

Biosketch Lars R. Haaheim



Professor Lars R. Haaheim is heading the Influenza Centre, The Gade Institute, University of Bergen, Norway.

In the earlier phases of his career Haaheim was deeply involved and responsible for the production of influenza vaccines in Norway (Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Oslo). He was Director of the WHO National Influenza Centre for Western Norway in 1982-2001. Haaheim was actively involved in preparing the Norwegian Pandemic plan as well as the first WHO Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan.

As of 2002 the Influenza Centre has received annual financial support from the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services. The Influenza Centre has extensive experience from studies on the precise kinetics of the post-vaccination humoral and cellular immune response, as well as aspects of mucosal immunity. This expertise has made the Influenza Centre an attractive partner in EU Framework Programmes dealing with development of influenza vaccines. The most recent was an H7N1(FP5) avian influenza vaccine trial just completed in Bergen in 2007, and the Influenza Centre are currently working on two new EU contracts (FP6 and FP7) for H5N1 vaccines, including clinical trials planned for 2009 and 2010.

Haaheim has had many overseas working visits, including sabbatical leaves to the World Influenza Centre (London) and to the Collaborating Centres for Influenza at the CDC, Atlanta (GA, USA) and Melbourne (Australia). He has been Scientific Advisor to the Vaccine Department at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health in Oslo, and is currently serving on the Norwegian Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Committee and is a member of the *ad hoc* ECDC Expert Advisory Group on Human H5N1 Vaccines. He is on the editorial board of the newly started scientific journal "Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses" (Blackwell), and has co-edited two editions of "A Practical Guide to Clinical Virology" (Wiley).