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## News Release

### Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Distribution Still Below Levels Needed to Meet Guidelines, Despite Growth Worldwide

Geneva, 3 September 2010 – A new IFPMA study<sup>1</sup>, announced today at the “Options for the Control of Influenza VII” conference in Hong Kong, shows that global vaccine coverage remains uneven and low overall, despite total distribution of seasonal influenza vaccines nearly doubling over the last six years.

The study, which surveyed IFPMA influenza vaccine company members<sup>2</sup>, found that less than one in three countries receives sufficient vaccine to immunize 10% of its inhabitants, although the number of seasonal influenza vaccine doses distributed annually worldwide between 2004 and 2009 grew from 262 million to 449 million, an increase of 72%.

“Seasonal influenza continues to represent a major threat to public health, so the increases in vaccine provision revealed by this IFPMA study are highly encouraging,” said Dr. Kristin Nichol, Professor of Medicine at the University of Minnesota and influenza policy consultant. “It is essential that governments continue to increase vaccine coverage, because the study results also show that uptake remains low in many countries. This is despite the WHO setting a goal for immunization programs to reach at least 75% of the elderly by 2010.”

Growth in influenza vaccine distribution was concentrated in Europe and the Americas, which account for some 75% of global demand. Individual countries showing strong increases in distribution included: Brazil, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Spain, Thailand and the UK.

According to the study, vaccine demand does not depend entirely on national income levels, as several wealthy countries had distribution levels below those of less developed nations.

**(Ends)**

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<sup>1</sup> The IFPMA Study “Provision of seasonal influenza vaccines in 157 countries (2004-2009)” can be accessed at: [http://www.ifpma.org/fileadmin/webnews/2010/pdfs/20100903\\_IVS226\\_IFPMA\\_IVS\\_seasonal\\_flu\\_vac\\_dose\\_distribution\\_study.pdf](http://www.ifpma.org/fileadmin/webnews/2010/pdfs/20100903_IVS226_IFPMA_IVS_seasonal_flu_vac_dose_distribution_study.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Members of the IFPMA Influenza Vaccine Supply task force are: Abbott Biologicals, Baxter, Biken, Crucell, CSL, Denka Seiken, GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, Green Cross, Kaketsuken, Kitasato Institute, MedImmune, Nobilion, Novartis Vaccines, sanofi pasteur, sanofi pasteur MSD and Sinovac.

**About the IFPMA Influenza Vaccine Supply International Task Force:**

The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA) Influenza Vaccine Supply International Task Force (IPMA IVS), established in February 2002, brings together research-based influenza vaccine manufacturers from around the world, who are developing vaccines against influenza threats from seasonal, avian and a pandemic. The IFPMA IVS provides its expertise in R&D, logistics and manufacturing to help governmental and intergovernmental bodies in pandemic planning and decision-making.

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**About the IFPMA:**

The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations is the global non-profit NGO representing the research-based pharmaceutical industry, including the biotech and vaccine sectors. Its members comprise 25 leading international companies and 46 national and regional industry associations covering developed and developing countries. The industry's R&D pipeline contains hundreds of new medicines and vaccines being developed to address global disease threats, including cancer, heart disease, HIV/AIDS and malaria. The IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal ([www.ifpma.org/ClinicalTrials](http://www.ifpma.org/ClinicalTrials)), the IFPMA's Ethical Promotion online resource ([www.ifpma.org/EthicalPromotion/](http://www.ifpma.org/EthicalPromotion/)) and its Developing World Health Partnerships Directory ([www.ifpma.org/HealthPartnerships](http://www.ifpma.org/HealthPartnerships)) help make the industry's activities more transparent. The IFPMA supports a wide range of WHO technical activities, notably those relating to medicine efficacy, quality and safety, and coordinates industry participation in the WHO IMPACT initiative to combat counterfeit medicines. It also provides the secretariat for the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH).

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