

# What are the challenges that face industry and the private sector in terms of developing, manufacturing, registering, and delivering vaccines and other technologies that will help us prevent and prepare?



## Plenary 4 Summary

In order to leverage the unparalleled opportunities that emerging science and technology have created for pandemic prevention and preparedness in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the global community must grapple with many challenges. For industry and the private sector, these challenges include vaccine technology, manufacturing capacity, regulatory and liability issues, equitable information-sharing, and maintaining a sustainable business model, just to name a few.

In the event of an avian flu pandemic, vaccine manufacturers will need to ramp up production in order to meet the ensuing rapid demand. Even with low-dose adjuvanted vaccines, capacity remains a major concern. Increasing global seasonal immunization could help vaccine manufacturers build capacity and provide more geographical diversification of facilities.

The new WHO pre-pandemic influenza vaccine stockpile announced at the Summit offers additional opportunities for manufacturers to increase manufacturing capacity while sustaining their business model. Taking full advantage of the stockpile, however, presents further challenges. For example, successful delivery of the vaccines will require collaboration

among vaccine manufacturers, public health agencies, NGOs, and local communities alike in terms of regulation and licensing, building infrastructure and capacity for on-the-ground delivery, training health workers, and ensuring adequate supplies of syringes, gloves, masks, and other instruments.

Before the global community can take full advantage of effective pre-pandemic vaccines, policymakers need to address concerns about vaccine standardization and liability. They must reach a delicate balance between, on the one hand, acceleration of review and regulatory processes

and, on the other hand, the need to ensure the highest standards of safety and efficacy. The issue is made more complex by the variety of vaccine manufacturing technologies, including egg-based and cell-based production.

Another key challenge for industry is financing. While vaccine manufacturers have been successful in forming partnerships with the public sector to provide vaccines at reasonable prices in many parts of the world through tiered pricing mechanisms, manufacturers still need to maintain a sustainable business model. The global community cannot rely solely on donations. External funding from

supranational organizations as well as technology transfer agreements are critical components of successful collaboration in this area—solutions that require extensive dialogue and cross-sector collaboration.

*When you have the platforms for collaboration, then it doesn't matter what challenge you face—whether it's avian flu or tuberculosis or other things, you really can activate those networks.*  
- Raul Perea-Henze

**Moderator:**  
Chris Elias  
President  
PATH

**Panelists:**  
W. Ripley Ballou  
Vice President, Clinical Development  
GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals

David Kaslow  
Vice President, Clinical Infectious  
Disease and Vaccines  
Merck & Co.

Rino Rappouli  
Global Head, Vaccines Research  
Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics

Raul Perea-Henze  
Senior Medical Advisor and  
Senior Director/Team Leader  
Global Medical Relations, Pfizer, Inc.

Wayne Pisano  
Senior Vice President, Commercial  
Operations and Corporate Strategy  
sanofi pasteur

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