



## Dr. Martin S. Hirsch and Dr. Louis W. Sullivan Honored at Annual NFID Awards Dinner

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) honored distinguished physicians and educators, **Martin S. Hirsch, MD** and **Louis W. Sullivan, MD**, at its annual Awards Dinner on February 13, 2008. The prestigious black-tie event was held at the Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

Dr. Hirsch received the Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement, which is presented to a scientist who has made outstanding contributions to the understanding of infectious diseases or public health. Dr. Sullivan was honored with the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind, which is awarded to individuals whose outstanding humanitarian efforts and achievement have contributed significantly to improving the health of people throughout the world.

### The Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement

The Maxwell Finland Award is named in memory of the late **Dr. Maxwell Finland** a distinguished scholar, scientist and teacher. A former member of the NFID Board of Directors, Dr. Finland was a driving force in shaping infectious diseases training programs in the United States and in defining the discipline of infectious diseases as we know it today. He did pioneering work in the diagnosis, treatment, and epidemiology of bacterial infections, the evaluation of antimicrobials, and the demonstration of the evolving problem of antimicro-



2008 Awards recipients join former NFID honorees from left to right Dr. David Satcher, Dr. Martin S. Hirsch, Dr. R. Gordon Douglas, Jr., Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, Dr. Louis W. Sullivan and the Honorable Paul G. Rogers.

bial resistance.

For nearly 40 years, Dr. Martin Hirsch has been a leader in virology research and training. Dr. Hirsch is renowned for battling the insidious and deadly viruses that sweep through humanity. He is widely recognized as a pioneer in HIV combination therapy because of his trailblazing studies of drug combinations in vitro and in vivo.

Dr. Hirsch is currently professor of immunology and infectious diseases at the Harvard School of Public Health.

He has played a leadership role on many pivotal studies on antiviral

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## Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance Scheduled

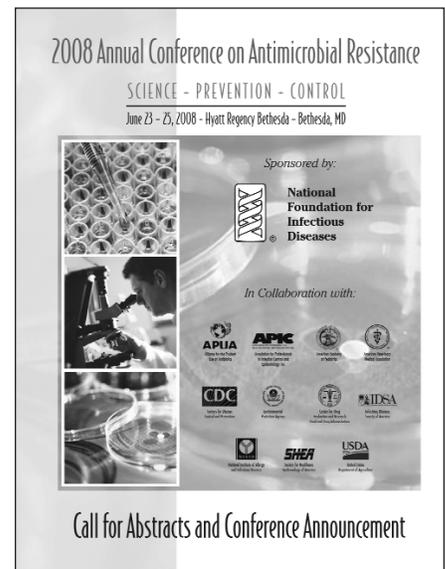
The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) will sponsor the 2008 Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance, June 23 – 25, 2008. The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Bethesda, Maryland.

The conference is specifically designed to provide an interdisciplinary scientific forum to present, discuss, and address the science, prevention and control of antimicrobial resistance. Expert faculty from various disciplines will present the latest scientific data, results, and issues via symposia and panel discussions. **David M. Livermore, PhD**, Director of the British Health Protection Agency's Antibiotic Resistance Monitoring and Reference Laboratory will present the keynote address on "Antibiotic Resistance: Location, Location, Location!"

The conference will feature symposia on:

- *Clostridium difficile*
- The Growing Clinical Problem of Resistance Among Gram-Negative Bacteria
- Collateral Damage of Antibiotic Use
- Innovative Practices for Prevention of Resistance
- Risk versus Benefits of Antimicrobial Resistance
- Resistant Pathogens in the Food We Eat
- The Role of Ecology in the Spread of Resistant Pathogens

Now in its seventh year, the conference was developed for physicians, researchers, microbiologists, public health professionals, and others in academia, industry and government who



2008 Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance  
 SCIENCE - PREVENTION - CONTROL  
 June 23 – 25, 2008 - Hyatt Regency Bethesda - Bethesda, MD

Sponsored by:  
 National Foundation for Infectious Diseases

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Call for Abstracts and Conference Announcement

have an interest in antimicrobial resistance.

NFID designates this CME activity for a maximum of 16 credits in Category 1 credits toward the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association. The conference has also been approved for 16 contact hours by the Maryland Nurses Association which is accredited to provide continuing education credits in nursing by the American Nurses' Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Registration fees are \$425 prior to May 5, 2008 and \$500 after this date. NFID offers discounted conference admission to medical students, doctoral students, residents, fellows, physician assistants, nurses, and NFID supporting members. For more information about registration e-mail: [resistance@nfid.org](mailto:resistance@nfid.org) or visit the conference website at <http://www.nfid.org/conferences/resistance08>.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT



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(AWARDS, from p. 1)

drugs. Many of his former fellows are now recognized leaders in AIDS research and hold prestigious academic positions throughout the world. **David Ho, MD**, the founding scientific director and chief executive officer of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, trained under Dr. Hirsch and presented introductory remarks at the Dinner. “Dr. Hirsch gave me and many, many others a strong foundation to move on to do clinical investigation and lab research. What I have learned in his laboratory has served me well ever since, and I’m eternally grateful,” said Dr. Ho.

In his acceptance speech, Dr. Hirsch stated that “I only knew Max Finland in the later years of his life and got to admire him greatly. As you heard tonight, he was certainly a giant in the field of infectious diseases and to be mentioned in the same breath is indeed a great honor.”

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

The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions for the Health of Humankind is named for **President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Carter**, who as outstanding humanitarians have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for people worldwide. They are co-founders of The Carter Center, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization based in Atlanta and dedicated to improving the quality of life. Through the Carter Center, President and Mrs. Carter have worked to resolve conflict peacefully, promote democracy, protect human rights, prevent illness and eradicate disease.

This year’s award recipient, Dr. Louis W. Sullivan, has dedicated his career to advancing public health initiatives in the US and many of the poorest areas of the world. Dr. Sullivan is the founding dean, director and president emeritus of the Morehouse School of Medicine in



*Dr. David Ho (left), Dr. Carol J. Baker, NFID president, and Dr. George C. Hill, NFID president-elect present the 2008 Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement to Dr. Martin S. Hirsch.*



*Dr. C. Douglas Webb, chairman of the NFID Board of Trustees, Dr. David Satcher and Dr. Carol J. Baker, NFID president present the 2008 Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award to Dr. Louis W. Sullivan.*

Atlanta. “It’s amazing the extent to which the students of Morehouse School of Medicine have followed Lou Sullivan’s example in terms of taking on leadership challenges,” said **David Satcher, MD, PhD** former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the 16th Surgeon General

of the United States, and currently the director of the Centers for Excellence in Health Disparities at Morehouse School of Medicine.

For the past 50 years he has been a leading public health policy expert and a medical practitioner. Dr. Sullivan

(See AWARDS, p. 4)

## Eleventh Annual Conference on Vaccine Research Scheduled

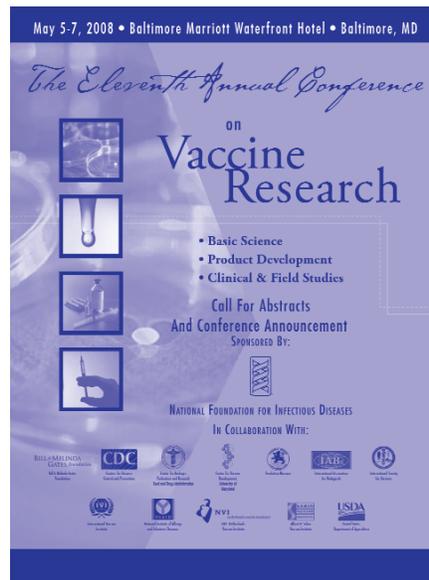
The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) will sponsor the Eleventh Annual Conference on Vaccine Research: Basic Science – Product Development – Clinical and Field Studies. The conference will be held May 5 - 7, 2008, at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland.

The conference has become the largest scientific meeting focusing exclusively on vaccine research and associated technologies for disease treatment and prevention through immunization. International experts from various disciplines will present the latest vaccine-related scientific data, results and issues via symposia and panel discussions. Highlights of the agenda include the following sessions:

- Innate Immunity, Lymph Nodes in a Tube and Genomics: What They May be Doing for Vaccine Development
- Cutaneous Vaccination and the Global Challenge
- Adjuvants: Past, Present, and Future
- Universal Vaccination Against Influenza
- Recently Licensed Vaccines

The conference will include a keynote address on “The Value of Vaccination” by **David Bloom, PhD**, Clarence James Gamble professor of economics and demography, department of population and international health, Harvard School of Public Health. The Mary Lou Clements-Mann Memorial Lecture in Vaccine Sciences, “Finding a Path to HIV-1 Development,” will be delivered by **Barton F. Haynes, MD**, director, Duke Human Vaccine Institute, Duke University Medical Center.

The vaccine conference will also offer meet the expert sessions, poster presentations, the Charles Mérieux Award luncheon, presentation of the Maurice Hilleman Early Career



Investigator Award, and an exhibition showcasing the latest products and services related to vaccine research. New to the conference this year is the Robert Austrian Memorial Lecture. This luncheon presentation will be delivered by **Orin Levine, PhD**, associate professor and executive director of PneumoADIP at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

### (AWARDS, from p. 3)

took a leave of absence from 1989 to 1993 following an appointment by President George H. W. Bush to serve as the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). As HHS Secretary, Dr. Sullivan spearheaded a public effort to address the epidemic obesity, part of the Healthy People 2000 Initiative.

Accepting the award Dr. Sullivan stated that “I am honored to receive this award, which bears the name of two fellow Georgians who have done so much to improve the health of so many around the world. I am also honored to join several distinguished peers who are previous Carter award winners.”

The conference was developed for researchers, scientists, epidemiologists, microbiologists, immunologists, molecular biologists, physicians, veterinarians, vaccine manufacturers, and public health officials who have an interest in vaccine research. NFID designates this CME activity for a maximum of 17 Category 1 credits toward the American Medical Association Physician’s Recognition Award. The conference has also been approved for 17 contact hours by the Maryland Nurses Association which is accredited to provide continuing education credits in nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

Registration fee is \$425 before March 31<sup>st</sup> and \$500 after this date. NFID offers discounted conference admission to medical students, doctoral students, residents, fellows, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and NFID supporting members. For more information about registration e-mail: [vaccine@nfid.org](mailto:vaccine@nfid.org) or visit the conference website at <http://www.nfid.org/conferences/vaccine08>.

Dr. Sullivan used the occasion to present an update of the status of the National Health Museum of which he is the Chairman of the Board of Directors. The Health Museum will provide an opportunity to further the mission in the battle against infectious diseases and the effort to create a healthier America and a healthier world.

Dr. Sullivan is the Chairman of the Sullivan Alliance on Diversity in Healthcare Workforce and serves as chair of the President’s Commission on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and was co-chair of the President’s Commission on HIV and AIDS from 2001 to 2006.

## NFID Convenes News Conference to Address Low Adult Immunization Rates

New data issued in January by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) demonstrated unacceptably low adult immunization rates. In addition a new consumer survey showed that the majority of American adults lack awareness of vaccines and the severity of infectious diseases.

An expert panel discussed the data at a news conference sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), which called for increased use of vaccines in adults to reduce needless illness and deaths associated with infectious diseases.

CDC's National Immunization Survey showed that only 2.1 percent of adults 18 to 64 years of age are immunized against tetanus-diphtheria-whooping cough (pertussis). Among people 60 and over a mere 1.9 percent have received the shingles vaccine. Vaccine coverage for the prevention of HPV (human papillomavirus) among women 18 to 26 is about 10 percent. In addition, influenza and pneumococcal vaccination rates for adults, regardless of age or risk group, are well below the 90 percent national target rates.

"Routine immunization of children in the United States has saved hundreds of thousand of lives and prevented millions of cases of disease; but vaccines are not just for children," said Anne Schuchat, MD, director of the CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. "These new data show there are not yet very many adults taking full advantage of the great advancements in prevention that have been made in the past few years."

"There are now 17 diseases that can be prevented from vaccines given to children, teens, and adults. By skipping vaccination, people are leaving themselves needlessly vulnerable to significant illness, long-term suffering and even death," said Dr. Schuchat. "We

are extremely fortunate in this country to have safe and effective vaccines available, but we have to use them better."

Immunization is recommended for US adults to protect them against chickenpox, diphtheria, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, human papillomavirus/cervical cancer (HPV), influenza, measles, meningococcal disease, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), pneumococcal disease, rubella, shingles and tetanus.

One of the underused adult vaccines prevents shingles (herpes zoster),

a painful and debilitating condition caused by reactivation of the virus that causes chicken pox. "There are more than 1 million new cases of shingles in the US every year and over half occur in people 60 and older," said Michael N. Oxman, MD, professor of medicine and pathology at the University of California, San Diego; staff physician at the San Diego VA Medical Center; and chairman of the Shingles Prevention Study, the VA Cooperative Study that demonstrated the efficacy of the shingles vaccine. "The vaccine not only helps reduce the risk of

(See NEWS CONFERENCE, p. 6)

### CALENDAR OF NFID EVENTS AND MEETINGS

May 5 – 7, 2008

**Eleventh Annual Conference on Vaccine Research** sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland.

June 23 – 25, 2008

**2008 Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance** sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, Hyatt Regency Bethesda in Bethesda, Maryland.

November 14 – 16, 2008

**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 Hyatt Regency Bethesda in Bethesda, Maryland.

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.

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.

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.

*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>.*

## NFID Issues Call for Nominations for 2009 Awards

**T**he National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) is accepting nominations for the 2009 Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement and the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind.

Any individual or group may submit a nomination for The Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement or for the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind. All nominations must include: (1) a nominating letter with a detailed description of the nominee's accomplishments meriting the award, not exceeding two pages in length; (2) a seconding letter, not exceeding one page in length; (3) a one-sentence citation explaining how the nominee's overall accomplishments or specific achievements have made a national or international contribution to the area of human health; and (4) the nominee's curriculum vitae or, in the case of nominees for The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind, a biographical sketch. Only written material will be considered. Additional information, including nomination criteria, can be found at NFID's website at [www.nfid.org](http://www.nfid.org). Nominations must be postmarked by April 15, 2008, and should be submitted to:

NFID Awards Committee  
4733 Bethesda Avenue, Suite 750  
Bethesda, MD 20814-5278

The Awards will be presented at a black-tie dinner in February or March 2009 in Washington, DC.

(NEWS CONFERENCE, from p. 5)

getting shingles, but it reduces the incidence of postherpetic neuralgia (PHN), a long-lasting shingles pain syndrome that constitutes the most common serious and debilitating complication of shingles." PHN pain can last for years after the initial shingles outbreak and is often resistant to treatment

"Combined, these infectious diseases kill more Americans annually than breast cancer, HIV/AIDS or traffic accidents,"

**Stanley A. Gall, MD**, professor of obstetrics, gynecology and women's health and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) liaison member to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), addressed the importance of using the HPV vaccine to protect women against human papillomavirus. "The 2007 reported coverage rate of 10 percent in women 18 to 26 is a start, but we need to get these rates up. This is a safe and effective vaccine that protects against cervical cancer. I urge all young women to talk to their doctors about getting the three-dose vaccine series."

Although immunization rates are higher for influenza than other vaccines recommended for adults, "influenza remains a significant threat to the public health," according to **Kristin L. Nichol, MD, MPH, MBA**, chief of medicine, Minneapolis VA Medical Center; and professor of medicine and vice chair, department of medicine, University of Minnesota. "We are learning more all the time about just how severe, debilitating and widespread influenza can be. A recent report connected influenza infection with an increased risk of heart attack and stroke. It is clear that our work is far from done."

**Robert Hopkins, MD** assistant professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Science and a member of the adult immunization advisory board of the American College of Physicians and the organization's Arkansas Chapter Governor, detailed the terrible burden of pneumococcal disease

in adults. "Up to 5,000 Americans die every year from a disease that can be prevented by vaccination," said Dr. Hopkins. "Many pneumococcal infections can be prevented or their severity significantly reduced by this simple immunization."

**Mark Dworkin, MD** from the division of epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health highlighted the decades-long increase in pertussis rates. According to Dr. Dworkin, "we need to use the newly available booster vaccines against pertussis for adults and adolescents widely because this may get pertussis back under control. Adults and adolescents can get coughing illness that may last for weeks or even months and they represent a large reservoir of infection putting others, such as vulnerable infants, at increased risk of infection."

"A concerted effort is needed to raise adult immunization rates," said **William Schaffner, MD**, vice president of NFID and chairman of the department of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

"The important thing to remember is that deaths and illnesses associated with these infections are largely avoidable through vaccination. Low immunization rates represent a national public health crisis whose consequences affect the entire country as well as affected individuals and their families. The challenges to increase rates are real, but the benefits of achieving high vaccination rates are substantial."

The news conference was supported, in part, through unrestricted educational grants to NFID by **Merck & Co., Inc.**, **Novartis Vaccines**, and **sanofi pasteur**.

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## NFID Issues New Reports on Immunizing Health Care Personnel

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) recently issued two reports in response to data revealing that only 42 percent of health care personnel receive their annual influenza vaccination. The reports, a Call to Action urging health care personnel to receive annual influenza vaccines, and a Best Practices Report describing innovative programs for increasing immunization rates, are a part of a major initiative led by NFID to address the critical need to improve influenza vaccination rates among health care personnel.

“Too many valuable health care personnel risk contracting influenza because they have not been vaccinated,” said William Schaffner, MD,

vice president of NFID. “Even more troubling is the fact that these employees risk spreading the virus among the sick and often immunocompromised patients under their care. These reports, together, elevate awareness of the implications of unvaccinated health care personnel and offer health facilities innovative solutions for increasing influenza vaccination among their employees.”

Because influenza is so easily spread by people who are asymptomatic—and because it can lead to severe illness and death—it is especially important that health care providers protect themselves and those around them.

For a variety of reasons, however, most health care professionals do not

obtain an annual flu shot. In recent years leading government agencies, biopharmaceutical companies and employee unions in the health care field have studied ways to improve upon the low immunization rates among health care personnel.

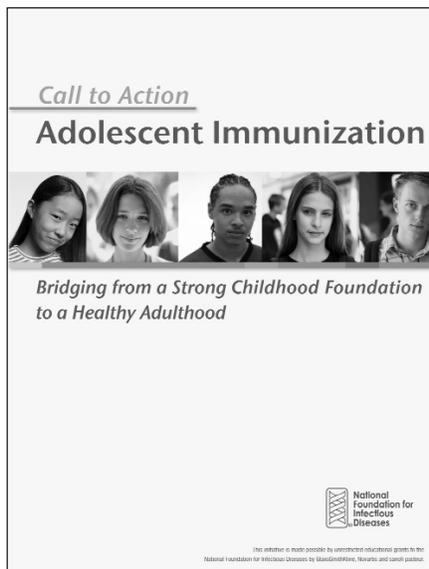
The Call to Action, *Influenza Immunization among Health Care Personnel*, stresses the fact that unvaccinated health facility employees can be a significant source of influenza virus transmission – between one another and to patients. Health care personnel include all persons working in health care settings, including home health care, who have contact with patients. influenza puts a significant (See HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL, p. 8)

## NFID Issues Call to Action to Increase Adolescent Immunization

US teens are vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases. The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) has issued an adolescent immunization Call to Action, *Bridging from a Strong Childhood Foundation to a Healthy Adulthood*, to address the need to increase vaccination within this population. The report, now available via [www.nfid.org](http://www.nfid.org), discusses the need for compliance with the US immunization schedule to reduce the threat of 14 infectious diseases.

The US immunization schedule is the product of careful and extensive review of all aspects of vaccines (e.g., effectiveness, safety, cost) by a 15-member expert panel, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and the adoption of the committee’s recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians and other professional organizations.

Achieving and maintaining high immunization rates is critical for disease prevention. The highly effective



childhood immunization program has led to elimination of smallpox, greater than 99 percent reductions in diphtheria, measles, polio and rubella, and to a greater than 90 percent reduction in mumps, tetanus and pertussis. These successes are rooted in widespread infant and toddler vaccination. Widespread immunization of adolescents can lead to similar positive results.

Organizations supporting the Call

to Action and agreeing that immunization rates in adolescents need to be improved to reduce the impact of vaccine-preventable diseases in this population include the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Physician Assistants, American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, American Pharmacists Association, America’s Health Insurance Plans, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Kaiser Permanente Northern California, National Alliance for Hispanic Health, National Association of County and City Health Officials, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, National Association of School Nurses, National Medical Association, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society, Society for Adolescent Medicine, Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, and Wellpoint, Inc.

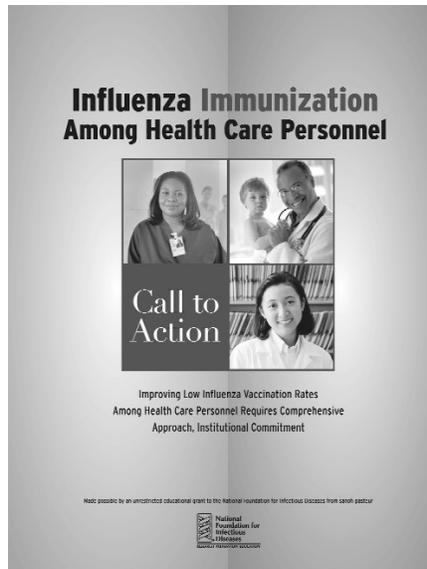
NFID’s adolescent immunization Call to Action initiative is made possible by unrestricted educational grants to NFID from GlaxoSmithKline, Novartis Vaccines and sanofi pasteur.

(HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL, from p.7)

economic burden on employers and all workplace environments. Influenza outbreaks force employees to cover shifts and rearrange schedules, causing unnecessary stress. Conversely, fewer cases of influenza among staff mean fewer sick days and hospitalizations. The Call to Action urges employers to dedicate adequate resources to ensure influenza immunization in the work place.

A second report, *Immunizing Healthcare Personnel Against Influenza: A Report on Best Practices*, was derived from a recent roundtable meeting involving representatives from a variety of national organizations to discuss the successes and challenges of immunization practices.

Programs developed by **Virginia Mason Medical Center**, **St. Jude Children's Research Center**, **Kaiser Permanente of Northern California** and **Cleveland Clinic** are cited in the report for increasing influenza vaccina-



tion rates among health care personnel. The case studies from these organizations reveal the successes and illustrate the negotiations and obstacles faced during the process. The report also includes an extensive

overview of state legislative and regulatory efforts to increase influenza immunization rates among health care personnel.

“This report outlines the complexities of implementing effective workforce immunization programs that serve to protect both health care personnel and the patients they serve,” noted **Susan J. Rehm, MD**, medical director of NFID. “We’ve found that providers across various health care settings struggle with the same issues when it comes to immunizing staff against influenza – issues like voluntary participation, addressing concerns about safety and efficacy, and convenience of receiving vaccine.

Both reports are available on NFID’s Web site at [www.nfid.org](http://www.nfid.org). The Health Care Personnel Call to Action was made possible through an unrestricted educational grant to NFID from **sanofi pasteur**. The Best Practices report was made possible through funding support to NFID from **CSL Biotherapies**.

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