

GLOBAL ASTHMA NETWORK



Dear Global Asthma Network collaborators, colleagues and friends

Welcome to the year-end Global Asthma Network newsletter. This year has been a successful year for GAN and we appreciate the continuous support from our members and research partners. The Global Asthma Report 2025: Patient Stories (GAR 2025) was published on the 6th of May 2025 (World Asthma Day) and has received positive feedback from the asthma community. Several organisations facilitated the dissemination of the GAR 2025. The World Health Organization (WHO) promoted the GAR 2025 in their World Asthma Day (WAD) departmental news article published on the WHO website. The Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) included the GAR 2025 in their WAD media statement for their Increasing Access to Inhaled Medicine for Asthma and COPD Campaign. The Global Allergy & Airways Patient Platform (GAAPP), who contributed to the GAR 2025, circulated copies at the World Health Assembly and UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting. The Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) presented the GAR 2025 at their GINA Advocates meeting on WAD. The Pan African Thoracic Society (PATS) circulated the GAR 2025 on their website for WAD. At the time of sending this newsletter, the GAR 2025 had 8032 views. The GAR 2025 has published 64 patient stories with particularly strong representation from the African region and the Americas. In the interest of continued network engagement and further developing the GAR 2025 as a living document, GAN would like to invite collaborators to submit additional patient stories.

If you are interested in submitting a patient story, please email the GAN administrator and instructions will be sent to you. We are also excited to announce GAN's upcoming project, the Global Asthma Report 2026: Country Stories. This project aims to develop detailed profiles of countries across all six WHO regions, covering high-, middle-, and low-income settings. The profiles will highlight the unique challenges and experiences related to the burden, diagnosis and management of asthma in each country. The publication will build on the Global Asthma Report 2025: Patient Stories and will be published similarly as a living digital document. To date, 39 countries have indicated interest in writing the country stories so far. The Global Asthma Report 2026: Country Stories will be published in time for the World Asthma Day 2026.

The GAN SG has completed a five year strategic planning exercise informing our activities over the next 5 years. We plan to have activities on a yearly basis, so please stay tuned as these will be shared in our newsletters and our regular updates.

GAN remains committed to addressing the burden of asthma and we hope to continue collaborating with our members and research partners throughout this five year period leading to the UN SDG 2030. The GAN Steering Group wishes you and your loved ones Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays!

Refileo and Kain

GAN co-chairs

Correspondence: info@globalasthmanetwork.org

New Steering Group Members

We welcomed two new members to the GAN steering group in 2025. We are still looking to add new centres and members to the steering group for more representation. Collaborators are invited to submit their names, or provide a suitable recommendation.



The individual should be familiar with GAN and its past work, and actively involved in research initiatives. If you have a recommendation or think you are a suitable candidate, please email your detailed CV to the GAN administrator (info@globalasthmanetwork.org).

Associate Professor Gustavo Wandalsen

Dr Gustavo Wandalsen is based in Brazil. He is currently an Associate Professor of Allergy, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology in the Department of Paediatrics at the Federal University of São Paulo - UNIFESP. His areas of interest include allergic diseases, lung function, epidemiology of allergies and nasal provocation tests.

Associate Professor Amy Chan

Dr Amy Chan is based in New Zealand. Associate Professor Chan is the Respiratory Lead of the Medicines Intelligence group and the Head of School of Pharmacy at the University of Auckland. She holds an honorary post with the University College London, UK and leads a research group that explores the intersection of digital technology, big data and respiratory health, focusing on asthma care. She is the Clinical Director for Asthma New Zealand and a leader of a working group for the European Respiratory Society Clinical Research Collaboration CONNECT. She is a global lead for work transformation with the international Pharmaceutical Federation and is a Minister-appointed councillor for the Pharmacy Council New Zealand.



You can read more about the GAN Steering Group, collaborations and publications, on our website and keep up with GAN on our social media:

website: www.globalasthmanetwork.org
LinkedIn: [Global Asthma Network](#)
bluesky: [@globalasthmanet.bsky.social](#)
X/Twitter: [@GlobalAsthmaNet](#)

GAN Collaborators

Mr Elvis Ndikum, a collaborator based in Cameroon, attended the London Global Climate and Health Summit and facilitated the attendance of a GAR25: Patient Stories contributor, Lisa Paule Sama, and she spoke about her experience living with asthma. Mr Ndikum also acquired seven air quality machines as a result of collaboration between the WHO Conference, the Global Youth Strategy on Air Pollution and Climate Health and IQAir Schools4Earth programme. The public station has gone live and can be accessed [on their website](#). Yaounde City has also joined the WHO BreatheLife2030 Network. We thank Mr Ndikum and the Global Youth Strategy on Air Pollution and Climate Health for all their efforts in bringing awareness to asthma and highlighting the message behind GAN's work.



Lisa at the Global Climate and Health Summit

Dr Melvin Lee Qiyu is a clinical research fellow at the University Hospital Southampton and is leading a research study as part of their PhD project titled "**Defining Asthma Remission: An International Consensus Study on Patient-Centred Perspectives in Severe Asthma**." They are conducting a global Delphi consensus process to ensure that the perspectives of the patients, parents and caregivers most affected by severe asthma are fully reflected in how asthma remission is defined and applied in clinical settings. If you're interested in participating, email: m.lee-qiyu@soton.ac.uk



Mr Elvis Ndikum at the Global Climate and Health Summit

The Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) works with healthcare professionals and patient representatives globally to reduce asthma prevalence, morbidity and mortality. GINA aims to increase asthma awareness and its impact on public health. The organisation also promotes the study of the association between asthma and the environment, researches the management of asthma, and methods to improve the availability and accessibility of effective asthma therapy. More information about GINA and the GINA global strategy can be accessed on their [website](#).



The GAN India team has had the opportunity to present their GAN data at two conferences and received three Best Research Paper Awards. Multiple GAN members have attended the European Respiratory Society (ERS) Congress 2025 in Amsterdam, which focused on global respiratory health. They also attended the 27th National Conference on Pulmonary Diseases - NAPCON India 2025, as organised by the Indian Chest Society (ICS). The conference served as a collaborative platform to discuss pulmonary medicine, universal health and the importance of environmental determinants of lung health.



GAN India team at the 24th Annual Conference of Rajpulmocon 2025



Dr Nishtha Singh presenting GAN Phase I data at the 24th Annual Conference of Rajpulmocon 2025



Dr Nishtha Singh presenting at NAPCON India 2025

Three GAN collaborators, Dr Emmy Nkhama (Zambia), Dr Elsa Maria Salvador (Mozambique) and Prof. Kuku Voyi (South Africa) have teamed up to engage in a multi-country, multi-centre study under the GAN framework where they used the methodology developed by ISAAC. Countries involved were part of the SADC regional E8 malaria elimination countries and they investigated asthma in adolescents living in pesticide polluted indoor environments. The authors plan to tap into a minimally researched area by investigating the influence of African Traditional methods in disease management, as some data trends were particularly obvious in the rural Vhembe district (South Africa). We're excited to read their interesting research, and upcoming publications.



Prof. Luis Garcia-Marcos and Dr Nishtha Singh at NAPCON India 2025



Map of collaborative research sites in the E8 countries

We end 2025 with 378 centres in 135 countries. The interactive plotted map is available on the GAN website. If you are interested in joining GAN as a collaborator, or partnering with us, you can send your request to the official GAN email.

Thank you