



**Join the Global Influenza Hospital Surveillance Network:  
Leverage your respiratory viruses surveillance  
by collaborating with a worldwide scientific community**

**What is the GIHSN?**

The Global Influenza Hospital Surveillance Network is a prospective active year-round surveillance platform that collects standardized data from hospitalized patients with severe acute respiratory illnesses across countries, including low-, middle-, and high-income countries from both hemispheres. The GIHSN is also linking epidemiologic and clinical data with Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) information to facilitate the exploration of viral phenotypes as they relate to severity or vaccine breakthrough cases. Yearly results are shared with local public health authorities, WHO and the scientific community at large.

The GIHSN has contributed to global surveillance of influenza and other respiratory viruses (SARS-COV-2, RSV, and others) for 12 years now, with over 100 hospitals involved in 26 countries worldwide, enrolling a total of 169,471 patients hospitalized with respiratory illness including laboratory confirmation of 27,698 Influenza cases and 44,841 patients with other respiratory viruses.

**What the GIHSN would bring to your institution/site?**

Participating to the GIHSN means that you will use a standardized protocol<sup>1</sup> for case ascertainment and respiratory specimen collection and will share data with the network. In counterparts, the GIHSN offers you the followings:

- Methodological, technical, and financial support in expanding your existing surveillance and in building local laboratory capacity; the Foundation for Influenza Epidemiology<sup>2</sup> proposes catalytic funding (grants) which should be seen as complementary to national and other sources of funding requested by sites.
- A Scientific forum to discuss respiratory viruses' surveillance and diseases severity with field based experts/investigators and international experts worldwide; each year a pooled descriptive analysis of the GIHSN year-round results is presented and discussed at the Annual meeting. In 2023, the GIHSN held its 11th Annual Meeting at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva. Over 90 scientists, clinicians and public health experts from 25+ countries gathered for 2 days and discussed lessons learned and how to strengthen collaborations across GIHSN and GISRS networks to enhance global respiratory pathogen surveillance and pandemic preparedness. (add link to website link).
- Enhanced visibility of your site by being contributor in the GIHSN [Annual Report](#) which is spread largely among the international scientific community.
- Co-authorship of the GIHSN publications<sup>3</sup> (e.g. papers submitted in 2023 Predictors of severity of influenza-related hospitalizations: Results from the Global Influenza Hospital Surveillance Network (GIHSN) ; Age Differences in Comorbidities, Presenting Symptoms, and Outcomes of Influenza Illness Requiring Hospitalization: A Worldwide Perspective From the Global Influenza Hospital Surveillance Network – add weblinks).

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<sup>1</sup> See the [protocol](#) on the GIHSN website

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gihsn.org/about-us/the-foundation-for-influenza-epidemiology>

<sup>3</sup> in line with the ICMJE rules (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors)





- Be engaged in additional collaborative research projects on respiratory viruses with various institutions and experts (WHO, CDC, Think Tanks & International Coalitions...) (e.g. Enterovirus D68 project currently led by CDC) with potential funding from the Foundation or other sources

### How the GIHSN operates?

The GIHSN is operated and supported by a dedicated fund, the Foundation for Influenza Epidemiology, under the auspices of Fondation de France<sup>4</sup>, a leading philanthropic organization in France. As of January 2023, donors of the Foundation included Sanofi, Seqirus, Illumina, Abbott Diagnostics. Donors do not have access to the data.

Scientific oversight of the GIHSN is ensured by an Independent Scientific Committee<sup>5</sup> composed of world leading experts in epidemiology, virology, and public health, including representatives from WHO and field-based experts, investigators from GIHSN sites.

Coordination of the GIHSN, supervision of implementation and data management/data hosting are supported by Impact Healthcare, an independent organization based in Paris, France, specializing in the strategic and operational management of large innovative projects in Digital Health and the use of Health data, both in France and internationally. To comply with regulations on data access and privacy, the Foundation set up a data warehouse and a data access framework. The GIHSN database is hosted in a secured environment (certified secured hosting for health personal data). Data are processed in full accordance with the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and French data protection regulations.

Sites always remains the sole proprietary of their data. A data sharing agreement is signed with Impact HealthCare to allow for the yearly data analysis. All GIHSN analysis results are submitted for publication. Scientific publications and communications mention contributing sites with investigators names in the authorship. Sites are informed upfront for any planned data analysis beyond the routine annual pooled descriptive analysis, and they have the possibility to opt-out.

### How to become a member of the GIHSN?

The Foundation is constantly looking for non-profit institutions with experience in hospital-based surveillance for influenza and other respiratory viruses and connected with local virology laboratory. Institutions which are interested in participating in the GIHSN can apply online<sup>6</sup>. Applications are reviewed and evaluated by the Independent Scientific Committee of the Foundation and funding decisions are made by its Executive Committee.

Applications could be submitted along the year. However, sites grant allocations by the Foundation occur once a year (end of August-beginning of September) for implementation of the surveillance November 1<sup>st</sup>. Therefore, application should be posted online for July 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 at the latest to be considered for grant allocation early September.

In September, the Foundation sends the formal letter with grant modalities and proceeds with first payment for the selected institutions. Kick off meeting with sites to review generic protocol and operational details is also organized in September. Sites are expected to implement the year-round surveillance from November 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup> the following year.

For any question, please reach out to us: [contact@gihsn.org](mailto:contact@gihsn.org)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fondationdefrance.org/en/homepage>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gihsn.org/about-us/the-foundation-for-influenza-epidemiology>

<sup>6</sup> <https://gihsn.org/call-for-proposal-year-round-surveillance/>





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Thanks

*The Foundation for Influenza Epidemiology*



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