



Respiratory Virus Report

spring 2011

isirv and NISN Join Together

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Summer School on Influenza
1-5 August 2011
Siena, Italy

The Fourth ESWI Influenza
Conference
11-14 September 2011
Malta

isirv Antiviral Group Conference
Influenza Antivirals: Efficacy and
Resistance
8-10 November 2011
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

isirv and NISN Join Together

After discussions over the past year or so, 10th March 2011 saw completion of a formal agreement to bring together the Neuraminidase Inhibitor Susceptibility Network (NISN) and the International Society for Influenza and other Respiratory Virus Diseases (**isirv**). NISN becomes the first Special Interest Group of **isirv** and will henceforth be known as the **isirv** Antiviral Group.

The Group's first major activity as a part of **isirv** will be organisation, together with the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Brazil, and PAHO, of an international meeting on *Influenza Antivirals: Efficacy and Resistance*, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, 8-10 November 2011.

Since its formation in 1999, NISN has played a major role in the independent monitoring of antiviral drug resistance against the Neuraminidase Inhibitor (NI) group of drugs, first developing methodology for surveillance of antiviral resistance, and latterly helping to build the capacity of national reference agencies to undertake such work.

The Group has been an informal association of around ten leading scientists. In its search for ways to have a more formal status and structure, discussions began with **isirv**, which has which has registration as a British charity and incorporation as a not-for-profit agency. It was soon evident that there was much potential synergy. NISN brought a strong scientific reputation in a particular area of influenza science; **isirv** was rapidly growing as the key global scientific society in the field.

To facilitate the merger, **isirv** developed a structure for 'Special Interest Groups'. This was approved at its AGM last September, opening the way to creating an appropriate new home for NISN. It is also hoped that other interest areas will make use of this new structure, and indeed the Board has already received a couple of expressions of interest.

In making the move to **isirv**, NISN members also decided to demonstrate that their interest was expanding to antivirals more generally, thus leading to the choice of a new name, the isirv Antiviral Group. It is expected that, in June, further decisions will be made about how the new Group will operate, and after that, other members of isirv will be able to join.

The Board of **isirv** and the members of NISN together believe that this association will do much to benefit the growth, activities and standing of isirv while also leading to a new era of wider activity and involvement for what was NISN.

The word "influenza" is Italian for "influence". Early Italian astrologers thought that the flu was an "influence" of the heavenly bodies.

-Source: <http://www.ds-health.com/influ.htm>

Meet the new Medical Editor of the Respiratory Virus Report



Kathleen Gensheimer, MD, MPH, FIDSA

isirv welcomes Dr Kathleen Gensheimer as the new Medical Editor of the *Respiratory Virus Report* for 2011.

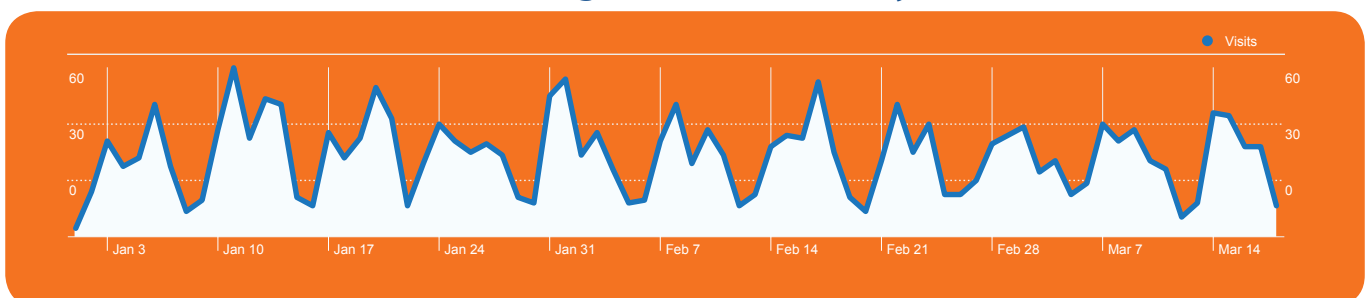
Dr Gensheimer is a resident of Yarmouth, Maine, USA. She received her medical degree from the University of Rochester and her Master of Public Health from Harvard University. She completed a public health residency at the New Jersey Department of Health and an internship in paediatrics at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia.

She has over 30 years of applied public health experience, and is a nationally recognised public health leader and epidemiologist. She is currently a public health consultant in the area of infectious disease, providing, among other things, program evaluation of surveillance systems and outbreak management and control strategies. In addition, she is currently a member of numerous societies including the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists in which she received the Pumphandle Award for outstanding achievements in the field of applied epidemiology. Dr Gensheimer has published over 45 manuscripts and reports for journals such as the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* and *Lancet*. She also currently sits on the editorial board of *Emerging Infectious Diseases*.

Dr Gensheimer was previously the Director of Medical and Scientific Affairs at Sanofi Pasteur Biologics where she directed strategies, activity and issue management of the ACAM2000 smallpox vaccine and performed as the medical affairs lead for the newly developing nosocomial franchise. Prior to this position, she was the State Epidemiologist for the Maine Center for Disease Control, Department of Health and Human Services. Throughout her 28-year career as a State Epidemiologist, Dr Gensheimer provided medical and epidemiological guidance and consultation on the control of infectious diseases to numerous teams, state-level administrative officials, medical professionals, diagnostic laboratories and professional and voluntary health organisations. In addition, she served as the spokesperson on public health issues and provided input on public health policy and bio-emergency/pandemic influenza preparedness efforts. She was also the Senior Assistant Surgeon of the United States Public Health Service, and following that, continued a 16-year service in the inactive reserve commission corps.

It is clear that with her extensive experience, Dr Gensheimer will provide key guidance for the 2011 edition of the *Respiratory Virus Report*. If you have any comments, questions or article ideas, please feel free to contact her at Kathleen.Gensheimer@hotmail.com.

isirv.org Website Activity



isirv.org had 2,240 visits between January to mid-March 2011



Remembering an Influenza Pioneer


Edwin D. Kilbourne, MD 1920 – 2011

On February 21st of this year, the world lost Edwin Dennis Kilbourne, MD, one of the most prominent figures in the field of influenza research.

Dr Kilbourne contributed to many aspects of influenza research, however, he was probably best known for his breakthrough research in which he identified methods of developing genetically engineered influenza vaccines for use in immunization. Kilbourne's group also identified many ideas that provide the basis for current research on influenza. For example, his group identified that virus infectivity, transmissibility and virulence were genetically separable factors.

Throughout his career, Dr Kilbourne received many awards and honours including, the Dyer Award and the Career Award (both given by the National Institutes of Health), the New York Academy of Medicine Award, the Award of Distinction from Cornell Medical College and the Borden Award of the Association of Medical Colleges for outstanding research in medical science.

Although Dr Kilbourne formally retired in 2002, he continued writing manuscripts on topics such as the influenza pandemics of the 20th century, intradermal vaccination strategies for influenza, and influenza immunity. One of his last published works was a commentary on fatalities of the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic. Dr Kilbourne also left behind a legacy for all future influenza researchers in the archive of influenza virus reassortants, mutants and antisera at New York Medical College. Dr Kilbourne did not only write scientific works, he also published numerous humorous pieces and poems, take for example, the following poem about bighorn rams:



Let me tell you how it is with *Ovis Canadensis canadensis*
and of his efforts to conceive and consequently up the census.
In order that he keep his ewes in his possession
He will create mating opportunities with some form of aggression.
His wooly wooing is neither smooth nor is it unctuous,
And therefore can be fairly termed, "rambunctious".
He will take from those that have to make them his'n.
Which in the interest of rhyme can be called a ewephemism.

Dr Kilbourne is survived by his wife of 58 years, four sons and eight grandchildren. It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to this integral player in the field of influenza.

“He had a life to be admired”

- Jim Robertson,
former **isirv** board member

isirv Conference Activities Update



Summer School on Influenza 1-5 August 2011 Siena, Italy

The Molecular Epidemiology Research Division of the University of Siena is providing a one-of-a-kind experience, a Summer School on Influenza, supported by **isirv**. The Summer School on Influenza will provide opportunities to learn about numerous influenza-related topics such as virology, vaccinations and immunology. During the four and one-half intensive working days, the attendees will be given a theoretical introduction to influenza and the basic techniques used in surveillance and research. In addition to the basics, the curriculum has been designed to emphasise the biology and molecular biology of host-pathogen interactions, host immune response, ecology, evolution and transmission. The faculty will include recognized international scientists in the influenza field. The social programme will allow for the opportunity of building relationships with colleagues from around the world. One afternoon will be reserved for exploring beautiful Siena and the Tuscany region.

The Summer School on Influenza is open to a limited number of participants (30). In the selection of participants, in addition to qualifications, applicants aged 35 years or less and holding an active **isirv** membership will receive a higher score. For more information and application forms please visit http://www.unisi.it/postlaurea/summer_school.htm, available in May 2011. For further information, please contact summerschoolflu2011@unisi.it.

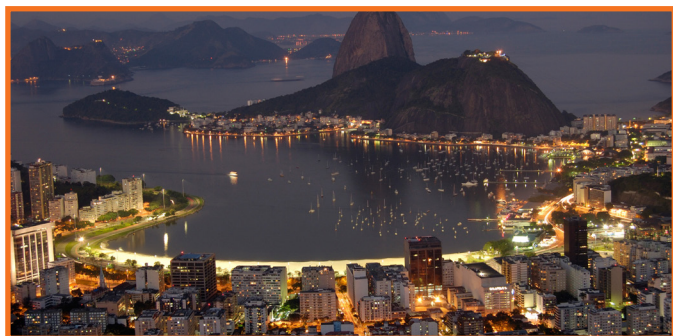


The Fourth ESWI Influenza Conference 11-14 September 2011 Malta

The fourth ESWI conference will be held at the InterContinental hotel on beautiful St. George's Bay, Malta. This year, the conference will have two clearly delineated programme tracks: a programme for public health officials, called 'Science Policy Interface' and a scientific programme. Science Policy Interface will have seven sessions on topics such as treatment and prevention of seasonal flu, animal influenza, promotion of influenza vaccination, etc. chaired by top experts in the field. The scientific programme will provide a platform to discuss the recent pandemic, advances in influenza research as well as control, prevention and treatment of influenza. In addition, the scientific programme will feature renowned keynote speakers, chairpersons and lecturers. The conference is represented by Dr Ab Osterhaus as the Conference Chair and Dr Derek Smith as the Co-Chair. Sixty scholarships are offered through the ESWI Young Scientist Fund in honour of Claude Hannoun to applicants who have held a PhD or a clinical qualification for no longer than 5 years. In addition, an award of €10,000 will go to The Best Body of Work Award winner. For more information on the abstract submission, scholarships, accommodations or to view the programme or register visit <http://www.eswicongference.org>.

Better a vaccine without an epidemic than an epidemic without a vaccine

-Edwin D. Kilbourne, MD



Influenza Antivirals: Efficacy and Resistance
8-10 November 2011
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The inaugural conference of the **isirv**-Antiviral Group (**isirv**-AVG) will take place 8-10 November in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil at the lovely Rio Othon Palace hotel. This conference is organised in conjunction with the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) and PAHO. Specific topics to be covered in the programme include: the available anti-influenza drugs and their use in different situations and settings; the emergence and molecular basis of resistance; surveillance and detection of resistant phenotypes and resistance mutations, especially in relation to drug use; associated studies of potential local and community spread; animal studies of virus fitness and the potential clinical/epidemiological significance of resistant mutants; new antiviral approaches and drug combinations. Further details on the preliminary programme, hotel accommodations and abstract submission will be available on the **isirv**-AVG website beginning April 2011. Inquiries regarding participation in or support of this conference can be directed to the **isirv**-AVG Conference Organiser Lidia Desouza at isirv-AVG@desouza-associates.com.

Options VIII Location Announced

isirv is pleased to announce that *Options for the Control of Influenza VIII* will be held in Cape Town, South Africa 5-10 September 2013.

Organising Committee Chair
Mark Mendelson
Principal Specialist
Head: Division of Infectious Diseases and HIV Medicine
Groote Schuur Hospital, University of Cape Town
Cape Town, South Africa

Organising Committee Deputy Chair
John Watson
Director
Respiratory Diseases Department
Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections
London, United Kingdom

Scientific Committee Co-Chair
Wolfgang Preiser
Head: Division of Medical Virology
Department of Pathology
Faculty of Health Sciences
Stellenbosch University and NHL
Cape Town, South Africa

Scientific Committee Co-Chair
Stacey Schultz-Perry
Associate Member
Department of Infectious Diseases
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Memphis, TN USA

Watch <http://www.controlinfluenza.com> in the coming months for more information.



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@healthinteractions.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
- Organize 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

In the Loop



Recent publications and news items of special interest to isirv members



contributed by **Stephan Ludwig**

MAP kinase- activated protein kinases 2 and 3 are required influenza A virus propagation and act via inhibition of PKR. Luig, C., Köther, K., Dudek, S., Gaestel, M., Hiscott, J., Wixler, V., and Ludwig, S. *FASEB J.* 2010; 24:4068-4077.

The clinically approved proteasome inhibitor PS-341 efficiently blocks influenza A virus and vesicular stomatitis virus propagation by establishing an antiviral state.

Dudek, S. E., Luig, Ch., Pauli, E.- K., Schubert, U., and Ludwig, S. *J Virol.* 2010; 84:9439-9451.

The epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) promotes uptake of influenza A viruses (IAV) into host cells.

Eierhoff, T., Hrinicius, E.R., Rescher, U., Ludwig, S., and Ehrhardt, C. *PLoS Pathogens.* 2010; 6:e1001099.

Origin of the 1918 pandemic H1N1 influenza A virus as studied by codon usage patterns and phylogenetic analysis.

Anhlan, D., Grundmann, N., Makalowski, W., Ludwig, S., and Scholtissek C. *RNA.* 2011; 17:64-73.

H5N1 virus activates signalling pathways in human endothelial cells resulting in a specific imbalanced inflammatory response.

Viemann, D., Schmolke, M., Lueken, A. Boergeling, Y., Friesenhagen, J., Wittkowski, H., Ludwig, S., and Roth, J. J. *Immunol.* 2011; 186:164-173.

Dr Ludwig is affiliated with the Institute of Molecular Virology (IMV) at the Center of Molecular Biology of Inflammation (ZMBE) Westphalian-Wilhelms-University of Muenster Von Eschmarch in Muenster, Germany. His email address is ludwigs@uni-muenster.de.

Recommendations from the Medical Editor (Kathleen Gensheimer, MD, MPH, FIDSA)

Clinical Infectious Diseases published a supplement in January 2011 devoted exclusively to the 2009 H1N1 Pandemic. *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 2011; 52(suppl 1).

Take a look at the last few issues of *Emerging Infectious Diseases* to find numerous H1 public health oriented articles.

isirv Solicits Member Input

Do you have suggestions for recent articles that you believe your colleagues should not miss? **isirv** is asking members to submit recommendations for recently published articles of particular interest and relevance to the **isirv** membership to the **isirv** Editorial Board for publication in an upcoming issue of Respiratory Virus Report. Please submit references for articles (and optional headshot) to chris.carter@healthinteractions.com. The Editorial Board welcomes all suggestions and ideas for continuing to improve and publish a newsletter that serves as a valuable means of communication and service for the **isirv** membership.

Position Announcement: Senior Program Officer – Pneumonia

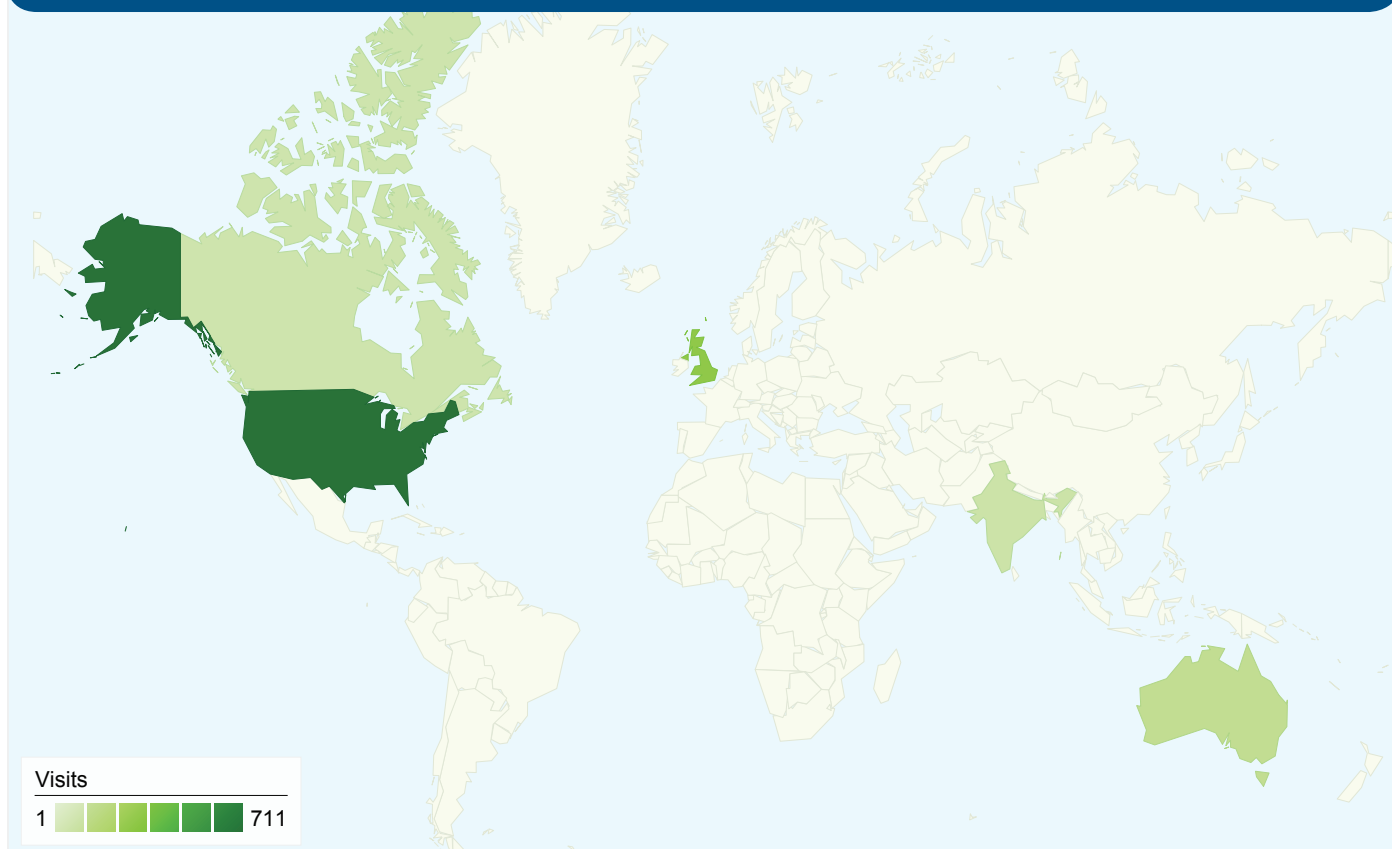
**BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation**

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, [the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#) works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health, giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, the foundation is led by CEO Jeff Raikes and co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.

The foundation's [Global Health Program](#) - Infectious Diseases division is recruiting for a [Senior Program Officer \(SPO\) - Pneumonia](#). We are looking for a **global expert in pneumonia** with recognised medical, scientific, management and strategic planning skills. Clinical, research and regulatory experience is strongly preferred. The ideal candidate will have lived and worked in various regions of the world for a period of time giving him/her an appreciation for the complexities of implementing field-based research and translating research findings into effective programmes. A history of successfully working with the private sector would be a plus. This position reports to the Strategic Program Lead for the Pneumonia team and is located in Seattle.

To view full position details and to apply, please visit: [Req #2312 – Senior Program Officer – Pneumonia](#) or contact the Senior Recruiter, Global Health Programs, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation at karen.pernick@gatesfoundation.org.

isirv.org Website Activity | globally, isirv.org had 2,240 visits between January to mid-March 2011



isirv Membership Application

First Name

Last Name

Current Position

Academic Title

Institution Name

Institution Type: Academic Industry Public Health Governmental

Industry

Department

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?

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:

Membership fees of €100 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. 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.