



**National  
Foundation for  
Infectious  
Diseases**

EDUCATION • PREVENTION • RESEARCH

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**RECENT SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES IN VACCINE DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH,  
AND POLICY HIGHLIGHTS AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON VACCINE  
RESEARCH**

BALTIMORE (April 30, 2007) – Experts in the field of infectious diseases and immunization presented data on the most recent scientific advances in vaccine development, research and policy at the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases’ (NFID) Tenth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research (ACVR) in Baltimore from April 30 – May 2. The conference is the world’s largest scientific assembly devoted exclusively to research on vaccines and associated technologies for disease prevention and treatment through immunization.

Conference highlights this year include a keynote address from Lorne A. Babiuk, Ph.D., D.S.C., Director of the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO), and a presentation by Walter A. Orenstein, MD, Director of the Emory University Program for Vaccine Policy and Development, who is this year’s recipient of the NFID’s Charles Mérieux Award.

Additionally, Jeffery K. Taubenberger, MD, Ph.D., Senior Investigator, Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda Maryland is scheduled to present the Mary Lou Clements-Mann Memorial Lecture in Vaccine Sciences: “Influenza Viruses Past and Future Threats” during the morning session on Tuesday, May 1. He is expected to discuss the pathogenesis of pandemic influenza viruses and emerging data about the 1918 “Spanish” influenza pandemic and recent genomic studies of epidemic influenza that can help scientists develop better vaccine strategies against current epidemic and pandemic influenza virus threats.

“The ACVR is the stage for cutting-edge data of human and veterinary vaccinology with international experts leading symposia and panel discussions on topical areas of basic immunology, product development, clinical testing, regulation and other aspects of vaccine research,” said Susan J. Rehm, MD, NFID’s Medical Director.

This year’s conference addresses a wide range of topics including, maternal immunization, with a focus on newly emerging “two for one” prevention method; affects

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of immune memory after an influenza vaccination as well as novel vaccine formulations and delivery for animal and human vaccines.

### Addressing the Convergence of Human and Animal Infectious Diseases

Dr. Babiuk presented the conference keynote address on the convergence of human and animal infectious diseases. He covered a wide-range of emerging, high profile diseases affecting animal and human health and discussed ground-breaking research that is set to define the next generation of vaccines.

“Over the last decade, infectious agents transmitted from animals to humans have been the cause of the major global disease outbreaks,” said Dr. Babiuk. “With recent advances in technology, primarily immunology, molecular biology and genomics, we have an unprecedented opportunity, to better understand the pathogenesis of infectious diseases and develop safer, more effective vaccines.”

### Charles Mérieux Award

NFID’s Charles Mérieux Award was presented to Walter A. Orenstein, MD, Director of the Emory University Program for Vaccine Policy and Development and former Assistant Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service and former Director of the National Immunization Program at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The award, presented each year at the ACVR, is named in honor of Dr. Charles Mérieux and is made possible by a grant from sanofi pasteur to NFID. Dr. Mérieux was a French scientist and visionary who recognized the importance of preventive medicine and understood that in order to maximize vaccine effectiveness, an efficient global strategy of vaccine distribution is required. Dr. Mérieux devoted his life to the prevention of infectious diseases.

Dr. Orenstein received the award in recognition of his work towards the reduction of vaccine preventable diseases. In a presentation delivered to the attending scientists, titled “Moving Vaccines to Vaccination: Achieving Optimal Control of Disease,” Dr. Orenstein discussed the challenges immunization programs presently face and research needs in designing solutions to overcome them. “Research on how best to achieve high immunization coverage rates is critical since the ultimate goal is reduction in cases of disease and this can only be accomplished when persons who need vaccines actually receive them,” said Dr. Orenstein.

“Dr. Orenstein’s extensive contributions to the field of vaccinology make him an excellent choice to receive NFID’s Mérieux Award. He is responsible for helping to expand vaccine usage and in so doing he has contributed to the control or even elimination of deadly diseases in the United States and around the world,” said Dr. Rehm, who presented the award.

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## About NFID's Annual Conference on Vaccine Research

The annual conference on vaccine research provides current, high-quality reports of scientific progress featured in both invited presentations and submitted abstracts. The wide range of topics covered in both human and veterinary vaccinology offers a thorough picture of the opportunities, challenges and discoveries associated with vaccine development, production and distribution.

ACVR is held in collaboration with the Albert B. Sabin Vaccine Institute, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for Vaccine Development of the University of Maryland, Fondation Mérieux, International Association for Biologicals, International Society for Vaccines, International Vaccine Institute, National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, The Netherlands Vaccine Institute and United States Department of Agriculture.

Founded in 1973, NFID is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public and healthcare professionals about the causes, treatments and prevention of infectious diseases.

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