

## **OPTIMUNISE STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE – August 26-27, 2016**

### **OPTIMUNISE: Optimising the impact and cost-effectiveness of existing child health intervention programmes for vaccines and micronutrients in low-income countries**

(HEALTH.2010.3.4-6: Impact and cost-effectiveness of existing major health programmes.)

The OPTIMUNISE project – funded by the EU FP7 Programme - tested the real life impact of child interventions, using individual-based data on health intervention uptake and health outcomes. OPTIMUNISE took advantage of the Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) sites in the INDEPTH Network ([www.indepeth-net.org](http://www.indepeth-net.org)). The project was implemented at three INDEPTH sites in Guinea-Bissau (Bandim Health Project), Burkina Faso (Nouna), and Ghana (Navrongo).

### **Agenda**

#### **Friday August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016: Presentation of research results**

##### ***8.30-9.00: Registration, coffee***

##### **9.00-10.30: Setting the scene for OPTIMUNISE (Chair: Hilton Whittle)**

Opening of meeting by INDEPTH: Introducing the OPTIMUNISE Consortium and its data collection and work plan (Osman Sankoh/Peter Aaby) (25 min)

1. The three INDEPTH sites in Burkina Faso (Nouna), Ghana (Navrongo), and Guinea-Bissau (Bandim): Reaching or nearly reaching the Millennium Development Goal 4 (MDG4) of reducing child mortality by 2/3 between 1990 and 2015 (Abraham Oduro/Amabelia Rodrigues/ Ali Sie) [references: 1,6,9,11,16,25,30,39,46,48,49,53,54,55,56,57] (20 min)
2. WHO SAGE recommendations on non-specific effects of vaccines and update on their implementation (Andrea Vicari; WHO)(15 min)

Discussion of the presentations (30 min)

##### ***10.30-10.45: Coffee break***

##### **10.45-11.45: Introducing non-specific effects (NSEs) of vaccines – epidemiology and immunology (Chair: Ali Sie)**

3. The non-specific effects of live vaccines (BCG, measles vaccine (MV) and oral polio vaccine (OPV)) and non-live vaccines (Peter Aaby) [ref: 1,2,3,7,9,10,12, 17,33,36,44,45,52,60] (15 min)
4. Innate immune responses and NSEs (Bas Blok/Rob Arts; Nijmegen University) [ref: 1,37] (15 min)

Discussion of the presentations (30 min)

##### **11.45-12.45: Studies of BCG's effect on overall mortality (Chair: Abraham Hodgson)**

5. RCTs of BCG to low-birth-weight children in Guinea-Bissau (Christine Benn)/The age of BCG vaccination and the decline in neonatal mortality: Evidence from Navrongo (Paul Welaga) [ref: 19,20,63] (15 min)
6. Optimising the impact of BCG on neonatal mortality – Age and missed opportunities (Sanne Thysen) [ref: 35,58,59] (15 min)

Discussion of the presentations (30 min)

**12.45-13.45: Lunch and group photo**

**13.45-15.00: The role of routine measles vaccine and campaigns with measles vaccine and oral polio vaccine (Chair: Amabelia Rodrigues)**

7. The role of measles vaccine (MV) in reaching MDG4: Removing out-of-sequence vaccinations and increasing coverage: Evidence from Navrongo and GAVI multi-country study (Paul Welaga) [ref: 6,21,27,28,31,43,49,62] (15 min)
8. Effect and cost-effectiveness of MV campaigns: Evidence from Bandim Health Project (Ane Fisker/Stine Byberg) [ref: 26,32] (15 min)
9. OPV campaigns – their role in reaching MDG4: Evidence from Bandim and Navrongo (Peter Aaby/Paul Welaga) [ref: 9,14,15,18] (15 min)

Discussion of the presentations (30 min)

**15.00-16.00: The OPTIMUNISE early measles vaccine trial (Chair: Olaf Müller)**

10. The early MV multi-country trial: Evidence from Bandim and Nouna (Ane Fisker/Eric Nebie) (30 min)

Discussion of the presentations (30 min)

**16.00-16.15: Coffee break**

**16.15-17.30: Sex-differences and other interventions: Vitamin A, a new malaria vaccine (Chair: Fiona van der Klis)**

11. Sex-differential effects of vaccines: Evidence from Bandim and Nouna (Ane Fisker/Heiko Becher) [ref: 4,8,11,14,47] (15 min)
12. Vitamin A Supplementation: Neonatal and campaigns: Contradicting single effect interventions (Christine Benn) (15 min)
13. The RTS,S vaccine trials: further evidence for NSEs or other explanations? (Olaf Müller) [ref: 5,38] (15 min)

Discussion of the presentations (30 min)

**17.30-18.30: General discussion**

**19.30: Dinner**

## **Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016: Morning: Discussion – the way forward**

**We will first recapture the main results of the OPTIMUNISE project. Based on these findings we will discuss the importance of taking into account non-specific effects of vaccines. This will guide a further discussion of which priorities we see in terms of evaluating the real-life impact of health interventions, and how the INDEPTH sites can contribute. The day will be a hopefully fruitful mixture of presentations, working groups and general discussions.**

**Chair: Christine Benn**

1. The lessons learnt from West Africa: Summing up Friday's results (Abraham Hodgson)
2. How to evaluate and improve cost-effectiveness of vaccination programmes?  
*Non-specific effects of vaccines – do they exist – and if so, should they be ignored or explored?*
3. What further studies evaluating the effect of health interventions need to be made – prioritizing studies and forming potential consortia to pursue the issues, for example:
  - a. Further studies of BCG – early life implementation, monitoring of quality
  - b. Monitoring the effects of MV and OPV campaigns and other campaigns
  - c. Potential sex-differential effects of interventions
  - d. What indicators should be used in the health intervention programme?
4. The role of INDEPTH centres in monitoring the real life effects of health interventions

We will start at 9 am. There will be coffee break at 10.30-10.45. Lunch will be served at 13. Depending on the discussions we may decide to continue all afternoon (with a coffee break at 15.30-16). Dinner will be served 19.30.