



## Dr. Stanley Plotkin and Mrs. Ann Lurie to be Honored at NFID Annual Awards Gala in Washington this Month

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) will honor Stanley A. Plotkin, MD and Ann Lurie at its annual awards dinner on Tuesday, March 24, 2009.

NFID will present the Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement to Dr. Plotkin for his accomplishments as scientist, physician, and scholar. The Maxwell Finland Award is given to a scientist who has made outstanding contributions to the understanding of infectious diseases or public health.

Mrs. Lurie will be honored with the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind for her pioneering work as a public health nurse, her advocacy for innovative medical care and research and her world-wide philanthropic efforts to assist needy families.

### Stanley A. Plotkin, MD

Described as one of the giants of vaccinology of the past 50 years, Dr. Plotkin has spent his life in vaccine research, development and advocacy. He is perhaps best known as the inventor of the rubella vaccine now in use. Dr. Plotkin is the co-developer of the recently licensed pentavalent rotavirus vaccine and he has participated in the creation of other vaccines including those against polio, rabies, varicella, and cytomegalovirus.

“Dr. Plotkin has been a tireless advocate for the protection of humans, and children in particular, from preventable infectious diseases. His lifetime of work on vaccines has led to profound reductions in both morbidity



Stanley A. Plotkin, MD

and mortality not only in the United States, but throughout the world,” stated Vijay B. Samant, president and chief executive officer of Vical Incorporated.

Dr. Plotkin’s medical career was molded by an internship at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital, followed by a residency in pediatrics at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and the Hospital for Sick Children in London. He then served three years in the Epidemic Intelligence Service of the US Public Health Service, analyzing and combating a number of outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Dr. Plotkin had an active and prolific career in academic medicine. Until 1991, he was professor of pediatrics and microbiology at the University of Pennsylvania, professor of virology at the Wistar Institute and at the same time, director of infectious diseases and senior physician at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.



Ann Lurie

He later transitioned to serve as medical and scientific director of the firm that would become sanofi pasteur.

“Dr. Plotkin has been a prolific contributor to scientific literature,” said Mr. Samant. He has authored

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# Health Experts Join NFID to Urge Vaccination for More Than 80% of Americans

## *Plentiful Vaccine Supply and Expanded CDC Recommendations Highlighted in Call for all Americans to Get Vaccinated this Influenza Season*

To officially mark the start of influenza season, a panel of the nation's leading health experts convened at the **National Foundation for Infectious Diseases'** (NFID) annual influenza/pneumococcal news conference on Wednesday, September 24. The predominant theme: regardless of age or health status, nearly all Americans need to get vaccinated against influenza this year. Keynote speaker and **CDC Director Julie L. Gerberding, MD** highlighted the broad reach of the expanded pediatric recommendations from the CDC, which now include all children 6 months through 18 years of age, bringing the total population of people considered high priority for influenza vaccination to just over 80 percent of Americans – roughly 261 million people.

Dr. Gerberding also provided new results from CDC's National Immunization Survey, highlighting low influenza vaccination rates (42 percent) among people ages 50 to 65. Rates were even lower among vaccine-naïve children ages 6 months to 2 years, at 21 percent. The survey also showed only 35 percent of adults between the ages of 18 and 49 getting vaccinated.

"We've got a long way to go to get these immunization rates where they need to be," Dr. Gerberding said. "Part of why we're here today is to really emphasize that message."

Moderator **William Schaffner, MD**, NFID's President-Elect, stressed the important role played by health care professionals in raising vaccination rates among their patients. Results from a recent NFID consumer survey show that "overwhelmingly, people trust and follow their doctors' recommendations," but are not "getting positive influenza prevention



*CDC Director Dr. Julie L. Gerberding addresses media at NFID's annual news conference on influenza and pneumococcal immunization.*

messages as frequently as we would like," Schaffner noted. He also noted the significant part antivirals play during the influenza season – in helping to treat influenza's symptoms and prevent its spread to others.

The panel also included representatives from the **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)**, **AARP**, **American Medical Association (AMA)**, **CDC's Influenza Division** and **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**.

### **Highlights from Panelist Presentations**

**Daniel B. Jernigan, MD**, deputy director for CDC's influenza division, stressed that vaccinating school-aged children may provide significant benefit to the community at large, protecting infants less than six months of age who cannot receive the vaccine and affording an extra layer of protec-

tion to people of all ages with whom school-aged children (as frequent spreaders of the virus) come into contact.

Putting perspective on the roughly 100 children's lives claimed by influenza in the US every year, **Renée R. Jenkins, MD**, immediate past president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, observed the profound community-wide consequences of influenza-related mortality. "When you think of the impact of a child's death – a death that can actually be prevented through a vaccine – I think that's a very powerful message," she said. Dr. Jenkins also stressed the need for greater awareness about prescription antivirals.

**Kerry Weems**, acting administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), spoke about the accessibility of the influenza and pneumococcal vaccines, particularly for people on Medicare for whom vaccination is free. Medicare reimbursement to providers of the influenza vaccine will increase between one percent (for the nasal spray) and five percent (for the injectable vehicle). For pneumococcal immunization, reimbursement will increase about 10 percent.

**Cora Christian, MD** of AARP's Board of Trustees spotlighted the highly successful efforts of a quality improvement organization in the US Virgin Islands, contracted by CMS to oversee and improve health care for Medicare beneficiaries. The Virgin Islands effort, Care Force, has boosted local influenza and pneumococcal vaccination rates from three percent to nearly 42.3 percent over the past six years.

Detailing the results of NFID's consumer survey about communication between patients and health care

(See **EXPERTS**, p. 4)

## NFID Mourns Loss of Former Congressman Paul G. Rogers

**K**nown to many as “Mr. Health,” retired Congressman **Paul G. Rogers** passed away at the age of 87 on October 13th. Mr. Rogers is most known for his work on environmental and health-care legislation during his 24 year career representing West Palm Beach, Florida.

Paul Rogers was born in Oclia, Georgia and moved to Florida as a child. He graduated from the University of Florida and served in the Army during World War II, receiving the Bronze Star Medal for his actions in European theater.

He graduated from the University of Florida’s law school in 1948 and practiced law in Palm Beach until 1955, when he won a special election to fill the congressional seat held by his father, Dwight L. Rogers, who had died.

Mr. Rogers chaired the House



Paul Rogers

Subcommittee on Health and the Environment and was the main sponsor of the Clean Air Act of 1979 and mobilized federal research into a “war

on cancer.” He also led legislation that established the National Institute of Aging and created standards for safe drinking water, noise control and emergency medical services.

Since leaving Congress in 1979, Mr. Rogers has been a partner with Washington law firm Hogan & Hartson, where he started the firm’s health law practice.

“Paul was a consummate gentleman and friend who will be missed by all who knew him, especially those of us at NFID,” stated **Len Novick**, executive director, NFID. Mr. Rogers served as Chairman of the NFID’s Board of Trustees for six years and was the organization’s Chairman Emeritus at the time of his death.

Mr. Rogers is survived by his wife of 46 years Mrs. Rebecca Rogers, a daughter, a brother and four grandchildren.

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professionals, **Ardis D. Hoven, MD** from the AMA’s Board of Trustees reported that nearly four in 10 adults have never discussed the influenza vaccine with their health care professional, and that half who did so initiated the conversation themselves. She urged health care professionals to develop positive vaccination “habits” in their patients, noting that 93 percent of people who get vaccinated in a given influenza season are likely to do so the following year.

Addressing the importance of vaccination against pneumococcal disease for those aged 65 and older, **Kristin L. Nichol, MD**, associate chief of staff for research at Minneapolis VA Medical Center, cited low immunization rates (about 57 percent) among that age group, a subpopulation particularly vulnerable to this life-threatening infection. She also noted that drug-resistant pneumococcal infections, which render antibiotic treatment less effective, have become

increasingly prevalent – all the more reason for anyone with compromised immunity to ensure they are adequately immunized.

### Television and Radio Media Tour

NFID organized a television and radio media tour on September 25th, featuring Dr. Jernigan and **T. Byron Thames, MD**, a member of the AARP Board of Directors, who spoke about CDC’s expanded pediatric recommendations, the season’s plentiful vaccine supply, and the need to increase influenza and pneumococcal vaccination rates among all priority and at-risk populations. They also stressed that health care professionals should be getting vaccinated every year to protect their patients against the spread of the disease and to serve as role models for better patient health habits. In addition to these messages, Dr. Thames highlighted NFID’s ongoing partnership with AARP, an effort to increase rates of influenza and pneumococcal

vaccination among 50+ populations.

### Media Attendance and Coverage

The news conference generated an impressive list of print and online media coverage, including the Associated Press, Reuters, *US News & World Report*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today* and *The Washington Post*. The event was also featured more than 1,500 times on local and national TV and radio stations. Nearly 50 media outlets participated on-site and via phone and Web cast.

### Online NFID Resources Available

An archived Web cast and online media kit from the event are available on NFID’s Web site, [www.nfid.org](http://www.nfid.org), for ongoing access and use. A multimedia news release, featuring visual and broadcast elements, will remain available during the next year, [www.pnewswire.com/mnr/nfid/34622/](http://www.pnewswire.com/mnr/nfid/34622/).

## Twelfth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research Scheduled

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) will sponsor the **Twelfth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research: Basic Science-Product Development-Clinical and Field Studies**, April 27 – 29, 2009, at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore, 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.

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:

- Recent Issues in Vaccine Safety
- Immunization Programs and Global Health
- Synergies Between Veterinary and Human Vaccine Development
- Update on Tuberculosis
- Malaria Vaccines



The 2009 conference will include a keynote address, *The World Health Organization's Global Immunization*

*Vision and Strategy* (GIVS), presented by **Professor David M. Salisbury, C.B.**, Department of Health in London. **Anthony S. Fauci, MD**, National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease, National Institutes of Health, will deliver the Mary Lou Clements-Mann Memorial Lecture in Vaccine Sciences.

The 12th 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 stages 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 is accepting on-line submissions of abstracts for oral and poster presentations. Abstracts must be received by January 26, 2009. 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 CME activity for a maximum of 16.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

Continuing Education credits will be offered for nurses. This 16.5 contact hour Education Activity is provided by National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases 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.

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Registration fees are \$425 prior to March 13, 2009 and \$500 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/vaccine09](http://www.nfid.org/conferences/vaccine09).

## NFID and Emory Co-Sponsor Clinical Vaccinology Course

The 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 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 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)<sup>TM</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 16.3 contact hours.

Online registration is now open for

the course. Additional information about the course is available on the NFID website, [www.nfid.org](http://www.nfid.org).

## CALENDAR OF NFID EVENTS AND MEETINGS

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, at the Doubletree Hotel San Diego Mission Valley.

March 11 - 14, 2009

**Staphylococcus Symposium 2009** sponsored by the Staphylococcus Institute, Hilton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu, Hawaii. For additional information visit [www.staph2009.com](http://www.staph2009.com).

March 24, 2009

**National Foundation for Infectious Diseases Awards Dinner**, honoring **Ann Lurie and Dr. Stanley A. Plotkin** will be held at the Ritz Carlton Pentagon City, Arlington, Virginia.

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.

May 18 - 29, 2009

**Advanced Vaccinology Course (ADVAC 10)** sponsored by Fondation Mérieux, Les Pensières, Veyrier-du-Lac, France. For additional information contact [katia.meilczarek@fondation-merieux.org](mailto:katia.meilczarek@fondation-merieux.org).

September 12 – 15, 2009

**ICAAC Meeting** sponsored by the American Society of Microbiology. For additional information visit [www.icaac.org](http://www.icaac.org).

October 27 – November 1, 2009

**IDSA Meeting** sponsored by the Infectious Diseases Society of America. For additional information visit [www.idsociety.org/meetings.htm](http://www.idsociety.org/meetings.htm).

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 Disease, 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](mailto:scooper-kerr@nfid.org), or visit our website at <http://www.nfid.org>.*



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over 600 publications, most concerning the safe and effective use of vaccines. Dr. Plotkin is the editor-in-chief of the definitive textbook, *Vaccines* (Elsevier Press), which is in its 5th edition. He has served on the editorial boards of numerous journals, and was the American Editor of the journal *Vaccine* until 1991. Dr. Plotkin has been active in the medical community, serving on many committees including the American Academy of Pediatrics' Infectious Diseases Committee and the AIDS Task Force, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and the National Institutes of Health's Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Research Committee, which he chaired. Dr. Plotkin, who has received numerous awards and honors throughout his illustrious career, is currently emeritus professor of the University of Pennsylvania, adjunct professor of the Johns Hopkins

University and executive advisor to sanofi pasteur.

### Ann Lurie

Ann Lurie's life has evolved around her personal commitment to helping people throughout the world. A Florida native, she began her career as a public health nurse. She earned her bachelor of science degrees in nursing from the University of Florida and began effecting change through her role as a frontline healthcare professional – treating one patient at a time in public health and pediatric intensive care nursing among Florida's most needy families. In the years that followed Mrs. Lurie met her late husband, **Robert H. Lurie**, who “strengthened her faith in one's ability to change the world and who, through his loss, propelled her humanitarian goals,” stated **Henry S. Bienen**, president of Northwestern University. During their time together Mr. Lurie's business acumen led the Lurie family to accumulate resources that led to creation of a foundation in 1986. In 1987 Mr. Lurie was diagnosed with advanced colon cancer, succumbing to the disease after a two-and-a-half year battle. Prior to his death Mr. and Mrs. Lurie together decided on a template of giving. With this as her guide, Mrs. Lurie began her career as a philanthropist.

During the past 21 years Mrs. Lurie has gifted more than \$250 million. In addition to financial commitments through her foundation, Mrs. Lurie has made significant contributions of personal resources. As President of Lurie Investments, Mrs. Lurie has directed the firm's venture capital investments heavily toward biomedical companies.

Among her many philanthropic efforts, Mrs. Lurie has honored her husband's memory at Northwestern University with more than \$60 million in commitments to endow the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center, as well as the state of the art Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center – a 12-story building with lecture facilities and laboratories that house more than 1,000 researchers,

technicians, postdoctoral students, and lab assistants. She has also established two professorships at Northwestern dedicated to cancer research and endowed a laboratory floor in the Lurie Medical Research Center focusing on cancer genetics.

One of her major endeavors now is her work in Africa. As the founder and president of the Africa Infectious Disease (AID) Village Clinics, Mrs. Lurie oversees operations that provide medical care and education to the Masai people of rural southeastern Kenya. She started the clinic in 2002 in a trailer towed by a used Land Cruiser. She had four employees. “There were no roads, no running water,” says Mrs. Lurie. “No sanitary equipment.”

“Ann is a true archetype for the future of humanitarian leaders. She is on the ground, in boardrooms and at the drawing table, working tenaciously

(See GALA, p. 8)

#### Recipients of the Maxwell Finland Award

- 2008 Martin S. Hirsch, MD
- 2007 Hebert L. DuPont, MD
- 2006 Robert C. Moellering, Jr., MD
- 2005 John G. Bartlett, MD
- 2004 George H. McCracken, Jr., MD
- 2003 George W. Comstock, MD, DrPh
- 2002 Jerome O. Klein, MD
- 2001 R. Gordon Douglas, MD
- 1999 Stanley Falkow, PhD
- 1998 Maurice R. Hilleman, PhD
- 1997 Joshua Lederberg, PhD
- 1996 Honorable Paul G. Rogers
- 1995 Honorable Dale Bumpers and Mrs. Betty F. Bumpers
- 1994 Elizabeth Hanford Dole
- 1993 Arthur Ashe, Jr.
- 1992 Michael E. DeBakey, MD
- 1991 Mrs. Albert Lasker
- 1990 P. Roy Vagelos, MD
- 1989 Anthony S. Fauci, MD
- 1988 C. Everett Koop, MD

#### Recipients of the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind

- 2008 Louis W. Sullivan, MD
- 2007 William H. Foege, MD, MPH
- 2006 Paul E. Farmer, MD, PhD
- 2005 Former President William Jefferson Clinton
- 2004 Henri Landwirth
- 2003 The Honorable John Edward Porter
- 2002 William “Bill” H. Gates, III and Melinda F. Gates
- 2001 Senator John D. Rockefeller, IV
- 2000 Robert Edward “Ted” Turner, III
- 1999 David Satcher, M.D., PhD
- 1998 General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret)
- 1997 Former President Jimmy Carter and Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter

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for our collective welfare. Her leadership, commitment, and actions continue to be catalysts for effective change and progress at all levels. From building homes for families in rural Rwanda to making advanced medical facilities a reality here at home, Ann Lurie continues to leverage technological, intellectual, and financial capital to advance research and care the world over. Her understanding is informed by direct experience with individuals, both those in need and those who lead," stated **John Edward Porter**, former Congressman and Chair of Research! America.

### *The Event*

The Awards Dinner will take place on the evening of March 24, 2009 at the Ritz Carlton Pentagon City in Arlington, VA. Individual seats for the NFID Awards Dinner are \$350 per person. Sponsored tables for ten are available for \$8,500. NFID is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, and as a result most of this cost is tax deductible. Net proceeds from the event will be used for public and professional education about infectious diseases. For more information please contact Sharon Cooper-Kerr at (301) 656-0003 x14.

Visit Us On the Web



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

**THE DOUBLE HELIX**

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
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BETHESDA, MD 20814-5278

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