



Dr. Rino Rappuoli is Winner of the 2009 Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award



On April 28th, Rino Rappuoli, PhD was presented with the Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award. This prestigious award recognizes a distinguished member of the research community who has made extraordinary contributions in the field of vaccinology or a complementary field. The Medal is the highest scientific honor given by the Sabin Vaccine Institute and commemorates the

The Sabin Report | Volume 11 Issue 2

Global Network Announces More than Four Million Women and Children Dewormed in Rwanda for Approximately 30 Cents Per Person

The Access Project, a partner of the Global Network, the Rwandan government and other international partners worked with locally trained community health providers in Rwanda to de-worm more than four million women and children during the country's Mother and Child Health Week



in March. Albendazole was administered to a targeted population of children under five, school-age children, and post-partum women, to treat for soil-transmitted helminthes (STHs) commonly known as intestinal worms, reaching 95.2% of the target population at approximately 30 cents per person. Additionally, in high prevalence areas, children were treated with praziquantel for schistosomiasis, a parasitic disease carried by fresh water snails. Vitamin A, immunizations, family planning services and health education messages were also delivered throughout the country.

[Read press release here](#)

South Africa Announces Introduction of Pneumococcal Vaccine at 4th Regional Pneumococcal Symposium

During the 4th Regional Pneumococcal Symposium held in South Africa on March



legacy of the late Dr. Albert B. Sabin, the developer of the oral live virus polio vaccine.

[See photos and more about this event here](#)

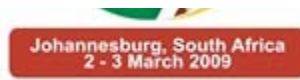
Media Turn to Dr. Hotez for Info on Swine Flu



When the swine flu story hit the U.S., the media turned to Dr. Hotez to help answer the public's numerous questions about efforts to find a vaccine. He did several media interviews including, a live appearance on an hour-long special on CNN Newsroom; AP Radio; and the Christian Science Monitor. [Watch clip from CNN interview here](#)

Dr. Hotez and Sabin Vaccine Institute were also profiled in the March 24th edition of USA Today. [Read the article here](#)

2-3, South African Deputy Minister of Health, Dr. Molefi Sefularo, announced his country's decision to introduce the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine - making South Africa the first African country to introduce the vaccine. Over 180 people from 38 countries, including 23 African countries, attended the symposium on March 2-3. [Click here for proceedings and more](#)



Sabin Releases Africa Review Papers - Draws Positive Media Attention

The Sabin Vaccine Institute, in collaboration with PneumoADIP, released a set of studies on the long-term sequelae and mortality due to bacterial meningitis as well as pneumococcal infections in persons with sickle cell disease. The studies were comprehensive literature reviews focused on children in Africa. The papers were recently submitted to journals for publication and their results released at the 4th Regional Pneumococcal Symposium in South Africa, which generated significant discussion and media coverage at the symposium.

[Read about the studies here](#)

Notable Progress in Two-Year Pediatric Study of the Dynamics of Hookworm Infection following Deworming Treatment in Brazil

In August 2008, the Vaccine Development Program initiated a two-year pediatric study to determine the rates and intensity of re-infection following drug treatment among young children in a hookworm endemic area of Brazil. So far, the program has successfully enrolled over 350 children in four communities. These children will be assessed every six months for two years, with both fecal and blood samples being collected. In addition, both nutritional and food security assessments are being performed. This study is particularly important as it will provide information to researchers on the effectiveness of deworming drugs and will also obtain data to help design future hookworm vaccine trials.



President Obama Announces \$63 Billion Global Health Initiative

On May 5th, the Obama Administration announced the launch of a new six-year, \$63 billion global health initiative, sending an important message that the United States is committed to strengthening global

health programs around the world. The initiative centered around four key investment goals, including reducing mortality of mothers and children under five, saving millions of lives; and eliminating some neglected tropical diseases.

The Sabin Vaccine Institute applauds Mr. Obama and his administration for this initiative. Moreover, we are pleased to find ourselves in a position to make a huge difference in the world's health, as these goals are congruent with programs we have already in place and with much of the work we do. This initiative highlights the importance of vaccines and other interventions as key means to stop preventable illnesses and save millions of lives.

PACE Helps Bring Pakistan Closer to PCV Introduction

The Pneumococcal Awareness Council of Experts (PACE), a project of The Sabin Vaccine Institute, joined with council member Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta and Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan on January 31 to host a national meeting on childhood pneumonia and meningitis. The meeting brought together physicians, researchers, and policymakers from Pakistan and around the world for the one-day event. In response to the event, the Pakistan Minister of Health arranged a series of meetings with Dr. Bhutta to further discuss pneumococcal disease prevention in Pakistan. As a result, Pakistan has decided to apply for GAVI funding for the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.



[Click here to watch video about PACE](#)

Vaccine Development Program's Research and Development Team Develops Allergy Detecting Skin Test

Although clinical testing of the Na-ASP-2 Hookworm Vaccine has been suspended, the program has undertaken a comprehensive response to the challenge presented by the allergic reactions observed in the first vaccine trial conducted in Brazil. Both blood and skin allergy tests have been



developed to aid in the selection of potential vaccine candidates and also to use as screening tests before administration of future candidate vaccines. A skin test reagent for detecting allergy to the *Na*-ASP-2 protein was manufactured in 2007 and was tested in healthy adults in the U.S. in March 2008 and in previously exposed adults in Brazil in January 2009. The findings from these tests indicate that skin testing can predict sensitization to vaccine antigens and will be a useful screening test in future vaccine trials. The development of the skin test marks yet another successful discovery for the HHVI team.

Dr. Hotez Receives Two Top Honors from George Washington University

At a ceremony on April 30th, the president of Sabin Vaccine Institute, Peter Hotez, (seen here with Mrs. Heloisa Sabin, GWU President Dr. Steven Knapp, and GWU School of Medicine and Health Sciences Dean Dr. James Scott), was named a Distinguished



Research Professor at the George Washington University. The prestigious professorship was established to honor extraordinary faculty researchers by providing resources to recognize top-tier academic scholarship and support research initiatives. During the ceremony, Dr. Hotez gave an outstanding lecture on his research on neglected tropical diseases.

At George Washington University's Commencement on May 17th, Dr. Hotez was awarded the 2009 Oscar and Shoshana Trachtenberg Prize given to recognize faculty accomplishments. Dr. Hotez was recognized



for advancing scholarship efforts at the University, having compiled an impressive record of activity that involves both laboratory research and the translation of research into a global effort to develop and test vaccines and improve the lives of all by preventing the neglected diseases that

plague many living in developing countries.

Recent Scientific Articles from Sabin

Since our last newsletter in February, Dr. Peter Hotez has co-authored several noteworthy articles including, "[Africa's 32 Cents Solution for HIV/AIDS](#)" for *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases* and a Viewpoint piece in the well respected publication *The Lancet*, making the case that

fighting neglected tropical diseases is a low-cost investment to rescue more than one billion people in poverty during these difficult economic times. [Read press release here](#)

Dr. Ciro de Quadros co-authored with Dr. Hotez "New Vaccines for Developing Countries: Will it be Feast or Famine?" which appeared in the *American Journal of Law & Medicine*. Dr. de Quadros also co-authored "The burden of pneumococcal disease among Latin American and Caribbean children: review of the evidence" in the *Revista Panamericana de Salud Pública (Panamerican Journal of Public Health)*; contributed a chapter on polio eradication in a recent book, *The Practice of International Health*; and co-authored an opinion piece, "Protecting children's future with vaccines" highlighting the challenges and potential of new vaccine introduction in the Middle East region, which was published in the *Jordan Times*. [Read op-ed here](#)

Sabin Welcomes Peter L. Thoren as New Member of its Board of Trustees

Peter L. Thoren, Executive Vice President of Access Industries, a privately held, U.S.-based industrial group, has been named to Sabin's Board of Trustees. Thoren is active in numerous organizations focused on foreign policy and economics including the Center for National Policy, the Council on Foreign Relations, Business Executives for National Security, and The Economic Club of New York.



[Read press release here](#)

[Read Mr. Thoren's bio here](#)

Dr. Helene Mambu-Ma-Disu Joins Sustainable Immunization Financing Team

The Sabin Vaccine Institute is pleased to announce Dr. Helene Mambu-Ma-Disu as Senior Program Officer for the Advocacy Program on Sustainable Immunization Financing. Based in her native Kinshasa, Dr. Mambu will be responsible for program activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Madagascar.

A pediatrician and tropical medicine specialist, Dr. Mambu began her career as a public health medical officer in western DR Congo. She served as national EPI Program focal point and later managed DR Congo's "Combating Communicable Childhood Diseases (CCCD)

Project". In 1987, Dr. Mambu joined WHO/AFRO/Brazzaville as Regional Adviser for the Control of Diarrheal Diseases. She later served as WHO Representative in Rwanda, Mali and Cameroon.

Funded in late 2007 by a generous grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Advocacy Program works closely with ministries of health, ministries of finance and parliaments to secure sustainable financing for national immunization programs. [Read more about Dr. Mambu here](#)

Dr. Patrick Lammie Named Technical Director of the Global Network for NTDs

Dr. Patrick Lammie joins the Global Network as its Technical Director serving as the lead ambassador with the scientific community to build and help lead a collaborative partnership to help control and eliminate NTDs across the globe. Dr. Lammie comes to the Global Network from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) where he has been an active laboratory and field researcher for the last twenty years with a focus on lymphatic filariasis and other NTDs. Dr. Lammie's most recent position with the CDC was as the Team Lead of Elimination and Control Projects within CDC's Parasitic Diseases Branch where he coordinated CDC's NTD efforts. Dr. Lammie has also served on the faculty of numerous academic institutions and currently holds faculty posts as Adjunct Professor in the Department of Cell Biology at the University of Georgia and at Emory University's School of Medicine's Department of Microbiology and Immunology and as Associate Professor at the James Cook University's School of Public Health. He also has authored numerous scientific articles and has a long history of personal involvement in the development of NTD control and elimination strategies. [Read press release here](#)



Kelly Funk Joins Global Network as Deputy Director

Kelly Funk has been named the new Deputy Director of the Global Network, where she will oversee the daily operations including financial management; human resources; office management and overall oversight of grant implementation plans. Ms. Funk brings almost two decades of outstanding management, marketing and business operations experience to the Global Network. In her most recent position as a Vice President at Genworth Financial, she helped oversee a new industry and nationwide public/private long term care partnership expansion program that is now up and running in more than 15 states.



Ms. Funk is also an adjunct faculty member in the School of Management at George Mason University and received her master's degree from the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University. [Read press release here](#)

Lesly Simmons to Run Global Network Media and Marketing Efforts



Lesly Simmons joins the Global Network as Media & Marketing Manager. Before coming to the Global Network, Lesly worked as lead for media relations with the American Red Cross, where she managed media relations with top-tier news outlets, and created successful strategic plans for numerous organizational campaigns. She is a graduate of George Washington University with a degree in journalism, and is currently a graduate student at Georgetown University, conducting thesis research on how social media use affects reputations among professional adults.

Erin Finucane Named Global Network's Outreach and Grassroots Campaign Manager

Erin Finucane has joined the Global Network as Outreach and Grassroots Campaign Manager to increase public awareness of NTDs through grassroots outreach, developing partnerships, and building an international constituency. She previously worked for the United Nations Foundation's Better World Campaign where she contributed to their overall 2008 presidential election efforts. She graduated from Trinity College, Dublin with a Masters of Philosophy, International Peace Studies, a concentration in development, and a certificate in mediation. She earned a B.A. in Political Science from La Salle University in Philadelphia.

