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**THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE &
THE CENTER FOR VACCINE ETHICS AND POLICY EXPLORE**
*“HPV VACCINATION DECISIONS: THE ISSUES, LESSONS LEARNED,
AND UNDERLYING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN VACCINES”*

Philadelphia, PA – October 22, 2008 – The Franklin Institute and the Center for Vaccine Ethics and Policy will co-host a public forum called “HPV Vaccines: Issues, Lessons, and Public Confidence in Vaccines” on **Thursday, October 30, 2008 at 7:00PM**. The program will take place in the Franklin Theater at The Franklin Institute, and is the second in a series of forums exploring issues around vaccination. Tickets are free, but pre-registration is required. The forum’s featured speakers are: **Arthur L. Caplan**, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; **Paul A. Offit**, MD, Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; **Barbara Watson**, MB ChB, FRCP (UK), FAAP, Medical Director for the Immunization Program at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health; and **Rick Haupt**, MD, MPH, Executive Director for Clinical Research at Merck Research Laboratories.

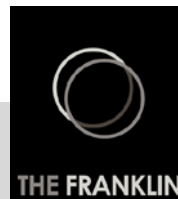
Why HPV Vaccines?

“The combination of concerns about safety, sex, profit, and mandates make the HPV vaccine worthy of very careful consideration and debate,” said Dr. Art Caplan.

Newly-introduced HPV vaccines are enjoying rapid acceptance, fueled in part by sophisticated marketing, advertising and education programs. These programs have established a new framework for how the public is introduced to a virus (HPV), associated disease outcomes (cervical cancer, genital warts, etc.) and the role of preventive vaccines. These efforts have also resulted in many states either adopting or considering various kinds of requirements and mandates around this vaccine for young women. Recommendations that girls as young as 9 years old receive the vaccine, with the attendant assumptions about onset of sexual activity, have caused concerns among some groups. Finally, these new vaccines are among the most costly vaccines ever introduced, challenging how limited public health department resources are allocated.

But the introduction of HPV vaccines is also occurring against a troubling backdrop: declining public confidence in vaccines overall. Recent outbreaks of measles in several cities, the worst in a decade, are alarming, especially as many of the children affected were unvaccinated as a result of parental choice to exercise religious or philosophical objections to state immunization

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requirements. Groups raising concerns about vaccine safety and efficacy seem well financed and well organized. The American Academy of Pediatrics is among some 20 public health and science organizations that have formed a new coalition - The Immunization Alliance – specifically to address this public confidence issue. This forum will explore the issues and lessons learned from ongoing HPV vaccine programs, and how this experience can inform strategies to address the crisis in public understanding and confidence around vaccines overall.

The program is part of an ongoing “*Vaccination Exploration*” series organized by The Franklin Institute in partnership with The Center for Vaccine Ethics and Policy, a program of the Center for Bioethics, University of Pennsylvania; The Wistar Institute Vaccine Center; and The Vaccine Education Center at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

The program will begin promptly at 7:00 PM and end at 8:30 PM, allowing sufficient time for Q & A. **Tickets for this public forum panel discussion are free, but space is limited and registration is required. Make your reservations by calling 215.448.1254.**

For more information, visit www.fi.edu/wellness or www.centerforvaccineethicsandpolicy.org

The Franklin Institute

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