

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

## Newsletter 30 June 2017

---

### Address from CEO



Over the last several weeks, CEPI has been gearing up for the busy summer and fall ahead. We have continued to engage in important outreach to public and private sector partners, while focusing intensely on building our internal capabilities.

When CEPI's Board of Directors appointed me as CEO at the end of February, one of the first tasks I was given was to develop a proposal to replace CEPI's interim governance arrangements with a more permanent structure. In light of that charge, we have been working diligently for months to develop a system of governance that is adapted to CEPI's structure and mission. In doing so, we have looked not only at CEPI's Board but at each

component of the CEPI "ecosystem", to understand what the system as a whole needs and how the pieces will operate in relation to each other. Where we have had to choose between competing goods in one area, we have thought about how we might support the less emphasized good through activities in other areas. Being mindful of the choices we are making as well as the tradeoffs these choices entail has helped us develop a balanced proposal that I will present at the Board's next retreat and meeting in Berlin on July 11-12. I believe our new governance model will provide us with an agile, nimble and effective Board and a structure that reflects and responds to the needs of CEPI's diverse stakeholders.

We have also moved aggressively to build a world-class team to execute CEPI's mission. We are actively recruiting a number of key positions, including our VP for Vaccine Development, our Director of Communications and Advocacy, and our VP for Business Development. Per Etholm, former CEO of Citigroup Switzerland, has joined the team in Oslo as acting Chief Financial Officer, and Dawn O'Connell, who has served as Deputy Chief of Staff and a top advisor to the Secretary on global health, emerging threats and humanitarian crises at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has joined us to help establish a small CEPI office in Washington, D.C.

Full proposals for vaccines against Lassa, MERS, and Nipah from the offerors who made it through the first round of review will be submitted by July 12. These will enter an intensive review process, culminating in a meeting of CEPI's Scientific Advisory Committee at the end of August. The SAC will provide me and the Secretariat with recommendations about which proposals to move forward into negotiations, and I, in turn, will discuss this portfolio with the Board in September. We hope to make our first awards, and to initiate CEPI's vaccine development program, by the end of the year.

*Richard Hatchett, CEPI CEO*

---

## CEPI and FIND to collaborate on diagnostics

CEPI and the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) have signed a memorandum of understanding and are entering into a collaboration to develop diagnostics for vaccines against the diseases targeted by CEPI. CEPI-Dx is the name of this new initiative. CEPI remains focused on vaccine development, and the MOU is a good example of leveraging the momentum, growing the coalition and building on partners' strengths to enhance the ecosystem for vaccine development against emerging infectious threats. You can visit the FIND web page [here](#).



## CEPI co-signs open letter to the G20

CEPI has co-signed an open letter calling on the G20 to focus on global health challenges. Following the G20-focused high-level roundtable in Berlin on 28th April 2017, “Research for Impact and the G20: How can global health innovation drive sustainable development?” experts and stakeholders in attendance called on G20 leaders to play a driving role in promoting sustainable and innovative solutions to the growing crises of antimicrobial resistance, poverty-related and neglected diseases and pandemic preparedness and response. You will find the letter [here](#).

## C20 Civil Society Summit

On June 18-19, more than 450 representatives of civil society, representing more than 200 organisations from over 60 countries, came together at the Civil20 Summit in Hamburg. CEPI’s deputy CEO Frederik Kristensen participated in a panel debate and highlighted the important role of civil society in implementing vaccines to prevent epidemics becoming humanitarian catastrophes. In her address to the summit, Angela Merkel highlighted reducing health risks that create human suffering and stunt economies, building on the first G20 Health Ministers’ idea of an international system to respond to the threat of emerging pandemics. The communique from the conference was handed over to Angela Merkel at the end of the meeting.

## CEPI at BIO 2017

CEPI's CEO Richard Hatchett participated at the BIO International Convention, in San Diego 19-22 June. CEPI had our own session: "CEPI: A New Approach to Vaccine Funding and Innovation for Emerging Infectious Diseases", where representatives from Wellcome Trust, Paxvax, the Sabin Vaccine Institute, Merck and Takeda participated in a panel debate with CEPI's CEO. There is a lot of interest in CEPI and the session was well attended. The BIO International Convention is the largest global event for the biotechnology industry and provided an excellent opportunity for CEPI to meet biotech companies and other potential partners.

---

## CEPI at Nordic Ministers' AMR Summit

CEPI's deputy CEO Frederik Kristensen participated at the Nordic Council of Ministers' summit on antimicrobial resistance in Ålesund, Norway June 27. The meeting assembled ministers of health, food and agriculture from the Nordic and Baltic countries, as well as dignitaries from the EC and the UK. Kristensen presented CEPI as one of several possible models of alignment and funding of R&D for global threats where market mechanisms do not suffice, and the importance of vaccines for preventing further development of antimicrobial resistance, but also that CEPI is clearly focused at emerging infectious diseases.

---

### On CEPI in New York Times

"Stopping Pandemics Before They Start" is the title of an opinion piece by Tina Rosenberg at the New York Times outlining the challenges of pandemic preparedness and portraying CEPI. [Read the article here](#)

---



Follow CEPI on Twitter @CEPIvaccines



Visit the CEPI website

---