Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to be welcoming spring. It has been a very interesting winter season for vaccines and vaccination science and a busy season for ISV. The efficacy of the GSK Shingrix (Zoster Vaccine Recombinant, Adjuvanted) for the prevention of shingles in adults 50 years and older was reported and received approval for use by the US FDA. This vaccine showed greater than 90% efficacy in the prevention of shingles, a very painful and potentially serious disease that is particularly an issue in older adults. Shingrix provides a new and exciting tool for combating this important disease. We also followed very closely the issues surrounding the recombinant Dengue Vaccine (Dengvaxia). Dengvaxia, a recombinant live vaccine that encodes the prME of all four strains of Dengue virus (D1, D2, D3, D4) and is based on an attenuated YFV backbone that expresses the 4 individual prME antigens, is among the first licensed recombinant live vaccines. Dengvaxia was developed to target a very important virus which causes dengue infection. Recent clinical data reported that Dengvaxia provides protective benefit against dengue infection in subjects who had prior infection, an important area for protection. It was interesting that the data are not as impressive for those not previously infected by dengue virus. In this naïve population, protection was less than optimal, and severe disease could occur upon dengue infection which follows vaccination. The development of effective vaccines for Dengue naïve individuals remains a priority. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation invited Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE) proposals for three challenge areas; i) Innovations in Immunization Data Management, Use, and Improved Process Efficiency, ii) Affordable, Accessible, and Appealing: The Next Generation of Nutrition, and iii) Tools and Technologies for Broad-Scale Disease Surveillance of Crop Plants in Low-Income Countries. These important issues and others will be discussed at the annual ISV Congress.

We are looking forward to this year’s Congress to be held in Atlanta, USA, October 28-30,2018. Last year’s Congress that was held in Paris was among our most successful, and we are excited about the pre-interest in this year’s event. As the summer approaches, so is the deadline for abstract submission for the ISV 2018 Congress: June 22, 2018. An important feature for the ISV meeting is the support of young scientists. This year continues to build on this tradition though our sponsorship of ISV Congress Trainee Awards for graduate students and post-doctoral trainees who submit abstracts to present their science at the ISV Congress in Atlanta. Inspired by the vision of our prior President Dr. Margaret Liu, up to ten $500 awards will be offered to reimburse attendance costs based upon the evaluation of the abstracts by the scientific committee and final selection by the Congress Co-chairs and the ISV President. When trainees submit their abstract and register for the Congress via the Congress website, they will be able to indicate their interest in applying for one of these awards. Please note that each applicant should ask their research supervisor to write a nomination letter to be directly submitted to the ISV Congress Secretariat, Edward Gibson, at edward.gibson@umassmed.edu which will serve as confirmation of their trainee status as well as part of the nomination process. The awards will be presented during a special session at the ISV Congress. In addition we continue the tradition of providing an award named in honor of Dr. Maurice Hilleman to the lead author of the most outstanding submitted abstract at the ISV vaccines congress as well as an award named in honor of Dr. Richard Ginsberg to the lead author of the best abstract from a trainee-submitted abstract. In addition, we are again thrilled to again partner with Vaccine Renaissance who will provide scholarships for Women and Minority Delegates. Selected delegates will receive partial funding to offset travel costs and registration expenses related to attending the Vaccine Renaissance Conference that is being held in conjunction with the ISV Congress. Additional details for all awards will be updated on the ISV Congress site and covered in future issues of the bimonthly ISV Newsletter. Additional information regarding the ISV Congress is provided in this issue of the Newsletter. Remember to register for the 2018 Congress at the website www.ISVCongress.org.

With best regards,
David B. Weiner

From the Editor

We are pleased to announce that the proceedings of the 2016 Annual ISV Congress was published in Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics. 2017 December 2; 13(12):2754. The proceedings of the 2017 Annual ISV Congress held in Paris will be forthcoming soon.
Point of View

Today children receive vaccines to prevent 14 different diseases in the first few years of life. During that time, children can receive as many as 27 inoculations and as many as five shots at one time to prevent diseases that most people don’t see using biological fluids that most people don’t understand. It is not, therefore, surprising, that some parents worry whether this onslaught of vaccines is more than their children can handle—that vaccines might somehow be weakening or overwhelming or perturbing their children’s immune system.

Two articles published in the Journal of the American Medical Association addressed these fears. The authors correlated the number of vaccines (and by extension the number of vaccine-specific antigens) received during the first two years of life with non-vaccine associated infections between two and four years of age. If vaccines indeed weakened a child’s immune system, as some parents fear, than the number of non-vaccine associated infections should be greater in the highly vaccinated as compared with less vaccinated group. The authors found that no such correlation existed.

These studies should reassure parents that vaccines are not overwhelming or weakening their children’s immune systems.

Paul Offit, M.D., Director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Research Highlights

“Safety of Multiple Antigen Exposure in the Childhood Immunization Schedule.”

“Association Between Estimated Cumulative Vaccine Antigen Exposure Through the First 23 Months of Life and Non-Vaccine–Targeted Infections From 24 Through 47 Months of Age.”

2018 ISV Congress Scientific Committee

Congress co-Chairs
Ted Ross, University of Georgia – USA
Denise Doolan, James Cook University – Australia

ISV Congress local co-Chairs
Rafi Ahmed, Emory University – USA
Julie Hilliard, Georgia State University – USA
Mark R. Prausnitz, Georgia Tech University – USA

Randy A. Albrecht, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, USA
Guirakhoo Farshad, Geo Vax, USA
Lars Frelin, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
Davinder Gill, Hilleman Laboratories, India
Ali Harandi, University of Goteborg, Sweden
Stephen Hoffman, Sanaria, USA
Linda Klavinskins, King’s College London, UK
Karl Ljungberg, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
Janet McNicholl, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA
Ed Mocarski, Emory University, USA
Marty Moore, Melissa Vaccines, USA
Sean Tucker, Vaxart, USA
Jeffrey Ulmer, GlaxoSmithKline, USA
Thiru Vanniasinkam, Charles Sturt University, Australia
Nene Vish, ILRI, Kenya
Heather Wilson, University of Saskatchewan, Canada
Anna-Lise Williamson, University of Cape Town, South Africa
Suh-Chin (Samuel) Wu, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan

Check the ISV 2018 Congress website for updates.

World Immunization Week, 24–30 April 2018

The World Immunization Week is a global public health campaign to raise awareness and increase rates of immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases. The help promote awareness, the WHO has developed the theme, “Protected Together, #VACCINESWORK.”

ISV Job Bank

If you have a position to fill, take advantage of this opportunity by posting the position at the Job Openings portal on the ISV website.
ISV Fellow of the Month (March)
Linda S Klavinskis, PhD, FRCPath, is a viral immunologist and serves as the Vice–Dean of Postgraduate Research, Faculty of Life Sciences & Medicine at the King’s College, London, UK. She received her doctorate from the University of London studying the pathogenic mechanisms underlying the autoimmune disease Myasthenia gravis. As a Fulbright Fellow, her postdoctoral training in viral pathogenesis focused on CD8 T–cell immunity and virus control in Professor Michael Oldstone’s laboratory at The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, USA. Following a brief period at Roche, she joined the faculty at King’s College London, UK, where her research has focused on how the innate immune system regulates adaptive immune responses to pathogens, and uses this knowledge in the design of vaccines and adjuvants. This has included enhancing mucosal immunity against HIV/SIV, methods to deliver DNA vaccines, deciphering an alternative mode of antigen presentation termed ‘cross–dressing’, and unravelling mechanisms that contribute to epitope selection and CD8 T–cell immunodominance. She has also engaged in translational research that has pursued the development of effective adjuvants for human vaccines, and developing vaccines that provide protection against viruses that infect mucosal surfaces. More recently, her work has been influential in the development of microneedle delivery systems for skin immunization. Dr. Klavinskis has co–authored over 100 peer–reviewed publications, and holds several patents. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, a 2017 ISV Fellow and is a past President of the London based Medical Research Council, a distinguished scientific society, established in 1891. Her commitment to the ISV includes her service as an advisor for early career members, workshop chair, plenary speaker, and currently as a member of the scientific organising committee of the 2018 annual meeting of the ISV and as Executive Board Member.

ISV Fellow of the Month (April)
Dr. Indresh K. Srivastava is a biochemist and vaccinologist with a broad background in biochemistry, biophysics, and immunology. He received his Ph.D. degree from the Kanpur University, India and completed his post–doctoral training on identification and purification of malaria parasite proteins with Prof. Luc Perrin at the Hospital Cantonal, University of Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. Srivastava was appointed as an Assistant Professor of Research in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Medical College of Pennsylvania. Dr. Srivastava served as Head of Protein Biochemistry within the Novartis Vaccines Diagnostics division. After a brief stint at the Vaccine Research Center, a division of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Dr. Srivastava joined Protein Sciences in 2012 where he served as Vice President, Process and Analytical Development, Senior Project Manager for the BARDA funded Influenza Program. After acquisition of Protein Sciences by Sanofi Pasteur, Dr. Srivastava is currently as the Site Head, Manufacturing Technology (MTech). Previously, Dr. Srivastava spent more than twelve years at Chiron Corporation/Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Inc. in various capacities, including Head (Al), Protein Biochemistry; Head, Vaccine Manufacturing; and Head, Protein Expression and Analytics. For the last 25 years, he has been involved in the development of vaccines against malaria, HIV, SARS, Hepatitis C virus, B Meningococcus (MenB), West Nile virus, and influenza virus in both academic and industrial settings. Dr. Srivastava has participated in Phase I/II clinical trials, served on NIH study sections, and was appointed in 2015 as the standing member of the Vaccine Study Section (VACC). He has published more than 120 peer reviewed papers, written several book chapters and given numerous presentations on vaccine development in National and International meeting. Dr. Srivastava co–edited a book entitled “Development of Vaccine: From Discovery to Clinical Testing” published by John Willey and sons in 2011. In addition to his academic and industrial pursuits, he has served as consultant, as a member of several scientific advisory boards, as editor, as reviewer for various scientific journals, named as top 100 vaccine developer and holds several patents on HIV vaccines and immunization strategies. Dr. Srivastava’s was elected as a 2017 ISV Fellow, and currently serves as Executive Board Member.

2017 ISV Paper of the Year
Origin and differentiation of human memory CD8 T cells after vaccination

The highly commended paper with 32% of votes was:
An immunogenic personal neoantigen vaccine for patients with melanoma
Update on the 2017 ISV Annual Congress

The International Society for Vaccines is pleased to invite you to the 2018 ISV Annual Congress to be held October 28–30 in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Atlanta is home to a vibrant vaccine and bioscience community of Universities, Biomedical Companies, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This year’s Congress is co-chaired by Ted M. Ross and Denise Doolan along with local co-chairs Rafi Ahmed, Julia Hilliard, and Mark R. Prausnitz. Please visit the brand new Congress website www.ISVCongress.org for an initial list of Scientific Committee members and be sure to check back for updates. Please see some preliminary Congress info below to get you excited for the upcoming Congress:

- The ISV Annual Congress is the world’s largest non-commercial scientific conference in the field of vaccines to cover broad and balanced topics related to vaccines and immunotherapies ranging from basic research through manufacturing and clinical trials for human and veterinary vaccines.
- In addition to invited keynote speakers, a high percentage of speakers are selected from submitted abstracts.
- Panel discussions address crucial issues such as how best to address emerging diseases, One Health, vaccine hesitancy, biomanufacturing, among others.
- Special efforts are made to help trainees advance their careers with a career development panel discussion, feedback of poster presentations by senior scientists, and ISV’s mentoring program.
- The ISV General Membership Meeting is held as part of the Annual Congress to determine key ISV policies and elect members of the ISV Executive Board. Participation in ISV is an excellent way to increase your scientific network and visibility.

In addition to representation from the global and regional vaccine groups such as the Korean Vaccine Society (KVS), the Japanese Society of Vaccines (JSV), and the ISV China branch will also join the Congress as co-organizers. The following awards will also be available with further updates to be announced on the Congress website:

- ISV Presidential Travel Awards: 10 Awards of $500 each will be offered as reimbursement towards expenses to selected trainees based on a submitted abstract and subsequent evaluation by the Scientific Committee. All abstracts are required by June 22nd.

Please join us in Atlanta for this exciting meeting to present your work and interact with colleagues. The feedback we have received suggests attendees find this event provides optimal opportunities to present their research on a global stage, gain new ideas, and establish fruitful collaborations.

We look forward to seeing you and hearing your latest research! Please note that ISV members receive a $100 discount from the registration fees. ISV has also negotiated special pricing with the conference center hotel, Atlanta Marriott Marquis, with links to be added to the Congress website in the near future. Please remember to sign up before the early bird deadline August 15th to receive the best rates at www.ISVCongress.org.

Sincerely, your 2018 ISV Co-Chairs
Ted M. Ross, University of Georgia – USA
Denise Doolan, James Cook University – Australia

Grand Challenges Explorations grant opportunities

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation invited Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE) proposals for the following three challenges (application deadline was May 2, 2018):

Innovations in Immunization Data Management, Use, and Improved Process Efficiency
Affordable, Accessible, and Appealing: The Next Generation of Nutrition
Tools and Technologies for Broad-Scale Disease Surveillance of Crop Plants in Low-Income Countries

International Society for Vaccines

ISV now has 100 Facebook members and over 440 LinkedIn members. Join us online to take part in discussions or to find out what is happening in the society.

We would like your ideas for future newsletter articles. Is there an article you’d like to submit to the newsletter? What are the most pressing issues in vaccine research? Please send us your thoughts.

Contact us:
Society website: http://isv–online.org/
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8359482/profile
2016 ISV Congress: http://isvcongress.org/