

**THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR VACCINES AND IMMUNIZATION  
MEETING OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS CONSTITUENCY  
STEERING COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 2010**

IPA can take well deserved pride in the fact that GAVI has now supported and is funding a formal [CSO \(Civil Society Organization\) Constituency](#) . This Constituency includes a group of organizations which recognize the importance of immunization in global health and achievement of the MDGs. It is governed by an appointed Steering Committee of twenty members which includes three pediatricians: Clarisse Loumou (former President of the Cameroon Pediatric Society, representing Alternative Santé to GAVI, one year term), Naveen Thacker (representing the Indian Academy of Pediatrics, one year term), and Jane Schaller (representing IPA, two year term).

The GAVI CSO Steering Committee has now developed a CSO Charter which includes regulations for applying for GAVI CSO membership as an organization or as an individual. This Charter and the GAVI Membership forms can be accessed through the IPA web site [www.ipa-world.org](http://www.ipa-world.org). We urge all IPA Member Societies, as well as any individual Pediatricians who are interested, to join the GAVI CSO group at no cost and with great benefit of being linked to an active group concerned with vital global health issues.

This GAVI CSO Constituency came to be through the efforts of IPA representatives and a few other CSO activists who have pushed this effort since the beginnings of GAVI in 1999 – 2000. This effort came to fruition while IPA (represented by Nike Grange and Jane Schaller) represented Civil Society Organizations on the GAVI Board of Directors from 2004 to 2008. For a global power partnership like GAVI to come to recognize that Civil Society has an important voice to contribute to global health issues has been a most worthwhile achievement.

IPA has made a similar push for an effective CSO voice within PMNCH (The Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health), focusing on the voices of Health Care Professional Organizations and Maternal Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) Academicians.

Now IPA and our CSO colleagues bear the responsibility of bringing informed positions and suggestions to these global tables, and promoting meaningful action on them. Actions most needed in these years leading up to the MDG achievement deadline of 2015 are enabling meaningful country level action that will demonstratively improve MNCH. This is a task that IPA has the connections and the know-how to foster. Together we Pediatricians have both important roles to play and important commitments to keep!

Again, we urge IPA National, Regional, and appropriate Specialty Societies to apply for membership in the GAVI CSO Constituency, and also welcome individual membership applications from any interested individuals.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Schaller  
IPA Ambassador and GAVI CSO Constituency Steering Committee Member