

PAEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONFERENCE

Banff Springs Hotel • Banff Alberta • February 2-5, 2011



ADDRESSING RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS TO SCHOOL-BASED DELIVERY OF HPV VACCINE

Nine Alberta school districts and the Ontario Region of Halton have banned the administration of the HPV vaccine on publicly-funded school property. School officials have expressed fear that the vaccine will promote sexual promiscuity among school children and that it will undermine abstinence teaching. They have also expressed doubt about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. The vaccine uptake rate is 18% in the Calgary banned schools and 70% elsewhere in Calgary. In Halton, the uptake is 3%.

At this session of the annual Pediatric Infectious Disease Conference, international vaccine experts will address these concerns raised about the HPV vaccine.

WHAT: Vaccine experts comment on controversial religious arguments for vaccine ban during international pediatric infectious disease conference.

WHO: **Dr. Larry Pickering**, MD, FAAP Senior Advisor to the Director, Executive Secretary Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Atlanta

Dr. Sarah Long, Chief, Section of Infectious Diseases, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Philadelphia

Dr. Taj Jadavji, Professor, Departments of Microbiology & Infectious Diseases, and Paediatrics, University of Calgary

Dr. Charles Prober, MC FRCPC, FAAP, Professor of Pediatrics, Microbiology and Immunisation, Stanford University School of Medicine

WHEN: Friday, February 4, at 2:00 pm MST; **Questions welcomed at 2:30 pm MST**

WHERE: Banff Springs Hotel, Conference Centre Theatre, Lower Level

DIAL IN TO THIS MEDIA TELECONFERENCE AT: 1-877-234-4610 (Canada & USA); Conference Reference: 894039; Participant Access Code: 7980065#

Media Contacts: **Dr. Taj Jadavji**, Professor, Departments of Microbiology & Infectious Diseases, and Paediatrics, University of Calgary, kidsmd@ucalgary.ca, 403 608 5236