



Alumni Interview

Dr Andrew W LEE

ADVAC 2016

“It was so wonderful and eye-opening to talk with vaccine directors from developing countries and to learn what is important to them.”

What did ADVAC bring to you on both a personal and professional level?

The favorite educational/scientific experience of my professional career, because of the high quality of expert speakers, the one-of-a-kind setting, and the chance to meet many other like-minded vaccine enthusiasts from around the world. As someone who is involved in the clinical development of pediatric vaccines on the industry side, it was so wonderful and eye-opening to talk with vaccine directors from developing countries and to learn what is important to them, when deciding which vaccines should be provided in their country. Also, I cannot recall another scientific meeting where speakers and audience alike were so relaxed, engaged, and happy to be there.

What in your opinion have been the most important advances and challenges in vaccinology over the past 20 years?

Advances: the spread in coverage and increase in global access to vaccines, development and regulatory approval of vaccines with novel adjuvants.

Challenges: vaccine refusers, anti-vaccine movements are also spreading globally. Vaccines as a field need to communicate better the benefits they are bringing to the world.

Why does this field remain so important?

Vaccines are a shared, truly multidisciplinary effort and require most of the population to participate for them to remain effective.