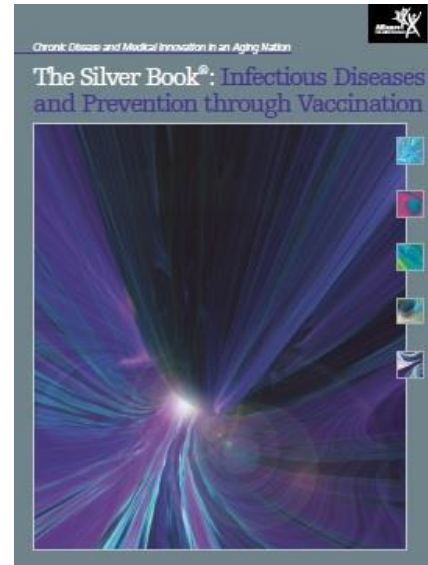


## United States Congressional Briefing Highlights Barriers to Immunization for Older Adults

December 2013 – The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) took part in a congressional briefing to inform policymakers about the value of increasing immunization rates among seniors and to highlight strategies for doing so. Despite their tremendous potential for prevention, vaccination rates in seniors fall far short of target rates recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The briefing, which was co-sponsored with the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), and the Alliance for Aging Research, showcased the Alliance’s new [Silver Book volume](#) on vaccinations for older adults. Silver Book is a series of publications featuring information on the chronic conditions that disproportionately affect older Americans. Jeffrey Duchin, MD, FIDSA, chair of IDSA’s Public Health Committee, [presented](#) (PDF) on behalf of IDSA. Dr.



Duchin discussed recommended vaccines, coverage rates, disparities, and barriers. He also highlighted the need for legislative changes to Medicare coverage of immunizations.

*“The work being done by IDSA needs to be replicated across many countries if we are to reduce the cost impact on health care systems that result from low immunization rates of older people. The quality of life of our older citizens can only improve if governments address this significant policy issue”,* said Dr. Jane Barratt, Secretary General of the International Federation on Ageing (IFA).