

NEWSLETTER
COVID-19 AND RSV

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The global uprising of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to large differences in seasonal patterns of RSV due to the implementation of non-pharmaceutical interventions to contain the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. In a review of available literature, we found that 38 countries showed absence of the regular annual RSV peak(s) during the pandemic. In most studies, the absence of a distinct peak was followed by waves of increased RSV incidence, during which children admitted with severe RSV-related severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) were on average older than before the start of the pandemic. It is unclear to what extent this effect will appear reversible or if it will have lasting effect on seasonal patterns and age groups at risk for severe disease. Although the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on RSV-associated SARI seasonality has been studied extensively in high income countries and upper middle income countries, unfortunately hardly any literature is available from lower to middle income countries.

NEW TEAM MEMBER: LISA

From the 1st of July 2022 Lisa de Krosse has joined the RSV GOLD Study team. She is a fourth year medical student at the University of Utrecht and has worked the last several years at the Hematology department of the University Medical Centre Utrecht as part of the Medical Student Team.



"I am very excited to start working for the RSV GOLD study and be a part of this enthusiastic and hardworking team where I, among other things, get the chance to improve my research skills. Together we can make a difference in understanding the characteristics of children with a RSV infection and try to create a better future for those children worldwide."

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NEW TEAM MEMBER: SANDER

Since the end of July 2022 Sander is a member of the RSV Gold III - ICU Network study team. He is a fifth year medical student at the University Medical Centre in Utrecht. Sander has previously worked for a different project within the RSV research group and will join us now as a research assistant.

"I see it as a great opportunity to be able to work in the motivated team, which enables me to contribute to this important global research project while also personally develop my own skills."



ICU NETWORK STUDY SITE - NEPAL

Our assistant-researcher and medical student Renate Visser visited the RSV GOLD III - ICU Network Study team in Nepal this last June and July. We are thankful to our collaborators from Kanti Children's Hospital (KCH) and Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH) for welcoming her. Renate has performed a study to investigate the burden of RSV in the catchment areas of KCH and TUTH, and she has helped to finalize the data of their first RSV season. In 2021, the Nepal study team has already included over 200 RSV positive patients.



NEW INCLUSIONS

We sincerely would like to thank Terho Heikkinen from the Department of Pediatrics, Turku University Hospital, Finland, for contributing new deaths to our registry.