

IFPW Foundation's Virtual Fundraising Benefit Brings Together Leaders in the Pharma Industry

(Source: An article written by Christina Tucker of IFPW)

While countries around the world continue to battle through the global pandemic, IFPW Foundation, along with key stakeholders in the pharmaceutical industry and NGO leaders, convened virtually for the IFPW Foundation's inaugural fundraising benefit during World Immunization Week. Prominent speakers gave their thoughtful insights and perspectives on the challenges in Global Health and opportunities facing the pharmaceutical industry. The event was held over two days and consisted of two morning sessions.

Day one was kicked off by a lively "fireside chat" discussion led by IFPW Foundation's current chairman, Steve Collis (Chairman, President and CEO of AmerisourceBergen) with Len Schleifer (Founder and CEO of Regeneron.) Mr. Schleifer gave a frank and informative overview of the biopharmaceutical industry, its challenges to lift its public image - particularly regarding drug pricing - and how the industry has worked together to develop not only vaccines for COVID-19, but cutting-edge therapeutics as well, all within an unprecedentedly urgent timeframe. With lives on the line, the race to get the global population vaccinated has pushed the pharma industry to find innovative ways to get shots in arms and work together as never before - sharing technology, knowledge and resources. He also told the story of how Regeneron was at the forefront of developing its therapeutic treatment *Remdesivir* before the world had heard of COVID and its success in cutting the severity and length of the virus. The discussion was followed by a Q&A session moderated by Gina Clark, Executive Vice President and Chief Communications and Administrative Officer for ABC.

Attendees also listened to panelists from both industry and government discuss the roll of distribution with particular focus on the COVID-19 pandemic, and how governments, distributors, logistics companies and manufacturers are collaborating to find solutions that will get vaccines to the public the quickest and safest way possible. Among the presenters were McKesson Sr. Vice President and COO, Gene Cavacini, Shawn Seamans, President of McKesson Life Sciences, Kevin Kettler, Chairman of the Management Board for McKesson International, Grant Cochrane, Sr. Vice President of International Services for Fedex, Paul Ostrowski, Director of Supply, Production and Distribution Federal COVID-19 Vaccines/Therapeutic Operation for the United States government, and Kyra Faircloth, U.S. COVID-19 Commercial Lead for Pfizer.

Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, and Aurelia Nguyen, Gavi's Managing Director, Office of the COVAX facility provided an overview on Gavi the Vaccine Alliance's history and the COVAX program which is focused on the goal of providing COVID vaccines to underdeveloped and underserved countries around the world. The session was followed by presentations on the importance of securing the world's drug supply chains by Adam Aspinnall, Chairman of the Fight the Fakes (FtF) Alliance

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In Brief...

- ◆ **U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)** announced over the last year *Operation Stolen Promise*, its COVID-19 crime initiative, seized over US\$48 million in illicit proceeds, opened more than 1,000 criminal investigations, and made more than 2,000 seizures of mislabeled, fraudulent, or prohibited COVID-19 vaccines, test kits, and equipment, including more than 21.2 million counterfeit respirator masks.
- ◆ Japan began COVID-19 vaccinations targeting 36 million elderly people (age 65 and older) in April following its vaccine program for healthcare workers. The government's goal is to complete the vaccination of the elderly population by the end of June. The Japanese government has requested vaccine doses for the entire population from manufacturers to be delivered by September.
- ◆ COVID-19 vaccine manufacturer **Moderna** announced that it will supply 34 million doses of the vaccine to the COVAX program. The doses will be delivered in the 4th quarter of 2021 to the World Health Organization-backed initiative to supply free vaccines to 92 low-and middle-income countries around the world. Separately, Moderna has signed its 3rd agreement to outsource vaccine production, this time with pharma manufacturer Sanofi.
- ◆ The United States will share up to 60 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine with other countries within the next few weeks, with 10 million doses already cleared for export. Fifty million additional doses are currently in production and could ship in May and June. The Biden administration is still deciding what the process will be to determine where and how it will share the vaccine.

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Zuellig Pharma Launches its Vaccine Management Solution "eZVax"

(Source: A Zuellig Pharma Press Release)

Zuellig Pharma has launched eZVax, its vaccine management solution that enables governments and private clients to manage all aspects of vaccine distribution and administration. eZVax was developed in collaboration with Accenture and built with Microsoft technology. It features Zuellig Pharma's proprietary blockchain-based eZTracker solution which enables instant verification of the provenance and authenticity of vaccines and other healthcare products.

eZVax consists of four key pillars. First, a data aggregation platform which optimizes planning and decision making for governments, by providing a secure system for storage, management and analysis of data across the vaccine supply chain. The system enables governments to monitor vaccination progress, track vaccine movements across sites, simulate changes in demand and supply and use real-time data to make decisions on opening additional mass vaccination sites to maximise efficiency and ensure adequate and timely vaccine supply.

The second pillar is Zuellig's eZTracker solution which allows pharmaceutical companies and health authorities full visibility of

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Zuellig's eZVax (cont.)...

box-level vaccine movements across the entire supply chain. This full traceability provides the assurance of quality and integrity of supply, including temperature. Efficient stock allocation is ensured through automated ordering and replenishments, reverse logistics and waste management.

eZTracker also enables users to verify the provenance and authenticity of vaccines, overcoming vaccine hesitancy among target groups while promoting safety-first mindsets and outcomes. At the point of care, healthcare professionals and patients can instantly check the quality of the vaccine and its authenticity by scanning a barcode on the vaccine vial.

eZVax's third pillar is the citizen services app, which supports patients' end-to-end vaccination process to improve their experience, adherence and safety. Through the app (available on both website and mobile) patients can track their vaccination journey from registration to completion and can schedule vaccination sessions, complete eligibility checks and health declarations, set up reminders and access proof of vaccination. They can also report adverse events through this platform.

The fourth and last pillar is provider services or AVAX an integrated platform which facilitates efficient and timely management of citizen vaccinations. It helps healthcare professionals and vaccine teams manage vaccination site schedules and organize the schedules based on health care worker availability, automate citizen appointments, verify patient identity and track vaccine records. AVAX can also track vaccine administration progress, order and track incoming shipments.

"As more COVID-19 vaccines are approved, each having their own unique requirements, it is crucial to address the main challenges that will drive vaccination uptake. Apart from proper storage and transport, giving people the confidence to get vaccinated is vital to achieve herd immunity. Collaboration is key to address this unprecedented challenge; combining our in-market cold chain expertise and our proven blockchain solution with the resources of leading tech companies will help us support governments to overcome these issues in the communities we serve. We believe that governments will find eZVax relevant and practical in ensuring that their vaccination programs remain secure, efficient, and responsive to situational changes," said Tom Vanmolkot, EVP Distribution and Client Services Zuellig Pharma.

eZVax is fully scalable and can be customized to suit the needs of any country/healthcare system. Zuellig Pharma is currently in talks with health authorities throughout Asia to implement eZVax in their countries.

In Brief (cont.)...

♦ **CVS Health** is launching **CVS Health Ventures**, a dedicated corporate venture capital fund that will invest in and partner with high-potential, early-stage companies focused on making health care more accessible. The fund will initially launch with US\$100 million allocated for investments and will focus on companies with the potential for technology-enabled innovation and disruption in digital health care that are anchored in CVS Health's core strategy.

Sources: Drug Store News, FiercePharma, Pharma Japan, Reuters, and World Pharma News

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(and Director, Asset and Product Management for Medicines for Malaria Venture), Andrea Vassalotti, Director of Partnerships and Programs for the World Heart Federation (and the Alliance's Vice-Chairman), and Sergio Cavalheiro Filho, Associate Manager of Regulatory Affairs for IFPMA (a FtF Alliance partner.) The session underscored the insurgence of fake and substandard medicines and medical supplies, particularly related to COVID-19, and how they are infiltrating countries with impunity.

Following the kickoff of Day two, attendees listened to Gavi's Deputy CEO, Anuradha Gupta, share information on Gavi's priorities during "Gavi 5.0", which include activities relating to both COVID vaccines and ensuring the continuation of routine immunization programs to ensure gains in recent years are not lost. She also iterated the importance of Gavi's STEP leadership program. Panelists from leading global manufacturers included Craig Kennedy, Senior Vice President, Transformation and Supply Chain Management for Merck/MSD, Shailesh Mehta, Director - GAVI & Supranationals GSK Vaccines, and Martin Fitchet, Global Head of Johnson & Johnson Public Health. Presenters shared their experiences in serving developing markets and their respective organizations' commitments to immunization and Global Health programs. Following this session, IFPW members GSK, Johnson & Johnson, and Merck enthusiastically gave their pledge to support Gavi 5.0 through collaborative activities with IFPW Foundation, which will include the STEP Leadership tool.

George Bray, Vice President of Programs and Services for IFPW Foundation, led a panel of presenters on the importance of the STEP Leadership program. Presenters included Ranjana Kumar, Senior Specialist Leadership, Management and Coordination Country Programmes for Gavi, Kevin Etter, Gavi's Public Health Supply Chain Consultant, Bridget McHenry, Institutional Contractor of USAID, and Robert Muteeganda, Supply Chain Specialist for The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Since 2016, the STEP Leadership program has trained over 300 vaccine supply chain professionals in the developing world. This GAVI-sponsored management training program has made a significant impact and is now poised to make an even larger contribution as it has been refreshed and is being converted to a virtual format. Presenters detailed how IFPW, along with Gavi, USAID, and The Global Fund are all working together with the private sector to deliver a more impactful leadership tool, to an even broader audience. During the Q&A session, the panel expanded on ways executives can get involved as STEP coaches and facilitators to effectively assist in the delivery of this important intervention.

IFPW President Mark Parrish closed the event with expressions of gratitude to all the event's benefactors, individual supporters and speakers who gave so generously of their time and knowledge. With the support of these organizations and individuals, the IFPW Foundation was able to meet and exceed its financial goals. IFPW looks forward to welcoming its attendees to the next fundraising benefit, to be announced at a future date.

Event content will remain available to participants through the summer. Please contact Christina Tucker at c.tucker@ifpwfoundation.org if you would like access to these sessions or if you would like to make a contribution to the IFPW Foundation. IFPW extends a very special thanks to all the benefactors, whose support will enable IFPW Foundation to continue its important work!!