ADVAC helps fulfill the prescient vision of Charles Merieux to gather scientists and other health professionals to address the never-ending challenges from infectious diseases. Past ADVAC participants have helped bring new lifesaving vaccines to countries throughout the world and they are playing key roles in the development of new vaccines. The Ebola epidemic illustrates the importance of Charles Merieux’s vision to have vaccinologists from all cultures throughout the world working together to face these important challenges. ADVAC 16 participants will undoubtedly carry his vision forward.

Neal Halsey
Professor - Department of International Health at the Bloomberg School of Public Health

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ADVAC Scientific Committee Meeting

The last ADVAC Scientific Committee meeting took place in the Hilary Koprowski room at the Wistar Institute, 3601 Spruce Street, Philadelphia on Wednesday 8 October 2014 from 08:00 to 12:00 AM.

Professor Russel E. Kaufman, President and CEO of the Wistar Institute welcomed the members of the ADVAC Scientific Committee.

The review of the 2014 ADVAC evaluation report as well as an overview of ADVAC 2000 to 2013, reflect a consistent selection process over 15 years. However special attention needs to be paid to encourage Latin American candidates to apply for the next courses.

The ADVAC 16 programme will include the Plotkin Lecture, which will be focusing on Ebola. The preliminary programme will soon be posted on www.advac.org.

All meetings were warmly appreciated by alumni and participating ADVAC lecturers.

Next events to be considered for alumni meetings in 2015:
- SAGE – WHO – 15 April
- NFID ACVR – 15 April
- ESPID – 14 May
- IDSA - San Diego, 6/11 October
- WSPID – Rio, 18/21 November
- Indvac, Vellore, 21/26 September

We would appreciate it if ADVAC alumni and ADVAC lecturers would indicate, using the attached survey form, whether they intend to participate in one or more of these meetings. Alumni & Lecturers meetings will be organised if a significant attendance can be foreseen.

Access the survey

CALENDAR
Selected highlights and events in 2015

January
- 16 - ADVAC selection committee in Paris for ADVAC 16

April
- 15 - Alumni meeting during SAGE - WHO

May
- 11-22 - Next course: ADVAC 16
- 14 Alumni meeting in Leipzig during ESPID (to be confirmed)
Forty-five former ADVACers and faculty gathered for a reunion in Philadelphia on Thursday 9 October from 18:30 to 21:30 at the College of Physicians & the Mütter Museum of Medical History.

Stanley Plotkin arranged for the museum to stay open late to allow participants to tour the fascinating preserved anatomical abnormalities, photographs, drawings, and surgical tools, which set the stage for an evening of fun.

Following refreshments, Stanley Plotkin chaired an energetic debate on controversial issues regarding influenza vaccination between Kathy Neuzil and Mark Miller with an active audience participation which included boos and cheers.

Although the outcome was contested and a final resolution of the appeal is pending, the pro universal vaccination won hands down based on an independent, informal, unscientific survey.

The event was sponsored by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Neal Halsey
Alumni Interviews - ADVACERS

You could be the next person to be selected to provide us with your feedback about your career, the Alumni meetings around the world & your ideas or requests for this newsletter.

How? The more you attend the upcoming alumni meetings the more likely you are to be selected for an interview.

Lessandra Michelim - ADVAC 2013

1. What about your career since ADVAC?
ADVAC was a great opportunity to improve knowledge in the field of vaccinology and essential to my career as a medical professor and infectious diseases specialist.

Since the course, I have been invited to be part of national and international advisor boards of vaccines in some infectious diseases societies, teach about vaccines and safety, talk about vaccines in conferences and medical meetings, and write book chapters and papers. The last paper that I published after the course was a review about Pseudomonas vaccine (Curr Pharm Biotechnol. 2013;14 (11): 951-9).

I am also the president of the next Brazilian Infectious Diseases Congress, a great event in Latin America on infectious diseases and vaccines that will take place on August 2015. After ADVAC, my expertise improved and I was able to help my country at regional, national and international levels.

2. What about this alumni meeting?
Alumni meetings are great opportunities for continuing education, and also provide the possibility to meet our dear friends, exchange knowledge and increase our partnership network.

3. What would you find interesting to have in this newsletter?
The newsletter should contain highlights in the field of vaccinology, such as abstracts of important papers and reports of research that have been conducted with new vaccines, as well as conferences and alumni meetings. It can be a practical way to be up-dated, exchange knowledge and keep in touch with everyone who is part of this amazing group of alumni.

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Alumni Interviews - ADVACERS

Thomas Heineman - ADVAC 2009

1. What about your career since ADVAC?

Since my ADVAC experience, I have continued my research in vaccine development at GSK. Currently, I am responsible for the clinical development of several vaccines. These range from products still in preclinical testing through vaccines that are being evaluated in phase III efficacy studies. The broad scope of my work requires a good understanding of immunology, clinical trial design, statistics, safety monitoring, epidemiology, regulatory affairs, and other disciplines.

Consequently, ADVAC was an outstanding experience as it helped me to gain new perspectives in each of these areas and more. I frequently have formal interactions with advisory committees, national regulatory authorities, basic scientists and clinicians.

My ADVAC experience enhanced my competence and confidence in each of these settings and has made me more effective in helping to bring new vaccines to the public.

2. What about this alumni meeting?

This was a really great alumni meeting, especially since it happened to be in my home town of Philadelphia. It was a great pleasure to catch up with classmates and faculty from my ADVAC year and to be able to expand my vaccine network by meeting some very interesting ADVAC alumni from other years.

The scientific program, which addressed important issues related to flu vaccination, was both interesting and entertaining. Given the breadth of expertise among the ADVAC alumni and faculty, I would love to have an even broader scientific program in the future.

3. What would you find interesting to have in this newsletter?

I would like the newsletter to highlight the most important new developments in vaccinology, whether related to basic science, clinical research or public policy.

The newsletter could also serve as a forum for ADVAC alumni/faculty to share knowledge, important events in their lives/careers and generally to stay in touch.

Of course, it should also keep us informed of upcoming alumni events so that as many people as possible can attend these outstanding gatherings.
1. What about your career since ADVAC?

As an investigator on vaccines and vaccine-preventible diseases, and as a member of national vaccine advisory board at the MoH, it was exactly the best time to join this super course in lovely Annecy.

After this course, I have been able to fine-tune my comments on the policies of national vaccination program and inclusion of new vaccines in the NIP.

Furthermore, as a full attending professor at Marmara University School of Medicine, I achieved great progress on my research and international publications as well as national and international teaching activities.

2. What about this alumni meeting?

It was a great pleasure for me to gather with my friends at ADVAC and an opportunity to discuss important aspects of flu vaccines with the best experts. It is a great idea to organize these alumni meetings during congresses at which are attended by alumni and faculty from different parts of the world. I hope more people and more trainers join and perhaps this gathering will evolve to a pre- or post- congress full day debate on actual vaccine issues.

3. What would you find interesting to have in this newsletter?

This newsletter gives me an opportunity to be aware of the next alumni meetings.

Mustafa Bakir, MD
Professor of Pediatrics
Chief, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases
Department of Pediatrics
Marmara University School of Medicine
Istanbul, Turkey
ADVAC alumni Network on GLOBE

My ADVAC network - advac.globe-network.org

- **Members**: 418
- **Already available in the public part**:
  - Newsletters
  - Announce of next together meetings
  - Announce of different conferences
- **Already available in the private part**:
  - Elibrary: Current status of pseudomonas aeruginosa vaccine, History of vaccine book
  - Conferences: ADVAC 2014 podcasts, training materials, etc.
  - Get Together Alumni meetings resources: programme, photo gallery...
- **Suggestions**: If you have any suggestions for the Alumni Network please send your suggestions to Katia Mielczarek

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