



GLOHRA 2025 Annual Report

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Foreword

A Foreword from the Speaker Trio

This year marked the first year of our second funding phase. We remained committed to developing new activities, while more members than ever were able to connect and participate in research projects, workshops, and events. At the same time, this period allowed us to consolidate existing structures and build on the experience gained during GLOHRA's first five years.

Last year, we wrote about the importance of global health and the need to stand behind the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing that contemporary challenges require shared solutions. We continue to stand by this view and see its relevance reflected in our own work as researchers. Engagement in this diverse and interdisciplinary community has strengthened our work and broadened our understanding of important research questions. It has also enhanced our overall perspective, enabling more innovative and novel research approaches. At a time when geopolitical developments increasingly encourage inward-looking approaches, we are proud of a network that continues to look outward, focus on interdisciplinarity and collaboration, and embrace a future-oriented perspective.

This sense of purpose was particularly tangible at this year's GLOHRA Day, where we heard from five project teams nominated for the first-ever GLOHRA Prize for Global Health Research. Without exception, the presentations made a compelling case for the relevance of GLOHRA's work for individuals and communities worldwide as well as scientific progress and global health. GLOHRA-funded projects are now running in a steady stream – the first project was completed in 2022, and more than 20 additional projects have since concluded – and the regular scientific publications and contributions to policy and practice offer concrete examples of why global health research matters. A strong testament to the traction of these projects is that they have already catalyzed follow-up funding that exceeds the initial GLOHRA support.

The past year also saw a clear increase in policy engagement, with multiple policy-focused events and training formats. These activities contributed to a growing number of political statements in support of strengthened global health policy, and we are encouraged by the direction in which sustained engagement may lead.

For example, researchers are empowered to articulate the relevance of global health action to local representatives active at the national and EU levels, informing parliamentary discussions and agenda-setting processes. In parallel, we made a concerted effort to listen closely to member needs. In response to stated interest in European funding schemes, we offered grant workshops and additional coaching to support members navigating EU applications.

Engagement within the Early Career Researcher community has been particularly strong. This year, GLOHRA launched its catalogue of competencies to support curricula and program development for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers and expanded the training repository, making it easier to find relevant courses and training opportunities across Germany. Building on this momentum, an Early Career Symposium will take place for the first time following GLOHRA Day in 2026.

There is much to be proud of, and much still to develop. GLOHRA will continue to invest in the conditions that enable exchange, partnership, and shared learning across global health research.

Prof. Dr. Kerem Böge

Prof. Dr. Manuela De Allegri

PD Dr. Meral Esen

At a Glance

“ It is my sincere hope that the German Alliance for Global Health Research will be a powerful voice for and a key enabler of the type of global health movement we would all like to be part of. ”



Prof. Dr. Ntobeko Ntusi
South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC)



Prof. Dr. Veronika von Messling
Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR)

“ The system we had is gone – and it’s not coming back. Now is the time for honest evaluation and for building a system that truly fits into the future. ”



Dr. Michael Makanga
Global Health EDCTP3

“ We’ve learned that resilience in research is about more than money and infrastructure. It is about trust. It’s about networks. It’s about partnerships and it’s about a shared purpose. ”

10 Highlights from the Past Six Years

1 Attracted more than **1400 members** affiliated with over **250 research** institutions. All member profiles are listed in the [Global Health Research Directory](#)

2 Supported more than **37 research projects** in **23 countries** with about €6.3mil from the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) and about €570,000 from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

3 Enabled **expansive cooperation in research projects** – connecting nearly 300 team members across **120+ institutes** in Germany and abroad

4 Reached 10,000+ participants in GLOHRA events, with **95% likely to recommend the event to a fellow global health researcher**

5 Hosted more than **50 Global Health Academy events** involving 2800 participants

6 Developed a **strong social media presence** with 14,000+ LinkedIn followers and 70,000+ views across 70+ YouTube videos

7 Convened **policy events on the importance of global health research** in Berlin and at the German Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels

8 Held three elections for the **interdisciplinary, gender-balanced 19-member Steering Committee**

9 Created and contributed to more than 10 statements and position papers **shaping global health policy dialogue**

10 **Launched the GLOHRA Prize for Global Health Research**, recognizing two outstanding teams annually with €5,000 each and strengthening visibility for impactful, collaborative global health science and partnerships

GLOHRA

About Us

- The German Alliance for Global Health Research (GLOHRA) is an association of researchers from public research institutions in Germany.
- GLOHRA was launched in February 2020 with funding and support from the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR).
- Our community embraces representatives from all research areas relevant for global health i.e., biomedical sciences, social sciences and humanities, public health, and engineering and other sciences.



Our Structure



Objectives

Build an interdisciplinary global health research community in Germany

Our community of researchers is committed to improving global health through research. This notion unites our members, who hail from diverse disciplines and institutions and collaborate with partners in and outside of Germany. Our ever-expanding Global Health Research Directory offers a unique resource for finding and connecting researchers based on specialty, while our scientific events and workshops provide a space for substantive exchange on topics relevant for global health research. Together, we foster shared perspectives that strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration in global health research.

Support the next generation of global health researchers in Germany

With the GLOHRA Academy, we seek to prepare early career researchers with the competencies, information and training they need to address global health challenges. We have supported the development of a repository of training offers and a catalogue of competencies to make it easier for researchers to identify educational and other opportunities. Our funding for global health postdoc fellowships is specifically designed to support early career researchers.

Boost the German contribution to global health research

GLOHRA actively supports global health research with funding for interdisciplinary, cross-sector and global health postdoc fellowship projects. Research proposals are evaluated by our elected Steering Committee for their novelty, feasibility and impact-potential. By testing new models of cooperation, we seek to develop new links between disciplines and communities within Germany and internationally. Our activities and events further support better research for pressing health challenges.

Enhance cross-sector research collaboration in global health

GLOHRA acknowledges that research must ultimately be translated into policy and practice to have an impact. In addition to encouraging this collaboration in our cross-sector projects, our events and engagements prioritize exchange involving civil society, policymaker and industry perspectives. Through policy events, statements and position papers, GLOHRA facilitates exchange between the research community and policy actors at national, European and international levels. We bring research perspectives into policy discussions and help strengthen dialogue around the importance of global health research.



Have a look at this video for a succinct overview of our aims and approach

Core funding

Supported by

Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

GLOHRA is supported by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) with more than three million euros in funding from 2020 to 2025, alongside additional funding for selected research projects conducted by GLOHRA members and their partners. Since February 2025, GLOHRA has entered its second funding phase, covering the period from 2025 to 2030.

Supplementary funding

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

From 2022 to 2023, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) supported additional measures to strengthen collaboration with partners in low- and middle-income countries.

Gates Foundation

The Gates Foundation is supporting GLOHRA with additional funds to enhance policy engagement and strengthen competencies of our Steering Committee.

Background

Supporting Germany's Mission to Improve Global Health

GLOHRA is part of a growing global health ecosystem in Germany. Over the past decade, global health strategy and action has steadily gained momentum in Germany as it becomes increasingly clear that the global community must do more to ensure health for all.

GLOHRA is one piece of this larger mission, with an explicit focus on strengthening and expanding global health research. By uniting the research community in Germany under a common cause of a healthier world, GLOHRA holds great potential to develop evidence and tools to tackle today's global health challenges.



Global Health Strategy of the German Federal Government, October 2020

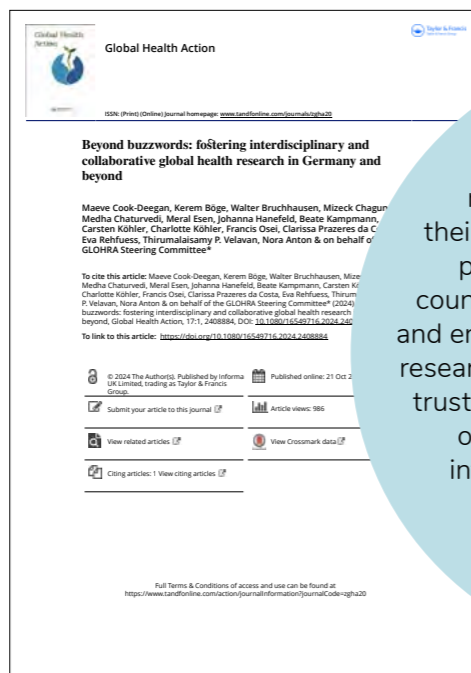
The 2030 Agenda requires a holistic and cross-sectoral approach to implementation. Interdisciplinary cooperation and research are needed to create a robust foundation that will allow us to identify priorities and avoid negative interactions.

Global Health Strategy of the German Federal Government, p. 8

Building Bridges to Connect Researchers

Global health research is being carried out at numerous universities and research institutions across Germany. GLOHRA offers a platform for researchers to step beyond the confines of their institution or specialty to connect with one another in their attempt to better understand and solve global health challenges.

Acting as a bridge to link and support our members, we hope that these connections will not only lead to more awareness about global health activities and research, but also strengthen Germany's contribution to this field, for researchers both today and tomorrow.



This article suggests pathways for empowering researchers to operate beyond their disciplinary silos and strengthen partnerships across sectors and countries. The authors identify barriers and enablers of operations from a nascent research network in Germany [GLOHRA], trusting that this experience can inform other initiatives seeking to stoke interdisciplinary and collaborative global health research.

Cook-Deegan et al., p. 1

Cook-Deegan M, Böge K, Bruchhausen W, Chagunda M, Chaturvedi M ... & Anton N. 2024. Beyond buzzwords: fostering interdisciplinary and collaborative global health research in Germany and beyond. *Global Health Action*. doi: [10.1080/16549716.2024.2408884](https://doi.org/10.1080/16549716.2024.2408884)

Values



Find more about our values here



Milestones

GLOHRA is established as a BMFTR-supported initiative for interdisciplinary, international and cross-sector global health research
See p. 8

First GLOHRA supported projects begin
See p. 18

Launch of the **Academy Training Certificate** for doctoral students and postdocs from all disciplines
See p. 41



Launch of **call for proposals for (co-)funding by BMZ** to strengthen cooperation between GLOHRA members and their partners in LMICs

GLOHRA hosts its first **parliamentary event** at the German Bundestag to support research on global health

Global Health Academy launches the **Catalogue of Competencies** for researchers in global health at the doctoral and postdoctoral level
See p. 41



GLOHRA members receive targeted support for EU grant proposals through workshops and proposal coaching
See p. 36



GLOHRA hosts sessions in two prestigious international conferences: **The European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH)** and the **World Health Summit**
See p. 43



2020 February March 2021 April May 2022 June 2023 January 2024 May June 2025 January February March April May June July August Sept. October Nov. December

The **Global Health Academy** launches
See p. 40

The General Assembly elects the **2024–2026 Steering Committee**
See p. 16

GLOHRA reaches 1000 members
See p. 13



GLOHRA celebrates five years and **enters its next five-year funding phase**, supported by the BMFTR

200+ people attend GLOHRA Day in Berlin, where the **first ever GLOHRA Prize for Global Health Research** is awarded
See p. 23



GLOHRA presents statement in support of interdisciplinary and collaborative global health research in the **German Bundestag**
See p. 38



GLOHRA Steering Committee goes on a **fact-finding mission to Brussels** to explore avenues to strengthen global health research in the EU
See p. 39

GLOHRA launches the first **Directory of Global Health Researchers** in Germany:
researchdirectory.globalhealth.de

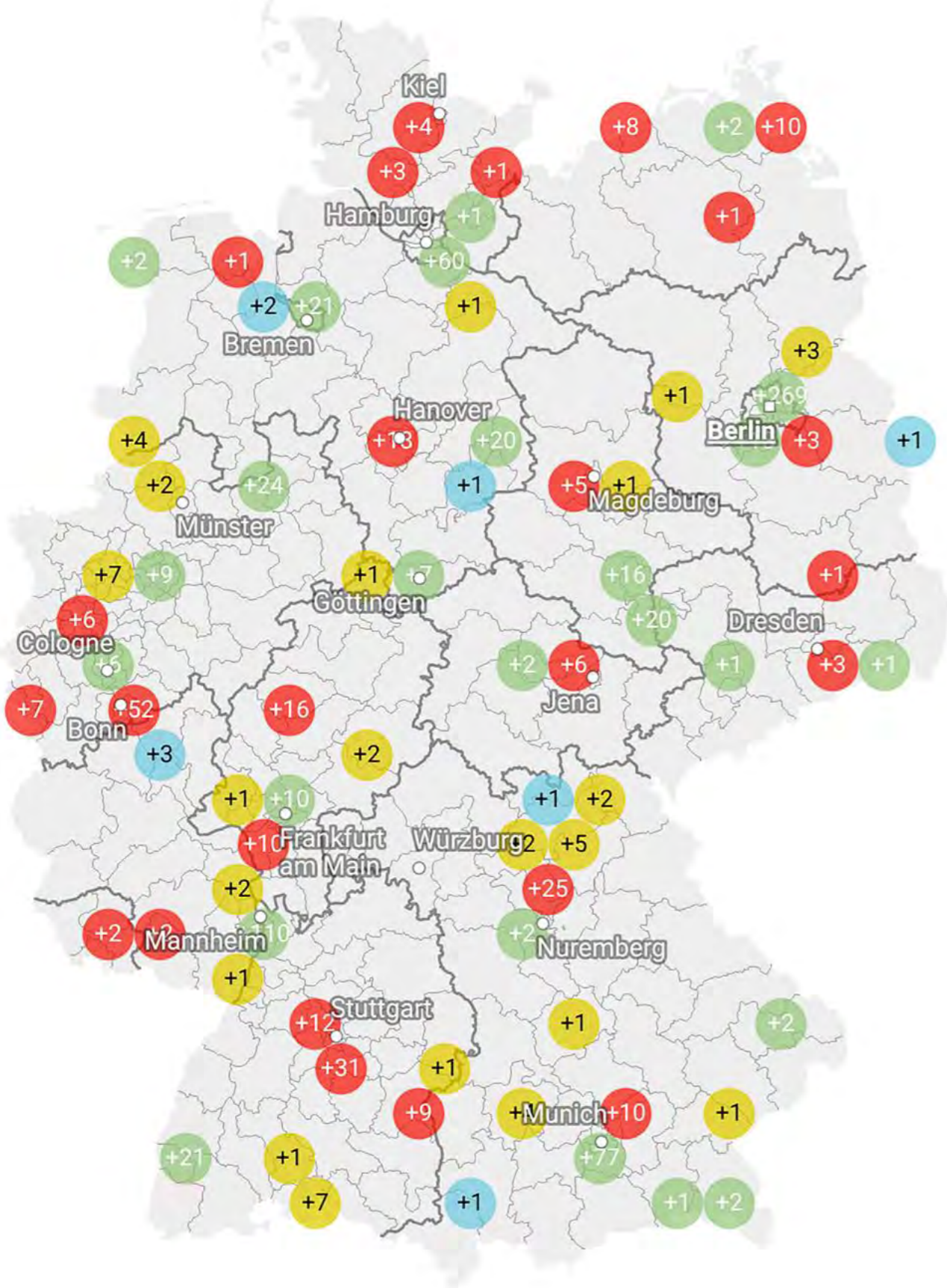


GLOHRA undergoes an external evaluation, which confirms its success in enhancing the German research landscape for global health researchers



GLOHRA Member Map

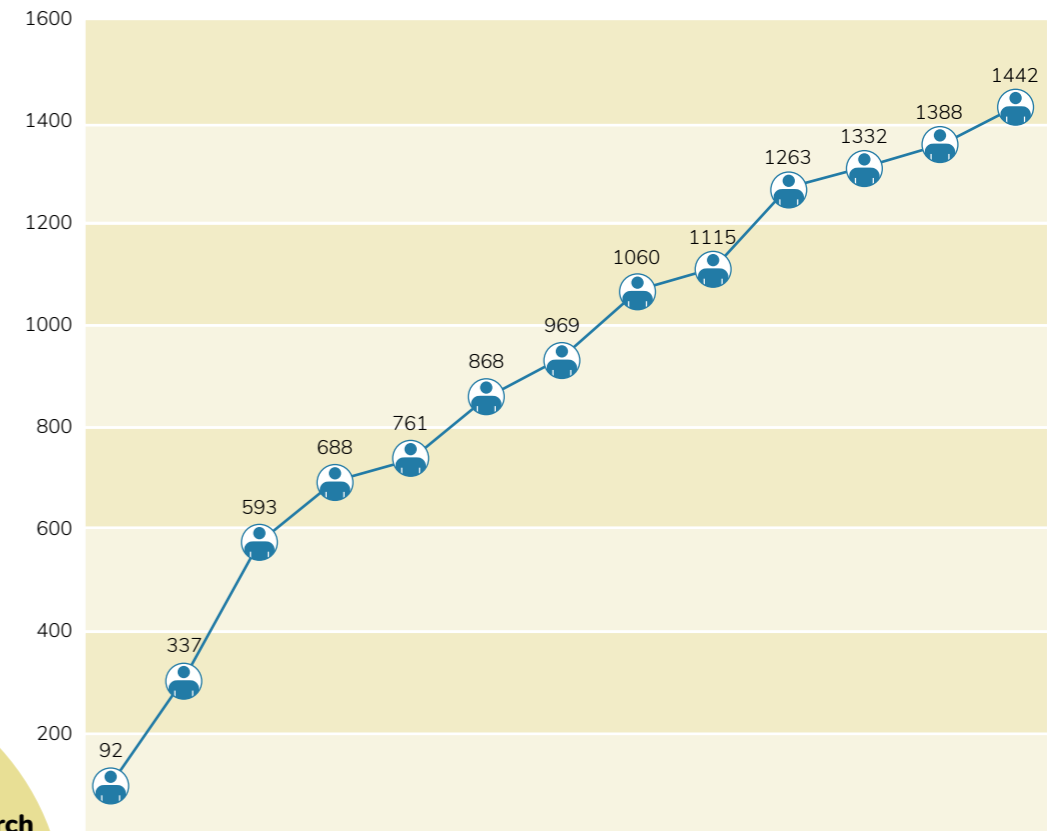
1400+ members



Members

Since our inception, GLOHRA membership has expanded rapidly to include **more than 1400 members from more than 250 research institutions.**

This community includes global health researchers representing specialties across the spectrum, from anthropology to ophthalmology, microbiology and beyond.



Our membership is open to researchers who are

- affiliated with public research institutions in Germany, and
- demonstrably active in research relevant for global health.

We offer associate membership to individuals who only partially fulfill these criteria.

January 2020, July 2020, January 2021, July 2021, January 2022, July 2022, January 2023, July 2023, January 2024, July 2024, January 2025, July 2025, January 2026

Expert profiles of our members are added to the Global Health Research Directory, hosted by GLOHRA: researchdirectory.globalhealth.de

This database is searchable by name, institution and research specialty. We intend this as a resource for both academics and non-academics to encourage collaboration and exchange.

Throughout this report, we will introduce you to some GLOHRA members and their research



Prof. Dr. Sabine Dittrich

Professor Global Public Health, Technische Hochschule Deggendorf

Research: Combining her expertise in bioengineering, applied field epidemiology and microbiology, Sabine researches how to best use diagnostic tools for febrile illness and how emerging technologies more broadly can support health interventions. Her research aims to contribute to improved diagnostics, a better understanding of the implementation needs for innovations and so far has had far-reaching implications for diagnostic development and use.

What book do you recommend to our community?

Definitely "Microbe Hunters" by Paul de Kruif! It's an amazing trip back to the early days of infectious disease research. I re-read it whenever I need inspiration.

Sabine is a member of the German Alliance for Global Health Research. See full profile at researchdirectory.globalhealth.de



Network

Institutions of our Members



Institutions of our Members



Institutions of our Associate Members



Steering Committee

Co-Speakers



Prof. Dr. Dr. Kerem Böge
Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin



Prof. Dr. Manuela De Allegri
Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg



PD Dr. Meral Esen
Universitätsklinikum Tübingen

Representatives of Biomedicine



Prof. Dr. Clarissa Prazeres da Costa
Technische Universität München



Dr. Dr. Carsten Köhler
Universitätsklinikum Tübingen



Dr. Ahmed Abd El Wahed
Universität Leipzig

Representatives of Public Health



Dr. Daniela Fusco
Bernhard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin (BNITM)



Prof. Dr. Nikkil Sudharsanan
Technische Universität München



Torben Heinsohn
Helmholtz Zentrum für Infektionsforschung (HZI)

Steering Committee Quick-Stats:

19
members

14
institutions

11
nationalities

2024 – 2026

Representatives of Social Sciences and Humanities



Abed-Nego Oubda
Technische Universität Dresden



PD Dr. Shannon McMahon
Universität Heidelberg



Prof. Dr. Merike Blofield
Universität Hamburg

Representatives of Engineering and Other Sciences



Prof. Dr. Amélia Camarinha Silva
Universität Hohenheim



Prof. Dr. Charlotte Köhler
Europa-Universität Viadrina



Prof. Dr. Frank Klawonn
Ostfalia Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften



Prof. Dr. Shadi Albarqouni
Universitätsklinikum Bonn

Representatives of the Host Institution of the Secretariat & Representative of the Early Career Researchers



Prof. Dr. Beate Kampmann
Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin



Prof. Dr. Walter Bruchhausen
Universitätsklinikum Bonn



Dr. María Camila Ramírez
Medizinische Hochschule Hannover

Strategic Advisors



Prof. Dr. Johanna Hanefeld
Robert Koch-Institut



Prof. Dr. Kayvan Bozorgmehr
Universität Bielefeld



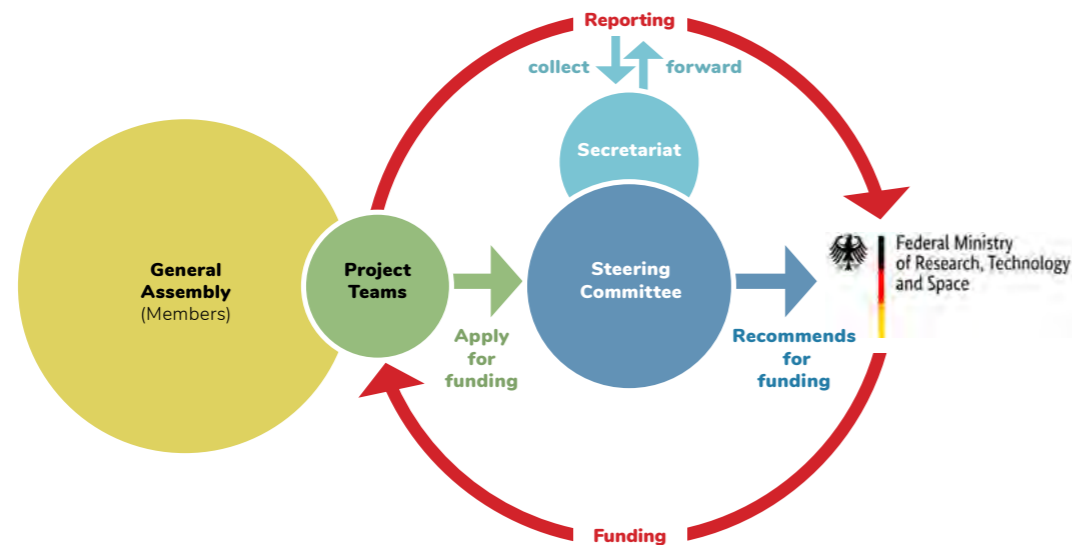
Prof. Dr. Eva Rehfuess
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Projects

GLOHRA Research Projects

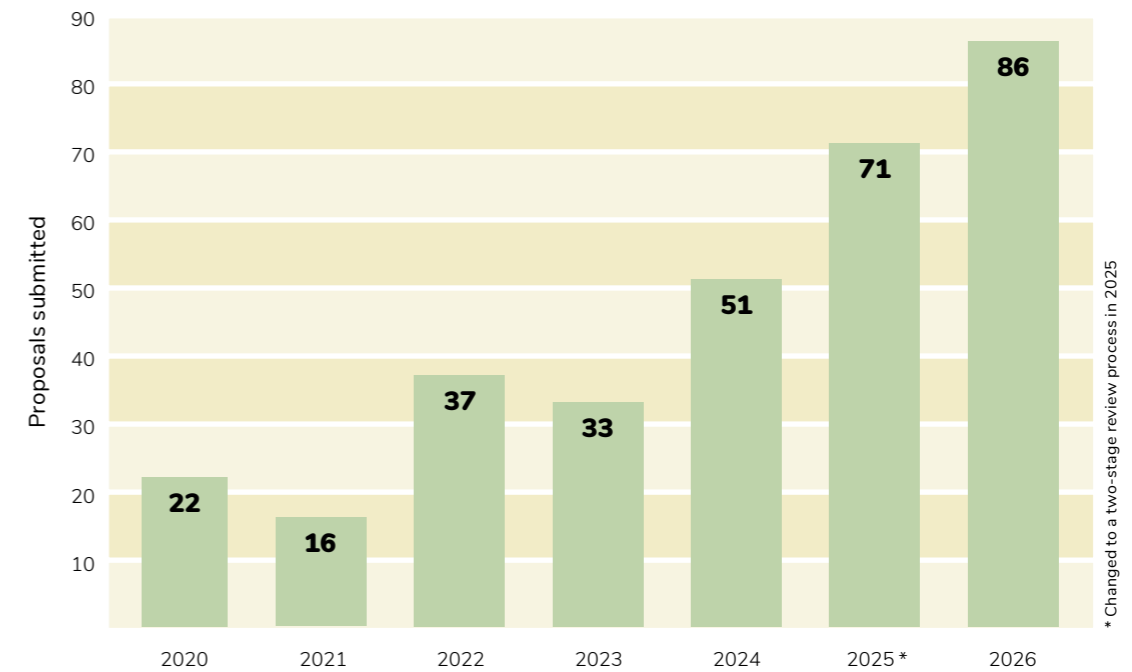
GLOHRA especially intends to support projects that

- address transnational health issues, determinants, and solutions
- contribute to the improvement of health and health equity worldwide
- develop and implement groundbreaking ideas, test new models of cooperation and create new links between disciplines and communities
- are interdisciplinary and link GLOHRA members from different institutions and cities
- link scientific excellence with the domains of capacity building, science-based policy advice, teaching, implementation and/or clinical practice
- promote active, eye-level partnerships with national and international partners, including in low- and middle-income countries



Growing Demand for Research Funding

Proposals submitted per year



Research Projects (2020 – 2025)




GLOHRA

Dr. Dang Thi Anh Thu

Dean of the Public Health Faculty, Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Vietnam

Research: Dr. Thu studies environmental and occupational health risks in Vietnam, with a primary focus on climate-related health impacts. She serves as the local lead of the VIPER-App project, which is developing a mobile tool to improve the prevention and treatment of snakebites in underserved rural communities.

What do you hope to achieve in this project?
I hope to strengthen digital health innovation that empowers rural communities and improves timely access to care – especially for climate-sensitive and neglected health issues like snakebite envenoming.

Dr. Thu is a project partner in the project Viper-App, supported by funds from the BMFTR. Read more at globalhealth.de



CAREMA | Catalyzing the HIV-response in Madagascar, see p. 27

Involving researchers from the following institutions



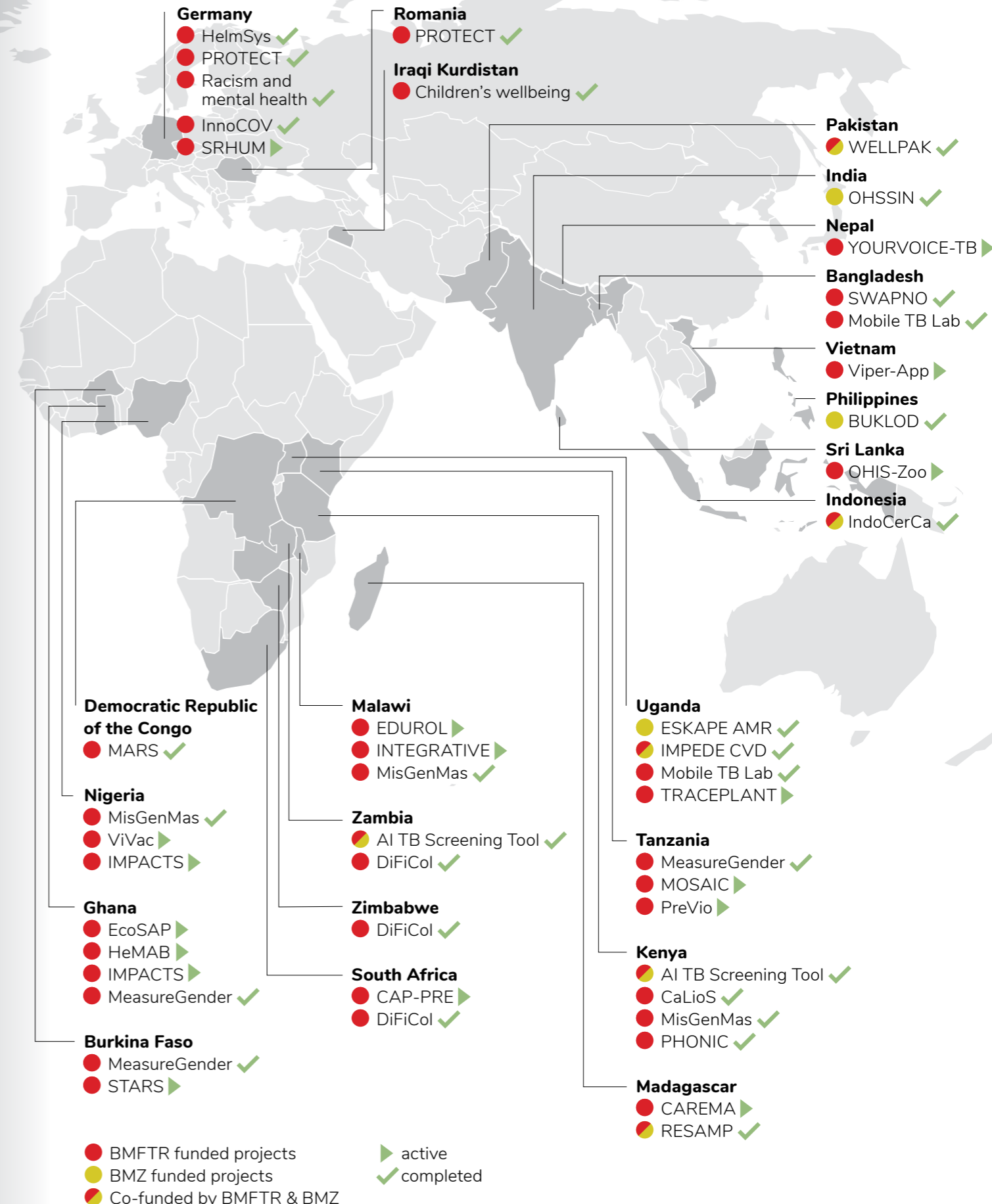
Institutions of project team members



Institutions of international and cross-sector partners



Projects involve partners in the following countries



Ongoing Research Projects

IMPACTS | Investigating motivations, practices, and unintentional consumption of toxic skin-lightening



Interdisciplinary Pilot Project

GLOHRA Team Lead(s):

Dr. Lars Korn, Bernhard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin & Dr. Gbadebo Collins Adeyanju, Universität Erfurt

Other Team Lead(s):

Dr. Matthew Abu Ashikeni & Ms. Hauwau Sadeeq Abubakar, Baze University Abuja; Lena Rüger, Bernhard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin

Planned Duration: November 2025 – October 2026

Skin-lightening is a widespread practice involving products and procedures intended to lighten the natural skin tone. Many of these products contain harmful substances and impair health. As skin-lightening products are largely distributed through market channels, both vendors and potential buyers shape consumption dynamics – yet the literature often overlooks supply-side factors. Unlike most

previous studies that rely principally on self-reported perception and behaviors, IMPACTS go beyond self-report by incorporating a unique market analysis with established public health research to map both supply and demand. Using mixed methods, IMPACTS aims to identify demand-supply motivations and the drivers, regulatory gaps and levers for effective policy interventions and public health campaigns.

OHIS-ZOO | One health integrated surveillance for zoonotic diseases: a case study of leptospirosis in Sri Lanka

Cross-sector project

GLOHRA Team Leads: Prof. Joacim Rocklöv, Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg (UKHD) & Prof. Alex Greenwood, Leibniz Institut für Zoo- und Wildtierforschung (IZW)

Other Team Lead(s): Dr. Thushani Dabrera, Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health Sri Lanka; Dr. Prasad Liyanage (UKHD) & Dr. Marina Treskova Haistha Tissera (Universität Heidelberg)

Planned Duration: November 2025 – October 2027

Aiming to strengthen zoonotic disease prevention, this initiative develops and pilots an integrated One Health, driver-based surveillance and prediction system, using leptospirosis in Sri Lanka as a case study. It comprises four work packages that move from co-designing the system through stakeholder engagement to data modeling, field sampling, and developing a prototype surveillance platform. The project is conducted in close collaboration with the Epidemiology Unit of Sri Lankan Ministry of Health and as a result benefits from data access and contact to local stakeholders. This ensures the surveillance platform can be implemented within existing health structures and fosters coordinated action against zoonotic diseases.

SRHUM | Sexual and reproductive health needs and education among unaccompanied minor refugees in Berlin, Germany

Interdisciplinary Pilot Project

GLOHRA Team Lead(s): PD Dr. Stefanie Theuring, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin & Dr. Olena Ivanova, LMU Klinikum München

Planned Duration: November 2025 – October 2027

Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) rights are a critical concern for children and adolescents fleeing conflict or precarity, who face heightened

vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence yet often encounter barriers to sexuality education. This project brings together clinical medicine, public health, applied social sciences and social work to explore, develop and test a model of SRH education for refugee minors. Building on community connections developed through civil-society partners including FSD-Stiftung, the team aims to establish a new framework for SRH education offering culturally sensitive, trauma-informed strategies adaptable across refugee contexts.

YOURVOICE-TB | A mixed methods, arts-based feasibility project on experiences of TB treatment

Interdisciplinary Pilot Project

GLOHRA Team Leads: Prof. Dr. Melanie Böckmann, Universität Bremen & Dr. Alexandre Pereira Santos, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

International and/or Cross-sector Team Lead(s): Dr. Ghanshyam Gautam & Dr. Sushil Baral, HERD International Nepal

Planned Duration: November 2025 – October 2026

This pilot project examines the lived experience of tuberculosis (TB) treatment using a Nepali case study to better understand the socio-environmental determinants of a “good” treatment for individuals. In Nepal, as in many other countries, a substantial share of individuals with TB do not seek care or complete treatment. To explore why, the team will test whether an arts-based approach combined with participatory GIS (PGIS) is an acceptable and feasible way to gather relevant data on treatment-adherence behavior. Findings can inform care providers on options to address contextual factors when designing care pathways to ensure the best opportunities for treatment adherence.

STARS | From street stalls to safe supply: transforming informal drug markets in low-resource settings

Interdisciplinary Pilot Project

GLOHRA Team Lead(s): Prof. Dr. Renate Hartwig, RWI – Leibniz-Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung, Dr. Eva Lorenz & Dr. Sung-Joon Park, Bernhard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin

International Team Lead: Dr. Fadima Yaya Bocoum, Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé - IRSS Burkina Faso

Planned Duration: October 2025 – September 2026

This project focuses on the informal drug market in urban Burkina Faso, where there is alarming evidence of substandard and counterfeit antibiotics. The team draws on insights from economics, anthropology, epidemiology, biomedicine, and public health to understand the motivations and economic incentives driving informal vendors' participation in the drug market. The project directly engages this hard-to-reach group through interviews and surveys and develops a prototype surveillance system. By collaborating with a local research institute and the Ministry of Health, the team aims to develop scalable and contextually appropriate policy recommendations to strengthen pharmaceutical regulation in Burkina Faso and beyond.

TRACEPLANT | Tracing medical plants' origins with blockchain solutions among unaccompanied minor refugees in Berlin, Germany

Interdisciplinary Pilot Project

GLOHRA Team Leads: Dr. Jan Priebe & Dr. Fabien Schultz, Bernhard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin, Prof. Dr. Leif-Alexander Garbe, Hochschule Neubrandenburg

Planned Duration: October 2025 – September 2026

Traditional medicine remains a vital source of health-care for many communities, but the quality and safety of herbal products are often poorly regulated. This project investigates Uganda's medicinal plant

market to identify ways to improve transparency, traceability, and regulation. Combining expertise in health economics, pharmacology, and information systems, the team is developing a conceptual framework for applying certification strategies and IT solutions to address information gaps on ingredient quality and sourcing. The project includes a scoping study, supply-chain mapping, laboratory analysis, and an IT feasibility assessment, ultimately hoping to improve health outcomes by integrating traditional medicine and healers into modern primary healthcare.

HeMAB | Healthy mamas and babies: implementing and evaluating a heat adaptation strategy for pregnant women in rural northern Ghana



Cross-sector Project

GLOHRA Team Leads: Prof. Dr. Manuela De Allegri, Universität Heidelberg & Prof. Dr. Eva Kantelhardt, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg

Cross-sector Team: Lila Sax dos Santos Gomes, Yarrow Global Consulting

Planned Duration: November 2024 – October 2026

The growing climate crisis amplifies health risks for vulnerable communities, with pregnant women and children experiencing especially profound

impacts. This project addresses this challenge by developing a gender-transformative heat adaptation strategy in Northern Ghana, the country's hottest area. By combining implementation science, multi-stakeholder dialogue, and clinical research, the team aims to mitigate the adverse health consequences of heat exposure for pregnant women and newborns. Impact will be measured through a prospective cluster-randomized trial. This pioneering approach integrates expertise from maternal health, health systems, and natural sciences to develop targeted interventions that can inform future climate adaptation policies.

CAREMA | Catalyzing the HIV-response in Madagascar: a cross-sectoral research initiative and action

Global Health Postdoc Fellowship

GLOHRA Team Lead: Dr. Nadine Muller, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Planned Duration: October 2024 – September 2026

Madagascar faces an escalating HIV epidemic inadequately addressed by current policy and funding. This project bridges research, civil society, and policy sectors to generate comprehensive

insights into HIV transmission risks. By employing a mixed-methods approach, the research systematically assesses HIV prevalence among pregnant women, exploring prevention barriers, and promoting cross-sector solutions through community-based participation. The study aims to generate epidemiological data within a complex setting and transform them into actionable strategies that can directly inform localized health interventions.

EcoSAP | Sandfly-associated pathogens and their vectors in Ghana: ecological dynamics and public health implications

Global Health Postdoc Fellowship

GLOHRA Team Lead: Dr. Eric Agboli, Bernhard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin (BNITM)

Planned Duration: October 2024 – September 2026

Sandflies are known transmitters of parasites and viruses responsible for diseases such as leishmaniasis, sandfly fever, and encephalitis. Yet, research on sandfly-borne phleboviruses remains limited, particularly in West African regions, where leishmaniasis is endemic. This will be the first known systematic investigation of sandfly-associated pathogens in Ghana. It will draw on insights from entomology and virology to screen sandflies for



disease-causing pathogens, while in parallel, public health methods will be used to assess community-level awareness, perceived risk, and disease prevention measures. Findings from this study aim to support evidence-based vector control strategies and reduce disease in affected communities.

MOSAIC | Mosquito excreta for arbovirus investigation and control

Global Health Postdoc Fellowship

GLOHRA Team Lead: Dr. Christin Körsten, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut

International & Cross-Sector Team Leads: Dr. Mandy Schäfer & Prof. Sascha Knauf, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut; Talib Suleiman, Zanzibar Livestock Research Institute

Planned Duration: October 2024 – June 2026

Arboviruses such as Dengue virus or West Nile virus pose a significant global health challenge, spreading quickly between animals and humans. While pilot studies have shown promising results in detecting arboviruses through mosquito excreta collection, the method requires further optimization and validation. This project will systematically develop and validate the method in Tanzania and Germany, integrating expertise from entomology, epidemiology, and virology. The method has the potential to enable rapid and cost-effective surveillance and control of arboviruses and could be used as a proof of concept for use on a larger scale.

Viper-App | Venomous incident prevention, education and response app

Cross-sector project

GLOHRA Team Leads: Dr. Benno Kreuels, Bernhard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin (BNITM) & Dr. Philipp Sprengholz, Universität Bamberg

Cross-sector & International Team Leads: Gerald Henzinger, ThinkModular; Dr. Dang Thi Anh Thu, Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy

Snakebite envenoming is a public health concern that disproportionately affects rural communities in low- and middle-income countries. Digital tools can help

reduce snakebite incidence, mortality, and morbidity by providing access to reliable healthcare advice – but their impact depends on relevance, accessibility, reliability, and usability. The team includes researchers with expertise in epidemiology, snakebite envenoming, implementation and psychology, as well as a digital solution partner. Through extensive stakeholder engagement, they are developing and assessing a user-centric conceptual prototype in Vietnam. The project seeks to support the World Health Organization's goal of reducing snakebite-related deaths and disabilities by 50% by 2030.

CAP-PRE | Counselling for alcohol problems in pregnancy



Cross-sector project

GLOHRA Team Leads: Prof. Dr. Daniela Fuhr, Leibniz-Institut für Präventionsforschung und Epidemiologie – BIPS & Dr. Isabelle Lange, Technische Universität München

Planned Duration: March 2024 – February 2026

South Africa has the highest prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) in the world due to high alcohol consumption among pregnant women in this setting. To address this, the team of experts from public health and implementation science, psychology and anthropology is evaluating

the feasibility and acceptability of a psychological intervention (CAP-PRE) in a pilot randomized control trial using mixed-methods. The team's findings will inform subsequent interventions in South Africa. Applicability of the intervention to the German setting will be explored.



Prof. Dr. Marcel Schweiker

Head of Chair for Healthy Living Spaces,
Uniklinik RWTH Aachen

Research: Marcel's research explores how indoor environments impact human well-being. He integrates insights from architecture, health, and the environmental sciences to understand how people interact with their built environments. His work drives the design of healthier and more adaptive living spaces.

What book do you recommend to our community?
Experimental Design Schemas by Mark DeKay & Gail Grager

Marcel is a member of the German Alliance for Global Health Research. See full profile at researchdirectory.globalhealth.de



EDUROL | Bladder cancer early detection and treatment in Malawi

Cross-sector project

GLOHRA Team Lead(s): PD Dr. Angelika Borkowetz, Technische Universität Dresden, Prof. Dr. Benedikt Heuckmann, Universität Münster & PD Dr. Henning Mothes, Sophien- und Hufeland-Klinikum Weimar

International Team Leads: Dr. Wanangwa Chisenga, Zomba Central Hospital (Malawi), Dr. Florence Le Calvez Kelm, International Agency for Research on Cancer (France), Dr. Jesudian Gnanaraj, Rural Surgery Innovation Pvt. Ltd. (India)

Planned Duration: March 2024 – February 2026

This project aims to test the feasibility and acceptability of a promising urinary biomarker for detecting schistosomiasis-related bladder cancer. To investigate this non-invasive screening method, the team will initiate a case-control study in Malawi. The international research team, in collaboration with an NGO and political stakeholders, further endeavors to launch a health literacy campaign to equip Malawians with the necessary knowledge and skills to adhere to urine-analysis protocols and subsequent treatments. Additional measures seek to extend urology services on the district level. The findings may lead to advancements in the early detection of schistosomiasis-related bladder cancer, offering a pathway to improved health outcomes.



INTEGRATIVE | Diabetes incidence and weight change following dolutegravir transition of ART among PLHIV from an African prospective cohort

Global Health Postdoc Fellowship

GLOHRA Fellow: Dr. Melani Ratih Mahanani, Universität Heidelberg

Planned Duration: March 2024 – February 2026

This project embraces a holistic perspective in its investigation of treatment regimens for HIV, which has associated risks for the development

of non-communicable diseases. Specifically, the project seeks to determine the incidence and determinants of type 2 diabetes mellitus and weight change among people in Malawi living with HIV after transitioning antiretroviral therapy (ART) to dolutegravir. The INTEGRATIVE project will contribute to the assessment of the risk associated with dolutegravir and will provide a basis for program planning of integrated disease prevention and control, especially for resource-limited settings.

Completed Projects

Cross-sector Projects



● PHONIC | Public health operations for climate action — Development of a framework to identify priority operations

Team Leads: Dr. med. Karin Geffert, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München; Dr. Franziska Matthies Wiesler, Helmholtz Zentrum München; Maïke Voss, Deutsche Allianz Klimawandel und Gesundheit (KLUG)

Completed: December 2024

● Mobile TB Lab | Diagnostic algorithm for peripheral lymph node tuberculosis using portable station

Team Leads: Dr. Sophie Schneitler, Universitätsklinikum des Saarlandes; Dr. Ahmed Abd El Wahed, Universität Leipzig; Prof. Dr. Martin Siegel, Technische Universität Berlin

Completed: October 2024

● SWAPNO | Safe Water – Advances in Purification Options

Team Lead: Dr. Amanda Wendt, Potsdam-Institut für Klimafolgenforschung; Dr. Martin Maier, Universität Heidelberg; Dr. Charlotte Stirn, AGAPE e.V.

Completed: June 2024

● AI-TB Screening Tool | Development of a novel, easy-to-use digital tuberculosis screening tool informed by machine learning approaches

GLOHRA Team Lead: PD Dr. Claudia Denking, Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg; Prof. Dr. Lena Maier-Hein, Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum

Completed: May 2024



● IMPEDE-CVD | Human centered design to adapt and inform an integrated chronic disease management program

Team Leads: Prof. Dr. Felix Knauf, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin; Dr. Shannon McMahon-Rössle, Prof. Dr. Dr. Till Bärnighausen, both Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg; Dr. Julius Emmrich, Dr. Samuel Knauss, both mTOMADY gGmbH; Dr. Robert Kalyesubula, Makerere University & ACCESS (Uganda)

Completed: December 2023

● IndoCerCa | Community Cervical Cancer Screening and Prevention in Indonesia

Team Leads: Prof. Dr. Jörg Haier, Medizinische Hochschule Hannover; Prof. Peter Hillemanns, Medizinische Hochschule Hannover; Prof. Ralph Lellé, Universitätsklinikum Münster; Supriyatiningih Wenang, Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta/ PKU Muhammadiyah Gamping Teaching Hospital (Indonesia); Dwi Astuti, Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia)

Completed: December 2023

● WELLPAC | Integration of digital mental health intervention at community level in Pakistan

Team Leads: Prof. Dr. Hajo Zeeband, Dr. Maham Saleem, Leibniz-Institut für Präventionsforschung und Epidemiologie – BIPS; PD Dr. Markus Kösters, Universität Ulm

Completed: July 2023

Interdisciplinary Pilot Projects



● ViVac | Violence, trust, and vaccine hesitancy

GLOHRA Team Leads: Dr. Liliana Abreu, Universität Konstanz & Prof. Dr. Max Schaub, Universität Hamburg and WZB Berlin Social Science Center

International Team Leads: Dr. Musa Muhammad Bello & Dr. Rabi'u Ibrahim Jalo, Bayero University and Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital

Completed: February 2025

● PreVio | School-based prevention of teacher and family violence: A pilot cluster-randomised controlled trial in Tanzania

GLOHRA Team Leads: Prof. Dr. Tobias Hecker, Universität Bielefeld & Prof. Dr. Janina Steinert, Technische Universität München

Completed: February 2025

● PROTECT | Protect migrant healthcare workers: closing a gap in Germany's pandemic preparedness and global health policy

Team Leads: Dr. Ellen Kuhlmann & PD Dr. Alexandra Jablonka, Medizinische Hochschule Hannover; Dr. Frank Müller, Universitätsmedizin Göttingen

Completed: June 2023

● MeasureGender | Measuring gender-based discrimination to better understand maternal mortality

Team Lead: PD. Dr. med. Wilm Quentin, Technische Universität Berlin; Prof. Dr. Manuela De Allegri, Universität Heidelberg

Completed: January 2023



● RESAMP | Reducing schistosomiasis through aquaculture interventions in Madagascar: a pilot study

Team Leads: Dr. Daniela Fusco & Dr. Ralf Krumkamp, Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine; Prof. Amena Almes Ahmad & Juliane Boenecke, Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften Hamburg; Nicolas Jouanard, Université de Fianarantsoa, Madagascar; Prof. Rivo Andry Rokotoarivelo & Dr. Tahinamandranto Rasamoelina, Université d'Antananarivo (Madagascar); Prof. Raphaël Rakotozandrindrainy, Centre d'Infectiologie Charles Mérieux (Madagascar)

Completed: February 2023



● HelmSys | The impact of helminth infections on vaccine outcomes in humans – a systematic literature review

Team Leads: Prof. Dr. Clarissa Prazeres da Costa, Prof. Dr. Stefanie Klug, Technische Universität München; Dr. Meral Esen, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

Completed: January 2023

- BMFTR funded projects
- BMZ funded projects
- Co-funded by BMFTR & BMZ

Completed Projects

Global Health Postdoc Fellowships

● **Children's well-being | The contribution of family dynamics and parental mental health to children's well-being**

GLOHRA Fellow: Dr. Hawkar Ibrahim, Universität Bielefeld

Completed: September 2025



● **MARS | Mosquito-based artemisinin resistance surveillance**

GLOHRA Fellow: Dr. Welmoed van Loon, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin

International Team Lead: Dr. Esto Bahizire, Université Catholique de Bukavu, DR Congo

Completed: June 2025

● **CaLioS | Improving cancer-related health literacy using online stories in sub-Saharan Africa, illustrated by the example of Kenya**

GLOHRA Fellow: Dr. Stefanie Harsch, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

Completed: May 2025

● **InnoCOV | Innovation policies for resilient biomedical R&D systems: lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic innovation response**

GLOHRA Fellow: Dr. Rosa Jahn, Universität Heidelberg

Completed: May 2025

● **MisGenMas | Drivers of Misinformation, Gender Disparity and Masculinity on Vaccination Decision-Making among Caregivers in Sub-Saharan Africa**

GLOHRA Fellow: Dr. Collins G. Adeyanju, Universität Erfurt

Completed: December 2024

● **Racism and mental health | A qualitative study with humanitarian workers**

GLOHRA Fellow: Dr. Hannah Strohmeier, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Completed: December 2024

● **Diarrhea, fiber and colon cancer: Environmental contributions to low colon cancer risk in sub-Saharan Africa**

GLOHRA Fellow: Dr. Sören Ocvirk, Deutsche Institut für Ernährungsforschung Potsdam-Rehbrücke

Completed: September 2023

Partnerships for Research and Training in Health (PATH) Projects



● **ESKAPE AMR | Education and Stewardship to improve Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice towards Antimicrobial Resistance**

GLOHRA Team Lead: Laura Jung, Universität Leipzig & PD Dr. med. Amrei von Braun, Universitätsklinikum Leipzig

International Team Lead: Dr. Darius Owachi & Dr. Charles Kabugo, Kiruddu National Referral Hospital (Kampala, Uganda)

Completed: December 2023



● **OHSSIN | Co-creating One Health workforce through health system strengthening in Western India**

GLOHRA Team Leads: Prof. Dr. med. Walter Bruchhausen & Dr. Timo Falkenberg, Universitätsklinikum Bonn

International Team Leads: Prof. Dr. Deepak Saxena & Dr. Sandul Yasobant, Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar (India)

Completed: December 2023



● **Project Buklod | Bridging the gap, Upgrading the technical Know-hows and Leveraging research Outputs and its Dissemination within the Philippines and Germany**

GLOHRA Team Lead: Dr. Shannon A. McMahon, Universität Heidelberg & Dr. Mark Donald C. Reñosa, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine – Department of Health (Philippines)

Completed: December 2023

- BMFTR funded projects
- BMZ funded projects
- Co-funded by BMFTR & BMZ

Events

Scientific Workshops

28
events hosted
this year

involving approx.
2000
participants

Concepts for Burden of Disease Due to Climate Change

4 – 5 November | Berlin

Robert Koch-Institut (RKI)

Bringing together 35 participants from public health institutes, academia and environmental agencies, the workshop held at the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG) in Berlin explored how Burden of Disease (BoD) methodology can be applied to quantify the health impacts of climate change. International keynote speakers from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Universidade de Lisboa presented approaches to environmental and heat-related BoD estimation, highlighting exposure-response modeling, counterfactual scenarios and cross-country learning. In an interactive Open Innovation Space, participants developed use cases on heat, air quality, floods



and vector-borne diseases, identifying data needs, methodological challenges and inequality dimensions. The discussions showed that quantifying the climate-related health burden in Germany is feasible using existing data, with heat and air quality offering the most immediate entry points.

Creativity for Equity: Innovative Science Communication for Global Health Justice

3 – 14 November | Berlin

Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Over one and a half days, 25 participants from diverse disciplinary and regional backgrounds explored how creative and inclusive communication methods can make global health research more accessible – particularly for marginalized communities. Through hands-on sessions on film, improvisation, dance, storytelling, photography, visual arts and podcasting, the workshop strengthened participants' understanding of science communication and supported the development of their own project ideas.

Experts provided tailored guidance on audience-centered communication, creative formats and funding pathways, complemented by an interactive improv session, a panel discussion and project-focused group work. The workshop highlighted the value of co-creation, experimentation and new perspectives for communicating global health research.



Participants will remain engaged through follow-up surveys and plans for a joint publication on science communication practices in global health.

Advancing Research on Abortion Care: An Interdisciplinary Workshop

20 – 21 November | Berlin



Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Hochschule Merseburg, Hochschule Fulda

Over two days, 43 experts from diverse fields gathered to advance research on abortion care, focusing on interdisciplinary collaboration and addressing the stigma and structural barriers that hinder access to safe services, particularly in countries like Germany. Contributions from participants representing countries such as South Africa, Poland, Bangladesh, and Germany highlighted the global diversity of challenges and approaches in abortion care.

Through a variety of interactive activities, including story circles, patient journey mapping, and focused discussions, participants explored critical research gaps, set priorities for future studies, and shared insights on improving the quality and accessibility of abortion care. The event also facilitated the identification of shared challenges, such as legal restrictions and the influence of cultural stigma on women's health. As a result of the workshop, a new collaborative network was established, committed to continuing the dialogue and advancing evidence-based research in abortion care and reproductive rights worldwide.



Prof. Dr. Frank Neuner

Professor of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy,
Bielefeld University

Research: Frank's research focuses on traumatic stress from war and family violence worldwide. He co-developed Narrative Exposure Therapy, an evidence-based, culturally sensitive treatment for conflict-affected populations. Combining neurobiological, psychological, and developmental perspectives, Frank is dedicated to advancing global mental health for vulnerable groups.

What piece of advice has stuck with you?

A new scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents and making them see the light, but rather because its opponents eventually die, and a new generation grows up that is familiar with it. - Max Planck

Frank is a member of the German Alliance for Global Health Research. See full profile at researchdirectory.globalhealth.de



Hosted Events

GLOHRA screening of the film “Colour” | 5 May | Heidelberg



The film is publicly available



The documentary “Colour” was created by Hannah Strohmeier as part of her GLOHRA Postdoc Fellowship “Racism and Mental Health: A Qualitative Study with Humanitarian Workers.” It was screened to a full cinema in Heidelberg in partnership with the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health and the City’s Office for Equal Opportunities. The film explores colonial continuities within

humanitarian organizations, particularly highlighting the issue of racism in the workplace and its effects on the mental health and well-being of staff. A Q&A with the Dr. Strohmeier followed the screening and brought together GLOHRA members, civil society representatives and international partners.

GLOHRA European Grant Training | 1 & 9 December | Online

To support GLOHRA members interested in applying for EU funding programs, GLOHRA organized two workshops led by a consultancy experienced in global health research funding and grant management. Approximately 40 individuals participated in one of the two offered workshops, which covered

the EU funding landscape, consortium building, proposal structuring, and budgeting. In addition to practical guidance and resources, the participants benefited from interactive exercises and group discussion. Additional individual coaching was offered to participants seeking more personalized feedback.

GLOHRA Day | 6 June | Berlin

The fifth annual symposium, GLOHRA Day 2025, brought together more than 200 participants on site in Berlin and over 50 online for a day of research insights, lively discussions and new connections. The program opened with the General Assembly, including updates from the Secretariat and a live “Meet our Member” interview with Kavita Singh, Mike Mösko and Prakash Ghosh.



Participants then joined the interactive “Ask the Community” session, taking part in thematic roundtables and mini-methods forums. In the afternoon, active GLOHRA-funded projects presented their work during a poster session, followed by pitches from the five nominees for this year’s GLOHRA Prize for Global Health

Research. The day concluded with a keynote by Prof. Ntobeko Ntusi (South African Medical Research Council), who highlighted pathways toward a more inclusive and equitable future for global health.

GLOHRA at the European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH) 2025 | 30 September – 2 October | Hamburg

Interdisciplinary Strategies in NCD Research: Pathways to Prevention and Care

The session brought together researchers from epidemiology, surgery, psychology, implementation science and related fields to present and discuss GLOHRA-supported projects addressing non-communicable diseases across diverse contexts, from South Africa to Iraq. A central takeaway was that interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaboration, though often demanding, leads to more sustainable and context-sensitive outcomes. As Daniela Fuhr remarked, “interdisciplinary research is the backbone of scaling up programs.”

Presentations showcased a wide range of topics, including counselling interventions to reduce fetal alcohol spectrum disorders in South Africa, bladder cancer treatment approaches in Malawi, ART outcomes among people living with HIV, the importance of family dynamics in child mental health, and the role of empowerment in cancer care. Together, the presentations highlighted the strength of interdisciplinary research in addressing complex non-communicable disease challenges.



Chair: Prof. Dr. Clarissa Prazeres da Costa | Technical University Munich
Dr. Ahmed Abd el Wahed | University of Leipzig

Speakers: Prof. Dr. Daniela Fuhr | Leibniz-Institut für Präventionsforschung und Epidemiologie - BIPS
Dr. med. Henning Mothes | Sophien- und Hufeland-Klinikum Weimar
Dr. Melani Ratih Mahanani | Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg
Dr. Hawkar Ibrahim Hussein | Universität Bielefeld
Dr. Stefanie Harsch-Oria | Universität Freiburg

GLOHRA at the World Health Summit 2025 | 12 – 14 October | Berlin

Workshop Session: Future-Proofing Global Health Research in Times of Geopolitical Shifts

The session explored how global health research can remain effective amid geopolitical tensions, shifting priorities and reduced multilateral cooperation. Moderated by Merike Blofield, it brought together experts from government, academia and international partnerships to discuss emerging challenges and opportunities for renewal. Speakers highlighted that despite significant progress, inequitable partnerships, fragmented funding and dependency structures continue to limit impact. They called for critical reflection and new approaches to collaboration. Peter Piot emphasized that crises can create space for positive change, while Veronika von Messling noted the need to build research systems fit for the future. Alice Lakati and Joël Arthur Kiendrébéogo stressed the importance of African leadership and equitable partnerships, and Michael Makanga underscored that resilience depends on trust and long-term collaboration as much as on resources. The session concluded with a call to strengthen global health research ecosystems so they remain connected, inclusive and able to adapt to geopolitical shifts.



See the recording

Chair: Prof. Dr. Merike Blofield
University of Hamburg

Speakers: Prof. Dr. Veronika von Messling
BMFTR
Prof. Dr. Alice Lakati | Amref International University (AMIU)
Dr. Michael Makanga | Global Health EDCTP3
Dr. Joël Arthur Kiendrébéogo | Ministry of Health Burkina Faso
Prof. Dr. Peter Piot | London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

Policy Engagement

In 2025, GLOHRA actively engaged in national and European policy debates. Through targeted policy engagement – including parliamentary events, executive trainings, and dialogue with German and EU institutions – GLOHRA worked to strengthen policy on global health research.

Executive Training Public Affairs | 13 – 14 February & 15 – 16 May | Berlin

Over two days, members of the GLOHRA Steering Committee participated in an intensive public affairs training to strengthen their strategic engagement with policymakers. The training offered insights into the functioning of the German government and explored ways to more effectively contribute to policy processes. The sessions reinforced GLOHRA's commitment to advocating for global health research policy.



Parliamentary Evening on Equitable Access to Global Health Innovation | 5 June | Berlin



Hosted by GLOHRA together with the Berlin Institute of Health (BIH), Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW) and the World Health Summit (WHS), the Parliamentary Evening at the German Bundestag brought together policymakers, researchers and civil society representatives to discuss how Germany can strengthen equitable access to global health innovation.

The debate emphasized the importance of equitable partnerships with low- and middle-income countries and coherent support along the innovation pathway. Participants also noted that many countries still face significant barriers to accessing new treatments and technologies, underscoring the need for sustained political commitment and stronger cross-sector collaboration.

Subcommittee Health German Parliament | 17 December | Berlin

Nora Anton, Managing Director of the GLOHRA Secretariat at Charité, was invited as an expert to the Subcommittee on Health of the German Bundestag. In her statement, she highlighted the strategic importance of global health research for Germany, emphasizing that investments in this field not only save millions of lives but also contribute to sustainable development, innovation, and the strength of Germany's research landscape.

Drawing on concrete examples, she illustrated how international research collaborations drive technological breakthroughs, create economic value, and position Germany as a reliable and trustworthy partner on the global stage. She concluded by calling on policymakers to embed global health across sectors, safeguard existing achievements, and advocate at the European level for ambitious funding and strong international research partnerships.



GLOHRA Steering Committee Trip to Engage with Key EU Organizations | 17 – 20 November | Brussels



A GLOHRA Steering Committee delegation travelled to Brussels to gain insight into how the EU's evolving policy and funding landscape will shape the future of global health research. Over three days of meetings with key EU institutions, funding bodies and partner organizations, the delegation examined emerging priorities for upcoming EU programmes, explored the implications of the proposed European Competitiveness Fund, and identified strategic entry points for strengthening research collaboration and advocacy at the European level. The visit built on GLOHRA's growing policy engagement and provided a clearer sense of where coordinated action from the research community can help influence future programs and support a strong role for global health research.

Breakfast Debate: The Future of Global Health Research in FP10 and the European Competitiveness Fund | 19 November | Brussels

As part of the Brussels trip, GLOHRA and the Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW) hosted a breakfast debate at the German Permanent Representation, bringing together **40 representatives** from EU institutions, research organisations, national ministries and implementing partners. The discussion focused on the evolving political landscape for European health research, the Commission's proposal for the 10th European Union Framework Programme (FP10) and the implications of the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF).

Chairs: Prof. Dr. Manuela De Allegri | Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg, Lisa Goerlitz | DSW

Speakers: Dr. Stefan Mengel | Permanent Representation of Germany to the EU, Dr. Michael Makanga | Global Health EDCTP3, Dr. Timothy Yeung | Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS)



GLOHRA Position Papers

In 2025, GLOHRA contributed to key global health debates with several position papers and joint statements. Together with partner organisations, GLOHRA called on political parties to reaffirm Germany's leadership in global health, strengthen

multilateral cooperation and ensure sustainable financing. A joint appeal also urged the continuation of the Subcommittee on Global Health in the German Bundestag as an essential instrument for coherence, accountability and strategic guidance.



Party Positioning in the 2025 Election Campaign



Joint Call for the Continuation of the Subcommittee on Global Health at the German Bundestag



Strengthening Global Health Research: Less Bureaucracy, More Interdisciplinary Research, and Equitable Partnerships



Statement in Support of GAVI



Closing the Gap: Strengthening German Participation in Global Health Scientific Advisory Committees

Global Health Academy – a GLOHRA initiative to support early career researchers, namely doctoral students and postdocs

Head of the Global Health Academy



Prof. Dr. Walter Bruchhausen
Universitätsklinikum Bonn

Academy coordinators



Dr. Esther Evang
Universitätsklinikum Bonn



Dr. Eva Mertens
Universitätsklinikum Bonn

Academy Advisory Board



Prof. Dr. Kerem Böge
Charité – Universitäts-
medizin Berlin



Torben Heinsohn
Helmholtz Zentrum für
Infektionsforschung (HZI)



Prof. Dr. Eva Kantelhardt
Martin-Luther-Universität
Halle-Wittenberg



Prof. Dr. Frank Klawonn
Ostfalia Hochschule für
angewandte Wissenschaften &
Helmholtz Zentrum für Infektions-
forschung (HZI)



Abend-Nego Oubda
Technische Universität
Dresden



Dr. María Camila Ramírez
Medizinische Hochschule
Hannover



Prof. Dr. Nikkil Sudharsanan
Technische Universität
München



Dr. Maria Alejandra Quiros Ramirez

Researcher & Lecturer, Coburg University of Applied Sciences and Arts

Research: Alejandra is a senior scientist working at the intersection of behavioral science and technology. Their work explores mental health, body image, social biases, and emotion recognition using artificial intelligence, virtual humans, and extended reality tools in culturally and socially aware research.

If you could live two lives what would your non-research career be?

Maybe I would be a theater actor! Like VR, theater helps us to step into new perspectives to life in real time. Actors embody other people's realities and emotions, showing us what it means to be someone else. In another life, I'd still be reaching for the same thing: not just to understand, but to momentarily be someone else.

María is a member of the German Alliance for Global Health Research
See full profile at researchdirectory.globalhealth.de



Global Health Academy Activities

The Global Health Academy is a GLOHRA initiative for early career researchers, particularly doctoral students and postdocs. The Academy supports knowledge exchange, competency development, and networking in the interdisciplinary field of global health research. The Academy organizes research training and networking activities and supports training sessions led by GLOHRA members on a broad range of global health topics. Beyond this, it aims to strengthen the German ecosystem for global health research training by connecting existing programs in Germany and internationally, e.g. by consolidating information on available courses and promoting mutual recognition of training formats across institutions.

GLOHRA Training Repository

Launched during GLOHRA Day in June 2024, the GLOHRA Training Repository features nearly 250 resources, including short courses, doctoral programs, and master's courses in global health. Early career researchers can easily search the Repository based on their interests, research areas, and location, helping them find the inspiration and information they need to advance their academic careers. The Repository is continuously enriched with new contributions from the GLOHRA community. In 2025, we enhanced the search functionality and improved the way research disciplines and trainings are interlinked, making it easier for users to discover relevant training opportunities.



Catalogue of Competencies

This comprehensive framework defines the key competencies needed for global health research at the doctoral and postdoctoral levels. It takes into account the diversity of disciplines within global health, as well as different levels of expertise. The Catalogue focuses on strengthening discipline-specific research knowledge, skills, and attitudes, while also integrating global perspectives. Within the Global Health Academy, it serves as a tool to identify gaps in available research training and to guide the development of new training opportunities. We invite individuals and institutions beyond GLOHRA to use the Catalogue as a resource for integrating additional competencies into their own programs.



Looking ahead, two online dialogue events are scheduled for 2026 to encourage further discussion and to refine its application for both early career researchers and program developers.

Training Offers

The GLOHRA community has taken a leading role in designing and delivering training offers for early career researchers, resulting in the successful completion of twelve training sessions so far. To ensure that we reach participants beyond the onsite training, we have adapted our formats to encourage the reuse of developed materials or open the trainings to hybrid participants. Recognizing the value of the strong peer connections formed during onsite trainings, we have also introduced a peer coaching format. This initiative creates a self-organized, supportive environment where early career researchers can connect, share experiences, and continue their professional growth beyond formal training events. In 2025, the Academy hired two student assistants at the request of the former training organizers to support them and reduce their administrative workload. This successful support will continue into the upcoming year. Looking forward, we are excited to announce the launch of the MOOC-like GLOHRA Training Platform in 2026 to host GLOHRA and non-GLOHRA funded trainings. This platform will provide a dynamic space for learning, exchange, and collaboration among early career researchers.



GLOHRA Training Certificate

Since its launch in 2022, the GLOHRA Training Certificate has marked several important achievements: over 150 registrations, eleven certificates awarded, and recognition by eleven doctoral programs. The Certificate plays a vital role in ensuring mutual recognition of GLOHRA-funded trainings across universities. From 2026 onward, this recognition will also extend to non-GLOHRA funded trainings – including online modules available on the new platform – and to peer-to-peer formats. This expansion will significantly increase the variety of training opportunities available and further strengthen support for early career researchers within the GLOHRA community.



Innovative Training Offers

The Academy aims to improve the quality, accessibility and number of global health research trainings. To that end, GLOHRA members can request funding to develop and deliver trainings for doctoral students and postdocs, which are implemented throughout the year in different cities and formats.

Responsible conduct of science in the field of global health | 22 – 23 September | Bonn



Universität Bonn, Universitätsklinikum Bonn, UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security

The training brought together 18 early career researchers to address identified gaps in responsible research conduct, including ethics and good scientific practice, human rights and equity, and the socio-political context of global health. Interactive inputs from experts encouraged critical reflection

and interdisciplinary exchange. Participants also provided valuable feedback for the development of a self-paced online training. Key suggestions included integrating practical case studies, perspectives from LMIC partners and links to related competencies such as collaboration and communication. The insights gathered will inform the forthcoming online course, with participants continuing their exchange through an accompanying peer-coaching group.

Story matters: an introduction to document analysis approaches and mixed methods data visualization | 27 – 28 October | Bremen

Universität Bremen (ipp Bremen), Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg (HIGH), Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

Over two days, 22 researchers from various disciplinary backgrounds explored how storytelling and mixed methods visualization can enrich global health research. The program combined keynotes on ethnographic analysis, geographic data visualization,

and phenomenology with interactive workshops on document analysis and story mapping. Participants discussed how qualitative insights and visual narratives can strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration and enhance the communication of research findings. The training highlighted the growing value of integrative methodological approaches for addressing complexity in global health.

Global Health Academy Events

Launch of the Catalogue of Competencies | 28 April | Online

The online launch attracted more than 50 participants for an introduction to the new Catalogue of Competencies in Global Health Research. The framework outlines essential research skills, attitudes and knowledge across eight competency domains and serves as a practical tool for curriculum design, evaluation criteria and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Participants welcomed the Catalogue's clarity and applicability, noting its value for identifying training gaps and strengthening researcher development. A panel discussion offered perspectives from academia and training institutions, and the event concluded with an open Q&A on integrating the framework into practice.

Global Health Academy at ECTMIH Academy 2025 | 29 September – 2 October | Hamburg

Session: Inspirations to advance your global health career | 28 September

The Global Health Academy hosted an interactive session at the European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH) with 19 participants to discuss how (online) training opportunities can support career development in global health research. Together, the group explored core competencies – knowledge, skills and attitudes – relevant for building strong interdisciplinary research profiles. The Academy also introduced its GLOHRA Training Repository and Catalogue of Competencies as key resources for researchers. The session concluded with a practical networking exercise, offering participants the chance to experience interdisciplinary collaboration in action.



Implementation Science Meets Multimorbidity: Addressing Inequalities Across Diverse Contexts | 24 – 28 November | Munich

Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg (HIGH), Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, UMC Utrecht

The five-day training with 18 onsite and 49 – 58 online participants provided practical skills for designing and evaluating interventions, including the use of comprehensive evaluation frameworks and mechanisms focused approaches. Participants emphasized that these components enhanced their readiness to apply implementation science methods within diverse health systems and settings.

The training also fostered cross-context learning and facilitated professional networking among researchers from multiple institutions and countries. This exchange contributed to a stronger implementation science community and reinforced participants' commitment to advancing equitable health solutions for populations affected by multimorbidity. Overall, the training was perceived as highly informative, relevant, and impactful, with clear benefits for participants' ongoing research and future implementation efforts.

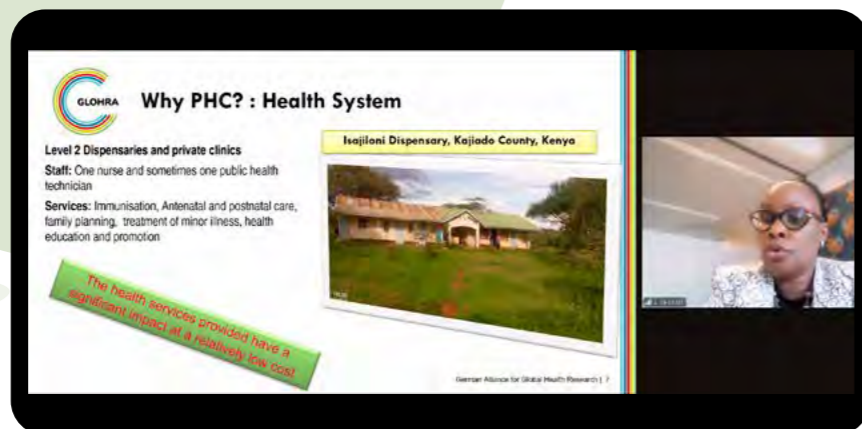
GLOHRA Academy Series

With

8 500+

Academy Series

participants



Prof. Alice Lakati presents Insights from Amref International University

Speakers:

Prof. Dr. Amélia Camarinha Silva
University of Hohenheim

Livestock microbiome and native resources for animal health and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) reduction

Dr. Benjamin Bodirsky
Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

Shaping a healthy, sustainable, and social food system: A scenario analysis

Prof. Dr. Nikkil Sudharsanan
Technical University of Munich

Debunking interventions to correct health misbeliefs and improve the use of preventive healthcare: Insights from two randomized trials in Punjab, India

Prof. Dr. Merike Blofield
University of Hamburg

From expressed commitments to implementation: Comparing government policy efforts on health and social policies

Dr. Isabel Mank
German Institute for Development Evaluation

Strengthening sexual and reproductive health and rights in partner countries: An evaluation of German development cooperation

Prof. Alice Lakati
Amref International University

Advancing Primary Health Care Research: Insights from Amref International University, Kenya

Dr. Joseph Sitienei
Amref International University

Implications of rolling out Primary Health Care in resource limited settings: case study of Kenya

Phidelis N Wamalwa and Edmund Yeboah
University of Heidelberg

Do free healthcare policies play a role in expanding national health insurance enrollment among informal sector workers? The case of the Afya Care pilot program in Kenya



See recordings from past Academy Series sessions

Steering Committee Meetings



23 January

Of the six proposals submitted for a scientific workshop, the Steering Committee (SC) selected three for funding.

The SC agreed on the criteria, role, and appointment of Strategic Advisors to provide advice on the further development of GLOHRA.

22 April

The selection panel (i.e. all SC members without conflicts of interest) discussed the 15 full-length proposals under review, recommended seven for funding, and six commenced in 2025.

5 June

The Global Health Academy team reported on recent developments, including expanded participation opportunities for the GLOHRA Training Certificate and the announcement of the GLOHRA Early Career Symposium 2026.

Roundtables led by SC members addressed network-relevant topics, including AI in global health research, and the role of the social science and interdisciplinarity in GLOHRA research projects. External guests also contributed to discussions on global health research funding.

24 November

SC members shared experiences and insights from their recent fact-finding trip to Brussels to meet with EU institutions, funding bodies and partners.

The Secretariat reported on upcoming initiatives, such as a policy briefing document outlining "5 reasons for investing in global health", EU grant training workshops for members, and the development of an interactive game to increase public engagement with the importance of global health.

Behind the Scenes at the Secretariat

An Idea was Born

In January 2020, the BMFTR formally approved a proposal for a networking platform for global health research, which became GLOHRA. The proposal was prepared by an interdisciplinary group of around 50 researchers from institutions across Germany. A year earlier, this group had gathered in Berlin to discuss the role of universities in global health research and policy. Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin was asked to host the Secretariat in the German capital of Berlin.

From the beginning we wanted to send the clear message that GLOHRA isn't "just another research funder" but part of a bigger movement within the global health community in Germany. And that is what we continue to do: building a network that connects and supports researchers across Germany as part of a shared and growing global health community.

Reflections from the past year

We have entered our second funding phase following a year that further strengthened our network and its activities. This year's GLOHRA Day offered a clear snapshot of this development, with a record number of participants and the presentation of the first annual GLOHRA Prize for Global Health Research.

Throughout the year, we deepened the structures that support our community: responding to members' interest in EU funding through targeted workshops, strengthening our Steering Committee's policy engagement through dedicated training and a visit to Brussels, and enhancing support for early career researchers through the Global Health Academy. It has been a year of continued collaboration – made possible by the engagement and commitment of our members.

Looking ahead

As we move further into this funding phase, we will continue to expand and refine our work in dialogue with our members and extended community. This includes strengthening policy engagement in support of global health research in Germany and beyond – particularly in a turbulent political climate, where advocacy for interdisciplinary research, equitable partnerships and sustained public investment remains important.



Nora Anton, Nora Sophie Anger, Dr. Rebecca Ingenhoff, Annika Karcher & Maeve Kathryn Geiger from the Secretariat team in Berlin

Looking ahead, support for early career researchers will grow through regular trainings, maintenance of the GLOHRA Training Repository and the launch of our first Early Career Symposium in Berlin after GLOHRA Day in June 2026.

We are also developing new formats to increase the visibility and accessibility of global health research – including an interactive game that illustrates global-local health interdependencies and the long-term value of research investment.

We are also compiling a database that will make publications, trainings and other outputs across the network easier to find. These are some of the next steps as we continue to evolve the network.

Stay In Touch



GLOHRA media



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GLOHRA press coverage



GLOHRA Newsletter



monthly newsletter for members and close collaborators



GLOHRA on LinkedIn



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14,000+ followers
700+ posts
400+ group members



GLOHRA TV on YouTube



youtube.com/@globalhealth_de
70+ videos with 70,000+ views

Questions?
Comments?
Ideas?

We warmly invite you to contact the GLOHRA Secretariat secretariat@globalhealth.de

Scientific Publications Resulting from GLOHRA Activities

2025

Jahn R & Unterkircher SCW. 2025. **Intellectual property and pandemic preparedness: a qualitative study of COVID-19 waiver negotiations.** European Journal of Public Health. GLOHRA Project: [InnoCOV](#)
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Steffen Kugler | World Health Summit (WHS); Dr. Michael Makanga at WHS 2025

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(Sustainability) Steffen Kugler | GLOHRA; Group photo in front of the SDGs (Excellence) Steffen Kugler | GLOHRA; Supriyatiningih Wenang presenting the IndoCerCa project at GLOHRA Day

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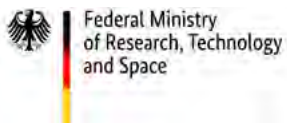
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