Dear Fellow ISV Members:

The Executive Board meeting was held on June 3rd and the Membership and Outreach Subcommittee announced an initiative to contact organizations and departments interested in vaccines and immunotherapy from around the world about ISV. Each of the members have contacted organizations in his/her home country, region or locale letting them know about ISV and inviting prospective vaccine researchers, clinicians, policy makers, and contractors to follow ISV and become a new member. If you know of any Societies, Organizations, Academic Departments, or Companies that we should contact to distribute our Monthly Newsletter, please contact us at our website: and we will contact them directly.

We are pleased to announce that there has been an increase in the hits to the ISV website in 2015. For the period of March 1, 2015 through May 1, 2015:

- Number of Visits (sessions): increased 39.45%
- Number of Visitors: increased 50.05%
- Number of Pages Viewed: increased 20.31%

This equates to an average of 858 visits to the ISV website per month for the 4 month period from January to May, 2015. We hope this means that the members are interested in the content that ISV is providing via its website and the newsletter is an effective way of providing information to the ISV members each month. We would like to hear what you have to say, so please send us your thoughts or comments here.

The Fantastic Laboratory of Dr. Weigl
How Two Brave Scientists Battled Typhus and Sabotaged the Nazis

When Germany invaded the Soviet Union during World War II, Nazi commanders had another worry besides the Red Army. Epidemics of typhus fever, which is transmitted by body lice, killed untold numbers of soldiers and civilians during and after World War I. As World War II raged, typhus reappeared in war-torn areas and in Jewish ghettos, where cramped, harsh conditions were a perfect breeding ground for lice. So the Nazis employed Dr. Rudolf Weigl to produce a typhus vaccine. Weigl created a technique that involved raising millions of infected lice in a laboratory and harvesting their guts to get the materials for a vaccine. Lice that had been infected with typhus bacteria would be allowed to feed on human volunteers, says Arthur Allen, who wrote the new book The Fantastic Laboratory of Dr. Weigl.

Click the picture for the full story.

9th Vaccine & ISV Congress

The 9th Annual Global Vaccine and ISV Congress scheduled for Seoul, South Korea. We received over 250 submitted abstracts for presentations. The topics covered by these abstracts indicate another exciting set of Oral and Poster presentations by these presenters. There is still time for submitting abstracts. The Late-Breaker Abstract is: 14 August 2015.

Visit the Vaccine Congress website to submit your abstract:

REMINDER: The Congress will be held 17-20 October 2015 at the Lotte Hotel. All meetings, welcome reception, lunches, poster sessions will take place at the Lotte Hotel.

Newly invited speakers include:

- Hideki Hasegawa, Japan
- Joshy Jacob, USA
- Siabo Jiang, China
- Hyun-Tak Jin, Korea
- Hannah Kibuuka, Uganda
- Akihiko Saitoh, Japan
- Allan Saul, Italy
- Baik Lin Seong, Korea
- Tomimasa Sunagawa, Japan
- Marcelo Sztein, USA

More information about the meeting is provided on the conference website. Be sure to reserve October 17-20th on your calendar and plan to attend.

With support from the Seoul National University
**Point of View**

A Pro-Vaccine Point of View

by Rebekah Schrepfer

Buckle up for a Mostly Sensible opinion of the Vaccine Wars. There are really few debates out there that have caused such an uproar and influenced decisions about such a personal part of our lives, namely, our children. There is so much to weed through in this debate of whether ‘To Vaccinate, or Not To Vaccinate’ your children. Since the Pro-Vaccine Movement seems to have gotten behind the Anti-Vaccine Movement in spreading their side of the issue on the Internet and social media, I wanted to just tell my point of view that vaccines are safe for the vast majority of our population, even necessary in this age of global travel, and why.

I’ve learned a lot from the reading that I’ve done. And given the deluge of information out there against the use of vaccines, I’m actually surprised to find myself on the Pro-Vax side of things. Before I was married, I did tend to lean toward the belief that all-natural is generally going to be better. Why take or eat something synthetic when natural can be just as effective (so they say). Keep things the way God created them to be. Quit messing with “nature.” And given all the stories out there and campaigns to discourage folks from vaccinating their kids, I was open to the idea of not vaccinating my own children when the time came. After all, I had taken advantage of some homeopathic treatments before with some success.

But being the Mostly Sensible person I am, I didn’t want to take anything at face-value, and I determined to find out more about the issue. Having been vaccinated myself, my husband as well, without problems it seemed reasonable to let my children be vaccinated. I did opt out of the optional vaccines, and I also did a bit of research into the MMR vaccine and the autism scare before those were given to my kids. Being confident that the vaccine was safe as you’ll see below, I did not opt out of that one. That was the beginning of my skepticism in the Anti-Vax Movement. So I did some more reading.

Admittedly, I have not delved too deeply into the plethora of materials available. That would be a full-time job! But what I have learned, has led me to be very confident that immunizations are safe, and the benefits outweigh the relatively small risks. I hope you will see what I mean. Here are the reasons why my children are immunized.

**My kids are protected from those infectious diseases.**

(Emphasis on the word “infectious”.) This is also the reason for getting my kids their immunizations on schedule. I am always remembering that it is a different world today than it was 60 years ago because of the tremendous progress in vaccinations. Diseases like Polio, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, and others are no joke! We’re talking about diseases that can take away your mobility, you can lose limbs, your ability to breathe can be inhibited; they can scar and they can even kill. We also tend to forget how highly contagious these diseases are. Some have said that there are just too many vaccines, and maybe we should spread them out more over more time. But the reason we vaccinate as early as possible in life is because it is the youngest of our kids who are most vulnerable. The longer we wait, the more probable it becomes that they will be exposed. Here in Kansas City there have been a couple of outbreaks of Whooping Cough. Measles cases have also increased as has the death toll in the US. It’s not too far fetched to think that one of my little babies could have been exposed before they could get the 8 week inoculation. All because people refused to take a shot that has never been found to be fatal…yet whooping cough and measles has!

To continue the article, click here.

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**Paper of the Month**

Increasing Complexity of Vaccine Development

by Graham Roberts

Vaccines already developed have been enormously successful. However, the development of future vaccines requires solution of a number of immunologic problems, including pathogen variability, short effector memory evoking functional responses, and identification of antigens that generate protective responses. In addition, different populations may respond differently to the same vaccine because of genetic, age, or environmental factors.

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Click here to read!