

Author's reply to correspondence from Schlapbach et al.

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To the editor

We would like to thank Schlapbach et al, for their insightful observations relating to the gaps in paediatric critical care research mentioned in Focus on Paediatrics 2018[1]. It is indeed true that trials from various parts of the world are not registered on www.clinicaltrials.gov. That said, the intention was to highlight gaps and to promote more paediatric critical care research in low and middle-income countries (LMIC). Issues relating to challenges faced by paediatric critical care researchers in LMIC such as lack of funding, high clinical workload and limited research support staff have been highlighted in other recent publications also[2]. Better access to mentors, collaborators and research networks from high-income countries have been suggested as possible solutions to address the disparity. Nevertheless, readers should bear in mind, the gaps Schlapbach et al., have highlighted. As they point out, more international collaboration in paediatric critical care research is warranted and this may include creation of a global clinical trials database.

References

1. Kanthimathinathan HK, Peters MJ (2018) Focus on paediatrics 2018. *Intensive Care Med.* 44:2267–2270
2. von Saint Andre-von Arnim AO, Attebery J, Kortz TB, et al (2017) Challenges and Priorities for Pediatric Critical Care Clinician-Researchers in Low- and Middle-Income

Countries. *Front Pediatr* 5:277. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fped.2017.00277>