

# Declaration of Interest: PDVAC 2025

All PDVAC members have completed a declaration of interest form. Most interests were assessed as 'no conflict' of interest. In cases where a conflict of interest may be present (e.g. the PDVAC member's research institute has received a grant for a particular vaccine or candidate that is within PDVAC scope) members with relevant and significant interests recuse themselves for decisions on any related guidelines.

The following PDVAC members did not report any interests: Mina Adel, Isabelle Bekeredjian-Ding, Marco Cavaleri, Hannah Clapham, Alejandro Cravioto, Ruth Karron, Sonali Kochar (ex-officio member), Shaowei Li, Faith Osier, Mariagrazia Pizza, Senjuti Saha, Kamel Senouci, and Richard Siggers.

The reported relevant interests are summarized below:

## **Willem Hanekom**

- Dr Hanekom's research institute is a site for TB vaccine trials, and he serves as a principal investigator. This was assessed as non-personal, specific, and financially significant.\* Should any guidelines be developed for this type of vaccine and reviewed by PDVAC, he will recuse herself from decision making.
- Dr Hanekom is also on the scientific advisory committee for Baxerna (mRNA vaccine company) and the Tuberculosis Vaccine Institute (TBVI). TBVI is a non-profit foundation. Regarding Baxerna, Dr Hanekom will recuse himself on any decision making on the development of guidelines related to vaccine candidates where Baxerna has an interest.

## **William Hausdorff – check new text on the combi grants**

- Dr Hausdorff is a co-inventor of various pneumococcal vaccine technologies but receives no royalties. This was assessed as non-specific and not significant.\* Pneumococcal vaccines are not within PDVAC scope.
- As an employee of PATH, he has received several financially significant research grants for the analysis of Shigella and combination vaccines. The combination grant is current and worth USD 1.6M and the Shigella grant ceased three years ago. However, as PATH is a not profit NGO that is in official relations with WHO this is not considered a conflict of interest.

## **Mark Jit**

- Dr Jit has received research grants and travel support from organizations with an interest in vaccines, such as Gavi, the Gates Foundation, and Wellcome. These are a current interest of an undisclosed amount. However as these are partners of WHO in official relations these are not considered to be a conflict of interest.

## **Imran Nisar**

- Dr Nisar declared having received research grants from the Gates Foundation for work related to pneumococcal, Hepatitis E, RSV, Group B Streptococcus (GBS), and Klebsiella vaccines. While GBS and Klebsiella vaccines fall within the scope of PDVAC, the Gates Foundation's official relationship with WHO means this is not considered a conflict of interest. He also disclosed receiving a small honorarium of US\$ 200 from Pfizer for speaking at a conference, which is not regarded as financially significant.

## **Andrew Pollard**

- Sir Pollard has declared interests regarding vaccine research and advice to vaccine manufacturers on the development of COVID-19, plague, chikungunya, Coxiella and typhoid/paratyphoid vaccines. Of these, only typhoid/paratyphoid vaccines fall under the scope of PDVAC. Therefore, should guidelines or normative products be developed for such vaccines and reviewed by PDVAC, Andrew will be asked to recuse himself from any decision making.

## **Thanyawee Puthanakit**

- Dr Puthanakit has declared interests related to grants to her research institute from pharmaceutical companies regarding HIV antiretrovirals treatment (not within PDVAC scope), PCV trials (not within PDVAC scope), RSV maternal vaccines and monoclonal antibodies (no longer within PDVAC scope). Given none of these areas fall within the remit of PDVAC these are not considered conflicts of interest.

## **Raman Rao**

- Dr Rao is the Chief Executive Officer of Hilleman Laboratories, which is a joint venture between Wellcome Trust and Merck. Hilleman Laboratories is a not-for-profit organization that has a public health mission to develop affordable vaccines and biologics against infectious diseases prevalent in LMICs, including through technology transfer and capacity building. This is very well aligned with the mission of PDVAC. Hilleman laboratories is an independent organization with no operational support from either Merck or Wellcome Trust. However, recognizing the affiliation of Hilleman Laboratories with Merck, and the *perception* of potential conflict, Dr Rao will recuse himself from decision making on the development of guidelines related to vaccine candidates where Merck has an interest.
- Dr Rao is a member of the advisory boards and boards of directors of MinerVax, IVI, PATH, and GCBC. He has also consulted previously for MinerVax. However, these roles are pro-bono, with no financial interests. However, recognizing the affiliation of Dr Rao with MinerVax, and the *perception* of potential conflict, Dr Rao will recuse himself from decision making on the development of guidelines related to vaccine candidates where MinerVax has an interest.

## **Melanie Saville**

- Dr Saville declared interests related to research grants received by PATH and her former employer, CEPI, noting that these were not from pharmaceutical companies. She also disclosed being listed as an inventor on patents related to Dengue and a hexavalent vaccine, neither of which fall within the scope of PDVAC. Additionally, she declared significant shareholding in Sanofi. While these shares were deemed a potential conflict of interest, they do not confer voting rights over the Sanofi Pasteur development pipeline. Currently, Sanofi Pasteur does not have vaccine candidates relevant to PDVAC; however, should this situation change, she will recuse herself from any related work where Sanofi may have an interest.

## **Kate Seib**

- Dr Seib declared interests to herself and her research institute from pharmaceutical companies related to gonorrhoea vaccine development. She also is listed on a patent owned by Griffith University for gonorrhoea vaccine where she receives no income. Therefore, should guidelines or normative products be developed for such vaccines and reviewed by PDVAC, Kate will be asked to recuse herself from any decision making.

\* According to WHO's Guidelines for Declaration of Interests (WHO expert), an interest is considered "personal" if it generates financial or non-financial gain to the expert, such as consulting income or a patent. "Specificity" states whether the declared interest is a subject matter of the meeting or work to be undertaken. An interest has "financial significance" if the honoraria, consultancy fee or other received funding, including those received by expert's organization, from any single vaccine manufacturer or other vaccine-related company exceeds 5,000 USD in a calendar year. Likewise, a shareholding in any one vaccine manufacturer or other vaccine-related company in excess of 1,000 USD would also constitute a "significant shareholding".