

CEPI | New vaccines for a safer world

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Newsletter 22 November 2017

Address from our CEO



Monday, in Tokyo, CEPI's interim Board convened for the fifth and final time in a meeting hosted by the Government of Japan. The CEPI Secretariat provided updates to the Board on CEPI's first and second calls for proposals, but our main focus was on completing plans for the transition to CEPI's new permanent governance structure in early 2018. This included electing new Board members and approving a new Board Charter that will become effective when the new permanent Board gathers for the first time in Addis Ababa in March.

Other business included modifying CEPI's Articles of Association, formally establishing the CEPI Investors Council, approving Terms of Reference for CEPI's permanent Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and Joint Coordination Group (JCG), reviewing the 2017 and 2018 budgets, selecting a financial auditor, and completing other essential organizational work.

The transition from CEPI's interim governance bodies to a more permanent governance structure began with the July Board meeting and has occurred in parallel to the important work of recruiting critical staff, setting up CEPI subsidiaries as legal entities in the United Kingdom and the United States, developing CEPI's investment strategy, and, most importantly, reviewing proposals, selecting potential partners, and beginning negotiations to establish a portfolio of vaccine projects. CEPI as an organization and I in my role as CEO have benefitted immeasurably in this work from the guidance and counsel of our Board and we would not be where we are today without the vision and personal commitment that each Board member has offered so generously.

We have asked a lot of our interim Board members. They have attended five in-person meetings and held three additional teleconference meetings in the sixteen months of the Board's tenure. The Board convened for the first time in London in August, 2016 and met subsequently in Delhi, Oslo, Berlin, and finally Tokyo, hosted in each location by a CEPI Founder or investor. Over the course of the last sixteen months, we have asked the Board to review 120 documents totaling 915 pages of text and to render dozens of decisions that have guided CEPI's development. Interim Board members have served as ambassadors for CEPI, speaking about CEPI in innumerable meetings and leading CEPI's resource mobilization efforts.

As the interim Board retires itself, and as CEPI's other interim governance bodies (the SAC and JCG) are retired and reconstituted under new Terms of Reference, I want to recognize the tremendous accomplishments and essential contributions of these bodies during CEPI's formative period. CEPI is and always has been a collective effort, the product of hundreds and even thousands of people who have contributed their time, their vision, the benefit of their experience, and their subject matter expertise. The interim Board, the interim SAC, and the interim JCG have played complementary roles, each contributing, each leading, in their way. To everyone who has served on one of these bodies, I and the CEPI Secretariat extend our heartfelt thanks.

Richard Hatchett, CEPI CEO

Global Challenges Seminar on "Vaccines: Accelerating Innovation and Access"

CEPI was represented at a discussion on Vaccine Innovation And Access organized by the Access to Medicine Foundation, WIPO and WHO on November 8 by Deputy CEO Frederik Kristensen. The event marked the launch of a Global Challenges report on Accelerating Innovation and Access.

A well-represented set of experts discussed the current situation of access to vaccines, the market, the role of pharmaceutical companies, and partnerships. Many components of vaccine innovation and production can limit access, including Intellectual property, especially manufacturing know-how, the regulatory pathway and delivery challenges. Dr. Kristensen briefly described CEPI's published Equitable access, Shared risks/ benefits and Management of intellectual property policies, and flagged that these will be reviewed in 2018 through a consultative and including process.



Follow CEPI on Twitter @CEPIvaccines



Visit the CEPI website
