



The G7's Substantial Success on Health

(Source: Press Release)

The G7 Cornwall Summit proved to be a substantial success in the area of health. The United Kingdom took over the G7 presidency in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic and placed health at the top of the summit agenda.

Previously at the United Nations General Assembly in September of 2020, UK prime minister Boris Johnson outlined a five-point plan "to protect humanity against another pandemic like COVID-19." The plan seeks to: (1) stop a new disease before it starts; (2) develop the manufacturing capacity for the treatments and vaccines; (3) design a global pandemic early warning system; (4) secure supply chains; and, (5) cancel tariffs on the vital tools of the struggle (i.e., personal protective equipment).

In the months following Johnson's U.N. speech, he announced he would host a G7 virtual summit on February 19 2021 to "ensure equitable distribution of coronavirus vaccines around the world." That summit produced eight precise, future-oriented and politically binding commitments on health. The Virtual Summit marked a strong start for G7 action on health.

The G7 ministers met in Oxford on June 4th, where they reaffirmed the "importance of international collaboration on health, in the context of a significant global crisis." They produced a 11,617-word communiqué highlighting the four key pillars of global health security, antimicrobial resistance, clinical trials and digital health.

The question remaining ahead of the Cornwall summit was how much of the health ministers' communiqué would be endorsed or adopted by the leaders' communiqué.

The Cornwall Summit's successes on health included welcoming the 100 Days Mission, which seeks to have vaccinations, therapeutics, and diagnostics available with 100 days of a declaration of Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), compared to the previous 300-day requirement. In welcoming this mission, G7 leaders recognized the need for enhanced cooperation between the private and public sectors in order for the 100 Days Mission to become a reality.

In their G7 Carbis Bay Health Declaration, G7 leaders also pledged to build a 'resilient, integrated and inclusive global health system' to detect and prevent diseases and health threats globally and with transparency. The declaration expanded on the communiqué by recognizing the importance of response tools such as the Access to COVID Tools Accelerator (ACT-A). Additionally, leaders agreed to further development of medium-and long-term global health financing mechanisms for pandemic preparedness and reinforced commitments to increase global preparedness, transparency and accountability in global health and pandemic response.

Also, the Carbis Bay declaration recognized the disproportionate effects on women and girls as well as vulnerable marginalized populations. This came with a call for multilateral institutions, governments and private sector to work collaboratively to "mitigate further strain on systems and communities."

Additionally, both the communiqué and Declaration recognized the importance of advancing universal health coverage as part of the recognition of equitable access to health. While not a commitment, the leaders' mention of universal health coverage serves as an important step to ensuring further action on health in the future.

Around the Globe...

◆ **Dr Maxwell Antwi**, Country Director, **PharmAccess Ghana**, has disclosed a recent study in Kintampo, a town in the Bono East Region of Ghana, revealed that four out of ten medicines (up to 30%) sold in Kintampo were either fake or substandard. "A study recently conducted at Kintampo showed that four out of ten medicines in that region were either fake or substandard," Dr Maxwell Antwi noted, adding, "Another study on anti-malaria in Ghana showed that thirteen out of fourteen tested antimycins-based anti-malaria contain either an overdose or another dose."

◆ The numbers of recommended vaccine doses, including measles vaccine, administered to children decreased dramatically in the U.S. after the declaration of a national state of emergency on March 13, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a **Kaiser Permanente** study published in the journal *Pediatrics*. While the decrease was lower and recovered in children under 2 years of age, it was more severe and persistent in older children. Though vaccination rates have rebounded, declines in proportions of children vaccinated persisted or worsened in many age groups.

◆ Authorities in 92 countries shut down 113,000 websites and online marketplaces selling counterfeit or illicit medicines and medical products, including vast quantities of fake COVID-19 tests and face masks, unauthorized Covid testing kits accounted for over half of all the medical devices seized from May 18 to 25, according to **Interpol**.

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

(Source: An article written by Christina Tucker)

In May the IFPW Foundation, along with key stakeholders in the pharmaceutical industry and NGO leaders convened virtually for the IFPW Foundation's inaugural fundraising benefit. 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.

Included in the two day program was 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 and cutting-edge therapeutics as well, all within an unprecedentedly urgent timeframe.

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

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IFPW Foundation Benefit (cont.)...

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 Ostrowsky, Director of Supply, Production and Distribution Federal COVID-19 Vaccines/Therapeutic Operation for the United States government, and Kyra Faircloth, U.S. Commercial Leader 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 Aspinall, Chairman of the Fight the Fakes (FtF) Alliance (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.)

Day two kicked off with Gavi's Deputy CEO, Anuradha Gupta, sharing 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 reiterated 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. 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. effectively assist in the delivery of this important intervention.

Mark Parrish, President of IFPW, closed out the event with heartfelt 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 on demand.. Contact Christina Tucker at c.tucker@ifpw.com if you would like to access the sessions. **IFPW Foundation extends its sincere thanks for our benefactors unwavering support!**

Around the Globe (cont.)...

Italian authorities found more than 500,000 fake surgical masks and 35 machines for their production and packaging. Police arrested 227 people worldwide and recovered pharmaceutical products worth US\$23 million. Interpol warns criminals are trying to scale up trade in counterfeit jabs across the world with scams on the dark web. Criminal enterprises are selling genuine vials filled with harmless or potentially dangerous counterfeit drugs.

- ♦ The *COVAX Program* is far short of its target of delivering 2 billion doses by the end of the year but expects a big increase in supplies by early 2022, and wants to make sure that those, at least, reach the countries in direst need. So far, it has distributed 90 million vaccines. Some of the poorest countries have vaccinated less than 1% of their populations. **Gavi** and the **WHO** plan to overhaul the program and aims to reduce COVAX's financial risks, increase its focus on countries most in need and reduce the participation of richer countries as both donors and recipients, according to a paper prepared by Gavi.

- ♦ Indian pharmaceutical company **Zydus Cadila** has rolled out a new app for patients called *Zydus Verify* that aims to protect them from falsified versions of its medicines. Developed with **Hyperlink InfoSystem**, the platform follows a tried and tested format in countries struggling with high levels of medicines falsification. A unique code is printed on each pack of medicines, concealed under a scratch-off panel, which when revealed can be scanned by the customer using the app on a smartphone. The Zydus Verify app will then display a popup to indicate whether the medicine is genuine or fake. For now, the app – which can be downloaded from the Apple store and Google Play – is only available for use in India, according to Zydus Cadila. It works in a similar way to systems previously developed by the likes of mPedigree, Sproxil and PharmaSecure.

- ♦ U.S. authorities have seized at U.S. airports unauthorized versions of the Covid-19 treatment remdesivir destined for distribution in Mexico, the latest effort by the government to root out criminal activity related to the pandemic. Counterfeit or generic versions of *remdesivir*, an antiviral manufactured by **Gilead Sciences Inc.**, are arriving in the U.S. by plane from Bangladesh and India and being smuggled by individuals to Mexico for patients willing to pay top dollar for the drugs, according to authorities. In recent months, **U.S. Customs and Border Protection** officers have captured more than 100 shipments that they referred to **U.S. Department of Homeland Security** special agents for further investigation

- ♦ The **U.S. Centers for Disease Control** is working with state and territorial health departments to investigate SARS-CoV-2 infections among persons who are fully vaccinated and monitor trends SARS-CoV-2 variants identified from persons with these infections. A total of 10,262 vaccine breakthrough infections had been reported from 46 U.S. states and territories as of April 30, 2021.

- ♦ The loss of frontline health workers dying of COVID-19 around the globe, is being compounded in the hospitals of developing nations by trained medical staff leaving to help in the pandemic effort abroad, according to experts. With new Covid waves in Africa, and with Latin America and Asia facing health emergencies, the number of health worker deaths from Covid-19 in May was at least 115,000 (with true figures likely to be higher) according to the **World Health Organization**.

(Sources: GhanaWeb, The Guardian Press Releases, Reuters, Securing Pharma, and World Pharma News)