



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
International Vaccine
Access Center (IVAC)
at the Johns Hopkins
Bloomberg School of
Public Health

Dear Colleagues,

Since PACE's inception in 2006, it's hard to recall another period as remarkable as the past three months. The Gates Foundation kicked off the new "decade of vaccines" with a record US\$10B commitment to spur vaccine research and delivery. The Obama administration released its 2011 budget request, setting a bold target of reducing worldwide child mortality by 35 percent within the next five years. And Pfizer and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) became the first companies to sign the Advance Market Commitment (AMC) with the GAVI Alliance to supply pneumococcal vaccines at affordable prices throughout the developing world.

Together, these advances represent a giant step forward in global health and are a credit to the hard work of our members and partners, as well as a validation of our shared vision that every child should have access to lifesaving vaccines. Now we must redouble our efforts to spur more donor countries and companies to sign on with GAVI, and to encourage more developing countries to apply for the AMC.

At PACE, we are ready for this challenge. We thank the partners that have helped make such tremendous progress possible, and we look forward to continuing the fight together to bring life-saving vaccines to the world's children.

Best Regards,
Ciro de Quadros and Orin Levine
Co-chairs

PACE News & Updates

Pneumococcal Advance Market Commitment Signed by Vaccine Manufacturers

On March 23, Pfizer and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) became the first vaccine manufacturers to sign the Advance Market Commitment (AMC) for pneumococcal vaccines, pledging to supply a total of 600 million discounted doses to developing countries over the next decade.

The agreement with the GAVI Alliance covers Pfizer's *Prevnar 13* and GSK's *Synflorix* vaccines. The companies would supply the vaccines at a price of \$7 per dose for the first 20 percent of their allotted supply and \$3.50 for the remainder. These costs will be covered by the AMC and GAVI Alliance, while eligible countries will be expected to pay \$0.15 per dose as co-pay.

The agreement, which GAVI estimates could save hundreds of thousands of lives in the next five years, amounts to nothing less than a sea change for vaccine delivery in the world's poorest countries. Both companies have said they would be interested in future AMC deals. Besides Pfizer and GSK, other firms have registered to take part in the AMC, including Panacea Biotec and the Serum Institute of India. As more firms sign on to the AMC, the long-term price of the vaccine may drop even further.

As of mid-March, 34 countries have formally expressed interest in obtaining pneumococcal conjugate vaccine through GAVI and 11 have already been approved for GAVI support. With this new deal, they could access these new vaccines as early as this year.

To read more about this historic milestone in vaccine access, click [here](#).



Newly Released Data Reveals Progress against Childhood Pneumonia in China

A new comprehensive review of childhood mortality data in China published in the March 27 issue of *The Lancet* reveals that pneumonia, the leading killer of children globally, is also the leading killer of children in China. The study shows that the disease accounts for nearly one-half (47%) of the deaths in Chinese infants between 1 and 11 months of age, and nearly 17 percent of all deaths in Chinese children under age 5 years. Stunningly, the data also reveal that China has already surpassed the 2015 Millennium Development Goal for reducing child mortality, reducing its child mortality rate from 65 deaths per 1,000 in 1990 to 18 deaths per 1,000 in 2008.

The review by Igor Rudan, Harry Campbell and their colleagues in China includes reports on child deaths that were systematically recorded in Chinese databases and only recently made available.

While the data suggests great progress on the national level, significant regional disparities in childhood mortality have also been uncovered, particularly between urban and rural areas. Some rural areas had rates of child mortality as high as those found in Africa.

Read the full article in [The Lancet](#) or a blog post by PACE Co-chair Dr. Orin Levine on the [Huffington Post](#).

PCV introduced in the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic introduced pneumococcal conjugate vaccines in its national immunization program this year, joining the ranks of the 43 countries – including two low-income countries – that have introduced pneumococcal conjugate vaccines into their national immunization programs. PACE has been actively advocating for the introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccines in the Czech Republic since 2006 when PACE Member Pavla Krizova led a successful in-country launch and participated in a discussion with the Czech Parliament highlighting the impact of pneumococcal disease and the opportunities for prevention.



Historic ISPPD-7 Invigorates Progress on Pneumococcal Disease

In March, more than 1,200 leading experts on pneumococcal disease from around the globe convened on the shores of Tel Aviv, Israel for the 7th Annual Symposium on Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases (ISPPD-7).

Under the leadership of Dr. Ron Dagan, the Chair of ISPPD-7 and PACE member, this year's meeting was the setting for discussion on several important fronts, including pneumococcal evolution and serotype replacement, promising advances in the way forward on pneumococcal vaccines, exciting progress on the development of novel vaccines and advocacy opportunities for pneumonia prevention.

In the spotlight was the important advocacy and awareness platform of World Pneumonia Day with a session titled "World Pneumonia Day 2010: Time for Action." PACE member Dr. Lulu Bravo highlighted the central role that grassroots events played in the success of World Pneumonia Day. Dr. Orin Levine, PACE Co-Chair, issued a call to action and participants shared their ideas for World Pneumonia Day activities and signed on to take part in the global effort.

A full report of the symposium's proceedings commissioned by PACE and PATH will be available on the PACE web site shortly. Visit <http://www2.kenes.com/isppd/pages/home.aspx> to learn more.

FDA Approves New 13-valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine

In February, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Pfizer's 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV-13) and recommended that it replace the current 7-valent version of the vaccine currently used in the US. The new vaccine offers protection against six additional serotypes of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and boosts its coverage to over 90 percent of pneumococcal disease compared with the 7-valent vaccine, which offers 80 percent coverage. Both vaccines are currently only approved for use in children.

The US has routinely immunized infants and children with a 7-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine since 2000. The 13-valent version was first introduced in Chile last July and has since been approved for, or is in use in, more than 40 countries.

Both Pfizer's 13-valent and GSK's 10-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine will likely be made available to developing countries this year through the Advanced Market Commitment at discounted prices for GAVI-eligible countries.

For more information, see the FDA's [press release](#).

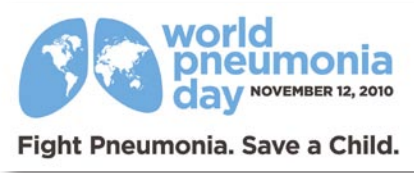
FDA, PATH Collaborate on Pneumococcal Vaccine Technology

In February, the US Food and Drug Administration announced that it is working with PATH, a Seattle-based international nonprofit and PACE partner, in an effort to boost the efficiency of conjugation technology in pneumococcal vaccines. PATH will work to help the FDA obtain the necessary materials to develop the conjugation technology and provide the agency with nearly US \$480,000 to fund its development and testing. The joint project is expected to take two years. If the resulting technology is promising, the work may be shifted to the China National Biotec Group's Chengdu Institute of Biological Products, and eventually to other developing countries to develop safe and effective vaccines for children.

Announcements

Calling all Shutterbugs! World Pneumonia Day Photo Contest

The first-ever World Pneumonia Day Photo Contest aims to shine a spotlight on childhood pneumonia by reflecting on its toll on families and communities around the world. Nicholas Kristof of the New York Times and Ann Curry of NBC's "Today" show will be among the judges. Winners will receive a Nikon digital camera and finalists' work will be featured at an exclusive event this summer, as well as online. Submissions are due by May 31, 2010.



The 2010 Photoshare World Pneumonia Day Photo Contest is a collaboration between Photoshare, a service of Knowledge for Health (K4Health), and the International Vaccine Access Center at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in partnership with the Global Coalition against Child Pneumonia.

For more details on the contest and to enter, please visit: <http://www.photoshare.org/contest/wpd/2010/worldpneumoniadayphotocontest.php>

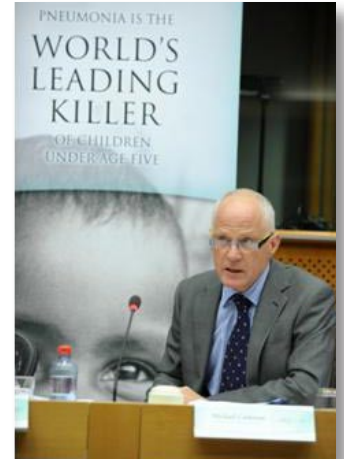
PACE Champions

Spotlight on Michael Cashman, MEP

Michael Cashman, Minister of European Parliament (MEP), who represents the West Midlands, UK, for the Labour Party, has been instrumental in raising awareness about pneumococcal disease among key policymakers in Europe. Last October, he hosted a parliamentary discussion on the role of the European Union (EU) in combating pneumococcal disease. Cashman, who is also a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Development and Chairman of the Delegation to South Africa, urged his colleagues to recognize and support World Pneumonia Day and help raise awareness of pneumococcal disease in developing countries.

Before entering politics, Cashman spent nearly 40 years as an actor and singer, beginning in childhood, performing on stage and later writing and directing plays. He shared the spotlight with the likes of Elizabeth Taylor, Sir Elton John and David Hockney, but he is perhaps best known for his role as Colin Russell on the BBC show “EastEnders.”

As an MEP, Cashman serves as the Labour spokesman on human rights. He is also a member of committees on civil liberties, petitions (which addresses concerns by citizens on any matter within the purview of the European Union) and regional development



PACE Members

Spotlight on Ron Dagan



As a PACE member, Dr. Ron Dagan has helped bring the importance of pneumococcal disease advocacy to the spotlight in his home country of Israel and throughout the world. Just this year, Dr. Dagan served as chair of both the 6th World Congress of the World Society of Pediatric and Infectious Diseases (WSPID) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the recent ISPPD-7 in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Dr. Dagan is a professor of Pediatrics and Infectious Diseases at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel and has made immense contributions to the field of pneumococcal diseases over the past 25 years. His work was instrumental in persuading policy makers in Israel to include pneumococcal vaccines in the country’s national immunization program, a decision that took effect last July.

Dr. Dagan has played a leading role in the clinical development of many pneumococcal conjugate vaccine candidates. His pioneering research led to the discovery of several immune mechanisms that were not previously known in humans. He was also one of the first to describe the importance of carriage in herd immunity and the potential for serotype replacement as a result of pneumococcal vaccination.

He has served as the president of WSPID since 2006 and previously was the president of the European Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID) from 2003-2006. For his contributions to the field, he was unanimously selected as the Robert Austrian Lecturer at ISPPD-7.

PACE Partners

Spotlight on US Coalition for Child Survival



Based in Arlington, Virginia, the US Coalition for Child Survival is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing America’s commitment to global efforts that improve the survival and health of newborns and children under the age of five in developing countries. Formed in 2000, the Coalition has brought together 40 of the most influential organizations working in child survival who believe it is unacceptable that nearly 10 million children every year die of largely preventable or treatable causes.

A key victory for the Coalition came on March 10, when three members of Congress introduced the Newborn, Child, and Mother Survival Act of 2009. The bill (House Resolution 1410) is an expanded version of the **Global Child Survival Act**, and calls for a clear, coordinated strategy to save the lives of newborns, children and mothers in developing countries. There are currently 80 co-sponsors in the House and a companion bill in in the Senate.

“All children should have the same chance at a healthy life, and we think the U.S. can and should play a leading role in this effort,” said Andrew Barrer, executive director of the Coalition. “We’re proud to support PACE’s efforts to promote pneumococcal disease prevention, and to contribute to the fight against child mortality.” To learn more about the US Coalition for Child Survival, visit www.child-survival.org.

Upcoming Events

April 24: World Meningitis Day

April 25-May 1: 8th Annual Vaccination Week in the Americas

April 24-May 1: European Immunization Week

November 12: World Pneumonia Day

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.

Awareness. Action. Prevention.

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