15th Annual Vaccine Conference Highlights

The Fifteenth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research (ACVR), sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), was held on May 7-9, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, MD.

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

The keynote address was delivered by Stanley A. Plotkin, MD, emeritus professor of pediatrics, University of Pennsylvania. In his presentation, “Vaccine Discovery – A Varied Process,” Dr. Plotkin outlined how vaccines are actually developed by examining past and future strategies.

Dr. Plotkin stated, “new approaches to vaccine development are necessary. Although trial and error will continue to be a major way forward, it is likely that single antigens will not be sufficient for optimal protection and indeed that more than one immune response will have to be induced.”

F. Marc LaForce, MD, director of the Meningitis Vaccine Project at the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), presented the Mary Lou Clem-ents-Mann Memorial Lecture in Vaccine Sciences, “Introduction of an Affordable Group A Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine in the African Meningitis Belt.”

NFID’s Charles Mérieux Award was presented to Arnold S. Monto, MD, the Thomas Francis, Jr. Collegiate Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. This award is presented to an individual who demonstrates a commitment to science-based medicine and research in infectious diseases, shows excellence in clinical and research activities, and has an unsurpassed dedication to improving public health. The Charles Merieux Award is supported by a grant from sanofi pasteur.

The ACVR also included the presentation of the Robert Austrian Memorial Lecture by Thomas M. File, Jr., MD, professor, internal medicine, master teacher and chair of the infectious disease section, Northeast Ohio Medical University. Dr. File is NFID’s newly elected president.

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 pneumococcus bacteria.

In its sixth year, the Maurice R. Hilleman Early-Stage Career Investigator Award recognizes promising scientists who are beginning their careers in vaccinology. The 2012 award was presented to Olga A. Lihoradova, PhD, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX for her presentation “Characterization of Rift Valley Fever MP.1 Vaccine Encoding the NSs Gene Derived from Other Phleboviruses.”

The two semifinalists were Mohammad Khan, MBBS, MSc, PhD of the International Vaccine Institute in Seoul, Korea and Jian Wu, PhD from the Center for Biolog-ics Evaluation and Research in Bethesda, MD. The Maurice R. Hilleman, Early Stage Career Investigator Award is supported by unrestricted educational grant from Merck & Co, Inc.

Once again, NFID sponsored an international travel grants program. This activity supported the travel and participation of 10 researchers from developing countries with limited resources. The travel grant program provides an annual forum for discussion of pressing global vaccinology issues.

(VACCINE CONFERENCE, continued on page 2)
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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The Sixteenth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research will be held April 22 - 24, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, MD. A call for abstracts will be available November 2012 for the 16th Annual Conference. Please visit www.nfid.org for more information in the fall.
Clinical Vaccinology Course Scheduled

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) announces the dates for 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 2-4, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency Miami in Miami, FL. The course will also be held in Chicago, March 9-10, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago in Chicago, IL.

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

The Clinical Vaccinology Course will feature sessions addressing:

- How Vaccines Work
- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
- Childhood and Adolescent Immunization
- Clinical Cases in Vaccinology
- Adult and Adolescent Immunization Challenges
- Childhood Immunization Challenges
- Special Vaccine Issues
- Special Populations
- Communication Issues

Keynote presentations include:

- An Overview of Vaccinology—Walter A. Orenstein, MD
  Emory Vaccine Center
- Pneumococcal Vaccines Across the Lifespan—Matthew R. Moore, MD, MPH
  Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Influenza Vaccine: Strains, Supply, and Schedule: Give the Right Dose at the Right Time—
  Wendy A. Keitel, MD
  Baylor College of Medicine

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

National Adult Immunization Campaign Launched

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), in partnership with leading medical experts and national health organizations, launched its Campaign for Adult Immunization at the inaugural National Adult Immunization Summit in Atlanta, GA. The Campaign is a multi-disciplinary, unified national effort to bring all stakeholder groups interested in adult immunization under one advocacy umbrella to support adult immunization issues.

The Campaign for Adult Immunization aims to reduce the more than 50,000 annual vaccine-preventable deaths by increasing awareness of, and access to, recommended adult vaccines. Currently, vaccine-preventable diseases kill more US adults than breast cancer, HIV/AIDS, or motor vehicle traffic accidents.

Several national organizations have already signed on as Campaign partners. A complete list of partners is available at www.adultimmunization.org. According to Campaign Chair and adult vaccine expert, William Schaffner, MD, “Vaccine-preventable diseases are taking a heavy toll on the country’s health, unnecessarily draining medical and financial resources at a time when the nation should be focused on curbing costs through prevention. Immunizing adults is an easy way to save tens of thousands of lives and billions of dollars.”

The Campaign for Adult Immunization will seek to address immunization barriers, such as awareness and cost issues, that the public health community has encountered for years. “We know the problems,” noted Campaign advisory board member Gregory A. Poland, MD, director of the Mayo Vaccine Research Group. “But now we need implementable, effective solutions. This campaign will offer out-of-the-box thinking to deliver real increases in adult vaccination rates.”

Deborah J. Wexler, MD, campaign advisory board member and executive director of the Immunization Action Coalition added, “The impact of disease spreads further than people think: unvaccinated adults leave themselves, their loved ones, and their communities vulnerable to contracting often deadly diseases.”

In addition to the clear medical impact of infectious diseases on the country, these preventable diseases also have huge financial burdens for individuals and society-at-large. “The cost of treating just influenza and pneumococcal disease reaches into the tens of billions of dollars every year,” explained Litjen Tan, PhD, Campaign advisory board member and director of Medicine and Public Health at the American Medical Association.
New Members Elected to NFID Board of Directors

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

**New Directors**
Carol J. Baker, MD  
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Outgoing NFID President, William Schaffner, MD  
Vanderbilt University became NFID’s Immediate Past President.

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**Calendar of NFID Events and Meetings**

**September 21, 2012**  
NFID Flu Awareness Night  
NFID Flu Awareness Night Nationals Park  
Washington Nationals vs. Milwaukee Brewers  
Visit [www.nfid.org](http://www.nfid.org) for additional information

**November 2–4, 2012**  
Clinical Vaccinology Course  
Hyatt Regency Miami in Miami, FL

**March 8–10, 2013**  
Clinical Vaccinology Course  
Hyatt Regency Chicago in Chicago, IL

**April 22–24, 2013**
Sixteenth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research  
Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, MD

For more information about NFID sponsored events and meetings, please contact:  
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or visit our website at [www.nfid.org](http://www.nfid.org)

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**Take Me Out to the Ballgame**

On Friday, September 21, 2012, NFID will be sponsoring a “Flu Awareness Night” at the Washington Nationals baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers in Washington, DC. During the event, the NFID public service announcement “Are You That Guy?” will be shown on the Jumbotron prior to the start of the game, NFID staff will be at the community kiosk distributing flu information flyers and giveaways as well as vouchers for those receiving flu vaccines at local Harris Teeter grocery stores, and a special welcome message will be displayed on the scoreboard between the 4th and 5th innings. A customized online purchase page has been developed ([www.nationsls.com/flu](http://www.nationsls.com/flu)) for tickets available at a discounted group rate, with a portion of ticket sales being donated to NFID. Come out and join us for this special evening!