Dr. John Clemens to Receive 2010 Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award

The Sabin Vaccine Institute will honor the tremendous career of Dr. John Clemens at the 2010 Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award Ceremony to be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at The George Washington University's City View Room in Washington, DC.

Dr. Clemens, Director-General of the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) in Seoul, Korea, is an outstanding leader on public policy regarding vaccine introduction in developing countries. He has conducted studies of vaccines against cholera, typhoid fever, pneumococcus, tuberculosis, and measles—among other infections and diseases—in several nations including Bangladesh, Egypt, China, and Mozambique.

For more information on the 2010 Gold Medal Award Ceremony please click here.

Vaccine Development Takes on Coordinating Role in the Global Burden of Disease Study

Vaccine Development is leading the coordination of the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) subgroup for the Global Burden of Diseases and Health Report.

Sabin Vaccine Institute Applauds Obama Administration's Commitment to Fight and Prevent Neglected and Infectious Diseases

Through President Barack Obama's Global Health Initiative, the United States is planning to invest $63 billion over six years to help fight and prevent neglected and infectious diseases and reduce child and maternal mortality, among other global health priorities.

The President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 budget proposes $155 million to "deliver treatments for seven of the highly prevalent neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) through targeted mass drug administration and training of community-based and professional health care workers," while $700 million has been designated for maternal and child health programs which place "prevention and treatment of diarrhea, pneumonia and newborn infections" as priority intervention areas.

Building on former President George Bush's 2008 initiative to invest $350 million over five years to combat NTDs, the Obama Administration continues to lead global efforts to control and eliminate neglected and infectious diseases through cost-effective and targeted means. If President Obama's FY11 budget is adopted, the world's bottom billion—individuals living on less than $1.25 a day—will be closer to a life free from needless suffering.

Vaccine Development Enters New Partnership in Support of Malaria Transmission-Blocking Vaccine

On January 15th, PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI) announced an 18-month research collaboration with the Sabin Vaccine Institute and The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to explore the development of a transmission-blocking malaria vaccine antigen. MVI is an international non-profit organization funded primarily by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation whose mission is to accelerate development of malaria vaccines and to ensure their availability and accessibility in the developing world. Sabin was selected to aid in MVI's goal to establish partnerships to develop and produce promising malaria vaccine candidates.

With the investment from MVI, Vaccine Development will utilize its existing product development capabilities at The George Washington University (GWU) to optimize the expression of *Anopheles* alanyl aminopeptidase-1 (AnAPN-1) in either yeast or a bacterial vector. Once the expression system is determined, GWU researchers will develop a manufacturing process to produce the AnAPN-1 antigen, as well as the release and stability assays necessary to test its identity, purity, and potency.

AnAPN-1 will be optimized to block the transmission of *Plasmodium falciparum* and *P. vivax*, the two deadliest malarial parasites. Vaccination with this antigen induces the production of antibodies that appear to inhibit the development of the parasite in the mosquito after it takes blood. The successful development of this vaccine candidate will yield an important tool to aid in the control and eradication of malaria.

Read the full press release here.
**Risk Factors Assessment (GBD).**

The GBD is an effort to generate estimates of disease burden and mortality in a way that is standardized across diseases and risk factors. This report will enable policy makers to make direct comparisons between different diseases in order to identify those with the highest impact on health. The current project is the first major effort since the original 1990 GBD study, and will incorporate a number of NTDs that were not a part of the previous study.

Sabin Senior Program Officer Weston Williams has led the effort to coordinate a team of disease experts on 21 neglected and tropical diseases to analyze existing epidemiological data and generate estimates of the global burden for each disease. The final report is expected to be published by the end of 2010.

**PACE receives Appreciation Award from Kenya Paediatric Association.**


The event, organized by PACE member Fred Were, was held to celebrate World Pneumonia Day and to build awareness and public support for improving child survival in Kenya. Kenya presented the award to PACE in recognition of its work advocating the prevention of pneumococcal disease - a leading infectious killer of children in Kenya and around the world.

**Dr. Thomas Cherian Receives PACE Global Leadership Award.**

PACE Co-Chairs Ciro de Quadros and Orin Levine presented the annual Global Leadership Award to Dr. Thomas Cherian around the world.

**Nationwide Campaign Deworms More Than Five Million Children in Cameroon.**

In Cameroon, more than five million children received treatment during a hugely successful 2009 nationwide deworming campaign. The Global Network praises the work of several partners in Cameroon including: Cameroon Ministries of Health and Education, Union of United Councils and Cities of Cameroon, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Children Without Worms, Johnson & Johnson, and Merck.

In each district, directors of schools and health personnel were trained, and education and deworming materials were distributed. The campaign also achieved the creation of a tripartite partnership agreement between the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Basic Education and the Union of United Councils and Cities of Cameroon. This innovative partnership will boost the control of schistosomiasis and intestinal helminths in Cameroon and promises regular deworming of Cameroonian children in schools over the next three years.

**Dr. Ciro de Quadros Honored by Brazilian Ministry of Health.**

In December, Sabin Executive Vice-President Dr. Ciro de Quadros travelled to Brasilia, Brazil to receive The Medal of Merit Oswaldo Cruz from the Brazilian Ministry of Health. The Medal of Merit Oswaldo Cruz was created by decree in 1970 to honor members of the Brazilian and foreign medical and public health communities who have contributed to the physical well-being and mental health of the citizens of Brazil.

Dr. de Quadros is internationally renowned for successfully pioneering surveillance and containment strategies leading to the eradication of smallpox. He also directed the successful efforts of polio eradication from the Western Hemisphere.

Read the full press release [here](#).

**Toxicology Study for Hookworm Vaccine Candidate Begins in China.**

In December 2009, Vaccine Development commenced an 11-week toxicity study of the Na-GST-1 Hookworm Vaccine candidate at the West China-Frontier Pharmatech Co. (WCFP) in Chengdu, China. WCFP was founded by the West China Hospital of Sichuan University in 2000 and partnered with the US-based pharmaceutical contract research organization (CRO) Frontier Biosciences, Inc. in 2007 to become one of the top China-based preclinical CRO’s. The study will primarily assess the toxicity of the vaccine in laboratory animals and will be used to support Vaccine Development’s submission of an Investigational New Drug application to the FDA in advance of beginning clinical trials in humans. Commencement of this study marks the achievement of another important programmatic milestone for Vaccine Development and a key step toward the development of a human hookworm vaccine.

**EPI Managers from Liberia and Sierra Leone Exchange Experiences.**

An important strategy of the Sustainable Immunization Financing (SIF) Program is the practice of "peer exchanges"—visits from one country to another where individuals learn best practices from their peers. In December, Liberian Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) Manager Thomas Nagbe became the latest SIF sponsored peer exchanger when he traveled to Sierra Leone to meet with his immunization counterparts during a four-day trip.

"In both Liberia and Sierra Leone, you will notice that the national
on February 1, 2010 to pneumonia expert Dr. Thomas Cherian at the Global Immunization Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Cherian was honored for his pivotal work in accelerating access to vaccines preventing pneumococcal disease.

Read the full press release here.

Recent Scientific Articles

Since the last issue of the Sabin Report was released in November, Dr. Peter Hotez has authored four papers. "How to Cure 1 Billion People?" was featured in the January 2010 issue of Scientific American while "Chand's Hookworms" was featured on Foreign Policy's website.

"Empowering Women and Improving Female Reproductive Health through control of Neglected Tropical Diseases" and "Neglected infections of Poverty among the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic" were both published in the open-access journal Public Library of Science (PLoS).

The Human Hookworm Vaccine Initiative (HHVI) is one of 32 projects chosen for inclusion in Case Studies for Global Health released on November 20, 2009 by the Alliance for Case Studies for Global Health. The Alliance is a collaboration of The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; World Health Organization's Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR); Global Health Progress (GHP); International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI); and Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM).

This widely respected publication features case studies addressing global health concerns related to diseases that have a disproportionate impact on developing countries, and is intended to educate organizations or individuals who are currently involved or are interested in helping to fulfill global health objectives.

The individual case study is available here while the full publication can be read here.

Upcoming Meetings

The 9th International Rotavirus Symposium will

immunization programs are under-funded, very donor dependent, and it's often difficult to access allocated funds," said Cliff Kamara, Sabin Senior Program Officer who works with both countries. "Also, many of the key decision-makers, like ministers of health and finance, are not yet informed on the importance of ensuring sustainable immunization financing."

Hoping to find resolutions to these and other issues, Mr. Nagbe met with Dr. Thomas Samba, the EPI Manager in Sierra Leone, to exchange thoughts on immunization financing and to gather input for an upcoming parliamentary briefing planned for Liberia in mid-February. Sierra Leone has already organized two such briefings. During the visit, Mr. Nagbe observed the daily workings of Sierra Leone's EPI. He conferred with key parliamentary colleagues on insights on how best to work with legislators and involve them in the search for sustainable immunization financing and noted that he and Dr. Samba will continue to work together so that Sierra Leone can achieve sustainable immunization financing in the near future.

Global Network Launches International Campus Challenge

On November 2, 2009, the Global Network launched its signature grassroots initiative, the Campus Challenge competition, hoping to harness the unprecedented surge of student interest in global health by providing young people with the opportunity to get involved in a new global health constituency.

The Campus Challenge provides undergraduate and graduate college students with the ability to become Student Ambassadors in the fight to prevent and eliminate NTDs.

The student that leads the Just 50 Cents campaign that raises the most money will win a four-week paid internship with the Global Network in Washington, DC, and the opportunity to share their experience on the Global Network's blog, End the Neglected. If the amount raised is over $5,000, one week of the internship will be spent visiting an NTD treatment site in Africa or Latin America, with the chance to meet experts and patients in the field. In addition, the university organization or group that leads the Just 50 Cents campaign which raises the most money will win a matching donation from Global Network Ambassador Alyssa Milano of up to $25,000 in the university's name towards NTD control efforts. Twenty campaigns are currently raising funds at universities around the world for the Campus Challenge, which runs until April 2, 2010.

Vaccine Development Study Dogs Find Happy Homes

Study dogs make the greatest sacrifice for us to further the understanding of hookworm disease. Now, Vaccine Development's study veterinarian, Dr. Kathryn Jones, is giving back by finding good homes for the pups.

Dogs are primarily used in vaccine development to maintain the hookworm life cycle, and when they come off-study most can be completely cured. However, they can never be used in another study. Dr. Jones knew that the dogs would make wonderful pets, and set up a system to find them owners. Now, once a dog receives a clean bill of health, it gets all necessary puppy care and is adopted for free. In the event that a permanent home cannot immediately be found, people are also able to "foster" the dogs until a permanent owner can be located.

PACE Holds Panel Discussion on Advocacy at WSPID

PACE held a panel discussion on effective advocacy techniques titled "From Science Into Public Policy: Advocating Effectively for Pneumococcal Disease Prevention" at the 6th World Congress of the World Society of Pediatric and Infectious Diseases (WSPID) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The panel attracted doctors, scientists, and other pediatric infectious disease experts interested in advancing advocacy efforts within their own countries.

During the panel discussion, PACE members Ron Dagan, Lulu Bravo, and Shabir Madhi discussed the role of doctors and scientists in advocating for pneumococcal disease prevention, presented tips on how to advocate effectively, and shared the lessons learned from advocacy efforts that led to pneumococcal conjugate vaccine introduction in Israel and elsewhere. The event led three professional
Regional Symposium on New Vaccines

Sabin and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) co-hosted the "Regional Symposium on New Vaccines" in Lima, Peru on December 1-2. Over 160 government leaders, physicians, researchers and other concerned stakeholders came together to share the latest research on diseases and vaccine developments. Peruvian Minister of Health Dr. Oscar Ugarte Ulibas opened the meeting and stressed the importance of continuing efforts to advance new vaccines as critical tools in public health.

For more information including presentation from the speakers, please click [here](#).

Michael Marine, U.S. Ambassador (Ret.) Named Senior Vice President of Sabin

Ambassador Michael W. Marine joined the leadership team at the Sabin Vaccine Institute as Senior Vice President on December 1, 2009 after serving on the Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases’ Joint Action Committee for eight months. He was a member of the U.S. State Department’s Foreign Service for 32 years and served as U.S. Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from September 2004 to August 2007.

Earlier in his Foreign Service career, Michael was Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassies in Beijing, China; Nairobi, Kenya; and Suva, Fiji. He also served in program direction positions in U.S. diplomatic posts in Moscow, Russia; Bonn, Germany; and Guangzhou, China.

Read his full bio [here](#).

Michelle Brooks to Run Global Network’s Policy Efforts

Michelle Brooks has joined the Sabin Vaccine Institute as Policy Director for the Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases. Prior to Sabin, she worked for nearly seven years for the U.S. Peace Corps as the Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Congressional Relations. She oversaw the departments of Congressional Relations; Communications and Press; AIDS Relief; Strategic Information, Research and Planning; and Private Sector Initiatives, and assisted in the daily management of the agency. Michelle was also the agency point person on all food security issues and the interagency working group for orphans and vulnerable children.

Before her work at the U.S. Peace Corps, Michelle held the position of Vice President of Government Relations for the Council of Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLBank) in Washington, D.C. She has extensive experience in advocacy, coalition building, and political grassroots development at the federal, state, and local level. A native Californian, Michelle graduated from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo with a bachelor’s degree in business administration concentrating in international management.

Sandra Keller is new Sustainable Immunization Financing (SIF) Program Officer

Sandra Keller joins the Sabin Vaccine Institute as the Sustainable Immunization Financing (SIF) Program Officer. Before her arrival at Sabin, she worked as a Proposal Manager/Business Development Specialist at CAMRIS International—a firm specializing in international development and global health projects. Sandra was also a consultant for Coxswain Social Investment (CSI), working on research and writing content for the immunization section of the African branch of the World Health Organization (WHO/AFRO). Prior to those experiences, she lived in Mumbai, India, and worked in organizational development for an NGO dedicated to providing aid to societies—the Argentine Society of Pediatrics, the Indonesian Pediatric Society and the Ecuadorian Society of Pediatrics—to sign PACE’s Global Call to Action on Pneumococcal Disease Prevention.
families living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Sandra speaks French and Spanish, and holds a BA in Cultural Studies from The New School for Social Research (now The New School) in New York City. She intends to obtain her Master in Public Health (MPH) in the near future.

**Lippi Doshi joins Sabin Vaccine Development as Program Coordinator**

Lippi Doshi joins Vaccine Development as Program Coordinator after spending the majority of her undergraduate career as the Chief Intern of the Human Hookworm Vaccine Initiative (HHVI), an experience that introduced her to the field of public health and helped develop her interest in global health and epidemiology. She is a recent graduate of The George Washington University (GWU), attaining a BS in Public Health with cum laude distinction. Her previous work experience includes time as a Lab Assistant for the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology at the GWU Medical Center. She is now pursuing a Masters in Public Health in Epidemiology at GWU alongside her work at Sabin.