



PRESS INFORMATION

## **The Fourth International Symposium on Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases (ISPPD-4)**

From May 9-13, 2004 in Helsinki, Finland, approximately 600 researchers from more than 55 countries will gather for the 4<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases (ISPPD-4). ISPPD is a bi-yearly meeting that serves as a multi-disciplinary forum for researchers from all over the world to share their ideas and findings on pneumococcal disease.

ISPPD-4 activities will include the Bob Austrian honorary lecture, plenary lectures, poster sessions and social programming to facilitate discussion amongst meeting participants. Major topics of the meeting this year include the global epidemiology of pneumococcal disease, diagnosis, pneumococcus genomics, antimicrobial resistance, the immunology of pneumococcal disease and vaccines, pathogenesis of pneumococcal disease, modeling and herd immunity, polysaccharide-based vaccines, protein-based vaccines and other means of prevention.

An exciting new feature of the meeting this year is the ISSPD Fellowship Programme, which matches sponsors with 63 researchers from poverty-stricken countries who will be making scientific presentations at the meeting. Sponsors include GAVI's Pneumococcal ADIP, PATH's Child Vaccine Programme, Wyeth-Ayerst, GlaxoSmithKline, the Finnish Academy, the National Public Health Institute and ISPPD. The Fellowship Programme is in congruence with ISPPD's emphasis on involving researchers from the countries most affected by pneumococcal disease.

ISPPD takes place every two years; previous meetings have been held in Elsinore, Denmark, Sun City, South Africa, and Anchorage, Alaska, USA. The next meeting will be held in 2006 in Alice Springs, Australia. More information on

ISPPD-4 and the specific scientific topics to be discussed can be found at <http://www.congrex.fi/isppd-4>.

For further information, please contact:

**Dr. Hanna Nohynek**  
Local ISPPD-4 Scientific Organizing Team  
Mobile: +35 840 510 2426