2015 ISV ELECTIONS

Adolfo Garcia-Sastre, President; Margaret Liu, President-elect

On behalf of the International Society for Vaccines, we’d like to announce the results of the ISV elections for ISV Officers and members of the ISV Executive Board for the 2016-2017 term beginning on January 1\textsuperscript{st}. Each member of ISV was afforded the opportunity to vote on a slate of candidates while in person at the ISV Annual General Meeting in Seoul or electronically by email or fax until October 26\textsuperscript{th}.

The elected 2016-2017 Board members are: Annie De Groot (US), Denise Doolan (Australia), Nik Petrovsky (Australia), Joon Rhee (South Korea), Ray Spier (UK), and Jeffrey Ulmer (US).

The elected Officers are: President-Elect: David Weiner (US), Treasurer: Shan Lu (US), Secretary: Ted Ross (US).

The election was the liveliest to date both in terms of the number of candidates and the votes cast. We look forward to working with this enthusiastic set of Board Members to help the Society grow and increase our positive impact. Congratulations to all and thank you for your willingness to serve ISV.

2015 ISV FELLOWS

By Shan Lu, MD, PhD – Chair, Fellow Selection Committee

It is my great pleasure to announce the results of this year’s ISV Fellow election. Based on the nominations from ISV members, the Fellow Selection Committee selected 10 final candidates; the current active Fellows then cast their votes for the candidates. All of the candidates received more than 66% of the supporting votes and thus are elected as the 2015 Fellows of ISV:

Dr. Manon Cox – United States
Dr. Ronald Ellis – Israel
Dr. Kathrin Jansen – United States
Dr. Marie-Paule Kiény – Switzerland
Dr. Paul-Henri Lambert – Switzerland
Dr. Connie Schmaljohn – United States
Dr. Matthias Schnell – United States
Dr. Frédéric Tangy – France
Dr. Yu-Mei Wen – China
Dr. Julius Youngner – United States

The 2013-2015 term of the Fellow Selection Committee is composed of Drs. Annie De Groot, Marc Girard, Ray Spier, David Weiner, and me. I would like to thank them for their service over the last two years. In accordance with Society procedure, Dr. Adolfo Garcia-Sastre, as the new past-president, will serve as Chair of the 2016-2017 Fellow Selection Committee, with members to be elected by the active fellows.

2016 ISV Annual Congress in Boston

After 9 years of successful collaboration on the organization of a highly respected international vaccine conference series, Elsevier and ISV have agreed to dissolve this partnership after the 9\textsuperscript{th} Vaccine and ISV Congress in Seoul. ISV will move forward by organizing ISV’s own high quality non-commercial vaccine congress series in the future, with the same format and content, as we have done in the previous years. This will continue to provide a forum for ISV members and others in the fields of vaccines and immunotherapy to get together and share the most updated progress in the field of vaccines.

For previous Vaccine and ISV Annual Congresses, the ISV was fully responsible for the scientific organization of the meeting, including the selection of Scientific Committee members, selection of invited speakers, design of sessions including their chairs and speakers, review of submitted abstracts and selection of oral presentations. Elsevier mainly functioned as a partner in managing the business operations of these congresses while providing suggestions on certain speakers.

Therefore, it will be a relatively seamless transition for the future ISV Vaccine Congresses to maintain the same high-quality given ISV’s continued role as the scientific organizer. In addition, ISV will now be able to invite a wide range of publishers for vaccine-related journals and books, including Elsevier.

For 2016, the ISV has formed a transition team consisting of Dr. Margaret Liu serving as the Chair and Drs. David Weiner and Annie De Groot as Co-chairs. The transition team performed a careful analysis and selected Boston as the site of the 2016 Congress. They felt that Boston, with its numerous academic institutions, and biotech and pharmaceutical companies, will attract high-quality participants both locally and globally.

In addition, two well-established specialty vaccine conferences will also join the 2016 ISV Congress. Vaccine Renaissance 10 led by Dr. Annie De Groot, annually held in Providence, Rhode Island and the 2016 DNA Vaccine Conference, led by Dr. David Weiner and the International DNA Vaccine Society, which was held at various locations in previous years, will integrate with the 2016 ISV Congress. With inclusion of participants from these two conferences, it can be expected that the 2016 ISV Congress will be an extraordinary gathering for the global vaccine community.

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The 9th Vaccine and ISV Congress held in Seoul, Oct. 18-20, 2015 was one of the most well-attended Congresses to date, with nearly 400 scientists from all corners of the globe. In the words of one of the plenary speakers, Prof. Linda Klavinskis, Vice Dean for Postgraduate Research, King’s College, London, it was “a truly excellent meeting that brought together junior and senior faculty from each of the different strands of research that contribute to vaccine development. I found it stimulating and invigorating to hear talks beyond my narrow field. In particular I was impressed by the high standard and professionalism of the postdocs and students and the energy and enthusiasm that was sparked during the poster sessions, which bodes well for the success of the society and vaccine field.” It was a “wonderful opportunity to ...meet so many key opinion leaders in the vaccine field. Visiting Seoul was a fantastic cultural experience.”

A particular strength was that speakers did an exceptional job of both presenting their very recent unpublished findings and highlighting fundamental mechanisms and broadly applicable observations useful for researchers outside of their specific area. The 90+ oral talks enabled a broad range of topics to be covered, helping attendees see and learn about progress being made not simply for vaccines against other diseases, but also for the other crucial scientific areas ranging from basic research through clinical usage of vaccines. The posters were located right outside the oral session ballrooms, facilitating many intense discussions even at times other than during the two official poster sessions.

Another highlight of the Congress was the Career Panel Workshop, held on the last day of the Congress and earlier at the International Vaccine Institute on the day before the Congress began. Senior scientists (Profs. Ken Ishii, Joon Hae Rhee, Marcelo Sztein, and Dr. Nathalie Garcon) representing different career pathways and continents gave their advice about post-doctoral positions, choosing mentors, studying overseas, and life! ISV plans to explore continued ways to help trainees interact with senior scientists and be mentored. So keep reading the newsletter, keep attending the Congress, and submit your ideas about what you would find beneficial.

The Congress dinner, following a tradition of highlighting the local culture and cuisine, delighted the attendees with a concert of music, old and new, Korean and international, performed on traditional Korean musical instruments. This was followed by an 11-course meal fit for a king, “Sancheong Sura” held in the beautiful Sancheonggak, “the pavilion of the three purities.” ISV would particularly like to thank the Korean Vaccine Society headed by Prof. Joon Hae Rhee for all their efforts. Their efforts and the many Congress sponsors, including the Seoul Municipal Government, not only helped make the Congress a scientific success but left all the attendees impressed with the beauty and vitality of Seoul.

See you next year, Oct. 2, 2016 in Boston for the next ISV Congress (see accompanying article).

Poll of the Month

Would you prefer to take a live-attenuated vaccine or a protein-based vaccine with an adjuvant?
1. Live-attenuated
2. Protein-based with an adjuvant
3. Neither type of vaccine
4. Not sure

Visit our website to record your vote!

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ISV FELLOWS OF THE MONTH

Margaret Liu,
Professor Margaret A. Liu, obtained an M.D. from Harvard Medical School, a B.A. in Chemistry, summa cum laude, from Colorado College, and passed the Epreuve pour le Diplôme d’Enseignement, à l’unanimité (judges’ unanimous decision), in piano from the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris, and is the recipient of an honorary Doctorate of Science.

Dr. Adolfo Garcia-Sastre
is a Professor of Medicine and Microbiology and co-director of the Global Health & Emerging Pathogens Institute at The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City. Dr. Garcia-Sastre earned his Ph.D at the University of Salamanca. He is the Director of the Global Health & Emerging Pathogens Institute.
Myths About the Flu Vaccine

By JANE E. BRODY

On Dec. 20, 1968, I got the flu. I remember it still: Christmas was a washout — I couldn’t leave the bed unassisted or keep anything down, not even a taste of the goose that someone else had to cook.

On New Year’s Day I could hardly breathe, and my husband carried me to a doctor, who diagnosed double pneumonia. I didn’t recover fully for three months. And I was pregnant — with twins, no less.

The flu is no joke, especially not for pregnant women, the very young and the elderly, people who are chronically ill and those whose immune systems are suppressed. I managed to contract the flu during each of the three major outbreaks of Type A virus between 1957 and 1977. I never again want to be that sick — and I haven’t been. I get a flu shot every fall before the season begins.

But as this year’s severe epidemic demonstrated, too many people are neglecting this most basic precaution.

Although annual flu vaccination is now recommended for nearly everyone over the age of 6 months, for one reason or another only a minority of Americans — and fewer than half of those most at risk of serious complications and death from the flu — take this advice. Only two-thirds of health care workers, in fact, got the flu vaccine last year.

Recently I overheard a father say: “I’m not getting my kids vaccinated. I found out it’s mainly to protect the elderly, and there are no old people in my house.”

I thought: Maybe not, sir, but do your children never go out? What about the people they may infect in school, in other people’s houses, or in a movie theater, store, public restroom, train, plane or bus?

Almost anywhere they go, these children could come in contact with a cancer patient on chemotherapy, a pregnant woman, or someone with asthma, diabetes, heart disease or a kidney or liver disorder. All are especially at risk of serious complications or death from the flu.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the flu virus can travel six feet on droplets from coughs, sneezes or talk. Those infected can spread the virus before symptoms develop and for a week or more after getting sick. Less often, flu is spread by touching a contaminated surface, then touching one’s eyes, nose or mouth.

Even if all those at high risk got their shots, the vaccine does not work for everyone; many can still get the flu, develop pneumonia or a worsening of a chronic condition, and die. But when more people are immunized, fewer get sick and the chances of keeping everyone else healthy improve, a phenomenon called “herd immunity.”

Click here to read entire article.

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History of Vaccines

Gaston Ramon (1886–1963), a veterinarian at the Pasteur Institute in France, developed diphtheria toxoid. Working independently at the Wellcome Research Laboratories in London, physician Alexander Thomas Glenny (1882-1965) did likewise. In 1923, Ramon followed in the footsteps of other researchers by attempting to inactivate diphtheria toxin. He treated diphtheria toxin with heat and a solution of formaldehyde called formalin. Formalin inactivated the toxin molecule so that it could no longer attach to cells and cause toxicity. Once injected into humans, however, it was able to induce antibodies that blocked natural toxin from attaching to cells. The substance came to be called diphtheria toxoid. This breakthrough provided the simplest and most effective means to prevent diphtheria.

Click here to read entire article.

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Snapshots from VC9. To see more photos, visit our website.

ISV Partnerships with:

SEUL METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

Newsletter articles chosen by: Dr. Ted Ross (University of Georgia)
Newsletter design and edit by Chalise Bloom (University of Georgia)

ISV is a 503c Non-Profit organization. If you have questions or comments please contact us by visiting our website.