



Johns Hopkins Vaccine Initiative

From the Director

Ruth Karron, MD

Welcome to the first edition of the Johns Hopkins Vaccine Initiative (JHVI) newsletter. JHVI was established at the Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2008 to promote collaborative and interdisciplinary vaccine re-



search, education, and implementation efforts to improve health worldwide. Our School is unique in that it has substantial strengths in vaccine policy and advocacy, finance, implementation, ethics,

safety, and in estimating the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases, as well as the more traditional areas of preclinical and clinical vaccine research. In this edition of the newsletter, you'll read about Vaccine Day and SPARK lectures and colloquia, two of the activities sponsored by JHVI to

promote interdisciplinary collaboration and the exchange of ideas among faculty, staff, and students. Education in the vaccine sciences is also an important part of our mission, and this year marks the launch of the Vaccine Internship Experience at WHO (VIEW) Scholars Program, which will send graduate students to the Department of Immunizations, Vaccines and Biologicals at WHO for 3-4 month internships, starting in the fall of 2010.

We welcome your thoughts and suggestions about this newsletter and about the work of the JHVI. Read about our work here and on the web:

www.jhsph.edu/vaccineinitiative and email us at jhvi@jhsph.edu.

In this 'decade of vaccines', we look forward to building on our strengths and continuing to contribute to global efforts to save and improve lives through development and deployment of vaccines, the "quintessential public health intervention."

Vaccine Internship at WHO (VIEW) Scholars Program

This spring, JHVI is launching a new internship program for JHSPH graduate students interested in working at the World Health Organization in Geneva. The Vaccine Internship Experience at WHO (VIEW) Scholars Program will allow JHSPH graduate students to work with mentors in the

Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals at WHO to gain experience in vaccine research, policy, or programs of global importance.

These internships are funded by the Johns Hopkins Vaccine Initiative and will provide each student with a stipend to be used for travel, accommodation and expenses while in Geneva.



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Vaccine Initiative

Quarterly
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World Health
Organization

VIEW Scholars Program



Specific projects will vary, but might include analytic work or specific assignments that contribute to the development of global immunization policy recommendations, the strengthening of national decision making processes for immunization, vaccine delivery, financing, or safety monitoring, or vaccine preventable disease surveillance. Internships will typically

begin in September of each year and will last 3-4 months.

Applications were due in February for internships beginning in September, 2010. Announcement of this year's awardees will be made in April. Additional information about the VIEW Scholars Program can be found at the [JHVI website](#).

Brenda Wilson moderates a panel of JHSPH experts at Vaccine Day 2009



Vaccine Day 2009

Injecting Hope: How Vaccines Save Children from Pneumonia

On October 9th, 2009, the Johns Hopkins Vaccine Initiative (JHVI) hosted the second annual Vaccine Day at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health featuring Dr. Brian Greenwood, Manson Professor of Clinical Tropical Medicine at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Vaccine Day festivities officially began on October 8th with a Meet-the-Professors session in the 9th floor cafe at the School of Public Health. Students were invited to socialize with representative faculty working in vaccine research at the School of Public Health and the School of Medicine. It was an opportunity for students, researchers, professors and Dr. Greenwood to network and get to know one another outside of the classroom and lab.



Dr. Brian Greenwood, Vaccine Day 2009

Vaccine Day 2009: "Thinking primarily in terms of vaccine interventions, will we ever be able to reduce the pneumonia mortality rates in resource-poor settings to the levels that we observe in wealthy countries (and if so, what will it take)?"

On October 9th, Vaccine Day began at 12:30 in Sommer Hall with opening remarks by [Dr. Ruth Karron](#), Director of the [Johns Hopkins Vaccine Initiative](#). [Dr. Michael Klag](#), Dean of the Bloomberg School of Public Health, introduced Dr. Greenwood. Dr. Greenwood's keynote address was entitled "Vaccination to Prevent Pneumonia in Children: An African Perspective".

Dr. Greenwood's talk was followed by a panel discussion moderated by [Brenda Wilson](#), National Public Radio Science and Health Correspondent. Panelists included [Derek Cummings, PhD, MPH](#), [William Moss, MD, MPH](#), [Katherine O'Brien, MD, MPH](#), [Andrew Pekosz, PhD](#), and [Damian Walker, PhD](#). The faculty panel discussed and debated the question "Thinking primarily in terms of vaccine interventions, will we ever be able to reduce the pneumonia mortality rates in resource-poor settings to the levels that we observe in wealthy countries (and if so, what will it take)?"



Dean Michael Klag, Brenda Wilson, Dr. Ruth Karron, Dr. Brian Greenwood(l-r) Vaccine Day 2009

Vaccine Day 2009 Student and Faculty Poster Session

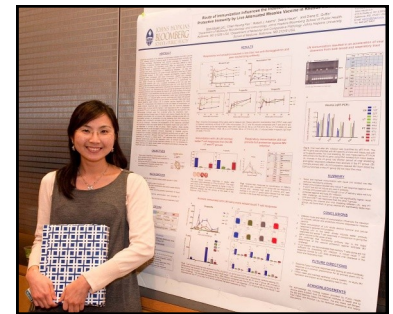
Following the presentation and panel discussion, Vaccine Day moved to Feinstone Hall for the faculty, staff and student poster session and reception. 32 posters were submitted for Vaccine Day 2009, showcasing work from four departments. The posters highlighted the breadth of vaccine research being conducted at the School, and described pre-clinical studies, phase I and II clinical trials, cost effectiveness studies, policy analysis, and implementation studies. Prizes were awarded for the four most outstanding student posters:

First Place: Wen-Hsuan Lin
Route of Immunization Influences the Induction of Humoral, Cellular and Protective Immunity by Live Attenuated Measles Vaccine in Rhesus Macaques

Second Place: Julia Hutter
Naturally-Acquired and Vaccine-Induced Protective Immunity and Antibody Persistence to Haemophilus influenzae Type b (Hib) in Malian Children. Serological Assessment of the Recently Implemented Hib Vaccine Schedule in Mali.

Third Place: Allison Cory Brown
In Utero Exposure to Maternal Schistosomiasis Modulates both Acute and Memory Cellular and Humoral Immune Responses to Vaccines

Fourth Place: John Linnehan
A Generalized Decision Tree Cost-Effectiveness Model to Guide Enteric Vaccine Development: A Case Study of Cholera in Bangladesh"



Wen-Hsuan Lin, first place winner

JHSPH Establishes International Vaccine Access Center



The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health has established the International Vaccine Access Center (IVAC) to increase access to lifesaving vaccines by overcoming many of the obstacles that often delay vaccine usage and distribution.

IVAC will serve as a source of vaccine policy information and analysis and will develop and use evidence to advocate for improved global health policies and their implementation. Projects undertaken by IVAC are supported by grants from the GAVI Alliance and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Bringing together faculty from across the Bloomberg School, IVAC will advance vaccine access through research, training and public health practice. Their work will include documenting the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases and the safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness of vaccines and programs that improve health and save lives.

The Johns Hopkins Vaccine Initiative is pleased to welcome the International Vaccine Access Center to the existing network of centers and institutes at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health that contribute to vaccine research and policy, including the Center for Immunization Research, the Institute for Vaccine Safety, the Berman Institute of Bioethics, and the Center for American Indian Health.



"For too long, access to lifesaving vaccines has been delayed by the lack of evidence-based policies to support their use and delivery. The cost of these delays is measurable in lives lost, particularly in developing countries," said Orin Levine, PhD, director of IVAC and associate professor with the Bloomberg School's Department of International Health.



JHVI Spark Program Now Accepting Applications

The Johns Hopkins Vaccine Initiative (JHVI) Spark Program is now accepting applications for faculty awards on an ongoing (rolling) basis. The Spark Program is meant to assist JHSPH faculty in their efforts to improve vaccine-related training and education opportunities for students and to create an opportunity for new or expanded collaborative research in the vaccine sciences.

To date, the Spark Program has made two awards to JHSPH faculty. Ms. Lois Privor-Dumm designed the February 18, 2010 [IVAC Launch Seminar](#) "Innovative Approaches to Understanding Vaccine Policy Decisions". [Dr. Anna Durbin](#) hosted [Dr. Brian Ward](#) from the Center for Host-Parasite Interactions at McGill University.

Dr. Ward spoke on "High-Throughput Proteomics in Infectious Diseases: A New Way to Look at the Host-Microbial Interface" at the International Health Seminar on Tuesday March 09, 2010 and on "VLP Vaccines Made in Plants: a Solution to the Need for Inexpensive Vaccines for All?" at the [Special Topics in Vaccine Science Seminar](#) on March 10, 2010.

Any JHSPH faculty member is eligible to apply for a Spark Award, which can be used to bring guest lecturers to the School to speak on vaccine-related topics or to organize a meeting, retreat, or colloquium designed to result in new collaborative vaccine-related research opportunities. The total budget for proposed activities cannot exceed \$1,500. For more information, please see the [JHVI Spark Award website](#).

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Selected Faculty Publications and Faculty in the News

Outbreak of 2009 Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) at a New York City School

[New England Journal of Medicine](#), Volume 361:2628-2636, December 31, 2009, Number 27

Justin Lessler, Ph.D., Nicholas G. Reich, B.A., [Derek A.T. Cummings](#), Ph.D., M.H.S., and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Swine Influenza Investigation Team

Burden of disease caused by *Haemophilus influenzae* type b in children younger than 5 years: global estimates

[The Lancet](#), Volume 374, Issue 9693, Pages 903 - 911, 12 September 2009

James P Watt MD, Lara J Wolfson PhD, [Katherine L O'Brien MD](#), Emily Henkle MPH, [Maria Deloria-Knoll PhD](#), Natalie McCall MD, Ellen Lee MD, [Orin S Levine PhD](#), Rana Hajjeh MD, Kim Mulholland MD, Thomas Cherian MD

Burden of disease caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in children younger than 5 years: global estimates

[The Lancet](#), Volume 374, Issue 9693, Pages 893 - 902, 12 September 2009

[Katherine L O'Brien MD](#), Lara J Wolfson PhD, James P Watt MD, Emily Henkle MPH, [Maria Deloria-Knoll PhD](#), Natalie McCall MD, Ellen Lee MD, Kim Mulholland MD, [Orin S Levine PhD](#), Thomas Cherian MD

Effect of food coupon incentives on timely completion of DTP immunization series in children from a low-income area in Karachi, Pakistan: A longitudinal intervention study.

[Vaccine](#). 2010 Feb 28

Chandir S, Khan AJ, Hussain H, Usman HR, Khowaja S, [Halsey NA](#), Omer SB.

Safety of influenza vaccination during pregnancy.

[Am J Obstet Gynecol](#). 2009 Dec;201(6):547-52. Epub 2009 Oct 21.

Tamma PD, Ault KA, del Rio C, Steinhoff MC, Halsey NA, Omer SB.

Accelerating Policy Decisions to Adopt *Haemophilus influenzae* Type b Vaccine: A Global, Multi-variable Analysis

[PLoS Med](#) 7(3): e1000249. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1000249

Jessica C. Shearer, Meghan L. Stack, Marcie R. Richmond, Allyson P. Bear, Rana A. Hajjeh, David M. Bishai

San Francisco Chronicle U.S. should give away H1N1 swine flu vaccine, by [Ruth A. Karron](#), [Orin S. Levine](#), [Ruth R. Faden](#) Wednesday, December 16, 2009

In June, the World Health Organization confirmed that a new influenza pandemic was upon us. The United States and other wealthy countries supported a nearly unprecedented effort to develop, test and license H1N1 influenza vaccines, and give their own citizens nearly exclusive access to these vaccines as quickly as possible. Delays in manufacture meant that in October and November, many in these countries had to wait their turn while limited supplies were given to those at greatest risk. [Read more at the San Francisco Chronicle online.](#)