Drs. Richard P. Wenzel and Elizabeth L. Howse to Receive NFID Awards

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) will honor Richard P. Wenzel, MD and Jennifer L. Howse, PhD, at its annual awards dinner on Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

NFID will present the Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement to Dr. Wenzel for his distinguished scientific career in infection control and epidemiology. The Maxwell Finland Award is given to a scientist who has made outstanding contributions to the understanding of infectious diseases or public health.

Dr. Howse will be honored with the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Humanitarian Award for her efforts to improve the health of newborns by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. The award recognizes outstanding humanitarian efforts and achievements that have improved the health of humankind.

Richard P. Wenzel, MD

Described as one of the giants of American academic medicine and a global pioneer, Dr. Richard P. Wenzel has worked for the past 30 years in the arena of epidemiology and health care infection control. “Richard Wenzel is a true pioneer in the field and a dedicated physician, researcher and teacher. Even more, he has acted with the best interest of young and old alike as a health advocate, protecting patients from infectious diseases. His efforts have translated to improved standards in prevention and control of infection in hospitals,” said Jerome F. Strauss, III, MD, PhD, executive vice president of Medical Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University Health System.

Dr. Wenzel is professor and chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at the Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University. He has been credited with being the first to define the epidemiology of Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (SIRS), the first to create a statewide surveillance program for nosocomial infections, and the first to create a non-governmental surveillance program for nosocomial bloodstream infections (SCOPE Program). Dr. Wenzel has published over 500 manuscripts, six textbooks and is the founder of two journals, including the Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology Journal which he established more than 25 years ago. He served as a member of the editorial board of the New England Journal of Medicine for eight years and later became the journal’s first Editor-at-Large, a position he still holds.

He has trained over 50 fellows worldwide, 85% of whom are in academic centers or public health. “The fellows that have studied under his tutelage have gone on to important academic careers of their own and continue to promote the vision which (See AWARDS, p. 5)
Adolescent Immunization Continues to Challenge the American Health System

U.S. adolescents are needlessly at risk for preventable infections because vaccines for teens and pre-teens continue to be underused. That was the message from a panel of experts convened by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) at an October Webinar.

Vaccines are recommended to protect adolescents from more than a dozen infectious diseases, including some that are a short term threat such as influenza and meningococcal disease and others that protect against long-term complications of infections such as cancer protection afforded by human papillomavirus (HPV) and hepatitis B vaccines.

Adolescent vaccination doesn’t lend itself to easy solutions. “Adolescents are less likely to have regular wellness visits,” according to Amy Middleman, MD of the Texas Children’s Hospital and the Society of Adolescent Medicine. “They’re a challenging group to reach, with increasingly busy lives, and their health needs are uniquely different from those of infants and adults. We need to develop immunization delivery strategies that make sense for this age group.”

Given the challenges of delivering vaccines to adolescents, the low immunization rates reported by Centers for Disease Control’s (CDC) annual National Immunization Survey-Teen (NIS-Teen) are not surprising. The rates also revealed some racial and socioeconomic disparities, but surprisingly, some were the opposite of what has been expected.

Hispanic females were more likely than blacks and whites to start the HPV vaccination series; the same was true for teens living below the poverty level. But while these groups started the series at higher rates, they didn’t finish it at higher rates. “It’s great to report that we’re doing better at reaching Hispanic females and those living below the poverty level about the threat of HPV, but we need to do more to increase the rate of those actually completing the three-dose schedule,” said Lance E. Rodewald, MD of the CDC.

NFID’s panel also discussed a recent vote by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to add permissive language for HPV vaccination in males aged 9 to 26. “Voting for a permissive HPV vaccination strategy for males puts the choice in the hands of the parents and puts the onus for males puts the choice in the hands of the parents and puts the onus for educating them and their parents on the health care providers’ shoulders,” said William Schaffner, MD, president-elect of NFID. “It’s a good way to start the conversation about HPV in boys, but if current rates are any indication, this strategy will not make a big dent in vaccination coverage.”

The Webinar was the latest installment in NFID’s adolescent immunization program, aimed at educating healthcare professionals and parents about adolescent immunization. Attendees included NFID adolescent immunization partners and media. To continue communicating the need to make adolescent vaccination a priority, NFID is expanding and relaunching its adolescent Web site at www.adolescentvaccination.org. The Web site will be dedicated to providing scientifically-based information to consumers, healthcare professionals and media.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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NFID and Health Leaders Address a Unique Influenza Season

“If you’ve seen one influenza season, you’ve seen one influenza season,” said Gregory A. Poland, MD, Chair of the Adult Immunization Advisory Board of the American College of Physicians, referring to the unpredictable nature of the influenza virus as he spoke at this year’s National Foundation for Infectious Disease (NFID) Annual Influenza/Pneumococcal News Conference. That oft-repeated quote rang truer than ever this year, with the emergence of pandemic H1N1 influenza.

For more than a decade, NFID has convened this annual media event to kick off the influenza season and communicate key messages that reflect changing medical, scientific and public health priorities related to influenza. This year, with already heightened media focus on H1N1, NFID and program moderator, William Schaffner, MD, NFID President-elect, had to respond quickly, adjusting activities and messages in consultation with the influenza immunization community, to ensure optimal public health outcomes.

In addition to the news conference held in early September at the National Press Club in Washington, DC and other broadcast media activities, NFID’s influenza-related efforts have included consumer research to measure current influenza attitudes and behaviors and updated communication and educational programs.

Working in collaboration with government, medical and advocacy groups, NFID convened a prominent panel of experts for the news event. Panelists conveyed strong messages about the heightened importance of getting vaccinated for both types of influenza (seasonal and H1N1) in this pandemic year. Also stressed were the value of pneumococcal immunization for at-risk populations and the benefits of good hygiene, infection control, and antiviral medications.

Leading up to the conference, NFID worked closely with its collaborative partners, including keynote speaker Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Director Thomas R. Frieden, MD to outline potential dangers and prevention strategies for both H1N1 and seasonal flu.

News conference speakers also included: Cora L. Christian, MD, MPH, AARP Board Member; David T. Taylor, Jr., MD, FAAP, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) President; and Nancy H. Nielsen, MD, American Medical Association (AMA) Immediate Past President.

Speakers emphasized the importance of not overlooking the benefits of immunization against seasonal influenza in this atypical year. “Even though H1N1 has been getting a lot of the top-line publicity, it’s important to not lose sight of the fact that seasonal influenza is a serious disease,” said Friedman.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius gives the keynote address at the Annual Influenza/Pneumococcal News Conference.

Breaking Down Barriers to Immunization

Ongoing efforts of NFID’s Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition (CIIC) to surmount vaccination hurdles include the development of an overall communications theme (“Be Fluent”), creation and placement of online banner ads and radio Public Service Announcements, and the development of a health care practitioner pledge to be displayed in pediatricians’ offices to demonstrate physician commitment to influenza vaccination. Most recently, CIIC created “Flu Funnies,” a series of videos that take a light-hearted look at how misconceptions lead some parents to take extreme measures to protect their children from seasonal influenza without getting them vaccinated. These videos can be viewed at www.PreventChildhoodInfluenza.org/video or on You Tube at http://www.youtube.com/user/NFIDVideos.

For more on influenza and influenza vaccination visit: www.PreventChildhoodInfluenza.org

(See HEALTH LEADERS, p. 4)
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, Health Protection Agency of London, will present the keynote address on “The Globalization of Antimicrobial Resistance.”

The conference will feature symposia on:
- The economic and public policy aspects of antibiotic resistance and antibiotic development
- Susceptibility issues
- Implications of rapid diagnostic tests
- Antiviral drug resistance
- Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)
- 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. The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide Continuing Medical Education (CME) for physicians. NFID takes responsibility for the content, quality, and scientific integrity of this CME activity. NFID designates this educational activity for a maximum of 17 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™.

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 website is available online at www.nfid.org/conferences/resistance10. For more information about the conference, 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.

Influenza “All children are vulnerable; it’s not really possible to outsmart the influenza viruses,” Dr. Tayloe explained, adding, “Without vaccination, influenza is too dangerous a disease to risk getting.”

Dr. Christian drove home the message that adults 50+ are living longer, and are often multi-generational caregivers who need to remain healthy to avoid spreading illness to those in their care. She also expressed concerns about protecting older adults, who are most likely to suffer serious complications from seasonal influenza and have the highest fatality rates from the disease.

The importance of vaccination for health care professionals was also discussed. According to Dr. Poland, health care professionals “need to set a good example for their patients by getting vaccinated, which will keep them healthy at work, and, most importantly, will reduce the chances of them passing influenza to vulnerable patients in their care.”

(HEALTH LEADERS, from p. 3)
THE DOUBLE HELIX

(AWARDS, from p. 1)

Dick Wenzel so eloquently espouses,” stated Robert C. Moellering, Jr. MD, Shields Warren-Mallinckrodt, professor of medical research at Harvard Medical School, and recipient of the 2006 Maxwell Finland Award. “Dick Wenzel is a wonderful and generous teacher, as reflected in the numerous teaching awards he has earned over the years, and is an outstanding clinician who upholds the highest ethical standards of our profession. He has done everything: research, medical administration, teaching and clinical medicine, and he has excelled in every one of these disciplines,” said Dr. Moellering.

Jennifer L. Howse, PhD

Dr. Jennifer Howse is an advocate for those who often cannot speak for themselves. Since 1990, she has held the position of president of the March of Dimes. Dr. Howse has been described as having a passion for continuing the legacy established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. “Her efforts unquestionably merit national and international recognition,” stated David R. Smith, MD, president, Upstate Medical University, State University of New York. “I have worked with Dr. Howse in a variety of scientific, clinical and political settings and witnessed her effectiveness and tenacity. Whether it was the battle to determine the determinates of neural tube defects in South Texas that lead to the National Folic Acid Campaign and the expansion of the Birth Defect Registries, the unprecedented advocacy for the now enacted Premie bill, or the state by state achievements to expand newborn screening to protect newborn infants, her resolve and keen grasp of the fundamental have improved the health and well being of babies.”

Under Dr. Howse’s leadership the March of Dimes has built a collaborative response to the national “epidemic” of prematurity. She has effectively built coalitions and transcend traditional boundaries in order to achieve a very diverse and at times arduous agenda. Dr. Howse was instrumental in creating the recent partnership between the Johnson and Johnson Institute, the Kentucky Department of Health, The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the University of Kentucky, hundreds of volunteers, and six Kentucky hospitals. “Dr. Howse has transformed the organization, which now has operating revenue of $226 million, a staff of 1,400 and three million volunteers, into one of the most well-known and respected health charities in the world, said Damian A. Braga, president, sanofi pasteur US and vice president, sanofi pasteur Americas.

The Event

The Awards Dinner will take place on the evening of March 2, 2010 at the Ritz Carlton Tysons Corner in

(See AWARDS, p. 6)

Recipients of the Maxwell Finland Award

2009     Stanley A. Plotkin, MD
2008     Martin S. Hirsch, MD
2007     Hebert L. DuPont, MD
2006     Robert C. Moellering, Jr., MD
2005     John G. Bartlett, MD
2004     George H. McCracken, Jr., MD
2003     George W. Comstock, MD, DrPh
2002     Jerome O. Klein, MD
2001     Robert Austrian, MD
2000     R. Gordon Douglas, MD
1999     Stanley Falkow, PhD
1998     Maurice R. Hilleman, PhD
1997     Joshua Lederberg, PhD
1996     The Honorable Paul G. Rogers
1995     The Honorable Dale Bumpers and Mrs. Betty F. Bumpers
1994     The Honorable Elizabeth Hanford Dole
1993     Arthur Ashe, Jr.
1992     Michael E. DeBakey, MD
1991     Mrs. Albert Lasker
1990     P. Roy Vagelos, MD
1989     Anthony S. Fauci, MD
1988     C. Everett Koop, MD

Recipients of the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind

2009     Ann Lurie
2008     Louis W. Sullivan, MD
2007     William H. Foege, MD, MPH
2006     Paul E. Farmer, MD, PhD
2005     Former President William Jefferson Clinton
2004     Henri Landwirth
2003     The Honorable John Edward Porter
2001     Senator John D. Rockefeller, IV
1999     David Satcher, M.D., PhD
1998     General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret)
1997     Former President Jimmy Carter and Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter
The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) announces 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 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 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:

- How Vaccines Work
- Childhood and Adolescent Immunizations
- Adult Immunizations
- Communication Issues
- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Update on Vaccine Recommendations
- Cutting Edge Topics
- Clinical Cases in Vaccinology

Keynote presentations include:

- An Overview of Vaccinology — Walter A. Orenstein, MD, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Addressing Vaccination Disparities Among Older Adults — Cora L. Christian, MD, MPH, Virgin Islands Medical Institute
- 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 National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide Continuing Medical Education (CME) for physicians. NFID takes responsibility for the content, quality, and scientific integrity of this CME activity. NFID designates this educational activity for a maximum of 16.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. 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 16.5 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 course. The cost to attend is $550 prior to February 1, 2010 and $650 after this date. 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.

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(WARDS, from p. 5)

McLean, VA. Individual seats for the NFID Awards Dinner are $350 per person. Sponsored tables for ten are available for $8,500. NFID is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, and as a result most of this cost is tax deductible. Net proceeds from the event will be used for public and professional education about infectious diseases; research and training in infectious diseases; and to aid in the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases. For more information please contact Sharon Cooper-Kerr at (301) 656-0003 x14.
The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) will sponsor the Thirteenth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research: Basic Science-Product Development-Clinical and Field Studies on April 26 – 28, 2010, at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in North Bethesda, Maryland. Collaborating organizations include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research-Food and Drug Administration, the Center for Vaccine Development-University of Maryland, Emory Vaccine Center, Fondation Mérieux, International Association for Biologicals, the International Society for Vaccines, the International Vaccine Institute, The Jenner Society, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Albert B. Sabin Vaccine Institute, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The conference is designed to bring together the diverse disciplines involved in the research and development of vaccines. Expert faculty from various disciplines will present the latest vaccine-related scientific data, results, and issues via symposia and panel discussions. The conference plenary sessions will focus on the following topics:

- Vaccines, Poverty and World Hunger
- Pandemic Influenza: Revising Our Concepts
- Live Vaccines Still Alive and DIVA
- Innovations in Molecular Approaches to Vaccine Delivery
- Novel Adjuvants: Why? When? Consequences?

Anthony S. Fauci, MD, Director, National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease, National Institutes of Health, will deliver the Mary Lou Clements-Mann Memorial Lecture in Vaccine Sciences.

The conference is accepting submissions of abstracts for oral and poster presentations at www.nfid.org/conferences/vaccine10. Abstracts must be received by January 4, 2010. The complete preliminary program and online registration may be found at the conference website link.

The conference was developed for researchers, scientists, epidemiologists, microbiologists, immunologists, molecular biologist, physicians and veterinarians.

(See VACCINE RESEARCH, p. 8)
Applicants Sought for the 2010 Traveling Professorship in Rural Areas Grant

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) invites individuals to apply for the 2010 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.

The grant will be made in a one-time cash payment of $10,000. All applications must be postmarked by January 4, 2010. For more information regarding eligibility and application instructions please visit the NFID website http://www.nfid.org/pdf/awards/professorship.pdf.