EB Update

By Ted M. Ross, ISV Fellow and Treasurer:

Dear Fellow ISV Members: Please note that the abstract deadline for submission of an abstract to the 9th Annual Vaccine and ISV Congress in Seoul, South Korea has been extended until June 5th. Please encourage your staff and students to submit an abstract for an oral or poster presentation. Also, a reminder: 2015 is an election year for ISV. The process for nominating ISV members to the Executive Board as either Officers or General Board Members will begin in the near future. Current ISV Board Members, Drs. David Weiner and Shan Lu, will be finalizing the process and we will be announcing nominations via the ISV website, email, and future newsletters.

We also want to let you know that there are many opportunities for ISV members to volunteer and perform service for ISV via our Outreach, Membership, and Developmental Subcommittees. If you are interested in participating more in ISV, please contact any ISV Board members.

The ISV newsletter is being distributed to ~500 people per month. Please feel free to send the newsletter to any individuals that you feel are interested, direct them to our website to learn more about ISV, or send us his/her name and contact information and we will contact any individual to ask if he/she would be interested in receiving the ISV newsletter and becoming an ISV member. As a reminder, ISV membership is FREE in 2015 and you can sign up [here](http://www.isv.org).

Twitter data holds a key to attitudes on vaccinations

Rebecca Ayer

A computational tool being developed to study vaccination attitudes and behaviors through social media could change the way researchers conduct public health surveillance. Researchers from the University of Georgia, George Washington University and Johns Hopkins University are using the social media platform Twitter to study why people refuse vaccinations. The study is being funded by a five-year, $1.55 million grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, part of the National Institutes of Health.

"This study is exciting because it is unlike any social media research done before," said Karen Hilyard, an assistant professor of health promotion and behavior in the UGA College of Public Health and a co-principal investigator on the project.

To read entire article from UGA, click [here](http://www.isv.org).

Congress Update

The aim of the 9th Vaccine & ISV Congress is to provide a forum for researchers, professionals and policy makers to present, share and exchange the latest cutting edge discoveries in vaccines and vaccinations. We hope to facilitate new collaborations between experts in the field and inspire new and innovative ideas in vaccine development. The Vaccine & ISV Congress has enjoyed an exciting history covering all aspects of vaccines since 2007. In 2014, we were privileged to hear from Dr. Nancy J. Sullivan from the National Institutes of Health Vaccine Research Center on developing a novel Ebola vaccine. We are excited to be holding the 9th Vaccine & ISV Congress in Seoul, Korea and invite you to join us to discuss the following topics:

- Human vaccines - infectious diseases
- Human vaccines - non-infectious diseases
- Veterinary vaccines
- Vaccine safety
- Clinical studies and field trials
- Immunology / animal models
- Vectors / adjuvants / drug delivery
- Production / manufacturing
- Regulatory/societal/economic/programmatic/legislation subjects
- Impact of vaccines upon disease epidemiology
- Vaccine delivery technologies

With support from:
Vaccination is the most effective method of preventing infectious diseases and is largely responsible for the worldwide eradication of smallpox and the restriction of diseases such as polio, measles, and tetanus from much of the world. In USA, where population had access to vaccines and antibiotics, during the first 8 decades of the 20th century, the infectious disease mortality rate declined substantially. A total of 797 deaths per 100,000 was recorded in 1900 and only 36 per 100,000 in 1980, consistent with the concept of epidemiological transition from an age of pestilence and famine to an age of degenerative diseases. Pneumonia, Influenza and Tuberculosis were responsible for the largest number of infectious diseases deaths throughout the century. However, the emergence of AIDS and tuberculosis demonstrated that gain against infectious diseases were not definitive. In high-income countries, 70% of deaths are due to chronic diseases, among people aged 70 years and older. The global burden of tuberculosis remains however enormous in Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Europe, mainly because of the poor control and high rates of M. tuberculosis and HIV co-infection in some African countries. Every year there are 350–500 million cases of malaria, with 1 million fatalities (90 percent in Africa). In low-income countries, nearly 40% of deaths are among children and only 20% among people aged 70 years and older. People predominantly die of lower respiratory infections, HIV/AIDS, diarrheal diseases, malaria and tuberculosis. Several important problems impeded us from defeating infectious diseases.

To read more, visit our website.