



The PACE Report

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Note from the Chairs



Dr. Ciro de Quadros
Executive VP
Sabin Vaccine Institute



Dr. Orin Levine
Executive Director
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Dear Colleagues:

The first quarter of 2011 has brought with it many exciting developments in the realm of pneumonia vaccination and immunization.

Since the beginning of the year, 10 more developing countries have introduced advanced PCV vaccines into their national immunization schedules, securing a brighter, safer and healthier future for millions of children around the globe.

In March, PACE organized a pneumonia symposium in Beijing China, that brought together officials from the Chinese Ministry of Health and the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as leading figures from medical groups across the Asia region to review disease burden data and discuss the way forward for pneumococcal disease prevention in the world's most populous country.

And just last month vaccine week initiatives in Africa and the Americas have inoculated more than 100 million people against killers like pneumococcal disease and Hib, as well as polio, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, measles, yellow fever, meningitis and rotavirus.

It's clear the momentum built in 2010 has carried over into 2011 and as the year progresses, with the continued hard work and perseverance of the global health community, we feel many more achievements lie ahead.

Regards,

Ciro de Quadros and Orin Levine
Co-Chairs

News & Updates



Ten Countries Introduce Advanced Pneumococcal Vaccines to Date in 2011

Over the first five months of 2011, much progress has been made to expand advanced pneumococcal conjugate vaccine access in countries where they're needed most.

Historically, most high-income countries have rapidly made new vaccines part of their national routine immunization programs, in line with WHO recommendations, but low-income countries had been unable to afford to make similar steps, delaying the introduction of vaccines in the developing world by many years.

Thanks in part to groundwork laid by the GAVI Alliance, the WHO, UNICEF and PAHO, ten countries have introduced advanced pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PCVs) to protect children against the leading causes of childhood pneumonia this year alone.

The first PCV vaccine introduced in a developing country happened just two years ago in Rwanda, since then, rapid progress has been made to further expand access. Since the beginning of 2011, Kenya, Nicaragua, Gambia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Guyana, Yemen, Mali, The Democratic Republic of Congo and Honduras have introduced PCVs into their national immunization schedules for all or part of their countries, expanding protection against the leading killer of children under five to millions who previously remained at risk for severe illness or death.

GAVI estimates, nineteen countries will introduce a pneumococcal vaccine by 2012. The Alliance hopes that donors will provide sufficient funding to allow it to introduce the vaccines in more than 40 countries by 2015.

Vaccine Weeks Kick off in Africa and the Americas, Vaccinating More than 100 Million

Two major vaccine weeks kicked off on separate sides of the Atlantic Ocean this spring, inoculating millions of children against a host of vaccine-preventable diseases including pneumococcal disease and Hib.

In Africa, the first region-wide vaccination week inoculated more than 75 million children, women and men from 22 countries in the WHO African Region. This major initiative was organized by the WHO Regional Office for Africa. In all, 39 of the region's 46 countries organized vaccination-related activities, providing inoculations for pneumococcal disease, Hib, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, measles, yellow fever, meningitis and rotavirus.

Across the Atlantic, PAHO launched a similar vaccination week in the Americas and aimed to vaccinate 41 million people in 45 Western Hemisphere nations against a variety of diseases in its ninth annual vaccination week. Vaccination efforts in the Americas targeted polio, influenza and yellow fever, among other diseases.



Progress Made in Expansion of Global Vaccine Development

Two major announcements this spring signaled additional promise for the long-term sustainable growth of global vaccine supplies.

In April, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced it would fund two Indian firms to develop and sell vaccines for pneumonia and diarrhea across the region at half the current market price. And in China, the WHO verified the country's vaccine regulatory system, which holds the promise of eventually opening up additional supply to developing countries.

In China, the WHO announced that China's State Food and Drug Administration complies with international standards for regulation, allowing the country to supply vaccines through UN agencies. This holds the potential of boosting vaccine stocks for the developing world. Vaccine manufacturers in China are now eligible to apply for WHO prequalification of individual vaccines, which is a guarantee that a vaccine meets international standards of quality, safety and efficacy. China currently has 36 vaccine production sites manufacturing 49 vaccines for 27 diseases with an annual capacity of nearly one billion doses. It is the 36th country to have its vaccine regulatory system approved by the WHO.

In India, under the agreement, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will provide funding for clinical trials of a new rotavirus vaccine developed from an indigenously discovered human strain. The two firms tapped by the Foundation will eventually develop pneumococcal vaccines as well for global distribution to international procuring and supply agencies such as UNICEF.

Member Spotlight



Dr. Yonghong Yang

PACE member Dr. Yonghong Yang has devoted his life to saving children's lives in China and around the globe. Since 1982, Dr. Yang has worked as an attending pediatrician and an associate professor in the Beijing Children's Hospital, serving as deputy director of the Hospital and the Institute for more than a decade.

Starting twenty years ago, when he led a WHO project on etiologic and epidemiologic studies of bacterial meningitis in China, his focus has been on reducing disease burden and mortality caused by bacterial infections in children. To date Dr. Yang has conducted ongoing international collaborations with scientists in the U.S., Sweden, Finland, France, Russia and Korea, focusing on Hib, Pneumococcus, Group A/B/G streptococcus, MRSA, Pertussis, and Chlamydia pneumoniae.

In 1999, Dr. Yang became the Chief of the Beijing Research Center for Childhood Bacterial Diseases, an affiliate of the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine (the former CDC of China). Today he continues to serve on numerous national and international committees on pediatric infectious diseases and pediatric pulmonology. He served as president of the Chinese Subsociety of Pediatric Pulmonology for 15 years and is currently a member of EPI Committee of MOH of China, a consultant of the Chinese Subsociety of Pediatric Pulmonology and a standing committee member of ASPID.

In Case You Missed It



PACE China Meeting Elevates Conversation about Pneumococcal Vaccines

On March 21, PACE member Yonghong Yang hosted the PACE symposium Preventing Pneumonia in China: a Strategic Discussion, a meeting of key decision makers and international health experts designed to increase pneumococcal awareness and prevention strategies in China.

The Beijing meeting featured remarks by Chinese government leaders as well as Dr. Yang, PACE Co-Chair Dr. Orin Levine and PACE member Dr. Lulu Bravo. The event brought together officials from the Chinese Ministry of Health and the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as leading figures from the Chinese Medical Society, the Chinese Society of Pediatrics, the Chinese Subsociety of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, the Chinese Subsociety of Pediatric Pulmonology and the Asian Society of Pediatric Infectious Diseases to review disease burden data and discuss the way forward for pneumococcal disease prevention.

The meeting marked an important step forward, and resulted in the commitment from the Chinese Ministry of Health to convene a working group on pneumonia in China. PACE is encouraged by this announcement, and looks forward to supporting the Ministry and working group and they consider the way forward on pneumonia prevention.

PACE Member Speaks About Pneumonia with ABC News

In April, PACE member, Dr. Fred Were was profiled by ABC News as part of their 'Be the Change, Save a Life' series. The article, entitled Hope Against the Silent Killer, profiled Dr. Were's experiences in Kenya fighting pneumonia and the promise that new PCV vaccines offer children across Kenya after they were introduced earlier this year. [Read the full article.](#)



About PACE



A project of the Sabin Vaccine Institute, the Pneumococcal Awareness Council of Experts (PACE) is comprised of leading global experts in infectious diseases and vaccines. The Council raises awareness among policy makers and aims to secure global commitments to prevent pneumococcal disease — a leading infectious killer of children and adults worldwide — working through collaboration and partnership with countries, NGOs, academia and industry to achieve its goals. For more information about PACE and the Global Call to Action, please visit www.sabin.org/PACE.

About the Sabin Vaccine Institute



The Sabin Vaccine Institute is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing and curing infectious and neglected tropical diseases worldwide and eliminating the tremendous human suffering they cause. The Sabin Vaccine Institute works tirelessly to develop treatments and vaccines for the world's poor and establish networks to ensure these treatments are effectively and efficiently delivered. Sabin is helping to end the suffering of billions of people by fighting infectious and neglected tropical diseases worldwide through major research, development, and advocacy programs. For more information, visit www.sabin.org.

Awareness. Action. Prevention.

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