

# Center for International Health

## CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Annual Highlights Report 2025





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**Foreword by Prof. Dr. Dennis Nowak**  
**Director, Institute and Clinic for Occupational, Social and Environmental Medicine**  
**Interim CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Chairman, LMU Klinikum**



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Prof. Dr. Dennis Nowak

It is a great pleasure to introduce the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Annual Highlights Report 2025 of the Center for International Health (CIH<sup>LMU</sup>) at LMU Klinikum. This report reflects a year of consolidation, strategic growth, and strengthened international cooperation within an increasingly complex global health landscape.

The year 2025 represents an important milestone for CIH<sup>LMU</sup>. With the successful continuation of the OH-TARGET project, supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Center has entered the second phase of a long-term commitment to advancing the One Health approach worldwide. The continuation of this program underscores the scientific relevance and structural maturity of CIH<sup>LMU</sup>'s One Health approach. By fostering equitable partnerships across Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Europe, the Center continues to operationalize the interdependence of human, animal, and environmental health through research, education, and institutional capacity building.

At the same time, the substantial budget reductions announced for BMZ-funded academic cooperation programs pose significant challenges for long-term international partnerships. Programs such as OH-TARGET rely on continuity, mutual trust, and sustained institutional development.

While CIH<sup>LMU</sup> and its partners remain fully committed to their shared objectives, the planned funding reductions require difficult prioritization decisions and may limit opportunities for capacity building, research collaboration, and academic exchange in the years ahead. These developments highlight the importance of continued investment in international higher education cooperation as a cornerstone of sustainable global development.

In this context, the achievements demonstrating the breadth and depth of CIH<sup>LMU</sup>'s engagement documented in this report are particularly significant. Activities ranged from strengthening regional One Health Competence Centers in Ghana and Bolivia to advancing interdisciplinary research on antimicrobial resistance, arboviral diseases, and dengue, to expanding innovative teaching formats in medical education and pandemic preparedness, CIH<sup>LMU</sup> continues to bridge research, education, and practice. The increasing decentralization of course coordination and project leadership across partner institutions reflects a deliberate shift toward shared ownership and long-term capacity building within the network.



Particularly noteworthy is the expansion of training opportunities for early-career researchers and health professionals, including the establishment of advanced in-person modules such as Pandemic Preparedness in Ethiopia, the growing portfolio of multilingual online courses reaching hundreds of participants globally, and international symposia fostering scientific exchange across disciplines. In parallel, the launch of the DAAD-funded EPOS scholarship created an additional funding opportunity for doctoral candidates in Medical Research and International Health, strengthening the international accessibility and structural support of the PhD program.

These developments demonstrate CIH<sup>LMU</sup>'s commitment to academic excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration, and responsible global engagement. By integrating occupational, environmental, infectious, and mental health perspectives within a One Health framework, the Center continues to address complex global challenges through evidence-based and system-oriented approaches.

I express my sincere gratitude to the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Board, the Executive Management, our dedicated staff, and all partner institutions worldwide for their commitment and professionalism. The achievements of 2025 are the result of trust-based cooperation across continents, cultures, and disciplines.

As we look ahead, the challenges facing global health, from climate change and emerging infectious diseases to health inequities and fragile systems, remain profound. The CIH<sup>LMU</sup> is well positioned to contribute evidence-based solutions, innovative educational models, and durable international partnerships. I am confident that the coming years will further consolidate CIH<sup>LMU</sup>'s role as a leading academic hub for One Health-oriented research and training.

Munich, 2026

Prof. Dr. Dennis Nowak

Director of the Institute and Clinic for Occupational,  
Social and Environmental Medicine  
Interim CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Chairman  
LMU University Hospital



## CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Announcements

### The Beginning of the Second Phase of OH-TARGET at the CIH<sup>LMU</sup>

In 2025, the Center for International Health (CIH<sup>LMU</sup>) at the LMU University Hospital advanced the OH-TARGET (One Health – Training and Research Global Network) initiative following the successful acquisition of **new DAAD funding**, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The long-term funding of initially up to **€1 million per year (2025–2029)** enabled significant progress in strengthening and expanding the project's global network.

While the new funding phase commenced successfully in 2025, **substantial reductions in BMZ funding** announced for the coming years have required a reassessment of planned activities and resource allocation across the network. Such reductions affect not only individual projects but also the long-term development of international academic partnerships, research collaboration, and capacity-building efforts.

Despite this challenging outlook, OH-TARGET achieved **considerable progress throughout 2025** and further strengthened its role as a global platform for One Health collaboration. The network continues to apply an **integrative One Health approach** that addresses the interconnection between human, animal, and environmental health. Throughout the year, **CIH<sup>LMU</sup> deepened collaboration** with LMU faculties and partner universities in Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, and Nepal, with a focus on research, capacity building, digital transformation, and the promotion of diversity, equal opportunities, and inclusion.

#### Key Activities in 2025

- Continued expansion of international collaboration across eight partner countries
- Strengthening of research skills through joint trainings, workshops, and capacity-building measures
- Advancement of digital education tools and virtual learning formats
- Continued support for equal opportunities, diversity, and inclusion in One Health research
- Ongoing development of regional One Health competence centers in Ghana (UCC) and Bolivia (USFX) as hubs for decentralized governance in Africa and Latin America

Prof. Dr. Katja Radon, Chairwoman of the Center for International Health, emphasized the impact of the initiative:

*“With OH-TARGET, we are promoting sustainable, interdisciplinary health research on an equal footing. The renewed funding strengthens international research and training opportunities at the LMU Medical Center and supports the continued internationalization of the institution.”*





## CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Announcements

### Changes in the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Board

At the end of 2024, the Center for International Health CIH<sup>LMU</sup> completed a **significant board transition**. In 2025, the new leadership team continued to advance CIH<sup>LMU</sup>'s mission of strengthening global health through interdisciplinary research, education, and international collaboration.

#### Board Changes Implemented

- Fabian Jacobs, M.A. succeeded Prof. Dr. Matthias Siebeck as the representative of the Institute for Medical Education.
- Prof. Dr. Ulrich von Both took over from Prof. Dr. Florian Heinen as the representative of Pediatrics.

CIH<sup>LMU</sup> extends its sincere appreciation to Prof. Siebeck and Prof. Heinen for their many years of dedicated service and their substantial contributions to the development of CIH<sup>LMU</sup>'s global health initiatives.

#### CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Board Composition in 2025

- **Prof. Dr. Katja Radon** – Chairwoman, Institute and Polyclinic for Occupational, Social and Environmental Medicine
- **PD Dr. Günter Fröschl** – Institute for Infectious and Tropical Medicine
- **Fabian Jacobs, M.A.** – Institute for Medical Education
- **PD Dr. Andrea Jobst** – Clinic for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
- **Prof. Dr. Ulrich von Both** – Dr. von Hauner Children's Hospital
- **Dr. Andreas Kudom** – University of Cape Coast, Ghana (representative of the international general assembly)

This leadership team guided CIH<sup>LMU</sup>'s activities throughout 2025, including the further development of the newly funded OH-TARGET project, which continues to strengthen interdisciplinary One Health research and education worldwide.

During the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> **General Assembly 2025** **Dr. Maria Teresa Solis Soto** (Universidad Mayor, Real y Pontificia de San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca (USFX), Bolivia) was elected as the New Member Representative of the international general assembly. Dr. Maria Teresa Solis Soto will take office from January 2026 and we look forward to welcoming her to the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> board. We also want to sincerely thank Dr. Andreas Kudom for his great work as Member Representative on the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> board and look forward to continuing to work with him as local lead of the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Competence Center in Ghana and in our OH-TARGET Network Funds Projects.



Prof. Dr. Katja Radon



Fabian Jacobs, M.A.



PD Dr. med. Günter Fröschl



PD Dr. med. Andrea Jobst



Prof. Dr. med. Ulrich von Both



Dr. Andreas Kudom



Dr. Maria Teresa Solis Soto (from January 2026)



## CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Announcements

### One Health Network Funds 2025/2026



#### Overview of Selected Projects

We are pleased to announce the three projects selected for the **OH-TARGET Network Funds 2025/2026**, led by teams from CIH<sup>LMU</sup> partner institutions across Latin America, Africa, and Asia. These projects reflect CIH<sup>LMU</sup>'s continued commitment to strengthening One Health competencies, fostering transdisciplinary collaboration, and addressing critical global health challenges.

**Project: Antimicrobial Resistance as a Public Health Threat: An Analysis of Stakeholders' Opinion from Bolivia, Italy, Ghana, Guatemala, and Nepal**

**Title: AntiThreat**

Dr. Maria Teresa Solis Soto, CIH<sup>LMU</sup> alumna and Head of the OH-TARGET Competence Center at **Universidad San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca (USFX) in Bolivia**, led a **multi-country project exploring antimicrobial resistance through a One Health lens**. The initiative examined antibiotic use and stakeholder perspectives across **Bolivia, Italy, Ghana, Guatemala, and Nepal**, while assessing how One Health competencies are integrated into professional training and practice. The findings provided valuable insights to support capacity building and inform strategies to address antimicrobial resistance as a growing global health challenge.

In September 2025, **project partners met in Bogotá, Colombia**, for a joint analysis workshop to review progress, discuss challenges, and define future directions. A **major achievement** was the completion of 83 in-depth interviews, creating a robust qualitative evidence base on antimicrobial resistance. Project results were further shared through scientific and educational platforms, including the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> course **Antimicrobial Resistance & Marine Conservation: A One Health Approach**.

**Project: Dengue: Core Competencies in One Health Focusing on Teamwork, Transdisciplinary Collaboration, and Community Cooperation**

**Title: Dengue**

Dr. Sonia Raboni, Associate Professor of Infectious Diseases at the **Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR) in Brazil**, led a multidisciplinary initiative to **strengthen dengue prevention and control through a One Health approach**. The project assessed knowledge, attitudes, and practices among professionals in **Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, and Guatemala** to identify opportunities for stronger interdisciplinary collaboration and community engagement. By promoting teamwork across sectors, the project contributed to more integrated and effective dengue control strategies.

A **key milestone** was an **international workshop hosted by UFPR** in November 2025, which brought together 23 researchers from partner institutions in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ghana, Guatemala, and Italy. Participants exchanged experiences on dengue epidemiology, data collection, and prevention strategies, generating valuable insights across diverse regional settings. The workshop also supported joint planning of future project activities and strengthened collaboration among participating institutions.



## CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Announcements

### One Health Network Funds 2025/2026

**Project: Arboviral Diseases in Brazil, Italy, and Tanzania: Towards a Comprehensive One Health Strategy**

**Title: ArbOne**

Dr. Mkunde Chachage, CIH<sup>LMU</sup> alumna, Senior Lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam–Mbeya College of Health and Allied Sciences, and Adjunct Researcher at **National Institute for Medical Research – Mbeya Medical Research Centre (NIMR–MMRC) in Tanzania**, led an **international project aimed at strengthening the surveillance, prevention, and control of arboviral diseases through a comprehensive One Health approach**. Bringing together partners from **Tanzania, Brazil, and Italy**, the project harmonized research methodologies and integrated virological, epidemiological, entomological, and immunological analyses. This collaborative effort contributed to more coordinated and evidence-based approaches to arboviral disease control.

A **major project achievement** was an **international training workshop** held in **Tanzania** in October 2025, which brought together 14 professionals from public health, biological, veterinary, and environmental sciences. The training enhanced participants' knowledge of arboviral diseases and supported the harmonization of key Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), strengthening the foundation for future collaborative research and cross-country surveillance efforts.



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## CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Activities

### CIH<sup>LMU</sup> at the EUGLOH Global Health Day

The CIH<sup>LMU</sup> played an active role in the **EUGLOH Global Health Day 2025 in Munich** on March 24–25, **joining students, researchers, and professionals from across Europe** to explore solutions to pressing global health challenges.

At the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> booth, visitors discovered ongoing projects, funding opportunities, and initiatives in community-based research, digital health, and capacity building. A major attraction was an **immersive VR experience** showcasing healthcare and education work in the Bolivian Andes, developed with the Center for Virtual Reality and Visualisation (V2C) at the Leibniz Supercomputing Centre. The virtual journey offered vivid insights into CIH<sup>LMU</sup>'s impact on the ground and sparked many inspiring conversations.



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On the second day, CIH<sup>LMU</sup> hosted an interactive workshop inspired by a **climate role-playing game**. Fourteen participants worked in groups representing Water, Land, and Air challenges, adopting roles from health, government, business, and civil society. Together, they developed **creative One Health solutions to climate-related health issues**. The enthusiastic feedback highlighted the workshop's engaging format and its value in encouraging cross-sector thinking. Encouraged by the positive feedback from both activities, CIH<sup>LMU</sup> is already preparing to take part in next year's EUGLOH Global Health Day.

### CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Cooperation Meeting and General Assembly

On September 17–18, 2025, CIH<sup>LMU</sup> brought together partners and members for its **annual online Cooperation Meeting and General Assembly**, fostering collaboration, sharing strategies, and planning the next phase of OH-TARGET projects.

The two-day Cooperation Meeting **gathered CIH<sup>LMU</sup> partners from around the world**. Highlights included updates on **recent achievements**, such as the second funding phase of OH-TARGET and opportunities through the DAAD Exceed Program. Parallel sessions explored administrative processes, communication strategy, and an upcoming website relaunch. Regional strategy meetings allowed participants to draft plans and set priorities for Latin America, Asia, and Africa, culminating in presentations that laid the foundation for future collaboration.



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The **General Assembly** brought together 65 CIH<sup>LMU</sup> members to review key achievements, governance updates, and future priorities. The meeting also included the election of Dr. Maria Teresa Solis Soto as Member Representative and concluded with membership updates and closing remarks. Together, the events highlighted CIH<sup>LMU</sup>'s commitment to **strengthening global health through collaboration and international partnerships**.



## One Health TARGET Competence Centers

### World Mosquito Day Celebration at the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Competence Center in Ghana

On 20 August 2025, the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Competence Center at the **University of Cape Coast (UCC)**, in collaboration with the **National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP)**, the Ofoase Ayirebi District Assembly, the District Health Directorate, and other stakeholders, commemorated World Mosquito Day under the theme: **“Living with Mosquitoes in Ghana – Their Threats and Our Response.”**

The celebration began with a street float through Ofoase Ayirebi, engaging students, health workers, and community groups to raise awareness about mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases, including malaria and dengue.



© Patience Abena Afriyie Frimpong

Following the float, participants gathered at the District Assembly Conference Hall for a seminar attended by 200 people. The District Director of Health Services emphasized the **importance of collective action in preventing mosquito-borne diseases**. Key presentations highlighted Ghana’s mosquito-borne disease landscape and ongoing efforts: Mr. Stanley Osafo Okyere gave an overview of CIH<sup>LMU</sup> activities and the OH-TARGET Project; the NMEP Programme Manager reviewed malaria progress and challenges. Dr. Andreas Adutwum Kudom delivered the keynote, emphasizing both malaria and the emerging threat of dengue.

He stressed the importance of **community participation, sanitation management, research, and cross-sector collaboration**, concluding that living with mosquitoes requires building resilience and strengthening public health systems. An interactive discussion allowed community members to raise concerns, including the environmental impacts of insecticide use. In the afternoon, a public exhibition demonstrated mosquito surveillance techniques, trap usage, and strategies for controlling malaria and dengue, led by Mr. Osafo and Ms. Patience A. Frimpong. Closing remarks encouraged participants to apply the lessons learned in their communities.



© Patience Abena Afriyie Frimpong

The event was attended by traditional leaders, nurses, students, religious leaders, assembly members, and residents from Mukyia, Kwaboadi, Adugyan, and surrounding communities.

The 2025 World Mosquito Day celebration successfully raised awareness of mosquito-borne disease threats and **mobilized community members to take preventive actions**. It underscored the importance of collaboration among health professionals, policymakers, researchers, and community leaders in reducing the burden of malaria, dengue, and other mosquito-borne diseases in Ghana.



## One Health TARGET Competence Centers

### From Local Action to Global Impact: The CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Competence Center in Bolivia

In 2025, the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Competence Center at **Universidad San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca** in **Bolivia** reached an exciting stage of growth and impact. Focused on **strengthening the local team and raising the Center's visibility**, new communication and design professionals joined, bringing a fresh visual identity, a dedicated logo symbolizing the human–animal–environment connection, and a more vibrant social media presence. At the same time, connections with universities and alumni across Latin America deepened, solidifying the Center's role as a hub for interdisciplinary research and collaboration.

This year, several initiatives emerged directly from the Center in Bolivia, highlighting its **growing autonomy and responsiveness to local needs**. A weekly scientific writing group guided participants from initial ideas to manuscript drafts, while seminars tackled pressing national issues such as forest fires and responsible pet ownership. Workshops, online courses coordinated with alumni, and projects under the GENERA and One Health Network Funds (OHNF) increasingly displayed the Center's leadership and proactive approach.

The Center also coordinated three highly praised e-modules on **Outbreak Investigation, Scientific Writing, and One Health and Climate Change**, known for their interactive design and opportunities for interdisciplinary learning. Beyond academia, partnerships flourished with health authorities, schools, NGOs, community groups, environmental activists, and animal rights organizations through projects such as **AntiThreat** and **Dengue OHNF** projects, translating research into tangible societal impact. **Podcasts** and **community fairs** extended the Center's reach even further, bringing One Health insights to a broader public.



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### Centro de Competencia



### TARGET – USFX

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At the network level, monthly online meetings were complemented by **in-person gatherings** in Bogotá, Cuenca, and Curitiba, where regional collaboration, project progress, and plans for 2026 were discussed alongside participation in the One Health International Symposium.

With stronger local alliances, an expanding international presence, and plans to launch a postgraduate program in interdisciplinary research with a **One Health focus**, the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Competence Center in Bolivia is well positioned to continue advancing knowledge, building capacity, and making a meaningful difference for communities and ecosystems alike.



## Focus Area: Environmental Health

### Research, Education, and Practice: The First International One Health Symposium at the UFPR, Brazil

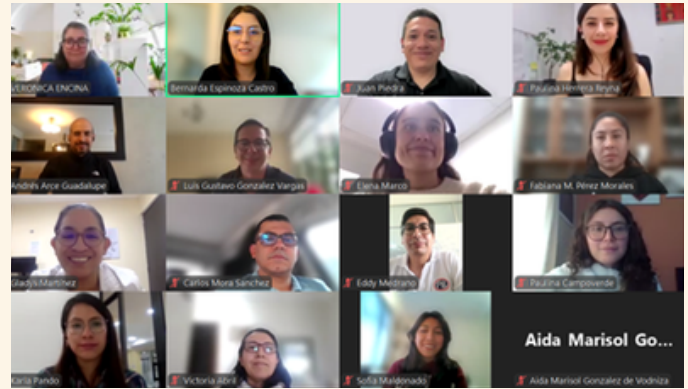
From 13 to 14 November, the Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR), Curitiba in Brazil, with the support of CIH<sup>LMU</sup>, hosted the **first International One Health Symposium, entitled “Dialogues in One Health”**. The event brought together 159 participants from several partner universities, including San Francisco Xavier University of Chuquisaca (USFX), Bolivia; San Carlos University of Guatemala (USAC), Guatemala; Rosario University (UR), Colombia; University of Cape Coast (UCC), Ghana; and the University of Ferrara (UF), Italy, alongside the host institution, UFPR, as well other universities and research institutions from the region. Representatives from Ecuadorian universities also participated as guests, namely the University of Cuenca (UCuenca), the University of San Francisco de Quito (USFQ), and the University of the Americas (UDLA). In addition, alumni of the Master of Science in International Occupational Safety and Health program from Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Mexico joined the symposium.

© Prof. Dr. Luciana Salini Abrahão Pires



The symposium served as a **key dissemination space**, colleagues from the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Latin American network presented results from their OHNF projects, while participants also benefited from expert perspectives from the region and student-led presentations showcasing emerging work. This combination created a dynamic environment for exchange, learning, and networking, while helping consolidate a shared **One Health vision and laying groundwork for the next phase of collaboration**, including the training of young professionals and future leaders.

### Empowering the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Network Through Shared One Health Education



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In 2025, the first year of OH-TARGET's second phase, the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> courses reached a **major milestone**, engaging **523 students from around the world**. This achievement highlights the growing visibility, reach, and relevance of the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> course portfolio as a cornerstone of international One Health education.

A key development this year was the evolution of the course delivery model, aligned with one of the **central objectives of OH-TARGET's second phase**: decentralizing activities across the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> network. While the Environmental Health Unit continued to coordinate the English-language courses offered across the full CIH<sup>LMU</sup> network, 2025 marked the first time that Latin American partner universities and the alumni network took a leading role in coordinating the Spanish and Portuguese editions, with ongoing support from the Environmental Health Unit. This shift represents an important step toward shared ownership, capacity building, and long-term sustainability within the network.

Offered **free of charge** in **English, Spanish, and Portuguese**, the course portfolio combines One Health topics, including One Health Core Competencies, One Health and Climate Change, and Antibiotic Resistance & Marine Conservation, and skills-based courses such as Digital Storytelling, Scientific Writing, and the T.E.A.C.H. course (Train-the-Trainers with E-learning Applications for Virtual Teaching Methods Fostering Creativity within the One Health Approach).



## Focus Area: Environmental Health



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### Connecting Ecuador to the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Latin American Network

Since 2024, CIH<sup>LMU</sup> has had the opportunity to initiate collaboration in One Health teaching and training, with a focus on pandemic preparedness, through a third-party-funded project supported by the BMBF, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, under the **GENERA Project**. In 2025, this collaboration remained active and expanded in practical ways, particularly through the uptake of CIH<sup>LMU</sup> educational formats by **partner institutions in Ecuador**.

A **key achievement** in 2025 was that Ecuadorian universities began using CIH<sup>LMU</sup> online courses not only for student learning but also to train lecturers. This marked an important step toward embedding One Health capacity building within institutional structures. In particular, the **Universidad de Cuenca** integrated the Antibiotic Resistance course and the One Health Core Competencies course into the Microbiology curriculum of the Faculty of Medicine, demonstrating concrete curriculum-level adoption of CIH<sup>LMU</sup> learning resources.

The cooperation also enabled the implementation of a **Scientific Writing workshop** that combined a six-week online phase with a one-week on-site component held in Ecuador in August 2025. The workshop brought together a total of 11 researchers, and it was further enriched by the participation of researchers from CIH<sup>LMU</sup> partner universities in **Latin America**, as well as members of the alumni network. This blended format supported skill development, peer exchange, and regional networking, strengthening the research dimension of the collaboration. To further consolidate cooperation and strengthen ties with the wider network, the Ecuadorian partner universities were invited to the **first International One Health Symposium hosted by the Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR)**, as well as to the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Latin American Network Strategy Meeting. Together, participants worked on shaping the 2026 activity schedule and advanced a shared ambition to pursue joint funding opportunities and collaborative One Health research projects together with the broader CIH<sup>LMU</sup> network, ensuring continuity and long-term impact of the partnership.

## Focus Area: Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine

### Establishment of the Advanced Module: Pandemic Preparedness in collaboration with Jimma University

From 23 to 27 June 2025, CIH<sup>LMU</sup> delivered its **first advanced in-person module on Pandemic Preparedness in Jimma, Ethiopia**, in close collaboration with Jimma University. The course offered a unique, immersive learning experience that combined strong theoretical foundations with hands-on, practice-oriented activities in a real-world global health setting. Designed to strengthen participants' understanding and skills in responding effectively to pandemics, the module covered key areas including infectious disease epidemiology, surveillance, outbreak response strategies, health policy, and health promotion. The course brought together 22 students, global health professionals, and researchers from over 7 different nationalities and disciplinary backgrounds, creating a rich, interdisciplinary learning environment.

© Jimma University



The week began with an **introduction to public health emergencies and complex health crises, providing a solid conceptual foundation for the intensive program**. Sessions were led by an international faculty team, including Dr. Günter Fröschl, Dr. Deepak Paudel, Dr. Esayas Gudina, Dr. Ahmed Zeynudin, Temesgan Chala, Dr. Andreas Kudom, and Dr. Christian Janke, who guided participants through the types, characteristics, and global policy frameworks of public health emergencies.

The second day focused on **applied learning through an outbreak simulation exercise**, where participants worked with real-world data to investigate the spread of a hypothetical epidemic. Complementary lectures on infectious disease epidemiology by Dr. Given Moonga and Dr. Daniel Yilma helped participants connect theoretical concepts with practical outbreak response. A key feature of the module was its strong field-based component. Working in small groups, participants visited a range of healthcare institutions, including primary, secondary, and tertiary public health facilities, a private hospital, and the Jimma Emergency Operation Center.



© Jimma University

Through interviews with healthcare personnel and structured assessments, they evaluated institutional pandemic preparedness and response strategies. Their findings were presented and consolidated into a report that will be shared with participating institutions, contributing to local health system strengthening. Beyond the academic program, the module fostered **cross-cultural exchange and engagement with the local context**. Participants explored the history of Jimma, learned about Ethiopia's coffee heritage, and took part in local cultural events, creating valuable opportunities for networking, collaboration, and intercultural learning.



## Focus Area: Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine



### Launching the EPOS Scholarship for PhD Candidates in Medical Research and International Health

In 2025, CIH<sup>LMU</sup> launched the **EPOS Scholarship (Development-Related Postgraduate Course Scholarship)** to support outstanding candidates pursuing the **PhD Program in Medical Research and International Health**. Funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), this scholarship strengthens the international dimension of the PhD program and facilitates the participation of highly motivated students in an intensive, globally-oriented research and training environment.

The most important eligibility criterion for the scholarship is that **candidates have at least two years of professional experience relevant to international health**, ensuring that recipients bring practical expertise to complement their academic studies.

Applicants are also expected to demonstrate high motivation for the PhD program and research in international health. Applications for the scholarship are submitted simultaneously with the PhD program application. The EPOS Scholarship provides **financial support for students during their stays in Munich, Germany, as well as in their home and research countries**. Recipients benefit from monthly stipends, coverage of mandatory DAAD health insurance during stays in Munich, and funding for long-distance travel between home countries and Munich for key program periods.

By establishing the EPOS Scholarship, CIH<sup>LMU</sup> enhances the **accessibility, diversity, and quality of its PhD program** while supporting the next generation of researchers and professionals in medical research and international health.



## Focus Area: Medical Education

### A Trilateral Alliance for Medical Education-Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Partnership Program

In 2025, an ambitious Trilateral Alliance for Medical Education was launched at the heart of CIH<sup>LMU</sup>, bringing together **Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Germany)**, **Jimma University (Ethiopia)**, and the **Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB)** in a pioneering trilateral collaboration to advance medical education and global cooperation. Building on long-standing partnerships, LMU–Jimma since 2002 and LMU–KGUMSB since 2015, the alliance strengthens medical education at undergraduate and postgraduate level while fostering intercultural learning and academic cooperation.

© Fabian Jacobs



The project primarily focuses on SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development) through its three pillars:

- **Fellowship in Pediatric Urology:** building local expertise in Bhutan to reduce the need for overseas referrals.
- **Research & Faculty Development:** improving teaching quality through workplace-based assessment (WPBA), exam quality management and interprofessional education.
- **Undergraduate Student Exchange:** enabling students to gain cross-cultural experience, expand their professional networks, and broaden their perspective.

A major milestone of the program was the symposium hosted by KGUMSB from 15–17 September 2025, where LMU faculty conducted trainings on Problem-Based Learning, OSCE/OSPE, and virtual exchange formats. The event featured the **signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jimma University and LMU Hospital**, and discussions focused on faculty development, interprofessional education, and finalizing the student exchange program. The symposium reinforced collaboration and strengthened the foundation for future joint activities.



© Fabian Jacobs

Following the symposium, the **Trilateral Virtual Student Exchange** launched in November 2025, connecting students from Bhutan, Ethiopia, and Germany across five online sessions. Participants explored the Sustainable Development Goals, compared health and education systems, analyzed climate-related health challenges, and collaborated in international groups to produce interactive learning materials. The exchange fosters global health competencies, shared problem-solving, and long-lasting connections among students and faculty.

Through this unique initiative, the Trilateral Alliance is creating sustainable academic networks, building capacity in medical education, and preparing culturally competent, practice-ready healthcare professionals across Bhutan, Ethiopia, and Germany.



## Focus Area: Medical Education

### One Health Workshop: Approaching Global Health Challenges, UFES, Brazil

From 10–14 November 2025, the workshop “**One Health: Approaching Global Health Challenges**” took place at the **Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo (UFES) in Vitória, Brazil**. The event brought together global health experts, practitioners, and academics to advance integrated approaches linking human, animal, and environmental health. The workshop was jointly organized by UFES and the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> at LMU Munich, in cooperation with the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (HIGH), LMU University Hospital, and the German Centre for Research and Innovation São Paulo (DWIH São Paulo).



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The workshop marks an important milestone in the CIH–UFES partnership, strengthening capacity building, collaborative research, and the implementation of One Health principles in both academic and public health contexts.

The program opened with a keynote by Natiela Oliveira (Brazilian Ministry of Health), who presented the **One Health concept, “Uma Só Saúde”**, as an interdisciplinary framework addressing the interdependence of human, animal, and environmental health. Her talk highlighted the relevance of integrated approaches for pandemic preparedness and zoonotic disease control.

Further contributions included Prof. Olaf Horstick (HIGH), who emphasized system-level approaches in global health, and Fabian Jacobs (CIH<sup>LMU</sup>), who presented LMU University Hospital’s train-the-trainer model as a sustainable approach to human resource development. These sessions illustrated the complementary strengths of CIH<sup>LMU</sup> and UFES in **advancing One Health education and practice**.

A dedicated session on cooperation and funding opportunities brought together representatives from DWIH São Paulo, the UFES International Relations Office, and the JITOHealth initiative, identifying concrete pathways for joint research, training, and exchange programs.



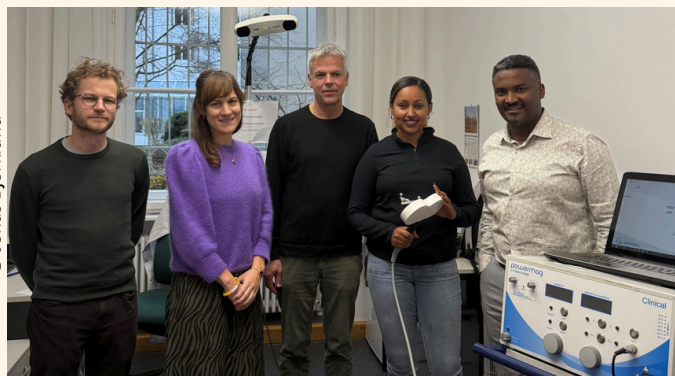
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Throughout the week, participants engaged in interactive group work, applied exercises, and structured discussions, reflecting on **how One Health can be integrated into curricula, public health practice, and institutional development**. The workshop fostered collaboration, knowledge exchange, and a shared commitment to advancing One Health capacity in Brazil and internationally.

## Focus Area: Global Mental Health

### Training Visit in Munich by Ethiopian Psychiatric Partners: Ethiopia Advances Mental Health Care with New Brain-Stimulation Training Program (BEAM)

From 10–21 November 2025, LMU University Hospital hosted a core team of psychiatrists and nurses from **St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College (SPHMMC) in Addis Ababa** for intensive training in repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS). Led by experts from the Center for Non-invasive Brain Stimulation (CNBS) and the Center for Neurostimulation at LMU Munich, the program equipped clinicians, including Dr. Meskerem Abebe and Dr. Surafel Worku, with the skills needed to deliver rTMS therapy in Ethiopia and to train additional mental health professionals, thereby building sustainable local expertise.



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This training represented a key milestone in the joint initiative between SPHMMC, the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at LMU University Hospital, and CIH<sup>LMU</sup> to establish East Africa's and therefore also Ethiopia's first nationwide unit for non-invasive brain stimulation. Following the training, SPHMMC was equipped with the necessary technical infrastructure to provide rTMS to **patients with treatment-resistant depression and other mental health conditions, such as schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, substance-use disorders, and neurodevelopmental disorders.**

The need for such services had long been pressing. In Ethiopia, many reports described how individuals with severe mental disorders, including those with treatment-resistant depression, were often abandoned by families and communities, leaving them vulnerable to homelessness, assault, and substance abuse. Access to specialized treatment options remained limited, and rTMS offered an effective, cost-efficient, and non-pharmacological alternative that could help close this gap.



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This initiative is part of the **two-year BEAM clinical partnership** project, which has officially launched Ethiopia's first dedicated TMS service for patients with treatment-resistant depression, addressing a critical gap in mental health care in the region. Beyond clinical impact, the project strengthens international collaboration and demonstrates the value of global health partnerships in resource-limited settings.

This initiative is made possible through the German Agency for International Cooperation Hospital Partnerships funding line (GIZ), supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung (EKFS). Their commitment plays a vital role in helping partner countries develop innovative, life-changing healthcare solutions.



## Focus Area: Pediatrics

### First Ultrasound Course at Dr. von Hauner Children's Hospital in collaboration with Ola During Children's Hospital Freetown, Sierra Leone

Over the past five years, Ola During Children's Hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone, has established the country's **first pediatric specialty training program**. Since 2021, there has been a continued exchange between Ola During and Dr. von Hauner Children's Hospital in Munich through various internships and observership programs.

As a further step in this collaboration, a **structured pediatric ultrasound training program has been established at Dr. von Hauner Children's Hospital** for colleagues from Sierra Leone. The program follows a blended learning approach, combining on-site and telemedical elements to provide both strong theoretical foundations and hands-on practical experience.

Interactive teaching sessions and case-based discussions highlighted ultrasound as a non-invasive, readily available diagnostic tool that supports timely clinical decision-making, particularly in resource-limited settings. The exchange also provided valuable opportunities for mutual learning, offering new perspectives on disease patterns and healthcare realities.



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In December 2025, Dr. Haja Sovula from Ola During Children's Hospital became the first participant to complete this intensive ultrasound course in Munich. As the **only university-affiliated pediatric hospital in Sierra Leone, Ola During plays a central role in pediatric care, medical education, and academic training in the country, making this initiative particularly impactful.**

During her two-week stay, Dr. Sovula trained on different ultrasound machines and their clinical applications. A key component of the program was extensive hands-on training on the ward. Under the supervision of experienced consultants, she performed ultrasound examinations in real clinical settings, allowing her to immediately apply theoretical knowledge and build confidence in image acquisition and interpretation.

Following the course, Dr. Sovula applies her newly acquired skills in her further **training in neonatology and in her research on intracranial hemorrhage in neonates**, particularly through the use of cranial ultrasound. To support long-term impact, regular telemedical follow-up sessions are planned, providing continued mentorship and case-based consultation.

We are very grateful to the Hauner Verein for funding this project. Their support has enabled the launch of this first-of-its-kind course and further strengthened sustainable pediatric healthcare capacity in Sierra Leone, while also enriching clinical and educational work at Dr. von Hauner Children's Hospital.



## Focus Area: Humanitarian Aid



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### **2025 Humanitarian Symposium Munich: Humanitarian Interventions in High-Risk Contexts**

The 2025 Humanitarian Symposium Munich, held on 15 February, marked the **10th anniversary** of this event series and brought together organizations, individuals, and passionate speakers from around the world. This year's hybrid symposium was dedicated to the topic **"Humanitarian Interventions in High-Risk Contexts"** and fostered engaging discussions on some of the most pressing humanitarian challenges of our time, with a particular focus on crises in Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan. The presentations highlighted the complex intersection of armed conflict, displacement, and disease outbreaks, emphasizing the urgent need for both acute responses and sustainable, long-term solutions.

Medical doctors from organizations such as Médecins Sans Frontières, Ärzte der Welt, and the International Committee of the Red Cross shared first-hand experiences from crisis settings. The audience also gained insights into **mobile health services** provided by the NGO Humedica, perspectives from the Federal Ministry of Health in Sudan, and the expertise of a Global Rehabilitation Specialist.

Beyond medical and technical expertise, the symposium was brought to life through powerful visual contributions from a photographer/journalist and a pediatrician. Their images and stories offered an unfiltered view of humanitarian realities, harrowing yet essential for understanding the true human impact of crises.



## Publications by CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Members in 2025

In 2025, members of the CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Network contributed significantly to the scientific community through a range of peer-reviewed publications. The list below provides an overview of articles published during the reporting period.

1. **Gonzales-Ortiz C.F, Rodríguez-Gonzales A, Radon K, Solís-Soto M.T.** (2025): Development of a Project to Strengthen Environmental Education in Educational Institutions in Bolivia: “Environmental Care with a One Health Approach”. [Link](#)
2. **Kudom A.A., Hanke P, Ayettey J, Combey R, Mensah B.A, Anderson B, Wieser A.** (2025): Molecular identification and knockdown resistance mutation of bed bugs involved in 2019 outbreak in Cape Coast, Ghana and Munich, Germany. [Link](#)
3. **Froeschl G, Zagli B, Erucar E, Alaaeddin K, El Othman M, Hatunoglu C.** (2025): Needs and early response towards internally displaced people in Hatay Province in the aftermath of the 2023 earthquake in Turkey. [Link](#)
4. **Paudel D.** (2025): Navigating Uncertainty: The Future of Nepal Demographic and Health Survey and Nepal Health Facility Survey in Evolving Public Health Landscape in Nepal. [Link](#)
5. **Antu J.F., Hasan S.M.T., Naved R.T.** (2025): Is domestic violence a risk factor for women's emotional distress in the long run? Analysis of MINIMat longitudinal data from Matlab, Bangladesh. [Link](#)
6. **Espinoza-Castro, B, Encina V, Garrido M.A, Ignativ Vinueza F, Piedra J.P, Garzon-Villalba X, Radon K.** (2025): Online learning for crisis response: evaluating reach and perceived knowledge gains from the MOOC “Infection, Prevention, and Control of Acute Respiratory Infections for Healthcare Workers in Low-and Middle-Income Countries (IPC MOOC)”. [Link](#)
7. **Paudel, D., & Froeschl, G.** (2025): The new administration in the USA: impact of policy changes in development assistance on low- and middle-income countries, with the example of Nepal. *Global Health Action*, 18(1). [Link](#)
8. **Solís-Soto, M.T., Walber, J., Basagoitia, A., Ehrenstein, O.S.v., Radon, K.** (2025): Small-Scale Farming, Pesticide Exposure, and Respiratory Health: A Cross-Sectional Study in Bolivia. *Environments* 2025, 12, 290. [Link](#)
9. **John, L., Solís-Soto, M. T., Radon, K.** (2025): Mediating role of perceived social support in the relationship between unemployment and mental distress among healthcare graduates during the COVID-19 era. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 12, 1490004. [Link](#)
10. **Méndez, D., Adler, M., Morales, F. M. P., Pinto, C. F., & Soto, M. T. S.** (2025): Conocimientos, actitudes y prácticas sobre enfermedades zoonóticas en Chuquisaca, Bolivia. *Anales de la Facultad de Medicina*, 86 (1), 30-38. [Link](#)
11. **Encina, V., Solís-Soto, MT., Garrido MA., Bauleo MF., Raboni S., Meneses C., Radon K.** (2025): Teacher Satisfaction with Active Learning Methods: A Comparison between Emergency Remote Teaching During COVID-19 and Pre-Pandemic Face-to-Face Classes in Latin America. *Medical Research Archives*, 13(8). [Link](#)
12. **Hayibor K.M., Ibrahim Pamba D, Floripes Tinga Banze D, Mfinanga AA, Hanago G.A., Singh A, Froeschl G, Hoffaeller L and Scholze S.** (2025): Proceedings from the CIHLMU International Health Symposium 2023: “One Health Approach to Neglected Tropical Diseases”, *BMC Proceedings* 2025, 19(Suppl 5):2. [Link](#)
13. **Hanago, G.A.; Siebeck, M.; Dira, S.J.; Tadesse, T.; Irmich, D.** (2025): Exploring How Ethnoculturally Diverse Surgical Patients and Families Perceive and Deal with Pain Before Hospital Admissions in Ethiopia: Qualitative Descriptive Study. *Healthcare* 2025, 13, 1142. [Link](#)
14. **Hayibor K.M., Kenu E., Mensah G.I., Awalime D., Anaman J., Asante-Poku A., Ivanova O., Abhishek B., Rachow A., Hanson-Nortey N.N.** (2025): Scaling up tuberculosis case finding via private providers in Ghana: an impact evaluation using interrupted time series. *Front. Public Health*, 26 August 2025, Sec. Infectious Diseases: Epidemiology and Prevention, Volume 13 - 2025. [Link](#)



## Publications by CIH<sup>LMU</sup> Members in 2025

15. **Anvari, D., Bandibabone, J., Kudom, A.A. et al** (2025): Scalable and cost-effective methods for xenomonitoring of *P. falciparum* and antimalarial drug resistance validated with laboratory and wild-caught mosquitoes. *Sci Rep* 15, 32678 (2025). [Link](#)
16. **Gerbig, P., Reinhard, M., Ababu, H. et al.** (2025): Are Loneliness and social network size mediators between childhood adversity and depressive symptoms? A cross-sectional replication study in Ethiopia. [Link](#)
17. **Wondie, AG., Siebeck, M., Sendekie, TY. et al.** (2025): Does Curriculum Reform Improve Clinical Practice? Comparing the Quality of Labor and Delivery Care Provided by Midwives in Ethiopia. [Link](#)
18. **Solis-Soto, MT., Kuhn, C., Siqueira de Carvalho, D. et al.** (2025): Zoonotic Diseases and Wildlife in Latin America: A Necessity for Implementing the One Health Approach. [Link](#)
19. **Rios-Escalier, C., Rosas-Diaz, M., Delgadillo-Iglesias, M. et al.** (2025): Presencia de *Aedes aegypti* en una zona alta en Bolivia. [Link](#)



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