Global Immunization Program

THINK GLOBALLY — ACT LOCALLY

globalvaccines@aap.org
www2.aap.org/international/immunization

"Vaccines are some of the most effective tools modern medicine has developed; as crucial to our lives as good roads and indoor plumbing. And the diseases those vaccines fight do not care about borders. The strongest immigration agency in the world is completely powerless to prevent the tiniest bacteria or virus from crossing its boundary. And so we must act to ensure that all children everywhere are immunized because what’s good for children around the world is also good for our children and all of us, here at home." — Shawn Batlivala, MD, FAAP

Related Resources
UN Foundation Shot@Life Campaign
www.giveashotatlife.org

Global Polio Eradication Initiative
www.polioeradication.org

GAVI Alliance
www.gavialliance.org

Measles and Rubella Initiative
www.measlesrubellainsitutive.org

World Health Organization Immunizations
www.who.int/immunization/gin/en/index.html

Becoming involved
Here are some ways AAP members can be involved in our global vaccine efforts:

♦ Become a Global Immunization Champion; email globalvaccines@aap.org to receive updates about global immunization issues, and be notified of advocacy opportunities and calls for action

♦ Educate your patients on why global immunization access is important in the US and abroad

♦ Become involved in local campaigns or with organizations that support global immunizations

♦ Advocate at the local, state, and federal level to support US investment in global immunizations

♦ Use social media and print media to engage support by writing letters to the editor or articles for local media

♦ Visit our website to learn more and for information about campaigns and tools to help you take action

The AAP Global Immunization Program is supported by grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the United Nations Foundation.

For more information, please contact:
Mrs. Terrell James, MHS
Email: globalvaccines@aap.org
Tel: 847.434.4000
We are a global community, and vaccine preventable diseases such as polio and measles that still occur in other parts of the world can and will appear in the United States unless we support local and global immunization initiatives.

Bonnie Maldonado, MD, FAAP

The Problem

Immunization prevents about 2.5 million deaths a year globally. It is one of the most cost-effective and life-saving public health interventions of the past century.

While significant progress has been made in coverage, 1 in 5 children globally still do not have access to the vaccines they need to prevent disease. The AAP understands the important role immunizations play in the health of the world’s children and is dedicated to the health of all children, no matter where they are born. The AAP’s work on global immunization fosters partnerships with other child health clinicians and organizations to help promote global vaccines advocates. The AAP also works to promote effective vaccine policies in both developed and developing countries.

The World Health Organization estimates that 15 million deaths among children under five years of age are due to vaccine preventable diseases. Rotavirus and pneumococcal diseases together make up over half the deaths. These are now new vaccine candidates to combat both diseases. Children just need access to them.

Our Efforts

Since its launch in 2011, the AAP Global Immunization Program has been involved in various activities and successes:

- Provided advocacy training, tools, and partner engagement activities for AAP global immunization champions
- Educated AAP membership with important immunization messages in media, including social media
- Founded membership in the UN Foundation’s Shot@Life Campaign and launched a practice-based educational toolkit program for health professionals
- Helped develop and launch Shot@Life’s mobile app for parents, which is based on the Academy’s HealthyChildren.org development milestones
- Promoted expert technical information and factual evidence regarding safe use of thimerosal in vaccines globally
- Nominated to serve on the GAVI Alliance Civil Society Organizations Steering Committee and represented by AAP Vaccine Expert, Meg Fisher, MD, FAAP
- Funded AAP, members and chapters to host local educational and fundraising events to raise awareness of global immunization issues
- Partnered with other national pediatric societies to share expertise and provide guidance on advocacy at the national level

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) understands the important role immunizations play in the health of the world’s children and is dedicated to the health of all children, no matter where they are born. The AAP’s work on global immunization fosters partnerships which support global immunization initiatives and provides resources to help promote global vaccines advocates. The AAP also works to promote effective vaccine policies in both developed and developing countries.

The Academy is actively working to support US-based global immunization initiatives and programs, and in partnership with pediatric leaders in other countries, the AAP is striving to improve vaccine delivery and funding systems.

To accomplish these goals, the Academy collaborates with a network of AAP, global immunization champions, key sections and committees of the AAP, external partners and the United Nations Foundation.

Our Vision & Goals

The Academy members want to give ALL children a shot at being a pediatrician!