

CEPI Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)



Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Newsletter 6 January 2017

Message from the Interim CEPI CEO

"We have a new year ahead of us. The end of last year provided a gift for all of us – the Ebola vaccine that has been tried out in Guinea during the outbreak in 2015 has proven to be highly protective against Ebola virus disease. CEPI grew out of both the good and bad experiences from the Ebola outbreak; the global mechanisms did not work as intended, but a tremendous collaborative effort made them work. The confirmation of the protectiveness of the vaccine, as documented in the Lancet, demonstrates that we are able to achieve great things when we work together across borders. Let us all celebrate this as an inspiration for our future work through CEPI.

A new year is ahead of us, and important milestones are right around the corner. Already on 19 January CEPI will launch officially at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year! It is going to be an important and exciting year for CEPI and for all of us."

John-Arne Røttingen, Interim CEPI CEO

Partners Forum

In an earlier newsletter, news about the establishment of a CEPI Partners Forum was shared. We are now pleased to announce that the Partners Forum is officially open for sign-on. To become a member of the Partners Forum, kindly follow this link and sign on to the online "Partners Statement". Here you will also find more information about the forum and it's envisioned functions.

CEPI - CEO recruitment

This is a reminder that CEPI, in partnership with Carmichael Fisher, are now seeking to find a visionary Chief Executive Officer who can lead the coalition through this phase of growth and maximise the positive impact that CEPI can make in the years ahead.

This is an exceptionally rare opportunity to be at the forefront of positive change and combine the best qualities of the public, private and philanthropic sectors to deliver new vaccines for a safer world.

If you are interested in applying, please take a look at the full announcement including additional information on the application process. The job advertisement has also been published in the Economist.

CEPI Independent Experts Database

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the CEPI Secretariat is developing this database of prospective independent experts to assist CEPI with tasks related to Calls for Proposals (CfPs).

More information on the CEPI Independent Experts Database and how you can apply can be found here.

If you are interested, please send your CV and a short cover letter to apply@cepi.net by COB 10 January 2017.

www.cepi.net

info@cepi.net

CEPI Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)

CEPI | New vaccines for a safer world

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Newsletter 20 January 2017

Message from the Interim CEPI CEO

"Dear all CEPI friends. Yesterday CEPI was officially launched at the World Economic Forum in Davos. We have come a long way in only one year – from a planning meeting that just agreed that something should be created, at least a coordination mechanism, to an announcement demonstrating that CEPI already has \$540 million of funding. In additional co-funding will be provided from the European Commission.

We have also issued the first Call for Proposals from CEPI. With clear focus on the three diseases MERS, Nipah and Lassa, it will be exciting to follow the full process during the spring. It is a lot of important work!

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your efforts and support. CEPI is now taking its first steps on its own, and I hope we can count on your continued contributions."

John-Arne Røttingen, Interim CEPI CEO



CEPI officially launched at WEF in Davos

Exactly one year after the initial agreement of international organizations, governments, industry, public and philanthropic R&D funders, academia, NGOs and civil society groups to create a global financing and coordination mechanism, CEPI is now officially launched. At the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, CEPI announced its initial investment of US\$540 million from the governments of Germany, Japan and Norway, plus the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Wellcome Trust. The European Commission will also contribute to CEPI's objectives and plans to co-fund actions with CEPI, such as through the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI).

Within this short period, CEPI has raised around half of the US\$1bn it needs for its first five years. CEPI is now calling for proposals from researchers and companies around the world to support the development of vaccines against its first target diseases.

The full media release on the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness can be found [here](#).

[OutsmartEpidemics Animation](#)

Call for Proposals

CEPI is pleased to announce its first funding opportunity for the development of vaccines against epidemic infectious diseases. This first Call for Proposals (CfP) focuses on advancing vaccines against MERS, Nipah and Lassa viruses.

To facilitate a rapid launch of the first Call for proposal, the CEPI secretariat is collaborating with the Research Council of Norway by using their established online application system for submissions.

The deadline for submission of preliminary proposals is 8 March 2017. Shortlisted applicants will be invited in April 2017 to submit full proposals.

For more details, please follow [this link](#).



Vaccines against Emerging Infections - a Global Insurance

CEPI and Inserm would like to invite you to the scientific community meeting entitled “**Vaccines against Emerging Infections– a Global Insurance**” – on 21-22 February 2017 at Institut Imagine in Paris.

The meeting will provide an update on vaccine development for priority pathogens and platform technologies, launch CEPI in the scientific community as well as advertise CEPI’s first call of proposals and facilitate discussions between potential collaborators. The scientific community meeting will also introduce the CEPI Partners Forum.

For more information, please visit the CEPI website. The registration page can be found [here](#).

-
- **Independent expert database:** As mentioned in a previous Newsletter, CEPI is developing a database of prospective independent experts to assist CEPI with tasks related to Calls for Proposals. The **deadline has now been extended to 14 February**. More information can be found [here](#).
 - **Partners Forum:** We have already received a number of requests to join the CEPI Partners Forum. For those of you who have not yet signed up, you can find more information [here](#). The forum will be officially launched at the scientific community meeting in Paris.

www.cepi.net

info@cepi.net

CEPI Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)

CEPI | New vaccines for a safer world

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Newsletter 3 February 2017

Message from the Interim CEPI CEO

After the successful launch in Davos in January, we continue advocating for CEPI's mission. Next week I will meet key US stakeholders in New York, Washington DC and Boston to broaden the already good collaboration between US actors and CEPI.

Earlier this week the nodes of the CEPI secretariat had a planning meeting in Oslo to prepare for the next phase of the interim secretariat leading up to the permanent organization towards end of year. Colleagues from India, Wellcome Trust and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation participated in person and via phone. This was a great way to start CEPI's new phase after the official launch earlier this year. Finding the best ways of collaborating and playing off each other's strengths is key to CEPI's success whether we are talking about partners of the secretariat or of the wider coalition.

It is great having you all on board. It is going to be a busy spring for CEPI. The secretariat is looking forward to seeing you at the CEPI scientific conference and partners' forum in Paris hosted by INSERM.

John-Arne Røttingen, Interim CEPI CEO



CEPI at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, CEPI was officially launched at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos on 19 January. The launch consisted of a press conference and panel discussion on “CEPI – a global initiative to fight epidemics”. These sessions are now available online:

[Press conference](#)

[Panel discussion](#)

Call for Proposals

CEPI is pleased to announce its first funding opportunity for the development of vaccines against epidemic infectious diseases. This CEPI grant is open to all types of organizations able to advance vaccine candidates from the late pre-clinical stage through to Phase II for MERS, Lassa fever and Nipah viruses.

We invite all interested organizations to submit their proposals until 8 March 2017.

More information on the first CEPI funding opportunity can be found on our website:

<http://cepi.net/CfP>. For questions, please contact the CEPI secretariat at cfp@cepi.net.

Independent expert database

Related to the first call for proposals, the CEPI secretariat is in the process of establishing an independent expert database to review the proposals. We have received numerous applications so far and would like to invite interested people to send their CV with a short cover letter to apply@cepi.net before 14 February 2017.



Vaccines against Emerging Infections - a Global Insurance

Vaccines against Emerging Infections – a Global Insurance – is the title for CEPI's first scientific community meeting in cooperating with INSERM. 21-22 February 2017 at Institut Imagine in Paris

This meeting will provide an update on vaccine development for priority pathogens and platform technologies. It aims to launch CEPI in the scientific community and facilitate discussions between potential collaborators.

To read more and register, please visit our website: <http://cepi.net/scientific-community-meeting>

CEPI Governing documents posted on the website

CEPI governing documents have now been posted on the website. Here you will find documents like Articles of Association, Conflict of Interest, Delegation of Authority, Guidelines for Board Members, Transparency and Confidentiality and the Travel Policy. Find them here: <http://cepi.net/governance#Governing-documents>

www.cepi.net

info@cepi.net

CEPI | New vaccines for a safer world

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Newsletter 21 February 2017

Message from the Interim CEPI CEO

Dear CEPI friends. The upcoming week is a really exciting week for us. CEPI is arranging its first scientific conference in Paris in collaboration with INSERM. Focussing on our first call for proposals, the program concentrates on CEPI's initial target diseases MERS, Nipah, Lassa as well as Ebola and Zika. We will also discuss how to prepare for clinical trials during emergencies and utilize platform technologies to improve epidemic response. CEPI's scientific advisory committee will then have its second face to face meeting in Paris hosted at Institute Pasteur right after the conference. I will unfortunately be travelling to Berlin and Rome for meetings relevant to G20 and G7 discussions. Monday in a week the CEPI Interim Board are meeting in Oslo, where the plan is that they will appoint the permanent CEO of CEPI. I wish us all a busy and good week.

John-Arne Røttingen, Interim CEPI CEO



The President of France, François Hollande, addressing the first CEPI Scientific Conference in Paris today 21 February. "Even if you build a high wall, viruses and emerging infections will still get through", the president said.

CEPI policies

The CEPI policies on equitable access, shared risks/shared benefits and management of intellectual property are now published on our website. Over the last few months, the CEPI Secretariat has finalized these policies under direction of the CEPI Interim Board to reflect CEPI's operating principles and provide guidance for potential awardees during the call for proposal process.

You find the policies here:

<http://cepi.net/sites/default/files/CEPI%20Policy%20Documentation.pdf>

Call for Proposals - Updated FAQ

In January, CEPI launched its first call for proposals. The deadline is upcoming shortly, 8 March, and we have received many questions regarding the call. An updated version of the question and answers document is now available on the website:

<http://cepi.net/CfP#Application-guidelines-and-FAQ>.

If you have any further questions about the content, how to apply or any other issues related to the call, please send your questions to cfp@cepi.net before 27 February.

CEPI 2 pager in French

The 2-pager presenting a high level summary of CEPI's scope and activities is now available in French. You can download the French leaflet here: <http://cepi.net/mission>

www.cepi.net

info@cepi.net

CEPI | New vaccines for a safer world

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Newsletter 28 February 2017

Message from the Interim CEPI CEO

Dear all. Yesterday CEPI reached a milestone when the interim CEPI board unanimously decided to offer the position of CEO of CEPI to Dr Richard Hatchett. This is among the most important steps CEPI has taken so far and I feel reassured that Richard will lead CEPI through its crucial next phase when we start implementation and investments. I will partly continue in the function as interim CEO until Richard will be in position, while at the same time from tomorrow (March 1st) start in my new role as Chief Executive of the Research Council of Norway. Frederik Kristensen is temporary deputy CEO of CEPI and will be in charge of daily business. We are both looking forward to welcoming Richard to the position as head of CEPI.

John-Arne Røttingen, Interim CEPI CEO

Dr Richard Hatchett offered position as permanent CEO of CEPI

The interim CEPI board decided at its meeting 27 February to offer the position of permanent CEO of CEPI to Dr Richard Hatchett. He comes to the position from the Biomedical Advanced Research & Development Authority (BARDA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), where he was Deputy Director and Chief Medical Officer.

The press release can be found here:

[Media release](#)

Third CEPI interim Board Meeting

On 27 February the interim CEPI board meet in Oslo for its third Board meeting. The majority of Board members have attended the meeting in person. Additionally to offering the position of permanent CEO of CEPI to Richard Hatchett, the interim CEPI Board endorsed the policies on equitable access policy, shared risks/shared benefits policy and management of intellectual property and decided on fund holders arrangements.



Scientific Community Meeting

Over 200 participants attended CEPI's first scientific community meeting in Paris on 21 and 22 February, organized in collaboration with INSERM. High quality speakers combined with a highly motivated and interested participants made the conference a big success. We will be posting the presentations on the CEPI website shortly. One of the highlights was the address of the President of France, Francois Hollande, which can be seen here:

[Address of President Hollande](#)

Deadline preliminary proposals for the CfP

The submission deadline for proposals related to the first CEPI CfP on vaccine development against Lassa, MERS-CoV and Nipah viral diseases. Preliminary proposals need to be submitted to the Research Council of Norway online application system before 4pm CET on 8 March 2017. For more information, please visit the CEPI website.

www.cepi.net

info@cepi.net

CEPI Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)

CEPI | New vaccines for a safer world

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Newsletter 10 March 2017

Message from the Interim CEPI CEO

When the deadline for CEPI's first call for proposals passed 8 March, we counted more than 30 submitted proposals. The applications come from many parts of the world and a wide range of partners. We are encouraged by this diversity and extent of interest, which gives CEPI several options to progress candidates into phase II trials by end of 2021.

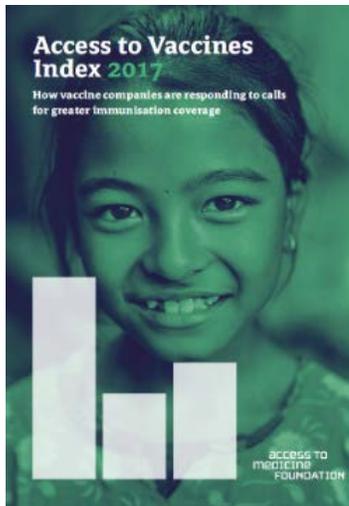
This is a significant step for CEPI and means we have started the core part of our work for real. CEPI will be launching other calls later this year, and the response we have on this first call is highly encouraging.

John-Arne Røttingen, Interim CEPI CEO

More than 30 applications for CEPI's first call

CEPI received more than 30 applications for our first call for development of vaccines against Lassa, MERS-COV and Nipah, which had deadline 8 March. The applications will now be evaluated, and shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit full proposals in April 2017.

The partner organizations represented among the applicants are from North America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, South-East Asia and Australia, representing academic institutions, biotechs, large pharmaceutical companies and Product Development Partnerships. There was also a broad diversity displayed in the vaccine platform technologies being used, including novel concepts.



Access to Vaccines Index 2017

The Access to Vaccines Index 2017 was published earlier this month by the Access to Medicines Foundation. This is the first landscape analysis to evaluate how vaccine companies are improving immunisation coverage. It comprises a baseline measurement on the steps companies are taking in this area, and the mechanisms triggering them to join global efforts to increase access to vaccines. The report recognizes and highlights CEPI as an important new global mechanism to fund and facilitate the development of new vaccines against emerging infectious diseases, and encourages vaccine companies to engage actively with CEPI and other preparedness mechanisms to ensure their vaccine R&D expertise results in global benefits. The Access to Vaccines Index 2017 can be found [here](#).

Updates

Most of the power point presentations from the Scientific Community Meeting are now published on the CEPI website. You will find the pdfs [here](#).

Please note that the e-mail address apply@cepi.net is no longer active. Please use info@cepi.net.

www.cepi.net

info@cepi.net

CEPI Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)

CEPI | New vaccines for a safer world

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Newsletter 27 March 2017

Message from the Interim CEPI CEO

Today CEPI is announcing our second call. This is not a funding call, but a call for information on rapid response platform technologies, in collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. A new or unknown pathogen will always be on top of the list of epidemic risks to prepare for, and platform technologies will be key to a rapid response in these cases. By using an already validated vaccine platform and substituting or complementing it with a new antigen, the aim is to spare valuable time for development of a vaccine in an outbreak situation. This call for information will be used to inform a call for proposals on platform technologies from CEPI in May this year.

Last week CEPI arranged a scientific meeting on regulatory issues related to Ebola vaccines at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington DC. The meeting gathered around 100 invited participants from vaccine companies, regulators, government agencies and academic institutions discussing regulatory scientific gaps needed to be addressed for the completion of the work on Ebola virus vaccines. The meeting triggered the need for further specific discussions that will be followed up by the CEPI secretariat in order to inform a potential call for proposals on this theme later this year.

Both these two events are important milestones for CEPI, demonstrating that we are progressing fast and well in the work that we have set out to do. At the same time CEPI keeps being highlighted as an important contribution to global health by key actors, like Chancellor Merkel did last week during the Science 20 Dialogue Forum in Halle.

John-Arne Røttingen, Interim CEPI CEO

Request for Information on Rapid Response Platform Technologies for Epidemic Preparedness

CEPI and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are launching a **Request for Information** (Rfi) on rapid response vaccine and antibody technologies that could be used to address future emerging diseases.

We request information on technologies related to production of both vaccines and antibody therapeutics. The Request for Information (RFI) will be used to populate that landscape, as well as to influence the development of a Call for Proposals (CFP) by CEPI on rapid response platform technologies specifically for vaccine development. The CEPI CFP is anticipated to be issued in late May 2017.

[Read more here](#)



On 22 March CEPI arranged a scientific meeting on regulatory issues related to Ebola vaccines at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington DC. Around 100 invited participants from vaccine companies, regulators, government agencies and academic institutions gathered to discuss regulatory scientific gaps needed to be addressed in order to complete the work on Ebola virus vaccines. The meeting exposed a need for further specific discussions that will be followed up by the CEPI secretariat in order to inform a potential call for proposals on this theme later this year.

Call for participation

Germany assumed the G20 presidency on December 1, 2016 and has prioritized global health as an area where the G20 can make a substantial contribution to achieving the objectives of Agenda 2030. In this regard, CEPI is co-hosting an event in Berlin 28 April where interested individuals and organizations can engage in roundtable discussions on global health innovation in the G20 to respond to this call. The title for the meeting is “Research for Impact’ & the G20: How can global health innovation drive sustainable development?”

Delegates are invited to participate and discuss with co-hosts, stakeholders, politicians, think tanks, NGO’s and representatives from G20 and G77 countries. Please see this link for more information. RSVP can be communicated to G20GlobalHealth@sovereignstrategy.com for expression of interest to participate.

CEPI 2 pager in Portuguese

The CEPI 2 pager is now available in Portuguese and can be downloaded [here](#).

www.cepi.net

info@cepi.net

CEPI | New vaccines for a safer world

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Newsletter 7 April 2017

Message from the Interim CEPI CEO



It is springtime in the Northern hemisphere, and CEPI is entering a new season as well. The interim phase is about to end as the organization is moving towards a permanent stage with new governance structures, new management and a permanent multi-nodal secretariat. The permanent organization will be set up building on the lessons learned from the start-up and interim phases.

In about a week's time, CEPI's new CEO, Richard Hatchett, will take office, so this is the last time you hear from me in this channel.

It has been a privilege to lead CEPI in the start-up phase, and I want to thank CEPI's founders for entrusting me with this important and challenging responsibility. I also want to thank all of CEPI's funders, partners and stakeholders for working for CEPI's mission. The organization has come a long way in a very short time, not the least thanks to all its influential supporters.

I am looking forward to following CEPI's further success from the side line, and will continue to support CEPI's mission in my new job as Chief Executive of the Research Council of Norway, which provides CEPI with the online application system for its calls. I wish CEPI great success in delivering on its vision: Developing new vaccines to prevent future epidemics, and making the world safer for all.

John-Arne Røttingen, Interim CEPI CEO

Request for Information on Rapid Response Platform Technologies

The first question and answer teleconference regarding the Request for Information on Rapid Response Platform Technologies for Epidemic Preparedness took place on Thursday 30 March. The summary of the question and answers discussed during this call can now be downloaded on the CEPI website as well as on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's website.

We kindly remind you that the deadline for submitting information for this call is 24 April.



Unseen Enemy: Documentary about emerging infectious diseases

The film *Unseen Enemy* is a documentary about the 21st century threat of emerging infectious diseases, which currently is screening on TV stations in several countries. CEPI has been involved in prescreening events both in the UK and in the US, and the image shows our incoming CEO Richard Hatchett participating in a panel debate at the National Academy of Medicine. You can read more about the film [here](#).

Pipeline information for priority diseases

Pipeline information for CEPI's initial target diseases MERS-CoV, Lassa and Nipah are now available on the CEPI website. The CEPI secretariat has been reviewing data on the pipeline status of these diseases. Please feel free to contact us in case you would like to inform us about any updates or changes on the pipeline data of CEPI's initial target pathogens.

The pipeline information can be found [here](#).

GL PID-R

Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness

The Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness – GloPID-R - is the only network of its kind to bring together research funding organizations on a global scale to facilitate an effective research response within 48 hours of a significant outbreak of a new or re-emerging infectious disease with pandemic potential. Among the network's 26 members are two of CEPI's founding partners: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Wellcome Trust. CEPI is featured in the last issue of their newsletter, which can be read and subscribed to here.

www.cepi.net

info@cepi.net

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

www.cepi.net

info@cepi.net

CEPI | New vaccines for a safer world

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Newsletter 12 May 2017

Address fom CEO

"I am happy that I have been able to make some contribution. When I look back at the years gone by, perhaps my one regret would be that I was not able to do more."

– Ahmed Kathrada, letter to Sylvia Neame

Last week I had the pleasure of attending the World Economic Forum – Africa meeting in Durban, South Africa, which began with a session on “Leadership in an Era of Disruption” that probed the question of how Africa’s leaders can better respond to the many challenges they face. At the end of the session, the moderator asked the audience to remain seated for a memorial video honoring Ahmed Kathrada, one of the last surviving and youngest of the Rivonia Trialists who had been imprisoned with Nelson Mandela on Robben Island, who passed away in March. It was an inspiring session, honoring the sacrifices of the past and looking with hope toward the future.

In Durban, I met many inspiring individuals: Victor Ochen, the Director of AYINET, an organization that addresses the needs of children displaced by conflict, who in 2015 became the youngest African ever to be nominated for a Nobel prize; Keller Rinaudo, an entrepreneur who founded Zipline, which has established the world’s first commercial drone delivery system -- in Rwanda, delivering blood products to remote hospitals in as little as 30 minutes; and John Nkengasong, the first director of the recently established Africa CDC – to name just a few. Each has an incredible story to tell, and each is making the continent – and the world – a better place.

CEPI is part of this unfolding story. African scientists still command too small a share of Africa’s GDP but increasingly are asserting their right to set the science agenda for the continent. CEPI, for its part, is committed to working closely with African scientists and institutions to develop products and design clinical trials that serve the needs of their communities. While the World Economic Forum was convening in South Africa, a meeting on Ebola, hosted by President Condé of Guinea, took place in Conakry. In her opening remarks at that meeting, Margaret Chan, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, said “A safe and efficacious Ebola vaccine was the world’s best gift during 2016” and highlighted the contributions of scientists from Guinea, the Guinea national medicine and regulatory agency, and the national ethics committee who worked with the international team to complete the ring vaccination study there. She also highlighted the role of CEPI in contributing to global preparedness for such threats in the future.

This week, in London, CEPI’s Scientific Advisory Committee reviewed the white papers submitted in response to CEPI’s first call for proposals. The best of these will now be developed into full proposals. CEPI is taking its first definitive steps toward fulfilling its promise.

Read Richard Hatchett’s Op-ed: [Africa needs an insurance policy against future epidemics](#)

Richard Hatchett, CEPI CEO

Conclusions from SAC

The third Scientific Advisory Committee meeting convened at Wellcome Trust on 10-11 May 2017. Day one of the two day meeting was focussed on discussing step 1 applications for the Lassa, MERS & Nipah Call for Proposals and day two addressed important strategic issues, including the changing role of the Scientific Advisory Committee as CEPI's organizational structure evolves, best practices for managing the future CEPI portfolio, and the results for CEPI's recent Request for Information on Rapid Response Platforms. This was the first CEPI SAC meeting that CEPI CEO Richard Hatchett has attended and after the meeting he said "The discussions over the last two days were profoundly productive and will shape our efforts as we make our first investments and establish our scientific program. CEPI is deeply fortunate to be able to draw upon such a skilled and dedicated group of advisers."

Lassa fever outbreak in Nigeria

The Nigeria Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) on 3rd March 2017 announced that Lassa fever outbreak had erupted in Borno State, Nigeria. This is the first outbreak in Nigeria in almost 50 years; the last confirmed outbreak of the deadly disease was in 1969. Borno State is an area of conflict and is currently under humanitarian crisis. WHO has been on the ground supporting the government of Nigeria to contain the outbreak, but has not yet confirmed the number of deaths due to the outbreak. Other media outlets reported 66 deaths due to Lassa (Africa News 2 May 2017).

CEPI is closely following recent developments of the outbreak.



CEPI at the ERINHA conference

CEPI participated at the ERINHA conference launching the European Research Infrastructure on Highly Pathogenic Agents' scientific strategy, and was invited to give a presentation about CEPI.

ERINHA brings together the complementary expertise and research capacities of 12 European partners to prevent and respond to the spread of epidemics caused by highly pathogenic micro-organisms.

The meeting was very well attended and presentations were given from different public health agencies, WHO, ECDC, industry representatives and IMI, EC and BARDA. The need for building capacity on BSL4 labs and also to share scientific knowledge and methodologies in this area was highlighted by many of the speakers and participants.

CEPI at the Canadian Vaccine Innovation Conference

CEPI attended the Canadian Vaccine Innovation Conference in Montreal 10 May and was part of a panel discussing funding of new vaccine development.

The conference's topics included emerging disease vaccines, global health vaccines against parasites and TB, as well as vaccine technologies. Around 100 academic, industry and government representatives involved in vaccine research participated.

CEPI is well known in Canada's vaccine research community, and there is a great interest in CEPI's activities.

The website of the conference can be found [here](#).



CALL TO ACTION

Berlin, 28 April 2017

"Call to Action"

We would like to encourage our partners to take a look at this "Call to Action" directed at the G20 Stakeholders. This Call to Action strongly urges the G20 to commit investment in research, innovation and development of innovative health technologies to counter threats posed by Antimicrobial Resistance, Poverty-Related and Neglected Diseases and pandemics.

www.cepi.net

info@cepi.net

[View this email in your browser](#)

CEPI | New vaccines for a safer world

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Newsletter 26 May 2017

Address from the CEO

As I mentioned at the end of my last note, the CEPI Scientific Advisory Committee held a special meeting on May 10 to review the white papers submitted in response to CEPI's first call for proposals. The very next day, while the Scientific Advisory Committee was meeting in regular session, an Ebola outbreak was confirmed in the Bas-Uele province in northern Democratic Republic of Congo, not far from Yambuku, the town where the virus first emerged in 1976. On May 12, a young man, Onwuegbuzie Stanley-Samuel, died of Lassa Fever at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital in southeastern Nigeria, the latest victim of a Lassa fever outbreak that has been percolating in Nigeria for several months. If we need to be reminded that the threat of epidemic disease is real, these developments do just that (they have prompted me to ask the CEPI team to accelerate the development of our emergency response plans, which are in a very early state).

It is thus not surprising that CEPI continues to attract a great deal of attention and support from global public health partners. Last Friday, Australia announced a donation of \$2 million, becoming CEPI's seventh investor, joining Germany, Japan, Norway, Wellcome, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Belgium.

The same day, Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany told the assembled Health Ministers of the G20 nations, who had gathered in Berlin for their first ever meeting, that help for the African nations affected by Ebola in 2014/2015 had been "too late, too slow, and too uncoordinated". She urged her G20 peers to support CEPI, the WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies, and the World Bank Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility, noting emphatically that where preparedness is concerned there is "no free lunch".

On Monday, in her Address to the Seventieth World Health Assembly, Dr. Margaret Chan, the Director General of WHO, reflected on her ten years of service in that role and the role of WHO in responding to the 2009 pandemic, outbreaks of MERS and H7N9 influenza, and the Ebola and Zika epidemics. She pointed to the establishment of CEPI as a key initiative to enhance global preparedness for such threats.

Monday night, with Dr. Chan's address still fresh in everyone's mind, Ministers of Health Bent Høie of Norway and Hermann Gröhe of Germany hosted a side event on CEPI at the World Health Assembly. An audience of some 200 delegates filled the room. The interest in CEPI's progress, and desire for CEPI to succeed, was palpable.

Richard Hatchett, CEPI CEO

“Above all, remember the people. Behind every number is a person who defines our common humanity and deserves our compassion, especially when suffering or premature death can be prevented.”

– Dr. Margaret Chan, Address to the Seventieth World Health Assembly

CEPI signs Joint Statement on Clinical Trials Registration and Reporting

On May 20, CEPI signed a Joint Statement on clinical trials registration and timely reporting of results. CEPI signed the Joint Statement as we want to ensure our funded research is made accessible and contributes to better decision-making in health. The statement has been signed by 11 others, including some of the world’s largest research funders of medical research and international non-governmental organizations, and can be accessed [here](#).



Summary report on Ebola vaccines regulatory scientific meeting

The summary report on the CEPI Ebola vaccines regulatory scientific meeting in Washington on 22 March 2017 is now published on the CEPI website. The report can be downloaded [here](#).

Financing of International Collective Action for Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness

The article "Financing of International Collective Action for Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness" was published in *Lancet Global Health*, timed with the World Health Assembly. The open access article can be found [here](#).

CEPI | New vaccines for a safer world

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Newsletter 9 June 2017

Address from CEO

It appears that the recent outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been brought under control. Merck's investigational rVSV ZEBOV vaccine was approved for use under an Expanded Access Protocol by the national regulatory and ethical authorities in the DRC, but the outbreak had already subsided by the time these reviews were completed and no individuals have been vaccinated. It is possible, of course, that new cases could yet emerge, but so far so good.

I have received a number of calls since the outbreak began from people asking what, if any, role CEPI played in the response. Our role in the response to this outbreak was limited: we offered support, if needed, to WHO, and WHO kept us apprised of developments. But what role should CEPI play, especially as its capabilities evolve and the organization grows?

For the vaccines in its portfolio, CEPI will play a critical role in ensuring the early engagement of regulatory authorities, public health officials, and clinical scientists in countries at risk for the diseases targeted. Early engagement will facilitate the review of clinical trial protocols before outbreaks occur by institutional review board and ethics panels and thereby facilitate more rapid responses.

CEPI will also need to build strong partnerships and coordinate its efforts with agencies that have strong logistical capabilities and the ability to project medical personnel and support wherever and whenever needed. Médecins Sans Frontières is such an organization and its representatives have contributed substantially to CEPI's understanding of the problem it is tackling and to the development of CEPI's goals and policies. CEPI needs to build more such relationships.

We are also in the process of developing an investment strategy and financing mechanisms that will allow CEPI to respond rapidly to new threats. Mobilizing resources – particularly financial resources – quickly in a crisis is a great challenge. The Obama Administration, for example, requested a supplemental appropriation to address the Zika epidemic in February 2016 but the U.S. Congress did not provide such funding until the end of September. It is critical that CEPI be in a position to move much more rapidly if the situation demands.

Finally, CEPI has an important advocacy role and will be vocal in supporting the importance of preparedness for infectious disease outbreaks. It is all too easy for governments to neglect preparedness to address more immediate concerns. CEPI has a right and duty to speak on behalf of its coalition members in support of preparedness as a critical priority.

As I mentioned in my last note, I have asked CEPI staff to accelerate the development of our emergency response plans, which will take account of all the steps required to deliver vaccine rapidly in an emergency. This is a critical initiative for CEPI and I will keep you updated as our plans evolve.

Richard Hatchett, CEPI CEO



Chikungunya Meeting in India

In order to understand the challenges and roadblocks to vaccine development, colleagues from the Delhi and Oslo CEPI nodes came together this week in Delhi to kick-start a new initiative endorsed by the CEPI Scientific Advisory Committee to promote vaccine development for Chikungunya viral disease. The intention is to leverage funders other than CEPI in this, as partner resource mobilization is required to expand beyond the current investment scope (Lassa, MERS, Nipah, Ebola and platform technologies). The first step is to arrange a joint Chikungunya vaccine development partnership workshop for

the end of 2017 or early 2018 in Delhi. The emphasis of the workshop will be on creating opportunities for collaborations and partnerships, ultimately leading to clinical development of a safe and effective Chikungunya vaccine. The workshop will be by invitation only but inclusive on a global scale, with participants representing Chikungunya endemic countries, product developers and manufacturers, vaccine scientists and international organizations.

Chikungunya is a viral disease that is currently prevalent in over 60 countries spanning Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. The Chikungunya virus (CHIKV) is an Alphavirus circulating in enzootic cycles involving mosquito vectors and nonhuman primates as reservoir hosts. Clinical symptoms of the disease (in the first 2-3 weeks) include fever with inflammatory arthralgia/arthritis and other non-specific symptoms: myalgia, headache, rash. Post-acute and chronic symptoms of the disease include persistent joint pain, musculoskeletal abnormalities and chronic inflammatory rheumatism, often of substantial duration. The case/fatality ratio has been estimated to be 1:1000, with deaths mainly occurring in neonates, adults with underlying conditions and older people. Globally it is estimated that there are nearly 1.3 billion people in the world who live in areas with a high risk of transmission of Chikungunya. There are currently no specific antiviral drugs that target the disease and treatment focus on relieving symptoms. Vaccine-based prevention is scientifically plausible, and multiple candidates are in development with some already entering clinical trials. While there is a sufficient public health case to be made for the development of a Chikungunya vaccine, there is ambiguity around whether there is a business case for it, given the current costs for development, production and the actual vaccine demand. Chikungunya is among the priority pathogens as defined by the WHO R&D Blueprint.

Call for Proposals

The 3rd face-to-face CEPI SAC meeting was held in London on the 11th and 12th of May, with the main task of recommending which of the submitted applications received for the Call for proposals on Lassa, MERS and Nipah should be invited for a full application (Step 2). Of the 33 applications received, 28 were eligible and assessed by peer review. Criteria that were particularly emphasized were feasibility, time-to-completion, manufacturing scalability/ speed potential and Experience/track-record.

The process resulted in SAC recommending 16 applications to be invited for a full application. All applicants have been notified of the outcome of the SAC meeting. Shortlisted applicants have received submission instructions for Step 2. A Board decision in late September 2017 will initiate contract negotiations.

CEPI #OutsmartEpidemics campaign receives award

The CEPI campaign for the launch of the organization at Davos in January 2017 received two prizes at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) Excellence Awards 2017. The #OutsmartEpidemics campaign was crowned winner of the Best of Use of Digital and STEM Campaign categories. The prize winning animation can be seen here:

CEPI animation #OutsmartEpidemics

The CEPI family mourns the sudden death of Ann Kern-Godal, a friend of CEPI and the beloved wife of CEPI Board member Dr. Tore Godal. Ann had a distinguished career in public health, serving as a Deputy Secretary in the Australian Department of Health and at the World Health Organization under Gro Harlem Brundtland. She had recently completed her dissertation on the role of horse-assisted therapy in the treatment of teenagers with substance abuse problems.

A memorial fund to support horse-assisted therapy has been established in Ann's name at Oslo University Hospital. Memorial donations can be made to:

Bank Account Number: 1210.43.20854

BIC: DNBANOKKXXX

IBAN: NO0812104320854

www.cepi.net

info@cepi.net

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
