

Invisible Man V: The Increasing Visibility of Men as Central to the HPV Story

Session Overview: Historically, research and policies related to HPV infection, HPV-related diseases, and HPV prevention, including vaccination, have focused on women and girls. Although there have been many good reasons for this focus, the role of men and boys in HPV transmission, along with the morbidity and mortality associated with HPV infection in men, and the benefits to men's health of HPV vaccination of boys is becoming more and more apparent. In this fifth iteration of 'The Invisible Man' theme, the presenters in this symposium will focus on male HPV vaccination programs in Australia, Austria, Canada, and the United States. Presenters will address male vaccine coverage, implementation challenges and successes, and summarize their country-specific research related to male vaccination.

Session Objectives: The overall objective of this session is to provide symposium attendees with information about implementation of male HPV vaccination programs in Australia, Austria, Canada, and the United States.

Our moderator, Professor **Gregory Zimet** from Indiana University School of Medicine, will present a brief update on male vaccination in the United States and will introduce the speakers.

Our first speaker, Associate Professor **Rachel Skinner** from University of Sydney, will present an update on male vaccination in Australia and discuss findings from her complex randomised intervention study to promote HPV vaccination coverage in adolescents who are offered the vaccine through the Australian national school-based program ("HPV.edu Study"). She will present both quantitative and qualitative findings from this study; comparing HPV vaccine uptake; knowledge and attitudes and experience of vaccination between male and female adolescents, and qualitative data from parents and teachers as it pertains to male vaccination in this context.

Our second speaker, Associate Professor **Elmar Joura** from Medical University of Vienna, will present on the successes and obstacles encountered in Austria's implementation of male HPV vaccination. In 2007 Austria was the first country to recommend gender-neutral vaccination, however no funding was provided and the coverage remained low. The bases for the male recommendation were epidemiological considerations and equity. In 2014 a fully funded school based program started and the coverage in the first round was 54%, with equal rates for boys and girls. A 2-dose schedule is utilized, the target cohort is age 9 to 10 with a catch up to age 15 years.

Our third speaker, Associate Professor **Zeev Rosberger** from McGill University, will focus on the Canadian experience. Within the past couple of years three provinces in Canada, have decided to implement school-based HPV vaccine programs for boys. After providing an update on vaccination rates for both boys and girls nationally, Dr. Rosberger will present results of a survey of Canadian parents of 9-16 year old boys regarding their knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and intentions related to the HPV vaccine. Using a stage model of health behavior change (Precaution Adoption Process Model), he will present preliminary qualitative and quantitative data on the reasons associated with parent's current stage of preparedness to adopt the vaccine and what are the implications for education and interventions.