



PRESS RELEASE

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2nd APIC-ADVA Summit To Drive Discussions on Infectious Diseases and Immunization In the Era of Polycrises

- Asia Pacific Immunization Coalition (APIC), Asia Dengue Voice & Action (ADVA), and the National University of Singapore Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine's Centre for Behavioural and Implementation Science Interventions (BISI) to co-host the 2nd APIC-ADVA Summit from 11 February to 13 February 2025.
- The Summit will convene over 200 prominent global and regional experts from across the global health community, including voices from the World Health Organization, World Bank, UNICEF, Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance and Clinton Health Access Initiative and many academic institutions.
- An impressive 16 keynotes and seven panels will be featured, spotlighting discussions on infectious diseases policies and programme implementation, major international health agreements and regulations, regional pandemic preparedness and vaccine security, and the importance of implementation science for vaccine delivery.

Singapore, 11 February 2025 – The Asia Pacific Immunization Coalition ("APIC") and the Asia Dengue Voice & Action ("ADVA"), with the Centre for Behavioural and Implementation Science Interventions (BISI) at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS Medicine) is set to convene the 2nd APIC-ADVA Summit from 11 February to 13 February 2025.

This Summit is part of a week-long series of activities in Singapore dedicated to addressing infectious diseases preparedness and developing strategies within the global health community to tackle widespread health emergencies. The week commenced with the official launch of the Centre for Infectious Disease Emergency Response (CIDER) at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, on 10 February 2025. CIDER is an innovative initiative aimed at enhancing pandemic preparedness and strengthening responses to infectious disease emergencies. The launch of CIDER will be followed closely by the APIC-ADVA Summit, which will see global and regional public health experts engaging in robust discussions to advance public health, underscoring Singapore's role in regional cooperation for public health.

"Since the inaugural APIC-ADVA Summit in 2023, the world has faced an escalating array of challenges, compounded by vaccine misinformation and security concerns. This year's summit comes at a crucial moment, providing a platform to collaborate, share insights, and develop strategies that will advance the global health community toward greater preparedness

and resilience," said **Professor Tikki Pangestu, Co-Chair, Asia Pacific Immunization Coalition, and Visiting Professor at NUS Medicine.**

Themed 'Infectious Diseases and Immunization in the Era of Polycrises', the summit looks to address the multifaceted challenges shaping our world today – pandemics, climate change, geopolitical tensions, and misinformation. Bringing together prominent experts, including scientists, researchers, public health leaders, policymakers, and pharmaceutical industry representatives from across the global health community, the 2nd APIC-ADVA Summit serves as a unique platform to discuss critical advancements in infectious disease policies and program implementation.

Key topics include the impact of megatrends such as climate change, major international health agreements and regulations, regional pandemic preparedness, resilience, and vaccine security, and the vital role of implementation science in vaccine delivery.

Panel Discussions and Speakers Spotlight

The 2nd APIC-ADVA Summit will feature 16 keynote speeches and seven panel discussions, which include:

- Opening address by **Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Singapore** highlighting the need for regional and global cooperation to tackle future global health crises. Minister Balakrishnan will also touch on the importance of restoring trust in multilateral organisations and in science and evidence-based collaboration.
- ***“Roundtable perspectives from Director Generals of Health”***, featuring senior health leaders Professor Kenneth Mak, Sir Ashley Bloomfield, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Dr Enrique A. Tayag, representing Singapore, New Zealand, Malaysia and the Philippines, respectively. Moderated by Dr Louisa Sun, the panel will emphasise the critical need for strengthening national and regional collaborations in the face of crisis.
- ***“Advancing Pandemic Preparedness: policy and innovation lessons for the future”*** with insights from Sir Ashley Bloomfield, Ms Laurie Garrett, Professor David Heymann, Dr Ahmed Razavi, and moderated by Professor Vernon Lee.
- Other prominent panels include: ***“Mpox Emergency: Global Epidemiology and the Role of Vaccination with MVA-BN as a Critical Countermeasure”***, ***“Closing gaps: Progress on vaccine security and cooperation in the region”*** and ***“Mega Trends and Scientific Advances”***.
- **Sir Ashley Bloomfield**, Former Director-General of Health New Zealand, Past Co-chair of the International Health Regulations Working Group, World Health Organization, on his keynote speech regarding ***“Global Health Leadership in a Post-Pandemic World”***.
- **Ms Laurie Garrett**, Science Journalist, Pulitzer Prize and Peabody Winning Author of “The Coming Plague” and “Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health”, Council on Foreign Relations Security Advisory Board, where she will discuss ***“Global Health is Dead. Long Live Global Health”*** in her keynote address.

- **Professor David Heymann**, Professor, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, on his keynote addressing “Innovations for more equitable access to endemic, epidemic and pandemic vaccines”.
- **Dr Ahmed Razavi**, Lead for the UK Health Security Agency International Health Regulations Strengthening Project, addressing “**Regional and innovative approaches to global health security**”.
- **Dr Sylvie Briand**, Director, The Global Preparedness Monitoring Board, Former WHO Director, Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention Department. Dr Briand will share her reflections on Day 1 of the summit and a WHO perspective on strengthening global epidemic and pandemic preparedness.
- And numerous representatives and/or exhibition booths from Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), World Bank, International Vaccine Institute (IVI), industry partners, and universities.

Visit www.apicsummit.org/programme/ for full programme details and the line-up of speakers.

For more details about the Asia Pacific Immunization Coalition (APIC) and the APIC Summit on Infectious Diseases and Immunization, connect with us on [LinkedIn](#).

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About Asia Pacific Immunization Coalition (APIC)

Vaccination is regarded as one of the most successful and cost-effective public health interventions which has prevented numerous deaths associated with infectious diseases. However, vaccine hesitancy and insufficient health system support are threatening to reverse the unprecedented progress made in combatting vaccine-preventable diseases.

To tackle the issue of vaccine confidence and the resilience of immunization programmes in the region, the Asia-Pacific Immunization Coalition (APIC) was formed to protect and sustain the hard-fought vaccination gains and build confidence in new vaccines resilient immunization systems that are well-resourced, sustainable, equitable, and integrated into the wider national healthcare system. The coalition aims to achieve this by using an evidence-informed approach to advocacy, activities and research to instill the value of vaccines among consumers, policymakers, and other health stakeholders.

The coalition is hosted within the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine's Centre for Behavioural and Implementation Science Interventions (BISI) and is co-chaired by Prof. Tikki Pangestu, a visiting professor at NUS Medicine, and Prof. Heidi Larson, Director of the Vaccine Confidence Project at the London School of Tropical Hygiene and Medicine (LSTHM) and visiting professor at NUS. Other founding members of the coalition include thought leaders and experts from the Asia-Pacific region representing diverse fields of public health policy, immunization advocacy, behavioural science, implementation research, and infectious diseases.

About Asia Dengue Voice & Action Group (ADVA)

The Asia Dengue Voice & Action Group (ADVA) was officially set up in 2013 with a mission to identify opportunities to make practical recommendations in dengue-related areas such as improving surveillance and laboratory capacity for dengue disease confirmation with other relevant dengue initiatives, including V2V (vaccine to vaccination) and the Dengue Vaccine Initiative.

ADVA advocates for a collaborative approach to sharing surveillance data and relevant information to ensure the success of dengue prevention through vaccination across regions. ADVA also reinforces the importance of a united front against dengue, and presents a collaborative model for joint effort in the region to prevent the disease through the introduction and implementation of dengue vaccination.

The group has formulated recommendations with an ultimate aim of translating the science of dengue vaccination into messages for policy makers, general public and health care workers.

About National University of Singapore (NUS)

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university, which offers a global approach to education, research, and entrepreneurship, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise. We have 16 colleges, faculties, and schools across three campuses in Singapore, with more than 40,000 students from 100 countries enriching our vibrant and diverse campus community. We have also established more than 20 NUS Overseas Colleges entrepreneurial hubs around the world.

Our multidisciplinary and real-world approach to education, research and entrepreneurship enables us to work closely with industry, governments, and academia to address crucial and complex issues relevant to Asia and the world. Researchers in our faculties, research centres of excellence, corporate labs and more than 30 university-level research institutes focus on

themes that include energy; environmental and urban sustainability; treatment and prevention of diseases; active ageing; advanced materials; risk management and resilience of financial systems; Asian studies; and Smart Nation capabilities such as artificial intelligence, data science, operations research, and cybersecurity.

For more information on NUS, please visit <http://www.nus.edu.sg/>

About the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine)

The NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine is Singapore's first and largest medical school. Our enduring mission centres on nurturing highly competent, values-driven, and inspired healthcare professionals to transform the practice of medicine and improve health around the world.

Through a dynamic and future-oriented five-year curriculum that is inter-disciplinary and inter-professional in nature, our students undergo a holistic learning experience that exposes them to multiple facets of healthcare and prepares them to become visionary leaders and compassionate doctors and nurses of tomorrow. Since the School's founding in 1905, more than 12,000 graduates have passed through our doors.

In our pursuit of health for all, our strategic research programmes focus on innovative, cutting-edge biomedical research with collaborators around the world to deliver high impact solutions to benefit human lives.

The School is the oldest institution of higher learning in the National University of Singapore and a founding institutional member of the National University Health System. It is one of the leading medical schools in Asia and ranks among the best in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025 by subject and the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by subject 2024).

For more information about NUS Medicine, please visit <https://medicine.nus.edu.sg/>