Dear Colleagues,

Although we are in the midst of the holiday summer season, the ISV has been quite busy pursuing society activities that we are excited to report. Looking first ahead to the fall and the ISV Congress, which has come together under the outstanding leadership of Denise L. Doolan and Ted M. Ross, working with the scientific committee. The ISV Congress will be held in Atlanta, USA, (October 28–30, 2018). An outstanding slew of leaders in high profile vaccine topics have been carefully collected to speak for this year’s meeting. As is the goal of the society, the invited speakers come from all over the globe and represent topics of high impact for the vaccine community. A detailed list of these outstanding speakers can be found on the ISV Congress website (ISVCongress.org).

In addition, the review season for submitted abstracts to the congress has completed. There has been a very high volume of abstracts submitted with a global distribution which we are all thrilled about. The scientific committee held its work in hand reviewing these exciting submissions. As a reminder, late breaker submissions of high impact studies can be submitted for consideration, so please keep this in mind and plan to send in abstracts for this important session. As is ISV policy we support young and emerging scientists (graduate students and post-doctoral trainees) to attend and participate in the meeting through multiple programs. As envisioned by our past 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. These can include authors of late breaker abstracts. These “Presidential” abstracts will be recognized at a special session of the ISV Congress. 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 annual 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. Through our continuing partnership with Vaccine Renaissance, selected scholarships for Women and Minority Delegates are available on an application-based selective basis. The details for all awards are updated on the ISV Congress site and covered in future issues of the bimonthly ISV Newsletter. Also, it’s important to keep in mind that the early bird deadline for registration for the congress is approaching (August 15, 2018) please go to the 2018 Congress website at https://isvcongress.org to place your registration.

ISV also believes it is important to expand our goals and impact for our members by working with and recognizing outstanding members of the vaccine community. Accordingly, several years ago the society created the special category of ISV Fellow. This honor is an acknowledgement given to persons who have made immense contributions to the field of vaccinology and who have a special commitment to ISV and to the goals of the society. A list of these important vaccine scientists appears on the ISV web page. This year we are thrilled to announce the induction of 5 new extraordinary members of this exclusive fellowship. They represent broad areas of vaccine science with high importance to the members of our society. This year’s class of inductees are:

Dr. Rafi Ahmed (Emory University, USA) recognized for exceptional contribution to the field of T cell immunobiology including seminal contributions to our understanding of the development of the adaptive immunity as well as the maturation and exhaustion of the immune response.

Dr. Randy A. Albrecht (Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, USA) for important contributions to the field of immunovirology and seminal contributions to the International Society for Vaccines.

Dr. Natalie Garcon (Bioaster, France), recognized among other accomplishments for her outstanding contributions to the field of vaccine adjuvants including the development of multiple licensed vaccines built around the ASO series of vaccine adjuvants which she championed.

Professor Adrian Hill (Jenner Institute, UK) recognized for exceptional accomplishments in the field of malaria vaccine development as well as major contributions to the development of prime/boost vaccine approaches for infectious disease.

Dr. Paul Offit (Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, USA) recognized for seminal contribution to the development of rotavirus vaccines as well as being a global champion for vaccines and immunization science.

All members of ISV are encouraged to reach out to and encourage the 2018 class of inductees. There will be a special ceremony for the induction of this year’s class of exceptional fellows at the ISV Congress, as well as a unique opportunity for scholarship winners as well as trainees to meet and to interact with the new ISV Fellows. Stay tuned for additional details.

With Best Regards,
David B. Weiner
Adel Mahmoud (August 24, 1941– June 11, 2018)
A Vaccine Champion and Global Health Proponent

Adel Mahmoud, M.D. Ph.D., was an inspirational force for sensible and impactful global health policy, and a champion for novel approaches for the development and implementation of vaccines. He became interested in infectious disease when as a boy growing up in Egypt, his father passed away from pneumonia. After securing his MD degree from the University of Cairo (1963) and a Doctorate from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (1971), he moved to Case Western Reserve University as a Post Doctoral Fellow (1973) focusing on eosinophil immunobiology. Adel rose to become Chair of Medicine at CWRU and served as a Legendary leader of this department from 1987–1998. There he used his gift for empowering his colleagues and trainees, uniting them behind his passion for Global Health, thereby growing the Department to international prominence. In 1998 he was recruited to serve as President of Merck Vaccines, where he played major roles in the development and commercialization of new vaccines for prevention of severe gastroenteritis, HPV and shingles, as well as the quadrivalent formulation of MMRV, impacting millions of lives worldwide. After “retiring” from Merck in 2006 Adel moved to Princeton as a Professor at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and of Molecular Biology. He utilized this position to tirelessly advocate for advancement of vaccine science and the importance of global vaccine policy. After the Ebola outbreak in 2014, he tirelessly advocated for the creation of a global vaccine development fund appreciating that the world requires a novel mechanism to develop products for critical underserved vaccine markets. In 2015 he coauthored with Stanley Plotkin and Jeremy Farrar a highly influential NEJM article calling for such a global fund. Among the impactful outcomes from this advocacy was the creation in 2017 of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), which champions game changing vaccines for global populations where traditional market incentives have failed. However, the greatest impact of Adel’s storied career, are the scores of persons he inspired through his training, mentorship and tireless lectures around the globe advocating on a personal level the importance of fighting for the field of vaccines and the importance of global health. Adel would have likely grown tired of this brief tribute stating “Guys we have important issues to address, stop fooling around and get out there and lets do the work.”

David B. Weiner, Ph.D., ISV President

Papers of the Month

“Evaluation of a mosaic HIV-1 vaccine in a multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 1/2a clinical trial (APPROACH) and in rhesus monkeys (NHP 13-19).”


Excerpted from the article abstract:

“The mosaic Ad26/Ad26 plus gp140 HIV-1 vaccine induced comparable and robust immune responses in humans and rhesus monkeys, and it provided significant protection against repetitive heterologous SHIV challenges in rhesus monkeys."

“Systematic Analysis of Monoclonal Antibodies against Ebola Virus GP Defines Features that Contribute to Protection.”


Situation update on latest Ebola outbreak...

The latest situation update, “Ebola situation reports: Democratic Republic of the Congo,” which was released 10 August 2018 by the World Health Organization, provides the latest situation update on the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. 22 Confirmed cases and 27 Probable cases.
2018 ISV Annual Congress Updates

The International Society for Vaccines is pleased to invite you to the 2018 ISV Annual Congress to be held October 28-30 at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel 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. There is a poster reception scheduled at the end of Day 1 on October 28th. Please visit the ISV Congress Registration website before the Early Bird Registration ends August 15, 2018. The Gala Dinner will be hosted by the Fernbank Museum of Natural History. The Gala Dinner is a separate Registration.

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.

2018 ISV Congress Invited Speakers

Ted M. Ross

Denise L. Doolan

Rafi Ahmed, Emory University, USA, Martin Bachmann, Jenner Institute, UK, Hank Balfour, University of Minnesota, USA, Edward Belongia, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, USA, James Crowe, Vanderbilt University, USA, James Cherry, UCLA, USA, Tony Cunningham, WIMR, University of Sydney, Australia, Baptiste Dungu, MCI Sante Animale, Morocco, Jean-Louis Excler, International Vaccine Institute, Korea, Tong-Ming Fu, Merck Research Laboratories, USA, Jonathan Gershoni, Tel Aviv University, Israel, Aidar Ishmukhametov, Chumakov Institute of Poliomyelitis and Viral Encephalitides, Russia, Eun-Kyoung Jo, Chungnam University Medical School, Korea, Rave Kane, Georgia Tech University, USA, Hiroshi Kiyono, University of Tokyo, Japan, Harry Kleanthous, Sanofi Pasteur, USA, Gary Kobinger, Université Laval, Canada, Yong Taik Lim, Sungkyunkwan University, Korea, Karin Loré, Karolinska Institute, Sweden, Guanghui Ma, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China, Michael McNeil, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA, Martin Moore, Meissa Vaccines, USA, Vish Nene, ILRI, Kenya, Morten Nielsen, Technical University of Denmark, Denmark, Glen Nowak, University of Georgia, USA, John Oxford, Queen Mary College, UK, Pauline Paterson, LSHTM, UK, Hyewon Phee, Amgen, USA, Stanley Plotkin, VaxConsult, USA, Thomas Richie, Sanaria, USA, Nadine Rouphael, Emory University, USA, Tim Schacker, University of Minnesota, USA, and Terry Tumpey, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA.

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 and Denise L. Doolan

2018 ISV Congress Scientific Committee

Ted Ross, University of Georgia – USA
Denise Doolan, James Cook University – Australia

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
Guirakchoo Farshad, Geo Vax, USA
Lars Fredin, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
Davinder Gill, Hilleman Laboratories, India
Ali Harandi, University of Goteborg, Sweden
Stephen Hoffman, Sanaria, USA
Linda Klavins, 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, Meissa Vaccines, USA
Mark R. Schleiss, University of Minnesota, 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.
Joon Haeng Rhee, MD, PhD – ISV Fellow of the Month, July 2018

Professor of Microbiology, Chonnam National University Medical School

Dr. Rhee is a Professor of Microbiology at Chonnam National University Medical School where is Korea Chief. He also serves as the Director of the National Research Laboratory of Molecular Microbial Pathogenesis and the Director of the Research Institute for Vibrio Infections at the Clinical Vaccine R&D Institute in South Korea.

Dr. Rhee graduated from the Chonnam National University Medical School and received his PhD from the same university. He has spent the last 20+ years working on the molecular pathogenesis of Vibrio vulnificus infections. His laboratory has recorded V. vulnificus–host interactions using molecular and cellular microbiological tools. In 2002, he reported the whole genome sequence of CMCP6 which became one of the standard strains in our research field. Virulence regulatory roles of ToxRS, cAMP–CRP, LuxS quorum sensing, and HlyU were also documented by graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in his laboratory that he has mentored over his career. Since the early 2000s, he has focused on the genes preferentially expressed while the pathogen is interacting with host animals. Recently, he had the fortune of solving the puzzle of cytotoxic mechanism exerted by V. vulnificus which proved that a RTX toxin is the major exotoxin responsible for the hallmark cytotoxic activity and triggers a programmed necrotic cell death mechanism.

Marie-Paule Kieny, PhD – ISV Fellow of the Month, August 2018

Assistant Director-General, Health Systems and Innovation

Dr Marie-Paule Kieny was appointed Assistant Director-General at the World Health Organization (WHO) in October 2010 and is now leading the Health Systems and Innovation cluster. Prior to this, Dr Kieny directed the WHO Initiative for Vaccine Research since its inception in 2001. Major successes under her leadership were the development and licensing of new vaccines against meningitis and measles, and against pandemic influenza in developing countries through pioneering transfer of technology and know-how. Vaccines against poverty-related diseases and those that disproportionately affect poor and marginalized populations are continuing priorities since her first role in WHO with the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases in 2001.

Dr. Kieny received her PhD in Microbiology from the University of Montpellier in 1980, where she was also awarded a University Diploma in Economics, and her Diplôme d’Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches from the University of Strasbourg in 1995. Dr Kieny has published over 250 articles and reviews, mainly in the areas of infectious diseases, immunology and vaccinology.

Centenary of the 1918 influenza pandemic

2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the most devastating influenza pandemic in modern history with estimated total deaths of 50 million caused by an H1N1 influenza A virus. Since the 1918 pandemic, several pandemics of influenza occurred in 1957, 1968, and 2009 which were caused by an H2N2, H3N2, and H1N1 influenza A viruses, respectively. Multiple introductions of avian influenza A viruses into the human population have raised concerns about potential pandemics. There are several efforts underway to develop universal influenza virus vaccines that are designed to engender broad humoral and cellular immunity against influenza viruses. Several vaccine candidates have progressed to clinical trials the results, and hold great potential to mitigate the risks of the next epidemic or pandemic of influenza.

From the Editor

We are pleased to announce that the proceedings of the 2017 Annual ISV Congress held in Paris, France is scheduled to be published in the September edition of Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics.

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.

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/
ISV 2018 Computational Vaccinology Pre-Conference Workshop
Saturday, October 27th
9:00AM–4:00PM

The Institute for Immunology & Informatics will be hosting a workshop in vaccine design and Computational Vaccinology, with a focus on neglected tropical and emerging infectious diseases and cancer, using the ivax toolkit, to be held on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis.

This workshop is open to students and researchers who are interested in working with computational vaccinology. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about state-of-the-art informatics tools and how they may be applied to rapidly develop vaccines.

Participants will hear from speakers who have used the ivax toolkit to identify epitopes, design vaccines and perform real-time analyses. Topic areas include neglected and emerging infectious diseases (NTD/EID), cancer vaccines, and computational vaccine (CV) design methods.

Participants should plan to bring:

- A sequence in FASTA format, of no more than 1000 amino acids in length
- A laptop computer with internet access
- A basic understanding of immunology
- An interest in T cell responses to pathogens

Previous NTD/EID Computational Vaccinology workshops can be found below:

- 2017 Computational Vaccinology Workshop
- 2016 NTD/EID Vaccine Design Training
- 2015 NTD Vaccine Design Toolkit and Training Workshop
- 2013 ISV Pre-conference Computational Vaccinology Workshop

The fee is $200 for non–students. The student rate is $75; all graduate and undergraduate students should provide a letter of support from a mentor or advisor verifying they are enrolled in a course of study and that the ivax toolkit will be useful.

Please visit the Computational Vaccinology Workshop website to keep up–to–date on workshop details and to submit your registration.