



## Round Table discussion



# "Immunisation of adults and elderly: How to make life course vaccination a successful public health strategy"

**Thursday 26 November 2009, from 09:30 to 12:00**

**Conference Centre Andel's Hotel, Room Satin 1  
Lodz, Poland**

Organised by EUPHA, supported by an unrestricted grant from Sanofi Pasteur MSD

Population ageing can be seen as a success story for public health policies and for socioeconomic development. It is anticipated that by 2050 around 30% of the European will be over 60; around 50% will be over 50. These demographic trends are expected to transform our societies considerably, impinging on intergenerational solidarity and creating new demands on future generations. It also challenges societies and health systems to adapt, to help people remaining independent and active and maintaining their social participation and security as they age. Indeed, lengthening lifetimes are not always accompanied by good health. As people age, the onset of chronic conditions and the decreased function in the immune system (a phenomenon known as immunosenescence) put people at greater risk of infection and disease. Starting preventative measures as early as 50 years old will help to anticipate future public health issues. Therefore, preventing illness in these people has become a strong expectation and, indeed, a responsibility not only for individuals but also for health systems.

Vaccination has been demonstrated to be one of the most effective, practical and easy to implement public health preventative measures. Vaccination has greatly reduced the childhood incidence of the morbidity and the mortality and of many infectious diseases, both in high and low income countries. However, these benefits have not been largely extended to the adult and elderly population, despite the fact that vaccine-preventable diseases are still an important burden for them. Ageing European citizens are not well vaccinated and therefore not well protected against these diseases; such as influenza, tetanus or pneumococcal disease.

EU physician society experts (EUGMS and IAGG-ER respectively stand for European Union Geriatric Medicine Society and International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics – European Region) have issued a statement advocating for routine vaccination of ageing populations called "*Advocating Vaccination of Adults Aged 60 Years and Older in Western Europe*".<sup>1</sup> In parallel, a group of multidisciplinary experts convened to review implementation of vaccination policies for population aged 50 years and older (50+) in a document called "*Life Course Vaccination and Healthy Ageing: a Policy Brief*".<sup>2</sup>

Based on these analyses, the round table will introduce to the need and peculiarity of adults and elderly vaccination. It will propose practical actions to improve their vaccination coverage. These findings will be illustrated by results of a survey assessing the implementation of influenza vaccination in the EU. Then, the value and feasibility of tools to assess the level of implementation of vaccination programmes and improve vaccine uptake in this population will be presented. Finally, the panel discussion is intended to open the discussion with the audience, provide clarifications on some aspects of the presentations and share field experiences and practices.

The overall expected outcomes of this session are to raise awareness of the audience on the value of life course vaccination policies, to address the rationale for extending vaccination policies beyond childhood and adolescence (announcing the concept of 50+) and to identify the key determinants of the successful implementation of vaccination programmes in this population.

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<sup>1</sup> Michel JP and al. *Advocating Vaccination of Adults Aged 60 Years and Older in Western Europe: Statement by the Joint Vaccine Working Group of the European Union Geriatric Medicine Society and the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics–European Region*. *Rejuvenation Research* 2009; 12(2):127-135

<sup>2</sup> Gusmano MK and Michel JP. *Life Course Vaccination, Impact of Life Course Vaccination on an Ageing Population*. In: *Alliance for Health & the Future – France*; 2009:1-8.

<b>Roundtable programme</b>	<b>"Immunisation of adults and elderly: how to make life course vaccination a successful public health strategy"</b>	
<b>09:30 – 09:40</b>	<p><b><u>Session I: Introductory remarks by session Chair</u></b>  Vaccination is a valuable life course public health strategy. Nevertheless, vaccination policies in adults and elderly are more heterogeneous than in children and, more importantly, often poorly implemented.  The Chair will present the programme and introduce the speakers.</p>	<p><b>Prof. Jacek Wysocki</b> (confirmed)  <i>Rector of the Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poland</i></p>
<b>09:40 – 10:05</b>	<p><b>1. Advocating Life course vaccination in Europe</b>  Presentation of the work done by the Joint Vaccine Working Group of the European Union Geriatric Medicine Society and the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics–European Region and of the EU Commission "Silver paper".</p> <p>The presentation should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- briefly introduce definition of 50+ vaccination, healthy ageing, prevention, vaccination and vaccination benefits</li> <li>- focus on epidemiology and disease burden of VPD</li> <li>- review current recommendations and their level of implementation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Prof. Jean-Pierre Michel</b> (invited)  <i>Head of the geriatric ward, Department of Rehabilitation and Geriatrics, Geneva Medical School and University Hospitals, Switzerland</i></p>
<b>10:05 – 10:30</b>	<p><b>2. Life Course Vaccination and Healthy Ageing: policy challenges</b>  Presentation of the multidisciplinary experts' group results and of the Policy Brief "<i>Life Course Vaccination, Impact of Life Course Vaccination on an Ageing Population</i>".</p> <p>The presentation should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- review drivers and barriers to the implementation of vaccination policies in adults and elderly</li> <li>- explain the 4 policy goals that should contribute to the improvement of 50+ vaccination policies</li> <li>- present key actions to improve vaccination uptake in this population</li> </ul>	<p><b>Prof. Michael Gusmano</b> (invited)  <i>Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management, State University of New York's Downstate Medical Center, USA</i></p>
<b>10:30 – 10:55</b>	<p><b>3. Determinants of implementation of 50+ vaccination in Europe: experience with seasonal influenza vaccination</b>  Presentation and analysis of the surveys conducted in 11 EU countries showing what the key determinants of the (successful) implementation of flu vaccination are.</p> <p>The presentation should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- illustrate elements mentioned in the Policy Brief (well care visits, structure and access to vaccination, physician education and training, medical practices, importance of health communication ...)</li> <li>- emphasize the role of knowledge, belief and perception of values in the acceptance of vaccination by the public and Health Care Professionals</li> <li>- explain the role that social science should bring to the management of vaccination programmes by Public Health Professionals</li> </ul>	<p><b>Prof. Thomas D. Szucs</b> (confirmed)  <i>Co-Director European Center of Pharmaceutical Medicine University Hospital Postfach, Basel, Switzerland</i></p>

<p><b>10:55 – 11:20</b></p>	<p><b>4. Assessing and monitoring 50+ vaccination policies and their implementation</b></p> <p>Value and feasibility of a "diagnostic tool" to assess determinants for successful implementation of 50+ vaccination in Europe (at country, regional or local levels) and the way to address them through best practices.</p> <p>The presentation should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- present an assessment tool developed to analyse the implementation of seasonal flu vaccination programmes in EU countries</li> <li>- show practical examples comparing national situations</li> <li>- provide examples of best practices that could be used to properly address the gap in implementation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Dr. Luc Hessel</b></p> <p><i>Executive Director Policy Affairs, Europe Sanofi Pasteur MSD, Lyon, France</i></p>
<p><b>11:20 – 12:00</b></p>	<p><b><u>Session II: Panel discussion</u></b></p> <p><b>1- Clarification of some aspects of presentations: each panellist is asked to briefly comment on one point of his presentation</b></p> <p><b>2- Q&amp;A with the audience</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Elaborate on the concept of 50+</li> <li>b. Perception and acceptability of the vaccination by the 50+ and older population</li> <li>c. Experience and best practices of alternative approaches to deliver vaccine in this population (e.g. routine check of vaccination status, use of medical records ...)</li> <li>d. Processes and methods measuring the impact of vaccination programmes</li> <li>e. What can be the role of EUPHA and other Public Health organisations (national and European) in the implementation of life course vaccination programmes</li> <li>f. Harmonisation of life course vaccination programmes in the EU</li> </ol>	<p><b>Moderator: Prof. Tomasz Kostka</b></p> <p><i>Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences Department of Geriatrics, Medical University of Lodz, Poland</i></p> <p>With previous speakers</p> <p>And</p> <p><b>Dr. Ruth Gelletlie</b></p> <p><i>EUPHA Infectious Disease Section and Health Protection Agency Director, Leeds, UK</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Pawel Stefanoff</b></p> <p><i>Head of the Division of Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases Treated with Vaccines, National Institute of Public Health, Warsaw, Poland</i></p>