In Canada, infants are given the meningococcal C vaccine, which has markedly decreased the infection rate.

When I talk to other parents who have lost a child to meningitis, they say that’s why they would have told the child’s doctor that they weren’t worried about meningitis, they tell me how important it was to them that even if their child had meningococcal meningitis, he was vaccinated.

According to The Meningitis Research Foundation of Canada, meningococcal meningitis is vaccine preventable.

To learn more, visit the Meningitis Research Foundation at meningitis.ca.

VACCINE TECHNOLOGY

Advances in adjuvant technology adding fuel to vaccine efficacy

The Canadian government has heard about the “extraordinary advances” in adjuvants that have made the H1N1 flu vaccine a success. Those who were paying attention, however, learned an important lesson during the rollout of the seasonal vaccine to combat H1N1. The adjuvant component of the pandemic vaccine improved the effectiveness.

As head of GSK’s adjuvant program, Dr. Nicole Garçon, has been leading this innovative research and development over the past two decades. While the role of traditional adjuvants has been to boost the immune response, newer adjuvants for new vaccines are accomplishing much more, she explains.

“Those systems are giving vaccines the power to do more than just induce an immune response; to broaden the immune response for people who have weakened immune systems,” says Dr. Garçon. “The use of these adjuvant systems is the future of vaccination for the delivery of vaccines to the right people, in the right dose, at the right time.”

Dr. Garçon describes adjuvants as “coming full circle.”

“Advances in adjuvants are taking the technology of vaccines – vaccines that treat cancer, for example – a step further. Adjuvants do more than just boost the immune response of vaccines; they make vaccines more effective, more tolerable and more feasible to use,” she explains.

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