ISV Member Newsletter November 2025

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FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

Dear Members of the International Society for Vaccines,

I am pleased to share important updates from our global vaccine community.

2025 ISV Annual Congress

In October 2025, nearly 400 vaccine scientists from 50 countries spanning the globe came together in Stellenbosch, South Africa and online for our flagship event, the ISV Annual Congress 2025.

Preceding the main Congress, the "**Africa Day**" satellite meeting, organised by **Dr Ed Rybicki** (University of Cape Town, South Africa) and **Dr Neil Almond** (MHRA, UK), put a spotlight on ***Africa's bold vision for vaccine research and manufacturing - by Africa, for Africa***. Leaders from vaccine institutions across the continent showcased groundbreaking initiatives, while NGOs and international partners highlighted collaborative efforts supporting this growing ecosystem. The meeting was met with enthusiastic acclaim, underscoring Africa's rising role as a global force in vaccine innovation and the training of the next generation of scientific leaders.

Delegates Attending Africa Day Satellite Meeting

The following three days were equally amazing, showcasing the very latest advances in vaccinology: from cutting-edge structural and systems biology and AI-driven vaccine design to state-of-the-art approaches for evaluating immune responses, along with breakthrough clinical studies and manufacturing innovations shaping the future of vaccine development and production. The sessions were inspiring in their content and insights, and in the discussions they raised. Likewise, the well-attended lunchtime technology workshops - showcasing Canadian vaccine technology, sustainable mRNA vaccine capacity in LMICs, and vaccine self-administration technologies were very well received.

An outstanding **Stanley Plotkin Lecture** was given by **Dr Linda-Gail Bekker,** Desmond Tutu HIV Centre, University of Cape Town, South Africa on '*The quest for a safe and effective HIV vaccine*." A major highlight of the programme was the keynote address by Nobel laureate **Dr Drew Weissman** of the University of Pennsylvania, USA. His powerful and highly anticipated presentation on "*Nucleoside-modified mRNA-LNP therapeutics*" captivated the audience and underscored the transformative impact of his groundbreaking work. Complementing this was an insightful keynote lecture by **Dr Willem Hanekom** of the Africa Health Research Institute, South Africa, on "*Novel TB Vaccines: Is Control of the Global Pandemic on the Horizon*?"

The Congress was enriched by over 160 posters that were presented in a vibrant, exciting, highly interactive forum, providing opportunities for feedback to presenters, and those all-important networking interactions to connect and start new collaborations. Once again, the early career researchers (ECRs) who presented their data in the 'Bright Sparks' PhD and ECR oral presenter sessions were impressive in their research and presentation skills, leaving the judges with the difficult task of selecting the prize winners, whom we proudly highlight later in this newsletter.

The career development workshop, led by **Dr Michael Schotsaert** (Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai, NY) was enthusiastically received giving ECRs fresh perspectives and inspiration to advance their careers in vaccine research. The accompanying round table, facilitated by **Dr Schotsaert, Dr Nicole Steinmetz** (UCSF, USA), and **Dr Alejandra Capozzo** (Interamerican Open University, Buenos Aires, Argentina), challenged participants to think boldly and creatively about uncharted frontiers, tackling the provocative question: "*Vaccines we have not considered yet – vaccines for space travel,"* and was a resounding success.

It was my privilege as President, to announce at the ISV Annual General Meeting (held during the conference) this year's **ISV Fellows**, recognizing their outstanding accomplishments and contributions to vaccine science: **Dr Danilo Casimiro** (Sanofi, USA), and **Dr Baik-Lin Seong** (Yonsei University, South Korea). Congratulations again to both on their well-deserved awards.

I also had the pleasure in the closing award ceremony to honour **Dr Lenny Moise** (Seromyx, USA), **Dr Margaret Liu** (ProTherImmune and Karolinska Institute, USA and Sweden) and **Dr Ed Rybicki** (University of Cape Town, South Africa) for their outstanding altruism and service contributions to the ISV.

Thanks to grant funding secured by the ISV from the Gates Foundation, CEPI, the International Vaccine Institute (IVI), and the International Veterinary Vaccinology Network (IVVN) to support the Congress, including travel awards, PhD students and ECRs have expanded their horizons, received invaluable feedback on their Congress presentations, and are now bringing these insights back to enrich their home institutions. Later in this newsletter, we share reflections from two exceptional ECRs whose achievements were recognized with Congress awards.

Beyond the science, the conference buzzed with camaraderie and energy - from the lively networking between sessions to the gala dinner and to dancing "Jerusalema" together (even the President and ISV Board took part!) against the stunning Stellenbosch backdrop, celebrating the vibrant spirit of the ISV community.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Congress co-chairs; **Dr. Ed Rybicki**, **Dr. Michelle Groome, and Dr. Michael Schotsaert**, as well as the ISV administration team, **Ted Gibson and Anna Taliadoros**, for their invaluable contributions to making this conference such a resounding success.

"ISV can be very proud of the success of the South Africa conference. Thank you for the opportunities given to Afrigen to be part of it"
Petro Terblanche, CEO, Afrigen

"Grateful to connect with global vaccine experts and thought leaders advancing innovation, infectious diseases and immunology. Thank you, ISV for a well-organized, engaging, and information-filled meeting."
Melvin Sanicas, Global Medical Affairs Vaccine Lead, Bavarian Nordic

"I very much enjoyed the meeting and was delighted to see it being held in Africa for the first time. Congratulations on having organized such a great meeting"
Bali Pulendran, Director, Institute for Immunity, Transplantation & Infection, Stanford University, USA.

"It was gratifying to see how you and the committee have been able to incorporate LMIC researchers into the scientific program, and I'm very pleased that we (Gates Foundation) were able to contribute in a small way to support those efforts".
Duncan Steele, Deputy Director and Strategic Lead for Enteric Vaccines, Gates Foundation.

Governance Update

I warmly welcome the newly elected members of the ISV Board of Directors for the 2026-2027 term (listed below) – congratulations on your election! I would also like to thank **Dr David Weiner**, Wistar Institute, USA, **Dr Shan Lu**, Worcester HIV Vaccine, USA, **Dr Lenny Moise**, Seromyx, USA, **Dr Neil Almond,** MHRA, UK, **Dr Joon Haeng Rhee**, Chonnam University, South Korea and **Dr Ed Rybicki**, University of Cape Town, South Africa, who are stepping down, for their dedication and invaluable contributions to the Society's mission.

Membership Renewals

As we come towards the end of the calendar year, can I encourage all our members whose annual subscriptions end on December 31st to renew. Simply hit the '**Join ISV'** button on the home page www.isv-online.org. Your subscriptions are important. They enable us to host our monthly webinar series, our virtual mini- symposia series and provide support for ECRs through our initiative for the 'Next Generation' research seminars, our mentorship program and provide scholarships for congress attendance. Likewise, can I encourage you to ask your colleagues and trainees to become ISV members in 2026. For their visibility, professionalisation and career as well as supporting our field, it is one of the best steps they can take, and ISV will be strengthened by their participation.

Acknowledgements

Lastly, and importantly, I would like to thank all our annual sponsors, partners and those who have provided personal donations in 2025 that have enabled us to sustain our annual activities to connect scientists at all stages of their careers to the latest developments in vaccinology.

Festive Greetings for the coming season.

Linda Klavinskis, PhD

President, International Society for Vaccines

Dear ISV Community,

It is an honor to introduce myself as the new editor of the ISV Newsletter. I am a postdoctoral fellow at The Wistar Institute in Philadelphia, where I study molecular adjuvants and nucleic acid–based vaccines and biologics. My research focuses on how age and obesity impair vaccine responses, and on designing innovative nucleic acid immunotherapies to strengthen protection in these vulnerable populations. As I prepare for the transition into an independent faculty position, I remain deeply grateful for the mentorship, support, and sense of community that ISV continues to provide. My work centers on next-generation molecular adjuvants, from mucosal chemokines that enhance protection in the mucosa to plasmid-encoded enzymes that support robust immunity even in aged models. Beyond the bench, I'm also a published fiction writer and speculative-fiction editor, and when not writing I can

usually be found painting miniatures, baking cupcakes, or co-hosting a YouTube book club.

This year's ISV Congress in beautiful Stellenbosch, South Africa was an especially meaningful experience. It was inspiring to witness the remarkable talent and innovation across our global community firsthand. I had the pleasure of chairing the Bright Sparks PhD Student Oral Presentation Session alongside **Alec Freyn** (Moderna), who also received the ISV Paper of the Year Award and delivered an insightful talk reflecting on his work. Like many of you, I was deeply moved by **Dr. Drew Weissman**'s keynote lecture; his focus on vaccine equity, especially equitable manufacturing capacity, felt particularly resonant as we gathered for ISV's first congress on the African continent.

The scientific breadth of the meeting was extraordinary: the Stanley Plotkin Lecture delivered by **Prof. Linda-Gail Bekker**, with her powerful reflections on the global fight for an HIV vaccine; the creativity and excellence showcased by the Bright Sparks awardees; and even an early-career session exploring the future of vaccines for space travel. The depth of accomplishment and commitment to global health was nothing short of inspiring.

I also serve on the Next Generation Vaccinologists Committee, where we work to expand outreach, mentorship, and engagement for trainees and early-career researchers. One of the highlights of the congress for me was the ECR Networking Event on the final day, graciously sponsored by the Biovac Institute. For many of our NextGen members, this was our first time meeting in person, and the energy, enthusiasm, and camaraderie made it a wonderful celebration of the future of our field.

As editor, my goal is to continue amplifying the achievements of our members, sharing advances across the vaccine sciences, and cultivating the sense of connection that makes ISV a uniquely supportive international community. I welcome **suggestions from our community** on how this newsletter can better serve your needs. Would you like to see an opinion column? A focus on underrepresented minorities in vaccine space? A list of upcoming meetings relevant to vaccine research? Send your ideas to **Newseditor@isv-online.org**. I am excited to help tell your stories, highlight your work, and strengthen the ties that bind this society together.

Warm regards,

Ebony N. Gary, PhD

Editor, ISV Newsletter

WELCOME 2026-2027 ISV BOARD MEMBERS

ISV SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight Profile: Prof. Ab Osterhaus

Prof. Albert Osterhaus, PhD serves as the Founding Director of the Research Centre for Emerging Infections and Zoonoses (TiHo-RIZ) at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover, where he leads efforts to develop vaccines and antiviral strategies for both human and animal pathogens. He is also the Chief Scientific Officer and co-founder of CR2O (Maarssen) and Artemis Biosciences (Delft), contributing to contract research and development activities that support human vaccine innovation. In addition, he plays influential roles across the global health landscape as Co-Chair of the Global One Health Community (GOHC), Vice Chair of ESWI, and a member of the Advisory Committee on Vaccination for the Dutch military. He regularly serves as a consultant, invited speaker, and scientific advisory board member for multiple vaccine-focused pharmaceutical companies.

Prof. Osterhaus' path into vaccinology began during his veterinary training, which led him to pursue a PhD in virology focused on developing a vaccine against feline

infectious peritonitis virus (FIPV). Unexpectedly, the candidate vaccine triggered antibody-dependent enhancement rather than protection, an early lesson that shaped his scientific perspective. “Seeing opportunities in apparent failures” became a guiding principle that has continued to influence his career.

Today, he is particularly excited about exploring novel, cost-effective vaccine development and production platforms, including fungal expression systems, and advancing universal vaccine strategies to strengthen pandemic preparedness, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Looking ahead, Prof. Osterhaus identifies vaccine hesitancy as one of the most pressing global challenges for the vaccinology community.

For early-career vaccinologists, his advice is straightforward: seek out excellent training environments. “Find an outstanding place for your PhD in vaccine development, and then an excellent postdoctoral position in this field,” he recommends.

Away from the bench, Prof. Osterhaus enjoys regular running as a way to relax and recharge.

Spotlight Profile: Dr. Baik-Lin Seong

Dr. Baik-Lin Seong is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Yonsei University College of Medicine in Korea and serves as Director General of VITAL-Korea, a national R&D initiative advancing vaccine innovation and self-sufficiency. His work spans academic research, national vaccine strategy, and global health–oriented platform development.

Dr. Seong’s entry into vaccinology began during his postdoctoral fellowship in Professor George Brownlee’s laboratory at the University of Oxford, where he worked on reverse genetics for influenza viruses to clarify mechanisms of replication and pathogenesis. His expertise soon drew the attention of leaders in the field, including Dr. Peter Palese, who encouraged him to join the biotechnology company Aviron in 1992 to help develop genetically engineered influenza vaccines. His work there contributed to the development of *FluMist*, the world’s first nasal spray influenza vaccine, an experience he reflects on as a pivotal early milestone.

Today, Dr. Seong’s laboratory is focused on uncovering and harnessing novel molecular chaperones to improve the folding and assembly of vaccine antigens. His team discovered an RNA-based chaperone (“chaperna”) that dramatically enhances antigen folding efficiency, enabling the production of virus-like particles and

nanoparticles in *E. coli*. This microbial production route offers a low-cost, scalable solution that could expand recombinant vaccine manufacturing capacity in low- and middle-income countries, particularly in times of urgent need.

He views the integration of chaperone-based folding assistance with the rapidly advancing field of structure- and AI-guided antigen design as one of the major opportunities, and challenges, facing next-generation vaccinology. Overcoming misfolding and kinetic "traps" in protein production will be essential for improving the manufacturability and global accessibility of future vaccine candidates.

To early-career scientists, Dr. Seong emphasizes persistence and purpose. He recalls spending six months trying to reproduce a single critical result during his postdoctoral years, an experience that taught him resilience and patience. "The ultimate purpose of vaccine science is to deliver vaccines to those who need them," he notes. "Embracing that goal will carry you through setbacks and uncertainties, toward real impact."

ISV AWARDS

(Click Here for More Info)

2025 Stanley Plotkin Award

Linda-Gail Bekker
Desmond Tutu HIV Centre, University of Cape Town, South Africa

2024 Paper of the Year Award

Alec Freyn
Moderna, USA

2025 ISV Distinguished Service Awards

Lenny Moise
Seromyx, USA

Margaret Liu
ProTherImmune and Karolinska Institute, USA and Sweden

Ed Rybicki
University of Cape Town, South Africa

ISV Bright Sparks Awards

PhD Oral Presenters

Jack Saunders
University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Dylan Kairuz
University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Arturo Liñan-Torres
National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico

ECR Oral Presenters

Nicholas Tursi
The Wistar Institute, USA

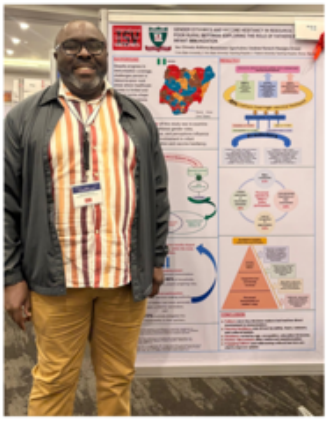
Juan Garcia-Bernalt Diego
Centro de investigación Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre, Spain

Claire Otero
Weill Cornell Medicine, USA

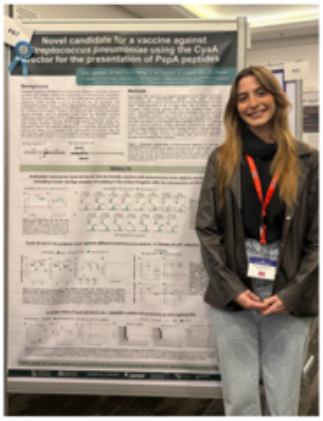
ISV Poster Awards

PhD Poster Presenters

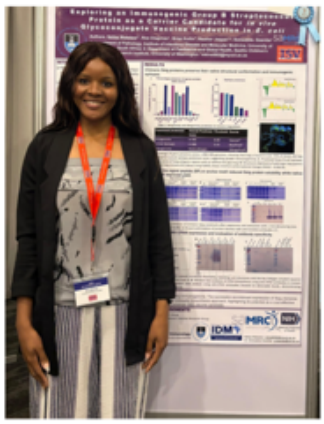
Raphael Kamng'ona
MRC Unit at LSHTM, Gambia



Chinedu Anthony Iwu
Imo State University Teaching Hospital, Nigeria



Giovanna de Brito Carneiro
Instituto Butantan, Brazil



Nelisa Makeleni
University of Cape Town, South Africa

Rhoda Namakula
University of Bergen, Norway

Natalie Nel
University of Cape Town, South Africa

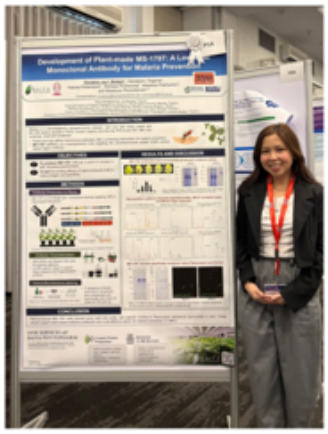
ISV Poster Awards

ECR Poster Presenters

1ST **Faiaz Shaik Abdool**
Arica Health Research Institute, South Africa

2ND **Trésor Zola Matuvanga**
Université de Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

3RD **Henning Jacobsen**
Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research, Germany



3RD **Christine Bulaon**
Baiya Phytopharm Co., Ltd. Thailand

2025 ISV ANNUAL CONGRESS REPORTS

Amana Bokagne Therese Vanessa

Award Title: 2025 LMIC congress travel award

Affiliation / Institution: Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambarene

It was an honour and a privilege to be selected as an LMIC awardee for the 2025 ISV Congress, held in one of the most picturesque cities in Africa, Stellenbosch. This was by far the most enriching and inspiring scientific meeting I have ever attended. As a PhD student in immunology and an aspiring vaccinologist, the congress offered an unparalleled opportunity to learn about the latest advances in vaccinology and to connect with researchers across the vaccine development pipeline.

Over three days of plenaries, concurrent sessions, and poster presentations, we were immersed in the full breadth of vaccinology. The scientific programme covered an impressive range of topics—from structure-based vaccine design to systems vaccinology, maternal and infant immunization, advances in therapeutic cancer vaccines, climate and environmental impacts on vaccination, and cutting-edge innovations in vaccine manufacturing.

I was particularly inspired by the presentation from Dr. Bali Pulendran (Stanford University). His work on epigenetic reprogramming of innate immune cells in the context of vaccination resonated strongly with my own PhD research, and I hope to visit his laboratory one day. I was also fascinated by the work presented by Dr. Nicole Steinmetz on plant-based immunotherapy, and deeply honoured to attend the keynote lecture from Nobel Prize laureate Dr. Drew Weissman on the development and applications of mRNA vaccines.

I was fortunate to present two posters showcasing the latest findings from my PhD. These sessions allowed me to engage with leading experts in the field, receive valuable feedback, and strengthen my professional network. The visibility this provided for my home institution, CERMEL—one of the leading vaccine trial centres in Central Africa—was invaluable. I also had productive discussions with organisations and stakeholders interested in future collaborations, including potential opportunities to evaluate vaccine candidates at our site.

I greatly appreciated the collaborative and supportive environment ISV has cultivated. The congress offered outstanding opportunities for PhD students and early-career researchers, including a dedicated career development session and numerous avenues to build partnerships that will undoubtedly shape future work.

Beyond the science, the social activities added a wonderful sense of community. We danced and sang together at the gala, briefly forgetting about troubleshooting and failed experiments. One personal highlight was meeting Dr. Weissman in person—he graciously agreed to take a photo with me. His humility and kindness were truly inspiring.

I am already looking forward to next year's congress with great excitement!

Chinedu Anthony Iwu

Award Title: 2nd Best Poster Presentation (PhD Category)

Affiliation / Institution: Imo State University/Teaching Hospital Orlu, Nigeria

Attending the 2025 ISV Annual Congress in Stellenbosch, South Africa, was an immensely rewarding experience that combined deep scientific learning with meaningful professional exposure. The scientific programme featured a wide range of cutting-edge sessions, including the Stanley Plotkin Lecture on the "Quest for a Safe and Effective HIV Vaccine," as well as plenaries on structure-based vaccine design, AI-driven engineering of stabilised glycoproteins, and innovative pandemic-readiness technologies. These sessions broadened my understanding of translational vaccinology and highlighted the powerful intersection between basic science, technological innovation, and global public health impact.

A major highlight of my participation was presenting my poster, *"Gender Dynamics and Vaccine Hesitancy in Resource-Poor Rural Settings: Exploring the Role of Fathers in Infant Immunization."* The work was very well received, and I was honoured to be awarded 2nd Best Poster Presentation in the PhD category. The discussions during the poster session provided invaluable feedback from experts and peers on integrating gender-responsive perspectives into immunisation strategies—insights that will directly strengthen the next phase of my research.

I was also deeply grateful to receive the ISV travel bursary, which fully supported my registration, airfare, and accommodation. Without this support, my attendance would not have been possible. Beyond the scientific sessions, the congress fostered an excellent environment for networking and collaboration. I connected with researchers from South Africa, Canada, and the United Kingdom working on behavioural aspects of vaccination and health system strengthening. Early discussions with colleagues from the University of the Witwatersrand and the Croissance Clinical Research South

Africa team opened potential avenues for clinical trial workforce development and future collaborations in community-based vaccine uptake research.

The meeting had a significant impact on my career trajectory. Winning the poster award increased my visibility within the international vaccinology community and reinforced my commitment to advancing gender-sensitive, behaviourally informed approaches to vaccine confidence in low-resource settings. Exposure to emerging technologies—from AI-based antigen design to plant-made and VERO-cell vaccine platforms—provided a clearer understanding of how innovations move from the laboratory to real-world application. These insights will directly inform the design, implementation, and communication aspects of my future work.

Beyond the scientific programme, the congress fostered a strong sense of community. The gala dinner provided a relaxed setting for informal conversations with leading scientists and policy influencers from around the world, enriching the collaborative spirit that ISV is known for.

As I reflect on this experience, I am deeply inspired to pursue new research avenues, build international partnerships, and continue advocating for improved vaccine acceptance across Africa. As I shared in my own words: *"Attending the ISV 2025 Congress was a transformative experience. Presenting my research and receiving the 2nd Best Poster Award strengthened my resolve to advance gender-sensitive approaches to vaccine confidence in Africa. The Congress provided unmatched opportunities for learning, networking, and collaboration with global leaders in vaccinology."*

VACCINE NEWS FLASH

Danilo Casimiro

Vaccine R & D, Sanofi

Chair - ISV Vaccine Industry Interaction Committee

On October 24, **Sanofi** announced the termination of the development of its live respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine for prevention of disease in toddlers after the candidate did not meet the pre-specified futility efficacy target in a Phase 3 study. Originally licensed from the NIH, the **intranasal live attenuated vaccine**, called

SP0125, was in a late-stage study of about 6,300 children aged between 6 months and 22 months. At the time of its announcement, it was the most advanced clinical vaccine candidate for this age group (toddler) indication.

On October 30, **CSL**, Australia's fourth-largest company by market value, has recently decided to shelve the spin off of its **Seqirus** vaccine unit amid "heightened volatility" in its key U.S. market where vaccination rates are expected to fall by 12% in the northern hemisphere winter season, the company said. Earlier in August, CSL informed shareholders in August it would spin off its Seqirus vaccines unit and list it on the Australian Securities Exchange by June next year. This is one of many indicators of the downturn in vaccine take in the US following shifts in policies and policy-making processes at the US CDC.

In the November 6 issue of *New England Journal of Medicine,* findings from a first-in-human, Phase 1 clinical trial of IAVI's Lassa virus (LASV) vaccine candidate, called **rVSVΔG-LASV-GPC** showed that a single dose of the vaccine elicits robust and long-lasting immune responses and has an acceptable safety profile. There are no available licensed vaccines or therapeutics against Lassa fever, an acute viral hemorrhagic illness caused by LASV that is responsible for thousands of deaths each year across endemic areas of West Africa (N Engl J Med 2025;393:1807-1818).

On November 14, **Merck** announced that it would acquire **Cidara** Therapeutics, a clinical-stage biotech company, for about $9.2 billion in cash. Cidara is developing a flu prophylaxis agent called CD388, a potential first-in-class, long-acting antiviral designed to prevent influenza in individuals at higher risk of complications. CD388 comprises a multivalent conjugate of the influenza virus neuraminidase inhibitor zanamivir, linked to a CH1–Fc hybrid domain of human IgG1 engineered for extended half-life. Zanamivir has universal activity across influenza A and B viruses, including high pathogenicity and neuraminidase inhibitor resistant strains, a low potential for resistance development. A Phase 2 study demonstrated significant efficacy in preventing symptomatic influenza, achieving up to 76% protection with a single dose.

In a November 19 *New England Journal of Medicine* issue, **Pfizer's** mRNA flu vaccine was reported to outperform the standard inactivate flu shot in a Phase 3 clinical trial. The relative efficacy of the modRNA vaccine as compared with the control vaccine against influenza-like illness was 34.5% (95% confidence interval [CI], 7.4 to 53.9) on the basis of 57 cases in the mRNA group and 87 cases in the control group, meeting criteria for superiority. Cases of influenza-like illness were caused by A/H3N2 and A/H1N1 strains but almost no B strains. The noninferiority of the antibody response on HAI assay was shown for influenza A strains but not for B strains (N Engl J Med 2025;393:2001-2011).

On November 21, **Blue Lake Biotechnology**, Inc., announced that it has secured written agreement from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to resume dosing of BLB201, the company's investigational **parainfluenza virus 5 (PIV5)-vectored RSV vaccine**, in children as young as 18 months who are RSV-negative as well as those who are RSV-positive. in December 2024, FDA placed clinical holds on pediatric RSV vaccine trials to exclude the enrollment of children who tested negative for RSV exposure (RSV-negative) or who were under two years old; the holds were prompted by a safety signal found in ModeRNA's clinical trial of an mRNA-based RSV vaccine.

ISV NEXT GENERATION OF VACCINOLOGISTS

The **Next Generation of Vaccinologists (NextGenVacc)** was launched in 2024 under the ISV umbrella with one clear goal: to bring together passionate young scientists and create a vibrant platform for students and early-career researchers (ECRs). Our mission? To spark connections, expand networks, and open doors for sharing groundbreaking research with a global audience through interactive webinars, conference sessions, and more.

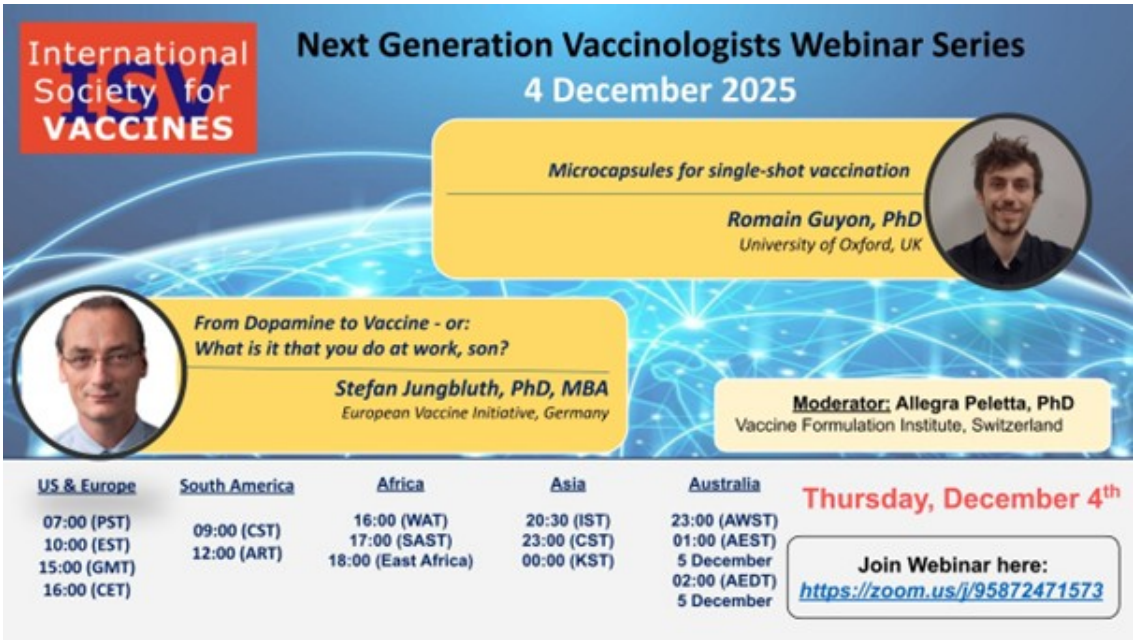
At the recent **ISV Conference in Stellenbosch**, NextGenVacc truly came to life! Committee members—**Sandra Depelsenaire, Ilke Aernout, Ebony Gary, and Arturo Liñan Torres**—were front and center; **Ebony Gary** chairing the **Bright Sparks PhD session** and all connecting with young researchers. A huge thank you to the **Biovac Institute** for sponsoring our ECR networking event, which created an incredible opportunity for young researchers to exchange ideas, collaborate, and build lasting relationships.

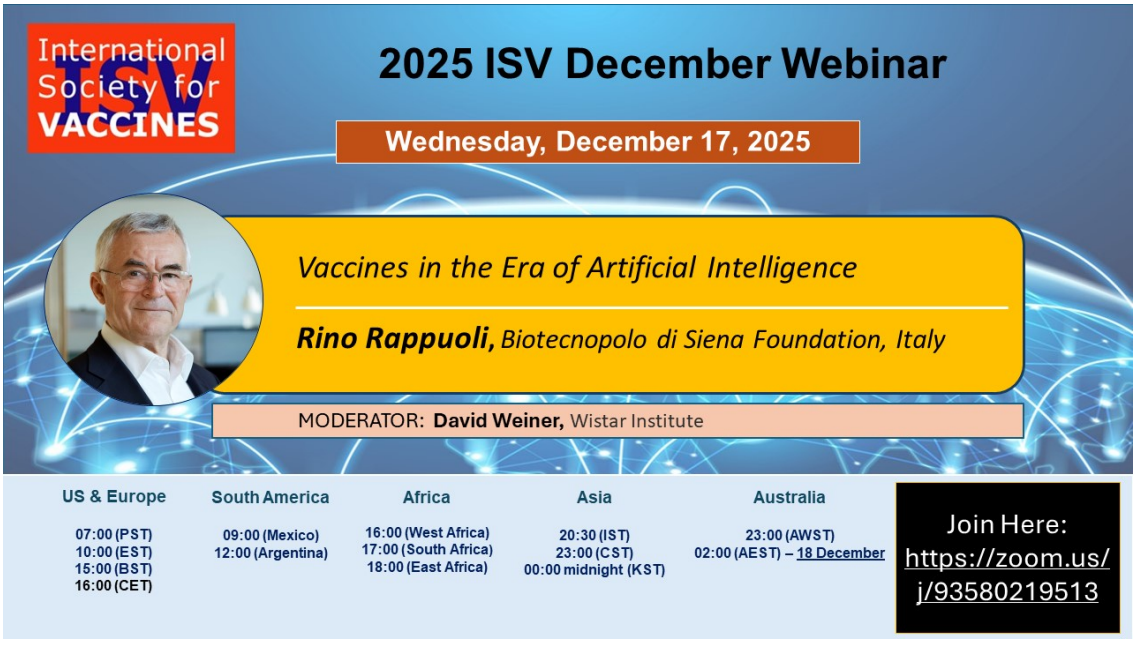
We were thrilled to meet so many passionate ECRs and welcome new faces to our growing community! Want to stay connected? Become an ISV member and join our **LinkedIn** and **WhatsApp** groups, where we share updates on webinars, networking opportunities, and resources tailored for early-career researchers. Together, we're building a global network of innovators shaping the future of vaccines – don't miss out!

NEXTGEN SOCIAL MEDIA

WhatsApp LinkedIn Website YouTube

UPCOMING WEBINARS





ISV PAPERS OF THE MONTH

The ISV Outreach Committee Members review vaccine literature published in the last month and nominate 2-3 papers for consideration. Committee Members then vote on the nominated papers and the paper receiving the majority of votes is selected as the paper of the month.

OCTOBER 2025 PAPER OF THE MONTH

Super-adjuvant nanoparticles for platform cancer vaccination

Cell Rep Med. 2025 Oct 21;6(10):102415. doi: 10.1016/j.xcrm.2025.102415. Epub 2025 Oct 9. PMID: 41072409; PMCID: PMC12629812.

Authors
Kane GI, Naylor TE, Lusi EF, Brassil ML, Wigglesworth K, Dinnell RW, Diaz-Infante MB, Whiteman LM, Lukas J, Winkler M, Josh R, Cerrutti J, Mori H, Gallucci S, Fitzgerald KA, Atukorale PU.

Abstract
We report on the utility of a "super-adjuvant" nanoparticle (NP) system as a modular, customizable platform for next-generation cancer vaccination. Using nanomaterials engineering technology, we aim to harness not only the effective adjuvanticity of whole-pathogen vaccines, but also the safety of subunit vaccines. Our lipid-based NP platform co-encapsulates agonists of the stimulator of interferon genes (STING) and Toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4) pathways to promote synergistic production of type I interferons and other proinflammatory cytokines in innate antigen-presenting dendritic cells and macrophages. Compared to empty NPs and free agonists, dual-adjuvant NPs administered with antigenic peptides or tumor cell lysate promote increased antigen processing and presentation, drain efficiently to nearby lymph nodes, increase polyfunctional tumor-specific T and B cells, and improve tumor-free outcomes upon vaccination and subsequent challenge with multiple aggressive tumor cells.

NOVEMBER 2025 PAPER OF THE MONTH

Cryo-EM structure of endogenous Pfs230:Pfs48/45 complex with six antibodies reveals mechanisms of malaria transmission-blocking activity

Immunity. 2025 Nov 11;58(11):2899-2916.e10. doi: 10.1016/j.immuni.2025.09.014. Epub 2025 Oct 9. PMID: 41072404.

Authors
Bekkering ET, Yoo R, Hailemariam S, Heide F, Ivanochko D, Jackman M, Proellochs NI, Stoter R, van Gemert GJ, Maeda A, Yuguchi T, Wanders OT, van Daalen RC, Inklaar MR, Andrade CM, Jansen PWTC, Vermeulen M, Bousema T, Takashima E, Rubinstein JL, Kooij TWA, Jore MM, Julien JP.

Abstract
The Pfs230:Pfs48/45 complex forms the basis for leading malaria transmission-blocking vaccine candidates, yet little is known about its molecular assembly. Here, we used cryo-electron microscopy to elucidate the structure of the endogenous Pfs230:Pfs48/45 complex bound to six transmission-blocking antibodies. Our structure revealed that Pfs230 consists of multiple domain clusters rigidified by interactions mediated through insertion domains. Membrane-anchored Pfs48/45 formed a disk-like structure, interacting with a short C-terminal peptide on Pfs230 that was critical for Pfs230 membrane-retention in vivo. Membrane retention through this interaction was not essential for transmission to mosquitoes, suggesting that complex disruption is not a mode of action for transmission-blocking antibodies. Analyses of Pfs48/45- and Pfs230-targeted antibodies identified conserved epitopes on the Pfs230:Pfs48/45 complex and provided a structural paradigm for complement-dependent activity of

Pfs230-targeting antibodies. Altogether, the antibody-bound Pfs230:Pfs48/45 structure improves our molecular understanding of this biological complex, informing the development of next-generation Plasmodium falciparum transmission-blocking interventions.

"Your Daily Vaccine Update"

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Check out "Your Daily Vaccine Update" to read about recent vaccine studies, key international vaccine organizations, analysis of policy decisions, and other important current issues.

I try to provide timely and accurate information for all – layperson to vaccine specialist. As a Founder of PATH, the International Task Force for Hepatitis B Immunization and the International Vaccine Institute, my daily postings bring a scientific and public health perspective to the past and present of the impact of vaccines and vaccine policy on people, communities, and the world.

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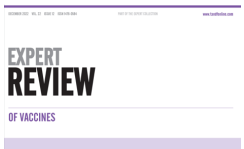

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