



NFID Holds 12th Annual Conference on Vaccine Research

The Twelfth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research, sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) was held on April 27 – 29, 2009 at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel.

The three-day conference, attended by 450 registrants, has become the world's largest scientific meeting devoted exclusively to research on vaccines and related technologies for disease prevention and treatment.

The conference keynote presentation, "World Health Organization's Global Immunization Vision and Strategy," was delivered by **David M. Salisbury, MB, BS**. Dr. Salisbury is the director of immunization for the United Kingdom Department of Health in London. Dr. Salisbury discussed accelerated efforts to deliver vaccines to the world's poorest people. Under a three-year-old program initiated by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and UNICEF, public-health officials are now targeting individuals of all ages for immunization and trying to integrate vaccines with other critical health needs.

Also highlighting the meeting was a presentation on the prospects of a malaria vaccine by **W. Ripley Ballou, MD**, deputy director of vaccines at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. "Preliminary studies indicate that it's no longer a question of whether but when we will have a malaria vaccine," said **Susan J. Rehm, MD** medical director of NFID and co-chair of the conference. "This is very exciting. Just as encouraging is the progress we are making against such fatal and debilitating diseases as meningococcal meningitis in Africa. These advances are possible because of important partnerships between academia, private industry, governments, public health officials and



Dr. Susan J. Rehm, Dr. George C. Hill, Dr. David M. Salisbury, and Dr. Bruce G. Weniger at the 12th Annual Conference on Vaccine Research.

philanthropic organizations."

Harold S. Margolis, MD, director of the Pediatric Dengue Vaccine Initiative of the International Vaccine Institute in Seoul, Korea, delivered the Mary Lou Clements-Mann Memorial Lecture in Vaccine Sciences: "Progress and Promise on the Long Road to a Dengue Vaccine." He discussed the quest for a vaccine against dengue fever, which kills 20,000 and sickens more than two million people every year. "Prevention of dengue by immunization appears to be antibody mediated and technically feasible. Although dengue vaccine development began over 70 years ago, only recently have several vaccine candidates progressed into clinical evaluation due to the need to employ unique approaches for the development of these candidates," said Dr. Margolis.

NFID's Charles Mérieux Award was
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The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) public foundation established in 1973 to educate the public and health care professionals about the causes, treatment and prevention of infectious diseases.

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NFID's Childhood Coalition Prepares Educational Strategies for Flu Season

The *Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition* (CIIC) made clear the critical role of education and consistent messaging about influenza, particularly in today's complex environment, at a meeting held last month in Virginia.

Representatives from 25 member organizations discussed CIIC plans, strategies and activities to combat misconceptions and increase understanding of influenza. The immunization community is faced with a number of unique challenges in the upcoming influenza season, particularly differentiating novel (pandemic) H1N1 and seasonal influenza. It is not yet known how novel H1N1 virus will affect the upcoming influenza season and activities, with variables including: disease severity, timing, vaccine availability and immunization recommendations.

Daniel B. Jernigan, MD, MPH, deputy director for the Influenza Division, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), updated the group on seasonal and novel H1N1 influenza, reinforcing that the *Coalition* will be vital in developing strategies, educational and awareness programs that will be "absolutely critical" throughout the fall.

As the first state to implement legislation requiring influenza vaccination for children in child care centers, the *Coalition* invited New Jersey medical and public health experts to share insights and review the challenges of putting the mandate into practice.

Margaret C. Fisher, MD, chair, Department of Pediatrics; Medical Director, The Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center; and Vice

President-elect of the American Academy of Pediatrics-New Jersey chapter joined **Angela Sorrells-Washington**, manager of the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services in stressing the need to educate parents about influenza and vaccination. With increased education and awareness efforts, New Jersey saw an increase in vaccination rates.

One of the strategies this year will be to conduct research to gain more insight into attitudes, practices and barriers to childhood influenza vaccination. This research will begin with focus groups with mothers and one-on-one interviews with pediatricians. Results will then serve as the basis of a national survey to confirm findings and hone messages that will resonate with key audiences.

Planned activities for the upcoming season include both national and grassroots efforts to reach the general public and health care professionals. The *Coalition* will in the coming months continue to track factors that will impact influenza season messaging with a focus on dispelling misconceptions and clearing up potential confusion between seasonal and novel H1N1 infections and vaccines.

The *Coalition*, established by NFID in 2007, is made up of 32 of the nation's leading public health, medical, patient and parent groups. It is made possible by an unrestricted grant to NFID from sanofi pasteur. For more information on childhood influenza, visit the *Coalition's* web site, www.preventchildhoodinfluenza.org and also become a fan of its Facebook page.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT



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

Clinical Vaccinology Course Scheduled for Atlanta

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) has finalized arrangements for the **Clinical Vaccinology Course**. The course, co-sponsored by the 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

CLINICAL VACCINOLOGY COURSE

NOVEMBER 13-15, 2009

**Grand Hyatt Atlanta
in Buckhead
Atlanta, Georgia**

SPONSORED BY:
The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
AND
The Emory Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, and the Emory Vaccine Center

IN COLLABORATION WITH:
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College Health Association
American Medical Association
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Medical Association

- *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 Credits. NFID is an approved provider of continuing

nursing education through 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, nurses and NFID supporting members. Additional information about the course, including full course agenda and faculty listing, is available on the NFID website, www.nfid.org.

NFID Elects New Directors, Trustees

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

The new directors are **Donna Mazyck, RN, MS**, Maryland State Department of Education, **Vincent H. Tam, PharmD**, University of Houston College of Pharmacy, and

Daniel J. Sexton, MD, Duke University. The new directors were elected to three-year terms.

Elected for a three-year term to the NFID Board of Trustees was **Leon G. Smith, MD**, St. Michael's Medical Center. Dr. Smith is a former member of the NFID Board of Directors and served as the organization's president from 1994 – 1997.

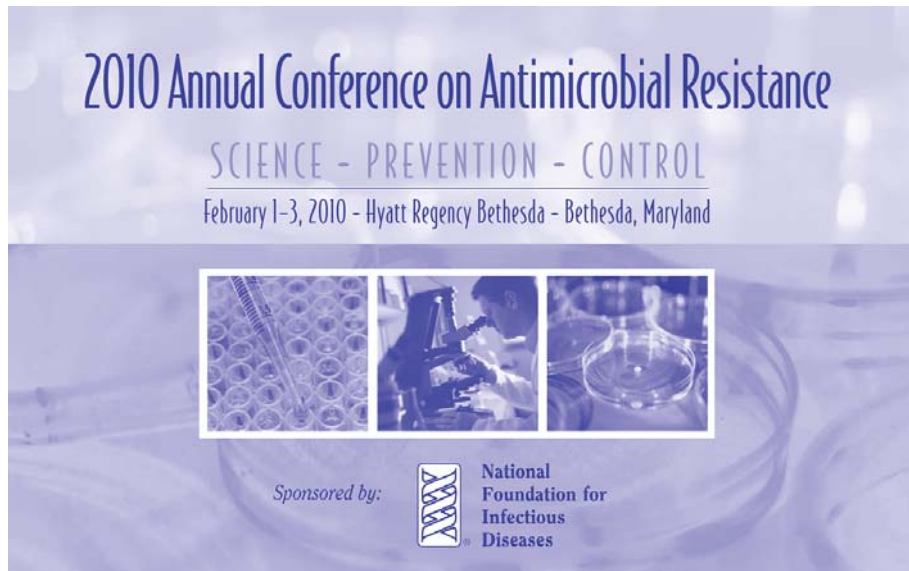
NFID Sets 2010 Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance

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**, from the UK's Health Protection Agency, will present the keynote address, "The Globalization of Antimicrobial Resistance."

The conference will feature symposia on:

- Economic and public policy aspects of antibiotic resistance and antibiotic development
- Susceptibility issues
- Implications of rapid diagnostic training, antiviral drug resistance
- Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in livestock
- 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 CME activity for a maximum of 17 Category 1 credits towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award.

In addition, 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 will be available in August. 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 or you may visit the NFID website at www.nfid.org.

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presented to **Paul A Offit, MD**, chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. At a luncheon presentation Dr. Offit discussed the need for scientists to become more effective communicators about vaccines. "It is incumbent on scientists to stand up for the science, he said. "No venue is too small." He urged scientists to reach out to ordinary citizens in venues ranging from PTA meetings to local high schools to explain the scientific method and discuss the safety of vaccines. "Science is wonderfully self-correcting," Dr. Offit said. "We are paying a price for standing back from

the science that exonerates vaccines as a cause of chronic disorders like autism. Now, alarmingly, vaccine preventable diseases are starting to come back."

The Merieux Award is named in honor of Dr. Charles Mérieux, a French scientist and visionary who recognized the importance of preventive medicine. He 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 Conference also included the

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presentation of the Robert Austrian Memorial Lecture by **Steven Black, MD**, adjunct professor of pediatrics at the Center for Global Health at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Dr. Black presented "The Ever Changing Landscape of Pneumococcal Sero-Type Epidemiology." The lecture, underwritten by a grant from Merck & Co., is named in honor of the late Dr. Robert Austrian, former chair of medical research at the University of Pennsylvania, who developed the first multivalent vaccine against pneumococcus bacteria.

In its third year, the Maurice R. Hilleman Early-Stage Career Investigator Award, which recognizes promising scientists beginning their careers in vaccinology, was awarded to **Saad B. Omer, PhD**, assistant professor, Hubert Department of Global Health and the Department of Epidemiology, Emory University, Atlanta. Dr. Omer's research presentation was "Evaluation of combined effects of influenza vaccine to mothers and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine to infants: Results from a randomized, double-blind, controlled trial."

The first and second runners up were **Sylvia Becker-Dreps, MD**, fellow

at the National Research Service Award (NRSA)-Primary Care Research Program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and **Daniel Carapau, PhD**, post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Medical Parasitology New York University, New York. The Maurice R. Hilleman Early-Stage Career Investigator Award is supported by unrestricted educational grant from Merck & Co., Inc.

Again this year NFID sponsored an international travel grants program. This activity supported the travel and participation of 14 researchers from countries with limited resources. The travel grant program provides an annual forum for discussion of pressing global vaccinology issues.

Other invited and submitted presentations and posters highlighted recent issues in vaccine safety, immunization programs and global health, synergies between veterinary and human vaccine development, tuberculosis vaccines, and malaria vaccines. The conference included 22 invited presentations, 34 submitted presentations and 67 poster presentations.

The Annual Conference on Vaccine Research is sponsored by NFID in collaboration with the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**; **Center for Biologics**

Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration; Center for Vaccine Development, University of Maryland; Emory Vaccine Center; 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 **Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation; Becton Dickinson; Celldex Therapeutics; CSL Biotherapies; DynPort Vaccine Company; EpiVax, Inc.; Fondation Mérieux; Integrated BioTherapeutics; LigoCyte Pharmaceuticals; MedImmune, Inc.; Merck & Co., Inc.; NanoBio Corporation; Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Inc.; Novavax, Inc.; sanofi pasteur; U.S. Food and Drug Administration; VaxInnate Corporation; and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.**

The Thirteenth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research has been scheduled for April 26 – 28, 2010, at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Bethesda, Maryland. A call for abstracts will be available October 15, 2009. Please visit www.nfid.org for more information.

Texas Hospital Publishes New Book on Impact of Vaccine-Preventable Disease

The **Texas Children's Hospital** recently published the first book of its kind, *Vaccine-Preventable Disease: The Forgotten Story*. The book, written by physician experts from the hospital, contains a collection of profiles that illustrate the impact of vaccine-preventable disease. NFID's Immediate Past President, **Carol J. Baker, MD**, is one of the contributing authors. Dr. Baker is a professor of pediatrics, molecular virology and microbiology at the

Baylor College of Medicine and serves as executive director of Texas Children's Hospital's Center for Vaccine Awareness and Research.

To obtain copies please visit www.vaccinebook.texaschildrens.org. The book can also be ordered via mail by sending \$3.00 per book, plus a one time shipping and handling fee of \$4.95. There is a ten book maximum per order. For more information call 832-824-2064 or email vaccinebook@texaschildrens.org.

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www.nfid.org

CALENDAR OF NFID EVENTS AND MEETINGS

November 13 – 15, 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 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 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

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, or visit our website at <http://www.nfid.org>.

