NEWS UPDATE – 6-17 December 2012

A few flu facts
Mon, 17 Dec 2012 00:00:00 GMT
"Flu shots" are vaccines that were first developed in the 1940s, and their use has gradually become more and more prevalent throughout the population. Currently, the CDC recommends, "everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine each year."

QI efforts can produce real increases in influenza, pneumococcal immunization rates
Wed, 12 Dec 2012 00:00:00 GMT
A recent meta-analysis in the Annals of Family Medicine suggests that assigning vaccination responsibilities to non-physician office staff and having clinicians remind patients of needed immunizations may help improve influenza and pneumococcal vaccination rates.

Flu shots safe and effective for pregnant women
Tue, 11 Dec 2012 11:18:26 GMT
The flu shot not only protects pregnant women, it also provides some protection to the baby, both during pregnancy and after the baby is born. Once the baby is born, breastfeeding provides additional protection to keep the baby healthy from respiratory and gastrointestinal infections.

Inovio's Synthetic Flu Vaccine Doubles Rate of Elderly Subjects Displaying Protective Immune Responses
Mon, 10 Dec 2012 09:44:45 GMT
Inovio Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NYSE MKT: INO) reported interim results of a phase I trial that showed that a single dose of its H1N1 universal SynCon® flu vaccine followed with a dose of a seasonal flu vaccine generated protective immune responses in 40% of trial subjects compared with a 20% response rate in elderly patients who received the seasonal flu vaccine alone. This interim data is a significant step in developing a more effective flu vaccine for the most vulnerable segment of our population.

Moving Towards a Universal Influenza Vaccine
Thu, 06 Dec 2012 08:51:26 GMT
Researchers at The Pirbright Institute, which receives strategic funding from BBSRC, in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Oxford working together as the Jenner Institute, have taken an important step towards a universal vaccine against avian influenza.

Health Care Providers May Be the Key to Improving Flu Vaccination Rates
Wed, 05 Dec 2012 14:32:26 GMT
For vaccination to become a public health priority in the U.S., stakeholders must strengthen guidance for providers, which would make it easier for physicians to both assess vaccination needs and aid communication with patients about the efficacy and safety of vaccines.

College Students Report Low Flu Vaccine Rate
Wed, 05 Dec 2012 12:20:54 GMT
According to a new study by researchers at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, colleges and universities should implement new or improved influenza vaccine strategies, such as giving flu shots at sporting events or during campus-wide, day-long campaigns, to increase the number of their students who get the annual flu vaccine.