International Society for Vaccines Newsletter
Editor, Randy A. Albrecht, Ph.D.

October 2019

From the Editor,
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently released a Request for Information regarding the development of the 2020 National Vaccine Plan (NVP), which will reflect immunization practices across the lifespan and guide priority actions for the period of 2020-2025. Of interest to the readers of this newsletter, HHS is requesting information from subject matter experts, including professional organizations and societies, such as the International Society for Vaccines. Recently, the World Health Organization’s Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization released its 2018 assessment report of the Global Vaccine Action Plan 2011-2020. The SAGE report will help frame discussions on the future of vaccines and immunization practices after 2020. From the Editor’s perspective, this raises a question of whether our Society should more actively participate in such national and international policy discussions regarding vaccines and immunization practices. I hope that this is one of many topics that members of the Society will discuss during the upcoming Congress in Ghent, Belgium.

The 2019 ISV Annual Congress will be held in the medieval city of Ghent, in Flanders-Belgium, October 27-29 at the International Convention Centre (ICC). This year’s ISV Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on October 28, 2019 at 2:00pm as part of the 2019 ISV Annual Congress. Join or Renew with a multi-year ISV membership and save with the discounted rate.

WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on immunization: Request for nominations
WHO is currently soliciting proposals for nominations of experts to serve on its Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization. Candidates should submit their applications no later than 31 October 2019.

Ratification of New Constitution
Recently, the ISV Executive Board has voted to revise the current ISV Constitution to address certain changes based on the rapid growth of ISV since the last time the Constitution was updated. One key element is the change from the current Executive Board to a new form of ISV Board. “There shall be a Board of the Society consisting of the five Officers and ten elected members (including five elected from the existing Fellows and five from the other ordinary ISV members).” “The Officers shall run the regular operation of ISV activities including the Annual General Meeting of the Society. The Board sets the overall strategy of ISV and oversees the work of Officers.” The revised Constitution will need to be reviewed by ISV members at least two weeks prior to the AGM and voted at the AGM to become the formal ISV Constitution. You can email your questions to the ISV office and they will be presented at the AGM if you cannot attend the Congress in person.

ISV General Elections
2019 is an election year! The open positions include six Executive Board members and three Officers (President-elect, Secretary and Treasurer) each with a term of two years. The Officers are also members of the Board. Board members must commit to quarterly teleconferences and active participation in committees/activities that advance the programs and activities of ISV. ISV Officers must commit to monthly teleconferences in addition to their other duties.

The President-elect serves in that position for two years and works with the Executive Board and the current President, before becoming President. The Secretary is assisted by the Society’s administrative office in maintaining member rolls; is responsible for ISV correspondence, such as responding to queries from the website; and assists the Editor of the ISV newsletter as needed. The Treasurer is responsible for all financial matters related to membership dues, the annual Congress, and filing of US tax forms (ISV is a tax-exempt, non-profit US 501(c) (3) organization). The staff of the ISV support these positions.

Voting will be conducted by email or in person starting at the annual ISV meeting. Voting will remain open for one week following the AGM and election results will be announced shortly thereafter.
2019 ISV Annual Congress Updates

Dear 2019 ISV Annual Congress Attendees,

We are only a few weeks away from the 2019 ISV Annual Congress and we are thrilled you will be joining us for what is sure to be a remarkable event.

We have a stellar finalized program covering an immense amount of topics. The program includes a wonderful assortment of invited speakers from all across the globe as well as (68) oral presentations selected by our Scientific Committee from extremely high quality abstracts. Additionally, we have a record breaking number (107) of poster participants whose posters will be on display throughout the Congress and have (2) dedicated sessions to present their research. We have included a Career Development Panel for our younger scientists as well as the ISV Annual General meeting where we welcome members and non-members alike to become more involved in ISV. We are also very privileged to have Dr. Luc Debruyne from the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to deliver the Congress Keynote lecture. You may view further info and updates on the program at the Congress website.

A very special thank you to all our sponsors and partners whose support is vital in running a successful Congress. We are fortunate to have thirteen exhibitors this year with whom you will get to know well throughout the three day event.

Please remember to pick up your badge at the registration desk located in the Minneplein foyer. All morning coffee/snacks, lunches, refreshment breaks, and welcome reception are included with your registration. If you purchased a Gala Dinner ticket for Monday, October 28th it will be in your badge holder. If you still need to book your accommodation, then there are a number of convenient locations still available.

Finally, on Saturday, 26 October, one day prior to the 2019 International Society for Vaccines Annual Congress, EpiVax will be hosting its annual ISV Computational Vaccinology Pre-Conference Workshop, from 10:00-16:00, also at the International Convention Center in Ghent, Flanders-Belgium. In its ninth year, this vaccine design workshop welcomes students and researchers who are interested in the opportunity to learn about state-of-the-art informatics tools, like the ivAX toolkit, and how they may be applied to rapidly develop epitope driven vaccines for cancer, neglected tropical and emerging infectious diseases and even animal health. Attendees will also participate in a hands-on demonstration, and are asked to bring a laptop computer with Internet access and a sequence in FASTA format of no more than 1000 amino acids in length. The workshop registration website is still open if you are interested in attending this workshop. The fee for the event is $200 for non-students and $75 for students. Please note that students must contact dmedeiros@epivax.com to receive the student discount code.

We thank you for your interest and support of the 2019 ISV Annual Congress and will see you in the medieval city of Ghent!

Sincerely,
The 2019 ISV Congress Co-Chairs
Linda S. Klavinskis
King’s College London - UK
Ted M. Ross
University of Georgia - USA
Xavier Saelens (local Co-Chair)
University of Ghent - Belgium
Pierre vanDamme (Congress co-organizer)
University of Antwerp-Belgium

ISV is active on Instagram
ISV (@intl_society_for_vaccines)
Keep up with Congress news and updates on Instagram
September Papers of the Month

**Immunogenicity and safety of the adjuvanted recombinant zoster vaccine in adults with haematological malignancies: a phase 3, randomised, clinical trial and post-hoc efficacy analysis.**


The adjuvanted recombinant zoster vaccine (Shingrix) can prevent herpes zoster in older adults and autologous haemopoietic stem cell transplant recipients. Dagnew *et al.* evaluated the safety and immunogenicity of this vaccine in adults with haematological malignancies receiving immunosuppressive cancer treatments. This study revealed that immunocompromised adults with haematological malignancies have a higher risk for herpes zoster.

**Safety and efficacy of inactivated varicella zoster virus vaccine in immunocompromised patients with malignancies: a two-arm, randomised, double-blind, phase 3 trial.**


Mullane *et al.* investigated the efficacy and safety of an inactivated varicella zoster virus (VZV) vaccine for herpes zoster prevention in patients with solid tumour or haematological malignancies. The inactivated VZV vaccine was well tolerated and efficacious for herpes zoster prevention in patients with solid tumour malignancies receiving chemotherapy, but was not efficacious for herpes zoster prevention in patients with haematological malignancies.

October Paper of the month

**Vaccines inducing immunity to Lassa virus glycoprotein and nucleoprotein protect macaques after a single shot.**


Lassa fever is a major threat in Western Africa. The large number of people living at risk for this disease calls for the development of a vaccine against Lassa virus (LASV). We generated live-attenuated LASV vaccines based on measles virus and Mopeia virus platforms and expressing different LASV antigens, with the aim to develop a vaccine able to protect after a single shot. We compared the efficacy of these vaccines against LASV in cynomolgus monkeys. The vaccines were well tolerated and protected the animals from LASV infection and disease after a single immunization but with varying efficacy. Analysis of the immune responses showed that complete protection was associated with robust secondary T cell and antibody responses against LASV. Transcriptomic and proteomic analyses showed an early activation of innate immunity and T cell priming after immunization with the most effective vaccines, with changes detectable as early as 2 days after immunization. The most efficacious vaccine candidate, a measles vector simultaneously expressing LASV glycoprotein and nucleoprotein, has been selected for further clinical evaluation.

2019 ISV Congress Scientific Committee

**Congress co-Chairs**

Ted Ross, University of Georgia - USA
Linda S. Klavinskis, King’s College London - UK

**ISV Congress local co-Chair**

Xavier Saelens, University of Ghent - Belgium

**Congress co-Organizer**

Pierre Van Damme, University of Antwerp - Belgium

Rafi Ahmed, Emory University, USA
Susan Barnett, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USA
Antonella Folgori, ReiThera, Italy
Jonathan Gershoni, Tel Aviv University, Israel
Carlos Guzman, Helmholtz Vaccine Centre, Germany
Jonathan Heeney, University of Cambridge, UK
Kathrin Jansen, Pfizer, USA
Beate Kampmann, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK and MRC Unit, the Gambia

Gagandeep Kang, Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, India
Celina Maria Turchi Martelli, Centro de Pesquisa Aggeu Magalhães - Fiocruz Recife, Brazil
Vish Nene, International Livestock Research Institute, Nairobi, Kenya
Paul Offit, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, USA
Punnee Pitisuttithum, Mahidol University, Thailand
Hanneke Schuitemaker, Janssen Vaccines and Prevention B.V., Netherlands
Robert Seder, NIH, USA
Robin Shattock, Imperial College London, UK
Jeffrey Ulmer, GSK, USA
Pierre Van Damme, Universiteit Antwerpen, Belgium
Xuefeng Yu, Tianjin CanSino Biotechnology Inc., China

Check the [ISV 2019 Congress](#) website for updates.
Nathalie Garçon  September 2019 ISV Fellow of the Month

Dr. Nathalie Garçon is currently the chief executive (CEO) and scientific officer (CSO) of BIOASTER. Prior to joining BIOASTER, Dr. Garçon held several positions within SmithKline Beecham Biologicals, now known as GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines, including Vice President, Head of global vaccine center for adjuvants and technology innovation, Vice President, head of Research and North America R&D, Director of research and new technologies R&D, and Director of alternative deliveries and preclinical operations. She is a biological Pharmacist by training, which included two doctoral dissertations, one in pharmaceutical science and another in immunotoxicology and immunopharmacology from Claude Bernard Lyon 1, which is part of the Université de Lyon. Dr Garçon expertise in vaccinology extends from research to manufacturing, in particular immunology, adjuvant and formulation technologies, analytical methods, animal experimentation and toxicology/safety evaluation and testing. Dr Garçon is the 2014 laureate of the Stanley Plotkin award for lifetime achievement in the field of vaccines and vaccine technologies. She has authored over 80 papers and book chapters, and is listed as inventor on more than 100 patents. Dr. Garcon is an active member of ISV, including poster presentations and serving as a keynote speaker. She served on the scientific committee for the 2015 and 2017 ISV Congresses and participated in the mentoring sessions.

Adrian Hill  October 2019 ISV Fellow of the Month

Professor Hill serves as the Founding Director of the Jenner Institute and Chairman of the Centre for Clinical Vaccinology and Tropical Medicine, University of Oxford; is a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences. Professor Hill holds an academic appointment as Professor of Human Genetics at the Wellcome Centre for Human Genetics at the University of Oxford, which studies genetic susceptibility factors for common bacterial diseases. He is the leader of one of the most successful translational research programs in the UK, with over 25 new vaccines designed, manufactured, and assessed in clinical trials. Professor Hill focused his research on the development of a range of viral vectored vaccination approaches, which are currently in widespread clinical development. His research has also focused on the discovery of approaches that induce cellular immunity in humans (prime-boost and prime-target vaccination) leading to clinical development in multiple infectious disease and cancer indications for both disease prevention and immunotherapy. Dr. Hill has served as Chief Investigator on over 50 clinical trials, including clinical trials for malaria vaccines and the first clinical trial of a monovalent Ebola virus vaccine (cAd3-ZEBOV) aimed at targeting the West African Ebola virus epidemic. Prof. Hill has been an active participant in the ISV Congresses, including being on the Scientific committee in 2016 and 2017, and as a plenary speaker. His is particularly interested in guiding the scientific program efforts for both future Congresses and regional topical ISV meetings, ensuring that the meetings have an important emphasis on diseases primarily affecting developing countries including One Health programs and is passionate about extending pre-clinical vaccinology research to more centers in sub-Saharan Africa.

Hwasun International Vaccine Forum

The 2019 Hwasun International Vaccine Forum (HIVF) will be held at the Hwasun Hanium Culture Sport Center from November 7 to 8, 2019. The vaccine industry is undergoing many technological innovations. Newly emerging infectious diseases urge a paradigm change in the way we develop new vaccines. At this time of innovation, the Hwasun International Vaccine Forum, which aims to envision the future of the vaccine industry, will open the fourth chapter of its history. The forum will coincide with the Vaccine Immunotherapy International Symposium at the Hwasun Hanium Culture Sports Center in Hwasun, Jeollanam-do, Republic of Korea; the only special vaccine industrial district endorsed by the Korean Government.

The Forum will bring together experts from vaccine research institutions, companies, governments, and international organizations around the world. The Forum is hosted under the theme “The Future of Therapeutic Vaccine and Immunotherapy” and will include presentations by distinguished authorities from the vaccine field. The Forum will focus on current challenges in vaccine research and development, innovative vaccines in the product development pipeline, the international ethics of developing vaccines against emerging infectious diseases, and national vaccine policies of the Republic of Korea, thereby providing perspectives from vaccine research to international coordination to governmental policies. The HIVF is open to anyone interested in vaccines and welcomes your participation with open arms.

We invite you to register for the HIVF and participate in open discussion with renowned vaccine experts.

Thank you.
Joon Haeng Rhee, MD/PhD, 2019 HIVF Chair
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

21st ADVANCED COURSE OF VACCINOLOGY (ADVAC)

The 21st ADVAC will take place at Les Pensières, Veyrier du Lac (near Annecy), France, from May 11 to 22, 2020.

Registration for the Course in 2020 is now open and will close on 15 November 2019.

The 21st ADVAC is organized by the Fondation Mérieux and the Université de Genève, at "Les Pensières", the Center for Global Health, Veyrier-du-Lac, France. ADVAC is a two-week training program targeting decision-makers, including academia, industry, governmental and non-governmental agencies, in all fields related to vaccines and vaccination, vaccine trials, new vaccines, vaccination strategies and policies, vaccine-specific issues (including polio, measles, meningococcal and pneumococcal diseases, influenza, malaria, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, HPV, rotavirus, dengue and JE, CMV, rabies), ethical issues related to vaccine trials, financing of immunization, communication, etc....

The course aims to facilitate critical decision-making in vaccinology by providing participants with a comprehensive overview of the field, from immunology to vaccine development and clinical trials, as well as the social, economic, political and ethical issues of vaccination. The Course is relevant for both the public and private sectors.

Teaching is provided by over 60 top-level international lecturers and working group supervisors, all experts in vaccinology. It should be noted that as the Course is in English, a good level of this language is a prerequisite for selected candidates.

As done annually, European CME credits will be requested from the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®). Most participants in the Course should be able to convert these credits through their respective professional bodies.

Fellowships covering travel expenses, as well as registration and accommodation fees will be available for a number of selected participants in accordance with the criteria outlined on the website. These fellowships are provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), the European Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID), and the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID).

Further information with regard to the Course program, detailed list of objectives, how to apply, selection criteria and registration fees can be obtained from the ADVAC website (advac.org).

International Society for Vaccines

ISV has a social medial presence with 152 Facebook members and over 485 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
Instagram: @intl_society_for_vaccines https://www.instagram.com/intl_society_for_vaccines/
2019 ISV Congress: http://isvcongress.org/