**World Leadership Dialogues**

*Title of the World Leadership Dialogue*

**Calling for multidisciplinary action toward “vaccination throughout life”**

*Organiser of the WLD*

Immunisation For All Ages Initiative (IFAA)

International Federation on Ageing, Shot@Life, International Longevity Centre (ILC) UK, Confederation of Meningitis Organisations (COMO), and the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

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*Background (400 words)*

Vaccination as one of the most important cost-effective public health interventions, with a traditional focus on children, is both underutilized and undervalued. While there is a solid understanding of the current global policy environment regarding the health, and social and economic benefits of vaccines there are serious inequities within and across countries related to optimal use of vaccines throughout each stage of life.

The barriers to improving uptake rates of vaccination are well known yet the single most important group of trusted advisors, i.e. public health professionals remains relatively silent in the national and global dialogue. This Congress speaks of the “very survival of humanity” being at risk and aligns with the World Health Organization’s (WHO) ten threats to global health all of which are directly or indirectly linked to vaccine preventable diseases in sometimes poorly resourced countries and inadequate and unstable health systems.

Immediate and urgent action is called for by public health leadership to use a multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach to: prioritise vaccination throughout life as a key pillar of expanded prevention strategies and as a central component of universal health coverage; remove barriers to access for appropriate immunisation throughout life to ensure people are protected and no one is left behind; and, to reduce inequality for timely, appropriate and affordable access to immunisation throughout life.

This World Leadership Dialogue (WLD) brings together thought leaders in ageing, vaccination, non-communicable diseases and health economics to distill the scientific and public health evidence and good practices into knowledge assets and action. Special attention will be given to deliberating vaccination schedules and practices through the lens of gender, culture, rural, urban, marginalised and the most vulnerable populations.

This moderated multidisciplinary panel of thought leaders will set the scene for the leadership dialogue presenting statements of evidence following by a focussed question-led policy discussion. The body of knowledge, experiences and local intelligence on the status of global adult vaccines policy communicated in this session aims to stimulate unified action from the WPHA and public health professionals.

*Objectives*

The goal of the WLD entitled *Collective multidisciplinary action to deliver “vaccination throughout life”* is to make the case for public heath professionals to be leaders in the fight to improve uptake rates of vaccination. Participants will learn of the:

* Shocking facts and consequences of vaccine preventable diseases alongside the natural and man-made barriers to changing the status quo
* “Investment - equity - health and social impact” challenges of vaccination throughout life
* Rationale for urgent attention on vaccinating at-risk populations throughout the life course
* Role and responsibilities of public health professionals in being agents of change

*Main messages*

* Immunisation throughout life is a key pillar of expanded prevention strategies that can save millions of lives and a central component of universal health coverage.
* The collective voice and actions of public health professionals globally is required urgently and immediately to ensure existing vaccine uptake targets are met and we strive for parity of such targets.

*Panellists*

Moderator:

* Dr Jane Barratt, Secretary General, International Federation on Ageing represents a global NGO that is driving the adult vaccination agenda in the context of population ageing

Proposed speakers:

* *Dr Isabella Ballalai*, Brazilian Immunization Association, Brazil that has forged efforts across disciplines and sectors to improve immunization rates
* *Prof David Bloom*, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health is an eminent academic at the forefront of the social and economic modelling on the impact of adult vaccination
* *Mr Radu Costin Ganescu*, National Coalition of Organisations for Patients with Chronic Conditions of Romania and the European Patient Forum, Romania works to empower patients and their organisations on the important of vaccination in at-risk populations
* *Ms Telphia Joseph*, University of New South Wales is a Wadjarri Yamatji woman with a keen interest in the immunisation activities provided in Aboriginal Services.
* *Ms Samira Shammas*, Jordanian Pharmacists Associations who is a registered practising pharmacist, activist on the international, regional and national levels promoting the role of the pharmacy profession as a health care provider within the health care system.