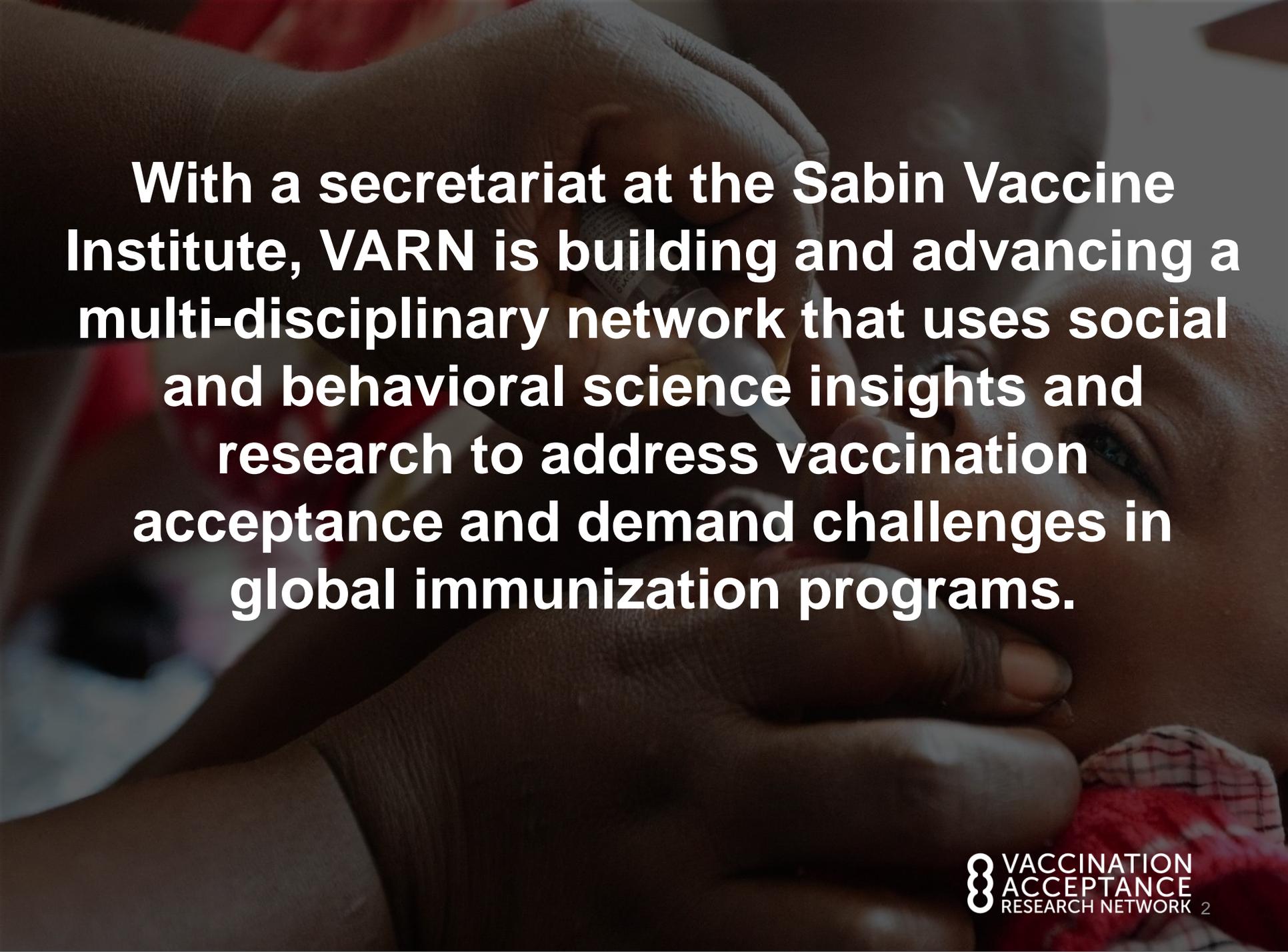


Update on the work of the Vaccination Acceptance Research Network (VARN)

September 24, 2019



With a secretariat at the Sabin Vaccine Institute, VARN is building and advancing a multi-disciplinary network that uses social and behavioral science insights and research to address vaccination acceptance and demand challenges in global immunization programs.

VARN's Leadership: Steering & Research Committees & Secretariat



VARN UPDATES

- Formation of VARN's Steering & Research Committees of leading vaccination researchers and immunization program implementers.
- Supporting the “Romania Health worker-patient insight study”: VARN partnered with WHO Euro, the Romanian Ministry of Health and the National Institute of Public Health to conduct a study to better understand interactions between family physicians and caregivers during vaccination consultations.
- VARN's Research Committee has initiated a study examining the current landscape around vaccine acceptability and uptake and the needs of immunization program managers and health agencies
- VARN initiated new partnerships with entities with crosscutting missions
- Creation and launch of the VARN website: <https://vaccineacceptance.org/>

CALL FOR ACTION

Worldwide, vaccines save millions of lives every year. However, decades of progress in reducing vaccine preventable diseases is under threat because vaccination coverage is not as high as it needs to be and there is concern that vaccination acceptance is decreasing. In many countries, parents are declining or delaying measles vaccination for their children and declining rates of measles vaccination have fueled outbreaks (WHO and CDC Report).

In January, the World Health Organization identified vaccination hesitancy as one of the top 10 threats to global health in 2019. In doing so, WHO called for concerted efforts to tackle the challenge, which encompasses reluctance or refusal to receive recommended vaccinations for one's self or children, lack of confidence or trust in vaccines and vaccination recommendations, lack of appreciation for the full value of vaccination and active demand for vaccination to protect individuals and communities from serious infectious disease threats and outbreaks. In response to calls for action, the Sabin Vaccine Institute is leading an effort to launch the Vaccination Acceptance Research Network (VARN) that will bring together a broad array of expertise to assist immunization programs and advocates in their efforts to achieve the needed high levels of vaccination coverage.

→ LEARN MORE

→ HOW TO COLLABORATE



WHY ARE PEOPLE SIGNING UP?

- 100% - Latest news and research
- 88% - Connecting with experts
- 81% - Networking with colleagues from other disciplines
- 81% - Research funding opportunities
- 75% - Professional meetings and conferences
- 75% - Networking with colleagues from immunization programs

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Finalization of 2-year VARN Strategy

Broad Activity Area	Specific Activities to Achieve include. . .	Time Frame	Cost to implement
Identifying and defining immunization program research and intervention needs, priorities, and opportunities, including with IAIM members.	Engage with potential funders and other key VARN stakeholders to identify their funding priorities and interests in the vaccination demand domain	Next 3-6 months	Minimal – primarily Sabin staff time
	Draft and publish/publicize a white paper that is focused on identifying and defining immunization program vaccination demand needs, priorities, and opportunities.	Next 6 months	Modest – commissioning of experts to create (e.g., \$15-20K)
	Identify, recruit, and bring together participants from IAIM, other immunization programs and program staff, social and behavioral researchers, key stakeholders and potential funders to identify the challenges, needs, and priorities for understanding vaccination acceptance and achieving greater vaccination acceptance	Next 6-9 months	Modest – Sabin staff time plus resources for convening an in-person meeting (e.g., \$50-100K)
	Identify and publicize vaccination demand needs related to influenza vaccine, new vaccines, and vaccines used or to be used in emergencies or outbreaks	6-12 months	Modest – Sabin staff time, plus expert engagement
Facilitating research initiatives that expand the vaccination demand evidence-base in strategic areas of need and interest (e.g., vaccination hesitancy)	An organized effort to develop and publicize a vaccination demand research agenda, including by working with country, regional, and global immunization programs to identify issues and topics in need of research as well as existing research findings and insights that would benefit from expanded use or testing	6-12 months	Modest depending on scope and process (\$50-\$100K)
	Developing and issuing calls for vaccination acceptance research and development of vaccination acceptance interventions in priority areas, including via white papers, journal articles, op-eds, and conferences	Ongoing	Minimal – primarily Sabin and VARN participants
	Designing and convening, including via virtual platforms, meetings that identify case examples, best practices, lessons learned, and innovations related to social and behavioral research for vaccination demand.	6-12 months	Modest – particularly with respect to staff time
	Developing, supporting, and issuing calls for proposals for vaccination acceptance research that addresses priority areas and needs (e.g., via a small grants)	12-18 months	Significant – depending on number and scope (\$100K - \$500K or more)
Working with IAIM members to test and introduce new social and behavioral science methods and measures, including for use in routine data collection processes.	Work with Sabin IAIM program staff to identify vaccination demand areas of interest and need	6-12 months	Minimal – staff time
	Catalogue and make available to IAIM members and others materials or links to validated or evidence-based methods and measures related to vaccination demand	Ongoing	Modest – staff time
	Design and implement a small grants program for IAIM members to test vaccination demand resources	12-18 months	\$25-100K per project
	Collaborate with WHO on field testing of BeSD Working Group measures and materials	12-18 months	\$25-100K per project

WHAT'S NEXT?

1. Prioritize action on quick, demonstrable wins given resources
2. Grow network through implementation and demonstration of added value
3. Integrate VARN expertise into other promising initiatives at Sabin and at partner networks



HOW CAN WE WORK TOGETHER?

NOW:

- **Join the network** – sign up for latest news and information about VARN & tell us what you want
- **Share information** – share your news, latest articles, ideas and information on meetings & events

LATER:

- **Link for research collaboration and technical support** – linking those with technical expertise with requests for support for vaccination acceptance and demand issues
 - Add your name to VARN's growing directory of experts
or
 - Let us know if you need technical support

Visit the VARN website:
vaccineacceptance.org

For more information, email:
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