

CEPI | New vaccines for a safer world

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Newsletter 28 April 2017

Message from the CEPI CEO



Dear Friends, it is a great privilege to address all of you for the first time through the CEPI newsletter. I assumed my new role as CEO on April 18, had a busy first week in Washington, DC, and have now completed my first week in Oslo. Today, I will be speaking at a G20 advocacy meeting on Global Health Innovation in Berlin, emphasizing the importance of pandemic and epidemic preparedness, and next week I will have the opportunity to interact with many African and global public health leaders at the World Economic Forum – Africa meeting in Durban. I have hit the ground running and will strive to maintain the momentum that CEPI has already achieved.

The coming weeks will be busy ones. The CEPI Scientific Advisory Committee will meet in London on May 10 to review the white papers submitted in response to CEPI's first Call for Proposals and make recommendations about which offerors should be invited to submit full proposals. We received over 60 responses to our Request for Information on Rapid Response Platform Technologies and have initiated our review of these, which will inform the development of a second Call for Proposals in this area. On May 22, CEPI will host a side event at the World Health Assembly in Geneva, co-sponsored by Germany, Rwanda and Norway, highlighting the development of new technology to prevent future health crises, and the role of CEPI in fostering innovation in this area.

CEPI has established itself within the global public health arena with astonishing rapidity and will soon be making its first investments to support the development of vaccines against epidemic diseases. That it has been able to move so rapidly is testament to the importance of its mission, to its large and ever increasing network of supporters (this newsletter now reaches more than 2000 subscribers), and – especially – to the deep dedication and intense commitment of its staff. I was humbled and honored to be asked to lead CEPI forward into its implementation phase, pay tribute to the efforts of interim CEO John-Arne Røttingen in bringing CEPI thus far, and look forward to greater things to come.

Richard Hatchett, CEPI CEO

Request for Information on Rapid Response Platform Technologies

We received 65 applications (56 involving vaccines) on the request for information (RfI) on rapid response vaccine and antibody technologies, which was conducted in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The submissions demonstrate a significant diversity in platform technologies and proposing entities, with submissions coming from academia, industry and NGOs across a wide geographical distribution. The information from these applications will be used for a landscape assessment of the rapid response technologies, as well as to inform the development of a Call for Proposals by CEPI on rapid response platform technologies targeted towards vaccine development.

Busy weeks

These are busy weeks for CEPI. The many conferences and meetings on innovation, global health and pandemic preparedness that are taking place present opportunities for CEPI to strengthen partnerships and broaden the coalition. The roundtable meeting “Research for impact and the G20: How can global health innovation drive sustainable development” gathered around 70 participants from organizations working in global health in Berlin today. Next week CEPI will participate in the World Economic Forum - Africa in Durban, South Africa and the conference “Ebola vaccines for Guinea and the world” in Conakry, Guinea, the latter sponsored by H.E. President Condé of Guinea and Director General Chan of the World Health Organization. On 10 May CEPI will present at the Vaccine Innovation Conference 2017 in Montreal, Canada. The great interest in CEPI and in CEPI’s mission is encourages us in our belief that the time is right for our coalition to make real progress in the fight against epidemic diseases. We are working with our colleagues in global health towards a common goal: less human suffering and good health and wellbeing for all.

Upcoming CEPI meetings

10 – 11 May	Third CEPI interim SAC meeting	London
11 – 12 July	CEPI interim Board retreat and fourth meeting	Berlin
23 – 24 August	Fourth CEPI interim SAC meeting	Oslo

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