

# Workshop 1.

## Towards the Development of a Universal Influenza Vaccine

Global Vaccine and Immunization Research Forum  
(GVIRF)

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David J. Spiro, Ph.D.  
DMID, NIAID, NIH, DHHS



**BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation**

# Panelists

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## **Norman Baylor**

- President & CEO, Biologics Consulting Group, Inc.

## **Ruben Donis**

- Associate Director for Policy, Evaluation and Preparedness, CDC Influenza Division

## **Hana Golding**

- Chief, Laboratory of Retroviruses, Office of Vaccine Research and Review, FDA/Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research

## **Gary Nabel**

- Chief Scientific Officer and Senior Vice President at Sanofi

## **Peter Palese**

- Horace W. Goldsmith Professor and Chair, Department of Microbiology, Professor, Department of Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

## **Rino Rappuoli**

- Global Head of Vaccines Research, Novartis Vaccines & Diagnostics

# Workshop Overview

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- Summary of Key Findings of Narrative Report
- Panelist Introductory Statements
  - Main Promises and Main Challenges
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# **The Burden of Seasonal Influenza**

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- **250,000 to 500,000 deaths globally/yr;  
3-5 million cases of severe illness**
- **~3,300 to ~49,000 deaths/yr in the U.S. plus  
substantial medical costs, hospitalizations,  
and lost productivity**
- **\$40.2 billion in economic costs/yr in U.S.  
related to influenza and pneumonia**

Sources: CDC, WHO, Am. Lung. Assoc.

# Pandemics of the Past Century

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<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Subtype</u></b>	<b><u>Deaths</u></b>
<b>■ 1918</b>	<b>H1N1</b>	<b>&gt;40 million</b>
<b>■ 1957</b>	<b>H2N2</b>	<b>&gt;2 million</b>
<b>■ 1968</b>	<b>H3N2</b>	<b>~1 million</b>
<b>■ 2009</b>	<b>H1N1</b>	<b>~12,000</b>

**Source: WHO**

# Vaccines Currently Available

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## **Inactivated Trivalent or Quadrivalent Vaccine**

- Intramuscular injection
- Split virus, whole virion (EU) virosome (EU)
- Indicated for 6 months and older
- Standard Dose or High Dose
- Egg based or Cell based
- Adjuvanted (EU)

## **Live attenuated vaccine (LAIV)**

- Intranasal spray
- Live attenuated virus
- Indicated for 5 to 49 years of age.

## **Recombinant trivalent influenza vaccine**

- Intramuscular injection (TIV)
- Indicated for persons age 6 months and older

# Current Vaccines: Benefits

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- Manufacturing process is well tested
- Strain change is well accepted
- Dramatically reduce complications from influenza, including hospitalization and death.
- Can reduce the risk for outbreaks by inducing herd immunity

# Current Vaccines: Limitations

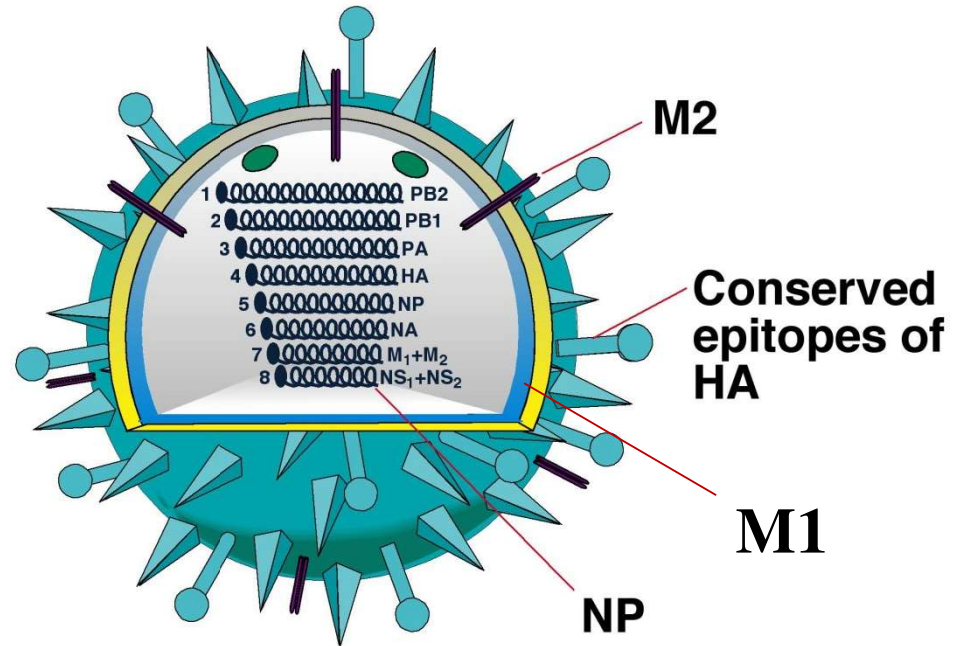
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- HA protein evolves rapidly so that circulating viruses may escape the protective effect of a vaccine.
- Mismatch between vaccine and virus greatly decreases vaccine efficacy.
- Requires global surveillance and a new vaccine has to be generated every year.
- Emergence of pandemic strain requires months of preparation to mount a response
- Inactivated vaccine has limited efficacy in the elderly



# Universal Influenza-Vaccine

- Universal influenza vaccine needs to:
  - elicit humoral and cellular responses like natural infection
  - provide long-lasting and cross-strain protection



Targets for Universal Influenza Vaccine

# Approaches to the Development of Universal Influenza Vaccines

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- HA stem region based vaccines
- Vaccines based on common determinants of the HA head.
- DNA based vaccines (e.g. nucleic acid coding for HA followed by HA protein boost).
- Vaccines comprised of conserved internal proteins (NP, M2e)
- Multimeric universal vaccines (conserved regions from HA and internal proteins)
- Live attenuated influenza vaccines

# Opportunities

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- Recent scientific findings demonstrate the potential efficacy of a universal influenza vaccine in vivo; provide support for a universal vaccine strategy inducing antibodies to common proteins and in particular the HA stem.
- Promising results have stimulated significant interest from pharmaceutical companies.
- Increased interest and support from government to improve seasonal vaccine efficacy and address potential pandemics.

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# Discussion Topic

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- What are the outstanding questions in the basic biology of the immune response to influenza antigens that elicit broadly cross-reactive antibodies?

# Discussion Topic

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- What gaps need to be filled to facilitate the development of universal influenza vaccines?

# Discussion Topic

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- What are the efficacy endpoints for a universal vaccine?
- How do we design pivotal clinical trials?



# Discussion Topic

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- What are the regulatory hurdles and what role can governmental and multi-governmental bodies play?

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# Conclusions

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- What is achievable by 2020?