Dear ISV members and colleagues,

With this first 2017 quarterly newsletter, remember to renew your ISV membership or join—at www.isv-online.org. We hope you find the new website more user-friendly. Jobs listings, and links to our partners are accessible along with the newsletter and information about vaccine meetings additional to the ISV Congress. The Congress will be in Paris, Oct. 5–7 at the Institute Pasteur. We plan on the same great science and the many opportunities to present your research and for interactions with colleagues (see the newsletter article by Congress chair David Weiner), so don’t pass up this opportunity to visit Paris at an ideal time when the hordes of summer tourists are gone and the weather is perfect for dinner at a sidewalk café.

I will once again be personally sponsoring Presidential Travel Awards for graduate students and post-doctoral trainees who submit abstracts to present their science at the ISV Congress in Paris. Ten $500 awards will be offered to reimburse attendance costs based upon the evaluation of the abstracts by the scientific committee. When you submit your abstract and register for the Congress you will be able to indicate your interest in applying for one of these awards.

Anyone who hasn’t already signed up to participate in our mentorship program should send me an email at Liu@ProTherImmune.com with an explanation of what specific type of advice or mentoring you are seeking. A number of senior vaccinologists have already volunteered to act as mentors, or to answer questions if you simply have a question. And as noted in previous columns, we offer mentorship to scientists at all stages of their careers, and would like to also help mentors become better mentors!

2016 ISV Paper of the Year


Selected Research Highlight


Complete attenuation of genetically engineered Plasmodium falciparum sporozoites in human subjects


The board has also decided to make an increased effort to involve early career scientists and trainees in the activity of the Society as part of mentorship and also as a way to enable younger vaccinologists to become more prominent in the vaccine community. So feel free to also write me to volunteer for the various ISV activities, even if you don’t know what area of activity in which you’d like to participate. As you all know from participating in social media, connectivity is important in your career as well as in your personal life, so dive into ISV. Your participation in ISV is beneficial for both you and ISV!

Sincerely,
Margaret A. Liu, M.D.

2017 ISV Congress

• 11th year for Congress
• Held in collaboration with Institut Pasteur
• Venue: Institut Pasteur, Paris, France
• October 5–7, 2017
• http://isvcongress.org/

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ISV Congress Update

By Dave Weiner, ISV President Elect

As we approach the beginning of Spring, we have an excellent opportunity to update all of you as to some of the activities that are in budding front of us for 2017. ISV as a society and its annual congresses have grown in stature and impact to have become one of the major voices in the immunization and vaccination area. Based on the exceptional success of the 2016 ISV Congress which was held in Boston last year and was our first entirely independent congress, we are truly excited as we plan for the 2017 ISV Congress. This year we will hold our annual meeting “Across the Pond” in collaboration with the historic Institut Pasteur in Paris on October 5th – 7th 2017. As was the case in Boston, this year we are again excited to have the meeting held in partnership with the International Society for DNA Vaccines and with the Vaccine Renaissance meeting, bridging these exciting vaccine areas. The Co-Chairs for the ISV Congress are Dr. Denise Doolan and myself, and from the Institute Pasteur Dr. Christiane Gerke and Dr. Frédéric Tangy have graciously agreed to be the local co-chairs. Dr. Annie DeGroot will again lead the Vaccine Renaissance section of the program.

The Institute Pasteur is an historic vaccine venue for this important meeting and Paris will be a lovely place for conversation, debate, and collaborative discussions aimed to advance the field of immunization and vaccination. We thank all of you who have contributed to ideas and thoughts on congress topics and issues, and we have diligently been working to incorporate them into a stellar program. This year’s program will be announced shortly so please check the ISV Congress web site for updates.

One of the benefits of bringing together multiple groups all focused on technologies important for vaccines and immunization is that we can recognize and celebrate achievements together. In this regard, the DNA vaccine society will sponsor two awards to honor presentations made at the annual ISV meeting. These awards were sponsored by multiple companies at past meetings including Merck, Wyeth, Pfizer, Althea, VGXi and over the last few years by Inovio Pharmaceuticals.

The Congress has additional exceptional awards whose goal is to provide worthy attendees with access to the meeting. Many of these were championed by our prior presidents and they set an exceptional tone of openness and inclusiveness. These awards include:

1. **ISV Presidential Travel awards:** The ISV Presidential Travel awards for trainees (graduate students and postdoctoral trainees who submit abstracts), which is funded generously by Dr. Margaret Liu, ISV President, will encourage the attendance of trainees at the Congress. Ten $500 awards will be offered to reimburse travel costs based upon the evaluation of the abstracts by the scientific committee. When trainees submit their abstract and register for the Congress via the ISV Congress website, they will be able to indicate their interest in applying for one of these awards, and will also need to provide a letter from their lab head indicating their trainee status.

2. **LMIC Travel awards:** ISV anticipates being able to provide funding to assist some attendees coming from Lower and Middle Income Countries to present their science at the Congress. As for the Presidential Travel awards described above, scientists interested in being considered for one of these awards will be able to indicate their interest in being considered for one of these awards.

3. **Maurice Hilleman Award for Best Abstract at the DNA Vaccine Congress:** This award is given annually to the lead author of the outstanding submitted abstract of the ISV Congress. It serves to recognize our colleague, friend and mentor Dr. Maurice Hilleman. Dr. Hilleman was simply the person who developed more vaccines (40) than any other person. Eight of the fourteen recommended vaccines currently given to children including measles, mumps, hepatitis A, HBV, chickenpox, meningitis, pneumonia and haemophilus influenzae bacteria were all developed under his guidance. His pioneering work on development of a recombinant HBV vaccine helped to show the importance of the growing field of biotechnology. He played a major role in the discovery of adenoviruses and hepatitis viruses and SV40. It is without question that the work of Maurice has changed the human condition for the better resulting in millions of lives saved and countless suffering averted yearly. Dr. Hilleman was a staunch proponent of the DNA technology and one of our field’s greatest supporters. We are proud to honor his legacy through providing this award to a worthy scientist for their exceptional work each year.

4. **Richard Ginsberg Award for Best Abstract for a Trainee at the DNA Vaccine Congress:** This award is given annually to the best abstract submission by a trainee at the ISV Congress. It serves to recognize and honor our colleague and friend, Dr. Richard Ginsberg. Richard was a major proponent of the DNA vaccine field as well as a proponent for developing new treatments and vaccine technologies for treatment of diseases afflicting the underserved as well as developing world populations. As a clinical director at Roche Pharmaceuticals in the 1980’s and 1990’s he oversaw development of one of the world’s first protease inhibitors for HIV, thus making a major contribution to converting this disease from a death sentence to a treatable condition. In his role as CMO at Apollon and later Wyeth in the 1990’s, he used to successfully champion the first DNA vaccines into the clinic which establish an unprecedented level of safety for this important platform. Richard’s inclusive nature and delight in his colleagues also served to establish a great deal of the camaraderie within the community that still is of major benefit for researchers in the field. We are proud to honor his legacy and to honor a worthy young scientist each year with this award.

(Continued on page 3)
5. **Vaccine Renaissance Scholarship for Women and Minority Delegates**: The organizers of Vaccine Renaissance have traditionally provided funding to women or under-represented minority delegates to attend its conferences. This year, Vaccine Renaissance XI will occur in conjunction with the 2017 ISV Annual Congress in Paris, France, and will continue to offer the same scholarship opportunities. This fund will provide travel awards for selected delegates to attend this year’s conference in Paris. Selected delegates will receive a $250 to $1,000 (USD) scholarship to cover travel and registration expenses related to attending Vaccine Renaissance XI in conjunction with the 2017 ISV Annual Congress. After attending the conference, recipients will be reimbursed for the amount of the awarded scholarship and will need to submit proof of qualified expenses to scholarship organizer, Barbara Muhitch [bmuhitch@uri.edu], to receive the reimbursement. Original receipts are required. In order to qualify, you must be a young woman or a young, under-represented minority working in the field of vaccine research and development. Candidates in pre-doctoral, doctoral, post-doctoral, and assistant professor positions are eligible to apply. Additionally, candidates must submit a 300-word essay describing their research and why they want to attend the conference; candidate should also describe the how the scholarship will impact their ability to attend. Essays should be submitted to Matt Parrillo [mparrillo.uri@gmail.com], via email, no later than August 01, 2017. A selection committee, led by Dr. Annie De Groot, will review the submissions and notify the recipients of the scholarships, by September 01, 2017.

I encourage you to visit the Congress website (www.ISVCongress.org) to see updates and the growing impressive list of sponsors and partners as well as additional update. Remember that by joining ISV, in addition to gaining the benefits of membership, you will receive a discount on the registration fee. We look forward to welcoming you in person to Paris this Fall!

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**Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)**

CEPI was borne from the realization that the current systems for developing and distributing vaccines in response to infectious diseases that pose threats to global public health was inadequate. CEPI debuted at the 2017 World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.

Under the guidance of the Interim CEO, John–Arne Røttingen, CEPI announced its first call for proposals in January of 2017. In response, CEPI received more than 30 applications for this first call for development of vaccines against disease caused by infections with Lassa virus, Middle East respiratory syndrome–related coronavirus (MERS–COV) and Nipah virus. The CEPI Secretariat is organizing an independent expert database from which reviewers will be tasked with evaluating the proposals. Richard J. Hatchett, MD, was recently been named as CEO in March of 2017.

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**GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) debuts its Biopreparedness Organization**

In response to global public health threats from infectious diseases, GSK developed a vision for a Biopreparedness Organization (BPO) that would be a permanent, dedicated facility for Research & Development (R&D) and pilot production of vaccines. Ideally, the BPO would have access to validated platforms to develop and stockpile vaccines, and would be governed by an international governance board and an external Scientific Advisory Committee. In December of 2016, GSK embarked on a mission to turn its vision into reality by officially opening its newest global vaccines R&D center in Rockville, Maryland, which will be home to GSK’s proposed BPO. In an Q&A session with Prashant Nair, Rino Rappuoli, Chief Scientist at GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Vaccines in Siena, Italy, mused about possible collaborations between the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and GSK’s BPO.


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**ISV Fellow of the Month**

We are excited to announce that the ISV Executive Board is revamping the selection process for the ISV Fellow of the Month. The selection of ISV Fellows will be based on a balance of prominence in the field of vaccines with service to the Society.