

# Pasteur Network Annual Meeting 2025: Post-Meeting Report

## Background

The 2025 Pasteur Network Annual Meeting (PNAM), hosted by the Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City, brought together 240 participants from over 30 Pasteur Network (PN) members, global public health leaders, strategic partners, and representatives from major international and regional health organizations. The meeting provided a platform for members to connect, review scientific progress, foster collaboration, and align priorities for the Network's collective work in global health.

The theme of P NAM 2025, "40 Under 40", celebrated and elevated 40 emerging scientists from across the Network. This initiative aligns with one of the Network's core missions: fostering multidisciplinary knowledge communities and empowering the next generation of scientific leaders. The program placed young scientists at the center through plenary presentations, roundtable discussions, and networking. These efforts reinforced the Network's commitment to supporting talent development, innovation, and collaboration across all career stages and regions. This report summarizes the key points and outcomes of the meeting.

## Meeting Overview

The program (October 21–23) opened with a welcome ceremony on October 21; October 22 and 23 featured plenary sessions, thematic sessions, and roundtable discussions. The program concluded with a visit and reception at the Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City.

October 21 Day 1	October 23 Day 2	October 24 Day 3
Opening Ceremony + Reception	<b>40u40 Plenary Session 1:</b> Arboviruses: Surveillance, Immunity & Pathogenesis	<b>40u40 Plenary Session 3:</b> Respiratory Viruses: Detection, Surveillance & Immunity
	<b>40u40 Plenary Session 2:</b> Community Involvement in Research and Surveillance	<b>40u40 Plenary Session 4:</b> Enteroviruses & Emerging Viruses
	<b>Climate &amp; Health Session</b>	<b>Roundtable: "When I Was in Your Shoes"</b>
	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Vaccine Manufacturing in the Network</b>
	<b>Women in Science Session</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
	<b>Roundtable: Under 40:</b> "The Early Career Reality Check"	<b>40u40 Plenary Session 5:</b> Bacteria & Microbiota
	<b>Dinner Cruise</b>	<b>40u40 Plenary Session 6:</b> Parasites
		<b>Visit and Reception at Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City</b>

The keynote speech was given by Shomy Hasan Chowdhury, an award-winning WASH activist and Co-Founder of Awareness 360. Drawing on her personal journey of losing her mother to a preventable waterborne illness, Shomy delivered a powerful message. Her speech deeply resonated with the "40 Under 40" cohort. She challenged them to see youth not as leaders of tomorrow, but as agents of change today who can drive real impact on the world's most pressing challenges. She underscored the critical link between climate change and health, and emphasized that "science communication is a survival skill." Her vision of "Co-Science", where researchers and communities work together, aligns with the Network's commitment to addressing climate-sensitive diseases, strengthening cross-disciplinary collaboration, and putting communities at the center.

## Plenary Sessions

The plenary sessions provided a platform for young scientists from the "40 Under 40" initiative to present their research and engage with peers and senior experts. Each session focused on a specific scientific theme, followed by lively Q&A and discussion that fostered knowledge exchange and opened doors for future collaborative research across the Network.

The sessions showcased the Network's breadth of scientific talent and generated active discussion among both early-career and seasoned scientists. They deepened members' collective understanding of these critical fields and reinforced the potential for ongoing partnerships. The list of speakers and topics for each session is provided below.

### Plenary Session 1: Arboviruses: Surveillance, Immunity & Pathogenesis

This session presented insights on cutting-edge arbovirus monitoring, immune response dynamics, and regional epidemic trends.

#### **40u40 Plenary Session 1: Arboviruses: Surveillance, Immunity & Pathogenesis**

Moderator: Hichem Ben Hassine - Pasteur Network

Speakers:

- **Enrico Palermo** - Institut Pasteur in Italy – Cenci Bolognetti Foundation, Italy
  - *Metabolic regulation of innate immunity to Dengue virus infection*
- **Hermann Landry Munshili Njifon** - Centre Pasteur du Cameroon, Cameroon
  - *Strengthening Arbovirus Surveillance in a Climate-Sensitive Zone: Lessons from Northern Cameroon*
- **Samar Akbi** - Institut Pasteur d'Algérie, Algeria
  - *Spatio-temporal identification of suitable areas for West Nile Virus circulation in Algeria using climatic and environmental data*
- **Pritesh Lalwani** - Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ), Brazil
  - *One Health Surveillance of Emerging Viruses in the Amazon: Lessons from the BR-319 Corridor*

## Plenary Session 2: Community Involvement in Research and Surveillance

This session shed light on participatory models and community engagement that strengthen outbreak detection and response.

### 40u40 Plenary Session 2: Community Involvement in Research and Surveillance

Moderator: Paula Reges - Pasteur Network

Speakers:

- **Wannes Van Hoof** - Sciensano, Belgium
  - *Healthy Data : An online citizen consultation about health data reuse*
- **Grégoire Davigon** - Institut Pasteur de Nouvelle Calédonie, New Caledonia
  - *Simulating Climate-Sensitive Leptospira Dynamics Through Transparent Soil Microcosms and Community-Centered Approaches*
- **Le Hoang Thieu** - Pasteur Institute in Nha Trang, Vietnam
  - *Rabies Epidemiology and Barriers to Prevention: A One Health Approach in Central Vietnam*

## Plenary Session 3: Respiratory Viruses: Detection, Surveillance & Immunity

Speakers in this session shared innovations in respiratory pathogen surveillance and immunity research.

### 40u40 Plenary Session 3: Respiratory Viruses: Detection, Surveillance & Immunity

Moderator: Yanis M'Zali – Institut Pasteur, Paris, France

Speakers:

- **Wuji Zhang** - Hong Kong University - Pasteur Research Pole, Hong Kong
  - *Understanding why vaccineresponses differ in people withchronic illnesses*
- **Ali Maleki** - Institut Pasteur in Iran, Iran
  - *Strengthening Diagnostic Reliability in Epidemics: Insights from Iran's COVID-19 External Quality Assessment Program*
- **Pham Van Khang** - National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), Vietnam
  - *Epidemiology of Measles in the Northern Region of Viet Nam from 2019 to 2023 and Risk Assessment for 2024*
- **Karidja Yakoura** - Institut Pasteur de Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire
  - *Integrated Epidemiological and Genomic Surveillance of Respiratory Viruses in Côte d'Ivoire (2022–2025)*
- **Dung Truong Thi Thuy** - Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
  - *Real-time epidemiological analysis for measles outbreak control in Southern Vietnam, 2024-2025*

## Plenary Session 4: Enteroviruses & Emerging Viruses

Key themes of this session were cross-border viral risks and outbreak preparedness strategies.

### **40u40 Plenary Session 4: Enteroviruses & Emerging Viruses**

Moderator: Meryem Lemrani - Institut Pasteur du Maroc, Morocco

Speakers:

- **Joël Dote** - Institut Pasteur de Bangui, Central African Republic
  - *Characterization of enteroviruses circulating among farm animals and children in Central African Republic*
- **Chittaphone Vanhnollat** - Institut Pasteur du Laos, Laos
  - *Uncovering Zoonotic Viruses at the Human-Wildlife Interface*
- **Anna Dolgova** - Saint-Petersburg Pasteur Institute, Russia
  - *Pseudotyped viral particles as a tool for studying tissue tropism of newly discovered viruses*

## Plenary Session 5: Bacteria & Microbiota

This session featured research on topics such as microbiota, antimicrobial resistance, pathogen transmission, zoonotic risk, drug discovery, and microbial innovation.

### **40u40 Plenary Session 5: Bacteria & Microbiota**

Moderator: David Chatenet - INRS - Armand-Frappier Santé Biotechnologie Research Centre, Canada

Speakers:

- **Sébastien Bontemps-Gallo** - Institut Pasteur de Lille, France
  - *Survive to Transmit: How *Yersinia pestis* Prepares Inside Fleas for Plague Spread*
- **Antsa Harinaivalona Rakotonirina** - Institut Pasteur de Madagascar, Madagascar
  - *Molecular detection of tick-borne pathogens in ticks from Madagascar: Public Health implications*
- **Isaure Quénel** - Institut Pasteur de Guadeloupe, Guadeloupe
  - *Impact of Habitat Disturbance on Small Mammal Microbiota and Zoonotic Risk in a Tropical Island Ecosystem*
- **Nikolaos Vakirlis** - Hellenic Pasteur Institute, Greece
  - *Molecular mechanisms of innovation: de novo gene birth and antimicrobial peptides*
- **Siyeon Yang** - Institut Pasteur Korea, Korea
  - *A Bridgehead in drug development*
- **Sokleaph Cheng** - Institut Pasteur du Cambodge, Cambodia
  - *The CircUs Pilot Project in Cambodia: One Health Approach to Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance*
- **Iliyan Manoylov** - Stephan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology, Bulgaria
  - *Zbtb20: The Unsung Hero (or Villain) of Autoimmunity*

## Plenary Session 6: Parasites

This session showcased developments in genomic surveillance and targeted control of parasitic diseases.

### 40u40 Plenary Session 6: Parasites

Moderator: Jose Badano - Institut Pasteur de Montevideo, Uruguay

Speakers:

- **Aissata Camara** - Institut Pasteur de Guinée, Guinea
  - *SHERLOCK4AAT, a new molecular method for highly sensitive and specific detection of animal African trypanosomes*
- **Florencia Díaz Viraqué** - Institut Pasteur de Montevideo, Uruguay
  - *From Chromatin to Infection: Epigenetic Regulation in a Neglected Human Parasite*
- **Ryan D. Pardy** - INRS, Canada
  - *Investigating interferon signaling in the small intestine during Cryptosporidium infection*
- **Emna Harigua** - Institut Pasteur de Tunis, Tunisia
  - *The BIND project: Bioinformatics & Artificial Intelligence for Infectious Diseases drug discovery research*
- **Imane El Idrissi Saik** - Institut Pasteur du Maroc, Morocco
  - *Promoting Multidisciplinarity in Approaching Cutaneous Leishmaniasis*
- **Celia Florimond** - Institut Pasteur de la Guyane, Guyana
  - *Piperaquine-resistant malaria parasites hinder treatment efficacy in the Guianas*
- **Mamane Salé Noura** - CERMES, Niger
  - *Diversity, Ecology, and Insecticide Resistance Profiling of Malaria Vector Anopheles Species in Niamey, Niger*
- **Sebastian Baumgarten** - Institut Pasteur, Paris, France
  - *Building a Trojan Horse for malaria eradication*

## Climate & Health Session

The Climate and Health Observatory Accelerator project, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Institute of Philanthropy, aims to support climate-resilient health systems in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). It empowers members and local researchers to translate climate data into actionable public health responses and fosters collaboration and knowledge sharing across the Network.

At PNAM 2025, Climate and Health (C&H) fellows from Southeast Asia introduced the project and presented updates on their respective climate-health research. All C&H fellows also convened separately during PNAM to strategize and strengthen collaborative action. The project will continue, generating global goods through the development of case exemplars for climate-health observatories and through fellows' advanced research. Separately, the fellows will prepare a white paper on the PN's climate and health strategy to catalyze dialogue across the public health community.

### Climate & Health Session

Moderator: Nick Chung - Pasteur Network

Speakers:

- **Saren Sovann** - Institut Pasteur du Cambodge, Cambodia
  - *Assessing climatic impacts on health through the lens of public perceptions in Cambodia*
- **Quang Quan Le** - Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
  - *Promoting Climate-Health Activities for Dengue in Vietnam*
- **Manilath Nalongsack** - Institut Pasteur du Laos, Laos
  - *Climate impact on mosquito distribution and dengue transmission using ecological, epidemiological, socioeconomic and knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) factors in Vientiane capital, Lao PDR*
  - *Bridging Research Evidence, Implementation and Dialogue on Climate and Health Gaps*
- **Thai Pham** - National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), Vietnam
  - *Strengthening Dengue Surveillance Systems in Việt Nam*

## Vaccine Manufacturing in the Network

Supported by the Wellcome Trust, the Vaccine Manufacturing Initiative (VMI) aims to strengthen vaccine production capacity and collaboration across the Network. Building on its in-person meeting in Morocco in Q2 2025, the VMI convened a focused session on Day 2 of PNAM. Participants aligned on collaborative priorities, including priority disease targets and a clinical trial network, and explored opportunities with partners and funders. This gathering laid a solid foundation for deeper synergy and joint efforts among vaccine manufacturing members.

On Day 3, a panel session brought together select leaders from VMI members to share insights and practices, as well as discuss challenges and opportunities. The discussion highlighted the

potential to deepen cooperation across the Network, strengthen capacity building, and pursue joint ventures that advance vaccine sovereignty and equity.

#### **Vaccine Manufacturing in the Network**

Moderator: Marco Nascimento - Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ), Brazil

Speaker:

- **Ndeye Mareme Ba** - Institut Pasteur de Dakar, Senegal
- **Khalid Zemzoumi** - Institut Pasteur du Maroc, Morocco
- **Safouane Benazzouz** - Institut Pasteur d'Algérie, Algeria
- **Dionyssios Sgouras** - Hellenic Pasteur Institute, Greece

## **Early-Career and Senior Leadership Roundtables**

The "Under 40 Roundtable – The Early Career Reality Check" created a candid forum for early-career scientists to discuss professional challenges and career development priorities. Participants exchanged practical advice and highlighted the need to develop skills beyond technical research.

#### **Roundtable: Under 40: "The Early Career Reality Check"**

Moderator: Renaud Vatrinet - Pasteur Network

Speakers:

- **Le Phan Khoi Nguyen** – Pasteur Institute of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- **Cyrine Chenaoui** – Institut Pasteur de Tunis, Tunisia
- **Gwladys Monamele** – Centre Pasteur du Cameroun, Cameroon

The "Above 40 Roundtable – When I Was in Your Shoes" featured senior leaders from member institutes. They shared career reflections, lessons learned, and mentorship strategies, offering valuable insights for younger colleagues navigating their own professional journeys.

#### **Roundtable: "When I Was in Your Shoes"**

Moderator: Rebecca Grais - Pasteur Network

Speaker:

- **Samia Menif** - Institut Pasteur de Tunis, Tunisia
- **Ehsan Mostafavi** - Institut Pasteur in Iran, Iran
- **Christophe Peyrefitte** - Institut Pasteur de la Guyane, French Guyana
- **Leo Poon** - The University of Hong Kong - Pasteur Research Pole (HKU-PRP), Honk Kong

The two roundtables created a synergistic dialogue. Senior leaders gained insights into early-career challenges and support needs, while younger researchers drew from seasoned experiences. Both sessions featured highly engaged Q&A discussions, sparking ideas and reinforcing the value of intergenerational mentorship. Building on these discussions and identified capacity needs, the Network is developing leadership training initiatives for young and mid-career scientists to equip them with professional and management skills.

## PNLink Promotion & Platform Launch

During PNAM 2025, a dedicated counter introduced PNLink—the Pasteur Network’s new secure digital platform for member collaboration and knowledge sharing (<https://community.pasteur-network.org/>). Attendees interacted with live demos and explored features such as mobile access, customizable profiles, project management, forums, and document editing. High engagement and rapid sign-ups positioned PNLink as the primary digital hub for internal communication and scientific exchange.

For the event itself, the Network created dedicated PNAM groups and an event space on PNLink. These facilitated follow-up on shared information, enabled interactions between participants, and encouraged the posting of photos and insights from the meeting. Building on this momentum, the Network will continue offering PNLink briefings and activities to foster adoption and strengthen collaboration.

## Women in Science

The Women in Science session addressed gender equity, inclusive leadership, and institutional support. Featured speakers shared personal reflections on their careers as women scientists, addressing both achievements and challenges they faced.

Presentations and discussion highlighted institutional programs and best practices to advance women scientists in research leadership. Examples include mentorship initiatives, professional development opportunities, supportive networks, and flexible work environments. The session emphasized visibility, recognition, and the cultivation of environments where all scientists can thrive.

### Women in Science

Moderator: Sophie Diallo - Institut Pasteur de Dakar, Senegal

Speakers:

- **Isabella Delgado** - Fondation Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz), Brazil
  - *Women and Girls in Science Program*
- **Marième Ndoye** - Institut Pasteur de Dakar, Senegal
  - *“WOMEN AND SCIENTIFIC CAREERS”*
- **Ildikó Csóka** - Szeged University, Hungary
  - *Interdisciplinarity, diversity and inclusivity for better performance at University of Szeged*

Moving forward, the Network seeks to develop a targeted strategy to promote gender equity, focusing on advancing women in scientific and leadership roles within the Network.

## Reflections

PNAM 2025 brought together a diverse, engaged, and forward-looking community of scientists, leaders, and partners. It marked a historic milestone for the Network, as it was the first PNAM held in the Asia-Pacific region and had record-high participation. By championing youth leadership through the "40 Under 40" initiative, advancing collaboration across the four strategic pillars, and launching new platforms and initiatives, the meeting demonstrated the Network's shared commitment to innovation, equity, and collective action. It strengthened each of the Network's strategic pillars and paved the foundation for the Network's work in 2026:

- **Epidemic Preparedness and Intelligence, with a focus on Climate-Sensitive Diseases:** Youth-led plenaries and Climate & Health updates fostered collaboration on surveillance and research.
- **Research, Development & Innovation:** VMI panel aligned priorities to advance equitable vaccine access.
- **Multi-disciplinary Knowledge Communities:** PNLink launch and roundtables bridged generations for seamless mentorship and exchange.
- **Govod Governance & Equity:** Women in Science dialogues inspired strategies for inclusive leadership.

The energy, dialogue, and connections at P NAM 2025 advanced the PN's mission: to strengthen the global network of local and regional actors, foster collective action and knowledge sharing, and guide policy responses to pressing health and scientific challenges. Looking ahead, P NAM 2025's discussions and outcomes will complement next year's strategic focus on pre-empting emerging threats and amplifying worldwide impact by shaping climate-resilient surveillance, equitable innovation pipelines, and inclusive governance frameworks. The momentum from this meeting will continue to shape collaborative success and drive impactful contributions to global health.

## About the Pasteur Network

The Pasteur Network is an alliance of 30+ institutes that plays a critical role in addressing global health challenges. The network's unique value proposition lies in its diversity and extensive geographic coverage, which spans 25 countries across 5 continents, leveraging a rich scientific community of knowledge and expertise. The Pasteur Network is recognized as a WHO non-state actor, often embedded within local Ministries of Health, and maintains a global infrastructure that includes more than 50 national and regional reference laboratories and 17 WHO Collaborating Centers, including a vast range of BSL1 - BSL3 labs.

The Pasteur Network's work is guided by four strategic pillars:

1. **Epidemic Preparedness and Intelligence, with a focus on Climate-Sensitive Diseases:** Addressing emerging health challenges through surveillance and research, particularly on climate-sensitive diseases
2. **Research, Development and Innovation:** Advancing scientific understanding and technological innovation in public health and biomedicine.
3. **Multi-disciplinary Knowledge Communities:** Fostering multidisciplinary collaboration and global knowledge exchange, and enhancing expertise to empower the next generation of scientific leaders.
4. **Good Governance and Equity:** Establishing governance structures and practices that are effective and equitable, with a focus on financial fairness and sustainable operations.