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Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the journal **Vaccine** and its publisher, Elsevier, and the **International Society for Vaccines (ISV)** – the organizing partners for this *6th Vaccine and ISV Annual Global Congress* – it is our pleasure as co-Chairs of this **6th Vaccine & ISV Congress** to welcome all the delegates, invited speakers, presenters of oral and poster abstract presentations, exhibitors, the press, and other participants. You comprise a remarkable diversity of disciplines, as once eloquently described by the founding Chair of the first Congress in his etymologic history of a journal named "Vaccine".¹

As the second time this event is held in Asia, it is fitting that the venue be in this grand and historic port of entry into the Middle Kingdom. It was here in Shanghai in 1899 that the first institute in China for medical research on rabies was founded, and where China first manufactured Pasteur's great discovery.²

In assembling this year's program, much credit goes to the members of the Scientific Committee, who suggested many of the invited speakers, and read and scored an inordinate proportion among the total of 237 abstracts submitted, for which we are grateful. However, it remained the responsibility of the co-Chairs to invite a balanced group of guest speakers, and to make the difficult decisions to choose between much first-class work described in submitted abstracts for the limited timeslots on the oral program.

The end result is that many excellent papers are being presented in posters that would have been orals if time permitted. We urge you to take advantage of three formal poster sessions to see and discuss them with their presenters, and to browse among them at other times of your convenience. The 119 posters in the Congress will remain viewable all three days until 14:00 on Tuesday afternoon.

An anonymous jury of respected researchers will be viewing all posters and selecting the best three among them for this year's Edward Jenner Poster Prizes, for which the winners will be announced at the start of the final Plenary Session 8. Also, authors of both posters and oral presentations will be offered the opportunity to publish their work in Elsevier's open-access, e-only journal, [Procedia in Vaccinology](#).

The Congress program features 22 acknowledged experts and researchers as invited speakers to provide longer, in-depth presentations on various subjects and fields, selected for balance to appeal to our audience of similarly diverse interests.

Our keynote speakers include Professor Ian D. Gust of the University of Melbourne in Australia, who will provide historical insight from the great accomplishment of recent decades -- particularly in Asia -- in reducing the burden of hepatitis B by immunization, and Dr. Rino Rappuoli, of Novartis Vaccines from its base in Italy, who will look into the future to predict what vaccines may someday accomplish.

The remainder of the oral program consists of 56 presentations of 10-minute lengths selected from among submitted abstracts. This number represents an increase of thirty per cent above the 43 such 10-minute presentations programmed at last year's Congress in Seattle. This required opening the Congress a half-hour earlier on Sunday, adjourning a half-hour later on Tuesday, and moving all 25-minute presentations by invited speakers into plenary sessions to avoid delegates having to choose between simultaneous ones. These changes reflect the continual evolution and growth of this Congress since its inception in Amsterdam in 2007, followed by yearly rotations among three continents to Boston, Singapore, Vienna, Seattle, and now Shanghai for this sixth iteration in 2012.

The success of any Congress depends on the quality of its scientific content, the lucidity of its presentations, the insightfulness of audience questions, the thoughtfulness of resulting discussions, the opportunities to network with colleagues old and new, the design of its program, and the logistics and environment conducive to all of the above. It is up to the participants, of course, to render judgement on the Shanghai Congress. So we urge you to complete its formal evaluation, from which your suggestions and criticisms on its content, format, and implementation will guide future Congresses in striving for continual improvement.

The Shanghai Congress has attracted three organizations who are organizing satellite sessions on Saturday, 13 October, on vaccine safety, computational vaccinology, and the state of the Chinese vaccine industry. We encourage participants to register for and arrive early to attend these events.

A number of Congress presentations by consenting speakers will be recorded and made available on the internet for simulcast or subsequent access by a global audience of "online" participants in the Congress.

The exhibition space will be open during all Congress sessions, lunches, and refreshment breaks so that delegates can be provided with information on the services, products, and activities of commercial and other sponsors. Details on satellite sessions, internet participation, and exhibitors will be provided on-site and at the Congress webpage, www.VaccineCongress.com.

The International Society for Vaccines (www.isv-online.org) will hold its Annual General Meeting during the long lunch break on Monday, 15 October. Interested Congress participants are invited to join the society and attend this meeting, at which new officers will be elected, plans and policies discussed, and other business conducted.

The ISV is pleased and proud to announce substantial financial support to the society by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which helped to bring invited speakers to Shanghai and to award registration-fee waivers to approximately two dozen submitters of abstracts by developing-country researchers. We thank

the Foundation for its generous funding.

Finally, we express appreciation to our partner, Elsevier, and specifically to Dr. Floris de Hon, Publisher of **Vaccine**, and his staff -- particularly Ms. Renée [Shuo] Chi and Ms. Marie-Claire Morley -- for their generous support and hard work in handling all the myriad tasks and details to carry out such an undertaking.

We hope you find the Congress useful and productive in informing you of progress in your field, sharing your work with others, and meeting colleagues in the vaccine enterprise. If so, we hope to see you again at the 7th Vaccine and ISV Congress, from 27-29 October 2013, in Barcelona, Spain.

Sincerely,

<p>Shan Lu, PhD, MD Congress co-Chair President, International Society for Vaccines; Professor; Director, Laboratory of Nucleic Acid Vaccines University of Massachusetts Medical School +1.508.856.6791 Shan.Lu@umassmed.edu</p>	<p>Bruce G. Weniger, MD, MPH Congress co-Chair Associate Editor, Vaccine International Professor Research Institute for Health Sciences Chiang Mai University +1.678.478.1101, +66.89.479.3373 bgweniger@siamlotus.com</p>
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1 Spier RE. Obituary: Jonas Salk. *Vaccine*. 1995;13(16):1487. ([http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0264-410X\(95\)90148-I](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0264-410X(95)90148-I)) (Pubmed ID: [12038491](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12038491/)).

2 Yang W 杨威, Li ZP 李志平. 上海巴斯德研究所的研究工作 [The research works on Shanghai Pasteur Institute]. *中华医史杂志* [Zhonghua Yi Shi Za Zhi (Chinese Journal of Medical History – ISSN 0255-7053)]. 2008 Apr;38(2):92-98 (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19125502>).

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 - [» Programme](#)
 - [» Invited Speakers](#)
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