

**G**LOBAL

**A**STHMA

**N**ETWORK

## NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2019

Dear Global Asthma Network colleagues and friends,

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2019. Work on GAN Phase I is progressing well and the data centres in London, UK and Murcia, Spain are working hard to finalise data sets that were submitted to them from the GAN Global Centre in Auckland. Please do send your data in as soon as possible using this link.

[info@globalasthmanetwork.org](mailto:info@globalasthmanetwork.org)

For centres yet to submit, June 2019 is the latest that we will accept data and Philippa has been in touch with you regarding this. For those of you who submit later, your centre is very unlikely to be included in the first worldwide papers. However provided the data and Centre Reports checks have been successfully completed, there may be an opportunity for your data to be included in the 2021 edition of the Global Asthma Report.

In October 2018 the GAN Steering Group decided to plan for a Global Asthma Report 2021 because the Global Asthma Report 2018 has been so well received. We are emphasising preventable asthma deaths, as our recent Lancet Respiratory Medicine commentary demonstrates (see page 8). This will also be our emphasis for World Asthma Day on 7 May 2019.

Two members of the GAN Steering Group, Professor Javier Mallol and Dr Nils Billo have stepped down and Professor Kevin Mortimer has joined the Steering Group. We pay tribute on pages 2-4 and also celebrate the success of one of our Steering Group members (Professor Guy Marks).

We encourage you to send any GAN related publications to us so that Eamon can put these up on the GAN website <http://www.globalasthmanetwork.org/> We intend to provide a publication section on the GAN website modelled on the ISAAC website with similar search features <http://isaac.auckland.ac.nz/publications/publicationsintro.html>.

We would like to update the asthma Management Guidelines section of our website <http://www.globalasthmanetwork.org/management/management.php> and encourage you to send in any new guidelines for your country (see page 10).

The GAN Annual Steering Group meeting will be held in Hyderabad on the 27th and 28th of October preceding The Union Conference, also to be held in Hyderabad.

With all best wishes from the GAN Global Centre, Auckland.

Innes  
Professor Innes Asher ONZM,  
Chair of GAN

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- ◆ GAN updates
- ◆ Social Media and Wikipedia
- ◆ GAN Centres update
- ◆ GAN news
- ◆ GAR website usage

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# Congratulations to:

**Professor Guy Marks who is now the President Elect of  
The Union**



Prof Guy Marks is a Physician and an Honorary Professor of Medicine at the University of New South Wales (Australia). An expert on asthma and airway disease, he leads a TB research programme with Vietnam's National TB Programme. He has been active in The Union since 1993.

The President-Elect will take over from the current President at the Union World Conference to be held in Hyderabad, India, October 2019.

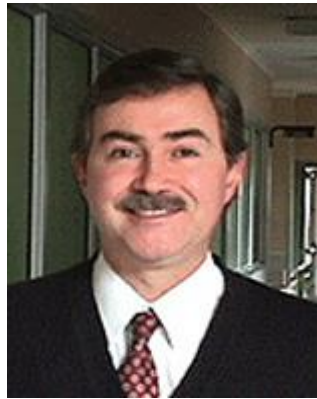
# Welcome to the GAN Steering Group:



**Professor Kevin Mortimer. Kevin is a Respiratory Physician based at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in the UK**

Kevin and his team are currently running collaborative research projects in Africa including IMPALA <https://www.lstmed.ac.uk/impala>. He is Director of Lung Health of The Union and brings unique expertise to the GAN Steering Group. Welcome Kevin.

## **We are sorry to see you go Javier:**



Javier is a paediatric pulmonologist and Professor of Pediatric and Director of the Department of Pediatric Respiratory Medicine, Hospital CRS El Pino, Faculty of Medical Sciences, [University of Santiago de Chile \(USACH\)](#).

Javier's research interests are pulmonary function in infants and children, recurrent wheezing in infants, asthma prevalence and treatment, and aerosol therapy.

Javier was an active member of the ISAAC Steering Committee between 1992-2012, he was the ISAAC Regional Coordinator for Latin America throughout this time and was also on the Global Asthma Network Steering Group from 2012-2019. In ISAAC Phases One, Two and Three, Javier encouraged and supported huge involvement in Latin America: over 61 centres from 17 countries involving 224,374 adolescents aged 13/14 year olds and 135,075 children aged 6/7. Javier played an important role in ensuring the data and methodology met the standards required for inclusion from the many centres in his region. We will miss you very much Javier.

## **We are sorry to see you go Nils:**



## Honouring Dr Nils Eric Billo

Dr Nils Billo was one of the founders of the Global Asthma Network (GAN), bringing several members of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) <https://www.theunion.org/> to join with members of the ISAAC Steering Committee in 2012 as GAN's Steering Group. His leadership of The Union at that time, as CEO, was critical to the success of GAN. He championed lung health and in particular asthma and access to essential asthma medicines, and The Union contributed funding for the central coordination of GAN and the Global Asthma Report 2014.

Dr Billo helped promote national autonomy within the framework of the priorities of each country by developing, implementing and assessing anti tuberculosis (TB), tobacco control and asthma programmes, as well as other non-communicable disease (NCD) programmes.

He believes in meaningful partnerships such as the Stop TB partnership, GAN, the Global Alliance Against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD), the NCD Alliance, and established and maintained close links with World Health Organization (WHO), other United Nations organisations, government and non-government institutions in health and development sectors as well as Union members in almost all countries. He introduced with others the idea of the Asthma Drug Facility (ADF) to make quality assured essential asthma medicines available and affordable in all low- and middle-income countries (1).

Until recently Dr Billo has been working as Medical Officer for WHO and advocating for increased commitment of WHO for asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) programmes as well as tackling air pollution within GARD. His most recent publication, with others, is "A strategy for measuring health outcomes and evaluating impacts of interventions on asthma and COPD—common chronic respiratory diseases in Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD) countries". *J Thorac Dis.* 2018 Aug;10(8):5170-5177.

During his 30-year career in public health and international campaigns, he provided a neutral platform to fight TB, HIV, asthma, tobacco and other public health problems around the world. His enormous contribution to global TB control and lung health is acknowledged worldwide.

1. Billo NE. Asthma drug facility: from concept to reality. *Int J Tuberc Lung Dis.* 2006 Jul;10(7):709.

## **GAN Phase I update - Philippa**

We have received expressions of interest from 354 Centres in 134 Countries. Of these, 135 centres from 53 Countries have registered to undertake GAN Phase I and are undergoing field work, have already submitted their data to the Auckland Global Centre for processing and sending on to London and Murcia for data checking.

For those of you who have not yet submitted your data, we urge you to get this into the GAN Global Centre [info@globalasthmanetwork.org](mailto:info@globalasthmanetwork.org) and submit your centre report on line using this link. <http://www.globalasthmanetwork.org/surveillance/centre.php> as soon as possible.

As mentioned many times, a requirement of the GAN Global Centre (Auckland) is that the Centre Report is completed on line.

<http://www.globalasthmanetwork.org/surveillance/centre.php> This link captures the Centre Report information in a database that enables us to report on methodology in the worldwide papers. The completed Centre Report sent back to collaborators after the final data checks have been completed also allows centres to report accurately their methodology in their own publications.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring the data checks are carried out in a timely manner.

Best wishes

Philippa

## **Social Media**

The Global Asthma Network is on [Twitter](#) and is gaining more followers regularly. We now have 288 followers. Follow us at @GlobalAsthmaNet. All Global Asthma Network tweets are included as an extension of the [news section](#). News items are tweeted, as well as pertinent asthma related information.

## **Wikipedia**

The Global Asthma Network has a Wikipedia page. This can be found at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global\\_Asthma\\_Network](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_Asthma_Network)

## **WORLD ASTHMA DAY 7 May 2019**

To our GAN collaborators - any items for World Asthma Day for the GAN website would be welcome. Please send to [info@globalasthmanetwork.org](mailto:info@globalasthmanetwork.org)

## **The Union World Conference on Lung Health**

30 October - 2 November 2019

Website: <https://hyderabad.worldlunghealth.org/>

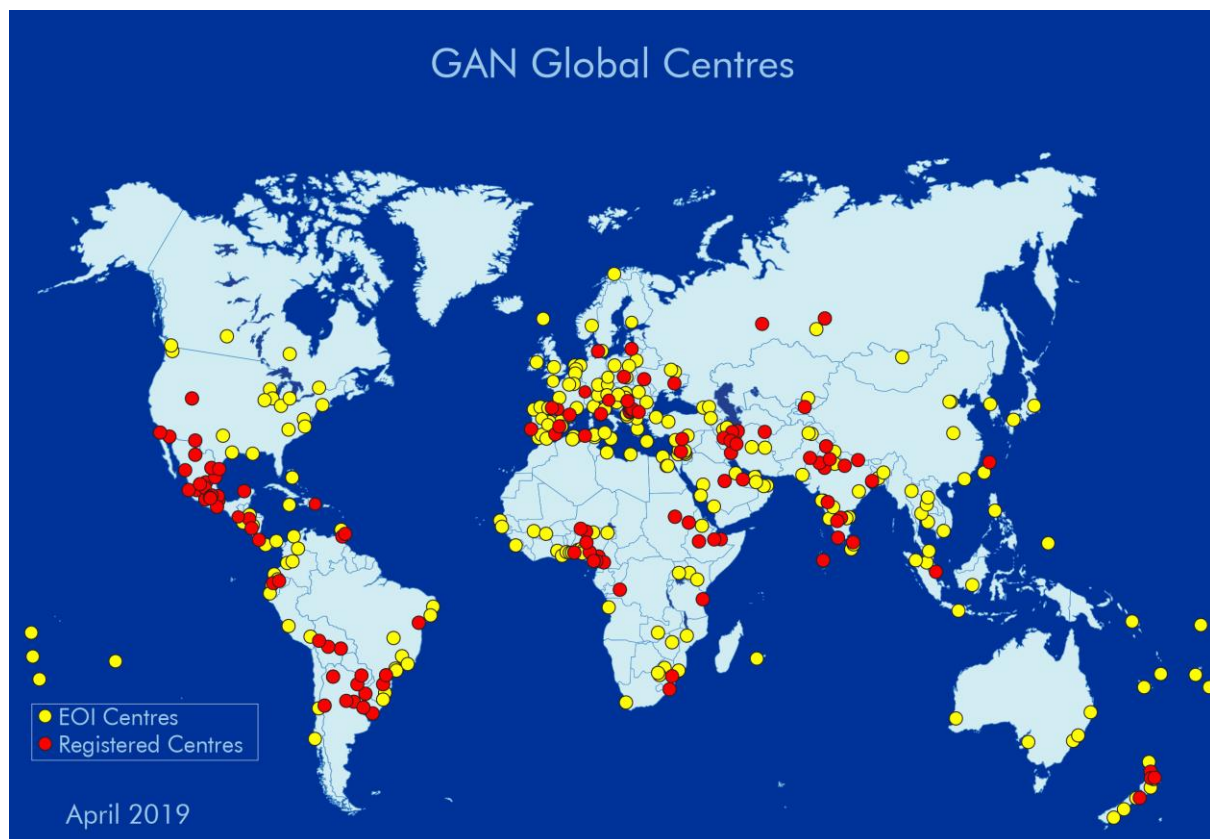
Theme: Ending the Emergency: Science, Leadership, Action

Location: Hyderabad, India

Our collaborators are encouraged to submit abstracts for this conference – closing date 19 April 2019.

**Global Asthma Network Centres April 2019** 354 centres from 134 countries

\* = Centre is registered



**Africa**

- Angola**
- Luanda
- Cameroon**
- \*Bafoussam
- \*Buea
- \*Douala
- \*Yaounde
- Ethiopia**
- \*Addis Ababa
- \*Harar
- Mekelle
- The Gambia**
- Fajara
- Ghana**
- Accra
- Kumasi
- Kenya**
- \*Nairobi
- Malawi**
- Blantyre
- Nigeria**
- Benin City
- \*Enugu
- \*Gusau
- \*Gwagwalada
- \*Ibadan
- Ife
- Kano
- \*Lagos
- \*Maiduguri
- Owo
- Senegal**
- Dakar
- Sierra Leone**
- \*Freetown
- Somalia**
- \*Hargeisa
- South Africa**
- \*Cape Town

- \*Durban
- Ekurhuleni
- Polokwane
- \*Pretoria
- Sudan**
- \*Gadarif
- \*Khartoum
- Swaziland**
- \*Manzini
- Tanzania**
- \*Dar es Salaam
- Uganda**
- Kampala
- Zambia**
- Lusaka
- Zimbabwe**
- Zimbabwe
- Egypt**
- Alexandria
- Cairo
- Cairo-Castle
- Algeria**
- \*Annaba
- Bab El Oued
- Blida
- Wilaya of Algiers
- Benin**
- Cotonou
- Sèmè Podji
- Burkina Faso**
- Bobo-Dioulasso
- Congo, Dem. Rep.**
- \*Kinshasa
- Libya**
- Benghazi
- Tripoli
- Mali**
- Bamako
- Mozambique**
- Maputo

- Reunion Island**
- Reunion Island
- Togo**
- Lome
- Tunisia**
- Ariana
- Tunis
- Asia-Pacific**
- Hong Kong**
- Hong Kong
- China**
- Beijing
- Hefei
- Taiyuan
- Indonesia**
- Bandung
- North Sumatera
- Palangkaraya
- Japan**
- Fukuoka
- Tochigi
- Korea, South**
- Seoul
- Lao PDR**
- Lao PDR
- Malaysia**
- Klang Valley
- Kota Bharu
- Mongolia**
- Ulaanbaatar
- Philippines**
- Metro Manila
- Singapore**
- \*Singapore
- Taiwan**
- Tainan
- \*Taipei
- Thailand**
- \*Bangkok

- Chantaburi
- \*Chiang Mai
- Vietnam**
- Ho Chi Minh
- Eastern Mediterranean**
- Iran**
- \*Ahvaz
- Birjand
- Bushehr
- \*Hamadan
- \*Karaj
- \*Kashan
- \*Mashhad
- Rasht
- \*Sanandaj
- \*Sari
- Tehran
- \*Yazd
- Zanjan
- Israel**
- Israel
- Jordan**
- Amman
- Irbid
- Jerash
- Kuwait**
- \*Kuwait
- Malta**
- Malta
- Pakistan**
- Hyderabad
- Islamabad
- \*Multan
- Peshawar
- Palestine**
- North Gaza
- Qatar**
- \*Qatar

- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**
- Abha
- Alkhobar
- Jeddah
- Madinah
- \*Riyadh
- Oman**
- Al-Khod
- Muscat
- Syrian Arab Republic**
- \*Damascus
- \*Lattakia
- United Arab Emirates**
- Al Ain
- Sharjah
- Indian Subcontinent**
- Bangladesh**
- Dhaka
- Sylhet
- India**
- Aligarh
- \*Bangalore
- Bijapur
- \*Bikaner
- \*Chandigarh
- Chennai
- \*Jaipur
- Jodhpur
- Kolkata (10)
- Kolkata (14)
- \*Kolkata (19)
- \*Kottayam
- \*Lucknow
- Mangalore
- Mumbai (11)
- Mumbai (7)
- \*Mysuru
- \*New Delhi

Orissa  
 \*Pune  
 Vellore  
**Maldives**  
 \*Malé  
**Nepal**  
 \*Kathmandu  
**Sri Lanka**  
 \*Anuradhapura  
 Colombo  
 \*Peradeniya

**Latin America & Caribbean**  
**Argentina**  
 Buenos Aires  
 \*Buenos Aires (3)  
 Buenos Aires (2)  
 \*Córdoba Ciudad  
 \*Corrientes  
 \*Mendoza  
 \*Salta  
 \*San Francisco  
**Bolivia**  
 \*Cochabamba  
 \*La Paz  
 \*Santa Cruz  
**Brazil**  
 Belo Horizonte  
 Brasília  
 \*Feira de Santana  
 \*Maceió  
 \*Passo Fundo  
 Pelotas  
 Porto Alegre  
 Recife  
 Rio de Janeiro  
 \*Santo André  
 São Paulo South  
 \*Uruguaiiana  
**Chile**  
 Santiago  
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**Colombia**  
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 Bogotá  
 Bucaramanga  
 Cali  
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 Quito  
 \*Samborondón  
**El Salvador**  
 San Salvador  
**Guatemala**  
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**Honduras**  
 San Pedro Sula

\*Tegucigalpa  
**Mexico**  
 \*Agascalientes  
 \*Chihuahua  
 \*Ciudad Juárez  
 \*Ciudad Victoria  
 \*Córdoba  
 \*Culiacan  
 \*Guadalajara  
 \*Guanajuato  
 \*Matamoros  
 \*Mérida  
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 \*Mexico City North  
 \*Michoacán  
 \*Monterrey  
 \*Oaxaca  
 \*Puerto Vallarta  
 \*San Luis Potosi  
 \*Tijuana  
 \*Toluca (1)  
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 \*Xalapa  
**Nicaragua**  
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**Jamaica**  
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**Trinidad and Tobago**  
 \*St Augustine  
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 Saskatoon  
 Vancouver  
**United States**  
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 Dallas  
 Fort Wayne  
 Hartford  
 Houston  
 Iowa City  
 Madison

Metropolitan Detroit  
 New Orleans  
 North Carolina  
 Seattle  
 \*Utah  
 Virginia  
 Washington DC

**Northern and Eastern Europe**  
**Albania**  
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 Tiranë  
**Armenia**  
 Yerevan  
**Belarus**  
 Grodno  
**Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
 Prijedor  
**Bulgaria**  
 \*Sofia  
**Croatia**  
 \*Rijeka  
**Czech Republic**  
 Prague/Pilsen  
**Denmark**  
 \*Copenhagen  
**Finland**  
 Helsinki  
**Georgia**  
 Kutaisi  
 Tbilisi  
**Hungary**  
 Szeged  
 Szigetvár  
**Kosovo**  
 \*Ferizaj  
 \*Gjakova  
 \*Gjilan  
 \*Mitrovica  
 \*Peja  
 \*Prishtina  
 \*Prizren  
**Kyrgyz Republic**  
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 \*Jalalabat  
**Macedonia**  
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**Norway**  
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**Poland**  
 \*Katowice  
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 Poznan  
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**Romania**  
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 Cluj-Napoca  
**Russia**  
 Novosibirsk

\*Toms  
 \*Tyumen  
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**Slovenia**  
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**Sweden**  
 Lund  
**Ukraine**  
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 Rural Kharkiv  
 \*Ternopil  
 \*Zaporizhzhya  
**Turkey**  
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**Faroe Islands**  
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**Oceania**  
**Australia**  
 Adelaide  
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 Newcastle  
 \*Perth  
 Sydney  
**Fiji**  
 Suva  
**French Polynesia**  
 Polynésie française  
**New Caledonia**  
 Nouvelle-Calédonie  
**New Zealand**  
 \*Auckland  
 Bay of Plenty  
 Christchurch  
 Hawke's Bay  
 Marlborough  
 Northland  
 Otago  
 \*Waikato  
 \*Wellington  
 \*Whakatane  
**Niue**  
 Niue Island  
**Palau**  
 Republic of Palau  
**Samoa**  
 Apia  
**Solomon Islands**  
 Honiara  
**Tokelau**  
 Tokelau  
**Tonga**  
 Nuku'alofa  
**Tuvalu**  
 Funafuti  
**Vanuatu**  
 Port Vila

**Western Europe**  
**Austria**  
 Salzburg  
 Urfahr-umgebung  
**Belgium**  
 Antwerp  
**Channel Islands**  
 Guernsey  
**Cyprus**  
 Nicosia  
**France**  
 Bordeaux  
 Créteil  
 Marseille  
 West Marne  
**Germany**  
 Munich  
**Greece**  
 Athens  
 Crete  
 Thessaloniki  
**Ireland**  
 Ireland  
**Italy**  
 Ascoli Piceno  
 Bari  
 Empoli  
 Firenze  
 Florence  
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 Roma  
 Trento  
**Netherlands**  
 Leiden  
 Utrecht  
 Zwolle  
**Portugal**  
 \*Lisboa  
**Spain**  
 Asturias  
 \*Barcelona  
 \*Bilbao  
 Cádiz  
 \*Cantabria  
 \*Cartagena  
 Castellón  
 La Coruña  
 Madrid  
 Málaga  
 Mar Menor  
 \*Pamplona  
 \*Salamanca  
 \*San Sebastián  
 Sevilla  
 Toledo  
 \*Valencia  
**Switzerland**  
 \*Bern  
**United Kingdom**  
 Birmingham  
**Vatican City**  
 \*Vatican City

## **GAN News**

<http://www.globalasthmanetwork.org/>

### **Calling time on asthma deaths in tropical regions—how much longer must people wait for essential medicines?**

'Calling time on asthma deaths in tropical regions—how much longer must people wait for essential medicines?', written by the GAN Steering Group has just been published in the Lancet Respiratory Medicine. [Volume 7, ISSUE 1](#), P13-15, January 01, 2019

Every day around 1150 people die worldwide because of asthma, and most of these deaths are avoidable. As a comparison, malaria—which is seen as a much bigger problem and increased prevention measures have resulted in decreasing death rates—kills about 1175 people per day. Most asthma deaths occur in children and adults living in tropical regions, where effective asthma management might be either non-existent or inaccessible. However, with correct diagnosis and treatment many deaths from asthma could be prevented.

### **Global Asthma Network signatory to Political Declaration on noncommunicable diseases**

The Global Asthma Network is a signatory to the Political Declaration on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) organised by the NCD Alliance on 27 September 2018.

ENOUGH: over 300 organisations and experts calls on world leaders to seize the 'do or die' moment of the third UN High-Level Meeting to address NCDs

### **Asthma included in WHO's Global Emergency and Trauma Care Initiative**

Asthma has been included in WHO's Global Emergency and Trauma Care Initiative launched on 8 Dec 2018 in Davos. 8 December 2018 | GENEVA/DAVOS: Today with the generous support of the Davos-based AO Foundation, WHO launches the Global Emergency and Trauma Care Initiative. Around the world acutely ill and injured people die every day due to a lack of timely emergency care. Among them are children and adults with injuries and infections, heart attacks and strokes, asthma and acute complications of pregnancy. Many countries have no emergency access telephone number to call for an ambulance or no trained ambulance staff. Many hospitals lack dedicated emergency units and have few providers trained in the recognition and management of emergency conditions. These gaps result in millions of avoidable deaths every year.

<https://www.who.int/emergencycare/global-initiative/en/>

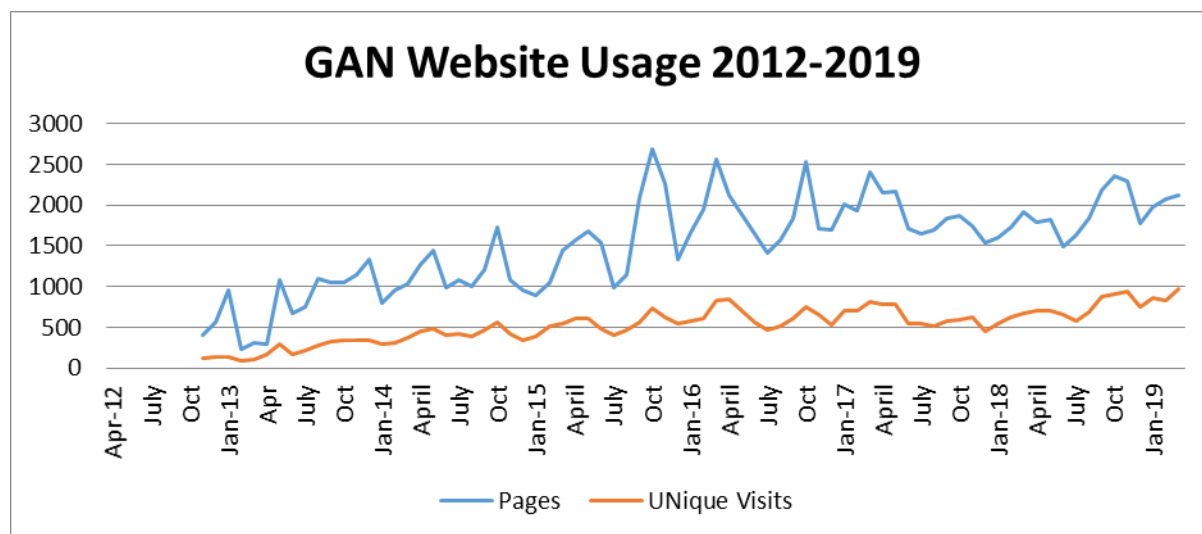


## Global Asthma Network Website Report – March 2019

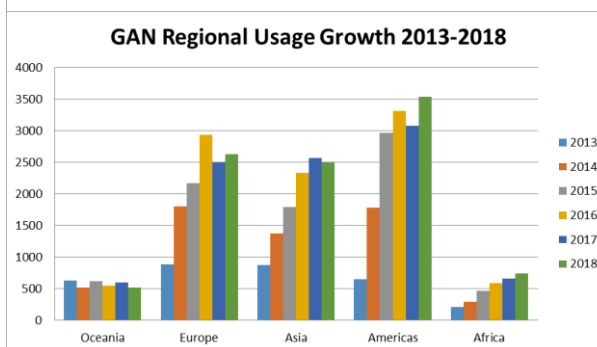
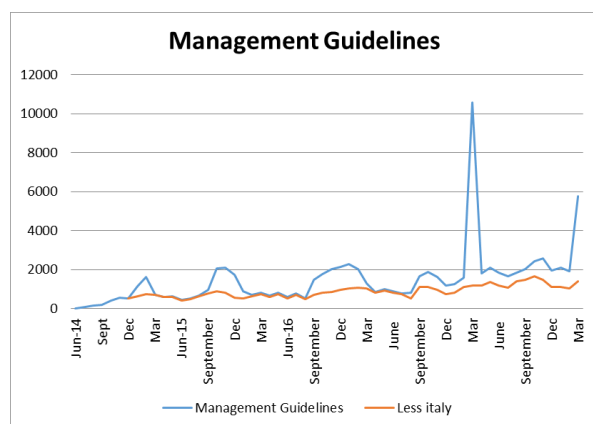
The [Global Asthma Network website](#) is intended to be the main channel for the dissemination of information. It includes information of use to collaborators in the Global Asthma Network, such as [upcoming conferences and symposiums](#), [asthma management guidelines](#) and the latest [asthma related news](#). The website also includes all of the surveillance tools including the GAN Manual, Rationale and Methods and Registration and Centre Report forms, as well as all GAN publications.

### Website Statistics

Website usage has continued to show steady growth, as can be seen in the stats below, with seasonal dips in July and January

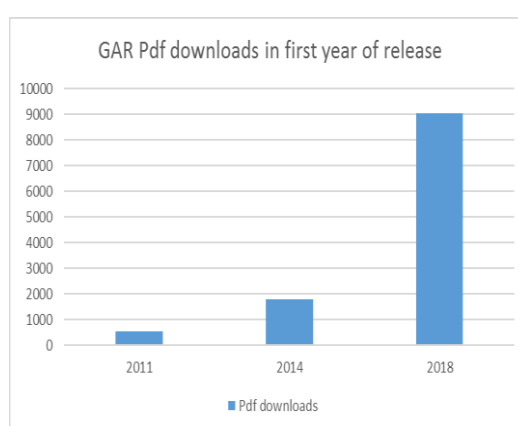
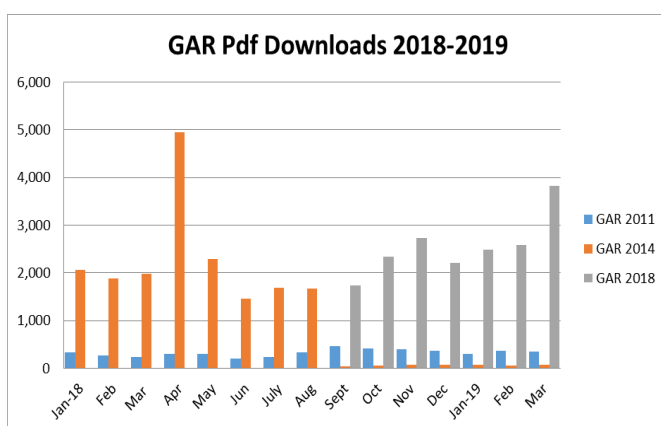
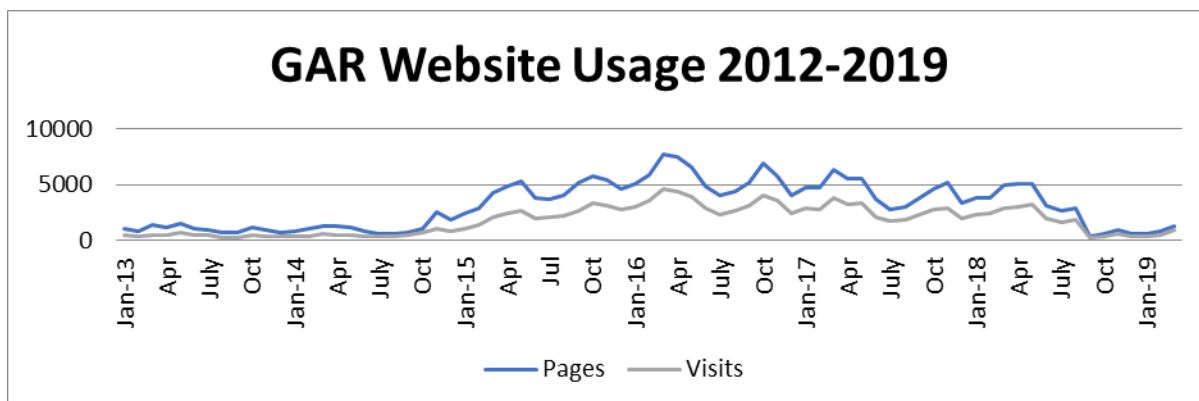


The management guidelines section continues to see increased usage. This is being driven mainly by the Italian, Columbian, Peruvian and Bosnian guidelines. Guidelines for over 20 different countries are being downloaded each month. Website usage has continued to steadily increase in all regions except Oceania, with the Americas showing most growth. Africa is growing steadily.



## Global Asthma Reports (GAR) 2011, 2014, 2018

While the GAR website has shown decreased usage, the pdf downloads have increased at a high rate, as seen in the first year of release graph: 9000 so far for GAR 2018. The continued high demand and growing global recognition of the Global Asthma Report is heartening.



## Asthma Management Guidelines Update

The website section on asthma Management Guidelines has many out-dated entries <http://www.globalasthmanetwork.org/management/management.php>

We would appreciate you looking at this section and sending to us any new asthma guidelines you know of, especially for your country, locality or region. Kindly send these to [info@globalasthmanetwork.org](mailto:info@globalasthmanetwork.org)

## GAR 2021

We would appreciate receiving high quality photographs for the GAR 2021. There are a number of ways to measure photos, some common specifications are:

- At least 300ppi
- At least 3mb file size
- At least 12 megapixels camera size/quality
- At least 3000 pixels wide or high

We would welcome photos that meet any of these specifications from our collaborators. Kindly send these to [info@globalasthmanetwork.org](mailto:info@globalasthmanetwork.org)