

# RSV GOLD IN GHANA

## INTRODUCING: JOUKJE WILLEMSSEN

We would like to introduce Joukje Willemsen, a new PhD-student joining the RSV research group, and future project leader for the RSV GOLD study. Joukje has completed a master in Methodology and Statistics. During her master she investigated the possibility of improving the efficiency of clinical trials by including historical controls, and was part of a research group that developed a program that incorporates machine learning in the process of Systematic Reviewing. During her PhD she will build upon the mathematical model of Scheltema (project founder RSV GOLD) et al. that estimates the potential impact of maternal vaccination against RSV on RSV-associated mortality.



## PILOT STUDY IN GHANA

We have started a very promising collaboration with the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital Department of Child Health in Accra, Ghana with a pilot study to estimate burden of SARI-related PICU admissions. Furthermore, we will assess the comparability of conventional RSV PCR used at the University of Ghana Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research and the point-of-care RSV test that will be used for RSV GOLD III - ICU Network Study. We would like to thank the motivated, dedicated and capable team including Prof. Bamenla Goka (Consultant Pediatrician, Associate Professor of Pediatrics), Dr. Kwabena Osman (Consultant Pediatrician), and Dr. Evangeline Obodai (Virologist).



## FACTS

- **1644** cases are included in the RSV GOLD registry
- Collaborators come from **63** countries worldwide
- **9** collaborating countries are LICs
- We have welcomed **5** new students to the RSV GOLD team

## NEW INCLUSIONS

We would like to sincerely thank the following collaborators for contributing new cases:

- Dr. Namrata Prasad (on behalf of the Southern Hemisphere Influenza and Vaccine Effectiveness Research and Surveillance [SHIVERS] project, New Zealand)
- Prof. Dr. Eun Lee (Chonnam National University Hospital, South Korea)
- Dr. Loai Saadah and Prof. Dr. Iman Basheti (Ibn Al-Haytham Hospital, Jordan)
- Dr. Daniel Jarovsky and Dr. Daniela Gregória Bomfim Prado da Silva (Santa Casa de São Paulo, Brazil)
- Dr. Christoph Binder and Dr. Angelika Berger (Medical University of Vienna, Austria)
- Dr. Fahmida Chowdhury and Dr. Ariful Islam (ICDDR, B, Bangladesh)
- Dr. Kazuki Iio (Tokyo Metropolitan Children's Medical Center, Japan)
- Dr. Dario Prais (Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel)
- Prof. Pham Thi Minh Hong (Children's Hospital No2, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam)
- Dr. Chris Gill and Dr. Leah Forman (Boston University School of Public Health, USA)
- CHAMPS Network

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## CONTACT

<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:rsvgold@umcutrecht.nl">rsvgold@umcutrecht.nl</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.rsvgold.com">www.rsvgold.com</a>
<b>Linked-in</b>	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/rsv-gold-3a9824144">www.linkedin.com/in/rsv-gold-3a9824144</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/RSVGOLDProject/">www.facebook.com/RSVGOLDProject/</a>
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