



From Awareness to Implementation: PACE Accomplishments

Convened in 2006 by the Sabin Vaccine Institute, the Pneumococcal Awareness Council of Experts (PACE) is comprised of 21 leading experts in infectious diseases and immunization from around the world working to raise awareness among policy makers and secure global commitments for the prevention of pneumococcal disease. The Council works through collaboration and partnership with countries, nongovernmental organizations, academia and industry to achieve its goals.

Raising Awareness

PACE has **generated hundreds of media stories about the pneumococcal disease burden and promise of prevention in key media outlets in nearly 30 countries.** Coverage has appeared in many of the world's most prominent news outlets, including *USA Today*, *CNN*, *Reuters*, *Washington Post Express*; *The Huffington Post*; *Africa Science News Service*; *Agence France Presse (France)*; *The Guardian (UK)*, *The Times of India*, *The Daily Nation (Kenya)*; *The Daily Star (Bangladesh)*; *The Star (South Africa)*; *Khaleej Times (United Arab Emirates)*; *The Nation (Pakistan)*; *Vanguard (Nigeria)*, among many others.

PACE also **conducted two pivotal pneumococcal disease studies** which reinforced the urgent need for life-saving vaccines in Africa. The studies showed that children suffering from sickle cell disease were at substantially increased risk of contracting pneumococcal disease, and that up to half of all children in Africa who get pneumococcal meningitis will either die or be disabled as a consequence of the disease. The studies were published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* and *BMC Medicine*, respectively.

PACE by the Numbers

- ✓ 117 medical societies from 50 countries recruited to endorse PACE's *Global Call to Action on Pneumococcal Disease Prevention*
- ✓ 27 events held in 19 countries
- ✓ Nearly 200 unique print, TV, radio and online stories generated worldwide
- ✓ Editorials published in 12 prominent scientific journals
- ✓ Global Leadership Awards bestowed to three leaders in the fight against pneumococcal disease
- ✓ Two studies on pneumococcal disease in Africa published
- ✓ **Pneumococcal vaccine introduced in 28 countries since PACE's inception**

Taking Action

To impress upon governments everywhere the urgent need for pneumococcal disease prevention and the opportunity to protect millions of children with the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), PACE issued its **Global Call to Action on Pneumococcal Disease Prevention** in 2007. Nearly 120 organizations from 50 countries have signed on to the *Call to Action*, demonstrating broad global support for our mission and adding a diverse and powerful coalition of voices to the cause.



MEP Michael Cashman, PACE member Fred Were & PACE Co-chair Ciro de Quadros conduct briefing in the EU Parliament, 2009.

In October 2009, PACE joined with European Parliament Member Michael Cashman to host a **parliamentary discussion on the role of the European Union (EU) in global efforts to combat pneumococcal disease**, at which PACE encouraged the EU to take more aggressive steps to fund prevention efforts in the developing world. In partnership with PACE, MEP Cashman continues to serve as an advocate for pneumococcal prevention in Parliament.

PACE helped establish the first-ever **World Pneumonia Day** on November 2, 2009. As part of the global effort, PACE organized events and activities in 11 countries and placed editorial commentaries in 12 highly-regarded scientific and medical journals encouraging doctors, scientists and policy makers to prioritize a focus on the world's leading killer of children. PACE continues to play a central leadership role in World Pneumonia Day strategy, planning and execution around the globe.



Every year, PACE awards the world's only recognition for global leadership in the fight against pneumococcal disease to spotlight and encourage progress. With its **Global Leadership Award**, PACE has honored champions of pneumococcal disease prevention including the health ministers of Rwanda and Costa Rica along with World Health Organization pneumonia expert Dr. Thomas Cherian.

Achieving Prevention

PACE's advocacy and media outreach efforts have been strategically timed and executed to shape country-level policy decisions on disease prevention. In 2007, PACE led an in-country press conference and discussion on pneumococcal disease in the Czech Parliament, which served as the start of PACE's advocacy efforts in the Czech Republic. Led by PACE member Pavla Krizova, PACE's work in the country contributed to the country's decision to introduce PCV in January 2010.

In 2008, PACE held a press conference calling upon leaders in Turkey and the surrounding region to add pneumococcal vaccines to the country's national immunization program. The event generated widespread print and television press coverage throughout the country and has since been credited with influencing Turkey's 2009 decision to introduce PCV into its national immunization program.

And on the first annual World Pneumonia Day – November 2, 2009 – PACE sponsored two days of high-profile events, including a press conference, policy-maker roundtable, rally, city march and scientific symposium to raise the issue on the agendas of government leaders in Bangladesh, which has one of the highest pneumococcal disease burdens in the world. PACE's advocacy efforts have been credited with convincing Bangladesh officials to apply for GAVI Alliance funding to introduce pneumococcal vaccines.

At the most important moments in the fight against pneumococcal disease— including the **first pneumococcal vaccination of a child in the developing world** and the **launch of the pilot pneumococcal Advance Market Commitment (AMC)** — PACE has contributed leadership and helped generate support and media coverage.

Most recently, PACE members conducted advocacy to ensure support among countries for the May 2010 passage of a milestone **resolution in the World Health Assembly** mandating that countries take steps to prioritize pneumonia prevention and treatment. The resolution will help ensure countries are doing all they can to prevent, protect against and treat this disease.

Since PACE's inception, 28 countries have added pneumococcal vaccine to their national immunization programs and pneumonia and pneumococcal diseases have earned a place on the world stage. Our advocacy work to increase pneumococcal vaccine coverage continues into 2010, with a focus on outreach in Asia and the Middle East and advocacy among G8 and G20 countries.



Minister of Health Richard Sezibera and PACE Co-Chair Orin Levine at the Rwanda launch of PCV, April 2009

To learn more about PACE, please visit: sabin.org/PACE.