



14th Annual Vaccine Conference Highlights

The Fourteenth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research (ACVR), sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), was held on May 16 – 18, 2011 at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland.

The three-day conference, devoted to vaccines and related technologies for disease prevention and treatment, focused on basic science, clinical research and veterinary medicine. The ACVR is the premier venue for cutting-edge presentations and networking for scientific collaboration in vaccinology.

The conference keynote address, “One Health-One Medicine,” was presented by **Martyn Jeggo, PhD**, director of the Australia Animal Health Laboratory. Dr. Jeggo’s talk highlighted the changes that are required to ensure that medical, veterinary, and ecological scientists work together to deliver the most effective options for managing infectious diseases risks and other health-related issues. “One Health represents the collaborative efforts of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally and globally to attain optimal health for people, animals, plants and our environment,” stated Dr. Jeggo.

Dr. Jeggo outlined the key components to the success of the One Health initiative: appreciation of the interdependence of human, animal and environmental health; recognition of the pivotal role of communication, collaboration and trust between human and animal health practitioners; development of a broad vision that includes economics and social behaviour; promotion of the ‘doable’ such as improving emerging infectious diseases (EID) surveillance and response while developing the broader agenda; emphasis on community participation and an open



Dr. Robert B. Couch accepts the 2011 Charles Merieux Award from NFID Medical Director Dr. Susan J. Rehm and Dr. Bruce Weniger, Conference co-chair.

dialogue; promotion of both ‘ground up’ and ‘top down’ action; and recognition that understanding ecosystems, including molecular eco-biology, is an essential part of One Health.

Ronald N. Germain, MD, PhD, deputy chief of the Laboratory of Immunology at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, presented the Mary Lou Clements-Mann Memorial Lecture in Vaccine Sciences on “The Dynamic in vivo Visualization of the Initiation and Effector Limbs of Adaptive Immune Response.”

NFID’s Charles Mérieux Award was presented to **Robert B. Couch, MD**, Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Couch accepted the award and presented his reflections, “A Call to Arms: The Acute Respiratory Disease.” Dr. Couch is a leading researcher in acute respiratory diseases, particularly influenza and rhinovirus infections, and on vaccine development. The Charles Merieux Award is supported by a grant from sanofi pasteur.

The Conference also included the presentation of the Robert Austrian Memorial Lecture by **Cynthia G. Whitney, MD, MPH**, chief, Respiratory Diseases Branch, Division of Bacterial Diseases, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Center for Disease Control and

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DOUBLE HELIX

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Clinical Vaccinology Course Scheduled

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) announces its **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 4 - 6, 2011 at the Grand Hyatt Atlanta in Atlanta, Georgia. The course will also be held in Chicago, March 9 -11, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago in Chicago, Illinois.

The course is specifically designed for primary care physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, 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:

- How Vaccines Work
- Special Vaccines Issues
- Adult and Adolescent Challenges
- Childhood and Adolescent Immunizations
- Communication Issues
- Update on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
- Clinical Cases in Vaccinology
- Childhood Immunization Challenges

Keynote presentations include:

- *An Overview of Vaccinology* - **Walter A. Orenstein, MD**, Emory University.
- *Global Immunization Disparities: Reaching Every Child* - **Orin Levine, PhD**, Johns Hopkins University

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 19.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)TM. 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 19.25 contact hours. The course will also offer pharmacy education credits through PharmCon which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider for continuing pharmacy education.

Online registration is now open for the courses. 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 full course agenda and faculty listing, is available on the NFID website, 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 last month.

The new directors are **George M. Eliopoulos, MD**, Harvard Medical School, **Patricia Stinchfield, RN, MS, CPNP**, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of

Minnesota and **Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD**, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The new directors were elected to three-year terms.

Elected for a three-year term to the NFID Board of Trustees are **Kay Mitzel**, independent consultant and **Eric Schultz**, Quantia Communications, Inc.

Working Together to Protect More Children from Influenza

The **Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition (CIIC)** held its annual planning session in June via webinar to share insights from the last year and set expectations for the coming season. Presentations from public health officials and in-depth discussions from member organizations made clear the critical role of ongoing and consistent messaging to increase pediatric influenza vaccination rates.

The meeting was led by *Coalition Chair Carol J. Baker, MD*, who announced CIIC's number one goal for the upcoming season: continue the progress in increasing childhood influenza immunization rates by targeting messages and tools that reach healthcare professionals and consumers. NFID medical director **Susan J. Rehm, MD** gave a snapshot of CIIC efforts over the past year, which included market research and message

testing; tools for healthcare professionals; and consumer outreach to dispel myths and learn the facts about influenza vaccination.

Tim Uyeki, MD, MPH, MPP of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shared information on issues and recommendation changes related to the pediatric influenza landscape as well as thoughts on messaging to parents. **Henry H. Bernstein, MD** represented the American Academy of Pediatrics, and gave a detailed overview of the 2011-2012 pediatric influenza algorithm which helps streamline dosing recommendations for healthcare professionals.

CIIC planning teams provided highlights of their successful efforts last season and facilitated discussions to set the course moving forward. A representative from each of the four teams presented their findings in their respective key areas: communicating with

families, motivating healthcare professionals, addressing influenza vaccination disparities, and communicating through social media.

The high level of involvement and well-rounded discussions from meeting participants allowed the CIIC to gain a better understanding of what needs to be accomplished to continue to urge healthcare professionals and consumers to keep influenza top of mind and further increase pediatric immunization rates.

NFID's pediatric-focused outreach efforts, designed to improve influenza immunization rates, are carried out through the CIIC, which is supported by more than 30 of the nation's leading medical, public health and parent organizations. NFID's *Coalition* is supported by a grant from sanofi pasteur. For more information visit: www.preventchildhoodinfluenza.org.

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Prevention. Dr. Whitney's presentation was "Pneumococcal Vaccines: From Austrian's Vision to Global Impact."

The lecture, underwritten by a grant from Merck & Co, Inc. 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 pneumococcal bacteria.

In its fifth year, the Maurice R. Hilleman Early-Stage Career Investigator Award recognizes promising scientists who are beginning their careers in vaccinology. The 2011 award was presented to **Raphael Simon, PhD** from the University of Maryland at Baltimore. Dr. Simon's poster was "Salmonella enteritidis Core-O Polysaccharide (COPS) Conjugated to Enteritidis Flagellin (H:g,m) as a Candidate Vaccine for Protection Against Salmonella Enteritidis Infection."

The first and second runner ups were **Lindsay R. Grant, PhD**, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland and **Birte K. Kalveram, PhD**, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas. 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 11 researchers from developing countries with limited resources. The travel grant program provides an annual forum for discussion of pressing global vaccinology issues. Travel grant recipients also participated in a pre-conference workshop on scientific writing, led by **Greg A. Poland, MD**, a conference co-chair and Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota.

Other invited and submitted presentations and posters highlighted updates on advances and challenges in the development of herpesvirus vaccines; status of HIV vaccines; genomics; special populations in immunology; and alternative animal models in vaccine discovery.

The ACVR is sponsored by NFID in collaboration with the **American Pharmacists Association; the American Veterinary Medical Association; 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; the Jenner Society; National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; Sabin Vaccine Institute; Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists; the US Department of Agriculture and the University of Texas Sealy Center for Vaccine Development.

Financial support for the conference was provided through unrestricted educational grants from **Becton Dickinson; CSL Biotherapies; Dynavax Technologies; Emergent BioSolutions, Inc.; Epivax, Inc.; Fondation Mérieux; GenVec, Inc.; Inovio Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Integrated BioTherapeutics; LigoCyte Pharmaceuticals; MedImmune, Inc.; Merck & Co., Inc.; NanoBio Corporation; Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Inc.; sanofi pasteur; and the US Food and Drug Administration.**

The Fifteenth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research will be held May 7-9, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. A call for abstracts will be available October 2011 for the 15th Annual Conference. Please visit www.nfid.org for more information in the fall.

NFID Honored for Pediatric Influenza Communications

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases' (NFID) *Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition* (CIIC) was honored this spring by the New York Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America with a Big Apple Award for its communications efforts among healthcare professionals and consumers about the importance of annual pediatric influenza vaccination.

The Big Apple Awards are presented annually for excellence in public relations. The *Coalition* was chosen as the top recipient in the public service category for government, associations, and non-profit organizations for its work during the 2010 – 2011 influenza season.

A major focus of last year's program was to drive awareness of CDC's newly introduced universal recommendation for influenza vaccination and to combat lingering myths and misinformation about the disease that presented barriers to immunization. Throughout the last four years, the *Coalition* has encouraged and supported the movement toward expanded recommendations by implementing multi-channeled communications programs that use traditional and new media, as well as *Coalition* members' abilities to reach multiple disciplines and key audiences.

NFID Releases New Expert Panel Brief Highlighting Recommendations for Protecting Older Adults from Influenza

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) initiated a new effort focusing on influenza and older adults to increase understanding of the unique challenges and new opportunities in protecting this population. Although there have been a number of published studies in this area, many healthcare professionals and practices remain unaware of the difficulties surrounding influenza immunization and immune response in this population.

Americans age 65 and older experience a heavy burden of disease, with increased rates of both hospitalization and mortality. People in this age group often have underlying chronic conditions, which may be exacerbated by influenza infection. In addition, the waning immune system in older adults reduces both their ability to respond to infection and their response to standard influenza vaccine. New options that offer the potential for greater protection against influenza are becoming increasingly available, including a high-dose influenza vaccine for Americans age 65 and older which was approved in the US last year.

Understanding the Challenges and Opportunities in Protecting Older Adults from Influenza incorporates insights from a panel of infectious disease experts. The publication calls for increased education and awareness of the benefits and safety of influenza vaccination, not only among older adults, but also among their health care providers.

Panelists who participated in this activity included: **William Schaffner, MD**, NFID president, who served as the moderator for the panel, **Arnold Monto, MD**, University of Michigan, **Kristin Nichol, MD, MPH**, Minneapolis VA Medical Center, and **H. Keipp Talbot, MD, MPH**, Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

The brief serves as a resource for healthcare professionals and challenges them to more effectively address the immunization needs of their older patients. The brief was supported by an unrestricted educational grant from sanofi pasteur. The full text of the document is available on NFID's website at: www.nfid.org/publications.

Calendar of NFID Events and Meetings

November 4 – 6, 2011 Clinical Vaccinology Course

Sponsored by the
National Foundation for
Infectious Diseases
**Grand Hyatt Atlanta in
Atlanta, Georgia**

March 9 – 11, 2012 Clinical Vaccinology Course

Sponsored by the
National Foundation for
Infectious Diseases
**Hyatt Regency Chicago in
Chicago, Illinois**

March 27, 2012
NFID Awards Dinner
Sponsored by the National
Foundation
for Infectious Diseases
**Ritz Carlton Pentagon City
in Arlington, VA**

May 7 – 9, 2012
**Fifteenth Annual
Conference on Vaccine
Research**
Sponsored by the
National Foundation for
Infectious Diseases
**Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor,
Baltimore, Maryland**

For more information about NFID sponsored events and meetings, please contact:

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