

## **VIRUSES AND IMMUNITY: MOLECULAR PIRATES AND THE CHALLENGE OF A GLOBAL ALLIANCE**

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Viruses know the immune system in an evolutionary sense much better than immunologists do. In their evolutions certain viruses (e.g. herpes viruses) have evolved strategies to subvert and divert components of the immune system. These include the expression of molecules which act as molecular traps (decoys) for cytokines and chemokines. Therefore viruses have acted as molecular pirates in their evolutionary history. The challenge rests in learning lessons from viruses and exploiting their molecular armamentarium. At a different level, strategies to control viral and non viral diseases using immunization at a global level will be discussed. Emphasis will be on children morbidity and mortality, and on the global alliance for vaccines and immunization (GAVI).