The influenza virus circulates globally and influenza vaccine production is globally interconnected," Bruce Gellin, MD, said. Thus, antigenic drift can be very detrimental to influenza protection. Antigenic shift is even worse. That’s when influenza A viruses undergo a dramatic change in their genome, with new combinations of genes being generated in animals. When the virus is transmitted to humans, a pandemic may result, like the one caused by H1N1 viruses in 2009.

Antigenic drifts and shifts are particularly problematic because of the dictates of influenza virus behavior. Antigenic drifts are somewhat predictable; antigenic shifts are not.

Communications and health promotions would be key activities if BARDA is able to implement the innovations proposed by Donabedian. If so, BARDA can rapidly make needed improvements in vaccine logistics and distribution. However, that’s the key: if BARDA could make improvements.

In this analysis, the group found ways that one component of the production of the bulk influenza vaccines could be improved. BARDA, an HHS unit within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, is the federal agency responsible for preparing for a pandemic influenza outbreak. BARDA is responsible for acquiring and storing pandemic influenza vaccine and for ensuring it is distributed to the states when needed.

The 2016 National Influenza News Conference archive
• CDC’s Flu & You website
• 2016 National Foundation for Infectious Diseases Influenza/Pneumococcal News Conference archive
• A webinar sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID).

For more information on the 2016 Conference, and a link to the 2016 Conference archive, please visit https://www.geron.org/.

The 2017 National Influenza News Conference will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, at the 2017 National Foundation for Infectious Diseases Influenza/Pneumococcal News Conference. The Conference is free and open to all to attend.

For more information on the 2017 Conference, and a link to the 2017 Conference archive, please visit https://www.geron.org/.

STAYING INFORMED

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