

Vaccinology Masterclass – annual overview 2017

24 February 2018

The Foundation 'Stichting Vaccinology Masterclass' aims at accredited education in vaccinology for health care professionals, and is created from a more than 10-years experience (table 1).

In 2016 the Vaccinology Masterclass started a new era. It transformed from a small group of experts in vaccinology closely cooperating with a single pharmaceutical company (GlaxoSmithKline) into a Foundation which was financially supported by three pharmaceutical companies (GlaxoSmithKline, Pfizer and SPMSD). Moreover, the organization of courses was transferred from the offices of GSK, to DutchCC (director Ir Johan Hanstede).

The small organizing Faculty that initially formed the teaching programs and invited speakers, was extended to a larger group (table 2).

In 2017, two courses were organized. The 2-days course, 28-29 September 2017, had 120 participants, and the 1-day course on 1 December 2017 had 108 participants. Both courses were well rated by the participants.

A website www.vaccinologymasterclass.org was prepared and saw light in January 2017. Main goal of the website is transparency, by showing the aims of the Foundation including its Statutes, Board and Faculty members, and annual financial reports. Moreover, it gives a listing of previous courses organized in the past.

The Foundation has ANBI-status (a non-profit Public Benefit Organisation), which was granted February 2017.

Planning 2018

In 2018 both a 2-days course and a 1-day course will be organized: 27-28 September 2018, Landgoed Zonheuvel, Doorn, and 7 December 2018, Van der Valk, Veenendaal. The draft program for the September course will be published end March 2018, and for the December course before summer 2018. It is intended to organize both a 1-day and a 2-days course every year.

In 2018 five pharmaceutical companies are requested to sponsor the Foundation. For the first year, we will no more use course binders in paper.

Historical background

In 2006, a first Vaccinology Masterclass (VM) for infectious disease specialists was organized, as a joint initiative by GlaxoSmithKline and the Faculty. The founders of the Faculty were a small group of experts in vaccinology and pediatric infectious diseases (table 2).

The Faculty members and GSK considered that scientific education of health care workers in vaccinology is essential to support trust in vaccines, and to answer questions from patients and their parents some of which are hesitant towards vaccines. Moreover, in the light of new vaccines that are not yet introduced, broad general knowledge of vaccines was considered important. At that time it was felt that possibilities for such education were scarce, both in basic and postgraduate medical training. Moreover, the Faculty considered that it would be important to disseminate vaccinology from a platform that was independent from national institutes.

With this philosophy the VM was initially targeted at specialists interested in all aspects of infectious diseases and the use of vaccines (pediatricians, internists, microbiologists, public health specialists) in 2-days courses. From 2007 also 1-day courses were organized for preventive child health consultants and nurses (see table 1).

The 2-days courses initially had 30-50 participants, the 1-day courses have 60-125 participants, sometimes with oversubscription for which applicants could not be placed. Speakers were both faculty members themselves, and experts invited from their networks in academia, National Institute of Public Health, Netherlands Health Council and industry. The Faculty had full freedom to design the course and its content, and to appoint speakers. In both settings there is plenty of room for interactions and networking. GSK has made a valuable contribution in kind to organize the meetings, and take care of accreditations. Course participants paid a realistic fee. At each course participants received a binder with all presentations and relevant literature. The courses were well appreciated: all courses so far had an 80% score or higher, and many participants have followed more than 1 course.

As in 2015 regulations for industry became increasingly more strict, GSK revised its company policy and took distance from the VM in the form it was organized till then. However, acknowledging the value of the VM, GSK is very willing to continue support if the setting and organization would be altered, i.e. at greater distance, with sponsor funding to a legal entity, and being not the sole sponsor any more.

Therefore, a core group of the faculty have formed a Foundation (Stichting Vaccinology Masterclass) (founded 22 February 2016). The Foundation VM will have the Founding Statutes on its website, and will annually publish a financial report. The Foundation is registered at the Chamber of Commerce Nijmegen, The Netherlands (for key data: table 3).

The Faculty will be regularly refreshed, and be extended with members representing a wider group of vaccine users.

Table 1. Overview of past courses

<i>2-days courses</i>		
1	13-14 Jan 2006	Hotel De Bilderberg, Oosterbeek
2	25-26 Nov 2006	Hotel De Bilderberg, Oosterbeek
3	7-8 Mrt 2008	Hotel De Bilderberg, Oosterbeek
4	27-28 Mrt 2009	Hotel De Bilderberg, Oosterbeek
5	25-26 Jun 2010	Hotel De Bilderberg, Oosterbeek
6	12-13 Jan 2012	Hotel De Bilderberg, Oosterbeek
7	24-25 Jan 2013	Hotel De Bilderberg, Oosterbeek
8	17-18 Dec 2015	Kontakt der Kontinenten, Soesterberg
9	28-29 Sep 2017	Landgoed Zonheuvel, Doorn

<i>1-day courses</i>		
1	11 Dec 2007	Conference Centre De Reehorst, Ede
2	3 Okt 2008	Conference Centre De Reehorst, Ede
3	20 Nov 2009	Conference Centre De Reehorst, Ede
4	10 Dec 2010	Conference Centre Mariënhof, Amersfoort
5	9 Sep 2011	Conference Centre Mariënhof, Amersfoort
6	5 Okt 2012	Conference Centre Mariënhof, Amersfoort
7	31 Okt 2014	Conference Centre Mariënhof, Amersfoort
8	2 Dec 2016	Conference Centre De Reehorst, Ede
9	1 Dec 2017	Hotel Van der Valk, Veenendaal

Table 2. Faculty members (past and present)

- Prof Ronald de Groot MD PhD, 2005-now
- Hans C. Rümke MD PhD, 2005-now
- Prof John J Roord MD PhD, 2005-2014
- Marjo Oeij-Spaauwen MD, 2007-2013
- Hanneke Vermeulen-Schakel, 2010-2015
- J Gerben Ferwerda MD PhD, 2013-now
- Renée van Tuyll van Serooskerken-Stein MD, 2015-2017
- Nico Hartwig MD PhD, 2015-now
- Nicoline van der Maas MD, 2016-now
- Patricia Bruijning-Verhagen MD PhD, 2016-now
- Prof Lieke Sanders MD PhD, 2016-now
- Clementine Wijkmans MD, 2016-2018
- Wendy Unger PhD, 2016-now
- Henrike ter Horst MD, 2017-now
- Roderick Venekamp MD PhD, 2017-now.

Presently, the Vaccinology Masterclass courses are organised by DutchCC (Ir. Johan Hanstede, director).

Table 3. Foundation Vaccinology Masterclass – key data

Official name: Stichting Vaccinology Masterclass
 Statutory address: Gevestigd te Sterreschansweg 66, 6522GS Nijmegen
 Chamber of Commerce: KvK-nummer 65424573, Nijmegen
 The foundation has ANBI-status per February 2017 (RSIN 856106495)
 Bank: IBAN NL77INGB0007104078
 Board: Prof dr R de Groot, chair; dr JG Ferwerda, secretary; dr HC Rümke, treasurer; mr CBA Gips, general affairs. In 2018, dr NG Hartwig will take over the treasury
 Financial administration: JG van Duuren-van Pelt (2016-2017)