In this issue, Steven J Hoffman & John-Arne Røttingen (854–864) assess options for a global research and development agreement. In related editorials, Benn McGrady (794) weighs the legal implications of choices made by Member States, Carlos M Correa (795) details the potential features of a new model for pharmaceutical research and James Love (796) discusses different possibilities for its scope.

In another editorial, Abdul Ghaffar et al. (797) announce a new strategy on health policy and systems research.

In an interview, Haibo Wang (802–803) talks to Fiona Fleck about China’s new system for organ donation. Michael Dumiak (800–802) reports on efforts to revise influenza pandemic plans.

A user’s guide
Kelsey K Case et al. (831–838) clarify how a transmission model is used for planning HIV prevention strategies.

Insurance caveats
Joseph Kutzin (867–868) cautions readers on detours in the path to universal health coverage.

Making the most of new technology
Vasee S Moorthy et al. (864–866) discuss the research needed to guide decisions on future vaccines for malaria.