



November, 2005



Dr Gerald Fischer becomes the first registered member of isirv

**Dr Gerald Fischer
Physician, PanFlu
Uniformed Services University
Bethesda, MD**

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

**Register online at
www.isirv.org**



Formation of isirv Announced at The Second European Influenza Conference

The inaugural and founding meeting of the International Society for Influenza and other Respiratory Virus Diseases (**isirv**), was held at 11:00, Sunday, 11 September 2005 at the InterContinental Hotel in Valletta, Malta. Nearly 100 meeting participants listened raptly as each of the founding board members described the mission of **isirv**, its proposed structure, and ideas for future activities. Among the highlights of the presentation, Dr Geoffrey C Schild, founding chair of the new organisation, stated that **isirv** will be an independent scientific professional society to promote the prevention, detection, treatment, and control of influenza and other respiratory virus diseases throughout the world. **isirv** also seeks to promote international collaborative efforts against these diseases. He noted that **isirv** is the first professional scientific body to represent the increasing number of disciplines involved in respiratory virus disease research, from basic science to healthcare policy. He invited comments and ideas from the audience as to how **isirv** may best pursue its goals.

The launch of **isirv** has been welcomed by offices of the World Health Organisation (WHO), the WHO Collaborating Centres for Reference and Research on Influenza, and an international group of individual scientists, clinicians, and public health experts. Plans for the organisation's launch have been in deliberation for about a year, according to Dr Schild.

Dr John M Watson, founding treasurer, emphasised the independent and fully international character of **isirv**, "**isirv** will be an independent organisation with an individual member base, representing all disciplines from bench to bedside. Each

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CDC Influenza Branch Chief to Chair 2007 Options Conference in Toronto

isirv founding board member Dr Nancy J Cox will chair *Options for the Control of Influenza VI*, 17-23 June 2007, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. In her conference welcome letter, Dr Cox stated that "*Options for the Control of Influenza* has grown from a small scientific symposium in 1985 to what is today the largest international conference exclusively devoted to

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Formation of isirv Announced at The Second European Influenza Conference (continued from page 1)

member will have one vote, and will be able to vote board members and candidates in and out of office... We seek the broadest possible cross-disciplinary involvement, and desire a broad geographic representation. To that end, we want to invite additional board members from areas of the world not currently represented on the board." Dr Karl G Nicholson, another founding board member, commented that **isirv** would welcome participants from Oceania and Southeast Asia. He emphasised that **isirv** wants to really reach people who aren't members of other organisations, such as researchers in Beijing, and take on their interests. **isirv** proposes that board members will be elected by the members for 3-year terms. This will ensure continuity of operations from one *Options* conference to the next.

Initially, one of the most important activities of **isirv** will be to act as a parent or umbrella organisation for the triennial *Options for the Control of Influenza* international conference. Dr Nancy J Cox has been appointed Chair of *Options for the Control of Influenza VI*. Regrettably, Dr Cox was unable to attend the **isirv** inaugural meeting. Standing in for Dr Cox was Dr Ann Moen, *Options VI* Co-Chair. Dr Moen stated that *Options VI* will be held 17-23 June 2007 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. She stated that as in past years, the conference will provide a collegial forum for scientists from academia, clinical research, government, and industry to disseminate information about the most recent advances in influenza research.

Although details have not been finalised, Prof Lars R Haaheim explained that proceeds from prior *Options* conferences (ie, legacy funds), will be administered by **isirv** in accordance with the laws governing charitable funds, with some portions used to support **isirv**. Paul Sommerfeld, a consultant organiser currently assisting the founding board, explained the necessity and desirability of formal legal registration for **isirv**. Plans are being made to register the society in a country offering a legal framework suited to an international organisation; the legal codes of the United Kingdom and of Switzerland meet this need. Sustaining memberships and future event fees will provide partial financial support for **isirv**.

Dr John M Wood, founding secretary, invited comment from the audience. The topics generating the greatest interest in the ensuing discussion included respiratory virus disease diagnosis, epidemiology, and surveillance; rapid diagnostic techniques for influenza; pandemic preparedness; new vaccines; and antiviral drug research and evaluation. Several audience members agreed that **isirv** could play a role in advancing knowledge of patient management. Dr Schild stated that training will be a very important function of **isirv**, and an area of potential collaboration with the WHO.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Schild emphasised that **isirv** wishes to form strategic alliances with other organizations whilst adding value that is not offered by other organisations. **isirv** welcomes comments and suggestions from prospective and current members.

If you would like to view the slides presented at the isirv launch, please visit www.isirv.org/news/events.cfm

If you would like to offer comments or suggestions regarding isirv, please e-mail Dr Schild at isirv@btinternet.com.

About Influenza and the Options Conference

Recent outbreaks of highly virulent avian influenza in several countries, and evidence of transmission from poultry to man, have increased concerns regarding the potential

Options for the Control of Influenza VI

17-23 June 2007 • Toronto, Ontario, Canada

risks of pandemic influenza, and established an urgent need for increased international collaboration on research and development. Preparing for the next influenza pandemic is a major priority.

For over 20 years, the *Options* conference has been the premier meeting on influenza, providing a forum for scientists and policy makers from diverse disciplines working towards global control and prevention of influenza. Since the inaugural *Options* conference in 1985, *Options* meetings were held in 1992 (Courchevel, France), 1996 (Cairns, Australia), 2000 (Crete, Greece), and 2003 (Okinawa, Japan). Each *Options* conference has grown in size, and we anticipate that the 2007 conference will draw the largest attendance yet. As an international city, Toronto offers the perfect venue to host this large gathering of scientists from around the world to participate in a conference exclusively devoted to influenza.

CDC Influenza Branch Chief to Chair 2007 Options Conference in Toronto (continued from page 1)

A brochure describing available support opportunities may be downloaded from the website. To stay abreast of the latest schedule and activities for *Options for the Control of Influenza VI*, please visit www.optionsVIconference.com.

influenza, and covering every imaginable topic from basic science to healthcare policy...As we are all too well aware, influenza prevention, control, and treatment present formidable challenges for global healthcare and research... *Options VI* provides a forum for the international collaboration that is essential to the timely detection and control of new influenza strains. As influenza A (H5N1) and other viruses continue their seemingly inexorable advance, the need for



comprehensive, effective pandemic planning has never been more urgent."

Dr Ann Moen, *Options VI* International Organizing Committee Co-Chair, announced on 11 September 2005 that meeting plans are well underway, and described the pivotal role of **isirv** in getting the conference off to an early, orderly start. Already, members of the International Organising Committee, International Advisory

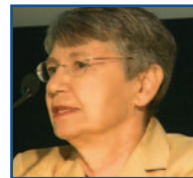


Committee, Canada-Ontario liaisons, and Scientific Committee have been selected. International Organising Committee members are recognised for their expertise in influenza, previous conference management



experience, and wide geographic representation, according to Dr Moen. Dr Jacqueline M Katz, Scientific Programme Chair for *Options VI* stated that the members of her committee span a range of expertise in influenza as well as geographic diversity. Representatives from the veterinary sciences have been invited to span the avian-animal-human interface in influenza. Dr Katz explained that in comparison with previous conferences, *Options VI* will have expanded time for additional scientific sessions, more invited speakers, and more workshops. For the first time, American Medical Association (AMA) continuing medical education (CME) credits will be offered for portions of the meeting and for satellite symposia. This certification will benefit US-licensed physicians and, by special arrangement with the AMA, non-US-licensed physicians whose local jurisdictions recognise AMA Physician's Recognition Award category 1 credit. The rigorous standards which must be satisfied to earn CME certification will inform all prospective participants that the educational content so designated is offered at the highest standards of objectivity. Additionally, a large space has been secured to permit all posters to be displayed simultaneously for the duration of the meeting, thus maximising exposure of conference participants to the latest research. Dr Katz is currently seeking recommendations for invited speakers, and especially

for the keynote speaker. Despite the increased number of formal presentations anticipated for *Options VI*, Dr Moen affirmed in her opening remarks that the collegial, informal discussions characteristic of prior meetings would feature prominently in Toronto: "We understand the value of sidebar conversations at this conference."



Dr Susan Tamblyn, International Organizing Committee Co-Chair, detailed numerous cultural and social opportunities that may occur in conjunction with the conference to foster such interaction. A brochure describing opportunities for commercial support of these activities is available for download at <http://www.optionsVIconference.com/sponsors/sponsors.cfm>.



isirv founding board members

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

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**Membership fee payment
can now be processed
online. Visit www.isirv.org**

**Watch for Newsletter
Respiratory Virus
beginning first quarter 2006**

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

isirv and the *Options VI* News Widely Circulated in Europe and North America

The formal public announcement of Dr Cox's selection as *Options VI* conference chair and the formation of **isirv** was released by PR Newswire on 13 September 2005. The press release has circulated in English, French, and German to hundreds of news services internationally. It was distributed by Belga Press Releases in Belgium; CNW Group, HealthNet Canada, and Canada NewsWire in Canada; Boursica, and VNUnet in France; mysan.de, OnVista, and Apotheken-Heidelberg in Germany; ITNews in Italy; ANP Pers Support in The Netherlands; Bolsamania in Spain; Presseportal in Switzerland; Yahoo! News and BioPortfolio in the UK; and Forbes, BioSpace News, PharmaLive, The Pink Sheet Daily, the Dallas Morning News, the Los Angeles Times, and Yahoo! News in the US. The release was also distributed by news services in Greece and Poland. If you would like to read the full text of the press release, please visit www.isirv.org/news/news.cfm.

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.



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 agendas.

We cordially extend an invitation to you and your colleagues to join our society.

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.

isirv Founding Board Members

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Geoffrey C Schild, PhD (Chair)

Geoffrey C Schild, CBE, PhD, DSc, FRCPath, FRCP is an internationally recognised expert on influenza virology. In addition to his position as Professional Affairs Officer of the Society for General Microbiology, London, UK, he is also the Chief Scientific Officer of INB-Biotechnologies, Inc., a division of Integrated BioPharma, Inc. (Amex: INB), a developer of pioneering therapeutic protein and vaccine production technologies. Dr Schild was formerly Chair of the WHO's Advisory Committee on Influenza Vaccine

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isirv Founding Board Members

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Composition, Director of the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC), Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, UK, and Head of the NIBSC's Division of Virology. Previously, he directed the Medical Research Council AIDS Research Programme and was Head of the Medical Research Council World Influenza Centre. He has also served as Chairman of the European Commission Biological Working Party in Brussels. He is a member of the Councils of the International Vaccines Institute of Seoul, South Korea, and the International Association for Biologicals.



Dr John M Wood, PhD (Secretary)

John M Wood, PhD, is a Principal Scientist and a leader of the NIBSC's influenza group. He and his colleague, Dr Jim Robertson, have been working with the WHO for several years to develop vaccine candidates against avian influenza viruses. The NIBSC is a laboratory sponsored by the UK Department of Health commissioned to develop and test vaccines, blood products, and other biologically based human medicines.



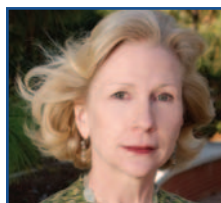
Dr John M Watson, MD (Treasurer)

John M Watson, FRCP, FFPH, is a Consultant Epidemiologist and Head of the Respiratory Diseases Department of the Health Protection Agency's Centre for Infections in London, UK. He is an Honorary Senior Lecturer in the Department of Infectious and Tropical Diseases at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He has worked in the epidemiology, surveillance and control of acute respiratory infections (particularly influenza and SARS) and tuberculosis.



Prof Lars R Haaheim, PhD

Lars R Haaheim is affiliated with the University of Bergen Influenza Centre in Bergen, Norway. He is Director of the Departments of Microbiology and Immunology. He is the author of *A Practical Guide to Clinical Virology*, the beloved cartoon-illustrated medical text on this topic.



Dr Nancy J Cox, PhD

Nancy J Cox, PhD, is Chief, Influenza Branch; Director, WHO

Collaborating Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Control of Influenza, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She has served in various capacities at the CDC for over 25 years, and at the WHO for 10 years. Dr Cox is an expert on influenza epidemiology, including surveillance, evolution, prevention, control, and pandemic planning. Among her honors, she has earned the National Immunization Program Honor Award, the James H. Nakano Citation, and the Charles C. Shepard Science Award. Dr Cox is the author or co-author of more than 120 publications on influenza. She currently serves on the editorial board of *The Lancet*, *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, and has been a reviewer for *JAMA*, *The Lancet*, *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, and *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*. Dr Cox received her PhD in Virology from the University of Cambridge, England.

Prof Karl G Nicholson, MD

Karl G Nicholson, MD, FRCP, is Professor and Honorary Consultant in Infectious Diseases at the University of Leicester Medical School. His clinical work at the Leicester Royal Infirmary includes the investigation of new and emerging diseases. He was formerly Senior Lecturer at the University of Leicester Medical School, Scientific Staff Member at the University of Bangkok in Thailand, a member of the Scientific Staff of Northwick Park Hospital, and Research Fellow at the Centers for Disease Control. Dr Nicholson is a member of the Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Ireland, the International Society of Infectious Diseases, and the East Midlands Society of Physicians.

isirv Membership Application

First Name	Last Name	
Current Position	Academic Title	
Institution Name		
Institution Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Academic <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health <input type="checkbox"/> 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)

<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? _____

Which virus(es) are your main interest?

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

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. 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.