

Orphan Vaccines - Bridging the Gap

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In August 2001, the conference entitled 'Orphan Vaccines - Bridging the Gap' was held to discuss in depth the technical, regulatory and financial obstacles to vaccine development, especially vaccines which may be of little interest to manufacturers based in the developed world. Latest treatments of malaria and HIV vaccines, new vaccines against EBV, hydatid disease and rheumatic fever as well as vaccines against potential biological warfare agents were discussed.

As a result, the following possibilities for improving the availability of vaccines in the developing world have been suggested:

- better organised and managed efforts for development of high priority vaccines;
- better cost/benefit information to encourage governments to invest in the development, manufacture and utilization of vaccines;
- better education of the public about vaccines to counter unreasonable concerns;
- streamlining regulatory requirements in cases of urgent need.

It is the hope of the meeting organizers and the sponsors that this volume will assist in dismissing current obstacles of the development of vaccines.

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