**NEWS UPDATE – January 2012**

**Inovio Pharmaceuticals Moves Closer to "Universal" Influenza Vaccine by Demonstrating Protective Immune Responses Against Multiple H3N2 and Type B Strains in Animal Studies**


**Study offers new information for flu fight**

January 27 - Influenza virus can rapidly evolve from one form to another, complicating the effectiveness of vaccines and anti-viral drugs used to treat it. By first understanding the complex host cell pathways that the flu uses for replication, University of Georgia researchers are finding new strategies for therapies and vaccines, according to a study published in the January issue of the Journal of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. [http://www.healthcanal.com/infections/25918-Study-offers-new-information-for-flu-fight.html](http://www.healthcanal.com/infections/25918-Study-offers-new-information-for-flu-fight.html)

**Study suggests older adults may have little defense against swine H3N2 viruses**

January 27 - Canadian researchers have reported a study in which both young children and middle-aged adults had little evidence of immune protection against swine-origin influenza H3N2 viruses like those that have been reported recently in a dozen US children. Given that the seasonal flu vaccine conferred little cross-protection, the group said the findings point to a need for a specific candidate vaccine to curb the spread of a potential swine H3N2 epidemic. [http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/jan2712protection-br.html](http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/jan2712protection-br.html)

**Effectiveness of vaccine against pandemic influenza A/H1N1 among people with underlying chronic diseases: cohort study, Denmark, 2009-10**

January 25 – The study reports that the adjuvanted monovalent vaccine against pandemic influenza A/H1N1 was offered late in the 2009-10 influenza season. Among chronically ill people, this vaccine offered protection against laboratory confirmed H1N1 infection but only offered non-significant protection against influenza related hospital admissions confirmed as H1N1 infection. This finding is of public health relevance because the population of chronically ill people is a major target group for pandemic vaccinations and because of the delayed availability of pandemic vaccines in a forthcoming pandemic. [http://www.bmj.com/content/344/bmj.d7901](http://www.bmj.com/content/344/bmj.d7901)

**Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness among Children Aged 6 to 59 Months in Southern China**

January 24 - In China the protective effect of seasonal influenza vaccine has only been assessed in controlled clinical trials and proven to be highly effective. The news study reports that full vaccination is highly protective and partial vaccination is protective for older children. Influenza vaccination in general should be encouraged, and full vaccination should be particularly encouraged because its protective effect is much stronger than that of partial vaccination. [http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0030424](http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0030424)

**Indonesia Expecting to Produce Bird Flu Vaccine Next Year**

Bio Farma receives avian influenza vaccine prototype
January 26 - National vaccine manufacturer PT Bio Farma received the prototype of an Avian Influenza (AI) vaccine developed by University of Indonesia (UI) researchers. The Avian Influenza (AI) vaccine prototype was initially handed by the UI researchers to the Minister of Research and Technology whp later passed it on to the Ministry of Health for further conveyance to PT Bio Farma.

Descartan alerta por influenza
Enero 23 - El secretario de Salud, Salomón Chertorivski, descartó que exista amenaza de una epidemia de influenza por el incremento en la cifra de casos en México, y se espera que al concluir el invierno se alcancen 7,000 contagios de los tipos A(H1N1), A(H3N2) y B, que son los virus estacionales.

Vacunas antigrípeales del futuro
Enero 23 - La inmunización se aplica hace más de 60 años; el reto es hacerla más eficaz e incluso universal. Según la OMS, la vacunación antigrípe estándar -que en México realiza la Secretaría de Salud- puede prevenir de 70 a 90% de los casos de la enfermedad en adultos sanos, mientras que en ancianos "reduce los casos graves y las complicaciones en un 60% y las muertes en 80%.

Serum Institute completes Phase-1 of trials for trivalent seasonal flu vaccine
January 21– After the Serum Institute indigenously made the H1N1 (swine flu) vaccine, the institute has now completed the first phase of clinical trials for its first ever trivalent seasonal flu vaccine. Administered via an intranasal spray, the vaccine aims at protecting against swine flu and influenza A and B type of viruses.

Growth of Vaccines Calls for Better, Faster Production
January 19 - It's an industry that needs to change production to match the demand. The industry will continue to move from egg-based to cell-based, plant-based and insect cell-based production technologies.

Promoting Vaccines in Office-Based Medical Settings Is Needed to Boost Adult Immunization Rates
January 11 – Promoting immunizations as a part of routine office-based medical practice is needed to improve adult vaccination rates, a highly effective way to curb the spread of diseases across communities, prevent needless illness and deaths, and lower health care costs, according to a new RAND Corporation study.

Saint Louis Recognized for Flu Campaign by Regional Public Health Groups
"St. Louis County and the nation have identified influenza education as a critical area. Typically a low percentage of health professionals and workers don't receive the influenza vaccine if they aren't mandated to do so," said Dr. Kate Wright, director of the Heartland Center for Public Health Preparedness at Saint Louis and associate professor of health management and policy.
"Ultimately the goal of the regional campaign is to increase compliance and prevent the spread of
influenza and to assure that the workforce will be protected and able to work during times of pandemic and seasonal flu.”
http://fridayletter.asph.org/article_view.cfm?FL_Index=1708&FLE_Index=17355

Flu Vaccine Research Recognized by Vaccine Society
January 6 - A research paper by Emory Vaccine Center scientists has earned the “Paper of the Year” award from the International Society for Vaccines. The paper describes a method for predicting whether someone will produce high levels of antibodies against a flu shot, based on a scan of gene activity in the blood a few days after vaccination. The method is based on studies of human volunteers who were vaccinated during flu seasons in 2007, 2008 and 2009.
http://shared.web.emory.edu/emory/news/releases/2012/01/flu-vaccine-research-recognized-by-vaccine-society.html

Study may increase the effectiveness of flu shots
January 5 - New engineering research from the University of Pittsburgh has the potential to aid in the development of a more effective flu shot. A study focusing on the composition and timing of shot design used optimization methods to examine whether or not the annual decision-making process regarding which strains of influenza should be included in the seasonal influenza vaccine could be improved, according to MedicalNewsToday.com.

Tetragenetics' G-SOME(TM)-Formulated Influenza Vaccine Provides Strong Protection Against H5N1 in Preclinical Efficacy Study
January 5 - Tetragenetics Inc., a biotechnology company focused on the development of recombinant vaccines, today reported preclinical study results showing that an investigational nanoparticle-based influenza vaccine protects against a highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza strain. The study was conducted by scientists at the Institute for Antiviral Research of Utah State University in Logan, Utah and Tetragenetics under a contract sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health.
http://www.marketwatch.com/story/tetragenetics-g-sometm-formulated-influenza-vaccine-provides-strong-protection-against-h5n1-in-preclinical-efficacy-study-2012-01-05

H1N1 Influenza Vaccine Campaign During Pandemic Bypassed Many U.S. Jails
January 5 - Fifty-five percent of U.S. jails (facilities that house persons sentenced to one year or less) did not receive any H1N1 vaccine in the 2009-2010 pandemic and thus were excluded from the national vaccine campaign, according to a study reported in the Jan. 6 MMWR (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report). First shipments of vaccine - technically known as A(H1N1)pdm09 vaccine - to jails also were delayed compared to delivery of vaccine to prisons.
http://shared.web.emory.edu/whsc/news/releases/2012/01/h1n1-influenza-vaccine-campaign-during-pandemic-bypassed-many-u.s.-jails.html

Influenza Vaccine Market Opportunities and Challenges: Worldwide Forecast
January 5 - Last few years have seen renewed interest in the vaccines market, overcoming the prevailing view that vaccines are a low-margin business with high barriers to entry. The flu vaccines market has been at the forefront of this trend, partially fuelled by the fear of an impending pandemic. As a result global influenza vaccine market has experienced phenomenal growth in recent years at a compound annual growth rate of more than 65% between 2008 and 2010. This growth was mainly driven by the global spread of H1N1 influenza. But in the year 2011 H1N1 pandemic flu vaccine market declined due to waning threat of swine flu disease. However seasonal influenza vaccine market is predicted to grow year on year and cross US$ 4 Billion by 2015.
http://www.marketresearch.com/Renub-Research-v3619/Influenza-Vaccine-Opportunities-Challenges-Worldwide-6743344/