July 14, 2014

William Schaffner, MD
Gerontological Society of America
1220 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Dr. Schaffner:

On behalf of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), I would like to take this opportunity to offer our sincere thanks to you for speaking during the public comment portion of our meeting on June 25 regarding the disproportionate burden of vaccine-preventable disease among the elderly and the Gerontological Society’s National Adult Vaccination Program.

The ACIP’s charge is to provide the CDC Director and the Secretary of Health and Human Services with counsel to improve the health of all Americans. While much of our deliberation focuses on scientific studies and evidence, our ultimate goal is to protect all Americans from vaccine-preventable diseases. These people are not statistics – they are our sons and daughters, parents and grandchildren, friends and loved ones. We consider it a grave and profound responsibility to weigh all the evidence in order to prevent both communicable diseases and any potential adverse effects of the vaccines administered.

Your comments on behalf of the Gerontological Society and its commitment to promoting vaccination among older Americans were most appreciated. We share your recognition that this population faces unique challenges in accessing vaccines as well as education about them, and we look forward to working with you to address those issues.

Once again, we are grateful for your comments to the ACIP. We hope you will remain connected to our activities in the future. Additional information about the ACIP, including meeting slide presentations and minutes, is available at http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html

Sincerely,

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