Objective 1: increase in seasonal vaccine use

Influenza Vaccine Text Message Reminders for Urban, Low-Income Pregnant Women: A Randomized Controlled Trial
The study evaluated the impact of influenza vaccine text message reminders in a low-income obstetric population. In this low-income obstetric population, text messaging was associated with increased influenza vaccination, especially in those who received messages early in their third trimester.

La grippe A est toujours là, c'est grave docteur?
20 January 2014 / Lexpress.fr
Peurs et controverses au menu de la pandémie de grippe A. Aujourd'hui, nombreux sont les grippés à avoir attrapé le H1N1 de 2009, sans vraiment s'en rendre compte. C'est la peur de la vaccination qu'il a contribué à développer. Entre 2009 et 2012, on est passé de 60% à 50% de taux de vaccination des personnes à risque.

CDC allows flexibility in use of flu vaccine
20 January 2014 / Focus Taiwan
The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has given the green light for local governments to use influenza vaccine in a flexible manner, after some local health centers reported insufficiency of the vaccine for toddlers. Public health centers can use adult-use flu vaccine, which is in the form of 0.5 ml per shot, for children aged between six months and three years, but the dosage must be halved, CDC Deputy Director-General Chou Jih-haw said Monday.

Influenza vaccination, inverse care and homelessness: cross-sectional survey of eligibility and uptake during the 2011/12 season in London
16 January 2014 / Focus Taiwan
Influenza vaccination eligibility and uptake among homeless adults has not been previously assessed in the UK. This cross-sectional survey aimed to measure the proportion of homeless people visited by an NHS outreach service (Find and Treat) who were eligible for and had received vaccination during 2011/12. This study demonstrates that the homeless population have high levels of chronic health problems predisposing them to severe complications of influenza, but vaccine uptake levels that are less than half those seen among eligible GP patient groups in England. It provides a clear example of the health inequalities and inverse care law that impact this population. The results of this study provide strong justification for intensifying efforts to ensure homeless people have access to influenza vaccination.

Low vaccination rate in US young adults despite widespread flu: study
15 January 2014 / Global Times
Only 35.7 percent of US adults aged 18 to 64 got the flu shot during the 2012-13 flu season, according to an analysis released Tuesday, although the U. S. government recommends all American six months and older get vaccinated each year.
By comparison, 56.6 percent of children aged 6 months to 17 years old and 66.2 percent of seniors aged 65 and older were vaccinated, said the analysis released by the Trust for America’s Health, a Washington, DC-based health advocacy organization.
According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the 2013-2014 flu season in the United States is beginning to "ramp" up and flu is now widespread in 35 states. H1N1 is the most prevalent flu strain this season, which can disproportionately and adversely impact otherwise healthy children and young adults.
**Improvement in attitudes toward influenza vaccination in medical students following an integrated curricular intervention**

16 January 2014 / Nelia Afonso et al., Vaccine, Volume 32, Issue 4, Pages 502-506

The study finds that educating medical students and promoting the importance of vaccination early in a medical student's career using such an intervention is relatively simple and easily integrated into the curriculum. This intervention was successful in vaccinating all students, and demonstrated a marked positive shift in attitudes toward influenza vaccination.

**Examining the views of key stakeholders regarding the provision of occupational influenza vaccination for healthcare workers in Australia**

23 January 2014 / Yi Chen Lim, Vaccine, Volume 32, Issue 5, Pages 606-610

Annual vaccination of hospital healthcare workers (HCWs) may be an effective measure to reduce the transmission of healthcare associated influenza. However, vaccine coverage rates among HCWs in most public Australian hospitals are below satisfactory for a number of reasons. This study aimed to examine the opinions of key health stakeholders on current issues regarding HCW influenza vaccination. Given that the World Health Organization has included HCWs as a target group for influenza vaccination, Australian hospitals may need to start considering the use of mandatory policies in the near future.

**Flu Vaccine May Improve Birth Outcomes for Pregnant Women**

6 January 2014 / Medscape (USA)

Pregnant women who receive the influenza vaccine during pregnancy may have lower odds of having a preterm delivery or delivery of a low-birth-weight baby compared with pregnant women who do not get vaccinated, according to a study published online January 6 in the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

**Vaccine for Prevention of Mild and Moderate-to-Severe Influenza in Children**


Commonly used trivalent vaccines contain one influenza B virus lineage and may be ineffective against viruses of the other B lineage. The study evaluated the efficacy of a candidate inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIV) containing both B lineages. The study concludes that the QIV was efficacious in preventing influenza in children.

**Focusing on flu: Adolescents' perspectives on school-located immunization programs for influenza vaccine**

January 2014 / Mary B Short, Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics, Volume 10, Issue 1

Introduction: To describe adolescents' perspectives regarding the use of school-located immunization programs (SLIP) for influenza vaccination. More importantly, adolescents were asked what factors would make them more or less likely to use a SLIP offering influenza vaccine. Conclusions: A wide range of issues are important to middle and high school students when considering participation in SLIPs including convenience, public health benefits, trust in the program, program safety, and sanitary issues. Further research will be needed regarding the generalizability of these findings to larger populations of students.

**Objective 2: increase in vaccine production capacity**

n/a

**Objective 3: research and development**

**China H7N9 vaccine development**

29 January 2014 / Sinovac

Sinovac Biotech, Ltd., a pharmaceutical company based in Beijing, announced today that it has submitted a clinical trial application with China's Food and Drug Administration to launch a human clinical trial of its H7N9 vaccine.
Sanofi’s QIV found safe, immunogenic in young kids
22 January 2014 / PIDJ
A quadrivalent (four-strain) influenza vaccine (QIV) produced by Sanofi was shown to be safe and immunogenic in children 6 months to 8 years old, according to the results of a phase 3 trial published in The Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal.

Vivaldi Biosciences inks agreement with NIAID to evaluate LAIV candidates against influenza A
21 January 2014 / News Medical (Australia)
Vivaldi Biosciences Inc., a clinical-stage biotechnology company developing live attenuated influenza vaccines (LAIVs) against seasonal and pandemic influenza, today announced that it has signed a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to generate and evaluate in preclinical studies LAIV candidates against influenza A(H7N9). The H7N9 strain is of concern due to its pandemic potential. Human cases of this avian-origin influenza strain were first recognized in early 2013.

How can vaccination be improved to eradicate avian influenza H5N1 in Indonesia?
13 January 2014 / Medical Xpress (UK), Monday
To answer this question, Okti Nadia Poetri researched the effect of vaccination to stop the spread of avian influenza in Indonesia. On January 21 Poetri will defend her thesis of this research. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) also known as ‘bird flu’, is considered to be a major threat to both poultry farming and to public health. In Thailand and in Europe HPAI H5N1 is eradicated, mainly because of stamping out and practicing stringent biosafety measures. When HPAI H5N1 occurred in Indonesia in 2004 farmers were not prepared to adhere to stamping out among others because of the lack of a compensation regime, causing the virus to spread further. Not only poultry is frequently infected with avian influenza in Indonesia, so far no other country has had as many cases of human infections with bird flu.

Vaxart’s Oral H1N1 Influenza Vaccine Generates Protective Immunity
9 January 2014 / 4-traders.com
Vaccine Is Safe and Immunogenic in Phase Ib Dose-Ranging Clinical Study. Vaxart, a privately held company developing recombinant vaccines that are administered by tablet rather than by injection, today announced positive safety and immunogenicity data from a phase Ib clinical dose-ranging study with its oral H1N1 seasonal influenza vaccine candidate. This study follows a phase I study, the positive results of which were announced in June 2013.

On-demand vaccines possible with engineered nanoparticles
7 January 2014 / Michelle Ma, Washington.edu
Vaccines combat diseases and protect populations from outbreaks, but the life-saving technology leaves room for improvement. Vaccines usually are made en masse in centralized locations far removed from where they will be used. They are expensive to ship and keep refrigerated and they tend to have short shelf lives. University of Washington engineers hope a new type of vaccine they have shown to work in mice will one day make it cheaper and easy to manufacture on-demand vaccines for humans. Immunizations could be administered within minutes where and when a disease is breaking out.

Outbreak news

Mexico Recorded 227 Deaths Due to Flu in 2014
29 January 2014 / Prensa Latina
Mexico has recorded 227 flu related deaths so far this year, of which over 90 percent are the virus A (H1N1), reported the Ministry of Health in a statement.
Seven new H7N9 cases, plus family cluster, reported
29 January 2014 / Chp.gov.hk
The steady rise in H7N9 influenza cases saw no let-up today, with seven new infections reported, including a fatal case from Hong Kong, the first case detected in China’s Guangxi province, and five cases reported from the country’s other hotspots.

Current H7N9 wave rivals last spring’s case total
27 January 2014 / CIDRAP
China’s steady rise in H7N9 avian flu cases continued over the past 3 days, with 14 new cases from five provinces, as the latest test results in poultry showed a conflicting picture of the virus on farms, including positive samples found today in birds sent to Hong Kong.

CDC updates H7N9, H5N1 testing recommendations
26 January 2014 / Chp.gov.hk
In other avian developments, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated its testing recommendations in separate documents for H7N9 and H5N1.

China confirms second human H10N8 avian influenza case
25 January 2014 / Examiner (USA)
For the second time in a little over a month, and the second time ever reported in a patient, the Jiangxi Provincial Health and Family Planning Commission reported the confirmation of a human case of avian influenza A (H10N8).

Eleven new H7N9 cases include one in Beijing
24 January 2014 / CIDRAP (USA)
As China headed into a week of Lunar New Year travel and celebrations, it reported 11 new H7N9 avian influenza infections today, including the first one in Beijing since the first wave last spring. At least 45 infections have been reported this week, a level that tops the busiest week of the outbreak’s first wave last spring.

Pace of H7N9 cases in China continues unabated
23 January 2014 / CIDRAP
Chinese health officials saw no letup in the steady stream of H7N9 avian influenza cases today, with reports of seven new infections, a level of activity that threatens to push the second wave of infections higher than the first one last spring.

Vietnam reports first H5N1 bird flu death in 2014
20 January 2014 / Xinhua
The first death caused by H5N1 bird flu in Vietnam in 2014 has been reported in southern Binh Phuoc province, the country’s Department of Preventive Medicine under the Ministry of Health announced late Monday.

Flu spreading rapidly in Japan, up 200,000 in week
20 January 2014 / Asia One Your Health (Singapore)
The number of influenza patients is rising sharply nationwide, up an estimated 200,000 in the week from January 6 to 12, according to statistics compiled by the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry. There is a growing number of infections with a different type of virus than those prevalent in the previous two flu seasons.

H5N1 avian flu found in South Korean ducks after 2-plus-year lull
17 January 2014 / Korea Herald
South Korea, declared avian flu–free for the second time in September 2011, has lost that status with a report of H5N1 avian influenza on a duck farm 300 kilometers from Seoul, according to a story in the Korea Herald today.
WHO: H1N1 dominates global flu picture
CIDRAP (USA), Monday 13 January 2014
In a virologic update today, the World Health Organization (WHO) noted increasing global influenza in the last weeks of 2013, with 2009 H1N1 the predominant strain. Data from FluNet reporting that covers 99 countries or territories showed that worldwide labs tested 88,471 specimens. Of those, 17,640 (20.0%) were positive for influenza.

Thailand On High Alert Against Bird Flu
16 January 2014 / Bernama (Malaysia)
The Thai Ministry of Public Health has ordered public health offices nationwide to keep a close watch on avian influenza of all strains, after there were reports on outbreaks of the new fatal H7N9 virus in China, Thai News Agency (TNA) reported. Permanent Secretary for Public Health Dr. Narong Sahamethapat told journalists on Wednesday that his ministry is concerned over a possible bird flu outbreak in Thailand during the winter, especially the deadly H7N9 virus, which has hit China.

Two Citibank employees in Singapore infected with H1N1
15 January 2014 / Channel News Asia (Singapore)
Two Citibank employees working on the 22nd floor of its Asia Square office have been diagnosed with Influenza A (H1N1), and another eight are suspected to be infected with the virus, the bank said in an email sent to its staff on Tuesday.

IOM panel offers suggestions on preparedness funding
9 January 2014 / CIDRAP
US preparedness funding must be allocated strategically during current difficult times, a report from an Institute of Medicine (IOM) forum published yesterday concluded. The group noted that preparedness funding has fallen considerably since 2008 after rising during the previous years. They add that disaster funding distribution is deeply inefficient, with cash infusions rising substantially after a disaster, only to drop dramatically when interest wanes.

China and Hong Kong report more H7N9 cases
8 January 2014 / CIDRAP
Health officials today announced three more H7N9 avian flu infections, two in women from separate Chinese provinces and one in a man from Hong Kong who had recently traveled to the mainland, raising the number of 2014 cases to eight.

Fatal H5N1 case in Canada is North America's first
8 January 2014 / CIDRAP
Canadian officials announced today that an Alberta resident who traveled to Beijing in December has died of H5N1 avian influenza, marking the first human H5N1 case reported in North America.

Four more H7N9 cases reported in China
6 January 2014 / CIDRAP
Chinese health authorities have reported four more H7N9 infections in three different areas of eastern China over the past 3 days, including the first detection in Shanghai since last April.

H9N2 confirmed in Chinese child
2 January 2014 / CIDRAP
Health officials in China yesterday announced an H9N2 avian influenza infection in a 7-year-old boy from Hunan province, marking the second H9N2 case reported in China this week.