



## Press Release

### Flaviviruses Vaccination

6–9 December 2010, Les Pensières, Annecy (France)

Taking into account the major impact that Flaviviruses born diseases are having again in today's public health, Fondation Mérieux is most pleased to organize the "Flavivirus Vaccination" meeting with the participation of foremost experts in this field. A platform where this relevant subject will be addressed focussing on current epidemiology trends, antigenic and molecular structure, pathogenesis and host immune responses; as well as, reviewing the safety and effectiveness of current and future vaccines.

Flaviviruses are the cause of several diseases of important public health level such as Japanese encephalitis (JE), Yellow fever (YF), Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) and Dengue. JE, YF and TBE diseases are single serotype enabling for effective vaccination, whereas 4 serotypes exist for dengue virus complicating its vaccine development due reason vaccination still not available on the market today.

Despite the effective vaccines available for many years against YF, JE, and TBE, and the preventive strategies implemented for dengue, the number of human cases have increased in the last 2 decades; mainly due to changes in climate conditions and increased travel and urbanization. All this has led these diseases to be once again in the agenda of major public health priorities in a number of countries.

There are currently >200,000 cases and 30,000 death for YF, and it is believed that JE is responsible for more than 50,000 cases of encephalitis annually, with at least 10,000 deaths. Some 2.5 billion people – two fifths of the world's population – are now at risk for dengue.

The pathogenesis of Flaviviruses is not completely understood, there is no specific treatment for Flavivirus infections and these viruses cannot be eradicated given their animal reservoir; hence, vaccination is the most effective approach to disease control.

The "Flaviviruses Vaccination" meeting will be held from December 6 – 8, 2010 at Les Pensières Conference center in Veyrier du Lac, France.

For further information and registration, please contact: [valentina.picot@fondation-merieux.org](mailto:valentina.picot@fondation-merieux.org)