National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
WHO WE ARE . . .

THE MISSION

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1973 and dedicated to:

- Encouraging and sponsoring public and professional education about infectious diseases
- Supporting research and training in infectious diseases
- Aiding in the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases

NFID carries out its mission by:

- Educating the public
- Educating healthcare professionals
- Supporting research and training in infectious diseases
- Building coalitions
- Honoring scientific and public health achievement, legislative contributions, and philanthropy in infectious diseases
“...we have witnessed the appearance of new and unforeseen disease threats, such as a virulent strain of avian influenza that attacks humans, a human variant of ‘mad cow disease’, and new drug-resistant forms of Staphylococcus aureus. The emergence of these threats reminds us that we must not become complacent. We must never underestimate the power, destructiveness, and endless adaptability of infectious microbes.” — Jeffrey P. Koplan, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1998.

Every year it seems that new and more horrific infectious disease risks emerge, whether these risks are real or hypothetical. Add to Dr. Koplan’s list some recent attention getters: the emergence in the United States of West Nile virus infections in animals and humans, an epizootic of foot and mouth disease in cattle in United Kingdom, and the potential of a bioterrorist attack and its aftermath. Infectious diseases are now the third leading cause of death in the United States and the overall trend since the 1980s has been increasing. In 1992 over 2 million Americans have died as a direct result of infectious diseases. Here are a few more sobering statistics:

“Pneumonia and influenza deaths together constitute the sixth leading cause of death in the United States. Influenza causes an average of 110,000 hospitalizations and 20,000 deaths annually; pneumococcal disease causes 10,000 to 14,000 deaths annually.”

“As of December 31, 2000, CDC had received reports of 774,467 persons with AIDS in the U.S.; 448,060 (58%) are known to have died.”
“Antibiotic-resistant bacteria generate a minimum of $4 billion to $5 billion in costs to U.S. society and individuals yearly, and in 1992, the 19,000 deaths directly caused by hospital-acquired infections made them the eleventh leading cause of death in the U.S. population.”

“In the United States, human papillomaviruses (HPV) are associated with 82% of the 15,000 cases and 4,600 deaths due to cervical cancer each year.”

“Since the late 1970s, the prevalence of HSV-2 [herpes simplex virus type 2, the cause of genital herpes infections] infection has increased by 30 percent, and HSV-2 is now [as of 1994] detectable in roughly one of five persons 12 years of age or older nationwide.”

Extraordinary efforts are necessary to identify, characterize, prevent, and treat infectious diseases annually. Likewise, a sustained effort is needed to educate healthcare professionals and the general public about infectious diseases and to provide the necessary resources to support research and public health efforts. NFID has become one of the most respected, credible, non-governmental, non-commercial voices in providing accurate, up-to-date information on infectious diseases to healthcare professionals and the public.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

ANNUAL INFLuenza AND PNEUMOCOCCAL IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN

Each fall NFID and the National Coalition for Adult Immunization sponsor an influenza and pneumococcal immunization awareness campaign. Typically taking the format of a press conference, this campaign seeks to remind millions of Americans of the risks of influenza and pneumococcal disease, and ways of preventing them or their complications. In the influenza season, 10 to 20 percent of the population is infected, 110,000 are hospitalized, and 20,000 die nationwide from influenza or its complications. Every year, pneumococcal disease claims over 12,000 lives and accounts for an estimated 150,000 to 570,000 cases of pneumonia, 50,000 cases of bacteremia and 3,000 cases of meningitis in the United States. Both influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations are highly effective in reducing influenza and pneumococcal infections, their complications, or both.

THE RICHARD J. DUMA/NFID ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE AND SYMPOSIUM ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES

An informed general public is a first line of defense against many infectious diseases. Medical researchers and public health officials help educate the general public by presenting pertinent information about infectious diseases to the national media and lay press. Press writers then translate technical information into articles and stories understandable by the general public. The Richard J. Duma/NFID Annual Press Conference and Symposium on Infectious Diseases is an annual press conference named to honor one of NFID's founding directors, former president and executive director, Richard J. Duma, MD, PhD. Each year NFID invites medical writers and news correspondents from around the country to attend a half-day educational symposium about infectious diseases at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Topics expected to generate public interest and publicity throughout the coming year are presented and discussed, following which reporters are given the opportunity to interact one-on-one in an informal setting with foremost national experts in infectious diseases. Predictions about breaking infectious news for the coming year are a recurring highlight of the event.
NFID's website, www.nfid.org, leads viewers to general information about NFID, announcements of NFID conferences and meetings, NFID publications, information about NFID's fellowships and grants program, infectious disease fact sheets, on-line NFID-sponsored news conferences, and a virtual library of infectious diseases containing links to specific data and to large collections of bibliographic information.

In addition to providing a resource for healthcare professionals, the NFID website is also popular among the general public. The Internet is a powerful communication vehicle, and its capability to educate large segments of the general population cannot be understated. Unfortunately, non-professionals who use the Internet to obtain health information are often confronted by the wide array of confusing, contradictory, and at times, misleading data. There is little opportunity for the layperson to evaluate the validity of material being presented or to review the professional qualifications of the authors. NFID has taken several steps to either provide information directly to the general public, or to help the public evaluate information that they may encounter.

**Full Length Web Presentations.** NFID has developed three full-length presentations on vaccine-preventable diseases: *Influenza: The Virus, the Disease, and How to Protect Yourself; Pneumococcal Infections: Recognizing, Treating and Preventing Infections caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae; and Meningococcal Infections: Recognizing, Treating and Preventing Infections caused by Neisseria meningitidis.* The web presentations, which are updated periodically when new information is available, provide consumers and health care professionals with a broad range of information including the causes, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of the infections; available vaccines and therapies; who should and should not receive vaccines; and many of the symptoms and complications associated with infection. In addition, the presentations provide statistics and links to other major web sites, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization.

**Fact Sheets.** Fact sheets are one-page summaries that provide basic information about infectious diseases including their incidence, causes, signs and symptoms, prevention, treatment and areas of ongoing research. Fact sheets are often used as the starting point for a more in-depth exploration of a disease or disease process.

**NFID Recommended Websites.** To help consumers evaluate the information that they may seek on the Internet, NFID periodically reviews infectious diseases related websites. At least two reviewers, who are members of the NFID's Board of Directors and Community Education Committee, score the websites in five areas: scientific accuracy, completeness, navigability, graphics and design, and suitability for the general public. Websites are certified as NFID Recommended Websites if the reviewers' average score is at least “fair” and the score for accuracy is at least “fair.” NFID Recommended Websites receive a hot link from NFID's website and are authorized to use the logo.
NFID is an accredited provider of continuing medical education (CME) for physicians. Accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) seeks to assure both physicians and the public that continuing medical education activities sponsored by NFID meet the Essentials and Standards for Accreditation. NFID must ensure balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all of its professional educational activities; information must be unbiased, and not influenced by financial concerns of industry or the faculty. All faculty and organizers of professional educational events disclose to the audience any significant financial interest or other relationships with manufacturers of discussed products or commercial supporters of its CME activities. In addition, faculty must disclose to the audience any discussion of off-label uses of regulated substances and devices.

The biotechnology revolution has stimulated a remarkable pace in the research and development of vaccines and associated technologies for disease control through immunization. Many new diseases have recently become—or soon will be—vaccine preventable, and improvements to existing vaccines are appearing in rapid succession.

In recognition of this growth in the field, NFID’s Annual Conference on Vaccine Research has become the first major, non-commercial scientific forum devoted exclusively to the presentation and sharing of data and knowledge among the diverse disciplines of vaccinology. This three-day conference serves as a forum for presenting and discussing the latest vaccine-related scientific data, results, and issues via symposia and panel discussions by expert faculty and through oral and poster presentations of submitted papers. The goal is to encourage communication among vaccine researchers and developers, public health officials, and medical personnel who administer vaccines.
Recognizing the rapid developments in infectious diseases and the difficulty physicians in clinical practice may have in keeping abreast of current progress in infectious diseases, NFID, Emory University School of Medicine, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sponsor a 2 1/2 day clinical course, New and Reemerging Infectious Diseases: A Course for Practicing Physicians. Held in Atlanta, GA each June and originally intended for general practitioners in the Southeast, the course now enjoys the attendance of general practitioners, infectious disease specialists, internists, pediatricians, family practitioners, infectious disease physicians-in-training, public health officials, clinical microbiologists, and others whose practices encompass the entire nation. A distinguished faculty from renowned medical institutions around the country presents the latest information on the epidemiology, recognition, treatment, and management of new and reemerging infectious diseases. A series of interactive, real-life, clinical case presentations, designed to challenge participants’ newly acquired clinical information, have become one of the most popular aspects of the course.

SATellite SYMposia AND SATellite VIDEO CONFERENCES

The physician with a busy clinical practice may not have the luxury of attending all potentially beneficial educational opportunities. Where possible, NFID sponsors “satellite” educational offerings at physician gathering places: major national and international conferences and meetings. These satellite symposia, usually lasting 2–3 hours, are designed to supplement the main conference programming by providing an in depth look at various aspects of infectious diseases not covered in the main conference. NFID has also sponsored interactive satellite videoconferences, an efficient format allowing physicians and other health care providers to attend and participate in educational events in their own, or nearby medical facilities. Literally thousands of healthcare providers attending sessions in hundreds of downlink sites are provided essential medical information and continuing medical education credits. Select programs are also available for credit via the NFID website.

Recent offerings include:

- Winning the Therapeutic Battle Against Staphylococcus aureus Infections
- Current Issues on the Risks, Prevention, and Management of Surgical Site Infections
- Nosocomial Infections in Critically Ill Patients
- Contemporary Issues in Nosocomial Fungal Infections
- Contemporary Issues in Serious Gram-positive Infections in the Healthcare Setting
- Strategies for Managing Resistant Nosocomial Gram-Positive Infections in the New Millenium
NFID PUBLICATIONS

**Clinical Updates.** To meet the practicing clinicians’ needs for accurate and timely information about infectious diseases, NFID publishes and distributes three series of its popular *Clinical Updates* publications. These publications are provided free of charge and are aimed at assisting practicing physicians in patient management. *Clinical Updates in Infectious Diseases* covers topics of wide medical interest, particularly relating to adult patients. This publication was first published in 1993, has recently been re-launched as a CME publication, and is mailed to over 15,000 practitioners. *Clinical Updates in Pediatric Infectious Diseases* is published semiannually, is mailed to 7,000 pediatricians and focuses on infectious disease issues commonly confronting pediatric practice. The third series of the Clinical Updates publications is *Clinical Updates in Fungal Infections*. This publication provides the latest medical information on the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of fungal infections and is mailed to over 15,000 physicians.

Each issue of the three *Clinical Updates* is also posted on NFID’s website at the time of publication.

**THE DOUBLE HELIX®**

*The Double Helix* has been the Foundation’s newsletter since 1976, and it serves as NFID’s communication tool to thousands of persons interested in the Foundation and infectious diseases. Health care providers, health care organizations, medical and science writers, members of Congress and their staffs, contributors, and others receive this quarterly publication.

**PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS**

NFID sponsors or publishes a variety of scientific materials based upon NFID conferences, scientific panel discussions, round table discussions, and symposia. These materials take the form of proceedings published in peer reviewed scientific journals, or “free-standing” NFID publications. Availability of all such publications is announced in *The Double Helix* and on NFID’s website at www.nfid.org.
NFID FELLOWSHIPS

To further its objectives in the areas of research and training, NFID provides fellowship support to qualified physicians and scientists dedicated to research in infectious diseases. Five fellowships are awarded annually, each focusing on a different aspect of infectious diseases. The NFID John P. Utz Postdoctoral Fellowship in Medical Mycology encourages and assists qualified physicians to become specialists and researchers in the field of medical mycology. The NFID Fellowship in Infectious Diseases is designed to encourage new physicians to become specialists and researchers in infectious diseases. The NFID Postdoctoral Fellowship in Nosocomial Infection Research and Training provides an incentive to physicians to become specialists and investigators in the field of nosocomial infections. Over two million nosocomial infections—infections acquired in the hospital or other health-care setting—occur each year in the United States, resulting in over 20,000 deaths. The NFID Postdoctoral Fellowship in Emerging Infectious Diseases provides a qualified physician the opportunity to become a recognized authority on emerging infectious diseases and emerging infectious diseases epidemiology. The candidate chosen for this fellowship spends one year working with researchers and public health officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Many of the candidates completing this fellowship go on to a career in public health. The NFID Colin L. Powell Minority Postdoctoral Fellowship in Tropical Disease Research helps minority researchers to become specialists and investigators in the field of tropical disease medicine.

NEW INVESTIGATOR MATCHING GRANTS

The New Investigator Matching Grants program provides new medical researchers with “seed” funds to help pay for supplies and equipment during the first year of independent infectious diseases research. Funds, typically awarded for one-year at the level of $2,000, are matched by the researchers’ institution. Since 1982, this program has provided funds for over 150 new faculty members.
NATIONAL COALITION FOR ADULT IMMUNIZATION

For the past 15 years, NFID has helped to raise public awareness about adult and adolescent vaccine preventable diseases through the National Coalition for Adult Immunization (NCAI). The NCAI has a membership of over 140 professional medical and health care associations, advocacy groups, voluntary organizations, vaccine manufacturers, government health agencies, and state and local coalitions. Members share a common goal of improving the immunization status of American adults and adolescents to levels specified by the US Public Health Service’s Healthy People 2010. By providing leadership, educational materials, and a forum for ideas, NCAI member organizations have reached tens of thousands Americans with immunization messages.

In addition to co-sponsoring NFID’s fall influenza and pneumococcal immunization campaign, NCAI is currently working with CDC's National Immunization Program and the National Vaccine Advisory Committee to revise and update the Standards for Adult Immunization Practices, an NCAI document that was initially published in 1990. Other NCAI publications include the Adult and Adolescent Immunization Resource Guide and the National Adult Immunization Awareness Week Campaign Kit.

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR IMMUNIZATION

The National Partnership for Immunization (NPI) is a new collaboration between the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition (HMHB) and NFID. Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NPI’s goal is to increase national awareness of the value and importance of infant, child, adolescent, and adult immunization. NPI focuses on four primary areas: 1) communication and awareness, 2) educational initiatives, 3) partnership and outreach, and 4) research assessment and information exchange.
NFID seized an opportunity in 1998 to go beyond education and advocacy to help prevent infectious diseases. With a grant provided by the Episcopal Health Charities, and later by the Houston Endowment, NFID built a unique coalition of city, state, and local organizations to implement the Houston School-Based Adolescent Hepatitis B Immunization Program. The three-year program, similar to community based efforts in other states, was designed to protect Houston’s needy adolescents against hepatitis B. These children were born before hepatitis B immunizations became routine in 1991—leaving them “at risk” for contracting hepatitis B. The Texas Department of Health and GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals supplied vaccine, and the City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services provided office space and logistical support. Each year, hundreds of volunteer nurses fanned out over the city to assist in the effort.

From 1998 through the end of the 2000-01 school year, nearly 14,000 high-risk 5th graders attending 73 elementary schools in the Houston Independent School District and 5th and 6th graders attending two intermediate schools in the Aldine Independent School District received vaccine through NFID’s program.
HONORING SCIENTIFIC AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACHIEVEMENT, LEGISLATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS, AND PHILANTHROPY

Each year NFID presents awards to outstanding individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to the health of society through scientific achievement, public health, philanthropy, or legislation.

THE MAXWELL FINLAND AWARD FOR SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT

The Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement is presented to a scientist who has made outstanding contributions to the understanding of infectious diseases or public health. Some of the criteria on which selection is based include:

- Excellence in clinical and/or research activities
- Participation in the training of future leaders in the field
- Positive impact on the health of humankind

The Award, a three-dimensional marplex sculpture of the double helix, the symbol of NFID, was commissioned to sculptor Sharon Gainsburg, a former researcher at the National Institutes of Health.

Former recipients of the Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement are:

2001 Robert Austrian, M.D.
2000 R. Gordon Douglas, Jr., M.D.
1999 Stanley Falkow, Ph.D.
1998 Maurice Hilleman, Ph.D.
1997 Joshua Lederberg, Ph.D.
1996 The Honorable Paul G. Rogers
1995 The Honorable Dale Bumpers and Mrs. Betty F. Bumpers
1994 Elizabeth Hanford Dole
1993 Arthur Ashe, Jr.
1992 Mrs. Albert D. Lasker and Michael E. DeBakey, M.D.
1991 P. Roy Vagelos, M.D.
1990 Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.
1988 C. Everett Koop, M.D.
The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind

The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind was established in 1997 by the NFID Board of Directors to honor those individuals whose outstanding humanitarian efforts and achievements have contributed significantly to improving the health of humankind. Criteria on which selection is based include:

- Legislative or administrative contributions
- Humanitarian service and/or
- Public education activities

The Award is named for former President and Mrs. Carter, who as outstanding humanitarians, have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for people worldwide. In recognition of their efforts to resolve conflict peacefully, promote democracy, protect human rights, and prevent and eradicate disease, President and Mrs. Carter were presented with the first Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind in 1997. The Award, designed by Steuben, is an elegant three-dimensional glass sculpture containing a representation of NFID’s symbol, the double helix. Former recipients of the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind are:

- 2001 Senator John D. Rockefeller IV
- 1999 David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D.
- 1998 General Colin L. Powell
- 1997 Former President Jimmy Carter and Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter
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