President's Message

Dear colleagues and fellow members of IPVS.

The first 3 months of 2019 have seen intense activity for IPVS. March 4th was the second HPV Awareness Day, a campaign with the message “Uncover the most viral secret - Ask about HPV” designed to raise awareness about the virus. This message is very much needed with survey after survey revealing that knowledge about HPV or even that such a virus exists is at very low levels in most communities. HPV Awareness Day was a great success with a more than 1.6 million reach on Facebook, Twitter posts and coverage in conventional print and visual media in many countries. This was an exponential increase in outreach for HPV Awareness Day 2 compared to our first Awareness Day in 2018 and is a tribute to the very hard work and commitment from Joel Palefsky and the advocacy committee, the Kenes team of Sue Kennedy and Anita Wiseman and our advertising agency and communication specialists Oberland. However no time for luxuriating in success, planning is already underway for a bigger and better HPV Awareness Day 3 March 4th 2020 informing the global community about HPV: the virus infection and prevention and control of HPV and disease.

March 2020 will be busy. The not to be missed event of the year and in everyone’s diary is the
Science and Education for Action against HPV” encapsulates the mission of this meeting to harness the power of innovation from HPV research to deliver on global prevention and control of HPV-related disease. An outstanding group of keynote and plenary speakers from genomics to oncology have been invited to present the latest science, luminaries in the HPV research community will review the journey from bench to clinic and the latest research findings will be presented in oral and poster presentations. Barcelona is a very exciting city with wonderful cultural and social venues for relaxation and enjoyment.

The global control of HPV associated cancers is a realistic objective as stated in the IPVS policy statement “Moving towards Elimination of Cervical Cancer as a Public Health Problem” of January 2018. The attention of the global health agencies is now focussed on cervical cancer and its elimination in response to the call for action from the WHO Director General in May 2018. The mission of IPVS is to contribute to the elimination of papillomavirus related diseases and IPVS members will play central roles in making the aspiration of the Call for Action a reality.

**World Immunisation Week 24-29 April 2019** is one of those opportunities to make the world aware that HPV vaccines work and can prevent cancers in men and women. IPVS will be partnering with UICC in their campaign and support their efforts #HPVVaccinesWork

Watch this space!

Very best wishes to you all

Margaret Stanley

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**International HPV Awareness**

**Headline results**