

## Vaccine development: priorities identified in the US

A recent report from the US Institute of Medicine (IOM) offers a new look at vaccine priorities.<sup>1</sup>

The report, entitled 'Vaccines for the 21st Century: A Tool for Decisionmaking', provides priority rankings of various vaccine candidates evaluated according to anticipated health benefits and expected savings of healthcare resources. Using a quantitative model, 26 candidate vaccines were assessed and grouped into 4 categories, according to value for money.

### Best value for money

The model showed that the following 7 vaccines were in the 'most favourable' category, providing best value for money:

- cytomegalovirus vaccine given to children aged 12 years
- influenza virus vaccine given to the general population
- type 1 diabetes mellitus therapeutic vaccine
- multiple sclerosis therapeutic vaccine
- rheumatoid arthritis therapeutic vaccine
- group B streptococcus vaccine administered to pregnant women and high-risk adults
- *Streptococcus pneumoniae* vaccine given to adults aged 65 years and infants.

### Next best value

In the 'more favourable' category were:

- chlamydia vaccine given to children aged 12 years
- *Helicobacter pylori* vaccine given to infants
- hepatitis C virus vaccine given to infants
- herpes simplex virus vaccine given to children aged 12 years
- human papillomavirus vaccine given to children aged 12 years
- melanoma therapeutic vaccine
- *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* vaccine given to high-risk populations
- *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* vaccine given to children aged 12 years
- respiratory syncytial virus vaccine given to children aged 12 years and infants.

### Growing market

In the meantime, a recent report from Frost & Sullivan shows that the market for world specialty vaccines reached about \$US287.1 million in revenues in 1998.<sup>2</sup> Further growth has been predicted. The growing prevalence of viral and bacterial infections is the market driver for world specialty vaccines, says the report. Problems presented by atherosclerosis, allergies and cocaine addiction may be addressed by emerging vaccines. 28 organisations have been identified as currently developing specialty vaccines for the world market.

1. US Dept of HHS: IOM report offers new look at U.S. vaccine priorities.

M2 Presswire [online]: [4 pages], 12 Apr 1999. Available from: URL:

<http://www.newspage.com> 2. Frost & Sullivan. Specialty vaccines represent cost-effective solution to an unmet medical need. Media Release: [2 pages], 12 Apr 1999