

The Union

Child Pneumonia Working Group

NEWSLETTER

Quarter 1, Jan-Mar, 2026

Welcome to the inaugural quarterly newsletter of [The Union Child Pneumonia Working Group](#)—your go-to resource for the latest developments, events, funding opportunities, publications, and more shaping the field of child pneumonia research, policies, and programs.



Developments

Important recent developments in the field of child pneumonia...

- UN IGME [2024 child pneumonia mortality estimates](#)
- Global Burden of Disease 2023 [child pneumonia mortality estimates](#)
- ALIMA [NutriVax RCT](#) integrating delivery of SQ-LNS wasting prevention supplement with measles vaccination in Nigeria
- Every Breath Counts campaigns - [Experts Agree: Secure PCV!](#) and [Stop RSV: Let the Science Talk!](#)
- WHO [RSV prevention tools](#)
- WHO [Updated PCV policies](#)
- Gavi [RSV Board decision](#)
- Gavi [6.0 financing changes](#)
- [Lancet Global Health Commission on Medical Oxygen Security](#)
- Results for Development, [Impact Brief: Reducing Child Mortality in Tanzania by Increasing Access to Pediatric Pneumonia Treatment](#)



Events

Relevant up and coming global health events...

- [World Vaccine Congress](#), Washington DC, 30 March - 2 April
- [One Health Summit](#), Lyon, 7 April
- [World Immunization Week](#), 24-30 April
- [World Health Summit Regional Meeting](#), 27-29 April, Nairobi
- [14th International Society for Pneumonia & Pneumococcal Disease \(ISPPD\) Conference](#), Copenhagen, 17-21 May
- [79th World Health Assembly](#), Geneva, 18-23 May
- [INSPIRED](#), Bologna, 25-28 June
- [World Health Summit](#), 11-13 October, Berlin
- [World Pneumonia Day](#), 12 November
- [Union World Conference on Lung Health](#), Rio de Janeiro, 17-20 November



Funding

Significant child pneumonia-related funding awards...

Awarded

- [American Lung Research Institute](#)
- Gates Foundation to Qure.ai for [BREATH](#)
- [Phoenix Children's Research Institute](#)
- [Tulane University School of Medicine](#)

Open

- [AAP ICATCH](#)
- [American Thoracic Society \(ATS\): multiple](#)
- [European Commission: EDCTP3](#)
- [European Respiratory Society \(ERS\): Health Lungs for Life Grants](#)
- [Fund for Innovation in Development](#)
- [Gates Foundation Global Grand Challenges \(several\)](#)
- [NIH/Fogarty: multiple](#)
- [NIHR: multiple](#)
- [Poverty Action Lab: Evidence in AI for Health \(EVAH\)](#)
- [Thrasher Research Fund](#)
- [Unitaid: INSPIRE](#)
- [Wellcome Trust: multiple](#)



<https://theunion.org/childhood-pneumonia>



Publications

Notable child pneumonia publications...

- *Genetic risk factors for pneumonia differ by patient subgroup*, Heikkilä A, et al, EBioMedicine, February, 2026
- *Predicting infectious etiology and severity in hospitalized pediatric pneumonia using blood cytokine biomarkers*, Duray AM, et al, Frontiers in Pediatrics, December, 2025
- *Recent updates regarding the management and treatment of pneumonia in pediatric patients: a comprehensive review*, Ma Y, et al, Infection, December, 2025
- *Human metapneumovirus in children with acute lower respiratory infections: effects on clinical and disease severity*, Yang S, et al, BMC Pediatrics, October, 2025
- *Exposure to Household Air Pollution From Biomass Cooking and Severe Pneumonia in Infants*, Household Air Pollution Intervention Network (HAPIN) Investigators, JAMA Network Open, October, 2025
- *Real-world effectiveness of RSVpreF vaccination during pregnancy against RSV-associated lower respiratory tract disease leading to hospitalisation in infants during the 2024 RSV season in Argentina (BERNI study): a multicentre, retrospective, test-negative, case-control study*, Marc GP et al, Lancet Infectious Diseases, September, 2025
- *Assessing the impact of childhood pneumococcal vaccination on pneumonia mortality in Colombia: a 14-year analysis*, Parellada CI et al, BMC Public Health, September, 2025
- *Predicting paediatric pneumonia severity in the emergency department: a multinational prospective cohort study of the Pediatric Emergency Research Network*, Florin TA, et al, Lancet Child and Adolescent Health, June, 2025



Member Spotlight

qure.ai

Qure.ai develops AI tools to assist interpretation of medical images for conditions including pneumonia and tuberculosis. Its qXR platform supports triage in settings with limited radiology capacity, though evidence for diagnosing pediatric pneumonia is still limited. However, in early 2026, Qure.ai received a **Gates Foundation grant** to develop AI-enabled point-of-care lung ultrasound algorithms and create open datasets—including pediatric imaging—to improve early detection of pneumonia and tuberculosis in low-resource settings.



Dr Rebecca Nantanda at the The Union World Conference on Lung Health Indonesia, 2024



From the Co-Chairs

Despite great progress, child pneumonia remains a leading cause of child mortality, underscoring the urgency to coordinate action across research, policy, and implementation. Through The Union Child Pneumonia Working Group, and this quarterly newsletter, we strive to connect evidence to action and to amplify opportunities for making impact.

Contact us!

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Join Us!

Union members can log into their account and select this group; non-members can contact membership@theunion.org.

Everyone is welcome on our quarterly calls!