



# AAP IMMUNIZATION INITIATIVES NEWSLETTER

## Inside this issue:

Updates & Alerts	1
Pediatric Practice In Action!	1
Upcoming Events	2
Funding Opportunities	2
Red Book Online	2
Resources	2-3
Featured Research Findings	3
Special Section Economic Burden on Local Health Depts.	4

### Links to AAP Resources

[Practice Management Online](#)  
[Member Center](#)  
[The Bookstore](#)  
[Red Book Online](#)

*The Childhood Immunization Support Program (CISP) is a cooperative agreement grant between the CDC and AAP.*  
*(Cooperative Agreement: U66/CCU524285-03)*



## Updates and Alerts



### ➤ **Decisions of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Omnibus Autism Proceeding**

Three rulings related to autism and vaccine injury compensation cases were issued on February 12<sup>th</sup> by the Special Masters of the US Court of Federal Claims. The rulings were part of the Omnibus Autism Proceeding, created by the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program to handle the large volume of claims (over 4,900) that vaccines induce autism. In three separate rulings, each of the Special Masters ruled that the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine, whether administered alone or in conjunction with thimerosal-containing vaccines, were not causal factors in the development of autism or autism spectrum disorders. The specific rulings can be found at the US Court of Federal Claim's Web page: <http://www.uscfc.uscourts.gov/node/5026>. A statement from Health and Human Services regarding the decision can be read here: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/02/20090212a.html>.

- **FLUVIRIN® (Influenza Virus Vaccine) Luer-Lok pre-filled syringes RECALL**  
 Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics Inc. has requested their customers to immediately discontinue use of and return any remaining doses they may have from five lots of FLUVIRIN® Influenza vaccine Luer-Lok pre-filled syringes. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Novartis Vaccines have agreed that no public health impact is expected. Revaccination of patients who have been vaccinated with the affected lots is not necessary. For more information see: <http://www.fda.gov/cber/recalls/novflu020409.htm>.

## **Pediatric Practice in Action!**

### **Preventing Rotavirus Gastroenteritis in Infants and Children- New Recommendations**

Rotavirus is the most common cause of severe gastroenteritis in infants and young children worldwide. Before initiation of the rotavirus vaccination program in the United States in 2006, approximately 80% of US children had rotavirus gastroenteritis by the age of 5. Each year during the 1990s and early 2000s, rotavirus resulted in approximately 410,000 physician visits, 205,000-272,000 emergency department visits, and 55,000-70,000 hospitalizations among US infants and children, with total annual direct and indirect costs of approximately \$1 billion. In February 2006, a live, oral, human-bovine reassortant rotavirus vaccine (RotaTeq® [RV5]) was licensed as a 3-dose series for use among US infants for the prevention of rotavirus gastroenteritis, and The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended routine use of RV5 among US infants. In April 2008, a live, oral, human attenuated rotavirus vaccine (Rotarix® [RV1]) was licensed as a 2-dose series for use among US infants, and in June 2008, ACIP updated its rotavirus vaccine recommendations to include use of RV1. ACIP recommends routine vaccination of US infants with rotavirus vaccine, but does not express a preference for either RV5 or RV1. For more information, please see the full rotavirus article in CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5802a1.htm?s\\_cid=rr5802a1\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5802a1.htm?s_cid=rr5802a1_e).

## Upcoming Events

- **National Immunization Conference (NIC)**  
March 30-April 2, 2009 Dallas, Texas  
For more info:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/nic/default.htm>
- **Twelfth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research**  
April 27-29, 2009 Baltimore, Maryland  
For more info: <http://www.nfid.org/conferences/vaccine09>

## Funding Opportunities

- **Healthy People 2010 Grants to AAP Chapters**  
AAP chapters will have an opportunity to compete for grants related to immunizations as defined in *Healthy People 2010*. Five chapters will be awarded \$20,000 each to develop innovative programs. Requests for proposals were mailed to chapter officers and executive directors. **Applications are due by March 31, 2009.** Winners will be announced the week of May 11th via e-mail. You can access the application by going to the Chapter Opportunities page on the Academy's Web site: [www.aap.org/moc/chapters/chapopp.htm](http://www.aap.org/moc/chapters/chapopp.htm).
- CDC has published a funding opportunity announcement entitled, "Determine the Impact of Strategies to Vaccinate all Children for Influenza in a Practice Setting." Approximately \$520,000 will be available in fiscal year 2009 to fund one to two awards. The purpose is to identify innovative, feasible and sustainable strategies for health care practices to vaccinate children for influenza in accordance with the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendation in February 2008, recommending annual influenza vaccination of all children aged 6 months through 18 years. **Applications are due April 6, 2009.** More information can be found at: <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45255>.

## Resources

- **2009 Schedule, Now Available in Spanish**  
The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) annually publishes immunization schedules that summarize recommendations for currently licensed vaccines. The *2009 Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons 0-18* is now available in Spanish. To access this version, go to the Child and Adolescent Schedules Webpage, <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm>, and scroll to find the Spanish schedules under "other versions."
- **Monovalent M-M-R Vaccines during Supply Shortages**  
CDC has developed a fact sheet of Q&As about Monovalent Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccines during supply shortages. It can be accessed at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/mmr-faq-12-17-08.htm>.
- **Parents Who Question Vaccines**  
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has published an article for parents who question why there are so many vaccines and why they are given at a young age

### **Red Book Online – Image of the Week, Updated Weekly!**



The *Red Book Online* home page features the Image of the Week, which is updated weekly on Monday. Each image features a particular disease, such as human immunodeficiency virus infection, mumps, actinomycosis, and human papillomavirus, to name just a few that were recently highlighted. All past images can be viewed in the Image of the Week Archives at <http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/week/iotwarchives.shtml> or in the Visual Library at <http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/visual>. Each image is accompanied by an explanatory caption, as well as a link to *Red Book Online* where additional information about the disease can be found. To view this week's image, visit *Red Book Online* at [www.aapredbook.org](http://www.aapredbook.org).

*Red Book Online*, the online version of the authoritative guide to pediatric infectious diseases, provides important updates between editions of the *Red Book*. Regularly updated features on *Red Book Online* include the "Spotlight Section" at <http://aapredbook.org> and the "Vaccine Status Table" at <http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/news/vaccstatus.shtml> or <http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/news/vaccstatus.pdf> (PDF).

([http://www.cispimmunize.org/fam/schedule\\_whysomany.html](http://www.cispimmunize.org/fam/schedule_whysomany.html)) and a new audio training, Countering Vaccine Misinformation (<http://www.prepaudio.org/default.aspx?id=16>). Both are tools to assist pediatricians and others in responding to parents' concerns about vaccines. The training is part of a monthly series and is offered free of charge **through April 30, 2009**.

➤ **Get Ready for National Infant Immunization Week**

*National Immunization Week* (NIIW) will be celebrated April 25-May 2, 2009, in conjunction with *Vaccination Week in the Americas* (VWA). The theme for NIIW is "Love them. Protect them. Immunize Them." Visit the NIIW Events Webpage, <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/>, for planning and evaluation resources, public relations materials, and communication campaign materials. Add your local activity to the National Calendar of NIIW Events, <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/2009/activity-form.htm>.

### ***Featured Research Findings***

#### **Structural and functional bases for broad-spectrum neutralization of avian and human influenza A viruses**

*Jianhua Sui, William C Hwang, Sandra Perez, Ge Wei, Daniel Aird, Li-mei Chen, Eugenio Santelli, Boguslaw Stec, Greg Cadwell, Maryam Ali, Hongquan Wan, Akikazu Murakami, Anuradha Yammanuru, Thomas Han, Nancy J Cox, Laurie A Bankston, Ruben O Donis, Robert C Liddington, Wayne A Marasco*

Seasonal influenza is a worldwide problem, killing more than 250,000 people each year. Pandemic influenza occurs when a new virus emerges and infects people that have little or no immunity. Currently, a yearly vaccine is needed to ward off the different strains of the virus that circulate around the world.

This study aimed to look at antibodies that are effective against all group 1 influenza viruses tested, including H5N1 'bird flu' and the H1N1 'Spanish flu'. The research utilized a human non-immune antibody phage-display library and the H5 hemagglutinin ectodomain the ten neutralizing antibodies (nAbs) to identify the effective antibodies. Nine of the nAbs employ the germline gene *VH1-69*, and all seem to use the same neutralizing mechanism. The study found that the nAbs potently inhibited membrane fusion.

The research also investigated the protective efficacy of their findings by testing mice against the H5N1 virus infection using three IgG1s. The study found the mice treated showed suppression of viral replication in the lungs and overall higher levels of protection against the virus.

While a universal flu vaccine is still years away from being developed, this research demonstrates that there are pockets of the virus that remain static in multiple strains and could possibly be utilized in such a vaccine.

The full article is available at: <http://www.nature.com/nsmb/index.html>

Nature Structural & Molecular Biology, online version February 22, 2009.

## Impact of State Budget Cuts on Public Health

The tough economic times hitting state budgets impact all of public health, although more immunization programs have been affected than other topic areas. Recent reports show just how precarious our public health funding is.

1. The first report, issued by **Trust for America's Health** reviews federal funding of public health initiatives. The national average is \$17.60 per person, only a small portion of what is spent on total health care costs. The report also reviews state funding of initiatives, whose average spending on public health is \$33.71 per person. The analysis discusses the need for increased transparency and accountability to understand how spending on public health programs can have a positive impact on people's health. The report is available at: <http://rwjf.org/publichealth/product.jsp?id=39789>.
2. The second report, issued by the **National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)**, surveyed 2,422 local health departments (LHDs) nationwide in the months of November and December 2008 to assess the impact of current economic conditions on LHDs' budgets and workforce. The survey, to which 1,079 LHDs distributed across 46 states responded, found that a majority of respondents are experiencing adverse impacts and expect those to continue. The full report is available at [http://www.naccho.org/advocacy/upload/report\\_lhdbudgets.pdf](http://www.naccho.org/advocacy/upload/report_lhdbudgets.pdf).
3. The third report, issued by the **Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)** surveyed 57 state and territorial health agencies about how the current economic environment is affecting their budgets and plans. This fact sheet summarizes 45 responses received between November 25 and December 16, 2008, representing 42 states, two territories and the District of Columbia. They found that 5 states cut immunization funding in the first half of FY08, with more expected in the second half and into FY09. The full report is available at: <http://www.astho.org/pubs/12-22-08StateBudgetCuts.pdf>.

More information on the budgetary impacts on state programs will be provided at this year's National Immunization Conference in Dallas, TX, on March 30-April 2, 2009.

