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## National Immunisation Workshop and PHAA Conference

This year the National Divisions Immunisation workshop is called the Immunisation Pre-Conference Seminar Day and is being held in conjunction with the PHAA immunisation conference. We will begin with a networking evening and presentations of resources and awards on Sunday 14th September starting at 6.30 pm. The joint workshop and pre-conference seminar follows on Monday 15th September.

The PHAA Immunisation conference follows on 16th, 17th and 18th September.

The program is finalised and available on both the AGPN immunisation website and the PHAA website.

**Registration for the Pre-Conference Seminar Day is FREE for division immunisation officers.**

To register go to the AGPN website [www.agpn.com.au/immunisation\\_NDIW2008](http://www.agpn.com.au/immunisation_NDIW2008) to download the Division Immunisation Officer NDIW registration form. Fax the completed form to the number provided. Remember that the divisional immunisation officers need to add their division's name to have their registration fee covered.

## The Divisions Immunisation Network Dinner and Resource Awards Presentation

The Sunday night (14<sup>th</sup> September) networking event provides an opportunity for divisions and practices to showcase the fantastic work they have been doing this past year. Divisions are encouraged to bring resources or explanations of programs or projects to this evening so we can share ideas with others. Awards will be presented for 5 judged the best. Bring your business cards so people can get in contact with you later to discuss the items.

**Helen Moore - Principal Advisor – Immunisation, AGPN Ltd**

Contact details: ☎ 02 6228 0833 📠 02 6228 0899 ✉ [hmoore@agpn.com.au](mailto:hmoore@agpn.com.au)

Information contained within this newsletter is intended to inform you on immunisation issues with a national perspective. As such, it is possible that some references will require adjustment to be made specifically accurate for service providers in each individual State or Territory jurisdiction. For further clarification, contact your SBO Immunisation Coordinator or jurisdiction Health Department. AGPN acknowledges the financial support of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

**Come to the Network dinner on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 6.30 pm.**

**Meet people and share ideas! Display your resources to be in it to win an award!**

**To guarantee your place, please send your RSVP to [dhalloran@agpn.com.au](mailto:dhalloran@agpn.com.au) or [hmoore@agpn.com.au](mailto:hmoore@agpn.com.au)**

This year the evening and the awards to be presented will once again be sponsored by Sanofi Pasteur. We would like to thank Sanofi for making the evening possible through this sponsorship and their encouragement to division officers to promote and share their wonderful resources.

The awards and certificates will be presented for interesting, innovative or successful immunisation resources, projects or programs.

For more information on these opportunities visit the NDIW website:

[www.agpn.com.au/immunisation\\_NDIW2008](http://www.agpn.com.au/immunisation_NDIW2008)

Details about the PHAA immunisation conference can be found at:

<http://www.phaa.net.au/immunisationConference.php>

## **Australian General Practice Network Forum**

This is the network's forum! Check out the program and register now -

[www.gpnetworkforum.com.au](http://www.gpnetworkforum.com.au)



## **Fight Flu 2008**

August and September often show the high peaks for flu notifications so there is still time and impetus to "get immunised".

The simple message is....

- influenza is not a cold,
- It is a highly contagious disease.
- Influenza kills more than 2,500 Australians each year
- Annual vaccination gives the most effective protection.
- Protect yourself and protect those in your care.

Check these websites for more information and resources. [www.fightflu.com.au](http://www.fightflu.com.au) and <http://au.youtube.com/vaccin8r>

## **GSK Adult immunisation grants – be quick, entries close 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008!**

The GSK Adult Immunisation Grants for 2008 have been announced. There will be two grants of \$20,000. This is the second year of the GSK Adult Immunisation Grants program. It is aimed at supporting GPs and other health professionals working in general practice to improve awareness of, access to, and implementation of adult immunisation.

The GSK Adult Immunisation Grants support and encourage new or ongoing innovative and practical 'programs of activity' (initiated by general practitioners or multi-disciplinary teams in general practice) that seek to enhance primary care approaches to adult immunisation and can be replicated in other general practices in Australia.

The winners from last year were the Mackay Division of General Practice for the Mackay Well Workers Project and the joint initiative of Melbourne General Practice Network and Doutta Galla Community Health Services for their "Refugee Health" program.

In 2008 the GSK Adult Immunisation Grants will be awarded to support new or ongoing innovative programs of activity that clearly aim to meet one or more of the following key objectives:

1. Improve awareness/education of the benefits of immunisation for defined disease area(s) and targeted groups of adults\*
2. Improve a key aspect of immunisation practice and/or immunisation management in a primary care setting for defined disease area(s) and targeted groups of adults\*
3. Improve access to, or uptake of, immunisation for defined disease area(s) and targeted groups of adults\*

For the purposes of these Grants 'adults' are defined as 18 years and over. Programs should address community needs which are not currently provided within the National Immunisation Program.

Recipients of the Grants will be announced at the 2008 Australian General Practice Network Forum in Darwin on October 29 - November 1, 2008.

Grant recipients will be asked to present the progress and/or results of their project as a poster or oral presentation at the 2009 Australian General Practice Network Forum.

GSK is hoping the grants will help identify current adult immunisation knowledge and service gaps and develop programs which target these 'gaps', making it easier to help protect adult health and wellbeing in Australia.

For an application form, visit: [www.gsk.com.au/adultimmunisationgrants](http://www.gsk.com.au/adultimmunisationgrants) or email [adultimmunisation@hillandknowlton.com.au](mailto:adultimmunisation@hillandknowlton.com.au)

Entry deadline is Wednesday October 1, 2008 at 5.30pm EST.

The full media release detailing this program is attached.

## 9th Edition Handbook

Although the new handbook has been out for a few months, there are still those who have not received their copies or would like more. Copies of the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Australian Immunisation Handbook can be viewed or ordered from

<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook-home>

Also need to publicise the new look *Myths and Realities* as an excellent companion to the handbook for providers of immunisation services.

## Sanofi Pasteur Strive for 5 Resource

Sanofi Pasteur's *Strive for 5* DVD resource has recently been allocated 40 RACGP points for this current triennium. The activity number for this is 739501.

There are 5 CNE points allocated for practice nurses.

You can access one of these DVDs by contacting your SBO immunisation coordinator, divisional program officer or Sanofi Pasteur directly. They are an excellent resource aimed at improving cold chain practices across the country.

## Immunisation Quick Guide Catch-up

The Quick Guide Catch-up for immunisation of people with no immunisation history has been updated and is now available on the Immunisation Program website for Victoria at

[http://www.health.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/240868/quickguidecatchup\\_08.pdf](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/240868/quickguidecatchup_08.pdf)

The guide has been updated with Infanrix hexa and Hiberix vaccines and dTPa as the first dose for a primary course of vaccine in people 8 years and over.

## Zoster virus vaccine now available!

Zostervax<sup>®</sup> is now available on the private market for the prevention of herpes zoster (shingles), for prevention of postherpetic neuralgia (PHN) and for reduction of acute and chronic zoster-associated pain in individuals 60 years of age or older. It is also indicated for the prevention of herpes zoster (shingles) in individuals 50-59 years of age based on a study demonstrating similar immunogenicity in this age group compared to those 60 years of age and older.

For more information see;

[http://www.agpn.com.au/site/index.cfm?PageMode=indiv&module=NEWS&page\\_id=35097&leca=63](http://www.agpn.com.au/site/index.cfm?PageMode=indiv&module=NEWS&page_id=35097&leca=63) .

## HPV register – the latest news!!

The Victorian Cytology Service (VCS) who are in the process of developing and implementing this register, are at the stage of collecting and loading HPV data and registering GPs to receive their payments. VCS have been working closely with AGPN to ensure that it is easy for GPs to use whilst still collecting all required data. Details about VCS and the new HPV register are available online at [www.hpvregister.org.au](http://www.hpvregister.org.au).

VCS will be contacting all GPs by letter to inform them of the process of submitting data to the register and how payments for the lodgement of this data will be made.

In the mean time it is important to continue to collect the data using the templates or software options found on the AGPN website under HPV register. **Most important is the provider number and patient details including her Medicare number.**

<http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=1813#HPV>

The following is a list of the mandatory data needed to lodge data with the HPV register and to receive the \$6.00 payment.

### Mandatory data set

- Medicare Provider Number
- Patient Surname
- Patient Date of Birth
- Patient Street
- Patient Suburb
- Patient Postcode
- Patient State
- Vaccination Date
- Dose Number

### Extra mandatory field required for payment:

- Patient full Medicare Number

Note that these represent the minimum data set that is required for the register to accept the notification, and the more complete the data is the better.

***Remember that if the provider is collecting the data in hard copy, the hand writing must be legible!***

### GP registration

GPs in NT, SA, ACT, Tas and WA have already been invited to register for notification payments. NSW will receive their invitation by the middle of August, Victoria by mid September and Queensland by mid October.

VCS are unable to arrange notification payments unless a GP has returned their registration form with bank account details and the correct provider number.

As at 15/8/08 VCS have received the following registrations:

State	# GP's sent Registration letters	New regos this week	# GP's who've return Registrations	% take up
NT	254	1	22	8.66%
SA	1870	95	1039	55.56%
ACT	369	41	112	30.35%
Tas	608	30	160	26.32%
WA	2089	175	589	28.20%
NSW	To be mailed mid Aug			
Vic	To be mailed mid Sept		20	
Qld	To be mailed mid Oct			
<b>Total</b>	5190	342	1942	

### GP Notification Payments

VCS have made the first pilot payment to a small group of GPs in SA. From the end of August 2008 payments will occur on a monthly basis. These will be processed via Medicare Australia and should be in the GP's bank account early the following month.

In order to qualify for payments GPs must:

First register their bank account details with VCS. They can do this by completing the Registration form sent. Alternatively they can download the form from the VCS website [WWW.HPVRegister.org.au](http://WWW.HPVRegister.org.au)

Send their notifications to VCS on either their state approved form, an AGPN form or report from their medical software. For GPs in Qld & NT arrangements have been made with their state/territory health department to collect the notifications from their state based register. In these two states VCS do not need to receive the notifications.

Payment can only be made if the notification has the GP's Medicare provider number recorded clearly and not the ACIR practice number.

**The Register can be contacted on 1800 478 734 (1800 HPV REG) from 8am -6pm Monday – Friday and 9am – 2pm Saturdays across Australia.**

## **Pertussis**

The relatively high incidence of Pertussis in the community has provoked interest and discussion in various quarters. The results of surveys showing the high infection rate from mothers and other members of immediate families has prompted the development of the cocoon strategy which aims to alert parents with infants under six months of age and women planning a pregnancy to the dangers of whooping cough. The campaign encourages adults coming into close contact with newborns to talk to their doctor about the adult booster vaccination for Pertussis to prevent the spread of disease.

Sanofi Pasteur are about to launch their new campaign to focus attention on the issue of Pertussis and, as it is Olympic time, they have Michael and Lindy Klim as new parents to lead the community. The full media release from Sanofi is attached.

The NCIRS fact sheet on Pertussis can be found at;

[http://www.ncirs.usyd.edu.au/facts/pertussis\\_for\\_australians\\_2006.pdf](http://www.ncirs.usyd.edu.au/facts/pertussis_for_australians_2006.pdf)

## **The Health Kids Check**

The Get Set 4 Life – Health Habits for Kids resource kit is now available. It is not planned to be sent out to practices but can be ordered through the website.

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Healthy\\_Kids\\_Check](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Healthy_Kids_Check)

Division officers who would like to bulk order on behalf of their practices will need to alert National Mail and Marketing of the division name to ensure that the multiple copies are delivered.



SUPPORTING INNOVATION IN ADULT IMMUNISATION

## **Announcement/Media Release**

Thursday August 14, 2008

### **Innovation in adult immunisation to be rewarded**

#### ***- Call for applicants for the GSK Adult Immunisation Grants***

The GSK Adult Immunisation Grants is now open for entries with two grants for \$20,000 available in 2008.

This is the second year of the GSK Adult Immunisation Grants program which is aimed at supporting GPs and other health professionals working in general practice to improve awareness of, access to, and implementation of adult immunisation.

The *GSK Adult Immunisation Grants* support and encourage new or ongoing innovative and practical 'programs of activity' (initiated by general practitioners or multi-disciplinary teams in general practice) that seek to enhance primary care approaches to adult immunisation and can be replicated in other general practices in Australia.

The winners from last year were the Mackay Division of General Practice for the Mackay Well Workers Project and the joint initiative of Melbourne General Practice Network and Dousta Galla Community Health Services for their "Refugee Health" program.

Wendy Reid, immunisation coordinator, Melbourne General Practice Network said

without the additional funding from GSK the refugee immunisation program would not have been able to get off the ground.

"The GSK Adult Immunisation Grant allowed us to enhance the current Dousta Galla refugee health service to improve access to immunisation for adult refugees," she said. "Our program focussed on providing education

about the importance of immunisation, providing access to a 2 dose course of MMR vaccine, commencing a Personal Immunisation Record Card, and assisting refugees in locating a GP for further vaccinations.”

“We aimed to vaccinate over 200 students in 2008 and so far we have successfully vaccinated 183 students with the MMR vaccine.

“This program has not only provided us with the opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of immunisation and documented evidence, but also encourage the update of other funded vaccines including the cervical cancer vaccine.”

The Mackay Division of General Practice also received a grant in 2007 for its “Well Workers Project” and promotional campaign which was developed to address low influenza vaccination rates among healthcare professionals. It was designed to educate healthcare professionals about the risk that influenza posed to not only themselves but also their families and the health of the patients in their care.

The three phase health promotion campaign included a visual campaign, media launch, and an education campaign for healthcare professionals about influenza and resource booklet for healthcare workers.

In 2008 the GSK Adult Immunisation Grants will be awarded to support new or ongoing innovative programs of activity that clearly aim to meet one or more of the following key objectives:

4. Improve awareness/education of the benefits of immunisation for defined disease area(s) and targeted groups of adults\*
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*\* For the purposes of these Grants ‘adults’ are defined as 18 years and over. Programs should address community needs which are not currently provided within the National Immunisation Program.*

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Entry deadline is Wednesday October 1, 2008 at 5.30pm EST.

– ends –

### **Issued on behalf of GSK by Hill & Knowlton**

GlaxoSmithKline is one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare companies committed to improving the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer.

At GSK we are at the cutting edge of vaccine innovation. As well as the many GSK vaccines already available to Australians, we are committed to improving existing vaccines, researching new possibilities and working with health professionals to identify patients most at risk and ultimately help prevent disease where possible.

Our dream is to give all Australians a life free of infectious diseases. A life, where, thanks to vaccination these diseases no longer exist.

### **For further information please contact:**

**Vanefsha Crook, Hill & Knowlton** (02) 9286 1251

**Michelle Kwan, Hill & Knowlton** (02) 9286 1239

*GlaxoSmithKline Pty Ltd (ABN 47 100 162 481), 1061 Mountain Highway, Boronia, Victoria 3155*



## **NEW SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR INCREASED AWARENESS OF ADULT PERTUSSIS IN ORDER TO PROTECT NEWBORNS**

13 August 2008 - A national campaign is being launched next month to address the significant lack of awareness that parents are the most frequent source of life-threatening pertussis in young infants and to encourage healthcare professionals to talk to new parents and those planning a family about the need for a pertussis booster.

This campaign addresses the findings of a new survey which showed that almost all expectant and new mothers (97%) are unaware that they can be the primary source of pertussis infection in infants<sup>1</sup>, despite evidence from one Australian study that found 42% of babies with whooping cough caught the disease from their mother.<sup>2</sup>

“Adult pertussis is often atypical so many cases are mistaken for a bad chest cold or bronchitis. However adult pertussis is still highly contagious and the infection can easily be passed on to infants aged under 6 months who are too young to be fully immunised,” said Professor Robert Booy, Co-Director at the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance.

“Research in hospital intensive care has shown that most cases of severe pertussis in babies are caught from a parent. The fact that the majority of mothers are not aware that parents are the most common source of pertussis infection for infants is very worrying and needs to be addressed,” Professor Booy said.

Pertussis is arguably the most poorly controlled of all vaccine preventable diseases targeted by the National Immunisation Program.<sup>3</sup> In 2006, 11,000 cases were reported in Australia<sup>4</sup> compared with an average of around 8,000 cases per year during 2001-2005.<sup>5</sup> Approximately 90 per cent of cases in 2006 occurred in adults over 20 years of age.<sup>4</sup>

Newly released guidelines from the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommend a booster vaccination with a pertussis-containing vaccine (dTpa) for adults planning a pregnancy, for new parents as soon as possible after the birth of an infant, for other adult household members, grandparents as well as, carers, childcare workers and all healthcare workers.<sup>6</sup>

A single booster dose of a pertussis-containing vaccine (dTpa) is the most effective way to prevent pertussis infection in adults with waning immunity. The booster will help block transmission of disease to vulnerable infants, who do not receive their full primary pertussis vaccination course until 6 months of age.<sup>6</sup>

“Clinicians have an important role in encouraging compliance with recommendations for adult booster vaccination. Routine consultations provide an opportunity to discuss the dangers of pertussis and the benefits of the dTpa vaccine with adult patients in close contact with infants,” said Professor Booy.

The need for vaccination should be assessed as part of a holistic pre-conception health check. Dr Angela Cooney, spokesperson for Sexual Health and Family Planning Australia says, “We encourage planning parents to see their doctor or visit their nearest family planning clinic to ensure they are physically fit and healthy and fully prepared for pregnancy.”

A health checklist to help women planning a pregnancy and a leaflet for parents to learn about whooping cough is available on the following website: [www.whoopingcough.com.au](http://www.whoopingcough.com.au)

The national campaign, spearheaded by presenter and second time mum, Lindy Klim, aims to alert parents with infants under six months of age and women planning a pregnancy to the dangers of whooping cough. The campaign encourages adults coming into close contact with newborns to talk to their doctor about the adult booster vaccination for pertussis to prevent the spread of disease.

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## References:

<sup>1</sup> motherInc National Whooping Cough Poll January 2008

<sup>2</sup> Pichichero ME, et al. Expert Rev Vaccines 2006; 5(2):175-187.

<sup>3</sup> National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases. Fact Sheet on Pertussis vaccine for Australians: information for GPs and immunization providers. [http://www.ncirs.usyd.edu.au/facts/pertussis\\_for\\_australians\\_2006.pdf](http://www.ncirs.usyd.edu.au/facts/pertussis_for_australians_2006.pdf). Accessed on 5th November, 2007.

<sup>4</sup> Communicable Disease Network Australia. National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System. Number of pertussis notifications in Australia – 2006, by age group and sex. Accessed on 19th May 2008 <http://www9.health.gov.au/cda/Source/CDA-index.cfm>

<sup>5</sup> Communicable Disease Network Australia. National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System. Number of notifications of pertussis in Australia 1991-2006. Accessed on 14th May 2008 at <http://www9.health.gov.au/cda/Source/CDA-index.cfm>

<sup>6</sup> Australian Government, Department of Health and Ageing. Australian Immunisation Handbook 9th Edition 2008. Accessed on 15th April, 2008 at

[http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/5335A7AB925D3E39CA25742100194409/\\$File/part3.pdf](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/5335A7AB925D3E39CA25742100194409/$File/part3.pdf).

## **Notes to the editor**

### **About the survey**

The survey was conducted by online parenting publication, MotherInc during January 2008. 741 readers responded to the survey with one time only response possible.

### **About pertussis vaccines**

The pertussis booster for adults with dT currently costs about \$40.

### **For further information or to request an interview contact:**

Belinda Rowe at Fleishman-Hillard Pty Ltd

Ph: (02) 8905 6324

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Email: [belinda.rowe@fleishman.com](mailto:belinda.rowe@fleishman.com)