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# **ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

## **CMC**

The three organising partners of the 17th World Congress on Public Health established a Congress Management Committee (CMC) consisting of representatives of WFPHA, SItI, ASPHER and the PCO. The CMC has the full managerial and financial management responsibility for the Congress.

Chair: Walter Ricciardi

#### Members:

Luis Eugenio de Souza – WFPHA
Bettina Borisch – WFPHA
Marta Lomazzi – WFPHA
Italo Angelillo – SItI
Antonio Ferro – SItI
Roberta Siliquini – SItI
Carlo Signorelli – ASPHER
John Middleton – ASPHER
Robert Otok – ASPHER

## ICC

The International Congress Council (ICC) consisted of the Congress Management Committee and international public health experts representing various regions of the WFPHA, international health organisations, European health non-governmental organisations and Italian universities and institutes. The ICC in particular develops, in consultation with the CMC, the scientific programme including subthemes and plenary programme of the WCPH and identify speakers/panellists/moderators of the plenary sessions.

Chair: Walter Ricciardi

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# **ISC**

The International Scientific Committee (ISC) consists of experienced public health experts from around the world nominated by WFPHA, Sltl and Aspher. It mainly advises the ICC on scientific matters of the conference and contributes to the scientific evaluation of the conference. We would like to thank the ISC for their support.

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negatively associated with vaccination uptake and positively with hospitalization with confirmed influenza. Overall, studies were considered at low/moderate risk of bias using the ROBINS-I tool.

Conclusions: Pooling data from RWE to estimate IVE against severe outcomes in pregnant women is crucial to inform vaccination policy. While TND offers notable advantages in estimating IVE – such as minimizing outcome misclassification of the disease –, novel well-conducted TND are need to provide reliable estimates of IVE according to influenza subtype and vaccine type. Finally, surveillance systems that incorporated TND should expand data collection to better account for pregnancy.

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# Understanding the barriers to HPV vaccine uptake: an exploration of the Canadian landscape on HPV immunization programming opportunities

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Background and Objectives: The Canadian partnership against cancer has provided funding to the urban public health network to assess the landscape of HPV immunization coverage, barriers, and opportunities at a sub-jurisdictional level, in order to achieve the target of 90% HPV immunization to support the work of the action plan to eliminate cervical cancer in Canada by 2040. This work has involved engaging local public health organizations across Canada to uncover high-resolution quality improvement targets of investment for underimmunized populations.

Methods: This project uses a mixed-method design to understand barriers and facilitators to increasing HPV immunization uptake at a sub-provincial level. Stakeholders were engaged from across Canada and analysts were placed in four local public health units, to extract sub-provincial level HPV programming insights. HPV immunization data was collected at a sub-provincial level, and in some cases, down to a postal code or school level. Coverage rates were then linked to socio-demographic indicators where possible to identify pockets of under-immunization. To further determine barriers and facilitators, surveys, focus groups, and interviews took place with caregivers and providers.

Results: Preliminary results indicate the availability of HPV immunization data is highly variable across Canada, as is HPV immunization programming. Barriers to immunization have been identified at both individual (e.g. Lack of healthcare provider recommendation, misinformation) and systems-level (e.g. Absence of a national immunization registry) in participating regions to varying degrees.

Conclusions: Understanding how barriers and facilitators impact HPV immunization uptake at a local level is critical to implementing innovative policies and programming. Findings will be reported by region and/or subgroup, as well as aggregated nationally to inform recommendations made to CPAC on ways to address inequities in access and uptake.

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### Vaccination coverage in diabetic patients in the Lombardy region

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Background and Objective: Diabetes mellitus is associated with an increased incidence of infections and a greater severity and frequency of related complications. In particular, the risk of hospitalization and death from infectious causes in this category of patients is double compared to euglycemic subjects. The vaccinations provided for by the National Vaccine Prevention Plan and recommended by the Italian Diabetes companies are the anti-flu, the anti-pneumococcal, the new recombinant anti-zoster, the anti-diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis and the anti-SARS-COV2 vaccine. The goal of this work is determining the vaccination coverage for the main recommended vaccinations and for COVID-19 in the Lombard diabetic population. Methods: A chi-square test has been used to assess: whether the presence of diabetes influenced the choice to get vaccinated or not: the test was used to verify if the observed frequencies in one or more categories correspond to the expected frequencies, if the null hypothesis were true, if there are differences in terms of vaccine doses made on the basis of the type of diabetes. A statistical significance level of p-value <0.05 (5%) was

used initially and, later, more conservatively p-value < 0.02 (2%) due to the practical application of the correction Bonferroni hypothesis.

Results: Of the total diabetic subjects, 264058 subjects (46.19%) received the influenza vaccine, 60980 (10.67%) patients received the pneumococcal vaccine, 15137 (26.25%) received the meningococcal vaccine, 4132 (0.72%) received a type of anti-Herpes Zoster vaccine. Conclusions: The vaccination coverage in diabetic population, excluding the recent anti-SARS-COV2 vaccination campaign, is currently insufficient. In general, this study has demonstrated a significant correlation between the presence of diabetes and adherence to vaccinations. Adherence is greater among patients with type 2 diabetes than in patients with type 1 diabetes: this is likely related to the presence of more comorbidities among patients with type 2 diabetes.

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### Determinants of vaccine hesitancy towards pediatric and adolescent vaccinations and interventions aimed at contrasting that issue in Europe: an overview of systematic reviews

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Background and Objective: Vaccine hesitancy represents a relevant threat to global health. Specifically, vaccine hesitancy has shown an increase in the last two decades in Europe. The present overview aimed to describe determinants of vaccine hesitancy and interventions to reduce vaccine hesitancy or increase vaccine uptake among children and adolescents in Europe.

Methods: We developed a comprehensive search strategy to find the latest existing systematic reviews on the following databases: PubMed, Embase, and Epistemonikos, including only papers published in 2017 or after. The search was performed in 2022. Only papers about determinants or interventions addressed to parents, children, or adolescents were considered eligible. Each article was screened at least by two authors, blinded to each other's decisions. This overview has been conducted within the project "VAX-TRUST, addressing vaccine hesitancy in Europe" (This project has received funding from European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under Grant Agreement No. 965280).

Results: A total of 3363 records were screened. The final set of selected papers consisted of 28 systematic reviews. We examined the overlap of the systematic reviews within the overview using the CCA index obtaining the value of 1.39%, thus suggesting a low overlap. A total of 232 European primary studies contained in the systematic reviews were identified (212 observational studies and 20 experimental studies, including 15 RCTs and 5 quasi-experimental studies). Preliminary analyses showed that safety and trust concerns were the most frequently reported hesitancy determinants and the implementation of school programs involving nurses and general practitioners was the most frequently reported effective intervention.

Conclusions: This overview mainly highlighted issues in trust and safety concerns and suggested that school programs can be effective in the European context. It is essential to continue to study the reasons for vaccination hesitancy and to search for methods to decrease the phenomenon.

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# Vaccination hesitancy among parents of school children in the United Arab Emirates: a cross-sectional study

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Background and Objectives: Parental vaccine hesitancy may hinder routine vaccinations of children and increase the risk of vaccine-preventable infections. This study was conducted to assess the prevalence and determinants of parental vaccine hesitancy in the United Arab Emirates. Methods and Materials: This cross-sectional study was conducted among 446 the parents using a self-administered questionnaire. Parents Attitudes about Childhood Vaccines (PACV) survey tool was used to assess the vaccine hesitancy and WHOs Vaccine Hesitancy Survey Questions were used to seek information about the factors. Data analysis was done using SPSS version 28. Chi square test was used to find the association and binary logistic regression was used to determine the factors.