



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333

March 3, 2020

Allison Lucas  
Siri & Glimstad  
200 Park Ave., 17th Floor  
New York, NY 10166  
Via email: foia@sirillp.com

Dear Ms. Lucas:

This letter is regarding to your Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of January 27, 2020, assigned #20-00522-FOIA, for:

Copies of each and every communication between January 1, 2018, and the present which includes Frank DeStefano, or his email address on the "To", "From", "Cc" or "Bcc" line and also includes an email address ending in @gatesfoundation.org on the "To", "From", "Cc" or "Bcc" line or in the body of the communication.

We located 14 pages of responsive records (14 pages released in full or in part). After a careful review of these pages, some information was withheld from release pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552 Exemption (b)(6).

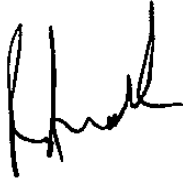
Exemption 6 protects information in personnel and medical files and similar files when disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The information that has been withheld under Exemption 6 consists of personal cell phone numbers and personal email addresses. We have determined that the individual(s) to whom this information pertains has a substantial privacy interest in withholding it.

No fees are assessed in this instance since search time did not exceed two hours.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at 770-488-6277 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with the response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Deputy Agency Chief FOIA Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, Suite 729H, Washington, D.C. 20201. You may also transmit your appeal via email to [FOIARequest@psc.hhs.gov](mailto:FOIARequest@psc.hhs.gov). Please mark both your appeal letter and envelope "FOIA Appeal." Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted by June 1, 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Andoh', with a stylized, cursive script.

Roger Andoh  
CDC/ATSDR FOIA Officer  
Office of the Chief Operating Officer  
(770) 488-6399  
Fax: (404) 235-1852

Enclosures

20-00522-FOIA

**From:** Destefano, Frank (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP)  
**Sent:** 22 Apr 2019 18:06:52 +0000  
**To:** Ajoke Sobanjo-ter Meulen  
**Cc:** Panagiotakopoulos, Lakshmi (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP)  
**Subject:** RE: Request for CDC technical advisor on maternal vaccination active safety surveillance in LMIC

Dear Ajoke,

Thank you again for the invitation to participate in this important initiative. I have spoken with Lakshmi and she would be very interested to serve on the technical/scientific advisory committee. Please contact Lakshmi to work out the particulars of her involvement.

Best regards,  
Frank

Frank DeStefano, MD, MPH

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**From:** Ajoke Sobanjo-ter Meulen <Ajoke.Sobanjo-TerMeulen@gatesfoundation.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 3:09 PM  
**To:** Destefano, Frank (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <fxd1@cdc.gov>  
**Subject:** Request for CDC technical advisor on maternal vaccination active safety surveillance in LMIC

Dear Frank,

By way of introduction, I lead the Maternal Immunization Initiative at the Gates foundation. One of the priority topics we are working on is conceptualizing maternal interventions vigilance, to prepare for active vaccine safety surveillance needs in LMIC upon licensure of new maternal vaccines (such as Group B streptococcus vaccine and RSV vaccine). Lakshmi Panagiotakopoulos in your department has been a wonderful contributor.

We are currently working with a potential grantee on shaping a project to 1. Review existing pregnancy surveillance networks in LMIC that generate population background data on adverse pregnancy outcomes, 2. Define site capacity requirements for sentinel sites to conduct active maternal vaccine safety surveillance, 3. Assess capacity at a select number of potential sentinel sites in LMIC. The outcomes of this project should inform WHO guidance on maternal immunization active safety surveillance.

I am seeking a CDC expert to serve on a technical/scientific advisory committee (coordinated by the grantee) for this project. Steve Anderson is one of the advisors (as well as Patrick Zuber who leads the WHO Global Vaccine Safety Group), and he referred me to you. Diane Morof has also been recommended.

I'd greatly appreciate your guidance.

Best regards,

Ajoke

**Ajoke Sobanjo-ter Meulen, M.D., M.Sc.**

Head, Maternal Immunization Initiative

Global Health – Pneumonia Program

**V** +1.206.726.7144; **M:** - (b)(6)

**E** [ajoke.termeulen@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:ajoke.termeulen@gatesfoundation.org)

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

**From:** Destefano, Frank (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP)  
**Sent:** 22 Apr 2019 18:01:47 +0000  
**To:** Panagiotakopoulos, Lakshmi (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP)  
**Subject:** RE: Request for CDC technical advisor on maternal vaccination active safety surveillance in LMIC

I will let them know. Thanks.

Frank DeStefano, MD, MPH

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**From:** Panagiotakopoulos, Lakshmi (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <[xfq3@cdc.gov](mailto:xfq3@cdc.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2019 10:39 AM  
**To:** Destefano, Frank (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <[fxd1@cdc.gov](mailto:fxd1@cdc.gov)>  
**Cc:** Shimabukuro, Tom (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <[ayv6@cdc.gov](mailto:ayv6@cdc.gov)>; McNeil, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <[mmm2@cdc.gov](mailto:mmm2@cdc.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request for CDC technical advisor on maternal vaccination active safety surveillance in LMIC

Hello Frank,

Thank you for the opportunity. I would be very interested in serving on this committee.

Regards,

Lakshmi

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**From:** Destefano, Frank (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <[fxd1@cdc.gov](mailto:fxd1@cdc.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 4:42 PM  
**To:** Panagiotakopoulos, Lakshmi (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <[xfq3@cdc.gov](mailto:xfq3@cdc.gov)>  
**Cc:** Shimabukuro, Tom (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <[ayv6@cdc.gov](mailto:ayv6@cdc.gov)>; McNeil, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <[mmm2@cdc.gov](mailto:mmm2@cdc.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Request for CDC technical advisor on maternal vaccination active safety surveillance in LMIC

Lakshmi,

First of all, kudos for the well-appreciated good work that you have provided on the Maternal Immunization Initiative. But as is sometimes the case, good work can be punishing, in terms of being asked to do more work. Are you interested in serving on this technical/advisory committee?

Thanks,  
Frank

Frank DeStefano, MD, MPH

---

**From:** Ajoke Sobanjo-ter Meulen <[Ajoke.Sobanjo-TerMeulen@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:Ajoke.Sobanjo-TerMeulen@gatesfoundation.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 3:09 PM



**To:** Destefano, Frank (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <[fxd1@cdc.gov](mailto:fxd1@cdc.gov)>

**Subject:** Request for CDC technical advisor on maternal vaccination active safety surveillance in LMIC

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**Ajoke Sobanjo-ter Meulen, M.D., M.Sc.**

Head, Maternal Immunization Initiative

Global Health – Pneumonia Program

**V** +1.206.726.7144; **M:** (b)(6)

**E** [ajoke.termeulen@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:ajoke.termeulen@gatesfoundation.org)

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

**From:** Destefano, Frank (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP)  
**Sent:** 12 Apr 2019 20:42:21 +0000  
**To:** Panagiotakopoulos, Lakshmi (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP)  
**Cc:** Shimabukuro, Tom (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); McNeil, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP)  
**Subject:** FW: Request for CDC technical advisor on maternal vaccination active safety surveillance in LMIC

Lakshmi,

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Frank DeStefano, MD, MPH

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**E** [ajoke.termeulen@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:ajoke.termeulen@gatesfoundation.org)

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



**From:** Destefano, Frank (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP)  
**Sent:** 18 Nov 2019 15:22:15 +0000  
**To:** Shimabukuro, Tom (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP)  
**Subject:** FW: Message for Vaccine Safety Summit Participants - Preparing the Hearing on the Global Vaccine Safety Blueprint 2.0  
**Importance:** High

Fyi – I can't tell if you are on the list.

Frank DeStefano, MD, MPH

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**From:** VaccineSafetyBlueprint <VaccineSafetyBlueprint@who.int>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2019 10:15 AM  
**To:** cbiscayart@dicei.msal.gov.ar; rmbaziira@uipr.ac.ug; j.mulenga@climatechange.org.ug; Gidudu, Jane (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/GID) <bww5@cdc.gov>; (SPmig) Kritchavat Ploddi <(b)(6)>; Tate, Jacqueline E. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DVD) <jqt8@cdc.gov>; <(b)(6)>; kdorji@dra.gov.bt; <(b)(6)>; e.kofmel@autisticminority.org; (SPmig) Rubina Bose <(b)(6)>; <(b)(6)>; <(b)(6)>; tproveau@jhu.edu; 'matttudley@jhu.edu' <matttudley@jhu.edu>; <(b)(6)>; <(b)(6)>; karina.top@dal.ca; info@ypchealth.co.uk; (SPmig) Helen Petousis-Harris <h.petousis-harris@auckland.ac.nz>; a.kant@lareb.nl; <(b)(6)>; (SPmig) Michael Gold <michael.gold@adelaide.edu.au>; (SPmig) Alejandro Cravioto <acq@unam.mx>; jebines@unimfyi -- elb.edu.au; <(b)(6)>; heather.holloway@pfizer.com; dpastor <dpastor@paho.org>; amran@popularbd.com; <(b)(6)>; <(b)(6)> Dr Flor Muñoz Rivas <florm@bcm.edu>; <(b)(6)>; <(b)(6)> sandra.deotti@saude.gov.br; viska.indriani@biofarma.co.id; <(b)(6)>; 'drkim@ivi.int' <drkim@ivi.int>; <(b)(6)>; <(b)(6)> SAFI, Najibullah <safin@who.int>; <(b)(6)>; anupkamal@dwa.org.np; Parashar, Umesh (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DVD) <uap2@cdc.gov>; Kristine Macartney <kristine.macartney@health.nsw.gov.au>; <(b)(6)> COLBERT, Allison <colberta@wims.who.int>; (SPmig) Xavier Kurz <xavier.kurz@ema.europa.eu>; amalia.daka@graduateinstitute.ch; <(b)(6)>; <(b)(6)>; lucyj.jessop@hse.ie; ambra.chessa@stud.unifi.it; francois.verdier@sanofi.com; paulo.takey@bio.fiocruz.br; julia.stowe@phe.gov.uk; ana.basso@sanofi.com; <(b)(6)> 'nick.andrews@phe.gov.uk' <Nick.Andrews@phe.gov.uk>; since9728@naver.com; 'liz.miller@phe.gov.uk' <liz.miller@phe.gov.uk>; <(b)(6)>; <(b)(6)> Gruber, Marion (FDA/CBER) <Marion.Gruber@fda.hhs.gov>; 'bruce.gellin@sabin.org' <Bruce.Gellin@sabin.org>; <(b)(6)> daniela.cerqueira@anvisa.gov.br; <(b)(6)>; <(b)(6)> Edinam <agbenue@who.int>; 'eveline.toth@msss.gouv.qc.ca' <eveline.toth@msss.gouv.qc.ca>; <(b)(6)>; omer.admin@yale.edu; JAIN, Sujeet <jainsuj@who.int>; <(b)(6)> Conklin, Laura (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/GID) <dvj3@cdc.gov>; abilovafa@mail.ru; <(b)(6)>; fda@fdaghana.gov.gh; samantha.wilkinson@informa.com; antoon.deschryver@uantwerpen.be; thomas.verstraeten@p-95.com; Markowitz, Lauri (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DVD) <lem2@cdc.gov>; <(b)(6)> (SPmig) Priscilla Patricia Nyambayo

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 l.vanbalveren@lareb.nl; bjpark@snu.ac.kr; (SPmig) NARENDRA ARORA <nkarora@inclentrust.org>;  
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 (b)(6); Bee Leng Sally SOH (HSA) (Sally\_SOH@hsa.gov.sg)  
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 <menningl@who.int>; O'BRIEN, Katherine <obrienk@who.int>; SIMÃO, Mariângela  
 <simaom@who.int>; Zuber, Patrick (CDC who.int) <zuberp@who.int>; SAHINOVIC, Isabelle  
 <SAHINOVICI@who.int>; FUKUSHIMA, Ayako <fukushimaa@who.int>  
**Cc:** WARD, Penelope Louise <wardp@who.int>  
**Subject:** Message for Vaccine Safety Summit Participants - Preparing the Hearing on the Global Vaccine  
 Safety Blueprint 2.0  
**Importance:** High

Dear colleague,

As the Global Vaccine Safety Summit is only two weeks away, the drafting group, the writers and the secretariat are glad to inform you that Draft 2 of the Global Vaccine Safety Blueprint 2.0 is available for review.

The document is available on the Day 1 page of the Summit portal, together with instructions for reviewing and providing comments

[https://www.who.int/vaccine\\_safety/global-vaccine-safety-summit-hearing-meeting-day-1-2019/en/](https://www.who.int/vaccine_safety/global-vaccine-safety-summit-hearing-meeting-day-1-2019/en/)

As was the case with the first draft, you are encouraged to use the online [form](#) to provide comments. Those comments will then be prioritized for discussion during the hearing, with 2-minute interventions.

We are also glad to inform that the material for Day 2, the symposium about 20 years of the Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety, is available on the corresponding page

[https://www.who.int/vaccine\\_safety/GACVS-symposium/en/](https://www.who.int/vaccine_safety/GACVS-symposium/en/)

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat for any question at [vaccinesafetyblueprint@who.int](mailto:vaccinesafetyblueprint@who.int)

With best wishes,

Dr. Patrick Zuber  
Group lead global vaccine safety  
Safety and Vigilance (SAV)  
Access to Medicines, Vaccines and Pharmaceuticals  
World Health Organization  
20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Genève 27,  
Switzerland  
Tel.: +41 22 791 15 21

Group website: [http://www.who.int/vaccine\\_safety](http://www.who.int/vaccine_safety)

Web: [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

Follow WHO on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#)



**From:** Buekens, Pierre M  
**Sent:** 22 Apr 2019 20:29:49 +0000  
**To:** Ajoke Sobanjo-ter Meulen;Destefano, Frank (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP)  
**Cc:** Panagiotakopoulos, Lakshmi (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP)  
**Subject:** RE: Request for CDC technical advisor on maternal vaccination active safety surveillance in LMIC

Dear Dr. Destefano: Thank you for your support.

Dear Dr. Panagiotakopoulos: Many thanks also. I will contact you to find a time for a conference call.

Best,  
Pierre

Pierre Buekens, MD, MPH, PhD  
W. H. Watkins Professor  
Director, Center for Emerging Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology (CERPE)  
Department of Epidemiology  
School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine  
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**From:** Ajoke Sobanjo-ter Meulen <[Ajoke.Sobanjo-TerMeulen@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:Ajoke.Sobanjo-TerMeulen@gatesfoundation.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2019 3:19 PM  
**To:** Destefano, Frank (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <[fxd1@cdc.gov](mailto:fxd1@cdc.gov)>  
**Cc:** Panagiotakopoulos, Lakshmi (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <[xfq3@cdc.gov](mailto:xfq3@cdc.gov)>; Buekens, Pierre M <[pbuekens@tulane.edu](mailto:pbuekens@tulane.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: Request for CDC technical advisor on maternal vaccination active safety surveillance in LMIC

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Dear Frank

Thank you very much for your support on this. I have copied Pierre Buekens who will reach out to Lakshmi.

Best



Ajoke

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**From:** Destefano, Frank (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <[fxd1@cdc.gov](mailto:fxd1@cdc.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2019 11:07  
**To:** Ajoke Sobanjo-ter Meulen  
**Cc:** Panagiotakopoulos, Lakshmi (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP)  
**Subject:** RE: Request for CDC technical advisor on maternal vaccination active safety surveillance in LMIC

Dear Ajoke,

Thank you again for the invitation to participate in this important initiative. I have spoken with Lakshmi and she would be very interested to serve on the technical/scientific advisory committee. Please contact Lakshmi to work out the particulars of her involvement.

Best regards,

Frank

Frank DeStefano, MD, MPH

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**From:** Ajoke Sobanjo-ter Meulen <[Ajoke.Sobanjo-TerMeulen@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:Ajoke.Sobanjo-TerMeulen@gatesfoundation.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 3:09 PM  
**To:** Destefano, Frank (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <[fxd1@cdc.gov](mailto:fxd1@cdc.gov)>  
**Subject:** Request for CDC technical advisor on maternal vaccination active safety surveillance in LMIC

Dear Frank,

By way of introduction, I lead the Maternal Immunization Initiative at the Gates foundation. One of the priority topics we are working on is conceptualizing maternal interventions vigilance, to prepare for active vaccine safety surveillance needs in LMIC upon licensure of new maternal vaccines (such as Group B streptococcus vaccine and RSV vaccine). Lakshmi Panagiotakopoulos in your department has been a wonderful contributor.

We are currently working with a potential grantee on shaping a project to 1. Review existing pregnancy surveillance networks in LMIC that generate population background data on adverse pregnancy outcomes, 2. Define site capacity requirements for sentinel sites to conduct active maternal vaccine safety surveillance, 3. Assess capacity at a select number of potential sentinel sites in LMIC. The outcomes of this project should inform WHO guidance on maternal immunization active safety surveillance.

I am seeking a CDC expert to serve on a technical/scientific advisory committee (coordinated by the grantee) for this project. Steve Anderson is one of the advisors (as well as Patrick Zuber who leads the WHO Global Vaccine Safety Group), and he referred me to you. Diane Morof has also been recommended.

I'd greatly appreciate your guidance.

Best regards,

Ajoke

**Ajoke Sobanjo-ter Meulen, M.D., M.Sc.**

Head, Maternal Immunization Initiative

Global Health – Pneumonia Program

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**E**[ajoke.termeulen@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:ajoke.termeulen@gatesfoundation.org)

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

**From:** Ajoke Sobanjo-ter Meulen  
**Sent:** 12 Apr 2019 19:09:14 +0000  
**To:** Destefano, Frank (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP)  
**Subject:** Request for CDC technical advisor on maternal vaccination active safety surveillance in LMIC

Dear Frank,

By way of introduction, I lead the Maternal Immunization Initiative at the Gates foundation. One of the priority topics we are working on is conceptualizing maternal interventions vigilance, to prepare for active vaccine safety surveillance needs in LMIC upon licensure of new maternal vaccines (such as Group B streptococcus vaccine and RSV vaccine). Lakshmi Panagiotakopoulos in your department has been a wonderful contributor.

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I'd greatly appreciate your guidance.

Best regards,

Ajoke

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