



ISV Member Newsletter

January 2026

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**DR. MANON MJ COX**

ISV President 2026–2027

The logo for the International Society for Vaccines (ISV) is displayed in a red rectangular box. The text "International Society for" is in white, and "VACCINES" is in large, bold, white capital letters. The letters "ISV" are overlaid in a large, blue, stylized font.

I am delighted to serve as your 2026 and 2027 President of the International Society for Vaccines (ISV). Our Society brings together colleagues from all over the world and aims to encourage, establish, and promote the development and use of vaccines and immuno-therapeutics to prevent and control infectious and non-infectious diseases in animals and humans.

I would like to begin by thanking our outgoing 2024 and 2025 Officers, Denise Doolan (Past President), Lenny Moise (Treasurer) and Joon Haeng Rhee (Secretary). It has been a pleasure serving with you on the executive committee. I want to thank Linda Klavinskis (now Past President) for doing a splendid job leading our Society during the past two years together with Jeffrey Ulmer, who served as our Vice Board Chair and who will return as Treasurer. In addition, I would like to welcome our new Officers: Indresh Srivastava (President-elect), and Lakshmi Krishnan (General Secretary).

I am also grateful for all the energy, insights and work done by our 2024 and 2025 departing Board Members, Neil Almond, Shan Lu, Ed Rybicki and David Weiner, most of whom will remain actively involved in our committees. I am looking forward to working with newly elected members Alejandra Capozzo, Branka Grubor-Bauk, Lars Frelin, Ab Osterhaus, and Baik-Lin Seong, in addition to our continuing Board

members Annaliesa Anderson, Danilo Casimiro, Denise Doolan, Margaret Liu, and Michael Schotsaert.

Besides the Executive Committee and Board, we are fortunate to have an amazing group of talented highly motivated individuals working alongside ISV Officers and Board Members in various committees to fulfill our mission.

I am looking forward to working with our talented administrative staff Ted Gibson and Anna Taliadoros, who are essential in supporting all our activities.

Our mission is timely as vaccines have been and continue to be the most cost-effective way to control many diseases. It is important to be open-minded and improve our understanding and response to underlying concerns from the public, some of whom are hesitant or somewhat afraid of vaccines. I am hopeful that together we will be able to create awareness for the important work we are doing and inform the public of vaccine benefits.

I am looking forward to an exciting year where we will continue with many activities inspired by our members, partners and sponsors. A few of which are highlighted below:

**Three virtual educational webinar series:**

(Talks are generally posted on [ISV -YouTube channel](#) 1 week following the live presentation)

1. The seminar series organized by former ISV President Ted Ross generally take place on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. On January 15th I presented the development of Flublok®, the first (and only) FDA approved recombinant protein-based influenza vaccine. The seminar was moderated by our President-elect Indresh Srivastava who will be speaking about the future of thermostable vaccines on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Shan Lu, one of ISV's Founders and past President will be updating us at the February 11th seminar on his HIV vaccine development. I invite you to tune in or check out the recorded seminars on ISV's Youtube channel.
2. Our monthly next generation vaccinologists webinar organized by the NextGen Committee generally takes place on the first Thursday of the month and features two speakers in different stages of their career.
3. The Vaccine Industry Committee will continue to host its 2-hour quarterly mini-symposia featuring hot topics. The first one - a mini symposium organized by Dr. Nnenna Chime (Sanofi) covered human MetaPneumoVirus developments, took place on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and included presentations by Professor Dr. Ab Osterhaus, Dr. Michael Kishko and Dr. Stefan Gravenstein. The second one - scheduled for

April 23<sup>rd</sup> - is organized by Corey Fang (AstraZeneca) and will a spotlight AI and Clinical development within the Vaccine space.

Preparations for our next **in-person Annual Congress** taking place in Antwerp, Belgium (October 12 -14) are in full swing. Conference chair Michael Schotsaert and co-chairs Lakshmi Krishnan and Isabel Leroux-Roels are working hard to put together an exciting program. Updates on the Congress will be posted regularly on the [ISV website](#).

We will continue to update our community on our activities through our **bi-monthly Newsletter** edited by Ebony Gary that will feature a regular update by me, elected papers of the previous months, spotlight profile(s), committee update(s), congress update, and selected topics of interest.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our sponsors, partners, donors! Your generous support enables us to sustain our annual activities and continue connecting vaccinologists at all stages of their careers with the latest developments in vaccinology.

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [manoncox@isv-online.org](mailto:manoncox@isv-online.org).



**EBONY GARY**  
ISV Newsletter Editor

International  
**ISV**  
for  
**VACCINES**

Happy New Year! As editor, my goal remains to amplify the achievements of our members, share advances across the vaccinology space, and strengthen the sense of connection that makes ISV such a uniquely supportive international community. This newsletter is very much a community-driven effort, and I warmly encourage you to reach out with ideas, whether that's member highlights, opinion pieces, meeting reports, or perspectives you'd like to see featured in future issues, particularly from trainees and early-career investigators!

To help you plan ahead for the rest of 2026, here is a short list of upcoming vaccine- and immunology-focused meetings and associated abstract deadlines (for other relevant conferences please see *Vaccine News Flash*):


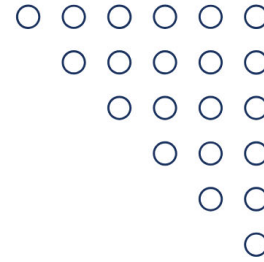
- **World Vaccine Congress** (March 31- April 2, 2026, Washington, DC, USA)
- **Keystone Symposia: Vaccinology** (May 4-7 2026, Killarney, Ireland) Poster Abstract deadline: **April 13, 2026**
- **Biotherapeutics and Vaccines Development** (March 7-8, 2026, Ventura, CA) A Gordon research conference. Applications deadline: **February 8, 2026**

As conference calendars are always evolving, please feel free to share additional meetings or deadline updates for inclusion in future newsletters.


I look forward to continuing to build this newsletter together and to hearing your ideas. You can always reach me at [Newseditor@isv-online.org](mailto:Newseditor@isv-online.org).

Warm regards,  
**Ebony N. Gary, PhD**  
Editor, ISV Newsletter

# 2026-2027 ISV BOARD



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Novovax  
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**Michael Schotsaert**  
Ichan School of Medicine, Mount Sinai (Co-Chair)



## ISV SPOTLIGHT



**Indresh Srivastava**

*ISV President-Elect*

*Vice President, Vaccine Development Novavax*

In this newsletter, we are pleased to highlight **Indresh Srivastava**, Vice President of Process and Formulation Development at Moderna, whose work sits at the critical interface of innovation, scalability, and impact in modern vaccine development.

In his current role, Dr. Srivastava leads the development of processes and formulations for early-phase vaccine candidates while also driving continuous improvement for late-stage programs. This position places him at a unique crossroads between discovery and delivery, enabling close collaboration with both Research and Manufacturing teams. By bridging these traditionally distinct domains, his work helps ensure that scientific innovation can be translated into robust, scalable vaccine products.

Dr. Srivastava's path into vaccinology was shaped by a deeply held belief that *prevention is better than cure*. Vaccines, he notes, prepare the immune system in advance, without disrupting quality of life, whereas therapeutics are typically administered only after illness has already taken hold. Early exposure to disease can be life-threatening for some, while others may recover only with significant medical intervention. Vaccines, by contrast, have protected millions from deadly and debilitating diseases such as COVID-19, influenza, HPV, hepatitis B, and malaria, and have eliminated or dramatically reduced diseases including polio, chickenpox, measles, mumps, and rubella. Motivated by this profound public health impact, he chose early in his career to focus on vaccines. Along the way, he also stepped outside his comfort zone to work in malaria drug development, an experience he found both rewarding and formative, broadening his perspective on therapeutic development.

Today, Dr. Srivastava is particularly excited by early-phase vaccine projects, where process and formulation development offer continual opportunities to deepen his understanding of immunology. He is especially interested in how immune responses can be shaped and optimized through adjuvants and innovative formulation strategies.

Looking ahead, he identifies both opportunity and challenge in the current vaccine landscape. Many approved pediatric vaccines still rely on conventional technologies, presenting a clear opening to apply modern platforms that could improve vaccine quality, extend shelf life, and reduce cost of goods. At the same time, he emphasizes the importance of sustained investment in the development and rigorous evaluation of novel adjuvants, which remain essential for advancing next-generation vaccines.

For early-career vaccinologists, Dr. Srivastava offers straightforward but powerful advice: *Do not hesitate to share your thoughts, speak up, ask questions, and publish your work. Most importantly, remain persistent and do not get discouraged by challenges along the way.*

Outside the lab, Dr. Srivastava enjoys watching sports, especially cricket and basketball, with his son. He is also an avid reader of legal and science fiction (with the occasional non-fiction title mixed in) and loves downtime spent with his dog.



**AWARD APPLICATIONS & ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS  
TO OPEN IN FEBRUARY**

**[WWW.ISV-ONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.ISV-ONLINE.ORG)**

**Start VISA Applications Now!**

*(can take up to 5-6 months)*

*Click below links for further information:*

[General Explanation](#)

[Guide to Obtain a Visa C](#)

## 2025 ISV ANNUAL CONGRESS AWARD REPORTS

*(experiences from two recipients are highlighted below)*



**Recipient Name:** Arturo Liñan-Torres

**Award Title:** 2025 LMIC Congress Travel Award

**Affiliation / Institution:** Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM),  
*Mexico*

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### 1. Congress Summary

Attending the ISV 2025 Congress in South Africa was an exceptional experience. The plenary session “*Structure-Based Vaccine Design*” and presentations on mRNA vaccine development were particularly relevant to my PhD research on LNP-mRNA formulations. Meeting Nobel Laureate Drew Weissman was a highlight and a great source of motivation. I presented my work during the “*Bright Sparks in Vaccinology*” PhD Student Session, where it received third place—an encouraging recognition for

my research group at UNAM. The event also provided valuable networking opportunities with scientists from different regions and institutions.

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## **2. Educational Benefits**

The Congress expanded my understanding of recent advances in vaccine platforms, adjuvant design, and global health strategies. Discussions with experts helped me refine my experimental approaches and gain insight into how translational research bridges discovery and implementation in resource-limited settings.

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## **3. Collaborative or Networking Outcomes**

I established contacts with several researchers in vaccinology, leading to potential collaborations. Notably, the bioinformatics pipeline developed by our group will be applied in a project led by a researcher from Zimbabwe, whom I met during the Congress.

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## **4. Career Impact**

Participating in the ISV 2025 Congress strengthened my commitment to vaccine research and inspired me to pursue postdoctoral work in mRNA vaccine design. The exposure to cutting-edge science and interaction with global leaders provided clarity on future research directions and career goals.

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## **5. Quote / Testimonial**

Attending the ISV 2025 Congress was an inspiring and transformative experience that deepened my knowledge and opened new international collaborations in vaccinology.



**Recipient Name:** Juan García-Bernalt Diego

**Award Title:** 2025 Non-LMIC Travel Award

**Affiliation / Institution:** Instituto de Investigación Hospital 12 de Octubre (imas12)

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### 1. Congress Summary

Attending the 2025 ISV Annual Congress in Stellenbosch was an exceptional experience, both scientifically and personally. The meeting brought together an international community of vaccinologists, featuring truly inspiring lectures from leading scientists such as Drew Weissman, Bali Pulendran, Hans Langedijk, John Tsang or Vind Balachandran amongst many others, covering topics ranging from systems vaccinology and mRNA platforms to emerging pathogens and climate-amplified diseases

Throughout the three days, I attended multiple sessions aligned with my research interests, with some of my highlights being: “Systems Approaches to Next Generation Vaccines”, “Defending the Future: Vaccines, Emerging Threats and One Health” or “Unlocking immunity: Mechanistic insights driving Next Gen Vaccine design”. Discussions around Ebola, SARS-CoV-2 and mpox as well as adjuvant design and immune polarization were particularly relevant to my current projects. The setting in Stellenbosch, combined with a highly focused scientific program, created an ideal

environment for meaningful interactions and idea exchange.

A highlight of my participation was delivering my oral presentation in the “Bright Sparks” in Vaccinology ECR session, where I was grateful to present our work on oral vaccine development against Ebola. I was honoured to receive the 2nd Place Prize for Best Bright Sparks Oral Presentation for Early Career Researchers, which was an important recognition of the impact and novelty of my work.

Beyond the sessions, the congress provided excellent networking opportunities during the cocktail event, poster sessions, and the Gala Dinner at Cavalli Wine Estate. I engaged in productive discussions with researchers from Europe, Africa, and North America, including potential future collaborators working on filoviruses, outbreak preparedness and adjuvant development.

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## **2. Educational Benefits**

The congress significantly broadened my understanding of cutting-edge vaccine technologies and translational strategies. The talks on AI-driven protein engineering, systems human immunology, and next-generation RNA platforms provided conceptual and methodological insights directly applicable to my own research. I gained a clearer perspective on how vaccine design decisions translate into immunogenicity and clinical performance, improving my ability to plan experiments and holistic vaccine development pipelines.

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## **3. Collaborative or Networking Outcomes**

During the meeting, I established new contacts with researchers from Belgium, Mexico, South Africa, US, UK and even my own country, Spain, working on complementary approaches my research, including adjuvant development, deep immunological profiling of vaccine responses or animal models unavailable in my research institute. Several discussions opened the door to potential collaborations, particularly around filovirus vaccine development, adjuvant testing, Fc-functions of filovirus-binding antibodies and mechanistic analysis of oral vaccine responses. We agreed to continue exchanging data and exploring joint grant applications and started preparing some MTA agreements to share key reagents in the coming months.

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## **4. Career Impact**

Receiving the 2025 Non-LMIC Travel Award, together with the ECR oral presentation award at such a prestigious international congress has strengthened my scientific visibility and credibility within the vaccinology community. Exposure to leaders in the field helped me and inspired me to refine my long-term research goals and identify

new strategic directions. The congress also gave me a clearer view of how my work fits into the broader global vaccine development landscape, and reinforced my motivation to pursue an independent research trajectory focused on vaccine development for emerging viruses.

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### **5. Quote / Testimonial**

Attending the ISV 2025 Congress in Stellenbosch was an inspiring and career-defining experience. I was honoured to present my work and receive recognition among world-leading experts, reinforcing my commitment to advancing vaccine research. The open scientific discussions, collaborative atmosphere and ISV community have already opened new doors for future projects.

## **VACCINE NEWS FLASH**



**Manon Cox**

*ISV President*

*NextWaveBio*

**Pfizer** announced \$530M deal to use **Novavax's** vaccine adjuvant tech on 2 programs, paying \$30M to use Novavax's adjuvant technology to improve the efficacy of two

undisclosed vaccine programs. The adjuvant, Matrix-M, is designed to trigger an immune response by T cells. **Sanofi** previously secured a nonexclusive license to use Matrix-M as part of a wider-ranging deal to co-commercialize Novavax's COVID-19 shot Nuvaxovid back in 2024.

**Merck-Moderna** cancer vaccine sustained 49% melanoma risk reduction at 5 years

The five-year results come from a phase 2b study that tested Moderna's personalized cancer vaccine in combination with Merck's Keytruda in people with high-risk melanoma after complete resection. Compared to single-agent Keytruda, the combination reduced the risk of recurrence or death by 44% after two years and by 49% after three years.

### **Herpes Zoster: Shingrex Vaccine**

Shingles, also called herpes zoster, is a painful, blistering skin rash caused by the reactivation of the chickenpox virus, or varicella zoster. Anyone who has had chickenpox is at risk of shingles; while shingles can occur at younger ages, the risk is higher for those 50 and older and immunocompromised individuals.

Researchers examined how shingles vaccination affected several aspects of biological aging in more than 3,800 study participants who were age 70 and older in 2016. Those who received the shingles vaccine showed slower overall biological aging on average in comparison to unvaccinated individuals. The study, "Association between shingles vaccination and slower biological aging: Evidence from a U.S. population-based cohort study," is published in the Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences.

### **Measles:**

The Global Virus Network (GVN), representing eminent human and animal virologists from more than 90 Centers of Excellence and Affiliates in over 40 countries dedicated to advancing research, collaboration, and pandemic preparedness, expresses deep concern regarding the ongoing resurgence of measles in the United States and around the globe.

In 2025, the United States experienced its highest number of measles cases in more than 30 years, with more than 2,242 confirmed cases across 45 states and at least 11% of patients requiring hospitalization, including cases among young children, and three confirmed deaths, a dramatic increase compared to recent years.

Collective data indicate that measles outbreaks will continue into early 2026, with states such as South Carolina reporting hundreds of active cases in localized

outbreaks. Public health officials warn that the U.S., like Canada, may soon lose its long-held measles elimination status if transmission persists.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that the 2025 total represents a significant resurgence compared to prior years, and many outbreaks have been linked to low vaccination coverage and international travel.

### **Relevant Upcoming Conferences of Interest**



#### **Vaccine Technology X - April 12-17, 2026 - Porto, Portugal**

This conference will bring together leaders in academia, industry, government and not-for-profit global health organizations to explore groundbreaking advancements and their real-world applications. From next-generation platforms and nucleic acid-based vaccines to cutting-edge bioprocessing breakthroughs, AI integration, and sustainable practices, attendees will gain unparalleled insights into how the industry is rapidly evolving to meet global health challenges.



#### **ISPPD-14 – May 17-21, 2026 - Copenhagen**

14TH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PNEUMONIA & PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASES (ISPPD): Coming Together In The Fight Against Pneumonia & Pneumococcal Diseases. The ISPPD Biennial Meeting is the premier global scientific event devoted to the exchange, advancement, and dissemination of the latest discoveries in basic science, microbiology, epidemiology, treatment, and prevention of pneumonia and pneumococcal diseases



## **Options for the Control of Influenza XIII Conference (ISRV) –**

**August 30 -September 2, Washington DC**

The Options conference is the largest global scientific meeting focused on influenza prevention, control, and treatment. As with recent Options meetings, there will also be sessions about other respiratory viruses. In 2026, we will once again bring together the world's leading experts in virology, clinical care, public health, and vaccine research to share the latest evidence, foster collaboration, and advance the global response to influenza.

**For more news on vaccines, subscribe to the following Newsletters of Interest:**

<https://www.fiercebiotech.com/>

[Vaccines News -- ScienceDaily](#)

<https://medicalxpress.com/news>

[STAT Health - Science, medicine and healthcare news](#)

[Newsletters from Immunization Coalitions – National Network of Immunization Coalitions](#)

[News - Global Virus Network](#)

## **UPCOMING WEBINARS**

5 February 2026

*Next-Generation Newborn Vaccines for Tuberculosis Prevention*

**Dr. Isaac Sakala**

Centenary Institute, Australia



*Immunopeptidomics-based design of mRNA vaccine formulations against Mycobacterium tuberculosis*

**Dr. Laura van Moortel**

VIB, Belgium



**Moderator: Alcidia Ramos Barros,**  
University of Geneva

US & Europe

01:00 (PST)  
04:00 (EST)  
09:00 (GMT)  
10:00 (CET)

South America

03:00 (CST)  
06:00 (ART)

Africa

10:00 (WAT)  
11:00 (SAST)  
12:00 (East Africa)

Asia

14:30 (IST)  
17:00 (CST)  
18:00 (KST)

Australia

17:00 (AWST)  
19:00 (AEST)  
20:00 (AEDT)

**Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**

Join Webinar here:

<https://zoom.us/j/99775409610>

Wednesday, 11 February



*HIV Vaccines Beyond Neutralizing Antibodies*

**Dr. Shan Lu,** UMASS CHAN Medical School / Worcester HIV Vaccine (WHV)

**Moderator: TBC**

US & Europe

08:00 (PDT)  
11:00 (EDT)  
16:00 (GMT)  
17:00 (CET)

South America

10:00 (Mexico)  
13:00 (Argentina)

Africa

17:00 (West Africa)  
18:00 (South Africa)  
19:00 (East Africa)

Asia

21:30 (IST)  
00:00 (CST) – 15 Jan  
01:00 (KST) – 15 Jan

Australia

00:00 (AWST) – 15 Jan  
02:00 (AEST) – 15 Jan  
03:00 (AEDT) – 15 Jan

Join Here:

<https://zoom.us/j/95130650668>

**NextGen  
Webinar**

*Next-Generation Newborn Vaccines for  
Tuberculosis Prevention*

**Isaac Sakala**, Australian National University

◆  
*Immunopeptidomics-based design of  
mRNA vaccine formulations against  
Mycobacterium tuberculosis*

**Laura Van Moortel**, VIB, Ghent

**Feb**

**5**

**ISV  
Webinar**

*HIV Vaccines Beyond Neutralizing  
Antibodies*

**Shan Lu**, UMASS Chan Medical School  
and Worcester HIV Vaccine (WHV)

**Feb**

**11**

**NextGen  
Webinar**

*Title TBC*

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

◆  
*Title TBC*

**Inès Co Rivès**, Cork University, Ireland

**Mar**

**5**

**ISV  
Webinar**

*Breaking the Cold Chain: The  
Future of Thermostable Vaccines*

**Indresh Srivastava**, Vice President,  
Vaccine Development Novavax

**Mar**

**11**

**Mini-Symposium**

*AI use in Vaccine Development*

Apr  
**23**

**NextGen Webinar**

*Title TBC*

**Alejandra Capozzo**, Center for Advanced Studies in Human and Health Sciences Interamerican Open University

*Title TBC*

**Arturo Liñan Torres**, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

May  
**7**

**ISV Webinar**

*Title TBC*

**Nathalie Garcon**, N3JConsulting

May  
**13**

**ISV Webinar**

*Use of Vaccines and Monoclonal Antibodies to Prevent Epstein-Barr Virus Infection and Disease*

**Jeffrey Cohen**, US National Institutes of Health, USA

Jun  
**10**

**humanVACCINES  
& IMMUNOTHERAPEUTICS**

## **2025 ISV Congress Special Issue by HV&I**

The Open Access journal [Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics](#) is organizing, together with Dr. Ed Rybicki, the ISV Congress special issue. HV&I has published seven special issues from the ISV Congress in the past years. We encourage you to contribute your paper and take advantage of a 15% APC discount.

Send your proposal to, and get more information from Dr. Adam Weiss ([adam.c.weiss@taylorandfrancis.com](mailto:adam.c.weiss@taylorandfrancis.com)) by **31 March 2026**.

### **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.

#### **DECEMBER 2025 PAPER OF THE MONTH**

**[Assessing AI's cognitive abilities for scientific discovery in the field of systems vaccinology.](#)**

Sci Immunol. 2025 Dec 5;10(114):eadx1794. doi: 10.1126/sciimmunol.adx1794. Epub 2025 Dec 5. PMID: 41348860.

### **Authors**

Rodriguez-Coffinet L, Kazmin D, Pulendran B.

### **Abstract**

The advent of large language models (LLMs) has transformed academic research by accelerating hypothesis generation and data analysis. LLMs can help researchers uncover patterns and insights from vast datasets to foster innovative scientific discovery. However, questions arise regarding the creative capacity of artificial intelligence (AI), especially in biologically complex fields such as vaccinology. This study evaluates the ability of LLMs to generate hypotheses, design experiments, and infer broader biological principles through a proposed framework called "The Creation Game." Using three case studies-general control nonderepressible 2 (GCN2)'s role in dendritic cell antigen presentation via stress response, sterol regulatory element-binding protein (SREBP)'s influence on metabolic responses, and Toll-like receptor 5 (TLR5)'s connection to microbiota-driven vaccine efficacy-we assessed AI's accuracy, logic, and creativity. The findings underscore the potential of LLMs to accelerate vaccine research while emphasizing the importance of ethical oversight. By complementing human creativity, AI could potentially transform hypothesis-driven science, paving the way for tailored vaccination strategies and deeper insights into human immunity.

## **JANUARY 2026 PAPER OF THE MONTH**

### **Two-year persistence of MERS-CoV-specific antibody and T cell responses after MVA-MERS-S vaccination in healthy adults**

*Nat Commun* **17**, 480 (2026)

### **Authors**

Mayer, L., Fathi, A., Weichel, HM. *et al.*

### **Abstract**

MVA-MERS-S, a vaccine candidate against Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), was recently evaluated in a randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind phase 1b clinical trial to assess its safety, immunogenicity, and optimal dosing in healthy adults in Hamburg and Rotterdam. A three-dose regimen was safe and elicited robust spike-specific antibody responses. We extended this trial to assess the two-year

durability of MERS-CoV-specific antibody and T cell responses in 48 study participants of the Hamburg cohort. Our findings show that immune responses remain detectable for at least 24 months after the third vaccination. Antibodies persisted at levels comparable to the peak response observed after the second vaccination and were able to cross-neutralize MERS-CoV spike mutants. Although the immune correlates of protection against MERS remain unknown, the observed durability of humoral and cellular immune responses supports the potential of MVA-MERS-S as a promising MERS vaccine candidate and highlights the importance of a booster dose in sustaining long-term immunity.

## ISV NEW MEMBERS

- Kelvin Mokaya Abuga
- Abdullahi Alfa
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- Anifrid Mahenge
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- Siphe Mpaxa
- Silondoloze Mtanjana
- Agnes Natukunda
- Nebangwa Derrick Neba
- Natalie Nel

- Luka Cicin-Sain
- Sanele Cingo
- Ines Co Rives
- Welba Dansala
- Giovanna de Brito Carneiro
- Tsafack Desmon Toutou
- Dominika Dmowska-Pawlowska
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- Victoria Emina
- Louis Ezediuno
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- Saori Iwase
- Chinedu Iwu
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- Merrylyn M. Sande
- Keamogetswe Sesoko
- Faiaz Shaik Abdool
- Malook V. Singh
- Jascha Gil Sison
- Oluwaseun Taofeek
- Mante Thobejane
- Brian Ward
- Oghenebrume Wariri
- Leah Whittle
- Nick Willcox
- Abubakar Woziri
- Mamadou Samb YADE
- Heejin Yun
- Marija Zaric
- Ludoviko Zirimenya

*To apply for the ISV Member benefit of a 15% discount to the Article Publishing Charge for the open access journal, Human Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics, contact [info@isv-online.org](mailto:info@isv-online.org) to be provided with the guide and instructions. (A 50% discount is applicable to scientists from lower-middle-income countries; researchers from low-income countries are eligible for a full waiver (100% discount)).*

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ISV on Bluesky

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OTHER SUPPORT



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network 

  
**DIAGNOSTECH**

 **SEPARATIONS**  
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