Post-Conference Report: Second isirv Antiviral Group Conference
Severe Influenza: Burden, Pathogenesis, and Management
29-31 October 2012, Hanoi, Viet Nam

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Upcoming Events:
• 2nd International Symposium on Neglected Influenza Viruses
  7 – 8 March 2013
  Dublin Ireland

• Options for the Control of Influenza VIII
  5 – 10 September 2013
  Cape Town, South Africa

isirv wishes you and your loved ones a happy holiday season!
The second conference of the Antiviral Group was organised jointly with isirv in conjunction with the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE) in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 29th to 31st October. In the aftermath of the 2009 pandemic and the continuing threat of H5N1, the purpose of the meeting was to address the many gaps that remain in our understanding of the pathogenesis and management of severe influenza.

In her opening address, Professor Nguyen Thi Xuyen, Vice Minister of Health, drew attention to the unpredictability of influenza, how Viet Nam had been in the forefront of confronting the re-emergent H5N1 threat in 2004, and the public health importance of improving the clinical management of severe influenza and related respiratory virus infections. The location of the conference in Hanoi thus reflected the persistent threat of H5N1, and the divergent evolution of the viruses, particularly in South-East Asia. Of the 160 delegates from medical and academic institutions in 22 countries, 30 per cent were from Viet Nam.

An initial presentation on the conclusions from the earlier isirv meeting on Incidence, Severity, and Impact of Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza, in September, was followed by a keynote lecture on Asian perspectives on the epidemiology and impact of severe influenza and SARI to set the scene. The second plenary session presented descriptions of the immunopathology of acute lung injury and ARDS, including of H5N1 cases, consideration of genetic factors in host susceptibility and the implications of viral-bacterial interactions. It was followed by two sessions focusing on challenges faced and recent advances made in the various aspects of clinical management, including the effectiveness of antivirals and adjunctive therapies, and the emergence of antiviral resistance. A final session looking to the future considered research priorities and included a comprehensive description of an investigation of one of the first fatal cases due to the novel (2012) coronavirus.

Six workshops provided a forum for more detailed discussion of particular aspects. These included the impact and severity of influenza in different geographical locations, and the basis of pathogenesis and the means of its mitigation. The clinical effectiveness of licensed antivirals was discussed together with the potential of alternative therapeutic approaches, including broadly neutralising antibodies. Discussion of the impact of different ‘resistance’ mutations on antiviral susceptibility also considered the influence of genetic variation among the viruses.

Interactive demonstrations facilitated discussion of the national surveillance platforms in Viet Nam, of WHO training materials for SARI management, of the use of the AVG reference panel of neuraminidase inhibitor (NAI) resistant and sensitive viruses in NAI susceptibility monitoring, and of methods for IC50 determination and statistical analyses of antiviral resistance data. Information presented in the various sessions was also complemented by 45 poster presentations on various themes.

The historic Temple of Literature, built in the eleventh century and hosing the first university in Vietnam, predating those in Europe, provided a perfect setting for pleasant interaction and thoughtful discussion during the conference dinner, on the evening of the first day. An informative excursion to NIHE on the afternoon of the third day was appreciated by many of the participants. Generous support of the conference allowed provision of travel grants to assist fifteen delegates to attend.
After a successful first edition in 2011, a second Summer School on Influenza was held in Siena (Italy) from 16 to 20 July 2012. The Summer School was organized and supported by the University of Siena and isirv, co-chaired by Emanuele Montomoli, Jackie Katz, and John Wood.

It was designed for those who were beginning their influenza careers, be it in basic or applied research, government, or private sector activities, and it was attended by 35 students from Australia, Europe, Egypt, Senegal, India, Philippines, South America, and the USA. The students were provided with an excellent introduction to many aspects of influenza, ranging from theoretical concepts to basic techniques used in research and surveillance. The scientific program was organized into seven different themes: history, epidemiology and ecology of influenza; prevention and control; influenza virology and pathogenesis; immunity to influenza; influenza vaccines; antivirals and other therapies; regulatory practices and challenges. Two special seminars were focused on vaccination (Rino Rappuoli) and on the 2009 Pandemic (Angus Nicoll). On Monday, 16 July and on Thursday, 19 July, some of the students attending the school gave presentations on their research activities.

The Summer School on Influenza also gave the opportunity to commemorate the life and works of Lars Haaheim, co-chair of the first edition, who died suddenly on June 28, 2011, two months before the beginning of the school. Tributes to Lars’s scientific achievements and personal qualities were paid during the course, and thanks to the financial support of the isirv Antiviral Group (www.isirv.org/avg) and the Wellcome Trust (www.wellcome.ac.uk/), seven scholarships were created in his honor (The Lars Haaheim Scholarships), in order to support students from developing countries. isirv AVG has financed four Lars Haaheim Scholarships, aiming to cover the travel expenses and accommodations of young participants from Brazil, Egypt, Senegal, and the Philippines. We would like to thank once again the isirv AVG and the Wellcome Trust, whose generosity has contributed in making the group of participants of the Summer School on Influenza even richer and more international.

The slides of the Summer School on Influenza lectures are available at http://www3.unisi.it/v0/minisito2.html?fld=7566 and from the isirv website homepage http://www.isirv.org/site/

Students and faculty members of the Summer School on Influenza 2nd Edition.
The Young Flu meeting was held at the Hotel Chateau Bromont in Bromont, Quebec, Canada. The purpose of the meeting was to encourage the next generation of scientists to consider careers in the field of influenza. Undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and junior investigators were encouraged to attend and to present their own work, as well as interact with each other and senior scientists during the meeting.

Young Flu Awards were supported by isirv, and each award winner received a 1-year isirv membership, which included a subscription to the isirv journal.

**Voices of isirv**

The isirv board would like to broaden the society’s reach to be of greatest interest to current and potential isirv members, and is keenly interested in your ideas for future events and newsletter articles. Is there a topic you’d like to write about for the newsletter? Do you have an idea for a meeting or satellite symposium? What are the most pressing issues in viral respiratory disease? Please send your thoughts to chris.carter@meditechmedia.com.

**About isirv**

isirv is a scientific professional society to promote the prevention, detection, treatment, and control of influenza and other respiratory virus diseases. It will:

- Provide a forum for the exchange of information and for international collaboration
- Advocate for research and effective public health measures
- Promote relevant scientific and clinical training and education
- Organises scientific meetings and workshops on key topics and develop international consensus
- Support and develop partnerships with international bodies such as the WHO and other agencies

**isirv Sponsors Young Flu Awards**

6th Orthomyxoviruses Research Conference

19–22 September 2012, Bromont, Quebec, Canada

**Oral Presentation Awards**

Corinna Patzina, University of Freiburg, Germany

Brett Jagger, Cambridge University, Great Britain

Linda Brunotte, University of Freiburg, Germany

**Poster Presentation Awards**

Gregory Boivin, McGill University, Canada

Ronan Rouxel, INRS-Institut Armand-Frappier, Canada

Judith Fonville, University of Cambridge, Great Britain
The 2nd International Symposium on Neglected Influenza Viruses will be held in Dublin, 7th-8th March 2013. It will retain the format and build on the success of the inaugural symposium held in Florida in 2010. This conference will explore the latest surveillance data, vaccination and control strategies, diagnostic techniques, experimental research data, and epidemiological and economic impact studies relating to swine, equine, canine, and other nonhuman/nonavian influenza viruses. The venue is the Royal College of Physicians, a historic building in the city centre within easy walking distance of museums, art galleries, Trinity College and the most popular shopping areas. The scientific programme includes keynote presentations from opinion leaders from all over the world. isirv and the Scientific Committee invite you to participate in this unique conference which aims to stimulate discussion and collaboration across disciplines and continents.

The deadline for the submission of abstracts and early registration is the 24th of December 2012. For further information visit www.isirv.org. Participate in the social programme and meet friends and collaborators in a traditional Irish pub, at the Mayors Reception or at the Irish National Stud. Extend your visit and explore this magical island with its beautiful countryside, stunning coastline, and ancient history. Throughout 2013, Ireland will reach out to those who have emigrated, their friends, and descendants and there will be large family gatherings, festivals, special sporting events, music, and concerts. If you wish to combine attending the Neglected Influenza meeting with organising or participating in a gathering visit www.thegatheringireland.com.

The Scientific Committee (* Denotes Conference Chair)
Tom Chambers, University of Kentucky
Ann Cullinane*, Irish Equine Centre and University of Limerick
Paul Digard, University of Edinburgh
Debra Elton*, Animal Health Trust
Ruben Donis, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Paul Gibb, University of Florida
Marie Gramer, University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Gregory C Gray*, University of Florida
Marion Koopmans, National Institute of Public Health and the Environment
Nicola Lewis, University of Cambridge
John McCauley, National Institute for Medical Research
Ariel Pereda, National Institute of Agriculture Technology (INTA) Buenos
Stacey Schultz-Cherry, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
Kristien Van Reeth, Ghent University
Yuelong Shu, National Influenza Center of China

To register for this meeting please see the isirv website at http://www.isirv.org. Registrations will be accepted online until 28 February 2013. From 1 March 2013, delegates may register on-site.
Nearly four years after the 2009 pandemic, the burden of influenza is still felt worldwide. While the global H1N1 outbreak did serve as a wake-up call for many, there are still lapses in, among other things, surveillance, reporting, prevention, and education in many countries. It is estimated that half of all global H1N1-associated cardiovascular and respiratory deaths could have occurred in Southeast Asia and Africa. Options for the Control of Influenza VIII, taking place in Cape Town, South Africa, will offer a much-needed platform for sharing lessons learned during the post-pandemic stage, which will be critical for dealing with future pandemics. Options VIII will also provide comprehensive scientific guidance for all disciplines involved in influenza prevention, control, and treatment, including seasonal and pandemic planning, pandemic response, and the animal-human interface.

- Provide comprehensive scientific guidance for all stakeholders involved in influenza prevention, control, and treatment, including seasonal pandemic planning
- Promote genuine international and multidisciplinary collaboration, supporting the full spectrum of influenza research from basic science to the development of new vaccines and antiviral agents to epidemiology and control programs
- Provide a collegial atmosphere where scientists working in public health and scientists working in agricultural or veterinary agencies may exchange information to develop collaborative approaches to the control and prevention of pandemic influenza
- Maximise the opportunities for informal discussions and exchange of ideas between representatives of government agencies, academia, and industry

Visit http://www.controlinfluenza.com for more information or to register.
Recent publications and news items of special interest to isirv members


Other reports

US FDA approves the first seasonal influenza vaccine manufactured by cell culture technology. See: http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm328982.htm

isirv Membership Application

First Name ____________________________________________________________

Last Name ____________________________________________________________

Current Position ______________________________________________________

Academic Title _______________________________________________________ 

Institution Name ______________________________________________________

Institution Type: [ ] Academic [ ] Industry [ ] Public Health [ ] Governmental

Current Position ______________________________________________________

Academic Title _______________________________________________________ 

Address 1 ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address 2 ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State __________________________ Postal Code __________________________

Country __________________________

Phone __________________________ Fax __________________________

E-mail Address __________________________________________________________

Please indicate your five main areas of interest (rate from ‘1’ to ‘5’, with 5 as the highest score):

- [ ] Animal health/disease
- [ ] Human health/disease
- [ ] Zoonoses/ ecology
- [ ] Pandemic preparedness
- [ ] Policy for control and prevention
- [ ] Cost benefit and health economics
- [ ] Diagnostics, epidemiology, and surveillance
- [ ] Vaccines
- [ ] Immunology
- [ ] Antivirals
- [ ] Viral structure & replication
- [ ] Other? ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Which virus(es) are your main interest?

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The Society’s members will elect the officers of isirv.

If proposed, would you accept nomination for election? __________________________________________________________

Please give any general suggestions you have on priorities for isirv activities for the first 1-2 years:

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New membership fee is 85 GBP (approximately 134 USD or 102 EUR, as of Dec 2012) payable by cheque or bank transfer to isirv account: Barclays Bank, Edgware Branch, 126 Station Road, Edgware, London, HA8 7RY. Sort code 20 29 41. Account #307 876 20. To register for isirv and pay online: visit www.isirv.org. Payment confirmation will be mailed to the address provided on the membership form.

If using a cheque please print and mail a copy of this form together with payment to:

isirv Organiser
22 Tiverton Road
LONDON NW10.3HL
United Kingdom

Make the cheque payable to isirv and write the member’s name legibly on the cheque. The amount of the cheque must match the annual membership fee. Registration can also be completed via the website at www.isirv.org.