



ISV Member Newsletter

September 2025

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FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK



LINDA KLAVINSKIS
PhD, ISV President



Dear Members of the International Society for Vaccines,

I am pleased to share important updates and highlight upcoming opportunities for you to engage with ISV and our global vaccine community.

2025 Annual Congress – Stellenbosch, South Africa (October 28–30)

In just four weeks, we will gather in Stellenbosch, South Africa, for the **2025 ISV Annual Congress** at the Protea Hotel Conference venue (October 28–30, 2025). [Learn more here.](#)

Our co-chairs and scientific committee, led by **Dr. Ed Rybicki**, have developed an outstanding program that brings together the most exciting advances at the forefront of vaccine science. Alongside plenary and symposia sessions (detailed below), the meeting will feature poster presentations, technology-driven lunchtime workshops, and unparalleled opportunities to network with colleagues through the **vFairs Virtual Platform** (available to all in-person and virtual delegates).

If you have not yet registered, it's not too late. Poster submissions are still being accepted, and your active participation in discussions will make this a truly dynamic meeting. [Register here.](#)

For those unable to travel, our **virtual platform** provides full access to scientific sessions, exhibitors, poster presentations, and online networking opportunities. I encourage you to join us, whether in person or virtually for what promises to be a landmark event.

Governance: Shape the Future of ISV – Vote Now!

The strength of ISV lies in the collective voice of its members. You now have the opportunity to play a decisive role in guiding the Society's future by voting in the **2026–2027 ISV Board elections**.

The ISV Board sets policy, defines priorities, and steers the Society's overall management and response to new opportunities and challenges in our field. This year's ballot once again presents an exceptional slate of nominees with diverse expertise and perspectives to advance our mission.

Your vote is not a formality—it is your chance to help determine how ISV supports its members, strengthens vaccinology worldwide, and responds to emerging opportunities and challenges.

- **Candidate biographies and statements:** [Click HERE](#)
- **Online ballot form:** [Click HERE](#)

Voting will remain open until **November 5, 2025** (one week after the AGM at the Annual Congress).

I encourage every member to take part in this vital process and help shape ISV's future.

Member Updates

I am delighted to share several important updates within our community:

New ISV Newsletter Editor

Dr. Ebony Gary (Wistar Institute) has been appointed as **ISV Newsletter Editor**, succeeding **Dr. Lars Frelin (Karolinska Institutet)**, ISV Outreach Committee Chair. This transition will allow Lars to focus on launching strategic initiatives to strengthen ISV's global outreach, while Ebony brings fresh ideas and her writing expertise to shape our future newsletters.

The Newsletter is *your* platform reflecting the vibrancy and achievements of our community. Please share news items, highlights, and suggestions directly with Ebony at Newseditor@isv-online.org.

On behalf of ISV, I warmly thank Lars for his invaluable contributions and invite you to join me in welcoming Ebony to this important role.

NextGenVacc Leadership Transition

NextGenVacc is our flagship initiative to support and grow early career researchers (ECRs) in the vaccine field. Through interactive webinars organised by NextGenVacc committee [NextGenVacc Committee](#), the network provides ECRs with opportunities to showcase their research to an international audience, while also learning from established experts who present their career paths and insights.

Dr. Sandra Depelsenaire (Vaxxas Pty Ltd) has been elected the new Chair of the **NextGenVacc Committee**, succeeding **Dr. Martin Beukema (University of Groningen)**.

I extend my deepest thanks to Martin for his exceptional leadership, vision, and dedication in building a vibrant community for early-career vaccinologists since the

committee's inception. We are excited to see Sandra continue this important work.

Acknowledgments

Finally, I would like to express sincere gratitude to our sponsors, partners, and individual donors. Your annual support sustains ISV's educational and outreach activities and enables us to connect scientists at all stages of their careers with the latest developments in vaccine science through our Annual Congress and beyond.

Thank you for your continued engagement, insights, and commitment. ISV is stronger because of you.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Stellenbosch.

Linda Klavinskis, PhD
President, International Society for Vaccines

WELCOME FROM OUR 2025 ISV ANNUAL CONGRESS CO-CHAIRS

[**Click Here for Video Introduction**](#)



Ed Rybicki
University of Cape Town



Michelle Groom
*University of the
Witwatersrand*



Michael Schotsaert
Ichan School of Medicine

Can't Attend the ISV
Congress in Person?

Join us Virtually!



Explore breakthrough vaccine
research



Engage with top global
experts



Virtual posters and dynamic
networking opportunities



ISV ANNUAL CONGRESS 2025



28-30 OCTOBER 2025



STELLENBOSCH & ONLINE



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[Register Here](#)

ISV FELLOW INTRODUCTION

Sarah Gilbert

The University of Oxford



What is your background/profession?

Professor Gilbert is a Principal Investigator at the Pandemic Sciences Institute, an interdisciplinary research institute at the University of Oxford with a mission to discover, create and enable practical, science-driven solutions to infectious disease threats worldwide.

What is your favorite/main research area/topic?

Professor Gilbert's primary research interest is the development and production of viral vectored vaccines, from initial concept through clinical trials and onwards to rollout. She currently leads vaccine development for influenza as well as for several emerging pathogens, including influenza, Nipah virus, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Lassa virus.

What's your main scientific achievement/s?

Professor Dame Sarah Gilbert initiated and led the development of the Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine (Vaxzevria) in 2020. One of the first vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 approved in the UK, it has been used in over 180 countries and is estimated to have saved more than six million lives worldwide.

Professor Gilbert was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2021 in recognition of her work during the pandemic. Her book *Vaxxers* describing the development of Vaxzevria was a Sunday Times bestseller. Other awards include the Royal Society of Medicine Gold Medal, the Princesa de Asturias Award for Technical and Scientific Research 2021, the Sunhak Peace Prize 2022 and the King Faisal Prize 2023.

ISV COMMITTEE MEMBER INTRODUCTION

Ebony Gary

The Wistar Institute

ISV Outreach & Public Engagement Committee

ISV Awards & Prizes Committee

ISV Next Generation Vaccinologist Committee



What is your background/profession?

I am a postdoctoral fellow at The Wistar Institute in Philadelphia, specializing in molecular adjuvants and nucleic acid-based vaccines and biologics. I am preparing to transition into an independent faculty role.

What is your favorite/main research area/topic?

I study how age and obesity impair vaccine responses, and I develop novel adjuvants and DNA-based therapies to boost immunity in these vulnerable populations.

What's your main scientific achievement/s?

I demonstrated that DNA-encoded mucosal chemokines can function as molecular adjuvants to enhance cross-variant SARS-CoV-2 protection. I further showed that co-delivery of plasmid-encoded adenosine deaminase-1 supports equivalent protection in aged mouse models of SARS-CoV-2 vaccination and challenge. Most recently, I established that DNA can be used to deliver incretin mimetics for long-term metabolic control.

Do you have any hidden talent/s?

I am a published fiction author and editor for a speculative fiction website, where I typically write science fiction and horror that blend scientific themes with storytelling. I also enjoy miniature painting, cupcake baking, and co-hosting a YouTube book club.

Service to ISV

I am stepping into the role of editor of the ISV Newsletter, succeeding Dr. Lars Frelin. My goal is to continue highlighting ISV member achievements, sharing advances in vaccinology, and strengthening connections across our global community.

Alexander Bukreyev

The University of Texas Medical Branch

ISV Global Collaborations and Partnerships Committee



What is your background/profession?

Professor, Associate Director, Center for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases, Head of the Laboratory of Viral Pathogenesis & Vaccine Development.

What is your favorite/main research area/topic?

Development of RNA vaccines, immunopathogenesis of viral infections, effect of viruses on host transcription at the epigenetic level.

What's your main scientific achievement/s?

I do not know how to give a brief response to this. I have about 190 papers in PubMed, many in very good/top journals. Of note, my lab collaborated with Moderna on the COVID vaccine, and the results generated in the lab were included in the Moderna's IND and BLA application for the original COVID-19 vaccine.

Do you have any hidden talent/s?

If this is about hobby or sport, I organize and run mountaineering expeditions every year. Currently in North America, in past - in South America, Central Asia, Caucasus.

ISV COMMITTEE UPDATES

Lakshmi Krishnan

National Research Council Canada

ISV Finance & Governance Committee



This committee oversees ISV's finance and governance policies. Current members include:

Lakshmi Krishnan (Chairperson), Linda Klavinskis, Margaret Liu, Jeff Ulmer and Lenny Moise.

The committee routinely reviews budgets (particularly pertaining to the conference and contract remuneration), and advises on strategic activities relating to financial partnerships and/or income raising opportunities. A finance subcommittee reviews and recommends the financial investments and tax filing in the US for the society. The committee has also been active in formalizing the policies and governance structures of the ISV. For example, last year the committee drafted the ISV board's first Terms of Reference document. The committee was instrumental in making recommendations to the board to implement changes to the ISV constitution to promote the election of more junior and general members to the ISV board during the election year. This motion was endorsed and passed by the membership-at-large at the 2024 Annual General Meeting. The committee is currently drafting recommendations to improve the process for Fellow's election which will be brought forward for review and approval by the members at-large at the upcoming 2025 Annual General meeting in South Africa. The committee is also updating the ISV's Conflict of Interest Policy for Board members to include additional guidelines and clarity. With a strong governance and finance oversight, ISV will be recognized as an exemplar international society that is meeting its stated objectives while complying with its fiduciary responsibilities to uphold its not-for-profit status in the US.



Sandra Depelsenaire

Vaxxas Pty Ltd

ISV Next Generation Vaccinologist (Next Gen Vacc) Committee - Chair Update



The **Next Generation of Vaccinologists (NextGenVacc)** was formed in 2024, under the umbrella of the ISV, by a group of young and ambitious vaccinologists, whose vision and mission is to provide a designated platform for students and ECRs to connect that share the same passion about vaccines, to broaden their networks, and provide opportunities to present to an international audience, such as through our webinars.

I was recently elected as the new Chair of the committee. I would like to thank our outgoing Chair, Dr Martin Beukema for his determination and leadership during his term he provided to the **NextGenVacc** committee; he is leaving big shoes to fill, and I am very honoured to be serving as Chair.

The success of growing the **NextGenVacc** community would not have been possible without the unwavering support, guidance and under the watchful eye of the ISV's president Professor Linda Klavinskis. We are incredibly grateful and thankful for the continuous leadership and mentoring the **NextGenVacc** committee has received from Linda and other senior mentors (Drs Jean Boyer, Anke Huckriede, Michael Schotsaert). Aligning with ISV's mission, we aim to bring together students and ECR vaccinologists, and to provide resources and connections to researchers for those wanting to work on/with vaccines in a relaxed, international setting. With committee members represented from 5 continents, including regional representatives, we are delighted to continue expanding and growing our worldwide network of ECRs.

We value all the engagement we have received – through webinars, LinkedIn, and our WhatsApp group – which fosters knowledge exchange and collaboration across vaccine-related disciplines. Your involvement helps showcase your work and increases visibility within the international vaccinology community. Moving forward, we will continue to expand on our monthly webinars, work on career development initiatives, and strive to have representatives of all 7 continents in our **NextGenVacc** community.

I look forward to seeing you at the ISV Congress in Stellenbosch, 28-30 October 2025.

NextGen Social Media



WhatsApp



LinkedIn



Website



YouTube

VACCINE NEWS FLASH

Davinder Gill

StiRx Inc

ISV Global Collaboration & Partnerships Committee

ISV Outreach & Public Engagement Committee



UK Gonorrhea Vaccine Rollout

The United Kingdom began rolling out a gonorrhea vaccine to high-risk groups starting August 2025. This initiative marks the first time any country has deployed a licensed gonorrhea vaccine at scale. The rollout is targeted initially at high-risk groups, including individuals with frequent sexually transmitted infections and communities most impacted by antimicrobial-resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. Public health

authorities note that this program could serve as a model for other nations struggling with rising antibiotic drug resistance and limited treatment options.

Read more: [NHS begins roll-out of world-first gonorrhoea vaccine programme - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-begins-roll-out-of-world-first-gonorrhoea-vaccine-programme)

DengiAll Dengue Vaccine (India)

India's Phase 3 trial of the dengue vaccine candidate DengiAll achieved a major milestone in August 2025 by surpassing 70% enrollment. This large-scale study is expected to generate pivotal efficacy and safety data needed for potential licensure. Investigators highlighted that interim safety data so far have been favorable, supporting the likelihood of regulatory submission within the next two years.

Read more: [India Nears Completion of Phase III Dengue Vaccine Trials](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/india-nears-completion-of-phase-iii-dengue-vaccine-trials)

PanChol Oral Cholera Vaccine

Researchers at Harvard reported that their oral live-attenuated cholera vaccine candidate, PanChol, achieved 100% seroconversion to two key cholera serotypes (Ogawa and Inaba) in a Phase I study. If confirmed in later-stage trials, PanChol could become the first single-dose oral cholera vaccine with broad coverage.

Read more: [Study Details | NCT07107516 | Phase 1b Ascending Dose Study of PanChol in Healthy Volunteers | ClinicalTrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT07107516)

Vaxxas HD-MAP Avian Flu Vaccine

Vaxxas completed the largest-ever trial of its high-density microarray patch (HD-MAP) vaccine delivery system, enrolling 258 participants in a Phase I study with an H7N9 avian influenza vaccine. The HD-MAP platform, which uses a small patch studded with thousands of microscopic projections, represents a major innovation in vaccine delivery. Unlike traditional injections, the patches are stable at higher temperatures compared to conventional liquid vaccines.

Read more: [Vaxxas Completes Enrollment for Largest Clinical Trial of High-Density Microarray Patch \(HD-MAP\) For Vaccine Delivery](https://www.vaxxas.com/en-us/news/vaxxas-completes-enrollment-for-largest-clinical-trial-of-high-density-microarray-patch-hd-map-for-vaccine-delivery)

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.

AUGUST 2025 PAPER OF THE MONTH

Proteogenomic approach to immunopeptidomics of ovarian tumors identifies shared peptide vaccine candidates

npj Vaccines **10**, 195 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41541-025-01234-6>

Authors

Chiaro J, Peltonen K, Ōunap K, Bailey A, Feola S, Wojciechowski S, Es-Haghi M, Azkargorta M, Elortza F, Russo S, Sallinen H, Anttila M, Gurvich O, Cerullo V, Kekarainen T.

Abstract

Epithelial ovarian cancers are largely comprised of immunogenic tumor sub-types with the degree of CD8+ T cell infiltration being prognostic of clinical outcome. Tumor antigen-specific T cells are identified among these infiltrating T cell populations which has spurred a decade of development towards antigen-specific immunotherapies. Despite these efforts, the success of such immunotherapies has shown to be limited. In this study, we used state-of-the art immunopeptidomics approach and a novel proteogenomic profiling method to identify potential immunogenic human leukocyte antigen class I-presented peptides from patient-derived high-grade serous ovarian cancer. From 11 patients' tumors, we identified promising candidates for their therapeutic potential. Of these, we selected the best 13 candidates and validated their immunogenicity in both healthy donors and cancer patients.

SEPTEMBER 2025 PAPER OF THE MONTH

Mining the CD4 antigen repertoire for next-generation tuberculosis vaccines

Cell. 2025 Sep 15:S0092-8674(25)00982-1. [doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2025.08.027](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2025.08.027).

Authors

Vidal SJ, Lasrado N, Tostanoski LH, Chaudhari J, Mbiwan ER, Neka GD, Strutton EA, Espinosa Perez AA, Sellers D, Barrett J, Lifton M, Wakabayashi S, Eshaghi B, Borducchi EN, Aid M, Li W, Scriba TJ, Jaklenec A, Langer R, Barouch DH.

Abstract

Tuberculosis (TB) is the leading cause of death from infectious disease worldwide, and *Bacillus Calmette-Guérin* (BCG) remains the only clinically approved vaccine. An enduring challenge in TB vaccine development is systematic antigen selection from a large repertoire of potential candidates. We performed an efficacy screen in mice of antigens that are targets of CD4 T cells in humans. We found striking heterogeneity in protective efficacy, and most of the top protective antigens are not currently in clinical development. We observed immunologic cross-reactivity among phylogenetically clustered antigens, reflecting common CD4 epitopes. We developed a trivalent mRNA vaccine consisting of PPE20 (Rv1387), EsxG (Rv0287), and PE18 (Rv1788), which augmented and exceeded BCG protection in multiple mouse models. Finally, we observed cellular immune responses to these antigens in 84% of humans exposed to *M. tuberculosis*. These data advance our understanding of TB vaccine immunology and define a vaccine concept for clinical development.

Next Generation Vaccinologists Webinar Series

2nd of October 2025

*COVID-19-related inflammation of the placenta
impedes fetal development in pregnant hamsters*

Yana Kumpانеко, MD
KU Leuven, Belgium



Building a Positive Research Culture

Prof. Dr. Adrian Liston

University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Moderator: Dr. Allegra Peletta,
Vaccine Formulation Institute, Switzerland

US & Europe

07:00 (PDT)
10:00 (EDT)
15:00 (BST)
16:00 (CEST)

South America

08:00 (Mexico)
11:00 (Argentina)

Africa

15:00 (WAT)
16:00 (SAST)
17:00 (East Africa)

Asia

19:30 (IST)
22:00 (CST)
23:00 (KST)

Australia

22:00 (AWST)
00:00 (+1, AEST)

**Thursday,
October 2nd**

Join Webinar here:
<https://zoom.us/j/91697440883>

ISV WELCOMES ITS NEWEST MEMBERS

Nicole Richardson
Engin Berber
Wasan Forsyth
Rani Sellers
Eakachai Prompetchara
Marianne Munene
Jilian Melamed
Chieko Izumi
Bingbing Sun
Phanramphoei Frantz
Beate Sanders
Syed M. Faisal
Ravi Degun
Eriko Padron-Regalado
Baik Seong
Sandra Depelsenaire
Mingtao Zeng

Arturo Liñan Torres
Mariagrazia Pizza
Edward Kreider
Nicholas Tursi
Camila Coelho
Makutiro Masavuli
Melvin Sanicas
Dong Yu
Tim Hirst
Chloe Gates
Eve Kennedy
Konstantin Pugachev
Behazine Combadiere
Simona Barzu
Abdel Oualim
Carbonnelle Caroline
Ashley Ambros



Membership Benefits



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the latest vaccine news



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Discounts



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Networking opportunities



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Opportunities



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Committees & run for
Officer & Board positions



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humanVACCINES
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