

**Side Event at United Nations 54<sup>th</sup> Commission for Social Development  
Ensuring Healthy Ageing: An underutilized strategy of vaccinations  
International Federation on Ageing  
3 February 2016 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM EDT | Conference Room E**

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**Description**

Context

Between 2000 and 2050, the proportion of the world's population of people 60 years and older will double from 11% to ~22%, representing ~2.1 billion older adults 60 years and older.

Increased longevity is one of the greatest achievements of the modern era and a valuable asset to societies however longevity without good health and functional ability is a poor outcome. Ensuring people live long healthy lives is the next challenge of our times.

Managing vaccine preventable diseases (VPD) through sound vaccine policies is a critical step especially in older age to maintain and improve health, well-being and functional capacity; and decrease unnecessary or premature admissions to an acute care setting which in turn may lead to the need for home care and long term care services.

It is important now, more than ever before to ensure that adult vaccination is a central part of the strategy and implementation of healthy ageing policies at all levels of government in Europe.

Aim

The main objectives of the session is to:

- Raise awareness of the impact of poor uptake rates of adult vaccination on the health, well-being and contribution of older people in society;
- Position the issue of adult vaccinations within the WHO World Report on Ageing and Health and the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- Discuss concrete policies and strategies that have been implemented to improve the uptake rates of vaccinations; and
- Identify opportunities for government and non-government to help maintain and build the capacity of older people through access to appropriate vaccinations

Format

- Introduction that also outlines structure
- Speakers providing evidence to support the adult vaccination as an important part of healthy ageing policy
- Moderated panel discussion with questions from the floor
- Concluding remarks and next steps

**Speaker Biographies**



H.E. Mr. Rubén Ignacio Zamora Rivas, Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations

Until his appointment as Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations, Ruben I. Zamora served as Ambassador to the United States, since 2013. Prior to that, he was Ambassador to India from 2010 to 2013. Between 2005 and 2009, he was Director of the Somali Democratization Programme, financed by the European Union and a group of Government donors.

Preceding those assignments, he held many academic, social and political posts, including legal consultant in Somaliland for the Government of the United Kingdom in 2003, Founder and General Secretary of Social Christian Popular Movement from 1981 to 1990, and Head of the Political Science Department at the University of El Salvador from 1974 to 1979.

Born in November 1942, he is married and has five children.



Dr Jane Barratt, Secretary General, International Federation on Ageing

Dr Barratt is the Secretary General of the International Federation on Ageing (IFA) comprising government, industry, academia and non-governmental members in 62 countries and representing some 50 million older people. She has extensive international experience across sectors and disciplines in the cross cutting fields of ageing and disability and has been pivotal in the IFAs growth and position over the last 13 years.

Dr Barratt has direct responsibility for the IFAs global operational performance, quality and strategic implementation and business development including formal working relationships with United Nations and its agencies including the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). She is a member of the Executive Committee for the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network of Age-friendly cities and communities which is responsible for setting the global strategic direction.

Dr Barratt is a Churchill Fellow, and honored to receive the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in Canada in recognition of her commitment and passion to enhance the understanding of issues relating to ageing and engaging in dialogue with governments and the private sector to improve the quality of life of older people.

Dr Barratt serves on several national and international boards both public and private sectors and is an advisor of international studies related to the care of older people. She is Chair, Selection Committee for the Canadian National Centers of Excellence and a member of the Global Agenda Council on Ageing of the World Economic Forum.

Jane is an accomplished international speaker and facilitator on a broad range of global ageing and disability related topics and presents them in a way that simplifies the most complex, captivates, entertains and stimulates audiences.



Dr Cynthia Stuen, Vice Chair of NGO Committee on Ageing New York

Cynthia Stuen is a Representative to the United Nations on behalf of the International Federation on Ageing (IFA). In addition to her role as Vice Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing/NY, she also serves on the Committee on the Status of Women. She was co-chair of the International Day of Older Persons 2015 event at the UN. Dr. Stuen served in various capacities at Lighthouse International during her 24 year tenure. Her last position was as Senior Vice President, Chief Professional Affairs Officer that involved advocating for older adults at the national, state and local level while also maintaining involvement in international efforts to preserve sight and prevent excess disability resulting from vision impairment.

Dr. Stuen is a Past Chair of the American Society on Aging (ASA), the largest organization of professionals in the field of aging in the US. She is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and also the NY Academy of Medicine. She is a past chair of the State Society on Aging of New York. Dr. Stuen chaired the NASW Specialty Practice on Aging 2003-2005 and recently served on the NASW Task Force to develop practice guidelines for caregivers of older adults.

Other current activities include serving on the Board of Directors of VISIONS Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Eger Health Care Center of Staten Island. She is a reviewer for the National Accreditation Council.

Dr. Stuen received her Bachelor’s Degree from Valparaiso University, her Masters Degree from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration and her doctorate from Columbia University School of Social Work.



Dr Heather Sings, Senior Director and Medical Lead of Pneumococcal Vaccines at Pfizer

Heather Sings is Senior Director of Vaccines Medical Development and Medical/Scientific Affairs at Pfizer, and is the medical lead for the pneumococcal vaccine franchise. Prior to joining Pfizer, she spent 15 years at Merck where she was a Director of Global Scientific and Medical Publications, leading a group of medical writers to develop manuscripts, abstracts and presentations in the areas of infectious diseases, vaccines, neurology, and endocrinology.

Dr. Sings began her career at Merck as Senior Research Chemist in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, after completing a National Institutes of Health post-doctoral fellowship at the University of California San Diego. While at Merck, she spent two years serving as Senior Expert Advisor Saving Mothers Giving Life, a public private partnership between Merck for

Mothers, the United States Government, the government of Norway, the American College of American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and Every Mother Counts.

She is a coauthor/acknowledged contributor to over 80 peer reviewed publications, 150 abstracts/presentations, and 2 patents. She has a BA in biology from the University of California, San Diego and a PhD in Organic Chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.