

Driving Policy to End Immunisation Inequity

The Future of Adult Vaccination and Lessons Learned from the Coronavirus Pandemic

Virtually & In-person in Niagara Falls, Canada

9 November 2021 | 8:00 am – 4:00 pm EST

Programme	
8:00am – 9:00am	<i>Networking Breakfast</i>
9:00am – 9:15am	Opening Remarks
9:15am – 10:45am	<p>Part I: Thought Leaders in Science Panel</p> <p>Transforming strategies into action: Lessons from the global pandemic that we knew we were going to have</p> <p>Moderator: Prof. John Beard, ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Mine Durusu-Tanriover, Prof. Internal Medicine at Hacettepe University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey • Dr. Antonio Torres, Prof. Medicine, Head of Respiratory Intensive Care Unit, Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Spain <p>As global public health professionals fight to position the voice of scientists as the guiding force informing policies to save the lives of people of all ages, and especially those most at-risk, now is the time to articulate what we are prepared to compromise to ‘ensure no one is left behind.’</p> <p>COVID-19 has underscored the critical nature of integrated policy development across the silos of sectors and disciplines and within intergovernmental agencies. The WHO Immunisation Agenda 2030 (IA 2030), the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) and the WHO Global Report on Ageism independently and collectively represent generation defining agendas that have the potential to improve the health of citizens across the life course. Additionally, WHO guidelines on vaccination are continually updated, including, for example, updated considerations for pneumococcal vaccination in older adults.</p> <p>There is a need for strategic actions with a common goal to improve health (in the broadest sense), expand prevention strategies including immunisation as part of a central component to universal health coverage and to protect rights, during and living with the impact of the pandemic.</p> <p>Strategic actions include the need to consider updated WHO guidelines on vaccination; challenge immunisation policies which are conceived based on “age thresholds” without considering immunosenescence as an immunocompromising condition; the need to examine ageism as a barrier to improving adult vaccination; and finally, the immediate and long-term response</p>

	<p>to the catastrophic failures to protect the lives of older people in long term care facilities from routine respiratory infections.</p> <p>The pandemic period continues to remind us not only of the lives lost, and the lives irreparably damaged due to the largely inadequate government policy response to the greatest global health crisis of a century.</p>
10:45am – 11:00am	<i>Health Break</i>
11:00am – 12:30pm	<p>Part II: Thought Leaders in Civil Society Panel</p> <p>Innovation in adult vaccination campaigns to save lives and function</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Gonçalo Sousa-Pinto, Lead, Development and Transformation of the Profession at the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Katrina Bouzanis, Project Officer, IFA, vaccine messaging and communication targeted to older people • Mr. Gary Finnegan, Editor, Vaccines Today • Ms. Lois Privor-Dumm, Senior Advisor, Policy Advocacy and Communications, Director Adult Vaccine <p>The societal value of immunization is well-known during childhood years. Unfortunately, and despite clear evidence in support of a life course approach to vaccination, access, availability, and uptake rates are suboptimal in the older adult population with a heavy burden of preventable disease. If uptake rates are the main indicator of national campaigns, then they are mediocre at best.</p> <p>Adult vaccination is central to health promotion and a comprehensive public health strategy, yet it appears, at times, in the national immunisation plan, as not as important as child immunisation. This is not a generational conversation but rather a life course effort. In times of fiscal constraint, governments want a guaranteed return on investment. The ‘case’ for adult vaccination in general and at-risk populations is even harder to make when registers are inadequate or non-existent, data gathered is not disaggregated on those over 60 or 65 years of age, and the value of investment and prevention is not acknowledged.</p> <p>Even in countries where adult vaccination is free of charge, millions of at-risk citizens are not sufficiently informed of the life-threatening consequences of vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs). Studies clearly show that the messages and channels to promote the importance of, and the consequences of VPDs are not evaluated, nor are good practices shared.</p> <p>This is a serious gap in our collective agenda and an urgent need to develop a robust sustainable strategy to “change the conversation” through this Summit session.</p>
12:30pm – 1:00 pm	<i>Networking Lunch</i>

1:00pm – 2:00pm	<p>Part III: The Adult Vaccination Pipeline</p> <p>Vaccine development and innovation in disease prevention and healthy ageing</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Michael W. Hodin, CEO of the Global Coalition on Aging, Managing Partner at High Lantern Group</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Cassandra Hall-Murray, Senior Director Medical Affairs, Pfizer • Dr. Jonathan M. Edelman, Vice-President of Clinical Development, Seqirus <p>The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how quickly scientific strides can be made in response to urgent need brought on by a global health crisis. Multiple COVID-19 vaccines were developed rapidly and made available in record-breaking time. Delivery of life-saving vaccines was hastened through social and political will, particularly from high-income countries, and years of virology and vaccinology research, illustrating that innovation requires resources and ongoing scientific exploration, research and development.</p> <p>Such lessons in vaccine development and deployment have important implications for future vaccine discovery, approval and delivery. Vaccines are one of the most effective public health interventions, benefitting individuals and societies as a whole. There is vast potential to invest in healthy ageing and prevention, globally, through continued vaccine discovery and development.</p> <p>Vaccine innovation is an important step to improving disease prevention strategies and advancing the accessibility and affordability of vaccines for all at-risk groups in all parts of the world. Vaccination pipelines and cutting-edge invention that will define disease management, prevention and healthy ageing in the years to come is central to this conversation.</p>
2:00pm – 2:15pm	<i>Health Break</i>
2:15pm – 3:45pm	<p>Part IV: Multisectoral Thought Leaders Panel</p> <p>Health is a right not a question of income: Vaccinating hard to reach groups</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Marta Nunes, Assoc. Prof. at Wits Vaccines & Infectious Diseases Analytics (VIDA) Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Peter Lloyd-Sherlock, Prof. Social Policy and International Development, University of East Anglia, United Kingdom • Mr. Radu Costin Ganescu, President, national coalition of organisations for patients with chronic conditions of Romania (COPAC), and Vice President of the European Patient Forum Board <p>Answering why countries are consistently below WHO and national vaccination targets is a pressing issue as the pandemic has seen a dramatic reduction in</p>

	<p>routine immunisation across all ages. Yet we must not lose sight of shamefully low rates of adult vaccination pre-pandemic.</p> <p>Modifiable factors such as misconceptions of adult vaccination, limited knowledge of immunization policies, and logistical issues related to vaccine delivery, including insufficient supplies of age-specific vaccines, complex vaccination procedures, the inability to determine vaccine timing and type and a lack of funding for vaccines or vaccine visits must be addressed.ⁱ These changes will require investment and reorientation of health systems to health promotion and prevention strategies.</p> <p>However, there is a more silent and insidious issue. Current strategies fail to address inequity caused by standard universal policies and practices that do not take into consideration social determinants of health, such as individual and household income, education, literacy and access to and understanding of information which impact immunization uptake as well as general health outcomes.</p> <p>Due to the disproportionate vulnerability and disease burden, vaccinating the unreached is most cost-effective and has significant potential to save lives and improve quality of life. Immunization is able to act as vehicle of delivery for other preventative measures, therefore improving equity in adult immunization improves coverage in healthcare systems across generations.</p>
3:45pm – 4:00pm	Call to Action

ⁱ Jason M Nagata et al., ‘Social Determinants of Health and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination in Adults ≥65 Years: A Systematic Review of Qualitative and Quantitative Data’, *BMC Public Health* 13 (25 April 2013): 388, <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2458-13-388>.