

CEPI

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Newsletter 12 December 2016

Message from the Interim CEPI CEO

There is now less than six weeks till CEPI's official launch at the World Economic Forum on January 19 in Davos. Many have heard about CEPI and what we want to achieve together, but we still need to reach the general public and a larger audience. This is key to mobilizing for and around CEPI. As a former editor taught me: "Deadlines are the major driver for delivering results: What is not ready, will not get printed". Preparations are well progressed as I witnessed in CEPI's communications meeting in London last week, but we must expect that plans will need to be revised as we approach the day. From the secretariat's side, our major goals ahead of the launch are to prepare the first call for proposals for investing in vaccine development for specific pathogens, and secure the first investments in CEPI. We are well advanced with both objectives.

We got important help with making the economic case for investing in CEPI at the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) in Doha, Qatar two weeks ago. Former Treasury Secretary and Harvard President Larry Summers made increased investments in global functions for health the major point in his key note lecture, which allowed me to present the case for CEPI in the following panel on infectious disease threats. Summers chaired a working group on investing in global functions the following day, and I hope that this group's recommendations which will emerge in the coming year will provide a good platform for increased investments in global health R&D, including CEPI. Resource mobilization is not a job done when the launch is over, but it is something we need to continue together in the coming years.

John-Arne Røttingen, Interim CEPI CEO

Summary of CEPI Joint Coordination Group proceedings

A summary document of the JCG meeting in Geneva November 18 can be found on the CEPI website. Important discussions took place, including on regulatory pathways, platform technologies, clinical trial networks and stockpiles. To have deeper discussions on some of these aspects within the end-to-end scope of vaccine development, the secretariat is now in the process of setting up working groups on dedicated issues.

Exploring new Partners Forum

During the last few months CEPI has experienced considerable interest from a range of important stakeholders within the end-to-end scope of vaccine development. This has led the CEPI secretariat to explore options for new platforms that allow a broader group of actors to engage in CEPI's mission. Currently CEPI is therefore in the process of setting up a Partners Forum. Although the specific terms of reference of the Forum are still being discussed, it will be virtual and likely complemented by an annual or biannual meeting. It will not have any decision-making authority, but be a platform for facilitating information sharing. More information and invitations to join is expected to be ready before the end of the year.



Regulatory conference in South Africa

The 17th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities took place in Cape Town, South Africa 29 November – 2 December. A pre-meeting was held on 27 and 28 November with the theme “Patients are waiting: How Regulators Collectively Make a Difference. Strengthening regulatory systems through convergence, reliance and networks”. CEPI gave a talk on “*Stakeholders collaboration in emergency situations; learning from Ebola, Zika and the R&D Blueprint*”.

The international community, including regulators, was unprepared for Ebola, but the community was able to pull together in order to accelerate development of products. There was a strong consensus of the need to take the panic out of emergencies and that better preparedness is the key to this. CEPI has an important part to play for this to happen.

CEPI policies on equitable access, shared risks/benefits and management of IP

CEPI has received extensive feedback on the policies on equitable access, shared risks/benefits and management of IP. A warm thank you to everyone who provided comments and suggestions for improvements. The secretariat now is in the process of amending the policies as required and submit them to the CEPI Board for approval prior to their release with the call for proposals.

SAC summary of proceedings available online

The first face-to-face Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting was held in New York 20-21 October, and the summary of the proceedings are now available on the CEPI website (<http://cepi.net/governance#Scientific-Advisory-Committee>). The CEPI Secretariat will post all SAC meeting summaries on the website for your reference, although sometimes redactions will be necessary for sensitive matters. Thank you to Mark Feinberg and his team at the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative for hosting the meeting.

Newsletter available on website

Additionally to sending out the CEPI Newsletter to all CEPI Stakeholders, it will be published on the website. All CEPI Newsletters can be found here: <http://cepi.net/news#CEPI-Newsletter> .

www.cepi.net

info@cepi.net