

Polio Immunization: Moving Forward
National Institutes of Health
William H. Natcher Building
Bldg. 45, Conference Room Balcony B and Balcony C
45 Center Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892
September 19-20, 2007

September 19, 2007 Wednesday- Day 1

9:00 Welcome and objectives of symposium
Roger Glass (FIC) and Hugh Auchincloss (NIAID)

Since 1988, the WHO Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has made great progress in reducing the incidence and prevalence of disease and infection. Many regions of the world have eliminated wild-type poliovirus transmission, and transmission of type 2 virus has ceased. Yet, impediments to eradication exist; these include the biological nature of the virus, the reversion properties of the oral vaccine, surveillance and epidemiological features of the disease under different field situations, and community participation in the GPEI. The major focus of the symposium will be a consideration of the components, strategies and optimal deployment of live oral and inactivated vaccines. Scientific evidence will be discussed to identify knowledge gaps, define a research agenda for the future and to inform public health policy.

9:15 Current status of the eradication program
Bruce Aylward (WHO)

A WHO representative will present the progress and current status of the GPEI.

10:00 Current challenges to the eradication program
Jacob John (Christian Medical College, India), Chair

A panel including representatives from India, Pakistan, and African nations will discuss issues related to current challenges and the prospects of eliminating poliovirus and poliomyelitis.

11:00 Coffee Break

September 19, 2007 Wednesday- Day 1

11:30

OPV

Vadim Agol (Moscow State University), Chair

This session will review the characteristics of live trivalent and monovalent oral polio vaccines, factors interfering with seroconversion, and implications of continued OPV use. The genetic bases and frequency of occurrence of neurovirulent vaccine-derived polioviruses and factors affecting their spread in a population will be discussed.

12:30

LUNCH

1:30

IPV

John Modlin (Dartmouth Medical School), Chair

This session will review the characteristics of inactivated polio vaccine relative to that of oral polio vaccines with reference to their immunogenicity and efficacy in various populations, capabilities to inhibit transmission and abort outbreaks, and environmental impact. Formulations of this vaccine as a trivalent or in combination with other vaccines will be discussed.

2:30

Risk/benefit assessments

Peter Wright (Vanderbilt Medical Center), Chair

This session will discuss the role and utility of models to assess the risks and benefits of various strategies for the control of poliomyelitis and to ensure the continued absence of polio should interruption of circulating wild virus and transmission be achieved. Models assessing these risks/benefits and their underlying assumptions will be discussed.

3:45

Coffee Break

4:15

Current and future immunization policy considerations

Walter Dowdle (The Task Force for Child Survival and Development), Chair

This session will present issues related to policies regarding continued vaccination vs. withdrawal of OPV, with and without transition to routine worldwide use of IPV. The panel will consider response strategies, surveillance and preparedness for re-emergence of poliomyelitis in polio-free locations, as well environmental- and laboratory-related sources of possible viral reoccurrence.

5:30

Adjourn for the day

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September 20, 2007 Thursday- Day 2

9:00

Current Research Activities

Konstantin Chumakov (FDA), Chair

Scientists from WHO, governments, industry and elsewhere will describe on-going research relevant to novel immunization strategies for current vaccines and development of newer vaccines and approaches.

10:15

Coffee Break

10:45

Future Research and Control Strategies

Sam Katz (Duke University), Chair

The goals, definitions and benchmarks for the global polio eradication initiative will be discussed in the context of safe and realistic desired outcomes. Specific knowledge gaps and research themes in support of polio elimination will be formulated and discussed.

12:30

Lunch

1:30

Conclusions and Discussion

Ellie Ehrenfeld (NIAID) and Roger Glass (FIC)

The chairpersons of all panels will convene to formulate conclusions and recommendations and to lead audience-initiated discussion.

3:00

Adjourn