



**Adult Immunization Board (AIB)**  
***Technical meeting:***

***Advancing vaccination strategies for the  
older adults: insights into epidemiology,  
immunity, and implementation***

***7-8 May 2025***  
*Warsaw, Poland*

***PRELIMINARY MEETING AGENDA***



## Meeting Objectives

- Clarify the definition of older adults in the context of vaccination by considering factors such as chronological age, comorbidities, and biological markers like immunosenescence and frailty.
- Review and discuss vaccines and vaccination programs targeting older adults across Europe.
- Address the unique challenges and opportunities in conducting vaccination studies, and especially clinical trials, with older adults.
- Explore the mechanisms and factors affecting the efficacy, effectiveness, safety and durability (including boosters) of vaccine responses in older adults and discuss strategies (like adjuvants and higher doses) to enhance immune responses. Discuss specific characteristics of different vaccines for older adults.
- Discuss implementation of vaccination in older adults at the policymakers, organizational and population levels. Identify strategies, including best practices and successes, to increase vaccination coverage in both community and other care settings, and address communication and logistical challenges to ensure program sustainability and equity.

## Intended Impact and Target Audience

The population in Europe is ageing rapidly, with the proportion of older adults increasing significantly. As a result, the need to protect this demographic group through tailored vaccination efforts has become more urgent within lifelong immunization programs across Europe. This meeting seeks to provide essential insights and strategies to improve vaccine effectiveness, immunity durability, and uptake among older adults. By gathering experts in immunology, vaccine development, geriatrics and public health, the meeting will address the unique challenges faced by older adults, such as frailty, comorbidities, and immunosenescence. The discussions will support National Immunization Programs by sharing the latest information and best practices to boost vaccination coverage, customize strategies, and ensure sustained protection against vaccine-preventable diseases for this growing segment of the population.

More information about the adult immunization board:

[www.adultimmunizationboard.org](http://www.adultimmunizationboard.org) // [AIB introduction video](#)

## Meeting Venue

Hotel Polonia, Aleje Jerozolimskie 45, 00-692 Warszawa, Poland

## Preliminary agenda

[TBD – To Be Decided, TBC – To Be Confirmed]

### DAY 1 – MAY 7TH, 2025

Session 1: Opening, introduction and objectives		
Chairs: TBD		
9.00	Opening remarks	Katarzyna Wieczorowska-Tobis <i>(Laboratory for Geriatric Medicine, Department of Palliative Medicine, Karol Marcinkowski University of Medical Sciences, Poznan, Poland, President of Polish Gerontological Society)</i>
9.05	Introduction of Adult Immunization Board	Pierre Van Damme <i>(Centre for Evaluation of Vaccination, University of Antwerp, Belgium)</i> Paolo Bonanni <i>(Department of Health Sciences, University of Florence, Italy)</i>
9.15	Overview of the objectives of the meeting + Why focusing on older adults	Stefania Maggi <i>(European Interdisciplinary Council on Ageing)</i>
9.30	Tour de table	
Session 2: Setting the scene: health prevention and vaccination strategies of older adults in Europe		
Chairs: TBD		
10.00	Enhancing health in an ageing population: WHO EURO's data-driven approach to prevention strategies (including vaccination) for older adults	Yongjie Yon/ Niyazi Cakmak (Online) <i>(WHO EURO)</i>
10.25	Clarifying the older adults population for vaccination strategies: exploring age, comorbidities, immunosenescence, frailty as factors	Claudio Franceschi <i>(Department of Experimental, Diagnostic and Specialty Medicine, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy)</i>
10.50	Discussion	
11.10	Coffee Break	
11.40	Overview on current vaccines, recommendations and national vaccination plans in the older adults in Europe	AIB/IFA secretariat

12.00	Geriatric/GP perspectives from three different EU countries on their countries respective vaccination recommendations and strategic plans for older adults (barriers/opportunities for the future)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Felipe Froes (<i>Hospital Pulido Valente, Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte, Lisbon, Portugal</i>)</li> <li>- Jacek Wysocki (TBC)</li> <li>- Lotte Usinger (TBD)</li> </ul>	
12.20	Discussion	
12.40	Lunch	
<b>Session 3: From clinical trials to real-world data: challenges and opportunities in the conduction of trials</b>		
<b>Chairs: TBD</b>		
13.30	Overview of the difficulties and opportunities of vaccine trials (e.g. pragmatic trials) targeting frail and older adults.	T.Biering-Sorensen ( <i>University of Copenhagen, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Denmark</i> )
13.50	Use of Real-World Data to complement experimental studies	Domnich Alexandr ( <i>Hygiene Unit, San Martino Policlinico Hospital - IRCCS for Oncology and Neurosciences, Genoa, Italy</i> )
14.10	Discussion	
<b>Session 4: Understanding specific characteristics of different vaccines for older adults</b>		
<b>Chairs: TBD</b>		
14.30	4.1 Immunological mechanisms of vaccine-induced immune response in the older adults	Birgit Weinberger ( <i>Institute for Biomedical Aging Research, University of Innsbruck, Austria</i> )
14.45	4.2 The effects of comorbidity on the vaccination response in older adults	Debbie van Baarle ( <i>Center for Infectious Disease Prevention, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Bilthoven, the Netherlands; Center for Translational Immunology, University Medical Center Utrecht, University of Utrecht, Utrecht, the Netherlands</i> )
15.00	Discussion	
15.15	Coffee Break	
	4.3 Specific characteristics of different vaccines for older adults (Part 1) <i>Each talk will start with 2 general slides, indicating what vaccines are currently available and some general characteristics, followed by a more detailed explanation of a specific characteristic of the vaccine</i>	
15.45	<b>Herpes Zoster:</b> Specific topic: duration in older adults	J. Diez Domingo (TBC)
16.00	<b>Pneumococcal disease:</b> Specific topic: future vaccines	Antoni Torres ( <i>Unidad de Cuidados Intensivos Respiratorios, Departamento de Neumología y Alergia Respiratoria,</i>

		<i>Hospital Clínic, Universitat de Barcelona, IDIBAPS (Institut d'Investigacions August Pi i Sunyer), CIBERES (Ciber de Enfermedades Respiratorias), Barcelona, Spain)</i>
16.15	<b>Tdap:</b> Specific topic: boosters in older adults and differences between countries	Tino F Schwarz <i>(Central Laboratory and Vaccination Centre, Stiftung Juliusspital, Würzburg, Germany)</i>
16.30	<b>RSV:</b> Specific topic: Need for revaccination? When and how to organize it?	Élisabeth Botelho-Nevers <i>(Groupe Immunité des Muqueuses et Agents Pathogènes, COMUE of Lyon, Saint-Etienne, France; Infectious Diseases Department, University Hospital of Saint-Etienne, France)</i>
16.45	<b>Discussion</b>	
17.15	<b>Closure of day 1</b>	
<b>DAY 2 – MAY 8TH, 2025</b>		
	4.3 Specific characteristics of different vaccines for older adults (Part 2)	
9.00	<b>Influenza:</b> Specific topic: High-dose and adjuvanted vaccines	Colin Russel <i>(ESWI Chair, Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)</i>
9.15	<b>COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2:</b> Specific topic: Different platforms (e.g. mRNA)	Teresa Lambe (TBC)
9.30	Discussion	
<b>Session 5: Implementing vaccination in the older adults on multiple levels</b>		
<b>Chairs: TBD</b>		
9.45	<b>The policymakers level:</b> Vaccine impact assessment and economic value of vaccination in aging adults	Simon Brassel <i>(Office of Health Economics, UK)</i>
10.10	<b>The organizational level:</b> what are challenges in reaching older adults and opportunities (e.g. co-administration)	Sofia Duque <i>(Hospital São Francisco Xavier, Internal Medicine Department, Orthogeriatric Unit, Portugal)</i>
10.35	Discussion	
10.45	Coffee break	
11.15	<b>The population level:</b> communicating the importance of vaccination for healthy aging	Stephan Lewandowsky (TBC)
11.40	Discussion	
<b>Session 6: Breakout Groups and meeting closing</b>		
<b>Chairs: TBD</b>		
12.00	Breakout Groups <i>(potential topics are decided during the course of the meeting)</i>	

13.00	Plenary feedback	
13.30	Lunch	
<b>Chairs: TBD</b>		
14.30	Meeting summary by AIB rapporteur	Katherine Newell
15.00	Closing remarks and Closing of the Meeting	