



## Infectious Disease Challenges Outlined at News Conference

**T**he National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) held its 14th Annual Richard J. Duma/NFID News Conference and Symposium on Infectious Diseases at the National Press Club in Washington, DC on July 22, 2009. This event is named for former NFID president and executive director **Richard J. Duma, MD, PhD**, currently director of infectious diseases at Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach, Florida.

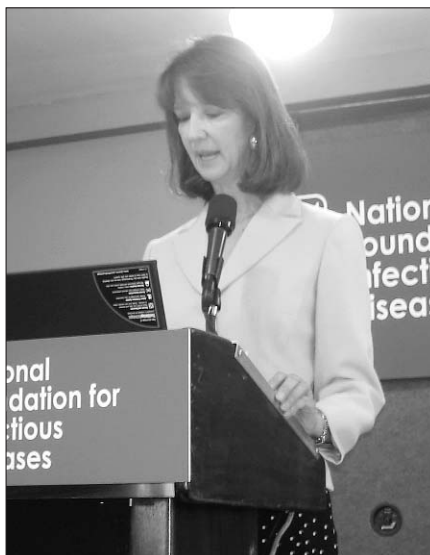
An expert panel addressed key issues and developments in the control and prevention of emerging infectious diseases, including H1N1 influenza, sexually transmitted diseases, infection risks from animals and foodborne diseases.

“Each year we face new and reemerging infectious diseases threats,” said **Susan J. Rehm, MD**, NFID medical director and vice chair, of the department of infectious diseases at the Cleveland Clinic. “Our goal as medical professionals is to ensure that we identify these threats in a timely manner and educate the public to minimize the overall impact on society.”

### Seasonal and H1N1 Influenza: Killers Both

Influenza is currently a leading cause of vaccine preventable death in the United States. Seasonal influenza causes an estimated 36,000 deaths and 200,000 hospitalizations annually. Most of these deaths occur in the elderly, but the hospitalization rate for children two years of age and younger is comparable to the hospitalization rate of the elderly.

“Unfortunately, seasonal influenza immunization has never been a health priority for Americans,” said **Carol J. Baker, MD**, executive director of the



*Dr. Susan J. Rehm speaks during the Duma News Conference and Symposium on Infectious Diseases.*

Texas Children’s Hospital Center for Vaccine Awareness and Research and professor pediatrics, molecular virology and microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Baker discussed the difficulties in distinguishing between various types of respiratory infections.

“Influenza is not easy to recognize and is often confused with less severe respiratory viral infections such as the common cold.”

Novel H1N1 influenza virus, recognized in late April 2009, has caused a million cases of influenza worldwide and the age group most affected is the young rather than the elderly. Cases of the pandemic (novel H1N1) influenza are expected to rise during this fall and winter.

“Seasonal influenza vaccine should be available soon. We should start immunizing as soon as the vaccine is available to prevent seasonal influenza. In addition to vaccine we should remember hand hygiene, cough etiquette and social distancing which help prevent the spread of both types of influenza,” said Dr. Baker.

### Sexually Transmitted Diseases – Neither Gone nor Forgotten

**David Martin, MD**, chief, section of Infectious Diseases and Harry E.

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## Clinical Vaccinology Course Scheduled

**T**he National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) announces its **Clinical Vaccinology Course**. The course, co-sponsored by NFID, Emory Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and the Emory Vaccine Center will be held November 13 – 15, 2009 at the Grand Hyatt Atlanta – Buckhead, Atlanta, Georgia. The course will also be held on the West Coast, March 12 – 14, 2010 at the San Diego Marriott Mission Valley in San Diego, California.

Course collaborating organizations include the **American Academy of Pediatrics**, the **American College Health Association**, the **American Medical Association**, **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, the **National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners** and the **National Medical Association**.

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 Clinical Vaccinology Course will feature sessions addressing:

- Vaccinology Today
- Childhood Immunizations
- Adolescent and Adult Immunizations
- Adult Vaccine Controversies
- Vaccine Implementation
- Major Challenges in Global Vaccination
- Special Topics in Vaccination
- Vaccine Safety and Supply

Keynote presentations include:

- *An Overview of Vaccinology* – **Walter A. Orenstein, MD**, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- *Immunization Issues in the Elderly* — **Kenneth E. Schmader, MD**, Duke University Medical Center
- *Vaccine Communication Issues* – **Martin G. Myers, MD**, University of Texas Medical Branch

In addition, the course will feature Meet the Experts breakfast sessions to allow attendees an opportunity to network with seasoned colleagues specializing in vaccinology.

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 16.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)<sup>™</sup>. 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 16.5 contact hours.

Online registration is now open for the November course. The cost to attend is \$550 prior to October 7, 2009 and \$650 after this date. Discounted course registration will be offered to medical students, doctoral students, residents, fellows, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and NFID supporting members. Additional information about the course, including agenda and faculty listing, is available on the NFID website, [www.nfid.org](http://www.nfid.org).

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT



NFID gratefully acknowledges **Wyeth Pharmaceuticals** for an unrestricted educational grant which made this issue of *The Double Helix*® possible.

## NFID Convenes Health Experts at News Conference Calling for Increased Awareness and Vaccination Among Adults

An NFID news conference in July highlighted the impact of low adult immunization rates on US adults, their families and our society. Speakers emphasized the importance of preventive medical care in decreasing the healthcare burden in the US and urged adults to incorporate vaccines into routine preventive care as a way to avoid illnesses associated with significant morbidity, mortality, and health care expenditures.

“We have a culture problem [in America]; we focus on things when they’re bad and the need to treat illnesses, rather than taking advantage of prevention and wellness efforts that can keep us healthy year in and year out,” said **Anne Schuchat, MD**, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**. “Vaccines are one of those factors [that] can keep us out of the hospital and keep our families thriving.”

One large challenge to increasing immunization rates that must be overcome is the lack of awareness and knowledge of vaccine-preventable diseases among adults. **Susan J. Rehm,**

MD, NFID medical director, presented results from a recent NFID consumer survey that not only showed knowledge deficits in all Americans, but an even more pronounced gap among younger adults (18 to 26 years). For example, just 49 percent of younger adults know what tetanus is and that they should get vaccinated against it every 10 years. Younger adults were also four times more likely than adults 50-plus to think polio kills more Americans annually than any other vaccine-preventable disease.

“Since young people are the foundation to the future health of our nation, their limited knowledge and awareness may be a roadblock to our goals of better immunization, which is, of course, a foundation of good preventive care and wellness,” said Dr. Rehm.

News conference moderator **William Schaffner, MD**, NFID President-Elect, pointed out a worrisome implication of the survey results. “This could spell a troubled future as our young adults age and become parents. Their lack of knowledge might translate into lower vaccination rates for their infants and children, which obviously could contribute to the

resurgence and reemergence of diseases that we’ve largely eliminated in the United States through vaccination.”

### **Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Have a Serious Impact; Healthcare Providers Can Make a Difference**

Every year, an estimated 50,000 adults die in the US as a result of diseases that are potentially vaccine preventable – more than from breast cancer, HIV/AIDS or traffic crashes. Millions more become sick, require hospitalization or medical care, and miss work.

Adults who choose not to get vaccinated put more than their own health on the line. They risk passing preventable illnesses on to vulnerable close contacts like young children and elderly parents. **Robert H. Hopkins, MD**, representing the **American College of Physicians**, illustrated this when he told Mary Grace’s story. When Mary Grace was two-months-old she contracted whooping cough and was a hospital inpatient for nearly a week. Her mother, Michelle, was devastated when she learned that Mary Grace was likely to have been infected by an unimmunized adult. She and her husband realized that because they had not been vaccinated they had risked their daughter’s life. Mary Grace’s full story, including an audio public service announcement, is available online at: [www.adultvaccination.org](http://www.adultvaccination.org).

Despite the benefits of immunization, adult vaccination rates lag far behind national goals and vaccines continue to be underutilized to protect adults. Dr. Schuchat announced results from the latest National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) that show that adult vaccination rates continue to be low in all age groups. Rates are highest for vaccines that have been recommended the longest, but even

### **Few Adults Say They Are “Extremely or Very Familiar” With Most Vaccine-preventable Diseases**

- Shingles: 43 percent say they are extremely or very familiar with this disease, while *the lifetime risk of getting it is 30 percent*
- Hepatitis B: 40 percent familiar with a disease that *leads to liver cirrhosis and liver cancer*
- Meningitis: 36 percent familiar with this serious disease that *can kill otherwise healthy young adults in 48 hours*
- Pertussis: 32 percent familiar with pertussis, a disease that has been on the risk in the U.S. for three decades and *is most deadly in infants*
- Human papillomavirus: 30 percent are familiar with this viral illness that *causes 70 percent of all cervical cancers*
- Pneumococcal disease: 20 percent know about *this infection that kills up to 4,500 U.S. adults annually*

(See EXPERTS, p. 8)

## 13th Annual Conference on Vaccine Research Scheduled

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) will sponsor the **Thirteenth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research: Basic Science-Product Development-Clinical and Field Studies** on April 26–28, 2010, at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in North Bethesda, Maryland. Collaborating organizations include the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, the **Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research-Food and Drug Administration**, the **Center for Vaccine Development-University of Maryland**, **Emory Vaccine Center**, **Fondation Mérieux**, **International Association for Biologicals**, the **International Society for Vaccines**, the **International Vaccine Institute**, the **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases**, **NVI – The Netherlands Vaccine Institute**, **Albert B. Sabin Vaccine Institute**, and the **United States Department of Agriculture**.

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The complete preliminary program and online registration may be found at the conference website link.

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The conference is designed to bring together the diverse disciplines involved in the research and development of vaccines. Expert faculty from various disciplines will present the latest vaccine-related scientific data, results, and issues via symposia and panel discussions. The conference plenary sessions will focus on the following topics:

- Vaccines, Poverty and World Hunger



- Pandemic Influenza: Revising Our Concepts
- Live Vaccines-Still Alive
- Innovations in Molecular Approaches to Vaccine Delivery
- Novel Adjuvants: Why? When? Consequences?

**Anthony S. Fauci, MD**, director, National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease, National Institutes of Health, will deliver the Mary Lou Clements-Mann Memorial Lecture in Vaccine Sciences.

The 13th Annual Conference on Vaccine Research will feature the presentation of the Maurice R. Hilleman Early-stage Career Investigator Award, which memorializes the lifetime achievements of Dr. Maurice R. Hilleman in the field of vaccinology. The award recognizes individuals in the early parts of their careers in any field of vaccinology, from basic research, through pre-clinical and clinical studies, manufacturing and production, to related research in public health, agriculture, health delivery, policy and regulatory matters. The conference will also include Meet the Experts breakfast sessions and the presentation of the Sabin Vaccine Institute's Gold Medal.

The conference will accept submissions of abstracts for oral and poster presentations at [www.nfid.org/conferences/vaccine10](http://www.nfid.org/conferences/vaccine10), beginning on

October 19, 2009. Abstracts must be received by January 4, 2010. The complete preliminary program and online registration may be found at the conference website link.

The conference was developed for researchers, scientists, epidemiologists, microbiologists, immunologists, molecular biologists, physicians and veterinarians, vaccine manufacturers, and public health officials who have an interest in vaccine research. NFID designates this educational activity for a maximum of 18.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

Continuing Education credits will be offered for nurses. This 18.5 contact hour Education Activity is provided by National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. 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.

Registration fees are \$450 prior to March 15, 2010 and \$550 after this date. NFID will offer discounted conference admission to medical students, doctoral students, residents, fellows, physician assistants, nurses, and NFID supporting members. For more information about registration or abstract submission, call NFID at (301) 656-0003 x19, fax: (301) 907-0878, e-mail: [vaccine@nfid.org](mailto:vaccine@nfid.org) or you may visit the NFID website at [www.nfid.org/conferences/vaccine10](http://www.nfid.org/conferences/vaccine10).

## NFID Announces 2010 Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) will sponsor the 2010 Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance. The conference, offered for the seventh year, will be held February 1 – 3, 2010, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Bethesda, Maryland. Collaborating organizations include the Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics, American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Veterinary Medical Association, Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research – Food and Drug Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, Infectious Diseases Society of America, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The conference is specifically designed to provide an interdisciplinary scientific forum to present, discuss, and address the science, prevention and control of antimicrobial resistance. The conference will define issues and potential solutions to the problem of antimicrobial resistance. Expert faculty from various disciplines will present the latest scientific data, results, and issues via symposia and panel discussions. **David L. Heymann, MD**, Health Protection Agency of London, will present the

keynote address on “The Globalization of Antimicrobial Resistance.”

The conference will feature symposia on:

- The economic and public policy aspects of antibiotic resistance and antibiotic development
- Susceptibility issues
- Implications of rapid diagnostic tests
- Antiviral drug resistance
- Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)
- Stewardship and policy
- Late-breaking topics

The conference was developed for physicians, researchers, microbiologists, public health professionals, and others in academia, industry and government who have an interest in antimicrobial resistance. NFID designates this educational activity for a maximum of 17 Category 1 credits towards the AMA Physician’s Recognition Award.

Continuing Education credits will be offered for nurses. 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.

The conference call for abstracts for oral and poster presentations is now available online at [www.nfid.org/conferences/resistance10](http://www.nfid.org/conferences/resistance10). The deadline for submitting abstracts is October 19, 2009. For more information about registration or abstract submission, call NFID at (301) 656-0003 x19, fax: (301) 907-0878, e-mail: [resistance@nfid.org](mailto:resistance@nfid.org) or you may visit the NFID website at [www.nfid.org](http://www.nfid.org).

(NEWS CONFERENCE, from p. 1)

Macomb Professor of Medicine and Microbiology at Louisiana State University School of Medicine, discussed the most common reportable infectious diseases in the United States, infections due to *Chlamydia trachomatis*. The number of reported cases is growing each year due to increased screening efforts. “Excellent *C. trachomatis* diagnostic tests are now available and can be performed on urine specimens. Treatment is inexpensive and safe. Theoretically, this common STD could be dramatically curtailed in the United States population if broad based screening efforts were undertaken,” said Dr. Martin. Dr. Martin addressed the need to eliminate barriers associated with screening, including lack of access to healthcare, health care provider reticence to address sexual health issues, limited budgets to support screening programs, insufficient treatment of exposed sex partners, and lack of knowledge on the part of young sexually active individuals about the true risk of unprotected sexual intercourse with multiple partners. Dr. Martin also provided updates on treatment options for gonorrhea, the increased incidence of syphilis and medical advances which lead to discoveries of new sexually transmitted diseases.

### Infection Risk from Animals in the Home and in Public Settings

**Larry K. Pickering, MD, FAAP**, senior advisor to the director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), executive secretary of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and professor of pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine, outlined the risks associated with animal exposures to non-traditional pets in the home and to animals in public settings. “The majority of households

(See NEWS CONFERENCE, p. 6)



(NEWS CONFERENCE, from p. 5)

in the United States own a pet and exposure to animals in public settings (petting zoos, state fairs, pet stores, animal swap meets, carnivals, child care centers) results in millions of human-animal interaction each year. Many pet owners, people in the process of choosing a pet and people exposed to pets in public settings are not aware of the potential risks posed by certain animals, especially non-traditional pets such as rodents, reptiles and weasels," stated Dr. Pickering.

detections of clusters of strains from ill persons that have matching patterns. This system facilitates the detection and investigation of dispersed common sources of outbreaks. Every year 50,000 strains are reported to the surveillance system. In recent years the system has detected multi-state outbreaks of infection associated with *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, and *Clostridium botulinum*.

"Educating consumers and food handlers is important, but not sufficient," said Dr. Tauxe. "Through studying various outbreaks we can

learn how to prevent disease through targeted prevention strategies."

### Supporters of the Press Conference

The 14th Richard J. Duma/NFID Annual Press Conference and Symposium on Infectious Diseases, was supported, in part, though unrestricted educational grants from Cubist Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Merck & Co., Inc., Roche and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

Since 1996 the CDC has used a national surveillance network which allows for sharing of DNA 'fingerprint' patterns, permitting rapid detections of clusters of strains from ill persons that have matching patterns.

### Foodborne Diseases: The Continuing Challenges to Public Health

Robert V. Tauxe, MD, deputy director, Division of Foodborne Bacterials, and Mycotic Diseases at the CDC, provided an overview on the prevention of foodborne diseases, how they can be diagnosed, and the roles the CDC plays in detection and prevention. Since 1996 the CDC has used a national surveillance network which allows for sharing of DNA 'fingerprint' patterns, permitting rapid

## CALENDAR OF NFID EVENTS AND MEETINGS

October 28, 2009

### Staphylococcus aureus Bacteremia and Endocarditis: Making an Impact on Outcomes.

A satellite symposium at IDSA 47th Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

November 13 – 15, 2009

### Clinical Vaccinology Course

sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases; Emory University Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases; and the Emory Vaccine Institute; at the Grand Hyatt Buckhead in Atlanta, Georgia.

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.

March 12 – 14, 2010

**Clinical Vaccinology Course** sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases; Emory University Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases; and the Emory Vaccine Institute; at the Marriott San Diego Mission in San Diego, California.

April 26 – 28, 2010

### 13th Annual Conference on Vaccine Research

Sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, Marriott Bethesda North Hotel and Conference Center

May 16 – 18, 2011

### 14th Annual Conference on Vaccine Research

Sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, Baltimore Marriott Waterfront in Baltimore, Maryland.



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 [www.nfid.org](http://www.nfid.org).

## CIIC Encourages Health Care Professionals to Support Seasonal Influenza Vaccination

Facing an unusual influenza season this year, NFID's *Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition* (CIIC) wants to make sure parents understand the importance of seasonal influenza vaccination for their children. Market research shows that parents take the advice of their health care professionals seriously. In fact, health care professional recommendations are one of the strongest factors that influence parents' vaccination decisions. Therefore, communication is critical to ensure children are protected from influenza.

The *Coalition* is helping to facilitate discussions among parents and providers about flu vaccination by making available a Health Care Professionals' Influenza Vaccination Commitment, or proxy. This proxy is intended for display in medical practices and other health care facilities, as well as on Web sites, to let people know that their health care professional recommends annual vaccination against flu.

Two types of statements are available: one for display where vaccination is offered and the other is for display where vaccination is not provided but is strongly encouraged. The *Coalition* is urging health care professionals to display the statement of commitment prominently, as a constant reminder to patients that their provider takes influenza, and its prevention, seriously.

Visit [www.PreventChildhoodInfluenza.org](http://www.PreventChildhoodInfluenza.org) to access the proxy and for more information.

## The Immunization Action Coalition's Needle Tips for Professionals Now Online

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) has just released a new issue of *Needle Tips*, its semi-annual publication with news and information for all health professionals who give vaccines. Also available is *Vaccinate Adults*, a condensed version of *Needle Tips* for those who work only with adult patients.

Both publications contain ready-to-print educational materials for healthcare professionals and their patients, updated immunization schedules, vaccine news highlights, and IAC's popular "Ask the Experts" question-and-answer column.

This is the first time in IAC's

15-year publishing history that its periodicals have been available online only, but their content remains as fresh and reliable as ever. You can find *Needle Tips* at [www.immunize.org/nt](http://www.immunize.org/nt) and *Vaccinate Adults* at [www.immunize.org/va](http://www.immunize.org/va).

Visit IAC's *Subscribe* page ([www.immunize.org/subscribe](http://www.immunize.org/subscribe)) to sign up for early notifications of future issues of these publications or to receive *IAC Express*, IAC's free weekly e-mail newsletter, which complements IAC's semiannual publications. Also, please forward this message to colleagues who may benefit from these valuable immunization resources.

## NFID Awarded Re-accreditation for Continuing Medical Education

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) has been re-surveyed by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and awarded accreditation for four years as a provider of continuing medical education for physicians. NFID has been an accredited provider since 2001.

ACCME accreditation seeks to assure both physicians and the public that continuing medical education activities provided by NFID meet the high standards of the Essential Areas, Elements and Policies for Accreditation as specified by the ACCME.

The ACCME rigorously evaluates the overall continuing medical education programs of institutions according to standards adopted by all seven



sponsoring organizations of the ACCME. These are: the American Board of Medical Specialties; the American

Hospital Association; the American Medical Association; the Association for Hospital Medical Education; the Association of American Medical Colleges; the Council of Medical Specialty Societies; and the Federation of State Medical Boards of the U.S., Inc.



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(EXPERTS, from p. 3)

then, the rates fall well below national goals. Influenza and pneumococcal immunization levels for those 65 and older are 67 percent and 60 percent, respectively, but the goal is 90 percent. Some adult vaccination levels are much lower – 7 percent for shingles in those 60 and older and about 10 percent for HPV vaccine in women 19 to 26 years of age.

Healthcare professionals can play a key role in ensuring their patients are appropriately vaccinated, according to the NFID survey. “As a physician I was personally very pleased to learn that 69 percent of all adults said their physician is most likely to influence their decision to get vaccination,” said **Cora**

**L. Christian, MD, MPH, AARP**

Board of Directors. Dr. Christian went on to note that rate is higher for older adults – 82 percent for those 65 and up and 73 percent for those 50 to 64, the same people to whom Dr. Christian delivered her message calling for better immunization against influenza and pneumococcal disease.

News conference speakers also urged healthcare providers to capitalize on this opportunity to vaccinate or at least to speak with their patients about recommended vaccines. **Stanley A. Gall, MD**, representing the **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists**, highlighted the many opportunities healthcare providers have to speak with adults about vaccination. For example, OB/GYNs are in a prime

position to speak with young women about vaccination against human papillomavirus and the need for pregnant women to be protected against rubella, diphtheria and influenza—among others—for the protection of fetuses and infants.

### ***News Conference Web Cast and Resources Available at [AdultVaccination.org](http://AdultVaccination.org)***

The news conference Web cast is available on NFID’s adult immunization initiative Web site, [www.adultvaccination.org](http://www.adultvaccination.org). The Web site hosts educational resources for adults, healthcare professionals and the media.