



*From Organizing Committee of the International
Conference "Perspective technologies in vaccination and
immunotherapy" TECHVAC2020*

August 2, 2020

Dear Colleagues!

On March 11, WHO declared the COVID-19 pandemic. After 4 months, 18 million had been infected, over 11 million cleared and 685 thousand died. Extraordinary measures had been taken all around the world to contain virus spread, thousands of antivirals were tested, and dozens of vaccines developed, put in clinical trials and by now registered, under registration or in Phase III clinical trials. COVID-19 epidemics brought up the understanding of vulnerability of mankind to microbial threats, necessity to develop protective measures, including vaccines. It has revolutionized vaccine development with respect to vaccine types, speed of vaccine development and approval.

COVID-19 pandemic has changed the life of research community. Thousands of research meetings were cancelled or rescheduled. Organizing committee of TECHVAC2020 has considered the options and decided to postpone the conference to autumn 2020. We contacted registered participants and they all supported the idea of holding the conference at a later time point. We had optimistically assumed that situation would become significantly better by autumn.

Now, in August 2020, we experience a decrease in COVID-19 spread in many countries, but at the same time, epidemical situation in other countries gets worse, and there are signs of the second COVID-19 wave approaching. We come to realization that changes are not temporal, but more of a permanent character, and we need to adapt our life as researchers to these changing conditions. We stopped travelling and got accustomed to public events, including research meetings, organized online. International Society for Vaccines has held two highly successful online congresses on COVID-19 vaccines, each bringing together over 1000 people. Following these trends, the Organizing Committee of TECHVAC2020 has made the decision to hold TECHVAC meeting online.

By March 10, 2020 (deadline for early registration) we had over 50 participants registered and new applications kept coming after this date. Among the abstracts collected by TECHVAC2020 by April 2020, many were devoted to human papilloma virus (HPV) infections, HPV-related carcinogenesis and HPV vaccines, motivating introduction of a special HPV session, or HPV Symposium as it was done on TECHVAC2018. To try the online meeting format, Organizing and Program Committee of TECHVAC2020 held on July 22, 2020 a Satellite Zoom Symposium "VIRAL INFECTIONS AND CANCER, OPENINGS FOR VACCINES". Symposium program included three sessions: "Development of vaccines against viral infections and cancer", "Papilloma Viruses, molecular mechanisms of pathogenicity", and "Papilloma Viruses, informing design of HPV vaccines" with totally 15 presentations, and was a success. The program, abstracts and photo materials of the symposium are published on TECHVAC web site (Program <http://techvac.org/programme/preliminary-program/>; Abstracts <http://techvac.org/materials/>, Photogallery <http://techvac.org/photogallery/>). Presentations and records will be made available for all registered participants of TECHVAC2020.

The success of the symposium supported our decision to hold the 4th Vaccine & Vaccination conference online on October 27 to October 29, 2020. Early bird registration fee for the conference is prolonged until September, 15, 2020.

All submissions and payments made by now are valid for the new TECHVAC2020 format and dates. If you decide to not participate, please, read carefully the terms for cancellation:

- For cancellation requests up to October 1 2020 a 15% commission is charged for all types of payments, refund of 85% will be made (minus banking fees). Abstracts will be withdrawn. Access to conference materials in print and online will not be provided.
- Cancellations done in the period between October 1 and October 15, 2020 (till 24:00) refund of 50% will be made (minus banking fees). Abstracts can be withdrawn if requested by the author(s). Access to conference materials will not be provided.
- Cancellations of registration done after October 15, 2020 will not be refunded. Withdrawal of the abstracts will not be possible. All abstracts will be published in the abstract book and participants will have access to all on-line conference materials.
- Bank fees for the refund must be covered by the participant and can amount up to \$75 if you have paid by bank transfer in foreign currency or 5% of the sum (UCS and ASSIST company fees) if you have paid by the credit card.

We sincerely hope for your understanding and cooperation and look forward to see you on TECHVAC2020 October 27-29, 2020!

Organizing committee of TECHVAC2020