

## **Mapping the Travel Medicine Evidence Base: A bibliometric analysis to inform research priorities**

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**Introduction:** Journal-level bibliometric analyses provide a systematic approach to understanding the scope, evolution, and focus of research within a field. The aim of this study was to conduct a bibliometric analysis of travel medicine publications mapped to the ISTM Body of Knowledge (BOK), to identify research trends, gaps, and priority areas.

**Methods:** All indexed articles published in Tropical Diseases, Travel Medicine and Vaccines between July 2015 and September 2025 were included. Publications were mapped against the ISTM BOK, comprising seven domains and 173 sub-domains. Each article was evaluated by at least 2 authors (FFN/SCT/MGS). Articles could be included in more than one domain/subdomain.

**Results:** A total of 261 articles were assessed. Most articles addressed diseases contracted during travel (44.1%, n=115), followed by pre-travel assessment/consultation (27.6%, n=72), epidemiology (19.9%, n=52), and immunology/vaccinology (14.2%, n=37). At the BOK sub-domain level, topics most frequently represented were malaria (n=27), basic concepts of immunology (n=15), traveler's diarrhea (n=12), and dengue (n=11). Vaccine-focused publications most commonly addressed influenza (n=3) and Japanese encephalitis (n=2). Within the special populations subdomain, research frequently involved elderly (n=7) and pregnant (n=6) travelers. Topics for non-BOK articles included COVID-19, Zika/Oropouche virus, mpox, and new vaccines for arboviruses.

**Conclusions:** This bibliometric analysis demonstrates an uneven distribution of research output across the ISTM BOK, with a predominance of disease-focused studies and under-representation of post-travel care and operational aspects of travel medicine. The absence of important topics supports the need to revisit and update current research priorities.