

PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

PANEL DISCUSSION

Date	25.10.2024
Session Time	16:20 - 17:20
Room	Auditorium

Chair(s):

- Amy Shurtleff (United States of America)
- Mariagrazia Pizza (United Kingdom)

Session description

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, there is an urgent need for a global collaborative plan to address how to monitor and prevent emerging pathogens and spillovers and how to be ready to rapidly develop and equitably distribute vaccines, monoclonals, therapeutics and diagnostics. An ongoing silent pandemic which is already causing millions of deaths every year is the global spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Multiple initiatives involving CEPI, NIH, HERA, G7 and G20 are proposing to develop countermeasures such as diagnostics, therapeutics, prototype vaccines and vaccine libraries in order to be ready within 100 days from the identification of an emerging threat. Particular attention is devoted to build self-sustainable solutions for Africa and other low-income regions.

Recommended reading: The trillion-dollar vaccine gap | Science Translational Medicine. Prototype pathogen approach for vaccine and monoclonal antibody development: a critical component of the NIAID plan for pandemic preparedness <https://doi.org/10.1093/infdis/jiac296>

Panelists:

- Cristina Cassetti (United States of America)
- Ursula Thuretzbacher (Austria)
- William Paul Duprex (United States of America)

Topics to be discussed:

100 days vaccine development, prototype vaccines, human monoclonals, AMR, diagnostics, therapeutics.

Goals of the panel discussion:

- a) How far have we come since pre-COVID in pandemic preparedness? The main takeaways from how we handled the pandemic and some of the remaining gaps.
- b) Barriers to achieving equitable vaccine access, rapid vaccine development and deployment. Some strategies to overcome these.
- c) How can we address growing social media dis-information and vaccine hesitancy
- d) Suggest actions for IUMS/microbiology societies to contribute.
- e) The role of pharma in a public health emergency. How do we maintain a “warm base” of activity that keeps expertise and capability in place in non-pandemic periods?
- f) Compared with pre-pandemic times, there appears to be significantly more productive engagement between academia, government, and industry. Will this last, and how do we support and build that ongoing relationship?