junior Content Specialist after completing her Master of Public Health at the University of South Florida.



GVN's Current Interns

GVN's Junior Content Specialist

Foundational Cornerstone II: Research

Center of Excellence & Affiliate Support and Evaluation

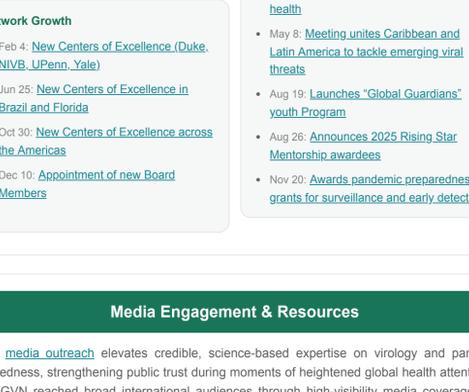
GVN's [Centers of Excellence \(COE\) and Affiliate](#) Support and Evaluation Program strengthens global capacity in virology by enhancing laboratory infrastructure, biosafety practices, and workforce training through regular evaluations and targeted institutional support. In 2025, GVN expanded its network with new COEs and Affiliate institutions across the U.S., Latin America, and Canada. New institutions to the network include: [Duke University School of Medicine](#), [the National Institute of Virology and Bacteriology \(NIVB\)](#), [the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania](#), [Yale University](#), [the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais \(UFMG\)](#), [the University of Florida's Emerging Pathogens Institute \(EPI\)](#), [the USF Health Institute for Translational Virology & Innovation](#), [the Federal University of São Paulo \(UNIFESP\)](#), and [Western University's Pathogen Research Centre \(PaRC\)](#). View the updated Centers and Affiliates map on our website [here](#).

Research Grants

GVN supports high-risk, high-gain research projects across its global network through targeted funding for specialized [Action Committees](#) addressing urgent and emerging viral threats. In 2025, Action Committees include Long [COVID](#) and other [Infectious-Associated Chronic Conditions](#) (44 members from 17 countries), [Hemorrhagic Fever Viruses](#) (55 members from 18 countries), [Arboviruses](#) (96 members from 36 countries), [Poxviruses](#) (66 members from 19 countries), [Retroviruses](#) (22 members from 13 countries), and [Respiratory Viruses](#) (128 members from 36 countries), reflecting the breadth and global reach of GVN's collaborative research efforts.

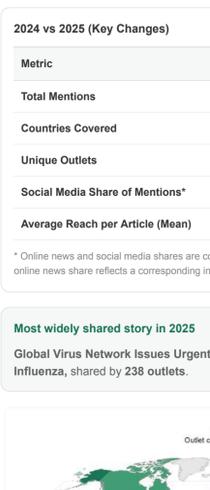
Regional Scientific Meetings

In 2025, GVN held its first in-person [Regional Scientific Meeting in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (May 1–2, Kingston, Jamaica), co-hosted by the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, and the Kingston at Balford. The meeting convened participants from 13 countries, including representatives from five GVN Centers of Excellence and Affiliates, to address regional priorities such as arboviruses, One Health, pediatric infections, and climate-driven viral threats, with strong hybrid participation and growing attendance across both days.



Participants of the GVN Regional Meeting: Caribbean and Latin America held in Kingston, Jamaica May 1-2, 2025.

Annual International Scientific Meetings



International Science Innovation Week 2026
 "Driving Innovation in Pandemic Preparedness, Virology, and Cancer Research"

REGISTER NOW!

TAMPA, FLORIDA, USA
 March 2-6, 2026

GVN | USF Health | CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

In 2025, GVN advanced planning and development for its 2026 Annual International Scientific Meeting, ["Pandemic Preparedness?"](#) in coordination with USF Health and the Tampa General Hospital Cancer Institute. This work laid the foundation for convening global leaders in virology, pandemic preparedness, and public health in March 2026.

[Register for the Upcoming Meeting](#)

[View the Meeting Program](#)

Forefront of Virology Webinars

In 2025, GVN hosted 11 global [Forefront of Virology webinars](#) featuring expert speakers from across its international network. Topics included Mpox and pandemic preparedness, HIV and tuberculosis implementation science, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF), antibiotic resistance and bacteriophage therapies, viral entry and immune evasion, organoid- and genetics-based approaches to life-threatening viral disease, global vaccine impact, arboviruses, public health translation of viral discovery, and virology-cancer research interactions. Select 2025 webinars began offering Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits, expanding professional education opportunities for clinicians and public health practitioners. All sessions featured expert-led presentations with live Q&A, and recordings are available on the GVN website. Webinars are free and open to the public.



Webinar Speakers of 2025

[Register for the Upcoming Webinar](#)

Foundational Cornerstone III: Global Health Strategies & Solutions

Coalition & Collaboration Grant

GVN's [Coalition & Collaboration Grant](#) supports partnership-building in virology research infrastructure by funding seed-grant projects that strengthen global health security and pandemic preparedness. Launched in 2025, the program funds the development of new tools and methods to monitor, detect, and respond to emerging viral threats, with an emphasis on novel surveillance systems and rapid response strategies to enhance pandemic resilience. The inaugural funding round selected [nine awardees across eight countries](#).

GVN Intranet

The [GVN Intranet](#) is a secure platform for Global Virus Network members to connect, collaborate, and share expertise. Designed to foster global collaboration, it supports GVN's mission to combat viral threats.

[Visit](#)

GVN Intranet Login

Website Refresh & Update

In 2025, [GVN redesigned our website](#) to better reflect our mission and Foundational Cornerstones, and to make it easier to find programs, network information, news, and resources. The updated site features clearer navigation, improved mobile performance, and enhanced accessibility. Visit the new site to explore updates, including a strengthened News & Events hub and a more standardized Centers directory and map.

OUR MISSION
 To ensure and facilitate global pandemic preparedness for viral diseases that pose a threat to public health.

[LEARN MORE](#)

What's new

- Redesigned navigation organized around Programs, Centers of Excellence & Affiliates, Education, News & Events, and Pandemic Preparedness.
- Updated Centers directory & map with improved search and standardized profiles.
- News & Events hub highlighting statements, briefings, and meetings.
- Resource pages consolidating guidance, toolkits, and educational materials.
- Mobile-first design, faster load times, and improved accessibility.

How you can help: Please provide any feedback or recommendations and report any issues to communications@gvn.org.

[Explore the New Site](#)

Scientific Leadership Committee (SLC)

In 2025, GVN strengthened scientific governance through the Scientific Leadership Committee (SLC), chaired by GVN Co-founder and International Scientific Director Dr. Robert Gallo. The SLC helps coordinate, guide, and prioritize scientific programs, initiatives, and content and initiatives across the network, supporting consistent standards, scientific excellence, and program relevance and impact. View the new members [here](#).

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. Highlights include:

- 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.
- Navigating Virology's Frontiers in Africa: Global Virus Network 2025 Durban Meeting (April 2025):** GVN experts co-authored a *Viruses* report from the Durban meeting, highlighting Africa's role in virology.

Thought Leadership

Throughout 2025, GVN elevated [evidence-based expertise](#) through timely statements, calls to action, and scientific guidance, helping inform public dialogue and strengthen global preparedness for emerging viral threats.

Preparedness & Partnerships

- Apr 30: [Strengthening global pandemic preparedness: investment and action](#)
- May 21: [Statement supporting the WHO Pandemic Preparedness Accord](#)

Public Health Updates

- Mar 24: [Statement on measles rise in the U.S. and global implications](#)
- Jun 5: [Guidance on COVID-19 variant NB.1.8.1 and vaccine protection](#)
- Jul 16: [Statement on the rapidly escalating measles crisis](#)
- Aug 11: [Reaffirms support for mRNA vaccines and collaborative vaccine research](#)
- Nov 26: [Statement on the Marburg virus outbreak in Ethiopia](#)

Emerging Threats

- Apr 24: [Call to action on the rising threat of H5N1 avian influenza](#)
- Sep 25: [Multi-country mpox diagnostic evaluation to close preparedness gaps](#)
- Nov 20: [Experts: new flu strain underscores urgency for vigilance and investment](#)

Programs

- Mar 5: [Experts convene in Tampa on microbiomes and biodiversity for global health](#)
- May 8: [Meeting unites Caribbean and Latin America to tackle emerging viral threats](#)
- Aug 19: [Launches "Global Guardians" youth Program](#)
- Aug 26: [Announces 2025 Rising Star Mentorship awardees](#)
- Nov 20: [Awards pandemic preparedness grants for surveillance and early detection](#)

Network Growth

- Feb 4: [New Centers of Excellence \(Duke, NIVB, UPenn, Yale\)](#)
- Jun 25: [New Centers of Excellence in Brazil and Florida](#)
- Oct 30: [New Centers of Excellence across the Americas](#)
- Dec 10: [Appointment of new Board Members](#)

Media Engagement & Resources

GVN's [media outreach](#) elevates credible, science-based expertise on virology and pandemic preparedness, strengthening public trust during moments of heightened global health attention. In 2025, GVN reached broad international audiences through high-visibility media coverage, with sustained attention across major news outlets and digital platforms worldwide.

[View Full Report](#)

MEDIA MENTIONS	GLOBAL FOOTPRINT	AUDIENCE REACH
7,871 Total media mentions across 2025	72 Countries generating coverage	1.7M Avg Average reach per article in 2025

2024 vs 2025 (Key Changes)

Metric	2024	2025	YoY Change	YoY %
Total Mentions	4,142	7,871	+3,729 ↑	+90% ↑
Countries Covered	61	72	+11 ↑	+18% ↑
Unique Outlets	1,211	1,594	+383 ↑	+31.6% ↑
Social Media Share of Mentions*	1.4%	16.7%	+15.3 % ↑	
Average Reach per Article (Mean)	615,762	1,722,990	+1,107,228 ↑	+179.8% ↑

* Online news and social media shares are complementary and together sum to 100% of mentions. A decrease in online news share reflects a corresponding increase in social media share (a distribution shift).

Most widely shared story in 2025
 Global Virus Network Issues Urgent Call to Action to Mitigate the Rising Threat of H5N1 Avian Influenza, shared by 238 outlets.

