

CEPI | New vaccines for a safer world

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Newsletter 15 September 2017

Address from CEO



The remarkable decline of documented Zika infections in the Western Hemisphere has received a considerable amount of attention in recent months and raises a host of interesting and important questions, ranging across the scientific, epidemiological, financial and political domains. In the wake of Sanofi's recent announcement that it was suspending its Zika vaccine development program due to lack of sustained funding support from the U.S. government, many have asked whether CEPI would now step up and provide funding for Zika. The short answer is that it is too soon to make any definitive pronouncements.

When CEPI's Scientific Advisory Committee prioritized the threats against which CEPI should allocate its resources in late 2016, Zika appeared to offer a potential commercial market to vaccine developers and the U.S. government had already provided substantial funding for vaccine development efforts. Whether that judgment still holds true today may be questioned - and the status of future U.S. government funding for Zika vaccine development is unclear. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and give the issue of CEPI's possible role in providing support for Zika vaccine development due consideration.

The apparent waning of the threat posed by Zika was predicted by the modeling group at Imperial College and is broadly consistent with the patterns of periodicity observed with outbreaks caused by other vector-borne flaviviruses such as Dengue and yellow fever. It also perfectly illustrates the risk and uncertainty that governments and the private sector face when deciding whether to make investments in vaccine development against epidemic threats. And it is a pattern that has been observed repeatedly, with SARS, arguably with H1N1pdm, and with Ebola. Epidemic threats seem hugely important when they are present and much less so when they go away. During the 2009 pandemic, Dr. Tom Frieden, Director of the US CDC, quipped that "For a long time, we didn't have enough vaccine, then for 15 minutes we had enough, and then we had too much." Distinguishing the threats that require vaccines, or for which having a vaccine is highly desirable, from those for

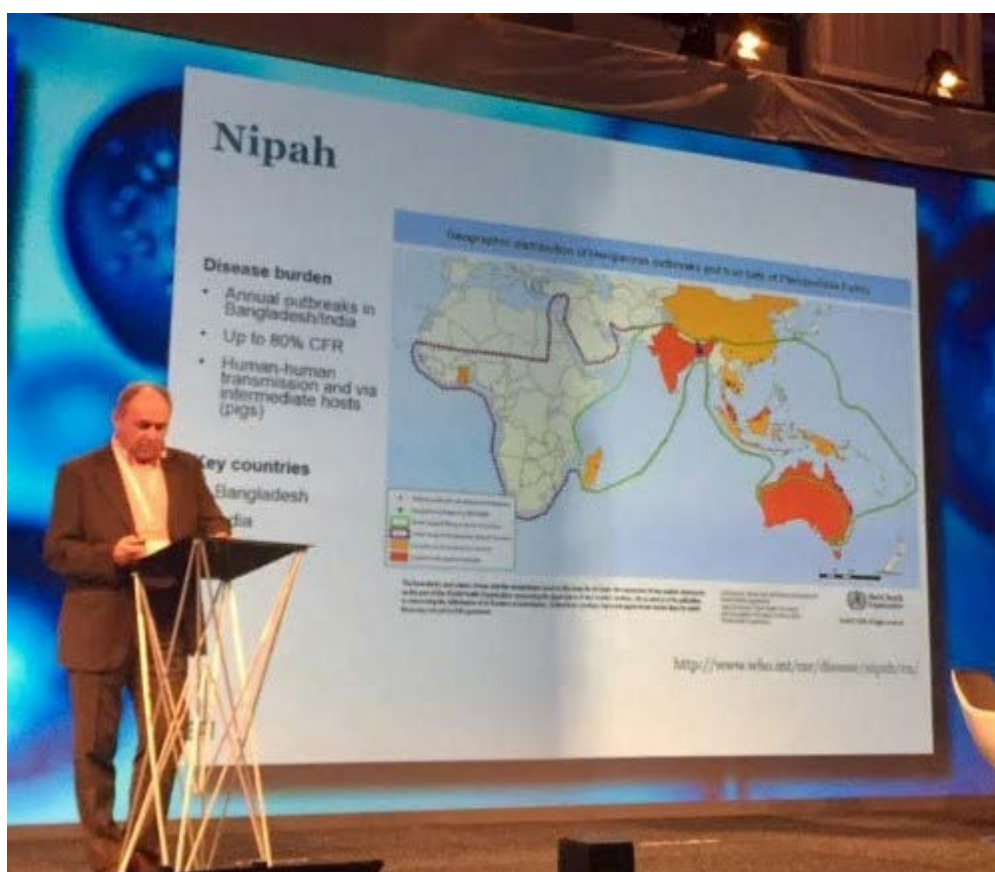
which vaccines may be a luxury we cannot afford is profoundly difficult in the best of times, and making such distinctions in the heat of the moment, while coping with the intense political and public pressure that builds up during epidemics, is even more challenging.

When we initiate programs to develop vaccines against any particular threat, we are asking our private sector partners to commit time, staff, and resources to the effort. We have to be careful in our choices, because we have to be sustained in our commitment. Unlike most governments, CEPI has the benefit of knowing what our funding envelope will be for the next four to five years and does not face the political pressure that elected governments face. We understand the compact that we are making with our partners and the need to be wise stewards of the funds with which we have been entrusted. Demonstrating that we can be trusted on both counts will be critical to maintaining CEPI's credibility in the future.

Richard Hatchett, CEPI CEO

New CEPI leaflet

The CEPI 2 pager has now got its successor, a proper CEPI leaflet. The brochure serves as a quick introduction to CEPI's background and mission and can be downloaded [here](#).



CEPI at the Nordic Life Science Days

CEPI hosted a successful session during the Nordic Life Science Days in Malmö 13 September. Georges Thiry, who is acting Director of Vaccine Science at CEPI talked about vaccine innovation gaps and what CEPI wants the innovators to do, Ira Longini from the University of Florida and the WHO Blueprint team presented lessons learned from previous outbreaks, and especially the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Volker Gerdt from Canada VIDO InterVac discussed role of and access to animal challenge models for EID vaccine development in a global perspective, whereas Anders Hjelmencrantz from ZACCO talked about

CEPI searches visionary leaders to serve on CEPI's permanent Board

During its formative stage, CEPI has had an interim governance structure. CEPI is now looking for visionary leaders to serve on its new permanent Board and help guide the coalition through its next phase of growth, maximising the positive impact that CEPI can make in the years ahead.

CEPI's new Board will meet for the first time in March 2018 and will be comprised of leading figures with expertise in science, public health, pharmaceutical and vaccine development, civic society, geographical relations, finance, and resource mobilisation amongst other fields.

We actively encourage and welcome applicants from all around the world and from diverse backgrounds. For more information, please see the Board member advert [here](#).

Workshop on managing liability concerns associated with international development and deployment of emergency vaccines

CEPI, in collaboration with World Economic Forum and Harvard Global Health Institute arranged a workshop Wednesday this week on "Managing Liability Concerns Associated with International Development and Deployment of Emergency Vaccines".

Currently, there is no global solution on how to handle compensation for vaccine injuries caused by investigational products. WHO is working on a proposal which was shared with representatives from vaccine developers and manufacturers as well as other organizations working in the global health area. This is work in progress and the workshop aimed at getting input from the participants to build a robust mechanism for compensation of severe side effects caused by use of investigational vaccines.

We would like to thank our colleagues at WEF and Harvard for excellent cooperation in planning and running the workshop and WHO for sharing their proposal with the group. We look forward to work together on this issue until a solution is implemented.

Job openings at CEPI

As mentioned in our last Newsletter, CEPI is recruiting experienced project and programme managers. If you are interested in joining the CEPI team and have appropriate qualifications for either of these roles, please take a look at the full job descriptions [here](#)

Upcoming meetings

- 12-25 September: **UN General Assembly**, New York, USA
- 21 September: **CEPI interim Board Teleconference**

- 25-27 September: **9th International Global Virus Network Meeting**, Melbourne, Australia
- 25-27 September: **Developing Countries Vaccine Manufacturers Network**, Seoul, South Korea
- 4-6 October: **Vaccine Industry Consultation**, Copenhagen, Denmark



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