

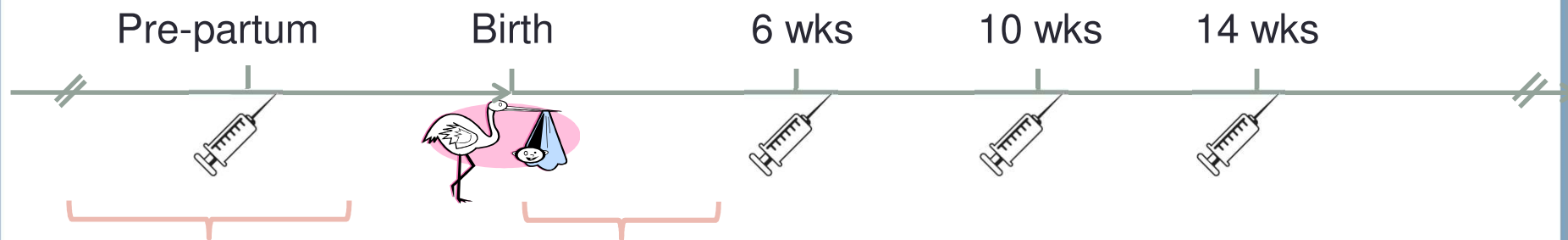
# Maternal influenza vaccines: How has the VIS process influenced the vaccine research agenda

**Saad B. Omer**

*Professor*

Global Health, Epidemiology, and Pediatrics  
Emory University, Schools of Public Health & Medicine

**Pregnancy** **After Birth**

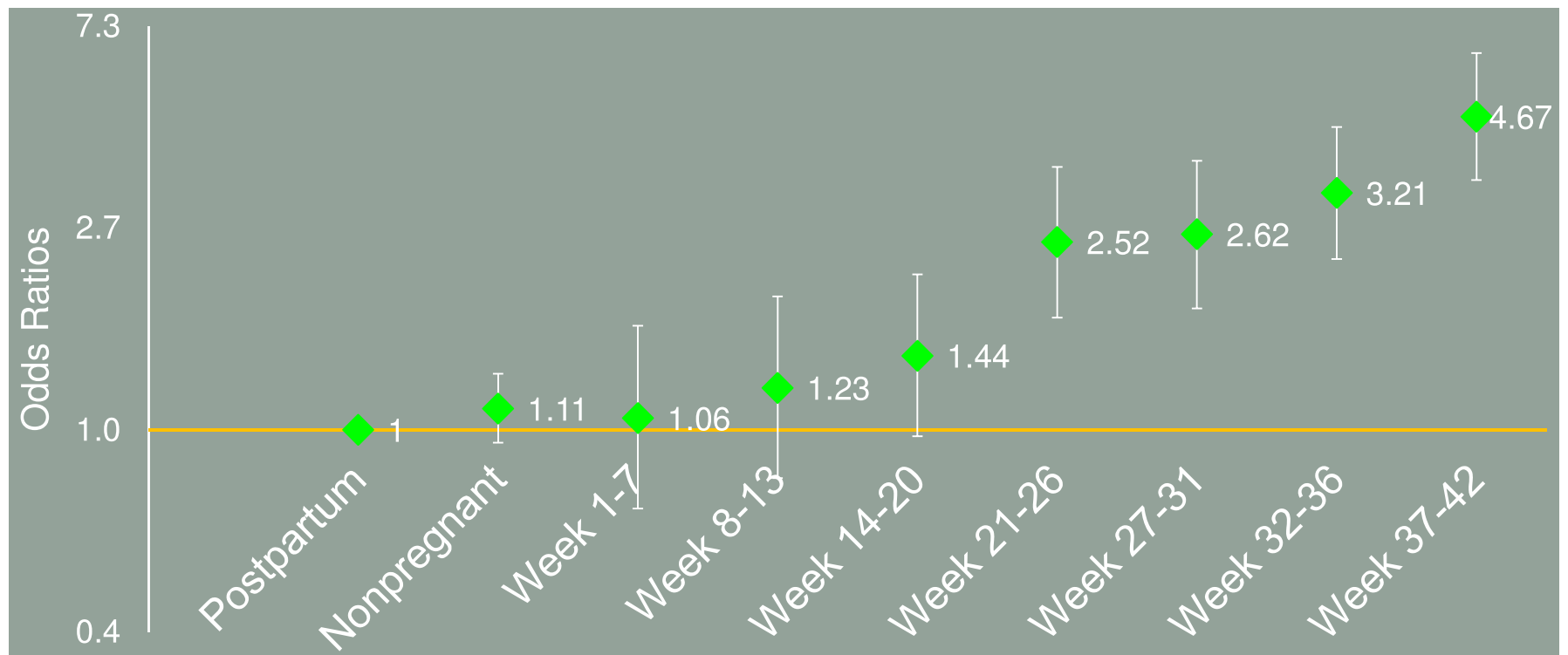


Some infections more dangerous in pregnancy (e.g. influenza, Hepatitis E)

3 mil. deaths (0-27 days)

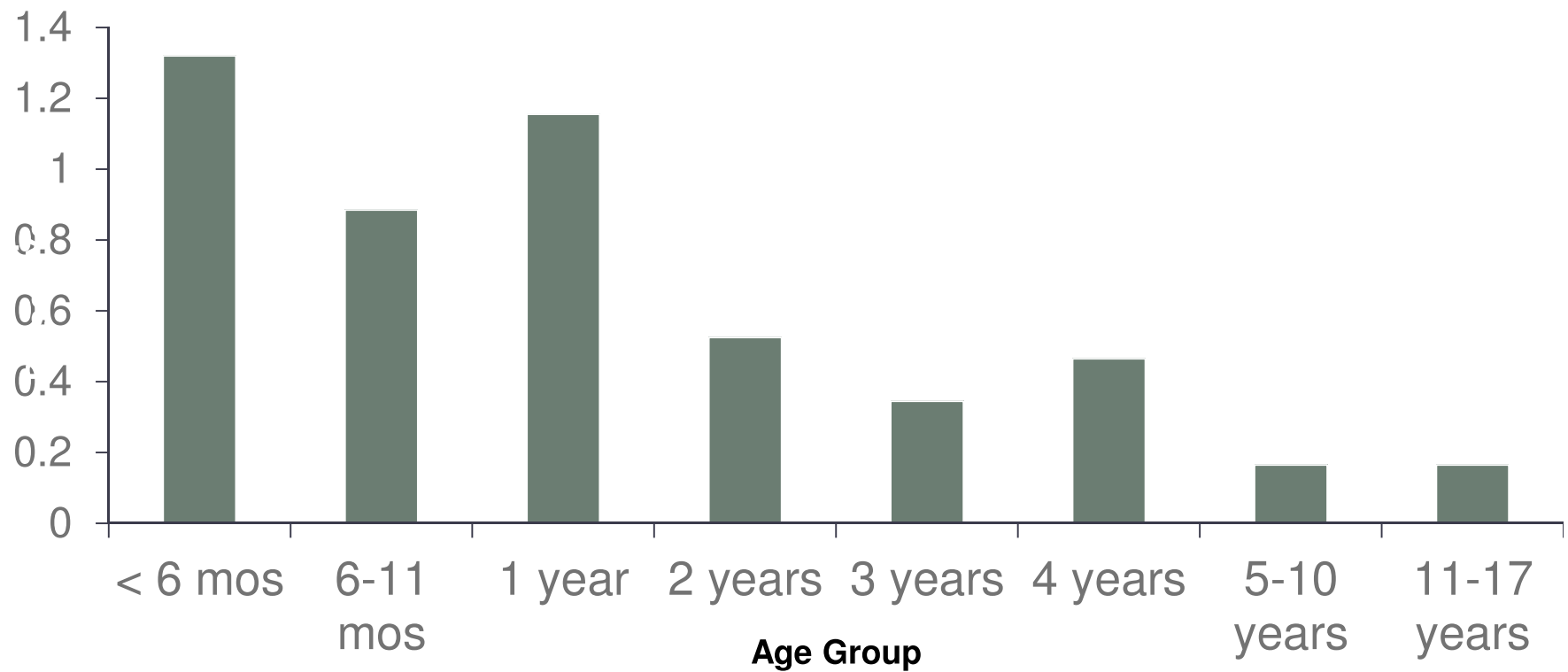
Mortality data: Liu et al., Lancet; 2012

## Odds Ratios of Influenza-related Cardiopulmonary Events by Pregnancy Status Tennessee Medicaid Program 1974-1993



Data Source: Neuzil et al, AJE, 1998

## Influenza-Associated Mortality Rate Among Children in the United States, 2003-2004



*Bhat N, NEJM; 2005.*

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Effectiveness of Maternal Influenza  
Immunization in Mothers and Infants

63% reduction in infant  
influenza after maternal  
vaccination in pregnancy



© Shehzad Noorani

**Zaman et al., New Eng Journal of Medicine, 2008**

## VIS 2013 on Influenza Vaccines

The Board noted the potential public health impact of vaccinating pregnant women against seasonal influenza and the need to assess the emerging evidence of impact of vaccination on neonates, but decides not to open a funding window for influenza vaccines at this time

# Further evidence to support reconsideration of maternal influenza vaccination in 2018 VIS: key questions / activities

---

## Health impact beyond pregnant women

- Impact on neonates and infants in low and lower-middle income countries

## Supply and logistics

- What is the optimal approach to allow year-round supply?
- What are the implications on country cold-chain capacity?
- Leverage distribution platform of maternal and child health services and/or EPI?

## Delivery strategy

- Campaign based approach or year-round routine provision? Operational feasibility, impact?
- Synergies with other (future) maternal vaccination (e.g. Tetanus toxoid, RSV, GBS, malaria) and ANC activities?

## Regulatory and policy

- Regulatory and policy changes needed (e.g., expiry date); how to expedite?

## Demand generation

- Analyze/re-package and disseminate data on burden disease and health impact

## Pooled Analyses of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-Supported Randomized Trials of Maternal Influenza Immunization in Mali, Nepal, and South Africa



UN PHOTO/JOHN ISAAC



UNFPA/ANNA ADHIKARI



UN PHOTO/P MUGABANE

### Synthesis Document, Final

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is supporting large, randomized trials of maternal influenza immunization in Mali, Nepal, and South Africa, evaluating the efficacy and safety of maternal immunization to prevent maternal and newborn influenza disease. This document summarizes similarities, differences, and study endpoints across the three trials.

*Omer et al., Vaccine, 2015*



## Maternal Influenza Immunization Update I

All trials show an impact on infant flu (VE Range: 30%- 63%)

Variability in impact on birth outcomes

e.g. sites with lower baseline birth weight show impact

Greater focus on severe outcomes in neonates and infants

Focus on high-risk groups (e.g. HIV+)

## Maternal Influenza Immunization Update II

Exploration of optimal distribution platform (integrated vs. vertical)

Building a maternal immunization platform

Work on removing regulatory & policy barriers

Assessment of determinants of demand at multiple levels

**Thank You!**

## Proposed Analyses

1. Pooled efficacy against infant and maternal lab confirmed influenza.
2. Birth outcomes such as pre-term and small for gestational age births.
3. Immunogenicity of maternal & dynamics of mother to infant antibody transfer.
4. Safety outcomes
5. Impact of maternal TIV on neonatal mortality –both all cause and, where possible, cause specific mortality.

## Proposed Analyses (cont'd)

6. Infant pneumonia
7. Infant pneumococcal carriage
8. Maternal mortality
9. Infant growth by maternal vaccination status.
10. Indirect/"herd" effects of maternal TIV. Influenza-like illness and laboratory confirmed influenza among household contact
11. Medically Attended Acute Respiratory Illness (MAARI)