Monthly newsletter #18
February '25

KCGH, NVTG & OIGT

The Dutch Society for Tropical Medicine & Global Health (NVTG), the Training Institute Global Health and Tropical Medicine (OIGT), and the Knowledge Centre Global Health (KCGH) have once again teamed up to create this joint newsletter, a unified source of updates, activities, and opportunities in global health.

Through **symposia, e-learnings, and key events**, we aim to foster knowledge exchange and collaboration on pressing global health challenges. Stay informed about upcoming highlights, including **Global Health Day on 15 May** and our **Fall Symposium on 20 November**.

Keep an eye on our **agenda and newsletter** for ways to engage with the latest discussions and initiatives in global health.

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please contact communicatie@kcgh.nl.

News

On 10 February 2025, **KCGH, NVTG & OIGT** together with a coalition of Dutch global health organisations, sent an urgent letter to Ministers **Fleur Agema** (Health, Welfare and Sport) and **Reinette Klever** (Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation). The letter raises serious concerns about the **U.S. withdrawal from the WHO** and the **suspension of USAID-funded health programmes**, which threaten millions' access to care, including HIV treatment, maternal health and infectious disease control.

Urgent call: Dutch response to U.S. policy changes in global health

We urge the Dutch government to monitor the impact, step up diplomatic and financial efforts and push for a strong EU response. We also invite global health professionals to sign the letter in support of this call for action.

Read more

Gezamenlijke oproep aan het kabinet:
Kom in actie tegen de besluiten van de VS die wereldwijde gezondheid en stabiliteit bedreigen.

✏️ Sign the letter here

Your input matters – help us document the real-world impact of these policy changes. If you work in global health and are seeing the effects, share your insights: Fill in the survey / Vul de survey in

2024 Global Child Health awards

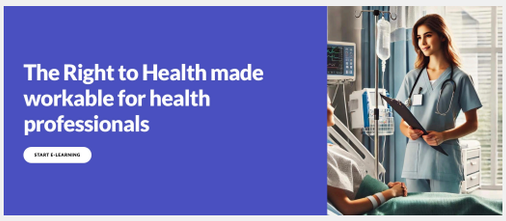
At the annual Global Child Health symposium, organised by the NVTG working group Expertisegroep Global Child Health, the **Henk Voorhoeve Award was presented to Alfred van Meurs, Jaap Mulder and Niloufar Ashtiani** for their outstanding contributions to paediatric care, mentorship and advocacy. 🙌

In collaboration with KCGH, the Global Child Health Thesis Prize 2024 was awarded to **Tom Jacobs** for his PhD research on improving HIV treatment access for children in low-income countries.

EXPERTISEGROEP GLOBAL CHILD HEALTH

Website EGCH

Right to Health: E-Learning & checklist now available



KCGH and NVTG working group IFHHRO have launched an e-learning and practical checklist **to help health professionals apply Right to Health principles in clinical practice**.

This **45-minute course** offers guidance on ensuring care is available, accessible, and high quality. The accompanying checklist allows professionals to assess their own practice and identify areas for improvement, **making the Right to Health a practical tool rather than just a legal concept.**

🔗 Explore the e-learning and checklist now

Albert Schweitzer Prize

In **2025, the 150th anniversary of**

Albert Schweitzer's birth, his legacy of **humanity and "reverence for life"** continues to inspire global health professionals.

As part of this **Albert Schweitzer Year**, the **Albert Schweitzer Fund (ASF)** will award the **Albert Schweitzer Prize 2025** to an innovative project improving health in **Sub-Saharan Africa**. The prize ceremony takes place on **9 April at the AFAS Theatre in Leusden**, offering a unique glimpse into groundbreaking initiatives shaping the future of tropical medicine.

2025: Honouring Innovation in Global Health

Register here

Courses & Events

Dokters in Debat: Social Activism in Healthcare | 27 February

Register now

Feeling stuck in a system that resists change? Unsure how to take action? **Dokters in Debat,** NVTG working groups TROIE and Into the World in collaboration with **KCGH** invite you to an **interactive session on social activism in healthcare**.

Learn how to voice concerns effectively, explore strategies for sustainable activism in global health and engage in meaningful discussions over coffee and tea.

🕑 19:30 – 21:00
📍 Bar Beton, Utrecht CS
⚠️ Limited spots available!

WHIG Webinar: Primary Mental Health Care for Asylum Seekers and Status Holders | 4 March

Long waiting lists for mental healthcare leave many asylum seekers struggling without adequate support.

In this webinar, organised by the NVTG working group WHIG in collaboration with KCGH, **psychiatrists Bert Nanninga** and **Pim Scholte** will share **practical strategies** to help primary care professionals support patients while they await specialist care. This webinar is particularly relevant for **medical assistants, nurses, general practice mental health professionals (POH-GGZ), and doctors treating asylum seekers and status holders**.

More info & registration

Topics include:

- The impact of migration on mental health
- Cultural dynamics in doctor-patient relationships
- Effective strategies for primary care intervention

🕑 19:30 – 21:30
📍 Online (Zoom)
✔️ Accreditation pending via NVTG

ETAT+ Course: Emergency Care for Children | 19–21 March

Are you a clinician in global health? Enhance your ability to manage critically ill children with the **ETAT+ course**, a 3-**day hands-on training on emergency paediatrics in resource-limited settings**, organised by Expertisegroep Global Child Health in collaboration with NVTG, OIGT and KCGH.

Register now

📍 Location TBA
🎟️ €380 (incl. lunch & certificate)

Conferences

WHIG Spring Symposium: New in the Netherlands? | 2 April

How do we improve healthcare for newcomers to the Netherlands? The Spring Symposium by NVTG working group WHIG focuses on current challenges in

Werkgroep Huisartsgeneeskunde & Internationale Gezondheidszorg presenteert

WHIG Symposium 2025

2 april | 17:00 | Seats2Meet, Utrecht

Register now

general practice and travel medicine. This year, we will explore **healthcare for refugee children, the role of culture and gender in the consultation room and the introduction of a new dengue vaccine**.

Programme highlights:

- Caring for refugee children – **Dr Nadia Oeij, EKANN**
- Culture & gender in healthcare – **Sawitri Saharso & Saartje Tack**
- Dengue vaccine: What GPs need to know – **Dr Quirijn de Mast**

More info: click here

🕑17:00
📍 Seats2Meet, Utrecht
🎟️ €90
✔️ Accreditation pending via NVTG

Global Health Day 2025: Appropriate Care | 15 May

More info & registration

Providing **appropriate care** is widely supported in principle but often difficult to implement due to **challenges like budget constraints and health worker shortages**. At the third edition of the Global Health Day, organised by KCGH, NVTG and OIGT, **experts and professionals will explore how to navigate these complexities and apply effective, sustainable and patient-centred care in diverse contexts.**

The programme includes:

- Keynotes by (international) experts
- Parallel sessions led by NVTG working groups
- In-depth discussions on the latest scientific insights and practical approaches
- NVTG General Assembly (ALV) at the end of the day

🕑 9:00 – 17:00
📍 Social Impact Factory, Utrecht
🎟️ NVTG members €60 | Non-members €95 | AIOS + opleider €100,- together
✔️ Accreditation pending via NVTG

Publications

Tea and Diesel: How business partnerships support public health in Malawi – Arie Glas

How do private businesses shape healthcare in Mulanje, Malawi? 🏥

In his latest **column**, Arie Glas explores the unexpected yet essential **role of tea estate managers and international companies in supporting local health services**. From fuel donations for emergency referrals to funding malaria control programmes, these partnerships highlight **how aligning business and health interests can create lasting impact**.

Read how **public-private collaborations** keep healthcare accessible, ensure safer workplaces and even drive disease prevention – one sausage sale at a time.

Read here

Save the date

Mark your calendars for the coming events (more details follow soon):

- **Global Health Inspiration Day '25 | Apr 12**
- **ECTMIH2025 | Sept 29 - Oct 2**
- **NVTG/KCGH/OIGT Fall Symposium | Nov 20**

Curious about more **international events**? Check the NVTG agenda.

Kenniscentrum Global Health

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