

# The Global Vaccine and Immunization Research Forum

The Global Vaccine and Immunization Research Forum (GVIRF) derives from the Global Vaccine Research Forum (GVRF) that the World Health Organization (WHO) successfully organized for a number of years. Building on that tradition, the meeting has now been expanded and will be co-hosted by the WHO, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The GVIRF will serve as a forum for the discussion of the Research & Development component of the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) developed in the framework of the Decade of Vaccines Collaboration and endorsed by the 2012 World Health Assembly.

The objective of the GVIRF is to serve as scientific forum that will:

- review the GVAP R&D agenda progress;
- track progress and discuss obstacles related to priority vaccine research and development;
- identify actions recommended to be taken by the research and development community in the area of vaccines and immunization research, and
- create an opportunity for networking among the vaccine research and immunization community.

As endorsed by the Decade of Vaccines Collaboration Leadership Council and the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization in 2012, the GVAP R&D reporting will be done every two years by the GVIRF and will look at:

- expanding capabilities and engagement with end-users,
- enabling development of new vaccines,
- accelerating development, licensing and uptake of vaccines, and
- improving programme efficiencies and increasing coverage.

The first GVIRF was held on 4-6 March 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Bethesda, USA.