

IVI appoints new board members

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Singapore: South Korea-headquartered International Vaccine Institute (IVI) has appointed Professor Fred Binka, Dr Joseph J Kim, and Dr George R Siber, to the IVI board of trustees. The three new board members, who hail from Ghana, the US, and Canada, respectively, will serve a three-year term to oversee the governance and management of the institute.

"I'm very pleased to welcome Dr Kim, Dr Siber, and Professor Binka," said Professor Adel Mahmoud, IVI's board chair. "We are pleased that they have agreed to lend their talents and expertise to our board. Their collective experience in the vaccine sciences, global health, and business will be invaluable to IVI."

"The new members bring scientific, industrial, and global health expertise that will boost IVI's ability to make an impact in improving the health of the most impoverished," Dr Christian Loucq, IVI's director general added. "IVI has undergone several changes to strengthen its governance and management and to increase transparency. We look forward to capitalizing on the experience and knowledge they bring as we continue to evolve as an institute."

Professor Fred Binka has extensive experience working with both international organizations and governments, mainly in the fields of epidemiology and vaccine research. He is a graduate, summa cum laude, from the University of Basel Switzerland and achieved his MPH with distinction from the Hebrew University Jerusalem in Israel. He has served on and led many international organizational boards, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the GAVI Alliance, and the Wellcome Trust.

Dr J Joseph Kim is an internationally recognized leader in vaccines. He holds a PhD in immunology from the University of Pennsylvania, an MBA in Finance from Wharton, as well as dual undergraduate degrees from MIT. As the founder and CEO of Inovio Pharmaceuticals, he led his company in their focus on developing prophylactic and therapeutic vaccines for both developed markets and developing-world markets. Dr Kim has a strong background in both health and public policy including serving as a member of the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders as a member for WEF's Global Agenda Council on Korea.

Dr George R Siber has spent 38 years developing numerous innovative vaccines, therapeutic antibodies, and diagnostic agents for infectious diseases, most recently as the executive VP and CSO of Wyeth Vaccines.