



## Experts Outline Infectious Diseases Challenges and Threats for 2008 at 13th Annual Duma/NFID News Conference

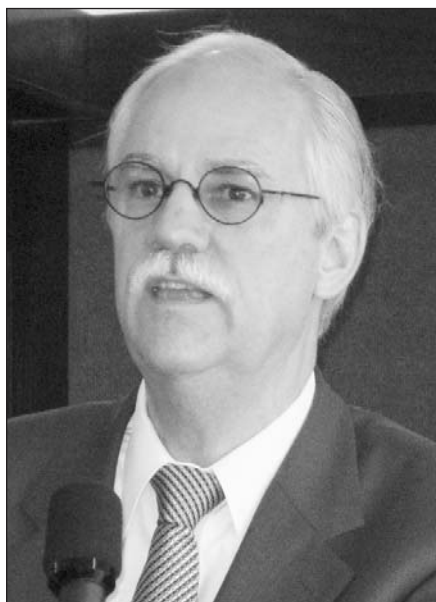
The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) held its 13th Annual Richard J. Duma/NFID News Conference and Symposium on Infectious Diseases at the National Press Club in Washington, DC on July 9, 2008. A panel of experts addressed key issues and developments in the control and prevention of emerging infectious diseases, as well as highlighted global health challenges of insect-borne infections, MRSA and the importance of childhood and adolescent vaccines.

“Infectious diseases pose an ongoing threat to the nation’s health,” said **Susan J. Rehm, MD**, NFID medical director and vice chair, of the department of infectious diseases at the Cleveland Clinic.

### Childhood and Adolescent Vaccines: More Important than Ever

**Larry K. Pickering, MD, FAAP**, senior advisor to the director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, executive secretary of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and professor of pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine, outlined the successes achieved by immunization programs, the importance and benefits of childhood, adolescent and adult immunization platforms and the impact of unvaccinated persons when infections are re-introduced into susceptible populations.

“Today, recommended vaccines are available to prevent 16 infectious diseases as well as two forms of cancer.



*Dr. Larry K. Pickering speaks at the Richard J. Duma News Conference and Symposium on Infectious Diseases*

As future vaccines become available to prevent other infectious diseases, cancers, and additional conditions,

funding mechanisms must be protected and public confidence in the safety and effectiveness of vaccines must not be permitted to erode,” stated Dr. Pickering. “Immunization should be a part of the overall health care provided to children, adolescents and adults.”

### Climate Change and Insect-Borne Infections

Approximately 1.5 million of 14.8 million annual infectious disease deaths are attributable to insect-borne diseases worldwide. These diseases, such as yellow fever, dengue fever, encephalitis, Chagas disease and leishmaniasis may cause conditions ranging from congestive heart failure to cirrhosis of the liver, blindness and hemorrhagic fevers. Scientists are studying the effects of global warming and the impact of climate changes on insect-borne infections.

**David M. Morens, MD**, National

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## Joint NFID/IDSA Postdoctoral Fellowship and Young Investigator Awards Announced

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2008 Postdoctoral Fellowships and Young Investigator Grant recipients. NFID and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) have partnered to present these awards which assist infectious diseases specialists in furthering their research.

### Merle A. Sande/Pfizer Fellowship in International Infectious Diseases

Ulrike K. Buchwald, MD is the recipient of the Merle A. Sande/Pfizer Fellowship in International Infectious Diseases. The award is given for important clinical research in infectious diseases and/or HIV/AIDS conducted in a resource-limited setting.

Dr. Buchwald is an infectious diseases fellow at New York University School of Medicine. She received her medical degree from the Medical School at the Freie Universitat in Berlin, Germany. Dr. Buchwald completed her residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in infectious diseases at the New York University Langone Medical Center in New York.

Dr. Buchwald's research interest is in the immunology of infectious diseases with a special focus on translational research to improve prevention and outcomes of bacterial infections and to use immune based strategies to fight emerging challenges in the field of infectious diseases.

Dr. Buchwald's proposed research will assess the humoral and cellular

responses to pneumococcal antigens while evaluating the immunogenicity of neonatal pneumococcal vaccinations as an intervention to prevent invasive pneumococcal disease in very young infants in The Gambia.

### Wyeth Young Investigator Award in Vaccine Development

Elizabeth Miller, MD is the recipient of the 2008 Wyeth Young Investigator Award in Vaccine Development. The award provides funding for outstanding research in vaccine development, either through clinical or laboratory investigation, by a candidate who demonstrates commitment to vaccinology as a career.

Dr. Miller's area of interest focuses on therapeutic vaccines for HIV-infected individuals. Her study will explore the development of therapeutic vaccines that employ autologous, inactivated HIV-pulsed dendritic cells. The goal of Dr. Miller's project is to determine whether monocyte-derived dendritic cells (MDDSCs) pulsed with HIV which has been inactivated with Aldrithiolo-2(AT-2) induce therapeutic immune responses in a cohort of HIV-infected individuals.

Dr. Miller received her medical degree from New York University School of Medicine and completed her residency and an infectious diseases fellowship at the New York University/Bellevue Hospital.

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#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT



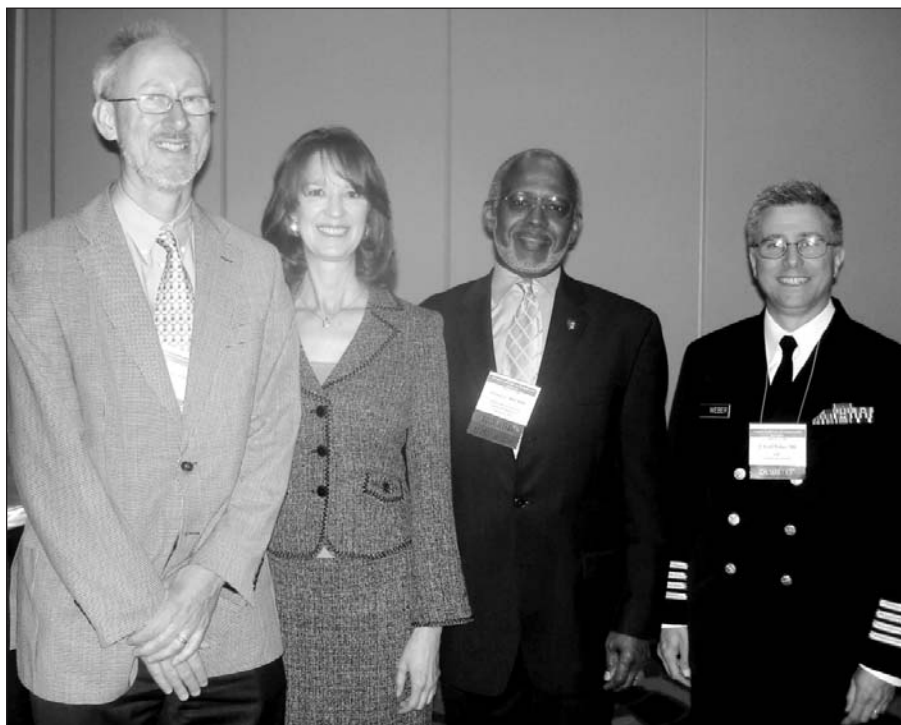
NFID gratefully acknowledges **Wyeth Pharmaceuticals** for an unrestricted educational grant which made this issue of *The Double Helix*® possible.

## NFID Sponsors Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance; Dr. David M. Livermore Presents Keynote Address

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) sponsored the Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance on June 23-25, 2008, in Bethesda, Maryland. The conference was held in collaboration with the Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics; the American Academy of Pediatrics; the American Veterinary Association; the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc.; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research – Food and Drug Administration; the Infectious Diseases Society of America; the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America; and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The conference provides an interdisciplinary scientific forum to present, discuss, and address the science, prevention and control of antimicrobial resistance, and to define issues and potential solutions to the problem of antimicrobial resistance.

Conference attendees representing government, industry, academia, non-government organizations and clinical and laboratory practice joined to present and discuss a variety of leading topics in antimicrobial resistance. Highlights of the program included presentations 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, resistant pathogens in the food we eat, and the role of ecology in the spread of resistant pathogens. The conference included meet the experts breakfast sessions and poster sessions providing opportunities for networking.



From left to right: Keynote speaker David M. Livermore, PhD poses with Susan J. Rehm, MD, NFID Medical Director and conference co-chair, George C. Hill, PhD, NFID President and Todd Weber, MD., conference co-chair, at the 2008 Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance.

The conference keynote address, “Antibiotic Resistance: Location, Location, Location” was delivered by **David M. Livermore, PhD**. Dr. Livermore discussed the validity and pitfalls of published resistance surveys and the importance of determining which infected patients are more or less likely to harbor resistant bacteria based on survey data. He discussed a variety of factors that need to be determined before prescribing antibiotics. Dr. Livermore stated that “published national and international resistance statistics illustrate trends and provide benchmarks” and emphasized that “local surveillance data is essential to guide usage and infection control.”

The conference was supported, in part, through unrestricted educational grants from 3M Medical, Achaogen, Inc., AdvanDx, Inc., Astellas Pharma US, Inc., AstraZeneca, Cubist

Pharmaceuticals, Elusys Therapeutics, Inc., Enzon Pharmaceuticals, Inc., GangaGen, Inc., GlaxoSmithKline, Merck & Co., Inc., Ortho-McNeil, Inc., Pfizer, Inc., Roche Laboratories, Inc., Schering-Plough, ViroPharma, Inc., and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

The next Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance will be held February 1 – 3, 2010, at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda.

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## Experts Urge Expanding Influenza Vaccination Season to Increase Immunization Rates, Protect More Americans

Health care professionals should increase influenza immunization rates by implementing key practice-proven interventions and offering vaccine at every opportunity throughout the entire influenza season. These are the conclusions of leading influenza experts in a July 2008 supplement to *The American Journal of Medicine*. The supplement is sponsored by the **National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID)** and was made possible through an unrestricted educational grant to NFID from sanofi pasteur.

The supplement contributors each focus on different aspects of influenza immunization, and all underscore the need to take advantage of routine office visits to immunize all recommended individuals, starting as soon as vaccine is available in communities, and continuing through January and beyond.

“What we are really talking about is a paradigm shift,” said **William Schaffner, MD**, chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, president-elect of NFID and guest editor of the journal supplement. “As the number of people who need to get vaccinated has been expanded by public-health officials, so has the time-frame for vaccination. Vaccines given later in the year or even into the New Year are still beneficial in helping people avoid this serious illness.” With ample vaccine supply now available, authors say the overriding issue now is to increase consumer demand for influenza vaccine, many doses of which often go unused each year.

In one paper, **Gregory A. Poland, MD**, Mayo Vaccine Research Group, Mary Lowell Leary Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, and **David R. Johnson, MD, MPH**, director, scientific and medical affairs, sanofi pas-

teur, report that health care providers are “missing important opportunities” to vaccinate people during office visits. They report data showing that millions of high-risk patients visit healthcare providers repeatedly during the influenza season (an average of 2.2 times each) but leave without an influenza vaccine each time.

Earlier this year, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** expanded its recommendations for annual influenza immunization to include all children 6 months through 18 years of age. The change adds about 30 million children to the number of people for whom CDC recommends annual influenza vaccination, bringing the total to be nearly 250 million Americans.

Many of the authors also stressed that the low influenza immunization rate in health care providers is a serious problem. The CDC recommends annual influenza vaccination for all health care providers, but rates hover around 40 percent in most years. Dr. Schaffner calls on his colleagues to “view annual influenza vaccination as a professional responsibility and by getting vaccinated, health care providers can be positive role models, reduce the likelihood of getting sick themselves and, most importantly, avoid doing harm by infecting patients in their care.”

*The American Journal of Medicine Supplement*, “Expanding the Influenza Vaccination Season: A New Paradigm for Increasing Immunization Rates,” is available FREE at [http://www.amjmed.com/issues/contents?issue\\_Key=S0002-9343\(08\)X0012-9](http://www.amjmed.com/issues/contents?issue_Key=S0002-9343(08)X0012-9).

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Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH), discussed the correlation between climate and insect-borne infections. “The most important needs are better understanding of the behavior of complex ecosystems to which insects belong, reinvigoration of scientific and public health defenses, and more powerful tools to prevent, control and treat insect-borne diseases,” said Dr. Morens.

### How Should We Respond to MRSA?

**Loren Miller, MD, MPH**, director of the Infection Control Program at Harbor-UCLA, associate professor of medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles and faculty member in the division of adult infectious diseases, discussed methods to control and prevent MRSA infections. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections have become increasingly common in the past few years. MRSA poses risk for infection within and outside health-care settings. Prevention of the spread of MRSA involves hand hygiene, separating those infected with MRSA from uninfected persons and environmental cleaning.

MRSA is a type of bacteria, commonly known as “Staph,” that is resistant to many commonly used antibiotics. Researchers are determining the best way to address this growing infectious diseases challenge. “There is no simple magic bullet to respond to MRSA. Efforts to prevent MRSA need to be multi-faceted and coordinated,” stated Dr. Miller.

### Prevention and Treatment of Infections Due to Drug Resistant Bacteria: Antibiotics Can't Be the Only Answer

**Robert A. Weinstein, MD**, professor of medicine and chairman of the division of infectious diseases, Stroger

Hospital at Cook County and chief operating officer at the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center for the Prevention, Care and Research of Infectious Diseases, Rush Medical College, provided an overview of antibiotic resistance and infection control practices to help reduce its occurrence.

Improvements in preventing drug resistant bacteria infections include: aggressive education of healthcare workers to use alcohol-based hand rubs for hand hygiene when entering and leaving patient rooms and before and after contact with patients; use of infection control "bundles" to prevent device-related infections and use of checklists to ensure adherence to the bundles; active surveillance for resistance; renewed attention to environmental cleanliness; and public reporting of healthcare-acquired infection rates.

A number of recent laws and mandates have focused on activities to reduce the risk of healthcare-associated infections. These initiatives include national quality improvement activities, national evaluations of pay-for-performance and monetary penalties (for hospitals when patients develop certain healthcare-associated infections), and state-based laws that require hospitals to report their infection rates to the public.

"Antibiotic resistance is driven by lapses in infection control, as well as by antibiotic overuse. Infection control improvements are essential to controlling antibiotic resistance," said Dr. Weinstein.

### **Supporters of the Press Conference**

The 13th Richard J. Duma/NFID Annual Press Conference and Symposium on Infectious Diseases, was supported, in part, though unrestricted educational grants from **Cubist Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Pfizer Inc., Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical, Roche, sanofi pasteur** and **Wyeth Pharmaceuticals**.

## CALENDAR OF NFID EVENTS AND MEETINGS

October 20 – 22, 2008

**Management of Hepatitis B Conference, An NIH Consensus Development Conference**, presented by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and Office of Medical Applications of Research of the National Institutes of Health and The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, at the Natcher Conference Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Visit [www.consensus.nih.gov](http://www.consensus.nih.gov) for additional information.

October 25 – 28, 2008

**48th Annual ICAAC®/IDSA 46th Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.** Visit <http://www.icaacidsa2008.org> for additional information.

October 27, 2008

**MRSA: Managing an Elusive Pathogen.** A satellite symposium sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases at the Joint 48th Annual ICAAC/IDSA 46th Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

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.

March 24, 2009

**National Foundation for Infectious Diseases Annual 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.

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 Diseases, Marriott Bethesda North Hotel and Conference Center 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](mailto:scooper-kerr@nfid.org), or visit our website at <http://www.nfid.org>.*

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### **The Association of Subspecialty Professors Young Investigator Award in Geriatrics**

Amie Meditz, MD is the recipient of the 2008 Association of Subspecialty Professors Young Investigator Award in geriatrics. The award provides support to infectious diseases faculty within the first four years of their appointment who are interested in academic careers focused on geriatric medicine aspects of a subspecialty. Award recipients must develop and implement a basic, clinical, or health services research project encompassing

the geriatric aspects of infectious diseases.

Dr. Meditz is an instructor in the Department of Medicine in the division of infectious diseases at University of Colorado Denver Health Science Center. She received her medical degree from the University of Texas, Southwestern where she also completed her internal medicine residency. Dr. Meditz completed an infectious diseases fellowship at the University of Colorado Health Science Center in Denver.

Dr. Meditz's proposed research project will investigate ways to improve the health of women infected with or at risk for HIV. The impact of aging and exogenous sex hormones on susceptibility to HIV-1 infection will be the focus of her study.

Dr. Madan is an instructor in the division of pediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She received her medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and completed her residency and pediatric infectious diseases fellowship at Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Dr. Madan's research interests include HIV microbicide research as well as mucosal immunity and its relationship to the menstrual cycle in healthy women. Her study will provide crucial data for the development of safe and effective preventative strategies including vaginal microbicides in healthy and HIV infected adolescents.

Dr. van der Velden is an assistant professor of molecular genetics and microbiology at Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center. He received his doctorate from Oregon Health and Science University.

Dr. van der Velden's research interests are salmonella virulence and the complex nature of host-pathogen interactions. His proposed research illustrates his plan to identify and characterize the inhibition of T cell responses by *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium.

## **NFID to Sponsor Travel Grant Program for ADVAC 10**

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) announces its sponsorship of a travel grant program for the 10th Advanced Vaccinology Course (ADVAC 10). The course will be held May 18 – 29, 2009 at the Conference Center of Fondation Mérieux, Les Pensières, Veyrier-du-Lac in France.

The grants are provided to assist recent postdoctoral graduates who have demonstrated an interest in a career in vaccinology. NFID will award two travel grants to defray expenses related to attending the course including registration, airfare, lodging, ground transportation, meal and incidentals. The deadline for application submission is November 15, 2008. Announcement of award will occur in February 2009. For additional information please visit [www.nfid.org/fellow/](http://www.nfid.org/fellow/).

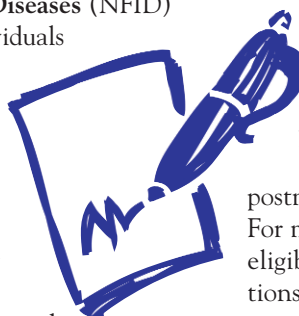
### **Astellas Young Investigator Award**

Rebecca Pellet Madan, MD and Adrianus W. M. van der Velden, PhD are the recipients of Astellas Young Investigator Awards. The awards provide funding to young investigators who have demonstrated outstanding research in any one area of current interest in the field of infectious diseases.

## **NFID Seeks Applications for the 2009 Traveling Professorship in Rural Areas Grant**

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) invites individuals

to apply for the 2009 Traveling Professorship in Rural Areas. This grant is funded through the NFID Steven R. Mostow Endowment for Outreach Programs and is intended to provide support for



the recipient to provide face-to-face infectious diseases education to practicing physicians in rural areas in the recipient's state of residence or primary practice.

All applications must be postmarked by February 2, 2009. For more information regarding eligibility and application instructions please visit the NFID website [www.nfid.org/fellow/professorship.pdf](http://www.nfid.org/fellow/professorship.pdf).

## NFID Announces Clinical Vaccinology Course

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 14 – 16, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda in Bethesda, Maryland. The course will also be offered for the first time on the West Coast, from 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>™</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.

Registration is now open for the November 2008 course. Additional information about these courses is available on the NFID website, [www.nfid.org](http://www.nfid.org).

## Influenza Vaccination Toolkit Now Available for Health Care Personnel

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has launched an initiative to improve influenza vaccination among health care personnel. Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness that is easily spread through person to person contact. Annually influenza affects 5 to 20 percent of the population with an average of 200,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths.

HHS is focused on improving vaccination rates among health care personnel with an objective of reaching the Health People 2010 objective of 60% influenza vaccination rate. In 2006 less than 50% of

health care personnel received an influenza immunization. By partnering with other organizations the objective of increasing this rate can be achieved. The toolkit is comprised of links to several websites including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), the American College of Physicians, and the State of Massachusetts. The toolkit and website links may be obtained at [www.hhs.gov/ophs/programs/initiatives/vacctoolkit/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ophs/programs/initiatives/vacctoolkit/index.html).

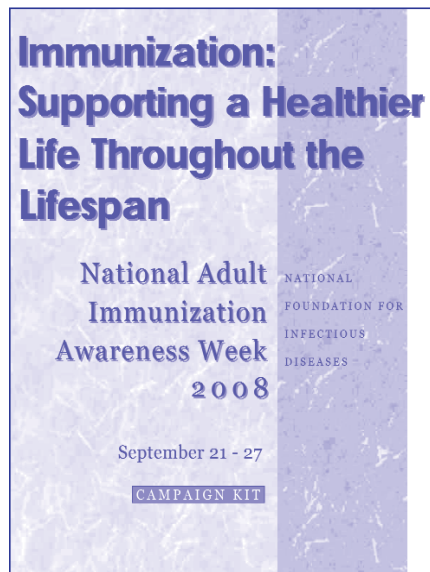
## National Adult Immunization Awareness Week 2008: September 21 – September 27; Campaign Kit is on the Web

**N**ational Adult Immunization Awareness Week (NAIAW) will be held September 21 – 27, 2008.

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) coordinates this annual observance to coordinate awareness-raising activities that focus on adult and adolescent immunization. This year marks the 21st consecutive observance. NAIAW serves as a great opportunity for individuals and organizations to promote the importance of adult and adolescent immunization.

“**Immunization: Supporting a Healthier Life Throughout the LifeSpan**” is the theme for NAIAW 2008 campaign.

In observance of the week’s festivities



NFID will hold its annual influenza and pneumococcal disease news conference on Wednesday, September 24, 2008. This event has become a major national public awareness forum for influenza and pneumococcal disease.

NFID has developed a campaign kit, a compilation of materials and resources that will assist in promoting adult and adolescent immunization on many levels, during NAIAW and the rest of the year. A PDF of the kit may be downloaded from [www.nfid.org/pdf/publications/naiaw08.pdf](http://www.nfid.org/pdf/publications/naiaw08.pdf). NFID encourages organizations to download the campaign kit, to duplicate the materials included in the kit, and to modify the information to fit unique needs.



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