



At the Helmholtz Institute for One Health (HIOH) in Greifswald, Germany, we study how infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance develop and are transmitted from animals to humans – in order to be better prepared for future pandemics. Twice a year, this newsletter provides information on the latest developments at HIOH.


## Research News

**Mpox:** Following the recent outbreaks in Central Africa and the declaration of an international health emergency in August 2024, two rapid response HIOH teams traveled to the Central African Republic and Côte d'Ivoire. They provided emergency assistance in local partner laboratories and trained on-site personnel. Our goal: to strengthen local capacities to reliably diagnose suspected cases of mpox. 



## Encounters

**One Health & Football:** A friendly football match with mixed teams was the undisputed highlight of the joint visit of the HIOH department heads and the HZI management to the Central African Republic in February 2024. Away from the pitch, their program included numerous meetings with esteemed old and new partners and the forging of strategic cooperation agreements with local authorities. 

**Teamwork:** To exchange experiences and explore alliances, an interdisciplinary team from HIOH, the University of Greifswald and the RKI met numerous Ivorian partners from science, politics and society at the One Health workshop in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in April 2024. 

**Perfectly preserved:** Today, we are testing ancient specimens from medical history collections for viral pathogens using state-of-the-art molecular methods (see right: at the University of Bologna, July 2024).



**AMR & the Baltic Sea:** Together with international partners from the Baltic Sea region, we have been investigating the global spread of antibiotics-resistant bacteria in wastewater, surface waters and waterfowl since May 2024 (project: BALTIC-AMR; see above).

**One Health cohort:** In September 2024, we began, supported by anthropologists, to design a long-term study with the local population of Bayanga (Central African Republic). This study will combine regular health check-ups with systematic health monitoring of livestock and the environment (see left).



**Exchange:** Co-organized by HIOH, the 1<sup>st</sup> International One Health Symposium premiered in Berlin in October 2024. Themed 'Infectious Diseases and Ecological Challenges', the event focused on pressing health issues ranging from the impact of biodiversity and climate change on human health, zoonoses and vectors, to data modeling and AI (see left).

## United against Pandemics

**Focus on Viruses & Mosquitoes:** Since July 2024, the Arbovirology and Entomology Working Group at the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg has been a strong new ally in the fight against the transmission of zoonotic infectious diseases (see below).

**Stronger together:** Future AMR research at HIOH will benefit from a close collaboration with the Department of Bacteriology at the Centre Hospitalier et Universitaire de Bouaké (Côte d'Ivoire). Following a research visit by an Ivorian colleague and microbiology specialist to Greifswald in September 2024, a four-member HIOH team will pay their return visit to Bouaké in November.



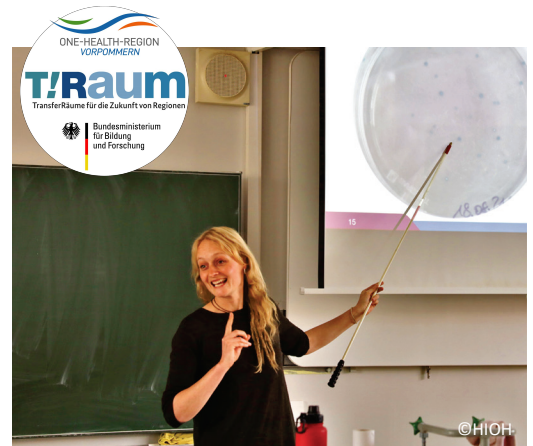
## Building and Growing

**New Building Update:** We will be one step closer to the long-awaited start of construction of our new research building when, in the next few weeks, the contract will be awarded to a construction company.

**Team Update:** After successfully filling the management positions of all HIOH departments, our international and interdisciplinary team in science and administration has now grown to around 100 people. This includes around 30 dedicated student assistants and up to ten international guest scientists.

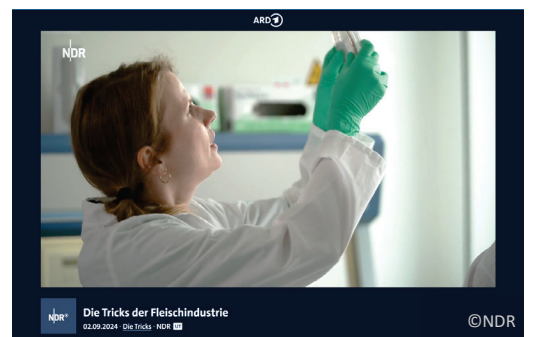


Looking for more details? Interested in regular updates? Visit us on [www.helmholtz-hioh.de](http://www.helmholtz-hioh.de) or follow us via @Helmholtz\_HIOH on X, Mastodon or LinkedIn.



## At School with HIOH

**Learning from Flies:** Guided by HIOH scientists, Greifswald high school students in grades 9 and 10 studied the biodiversity in their environment, using flies as sample collectors (see above). The citizen science project CiFly, which was also featured in the local TV news program NDR Nordmagazin, is part of the BMBF-funded T!Raum initiative and will be continued in 2024/25. [🔗](#)



## HIOH in the spotlight

**In the media:** We are happy to regularly communicate our research to the public in TV documentaries, articles and podcasts. Most recently, our work has been featured, among others, in the German Tagesschau, on ZDF (PlanB), ARTE, NDR (see above), in GEO magazine and in the HZI podcast InFact. [🔗](#)

**Live on site:** We had our own stand and small mobile laboratory at the citizens' festival of German Unity in Schwerin in October 2024. One of the many interested visitors was Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's minister of research, Bettina Martin (see left). [🔗](#)