This Just In… Global Health
December 8, 2017

• **Sanofi's** dengue vaccine faces further problems. Dengvaxia cost around $1.5 billion to develop, launched more slowly than expected, did not meet its expected 2016 sales, and will likely soon face competition from Takeda's DENVax and a joint US-India dengue vaccine collaboration. An article published in *Science* in September indicated that because of a particular feature of dengue fever – unlike most infectious diseases, a second infection with dengue is more serious than the first– the vaccine could actually make infections worse in certain areas and populations. Sanofi-Pasteur issued a warning last week, after coming to that same conclusion upon reviewing data from its six-year-long clinical trial. In response, the government of the Philippines says it may sue the company. The first mass immunization campaign against dengue was conducted among roughly 830,000 school children in that Southeast Asian nation.
Financial Times: https://www.ft.com/content/d27132a6-db37-11e7-a039-c64b1c09b482

• The **EMA** has recommended removing linear gadolinium contrast agents from the European market. These agents have been used for MRI since 1984 and were long considered to be safe, but cases of nephrogenic systemic fibrosis (also known as nephrogenic fibrosing dermopathy) began appearing in 2006 in patients with kidney failure. Usage recommendations were modified, but new data show that gadolinium can accumulate in other tissues as well. The Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) issued an initial opinion in March 2017 suspending marketing authorization for linear gadolinium products, which it reaffirmed in July. The FDA issued a notice in September stating that such products would not be removed from the market, but recommending informing patients of potential risks.
Le Quotidien du Pharmacien: https://www.lequotidiendupharmacien.fr/pharmacie-et-medecine/article/2017/12/04/le-gadolinium-sur-la-sellette_269436?xtor=EPR-1-%5BNL_a_la_une%5D-20171204&utm_campaign=NL_alaune&utm_source=qph&utm_content=20171204&utm_medium=newsletter

• The report from the **WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization** are available on the WHO website. The data reveal another mixed bag of advances and shortfalls. The focus for this meeting was on measles-containing vaccines (MCV), meningococcal conjugate vaccine, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV). The report notes that while the absolute number of children vaccinated every year has increased over the past few years, coverage has not kept up with population growth, leaving some 20 million children under-immunized. Most of these children live in fragile states or countries in conflict or with humanitarian emergency situations.

WHO Weekly epidemiological record / Relevé épidémiologique hebdomadaire
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/259533/1/WER9248.pdf

• **Spotlight on Senegal:**

Senegal is boosting health-related investment. Earlier this week the Prime Minister announced steps to improve the country's health infrastructure, including the construction of 267 health posts, 22 health centers and 4 hospitals. There are also plans for a national cancer center in Diamniadio and a burn patient unit at the Fann hospital.
Santé Tropical: http://www.santetropicale.com/actus.asp?id=24151&action=lire#affichage_article

In a related story, the government said this week it would increase investment in disease surveillance of livestock over the next 3 years, an important component to the "One Health" initiative.
Santé Tropical: http://www.santetropicale.com/actus.asp?id=24152&action=lire#affichage_article

The Société Africaine Francophone d'Ophtalmologie (SAFO) [West African Society of Ophthalmology] held its 12th conference in Dakar this week, where it announced plans to train experts in ophthalmology in African nations, including the possibility of subspecialty training in the cities of Abidjan and Dakar.
Santé Tropical: http://www.santetropicale.com/actus.asp?id=24153&action=lire#affichage_article