



ISV Member Newsletter

July 2026

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**DR. MANON MJ COX**

ISV President 2026–2027

I would like to congratulate our ISV Newsletter Editor and member of various ISV Committees **Ebony Gary** for being selected to participate in Vaccine's 2026/2027 Vaccine Young Investigator Program (YIP)! This highly selective program aims to support the next generation of outstanding vaccinologists through bi-monthly calls with the Editors-in-Chief, training sessions on relevant topics, mentoring by the journal Editors re: the peer-review process, participation in the planning meetings for the annual Vaccine Congress including free registration. **Ebony**: Congrats once again, this is a wonderful accomplishment!

ISV received a request for a **BBC televised interview** by Christian Frazier on the impact of Artificial Intelligence on vaccine development. While brief, the interview did put ISV in the spotlight. In addition, we responded to a request from Cindy Dubin (Senior Editor, **Pharma Circle**) on progress in plant derived vaccines and our comments were included in her report.

Thanks to generous support from the **Gates Foundation**, **CEPI**, **IVI** and generous contributions of various individual donors, companies and other supporting organizations the Society has been able to extend 39 awards to students and ECR's from LMIC countries enabling them to attend the 2026 ISV Annual Congress. The ISV Board was also able to increase its support to students and ECR's from remaining countries to 20.

Events during the past couple of months included a seminar by **Jeffrey Cohen** from US National Institutes of Health (NIH) on June 10, who spoke about the use of vaccines and monoclonal antibodies to prevent Epstein-Barr Virus infection and disease. Sita Awasthi from our ISV Outreach & Public Engagement Committee moderated this seminar. Our July 8 Seminar Genome-guided Development of a T Cell Vaccine Against Malaria by

Denise Doolan from The University of Queensland (ISV Board Vice Chair /ISV Global Collaboration and Partnerships Committee was moderated by Branka Grubor-Bauk from Adelaide University (ISV Board Member and ISV Outreach & Public Engagement Committee).

The NextGen Committee organized seminars on June 4th and July 2th (each featuring two speakers at different career stages). A detailed overview of their activities can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

In addition, we hosted our third mini-symposium this year on July 23rd, organized by Jeff Ulmer and Danilo Casimero from our Industry Interaction Committee. Central in

this symposium were vaccines against communicable and non-communicable diseases, including long-covid, acne, cancer and auto-immune disease. [You may view recording here.](#)

Note that our event calendar contains details on future events and that most of our virtual seminars can be viewed on the [ISV YouTube Channel](#) for those that were unable to join live.

We are delighted that **Annaliesa Anderson** (Chief Vaccine Officer, Pfizer Inc) and **Peter Marks**, (Senior Vice President, Molecule Discovery and Head of Infectious Disease, Lilly Research Laboratories) have agreed to provide keynote addresses at our **in-person 2026 Congress** (Antwerp, Belgium, October 12 -14). The preliminary program and confirmed speakers can be found on our [website](#). In addition, we opened the portal for submission of late breaker abstracts for oral and/or poster presentation and encourage you to register before **July 31, 2026**, when the early bird registration deadline expires.

The Special Issue on the **2025 Congress by Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics** is well under way thanks to efforts by Adam Weiss and Sita Awasthi. Three manuscripts have been submitted and 12 more pending, expected before year-end.

I would like to draw your attention to three ISV portraits recently published by HV&I:

Linda Klavinskis (ISV President Emeritus and Fellow)
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21645515.2026.2687897>

Ab Osterhaus (ISV Board Member and Fellow)
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21645515.2026.2670850>

Michael Schotsaert (ISV Board Member and 2026 Congress Chair)
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21645515.2026.2684159>

The **ISV 2027 Congress** chaired by Lakshmi Krishnan will take place in Vancouver (Westin Bayshore, October 2-6) and feature an Indian pre-conference day co-organized by **Bharat Biotech**.

In this Newsletter series **Vaccine Impact Stories** Eda Vester (Pharmacist in South Africa) shares what has made her a vaccine enthusiast. Her experience brings the true value and importance of vaccines home. From the moment that I saw Eda's Linked-in post sharing excitement about the introduction of a pentavalent pediatric vaccine in SA I wanted her to bring her world to us. If you are interested in sharing your story, please let us know!

We are working to strengthen public affairs aspects linked to vaccines and vaccination. In this spirit, I draw your attention to our summer seminar on August 10 and our first dive into public affairs by **Ruxandra Draghia-Akli** (Board Chair, INTREPID Alliance) who will address Vaccine confidence - facts, fiction, perception.

I extend a special **Thank You** to our sponsors and donors. Our work would not be possible without your support! In this Newsletter you can read what **Arcturus** is all about and of course I thank **Ted Gibson** for fantastic administrative support and keeping all activities rolling even during this vacation period.

For questions, suggestions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to me at manoncox@isv-online.org.



2026 ISV ANNUAL CONGRESS
LATE BREAKER ABSTRACTS
DEADLINE: 1 SEPTEMBER 2026
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION
DEADLINE: 31 JULY 2026
DRAFT PROGRAM AVAILABLE!

Late Breaker Abstracts are being accepted until **1 September 2026**.

Early Bird Registration closes on **31 July 2026** so please register to take advantage of our **Reduced Rates!**

Draft Program for the Congress and Pre-Congress Workshop are available [HERE](#). Please be sure to check back for more exciting updates.

In order to submit your late breaker abstract or register for the Congress, you must create a Congress User Profile. All your abstract submissions and registration will be managed through this profile. Please click below or visit [website](#) to create your profile.

Please contact Annick Hauchart Mannaerts via a.mannaerts@ads-insight.com if you have any questions.

Create Congress User Profile

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO ISV

Funds are used to support the society's programming initiatives focused on scientific information exchange and enabling the participation of under-represented researchers, particularly from low-income countries.

Donate

ISV SPOTLIGHT



Ted Ross, *PhD*

Global Director of Vaccine Development
Cleveland Clinic Florida Research & Innovation Center, *USA*
ISV Scientific Webinar Steering Sub-Committee

Piece edited by ISV Newsletter Editor Ebony Gary

In this issue, we are pleased to feature Dr. Ted Ross, Director of Global Vaccine Development, whose career has been dedicated to advancing next-generation vaccines against influenza and other viral pathogens. Through decades of work spanning DNA vaccines, computational antigen design, and universal influenza vaccine development, Dr. Ross has helped shape innovative approaches to one of vaccinology's most enduring challenges.

Dr. Ross serves as Global Director of Vaccine Development at [Cleveland Clinic](#), where he leads efforts to develop broadly protective vaccines against influenza and other viral pathogens. His work combines immunology, virology, and computational approaches to design vaccine antigens capable of eliciting broad and durable protection against rapidly evolving viruses.

His journey into vaccinology began in 1997 when he joined the Emory Vaccine Center as a postdoctoral fellow. There, he investigated the use of plasmid DNA-encoded antigens in the context of HIV vaccine development, an experience that launched a career devoted to vaccine research and development. Today, Dr. Ross is particularly excited about the progress of the Computationally Optimized Broadly Reactive Antigen (COBRA) vaccine platform. Developed to overcome the continual antigenic evolution of influenza viruses, COBRA technology has generated universal influenza vaccine candidates that will enter Phase I clinical trials in early 2027 through a partnership with the NIH and NIAID. Advancing these candidates into the clinic represents a significant

milestone toward the long-standing goal of developing a broadly protective influenza vaccine.

When asked about the greatest challenge facing vaccinology today, Dr. Ross points to the growing impact of vaccine misinformation. While vaccines remain among the most significant achievements in public health, misinformation and declining confidence threaten their ability to protect communities worldwide. He also emphasizes the importance of sustained investment in vaccine research, not only to combat infectious diseases, but also to advance vaccines for cancer and other conditions while improving vaccine delivery, effectiveness, and global accessibility and highlights the threat to vaccine funding that is posed by misinformation.

For early-career vaccinologists, Dr. Ross encourages versatility, “Train in diverse areas of R&D and offer yourself as many opportunities as you can.” He advises young investigators to seek diverse research experiences, embrace opportunities across different areas of vaccine R&D, and to actively “read, write, and present in as many forums as possible”. Equally important, he recommends engaging with experienced scientists to learn from their careers and build relationships that can help shape one's own professional journey.

Outside the laboratory, Dr. Ross finds balance in his garden. He enjoys spending much of his free time cultivating plants, describing gardening as both a creative outlet and a continual lesson in patience. Watching plants grow, he notes, is a deeply rewarding reminder that meaningful progress often comes through steady care and persistence. “The rewards are worth the effort.”

We thank Dr. Ross for sharing his perspective with the ISV community and for his continued contributions to advancing broadly protective vaccines for emerging and persistent viral threats.

VACCINE VANGUARD

- **ISV wishes to thank all its sponsors and donors.**
Today we highlight:



Founded in 2013 and based in San Diego, California, Arcturus Therapeutics Holdings Inc. (Nasdaq: ARCT) is a messenger RNA medicines company focused on the development of liver and respiratory rare disease therapeutics with enabling technologies: (i) LUNAR® lipid-mediated delivery, (ii) STARR® mRNA technology (sa-mRNA) and (iii) mRNA drug substance along with drug product manufacturing expertise. Arcturus developed KOSTAIVE®, the first self-amplifying messenger RNA (sa-mRNA) COVID vaccine in the world to be approved. Arcturus has an ongoing global collaboration with CSL Seqirus, U.S. BARDA for pandemic flu and a joint venture in Japan, ARCALIS, focused on the manufacture of mRNA vaccines and therapeutics. Arcturus' pipeline includes RNA therapeutic candidates to potentially treat cystic fibrosis (CF) and ornithine transcarbamylase (OTC) deficiency along with its partnered mRNA vaccine programs for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) and influenza. Arcturus' versatile RNA therapeutics platforms can be applied toward multiple types of nucleic acid medicines including messenger RNA, small interfering RNA (siRNA), circular RNA, antisense RNA, self-amplifying RNA, DNA, and gene editing therapeutics. Arcturus' technologies are covered by its extensive patent portfolio (over 500 patents and patent applications in the U.S., Europe, Japan, China, and other countries). For more information visit www.ArcturusRx.com.

VACCINE IMPACT STORY



Eda Verster

South African Society of Clinical Pharmacy, *South Africa*
Chairperson (2025 -2027)

For me, vaccine impact is not an abstract public-health concept; it is something I have seen in pharmacies, rural clinics, and hospital wards across South Africa. My work has shown me that vaccination protects far more than individual patients: it protects families, preserves scarce healthcare resources, and strengthens communities.

I am a pharmacist and clinical-pharmacy enthusiast in South Africa, and my commitment to vaccines has grown from early practical training into years of seeing how vaccination, or the lack of it, affects communities and health systems.

My understanding of vaccine impact began in practice. While working at my first community pharmacy in Pretoria, I attended a vaccination course where I learned not only how to administer vaccines, but also why immunization schedules matter and how routine vaccination reduces disease burden across populations.

My time with an NGO in Mpumalanga brought me face to face with the deeper social consequences of infectious disease. There, I cared for patients in an HIV- and TB-affected community and saw children left without caregivers because of adult mortality. These are the same communities that most need equitable access to vaccines and preventive services.

The clinical consequences of missed or unaffordable vaccinations are observed in the private hospital setting I now work in. As recently as last year, we treated a patient in the ICU with Tetanus, a preventable disease when vaccination is available and delivered appropriately, which reminded our team how a single avoidable case can demand high-cost, intensive care resources.

Vaccination is one of our strongest tools to curb antimicrobial resistance: by preventing vaccine-preventable infections, we reduce antibiotic use and hospital admissions that drive resistant organisms. In South Africa, routine immunization has contributed to major reductions in under-5 mortality over recent decades, alongside other public-health improvements.

I have also reflected publicly on the importance of combination vaccines such as pentavalent vaccine, because availability matters as much as innovation. When one vaccine protects against multiple serious childhood infections, it simplifies schedules, reduces missed opportunities, and supports better coverage for children and caregivers. For South Africa, reliable access to pentavalent vaccine is therefore not only a procurement issue; it is an equity issue, a child-health issue, and a practical example of how supply continuity can determine whether vaccine science becomes real-world protection.

The need for next-generation vaccines is equally urgent. South Africa still faces intersecting burdens of TB, HIV and malaria risk in affected regions, yet we do not have widely available, programmatic vaccines that can prevent TB in adolescents and adults, prevent HIV infection, or protect communities at scale from malaria. BCG remains vital for infants, but it is not enough to end TB transmission; HIV prevention has advanced, but a true HIV vaccine remains unavailable; and malaria vaccines are

being introduced in some African countries but are not yet part of routine access in South Africa. For communities already carrying a heavy infectious-disease burden, these gaps show why vaccine research, local preparedness, affordability and equitable rollout must remain global priorities.

It's encouraging to see new tools become available locally, for example, the recent introduction of RSV vaccines in South Africa, but their high price places them out of reach for most people, worsening inequity. Ensuring affordability and access must be part of any meaningful scale-up. Otherwise, innovation will not translate into population-level benefit.

As a pharmacist, I see daily how quality vaccines, clear schedules, and reliable supply chains protect individuals, preserve healthcare resources, and support antimicrobial stewardship. My message to the vaccinology community is simple: equitable access must remain central to vaccine science, policy, pricing and implementation so that lifesaving vaccines reach the people who need them most.

Vaccines protect patients and preserve our health system, but only when they are affordable, available, and delivered with equity.

[South African Society of Clinical Pharmacy.](#)

ISV COMMITTEE UPDATE



As we reach the halfway point of 2026, the **Next Generation of Vaccinologists (NextGenVacc, NGV)** committee continues to deliver an engaging **monthly webinar series** dedicated to supporting early-career researchers (ECRs) around the world. Featuring speakers from across the globe, these sessions combine cutting-edge science with professional development opportunities, advancing our mission to provide an inclusive international platform where emerging vaccinologists can learn, connect, and thrive.

This year, our Early Career speakers have showcased an impressive breadth of innovation spanning vaccine platforms, immunology, and vaccine delivery technologies. Complementing these scientific presentations, our expert speaker series has provided ECRs with valuable insights into navigating the broader vaccine research and development landscape.

The impact of these webinars continues to grow. In 2026, we have welcomed an average of more than 90 attendees per session, with nearly 180 participants joining our June webinar featuring **Arturo Linan Torres (UNA, Mexico)** and **Dr Rory de Vries (Erasmus University, The Netherlands)**. These strong attendance numbers reflect the value of creating opportunities for ECRs to share their research, exchange ideas, and build international networks. Together, these webinars have fostered a dynamic and supportive environment for early-career vaccinologists, encouraging scientific discussion, professional growth, and global collaboration. We are grateful to all speakers and participants who have helped make 2026 such an inspiring year for the NextGenVacc community, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the months ahead. Stay tuned for next month's webinar, which will feature case studies on **Zika vaccine development** and **human vaccine development against Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)**.

We are also pleased to announce a **special September webinar** dedicated to the **ISV Mentoring Program**. During this session, mentors and mentees will share their experiences and discuss the benefits and impact the program has had on their professional development and career journeys.

Looking ahead, we are excited to connect with many of you at the **ISV Congress in Antwerp (12-14 October 2026)**. At least five members of the NextGenVacc committee will be attending, and plans are underway for dedicated ECR networking events. We will share further details through our social media channels as they become available. If you are attending the Congress, we also invite you to visit us at our poster stand.

Finally, to round off the year, our previously planned AI workshop will be replaced by an **Adjuvant Workshop**, with further details to be announced soon.

If you are not already following us, we encourage you to join our growing community on social media. We are delighted to have surpassed **500 followers on LinkedIn** and to have built an active **WhatsApp community of nearly 200 members**. Thank you for being part of the NextGenVacc network, and we look forward to engaging with you throughout the remainder of 2026.



WhatsApp



LinkedIn



Website



YouTube

UPCOMING WEBINARS


Next Generation Vaccinologists Webinar Series

When research becomes development: a case study of the Zika vaccine

Dr. Renato Mancini Astray
Instituto Butantan, São Paulo, Brazil



Long-term immunogenicity of a viral vector vaccine against the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome in humans

Dr. Léonie Mayer
University Medical Center Hamburg - Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany



Thursday, August 6th

Join the webinar here:
<https://zoom.us/j/99914349261>

Europe	Americas	Africa	Asia	Pacific
16:00 CEST (Paris)	11:00 ART (Buenos Aires)	15:00 WAT (Nigeria)	19:30 IST (India)	22:00 AWST (Perth)
15:00 BST (London)	10:00 EDT (East Coast)	16:00 SAST (South Africa)	22:00 CST (China)	00:00 +1 AEST (Sydney)
	09:00 COT (Bogotá)	17:00 EAT (Kenya)	23:00 KST (South Korea)	
	07:00 PDT (West Coast)			



@ ISV Next Generation Webinar


ISV Webinar
12 August 2026

Vaccine Confidence - Facts, Fiction, Perception

Ruxandra Draghia-Akli, MD, PhD
INTREPID Alliance



MODERATOR: Alejandro Cané, MD, PhD, Head of Vaccine Medical Affairs, Pfizer

US / Europe	South America / Mexico	Africa	Asia	Australia
07:00 (PDT)	11:00 (ART)	15:00 (WAT)	19:30 (IST)	22:00 (AWST)
10:00 (EDT)	08:00 (Mexico)	16:00 (SAST)	22:00 (CST)	00:00 (AEST-13 Aug)
15:00 (BST)		17:00 (EAT)	23:00 (KST)	
16:00 (CEST)				

Wednesday, 12 August 2026

Join Webinar Here:
<https://zoom.us/j/93302865506>

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.

JUNE 2026 PAPER OF THE MONTH

[Human vaccine responses regulated by parallel cytokine pathways](#)

Nat Immunol (2026)

Authors

Chen, G., Guo, J., Heath, J. *et al.*

Abstract

Human vaccine responses vary widely, but the determinants remain incompletely defined. Here we analyzed 66 cytokines across four inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) cohorts over five seasons ($n = 581$) and identified baseline serum interleukin (IL)-18 and interferon (IFN)- β as correlates of day 28 antibody responses. To test causality, we evaluated 19 cytokines in human tonsil and spleen organoids and found that type I IFNs, IL-21 and IL-12, but not IL-18 or IFN γ , enhanced antibody production. The addition of IFN β to IIV recapitulated key features of the live-vaccine cytokine program. IL-12 and IL-21 defined a parallel pathway independent of type I IFNs, with IL-12 inducing IL-21 in humans, unlike in mice. Delivery of IL-21 or IFN β via mRNA lipid nanoparticles in vivo promoted long-lived plasma cell formation. Together, these findings define parallel pathways that regulate vaccine immunity. Our approach unites high-throughput organoid testing and human cohort studies, establishing a human-centric platform to identify adjuvant candidates.

JULY 2026 PAPER OF THE MONTH

[Intranasal and intramuscular H5-Matrix-M nanoparticle vaccines protects against highly pathogenic H5N1 influenza virus in mice](#)

npj Vaccines (2026)

Authors

Pyles, K., Darling, T.L., Huang, L.C. *et al.*

Abstract

The emergence of clade 2.3.4.4b highly pathogenic H5N1 influenza virus in dairy cows and transmission to humans has heightened public health concerns. In this work, we characterized the immunogenicity and efficacy of a Matrix-M®-adjuvanted nanoparticle protein vaccine containing recombinant H5 HA of A/American wigeon/South Carolina/22/000345-001/2021 virus (clade 2.3.4.4b, H5-MNP). In naïve mice, intranasal or intramuscular vaccination with H5-MNP induced robust H5 binding and virus neutralizing antibody responses and protected against a lethal H5N1 challenge (A/Michigan/90/2024, clade 2.3.4.4b). In mice primed with seasonal influenza vaccine, one dose of H5-MNP vaccine provided similar levels of protection, with fewer breakthrough infections detected in the upper airways of mice that received the H5-MNP intranasally compared to those that were immunized intramuscularly. This novel H5-MNP vaccine technology could potentially induce protective immunity against pandemic influenza viruses in individuals with pre-existing seasonal influenza HA immunity.

ISV NEWEST MEMBERS

Selidji Todagbe Agnandji	Amanda Martinot
Xander de Haan	William McMahon
Fredrick Edeh	Hugo Morgado
Arik Elfassy	Jacob Oblander
Fang Gao	Gema Morillas Ramos
Yingwen Hu	Richard Rupp
Petra Jozsa	Gayathri Sam
Hyuk-Joon Kwon	Julius Ssemambo
Haruka Maeda	

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 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 Facebook

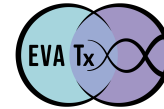
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