



**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*

***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

# Agenda

DAY 1 – MAY 7TH, 2025

Session 1: Opening, introduction and objectives		
Chairs: Pierre Van Damme and Paolo Bonanni		
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: Pierre Van Damme and Paolo Bonanni		
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	
Chairs: Thomas Weinke and Antoni Torres		
11.40	Overview on current vaccines, recommendations and national vaccination plans in the older adults in Europe	Jane Barrat <i>(Global Advisor at the International Federation on Ageing (IFA))</i>
12.00	Healthcare providers perspectives from three different EU countries on their country's respective vaccination recommendations and strategic plans for older adults (barriers/opportunities for the future) - Felipe Froes <i>(Hospital Pulido Valente, Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte, Portugal)</i> - Marcin Czech <i>(Head of Pharmacoeconomic Department, Head of the Hospital Infection Control Team, Institute of Mother and Child, Warsaw, Poland )</i> - Jens Lundgren <i>(Center of Excellence for Health, Immunity, and Infections, Department of Infectious Diseases, University of Copenhagen, Rigshospitalet, Denmark)</i>	

12.20	Discussion	
12.40	Lunch	
Session 3: From clinical trials to real-world data: challenges and opportunities in the conduction of trials		
Chairs: Alojz Ihan and Odile Launay		
13.30	Overview of the difficulties and opportunities of vaccine trials (e.g. pragmatic trials) targeting frail and older adults.	T.Biering-Sorensen (University of Copenhagen, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Denmark)
13.50	Use of real-world data to complement experimental studies	Domnich Alexander (Hygiene Unit, San Martino Policlinico Hospital - IRCCS for Oncology and Neurosciences, Genoa, Italy)
14.10	Discussion	
Session 4: Understanding specific characteristics of different vaccines for older adults		
14.30	4.1 Immunological mechanisms of vaccine-induced immune response in the older adults	Birgit Weinberger (Institute for Biomedical Aging Research, University of Innsbruck, Austria)
14.45	4.2 Effects of comorbidities and use of immune markers to predict vaccination responses in older adults	Debbie van Baarle (Dept Medical Microbiology and Infection prevention, University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG), Center for Infectious disease Control, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)
15.00	Discussion	
15.15	Coffee Break	
Chairs: Per Ljungman and Jacek Wysocki		
	4.3 Specific characteristics of different vaccines for older adults (Part 1)	
15.45	<b>Herpes Zoster:</b> Specific topic: duration in older adults	Javier Díez-Domingo (Vaccine Research Department, FISABIO (the Valencia Foundation for the Promotion of Health and Biomedical Research), Spain)
16.00	<b>Pneumococcal disease:</b> Specific topic: future vaccines	Antoni Torres (Unidad de Cuidados Intensivos Respiratorios, Departamento de Neumología y Alergia Respiratoria, Hospital Clínic, Universitat de Barcelona, IDIBAPS, CIBERES, Barcelona, Spain)
16.15	<b>Tdap:</b> Specific topic: boosters in older adults and differences between countries	Tino F Schwarz (Central Laboratory and Vaccination Centre, Stiftung Juliusspital, Würzburg, Germany)
16.30	<b>RSV:</b> Specific topic: Need for revaccination? When and how to organize it?	Élisabeth Botelho-Nevers (Infectious Diseases Department, University Hospital of Saint-Etienne, France ; Head of Vaccinology axis- Clinical investigational centre ; GIMAP Team CIRI Saint-Etienne University, France)
16.45	Discussion	
17.15	Closure of day 1	

## DAY 2 – MAY 8TH, 2025

Chairs: Heini Salo and Helena Maltezou		
	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)	Odile Launay ( <i>Université Paris Cité, Paris, France</i> )
9.30	Discussion	
Session 5: Implementing vaccination in the older adults on multiple levels		
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	Litjen Tan ( <i>Immunize.org</i> ) (Online)
11.40	Discussion	
Session 6: Breakout Groups and meeting closing		
Chairs: Birgit Weinberger and Stefania Maggi		
12.00	Breakout Groups (potential topics are decided during the course of the meeting)	
13.00	Plenary feedback	
13.30	Lunch	
Chairs: Pierre Van Damme and Paolo Bonanni		
14.30	Meeting summary by AIB rapporteur - Katherine Newell (P95)	
15.00	Closing remarks and Closing of the Meeting	