

# GLOBAL HEALTH LAW

## INTEREST GROUP NEWSLETTER

### Dear members,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2025!

We are excited to share updates on how the GHLIG has been advancing global health law scholarship and contributing to critical discussions. Below, you'll find highlights from our recent activities and upcoming opportunities to engage further.

### I. Call for Submissions Global Health Law Student Essay Competition

In 2024, the GHLIG launched the Global Health Law Student Essay Competition in collaboration with the Journal of Global Health Law. The Essay Competition aims to foster insightful and impactful student-led discussions on crucial health law topics that have international significance.

Each year, the GHLIG will award a Prize to the author of an unpublished paper that a Selection Committee considers to be outstanding in the field of global health law. The selected paper will also have the chance to be featured as a publication in a forthcoming issue of the Journal of Global Health Law. The 2025-2026 Global Health Law Essay Competition is **now open!**

#### Eligibility

The competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students worldwide who have written papers during the 2024-2025 academic year. Jointly authored papers are not eligible, and ASIL membership is not required.

#### Topics

The paper must address a significant issue within the sphere of global health law. The competition adopts the framing of global health law offered in the inaugural issue editorial of the Journal of Global Health Law, which recognizes that global health law encompasses:

“...legally binding and non-binding instruments adopted under the framework of the WHO and other relevant international institutions/organizations – first and foremost the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health – and a range of hard and soft law standards recognized in other branches of international law.”<sup>1</sup>

Regional and sub-regional frameworks within which health-related standards have been adopted, as well as non-state governance, such as through professional bodies, philanthropic and private sector actors, also have important bearing on global public health.

<sup>1</sup> Brigit Toebes Stefania Negri, Katharina O’Cathaoir & Pedro Villarreal, ‘The New Journal of Global Health Law: Cracking the Foundations of the Field’ (2024) 1 Journal of Global Health Law 1.

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### Global Health Law Interest Group

#### CO-CHAIRS

Roojin Habibi  
&  
Margherita Melillo

Views contained in this publication are those of the authors in their personal capacity. The American Society of International Law and this Interest Group do not generally take positions on substantive issues, including those addressed in this periodical.



## Call for Submissions – Global Health Law Student Writing Competition —continued from page 1

We encourage diverse methodological approaches, including qualitative and quantitative methods.

### Criteria

In assessing the papers, the Selection Committee will take into account the following criteria: 1) originality; 2) depth of research; 3) sophistication of the analysis; and 4) potential to have an impact in the field.

### Prize

Winners will receive a certificate, complimentary ASIL membership, and a mentor to support publication of their piece in the *Journal of Global Health Law*.

### Submission Guidelines

Papers must be original, unpublished work. They should be between 5000 and 8000 words (including footnotes), in English, double-spaced, and follow a recognized academic citation style. They must be anonymized. Entries must be submitted electronically by **31 August 2025** at this link: <https://forms.gle/2LrG8sQMaDqZKQec8> ■

## II. 2024 GHLIG Student Essay Competition Winner Announced!

We are delighted to announce Pramita Parwani as the winner of the 2024 GHLIG Student Essay Competition for her paper, ‘Beyond Human Rights: Reframing Vaccine Access Through a Framework of States’ Capabilities.’

Pramita’s paper argues that global vaccine inequity stems not only from human rights shortcomings but also from systemic economic and political challenges. By proposing a ‘states’ capabilities’ framework, she highlights structural barriers to fulfilling human rights obligations in global health

Pramita is a Ph.D. candidate at the Law Centre for Health and Life and the Amsterdam Centre for European Law and Governance (ACELG) at the University of Amsterdam Law School.

Congratulations again, Pramita!

## III. Past GHLIG Member Events

### GHLIG’s Matthew Carvalho at the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

On 24 October, GHLIG member Matthew Carvalho coordinated a side event hosted by the Sunway Centre for Planetary Health (SCPH) at the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16), convened in Cali, Colombia. The event, entitled *Planetary Health and International Law: DSI Coherence in a Time of ABS Fragmentation*, aimed to highlight how a COP16 decision on digital sequence information (DSI) could more largely influence approaches to access and benefit-sharing (ABS) across international law. Panelists discussed the recently adopted Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement (BBNJ), the ongoing Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) for a new pandemic preparedness instrument, and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), while referencing other critical fora. The session asserted the need for greater communication across DSI negotiations and agreements, stating that an interconnected understanding of discussions at hand across other conventions is essential to support the achievement of planetary health-informed global governance.

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Panelists of the Sunway Centre for Planetary Health side event at COP16 in Cali, Colombia. From left to right: Dr. Amber Hartman Scholz, Dr. Halima Benbouza, Mr. Paul Dunshirn, Dr. Michael Halewood, Tan Sri Dr. Zakri bin Abdul Hamid, Mr. Pedro Felipe Camargo.

The side event stressed the importance of the INB process, especially the proposed Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS) system, emphasizing that decisions from COP16 could influence some of the more contentious discussions on ABS occurring at the World Health Organization. As negotiations continue into 2025, and COP16 reconvenes in Rome, Italy this February, the SCPH will be tracking all relevant ABS and DSI negotiations, hoping to support coherent and cohesive implementation of the adopted DSI decision and the newly established Cali Fund as INB continues.



GHLIG member Matthew Carvalho, as well as Dr. Yen Yi Loo and Mr. Pedro Felipe Camargo of the Sunway Centre for Planetary Health, in Colombia at COP16.

This side event, and larger efforts by the SCPH on global governance, are part of the ongoing implementation of the Global Governance Strategy for Planetary Health, supporting the Planetary Health Roadmap and Action Plan. Should you be interested in supporting these efforts, please reach out to [mpc129@georgetown.edu](mailto:mpc129@georgetown.edu) for more information.

**Professor Gian Luca Burci, joins panel on *International Law Responses to Planetary Threats* at National University of Singapore**

On 22 January 2025, GHLIG Advisory Committee Member Professor Gian Luca Burci joined the National University of Singapore's Centre for International Law (CIL) for a full day conference in "International Law Year in Review: The United Nations at 80." Professor Burci spoke on the third panel of the day, addressing "International Law Responses to Planetary Threats," alongside his co-panellists: Mr. Lionel Yee, Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General's Office, Chambers, Singapore; and Dr. John Truby, Associate Research Professor in AI and Technology. Professor Burci's remarks offered an update on the ongoing pandemic treaty negotiations in the WHO's Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB).

**GHLIG Members attend the Global Health Law Consortium's biannual conference in Berlin, Germany, co-hosted by Dr. Pedro Villarreal**

GHLIG Members Gian Luca Burci, Roojin Habibi, Sam Halabi, Alicia Ely Yamin, and others convened in Berlin on 2-3 December 2024 for the Global Health Law Consortium's biannual conference, co-organized by GHLIG's Pedro Villarreal. The conference, titled "New Horizons of European, Global, and Comparative Health Law," was co-hosted with the Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy, and the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law.

Held at the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, the workshop was followed by a public panel discussion at the same venue, featuring insights from Lawrence Gostin, Alicia Ely Yamin, Ilona Kickbusch and Gian Luca Burci, with a moderation by the Max Planck Institute's Alexandra Kemmerer. The workshop also featured significant announcements, including the launch

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### Past GHLIG Member Events —continued from page 3

of a new *Journal of Global Health Law* with Edward Elgar Publishing, and an upcoming special issue in the *Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics* celebrating ten years of Gostin's "[Global Health Law](#)" (Harvard University Press).

Thank you, Pedro Villarreal, Irene Domenici, and Christian Günther for an outstanding conference!



## IV. Upcoming GHLIG & GHLIG Member Events

### ***Towards Transformation in Global Health Law – Panel Discussion on 28 February 2025 Chaired by GHLIG's Advisory Committee Member, Professor Matiangai Sirleaf***

On **28 February 2025**, the Maryland Journal of International Law will co-host a panel discussion with the Center for Global Engagement, at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and the Law & Healthcare Program at the University of Maryland School of Law on the theme of "Towards Transformation in Global Health Law."

The event will feature a critical discussion on how ongoing reform efforts in global health can be structured to address health inequalities, including inequities in the medicines system worldwide. Panelists will consider topics such as the transformational potential of the Amendments to the *International Health Regulations* of 2005, efforts to draft an international treaty for pandemic preparedness, and beyond.

Chaired by the University of Maryland's Professor Matiangai Sirleaf, Nathan Patz Professor of Law, Francis King Carey School of Law and Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, School of Medicine, this conversation will serve as a catalyst for analyzing and reimagining the role of global health.

The line-up of speakers include:

- Roberta Andraghetti, Technical Officer, International Health Regulations Secretariat, World Health Organization;
- Roojin Habibi, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, Common Law Section, University of Ottawa;
- Fifa A Rahman, Principal Consultant, Matahari; and
- Clare Wenham, Associate Professor of Global Health Policy, Department of Health Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science

For in-person and virtual event registration details, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/towards-transformation-in-global-health-law-tickets-1219403802599>.

### ***GHLIG Business Meeting at the ASIL Annual Meeting 2025***

Going to ASIL's Annual Meeting in April? We are looking forward to bringing together experts from diverse areas of global health law for an IG business meeting that aims to generate discussion on 'updates from the field.' Stay tuned for more details via email soon!



## V. Publications by Our Members

We are pleased to highlight the following new and forthcoming publications by GHLIG Members:

### Articles & Book Chapters

- *As the United States disavows the World Health Organization, Canada must double down on its support.* The Conversation Canada by Roojin Habibi, *The Conversation Canada*, 23 January 2025.
- *Seventy-Five Years of Global Health Lawmaking under the World Health Organization: Evolving Foundations of Global Health Law through Global Health Governance* by Benjamin Mason Meier & Alexandra Finch, *Journal of Global Health Law* (2024).

- *The 2024 U.S. Elections: Global Health Policy at a Crossroads* by Benjamin Mason Meier et al, *Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics* (2024).

### New Issues

- Ten Years of Global Health Law – Special Issue of the *Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics* (Volume 53, Issue 1)
- *Journal of Global Health Law* – Issue 2, Vol. 1 is now out! Read it here: <https://www.elgaronline.com/view/journals/jghl/jghl-overview.xml>

## VI. Member Opportunities

### Submit your manuscripts to the *Journal of Global Health Law*

The *Journal of Global Health Law* publishes two issues a year and welcomes scholarly articles as well as shorter commentaries, case notes and book reviews. Articles are subject to double blind peer review.

The Journal welcomes submissions that analyze aspects of global health governance, including new developments and assessments of existing treaties and governance mechanisms. For more information, visit <https://www.elgaronline.com/view/journals/jghl/jghl-overview.xml>.

The Journal looks forward to receiving your submissions!

### Summer School in Global Health Law

Attention Master's students, Ph.D. candidates, as well as junior professionals with a legal background and interest in global health! The University of Geneva's Summer School in Global Health Law is returning this year, by popular demand!

This course will provide an advanced overview of global health law: the fundamental principles applicable, the actors involved, the legal norms already in place and their implementation, and the ongoing negotiations regarding new legal instruments. Special attention will be given to the WHO pandemic instrument that is currently being negotiated, as well as to the role played by global institutions that are particularly involved in the development and implementation of international norms.

Students will learn through a combination of lectures, seminars, class discussions, practical exercises and field visits (including a visit to the World Health Organization). The approach will be guided by the in-depth examination of specific global health challenges, and analyses provided by scholars as well as by practitioners involved in Geneva in the resolution of global health issues.

For additional details about the summer school and to register, visit <https://www.unige.ch/genevasummerschools/programme/courses/global-health-law>

### Ask the IG to co-sponsor your next global health law event!

We encourage you to explore opportunities for GHLIG co-sponsorship of your global health law events. Whether it's an in-person event, online webinar, conference, or publication initiative, reach out to the IG co-chairs to discuss potential collaborations.

Thank you for reading our January newsletter!

Want to share your latest work or next event in our next GHLIG quarterly newsletter? Email the details to the IG co-chairs, Roojin Habibi ([rhabibi@uottawa.ca](mailto:rhabibi@uottawa.ca)) and Margherita Melillo ([mm4808@georgetown.edu](mailto:mm4808@georgetown.edu)) **on or before 30 April 2025!**