



**isirv**

International Society for  
Influenza and other  
Respiratory Virus Diseases

# Respiratory Virus Report

spring 2006



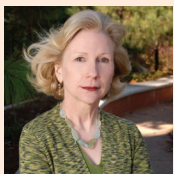
## new journal!

**Blackwell to publish new  
isirv peer-reviewed  
scientific journal.**

A new international scientific journal will be the first exclusively devoted to influenza and other respiratory virus diseases.

continued on page 2

### In this issue:



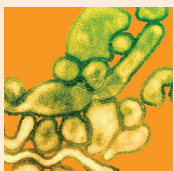
#### isirv News ..... 2

Dr Nancy J Cox named to "TIME 100"; **isirv** exhibit coming to selected international meetings; *Options VI* hotel and convention centre arrangements confirmed



#### Spotlight on South Africa ..... 3

Prof Barry D Schoub, Executive Director of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, describes influenza surveillance activities in this nation of 44.3 million people



#### In the Loop ..... 4

Summaries of recent key literature in viral respiratory disease

### isirv in action:

Meeting details inside. See page: 5

**Madison, Wisconsin, USA  
15-19 July 2006**

**Birmingham, England, UK  
3-6 September 2006**

**Coral Gables, Florida, USA  
28-29 September 2006**

**Lyon, France  
9-11 October 2006**

**Vienna, Austria  
18-20 October 2006**

***Options for the Control  
of Influenza VI*  
17-23 June 2007**

# new journal!

## Blackwell to publish new isirv peer-reviewed scientific journal.



Dr Geoffrey C Schild, **isirv** interim board chair (left foreground), signs agreement with Caroline Black, Blackwell Publishing (right foreground). Standing in the background are Dr John M Wood, **isirv** interim board secretary, and Maria Khan and Helen Clements of Blackwell Publishing

**isirv** is pleased to announce that Blackwell Publishing has added the new **isirv** publication *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses* to its roster of prestigious medical and scientific journals. *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses* will be the official scientific journal of **isirv**, and will be the first peer-reviewed journal exclusively devoted to respiratory viruses. The first issue is anticipated in fall 2006, with future issues to be published bimonthly beginning in early 2007.

Dr Alan Hampson, one of the world's leading influenza experts and a member of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Pandemic Influenza Taskforce, has been appointed the editor of the new journal. Dr Hampson recently retired as deputy director of the Australian WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza, where his contributions to research, diagnostics, and public health policy have made Australia a leader in pandemic preparedness. Dr Geoffrey C Schild, **isirv** interim chair, has been appointed the deputy editor.

A 1-year subscription to *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses* is included in the annual **isirv** membership fee. The journal will be instrumental to the fulfillment of **isirv**'s stated mission; namely, that it will provide a forum for the exchange of information for the prevention, detection, treatment, and control of influenza and other respiratory virus diseases.



Dr Alan Hampson



## Barry Schoub

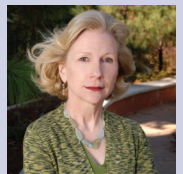
Professor Schoub is Executive Director, National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), Sandringham, South Africa

### About the NICD

The NICD was formed in January 2002 from the former National Health Laboratory Service, National Institute for Virology, South African Institute for Medical Research, and various governmental and provincial laboratories. The NICD is a comprehensive public health resource, and assists in planning, policies, and programmes to support appropriate responses to communicable diseases and issues within South Africa and throughout the South African continent. The URL for the NICD's website is <http://www.nicd.ac.za/>.

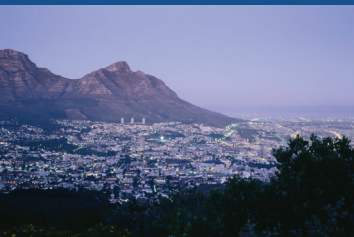
## isirv in action:

### Dr Nancy J Cox Named to the "TIME 100"



*Options VI* conference chair and **isirv** board member, Dr Nancy J Cox, was recognised for her contributions to science with her nomination to *Time* magazine's "TIME 100" list of the world's most influential people in its 8 May 2006 issue. Dr Cox won this distinction, accorded to only 15 other scientists and thinkers, for her pandemic influenza research. The *Time* article is available online at: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1187246,00.html>.

more action items on page 5



## Surveillance of Acute Viral Respiratory Disease in South Africa

by Barry Schoub, MD, DSc, FRCPath

Surveillance of influenza and acute respiratory disease in South Africa is an important component of global surveillance for two reasons. Firstly, South Africa is one of only a few southern hemisphere surveillance sites and is therefore an important window for monitoring the ongoing antigenic drift during the northern hemisphere summer. Influenza virus isolates from the South African surveillance programme contribute to the composition of influenza vaccine used both in the southern and northern hemispheres. For example, the A/Johannesburg/33/94 strain of influenza—a dominant H3N2 strain in the mid-1990s—was included in the commercial adjuvanted influenza vaccines of that time.<sup>1</sup> Secondly, the South African influenza surveillance programme provides one of very few sites regularly furnishing information on influenza on the African continent. Little is known about the impact of influenza in developing countries and even less in Africa.<sup>2</sup> There is every reason to believe that the virus is responsible for relatively greater illness and economic burden in the African continent where health is already compromised by malnutrition, underlying tropical diseases, TB, and HIV/AIDS. The community viral load is undoubtedly significantly higher because of crowding<sup>3</sup> which is particularly intense in the sprawling informal settlements that are part and parcel of the burgeoning urbanization in the developing world. Influenza also has a relatively greater economic impact in developing countries<sup>4</sup> which are so dependent on small-scale business, agriculture, and trade.

A South African viral surveillance programme was started in Gauteng province, which includes Johannesburg and Pretoria, in 1984 with a very modest beginning of 10 centres. The Viral Watch Programme was useful in providing influenza isolates for the planning of the southern hemisphere vaccine formulation.<sup>5</sup> Upper respiratory tract specimens collected from throat or nasopharyngeal swabs were obtained from patients presenting with acute respiratory symptoms without any overt bacteriological cause. The specimens were sent on viral transport media to the NICD (National Institute for Communicable Diseases) for analysis. By 2006, the programme had grown to 85 sites, including Cape Town and Durban.

The sentinel doctors are predominantly general practitioners, so the surveillance programme largely reflects community disease. Specimens are screened in the laboratory using PCR to provide practitioners with a rapid result. Positive results are phoned or faxed back to the surveillance site. Positive specimens are cultured and strain characterization performed by standard antigenic and molecular analysis.

A variety of inducements are used to attract clinician participation. All tests are done free of charge. Participating doctors are added to the mailing list of the NICD, from which they receive monthly communiqués, bulletins, and other publications. They also receive a certain number of continuing professional development (CPD) points, which are essential for medical practitioners to remain on the register of the Health Professions Council of South Africa. An annually renewable wall-mounted certificate attesting to their participation as a “Watch Doc” is provided. An annual function is held at the NICD to review activities of the Viral Watch Programme and a golden swab is presented to the best participating “Watch Doc.”

Beyond its global value as a sentinel site for southern hemisphere viral strain circulation, results from the Viral Watch Programme have had great national public health value. The onset of the influenza season plotted over 2 decades has been useful in advising the timing of annual vaccination programmes. The relation of influenza isolation to a variety of consequential diseases, such as reactivation of TB, is being explored. Finally, the Viral Watch Programme has served to improve awareness of influenza vaccination which is unfortunately greatly underutilised in this part of the world.

### References

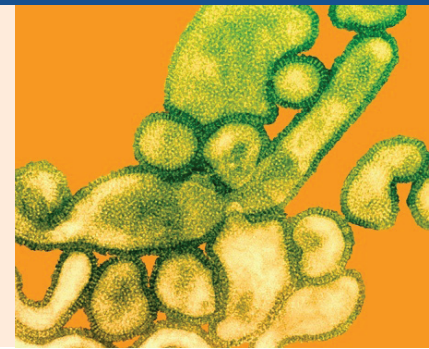
1. Frey S, Poland G, Percell S, Podda A. Comparison of the safety, tolerability, and immunogenicity of a MF59-adjuvanted influenza vaccine and a non-adjuvanted vaccine in non-elderly adults. *Vaccine*. 2003;21:4234-4237.
2. Schoub BD, McAnerney JM, Besselaar TG. Regional perspectives on influenza surveillance in Africa. *Vaccine*. 2002;20(suppl 2):S45-S46.
3. Denney FW Jr. The clinical impact of human respiratory virus infections. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*. 1995;152(4 part 2):S4-S12.
4. Gavazzi G, Herrmann F, Krause KH. Aging and infectious diseases in the developing world. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2004;39:83-91.
5. Schoub BD, Johnson S, McAnerney J, Blackburn NK. Benefits and limitations of the Witwatersrand influenza and acute respiratory infections surveillance programme. *S Afr Med J*. 1994;84:674-678.



## In the Loop



## Recent publications and news items of special interest to isirv members



### PUBLIC HEALTH

#### **WHO issues updated pandemic influenza planning guidelines**

Three-part plan to recognise, verify, and contain an influenza pandemic close to its source. Describes roles and responsibilities of countries and of the WHO for preparedness planning, rapid response, and containment.

Source: World Health Organisation. *WHO pandemic influenza draft protocol for rapid response and containment*.

17 March 2006. Available at: [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/guidelines/pandemicfluprotocol\\_17.03a.pdf](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/guidelines/pandemicfluprotocol_17.03a.pdf). Accessed 27 March 2006.

### SURVEILLANCE/VIRAL GENETICS

#### **Two distinct strains of H5N1 avian influenza identified in Southeast Asian human cases**

Since 2003, the hemagglutinin gene has evolved into 3 distinct clades, one of which was not previously known to cause human infection. These findings suggest that all H5N1 genotypes and clades have pandemic potential.

Source: Garten RJ, Smith C, Xu X, Balish A, Klimov A, Lien P, Blair P, Cox N, Donis R. Analysis of H5N1 influenza viruses from humans and birds between 2003 and 2005 reveals an increase in the spectrum of viruses with pandemic potential.

*International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases 2006*. 19-22 March 2006. Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Abstract 64.

*Related coverage:*

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/Pulmonary/URIstheFlu/tb/2891>

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/528258?src=mp>

### CLINICAL MEDICINE

#### **American College of Chest Physicians publishes first evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for the diagnosis and management of cough**

Comprehensive review of the diagnosis and treatment of one of the most ubiquitous presenting symptoms in general practice. Viral, bacterial, allergic, mechanical, and other causes of cough are systematically discussed.

Source: Supplement to *Chest*, volume 129, number 1 supplement, January 2006. Available at: [http://www.chestjournal.org/content/vol129/1\\_suppl/](http://www.chestjournal.org/content/vol129/1_suppl/). Accessed 21 March 2006.

#### **Clinical features, epidemiology, and diagnosis of human metapneumovirus in adults described**

A case series of 6 symptomatic patients with laboratory-confirmed metapneumovirus infection is described.

Source: O'Gorman C, McHenry E, Coyle PV. Human metapneumovirus in adults: a short case series. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis*. 2006;25:190-192. PubMed ID: 16534565.



Geoffrey C Schild, PhD, CBE

### ISIRV INTERIM BOARD MEMEBERS

Dr Geoffrey C Schild (Chair)  
Dr John M Wood (Secretary)  
Dr John M Watson (Treasurer)  
Dr Nancy J Cox  
Prof Lars R Haaheim

Prof Karl G Nicholson  
Prof Malik Peiris  
Dr Vilma Savy  
Dr Barry Schoub  
Dr Masato Tashiro

## isirv event calendar

### Participation in several upcoming international influenza meetings

**isirv's** participation in several upcoming international influenza meetings has been confirmed. The **isirv** booth will be in the exhibit hall for the following major meetings. Please stop by and introduce yourself to the interim board members. As always, we welcome your ideas for future activities and publications.

#### **American Society for Virology 25th Annual Meeting**

15-19 July 2006

Madison, Wisconsin, USA

<http://virology.wisc.edu/asv06/>

#### **European Society for Clinical Virology 8th Annual Meeting**

3-6 September 2006

Birmingham, England, UK

<http://www.escv2006.co.uk>

#### **World Vaccine Congress 2006**

9-11 October 2006

Lyon, France

<http://www.lifescienceworld.com/2006/wvcl%5Ffr/>

#### **Influenza Vaccines for the World**

18-20 October 2006

Vienna, Austria

[http://www.meetingsmanagement.com/ivw\\_2006/](http://www.meetingsmanagement.com/ivw_2006/)



#### **Options for the Control of Influenza VI**

June 17-23, 2007 - Toronto, Ontario, Canada

#### **Options for the Control of Influenza VI**

17-23 June 2007

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

<http://www.optionsviconference.com>

## New Cells for New Vaccines: Focus on Plant and Insect Cell Technologies

28-29 September 2006 • Coral Gables, Florida

An international scientific workshop will be presented by the International Association for Biologicals in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Fraunhofer USA Center for Molecular Biotechnology and **isirv** at the historic Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida, just north of the University of Miami. InB:Biotechnologies, Inc is providing major support and coordination for the workshop with additional corporate sponsorship from Bayer Innovation and Retroscreen Virology Ltd.

This workshop will be of interest to the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry involved in vaccine development and production, as well as academics, regulatory and public health authorities, and medical and veterinary experts. The workshop will consist of presentations from international leaders in vaccine development, oral presentations selected from submitted abstracts, posters, and trade exhibits.

The program will focus on the following topics:

- Insect and plant cell biology & expression systems
- Product development and manufacturing
- Case studies—recent clinical trials
- International regulatory perspectives

Further information regarding workshop registration, abstract, poster, and trade exhibit submission may be obtained from Jennifer Kmiec, InB:Biotechnologies, Inc ([jkmiec@inb-biotechnologies.com](mailto:jkmiec@inb-biotechnologies.com)).

## Options VI Update

The *Options VI* Organising Committee is pleased to announce that all arrangements with the exhibition hall and conference hotels have been confirmed. Scientific presentations and exhibits will take place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC). The official conference hotels are the InterContinental, Fairmont Royal York, and the Renaissance Toronto Hotel Downtown. These hotels offer international travelers comprehensive amenities at competitive prices.

Prime exhibit space in the MTCC is now available. For further information about opportunities for commercial support in conjunction with *Options VI*, please contact **Del Staecker**, [del.staecker@meditechmedia.com](mailto:del.staecker@meditechmedia.com) or 1 404 591 3214.

In recognition of the international demand for certified continuing medical education (CME), selected portions of the conference and satellite symposia will be certified for CME by the Center for Accredited Healthcare Education. For further information about CME activities in conjunction with *Options VI*, please contact **Anne Perch**, [anne.perch@cahe.com](mailto:anne.perch@cahe.com) or 1 404 591 3207.

## The key objectives of *Options VI* include:

- Provide comprehensive, state-of-the-art scientific information for all disciplines involved in influenza prevention, control, and treatment, including seasonal and 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 programmes
- Provide a collegial atmosphere within which 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

## Great Minds Think...About Joining isirv

**isirv** is an open membership, independent scientific organisation for individual scientists, clinicians, public health experts, and others with a professional interest in influenza and other respiratory viruses.

In the spirit of the *Options* conferences, we seek to provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas between all members. It is our aim to provide an internationally respected voice to advocate for making respiratory virus disease research a higher priority in the various public health agency agenda.

We cordially extend an invitation to you and your colleagues to join our society. Please visit our online registration page at <http://www.isirv.org/membership/registration.cfm>. All members will receive a 1-year subscription to the new peer-reviewed journal, *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses*, with their annual membership fee.

**isirv** firmly believes that sharing the insights gleaned from multiple disciplines, different perspectives, and varied experience plays a crucial role in advancing research and healthcare in respiratory virus diseases. Your opinions and viewpoints matter! Please share your thoughts with us via e-mail, at [isirv@btinternet.com](mailto:isirv@btinternet.com).



## isirv mission

**isirv** will work for the prevention, detection, treatment, and control of influenza and other respiratory viral diseases throughout the world.

It will do so through the exchange and dissemination of information, through facilitating the interaction of scientists and public health specialists, and through promoting international collaborative efforts against these diseases.

## 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
- Organise 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 Membership Application

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
First Name	Last Name	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Current Position	Academic Title	
<input type="text"/>		
Institution Name		
Institution Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Academic <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health <input type="checkbox"/> Governmental		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Industry	Department	
<input type="text"/>		
Address 1		
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Address 2		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
City	State	Postal Code
<input type="text"/>		
Country		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Phone	Fax	
<input type="text"/>		
E-mail Address		

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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal health/disease             | <input type="checkbox"/> Diagnostics, epidemiology, and surveillance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human health/disease              | <input type="checkbox"/> Vaccines                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoonoses/ecology                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Immunology                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pandemic preparedness             | <input type="checkbox"/> Antivirals                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Policy for control and prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> Viral structure & replication               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cost benefit and health economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Other? <input type="text"/>                 |

**Which virus(es) are your main interest?**

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

**The Society's members will elect the officers of isirv.**

If proposed, would you accept to be nominated for election?

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

<input type="text"/>
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Membership fees of € 75 may be paid by cheque or bank transfer to the **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](http://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:

**Dr Geoffrey C Schild**  
**17 Sunnyfield, Mill Hill**  
**London NW7 4RD, UK**

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.