



Experts Detail Advances at the 11th Annual Conference on Vaccine Research

The Eleventh Annual Conference on Vaccine Research, sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), was held at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, May 5 - 7, 2008.

The three-day conference is the world's largest scientific meeting devoted exclusively to research on vaccines and related technologies for disease prevention and treatment. Scientists presented findings in a wide variety of fields, including studies of the efficacy of a high-dose influenza vaccine for the elderly, development of novel vaccines to combat everything from smoking to bioterrorism, and mechanisms of spread of avian influenza (H5N1) on poultry farms.

"This is an exciting time for vaccine research," said **Susan J. Rehm, MD**, medical director of NFID and co-chair of the conference. "We are improving vaccines that are already in our arsenal and making progress toward introducing new vaccines against emerging infectious diseases, as well as other public-health problems."

The conference keynote presentation, "Value of Vaccination," was given by **David E. Bloom, PhD**. Dr. Bloom is the Clarence James Gamble Professor of Economics and Demography at the Harvard School of Public Health.

"A healthier population is a cornerstone of a vibrant and growing economy," Dr. Bloom said. In his analysis, Dr. Bloom turned conventional wisdom on its head. Although he acknowledged that higher incomes lead to better health, he also argued that better health leads to higher incomes,



Dr. Robert Glass (second from the left) recipient of the 2008 Charles Merieux Award poses with Dr. George C. Hill, NFID President-elect, Len Novick, NFID Executive Director, Dr. David R. Johnson, Director of Scientific and Medical Affairs, sanofi pasteur, and Dr. Susan J. Rehm, NFID Medical Director.

both for individuals and for nations. According to Bloom, "healthier means wealthier."

Barton F. Haynes, MD, director of the Duke Human Vaccine Institute at the Duke University Medical Center presented the Mary Lou Clements-Mann Memorial Lecture in Vaccine Sciences: "Finding a Path to HIV-1 Vaccine Development." He discussed the desired characteristics of a successful HIV vaccine and reviewed translational research strategies for new vaccine design.

NFID's Charles Mérieux Award was presented to **Roger I. Glass, MD, PhD**, director of the Fogarty International Center at the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** and asso-

ciate director of international research at the NIH.

Dr. Glass received the award in recognition of his work on rotavirus vaccines in the developing world.

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THE DOUBLE HELIX

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NFID Sets Clinical Vaccinology Course

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases announces its Clinical Vaccinology Course.

The course, sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), Emory Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and the Emory Vaccine Center, will be held November 14 – 16, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda in Bethesda, Maryland and March 6 – 8, 2009 at the Doubletree Hotel San Diego – Mission Valley.

Course collaborating organizations include the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College Health Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Medical Association, and the Society of Adolescent Medicine.

The course is specifically designed for primary care physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, public health specialists, infectious disease specialists and other health care professionals involved with clinical aspects of vaccinology.

The course topics will include:

- Vaccinology Today
- Childhood Immunization

- Adolescent and Adult Immunizations
- Immunization Challenges
- Pediatric Immunization
- Special Topics in Vaccination
- Vaccine Safety and Supply

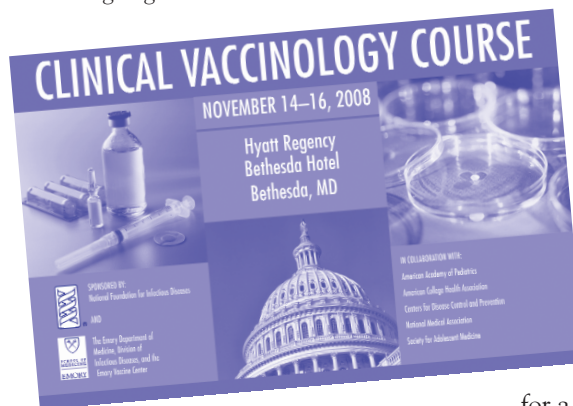
The program features didactic presentations, clinical case discussions and a meet the experts breakfast session. The Clinical Vaccinology Course has been planned and implemented in accordance with the

Essential Areas and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). NFID designates this educational activity

for a maximum of 16.3 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s).™

NFID is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Maryland Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This educational activity has been approved for 16.3 contact hours.

Registration is now open for the November 2008 course. Additional information about these courses is available on the NFID website, www.nfid.org.



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Wyeth
Pharmaceuticals

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Addressing Barriers to Childhood Influenza Immunization

NFID Coalition Speaks with One Voice to Help Increase Vaccinations

In a collective effort to increase influenza vaccination rates among children, the **National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID)** brought together members of its *Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition (CIIC)* to discuss and implement strategies that address common myths and misconceptions preventing people from getting vaccinated each year.

Twenty representatives from the nation's leading public health, medical, patient and parent groups met on May 14th in Atlanta, following the National Influenza Vaccination Summit, to lay out plans to continue its awareness campaigns with a redoubled focus on communicating clear and concise information about influenza to parents, caregivers, and health care professionals.

A key goal highlighted at the *Coalition* meeting is the need for its members to work together to increase immunization rates among children, and ensure all available doses are used. The five influenza vaccine manufacturers estimate projected capacity for 2008-2009 to be 143 to 146 million doses.

According to **Jeanne Santoli, MD, MPH**, Deputy Director, Immunization Services Division, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, changes in recommendations this year while small in number are large in scope. Annual vaccination of all children from 6 months through 18 years of age, is recommended beginning in 2008-2009 as feasible, with full implementation no later than the 2009-2010 season. Data from the National Immunization Survey show among children 6 to 23 months old, only 20.6% were fully vaccinated in 2005-2006, up slightly from 17.6% in 2004-2005.

Carol J. Baker, MD, FAAP, **FIDSA**, NFID president and *Coalition*

moderator, stressed the importance of education in light of the June publication of the expanded pediatric influenza recommendations. "This will require year-round —not seasonal— education to emphasize that people should get immunized as soon as vaccine is available in their community. Immunization continues to be beneficial in December, January and even later, since about half of influenza cases will occur after the usual February peak. Health care professionals will be encouraged not only to vaccinate themselves, but to vaccinate at all medical visits to reach all children and to strive for a meaningful increase in vaccination rates."

Results of a recent CDC survey of the public attitudes, shared by **Alan Janssen, MSPH**, Office of Communications at the CDC, reinforced the need to debunk common

misconceptions while bolstering consumer confidence in the benefit of influenza vaccination. Most respondents underestimated the severity of influenza, and had trouble telling the difference between the cold and influenza. Additionally, while only 17.3% percent of the American population is truly concerned about getting influenza, they were more concerned about giving the disease to someone else (~70%). As a result, "protecting others" is a theme that has emerged in the drive to encourage families to get vaccinated.

In an interactive training session, *Coalition* members discussed the critical role of a unified voice all of its educational efforts. Attendees agreed that messaging should simple, unified and consistently delivered throughout the season, every time they talk about influenza.

Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition Members Include:

Allergy & Asthma Network	Immune Deficiency Foundation
Mothers of Asthmatics	Immunization Action Coalition
American Academy of Pediatrics	Kaiser Permanente-Northern California
American College of Cardiology	National Association for the Education of Young Children
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists	National Association of Community Health Centers
American Lung Association	National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
American Medical Association	National Association of School Nurses
American Public Health Association	National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum	National Hispanic Medical Association
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials	National Medical Association
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America	Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases
Canyon Ranch Institute	Society for Adolescent Medicine
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	
Families Fighting Flu, Inc.	

The *Coalition* also emphasized the need to tailor messages and diversify communications to best reach specific populations. The *Coalition* will continue to work with members and new groups to increase communications among multiple cultures, as well as high-risk populations. In addition to its Spanish-language Web site, work has already begun in trans-adapting materials to be culturally sensitive to enhance the *Coalition's* reach to various ethnic groups.

Having established the urgency of the issue through its *Coalition* report, "Improving Childhood Influenza Immunization Rates to Protect Our Nation's Children," the *Coalition* will keep the momentum going in its second year to educate all stakeholders about how important it is to vaccinate children against influenza. In doing so, the *Coalition* will continue to maintain an active voice in the media and through the diverse efforts of its members.

The *Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition*, established by NFID in 2007, is made up of 25 of the nation's leading public health, medical, patient and parent groups. The *Coalition* is made possible by an unrestricted educational grant to NFID from sanofi pasteur. Please visit www.preventchildhoodinfluenza.org for more information.

CALENDAR OF NFID EVENTS AND MEETINGS

June 23 – 25, 2008

2008 Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance, sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases; Hyatt Regency Bethesda in Bethesda, Maryland.

October 25 – 28, 2008

48th Annual ICAAC®/46th Annual IDSA Meeting, Washington, DC. Visit <http://www.icaacidsa2008.org> for additional information.

November 14 – 16, 2008

Clinical Vaccinology Course, sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, Emory Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and the Emory Vaccine Institute; Hyatt Regency Bethesda in Bethesda, Maryland.

March 6 – 8, 2009

Clinical Vaccinology Course, sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, Emory Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and the Emory Vaccine Institute; Doubletree Hotel San Diego Mission Valley.

April 27 – April 29, 2009

Twelfth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research, sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases; Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland.

February 1 – February 3, 2010

2010 Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance, sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases; Hyatt Regency Bethesda in Bethesda, Maryland.

April 26 – 28, 2010

Thirteenth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research, sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases; Marriott Bethesda North Hotel and Conference Center.

For more information about NFID sponsored events and meetings, please contact, Sharon Cooper-Kerr, NFID, 4733 Bethesda Ave., Suite 750, Bethesda, MD 20814-5228, (301) 656-0003, Ext 14, fax (301) 907-0878, e-mail: scooper-kerr@nfid.org, or visit our website at <http://www.nfid.org>.



New Members Elected to NFID Boards

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) elected new members to its Board of Directors and Board of Trustees at its joint board meeting this month.

The new directors are **Kathryn M. Edwards, MD**, Vice Chair of Clinical Research, Department of Pediatrics, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; **Ronald Lee Nichols, MD**, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Tulane University School of Medicine; **Gary A. Noskin, MD**, Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Northwestern University School of Medicine; and **Thomas G. Slama, MD**, Clinical Professor of Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine. The new directors were elected to three-year terms.

New NFID trustees are **Tobi B. Karchmer, MD**, Medical Director, GeneOhm, BD Diagnostics; **Emilio A. Emimi, PhD**, Executive Vice President, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals; **Edmund C. Tramont, MD, MACP**, Associate Director for Special Projects, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; and **Jeffrey P. Engel, MD**, North Carolina State Epidemiologist. The new trustees were elected to three-year terms.

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Each year, rotavirus kills more than 500,000 children under the age of five in developing countries and hospitalizes more than 55,000 children in the United States.

Dr. Glass is an expert on the prevention of gastroenteritis from rotavirus, which infects the intestinal lining. He established a Viral Gastroenteritis Unit at CDC which has conducted epidemiologic and laboratory research and provided leadership for the national and global rotavirus program for more than 20 years. This group has trained researchers from around the world and provided the evidence base that led to the introduction of rotavirus vaccines into the US childhood immunization program and to surveillance activities for rotavirus in more than 50 countries around the world. The goal of these ongoing efforts is the ultimate prevention of rotavirus disease among children worldwide through immunization.

The award, presented each year at the Annual Conference on Vaccine Research, is named in honor of Dr. Charles Mérieux. 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. The Mérieux Award is underwritten by an unrestricted educational grant from sanofi pasteur.

The Conference included the presentation of the first Robert Austrian Memorial Lecture by **Orin S. Levine, PhD**, associate professor at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Levine is an expert on respiratory infections in developing countries, including *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib) and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. He currently heads a \$30 million effort by the **Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)** aimed at getting pneumococcal vaccine to the world's poorest countries.

The lecture is named for the late



Dr. David E. Bloom, Harvard School of Public Health, delivers the keynote address at the 11th Annual Conference on Vaccine Research

Dr. Robert Austrian, former Chair of Medical Research at the University of Pennsylvania, who developed the first multivalent vaccine against pneumococcus bacteria. The Austrian Lecture was supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Merck & Co, Inc.

In its second year, the Maurice R. Hilleman Early-Stage Career Investigator Award, which recognizes promising scientists who are just beginning their careers in vaccinology, was presented to **Dominick J. Laddy, BS**, a doctoral candidate in pharmacology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Mr. Laddy's poster presentation was "Induction of Protective Immune Responses to Pathogenic Influenza Using Electroporation and Consensus DNA Immunogens." The first and second runner ups were **Paul Makidon, DVM**, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Michigan and **Jennifer Taylor, PhD**, senior research specialist, Hygieia Biological Laboratories. The Maurice R. Hilleman Early-Stage Career Investigator Award was supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Merck & Co, Inc.

Fifteen conference participants attended as a result of being awarded an international travel grant. This travel grant program, supported by a

grant to NFID from the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**, made it possible for these researchers from developing countries to attend the conference and participate in this annual forum for discussion of pressing global vaccinology issues.

Other invited and contributed presentations and posters highlighted updates on innate immunity, genomics, avian and pandemic influenza, novel vaccines and vaccine design, cutaneous vaccination and the global challenge, adjuvants and immunomodulators, immune response to influenza vaccine, universal influenza vaccination, immunization systems and vaccine policy, assessment of vaccine response, and recently licensed vaccines. Abstracts of all conference presentations are available on the NFID website at www.nfid.org.

The Annual Conference on Vaccine Research is sponsored by NFID in collaboration with the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration (CDER); Center for Vaccine Development, University of Maryland; Fondation Mérieux; International Association for Biologicals; International Society for Vaccines; International Vaccine Institute; National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; NVI – Netherlands Vaccine Institute; Albert B. Sabin Vaccine Institute; and the US Department of Agriculture.**

Financial support for the conference was provided through unrestricted educational grants from **Acambis; Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation; Becton Dickinson; DynPort Vaccine Company; EpiVax, Inc.; Fondation Mérieux; U.S. Food and Drug Administration; GlaxoSmithKline; LigoCyte Pharmaceuticals; MedImmune, Inc.; Merck & Co., Inc.; Novartis Vaccines; Novavax, Inc.; sanofi pasteur; VaxInnate, Inc.; Vical, Inc.; and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.**

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(CONFERENCE, from p. 5)

The Twelfth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research has been scheduled for April 27 – 29, 2009, at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. A call for abstracts will be available October 15, 2008. Please visit www.nfid.org for more information.

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Dr. Hana Golding of the US Food and Drug Administration speaks with conference attendees at Meet the Experts breakfast session during the 11th Annual Conference on Vaccine Research.

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