

April 11, 2025

**Comments to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)**

**April 15-16, 2025 Meeting**

**Docket ID: CDC-2025-0017-0001**

**Agency: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

To the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP):

On behalf of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), thank you for the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice's work to protect older adults against vaccine-preventable diseases. GSA honors aging across the life course and is the nation's oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, education, and practice in the field of aging. The principal mission of the Society — and its 6,000+ members — is to advance the study of aging and disseminate information among scientists, decision-makers, and the public. Our mission is to cultivate excellence in interdisciplinary aging research and education to advance innovations in practice and policy. We encourage interdisciplinary research collaboration and communication. We routinely convene stakeholders to discuss issues of importance and make recommendations to address the specific needs of older people.

Since 2010, GSA has been dedicated to bringing the interdisciplinary team together to increase reverence for vaccines. Our nation has experienced major increases in longevity since 1900 due to improvements in public health. Clean drinking water, sanitation, and other public health interventions contributed significantly to our increased life spans and improved health spans, yet these interventions go largely unrecognized. The greatest scientific success is the development of safe and efficacious vaccination against diseases that cause substantial morbidity and mortality (Rodrigues, 2020). In recent years, we have become accustomed to what has enabled us to live longer, healthier lives. We need to recall the importance of these life-saving vaccines and recognize the reverence with which they should be regarded.

Through our [National Adult Vaccination Program \(NAVP\)](#), we have:

- Collaborated with the multidisciplinary community of interest community.
- Produced informative summits, publications, and webinars.
- Advocated for policies that increase access to vaccines.
- Taught champions to increase vaccination rates.

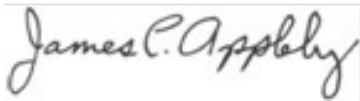
Now, we aim to change the dialogue about vaccines from the narrow focus of an individual health benefit offering protection against a single target condition to a broad, far-reaching value to the individual and society. Through our initiative, Concentric Value of Vaccination as We Age, we seek to illuminate individual health benefits (e.g., increased life expectancy, prevention of exacerbation of preexisting conditions) and societal health benefits (e.g., prevention of antibiotic resistance) along with individual and societal economic benefits.

We thank the CDC for rescheduling this important meeting. The **ACIP plays a critical role in guiding national vaccine policy** by providing evidence-based recommendations to ensure the safe and effective use of vaccines across all age groups. Its work helps protect public health, reduce vaccine-preventable diseases, and promote access for all to immunization.

Today, we write to respectfully request that ACIP vote in favor of a recommendation for the **use of RSV vaccines in adults aged 50-59 years**. Over 13 million US adults aged 50-59 have at least one known medical condition that increases their risk for severe RSV outcomes (Horn, 2024). Each year, RSV is estimated to cause approximately 42,000 hospitalizations in adults aged 50-64 years (McLaughlin, 2022). Recommending RSV vaccine access at the age of 50 would be an effective allocation of resources, reduce the impact of chronic disease, and enhance the health of our communities.

We thank the committee for its continued efforts to protect the public and promote public health. For additional information, please contact Patricia D'Antonio, Vice President of Policy and Professional Affairs at [pdantonio@geron.org](mailto:pdantonio@geron.org).

Sincerely,



James C. Appleby, BSPHarm, MPH, ScD (Hon)  
Chief Executive Officer

#### References

- Horn EK, Singer D, Booth A, Saiontz-Martinez C, Berger A. Disparities in risk factors for severe respiratory syncytial virus disease among adults in the United States. Poster presented at: National Foundation for Infectious Disease Annual Conference on Vaccinology Research. May 8-10, 2024, Online.
- McLaughlin JM, Khan F, Begier E, Swerdlow DL, Jodar L, Falsey AR. Rates of medically attended RSV among US adults: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Open Forum Infect Dis*. 2022 Jun 17;9(7):ofac300.
- Rodrigues, Charlene M. C., and Stanley A. Plotkin. "Impact of Vaccines; Health, Economic and Social Perspectives." *Frontiers in Microbiology*, vol. 11, 2020, <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmicb.2020.01526>.