

**To Whom it may concern**

Barcelona, November 14 2013

▪ **Re:**

Dear colleagues and health policy authorities in Japan,

In 2008, an international group of some 500 international and national experts prepared a full monograph on the impact of HPV infection in human cancer and specifically reviewed the data generated in Japan and other countries in the Asia Pacific region (Vaccine 2008, vol 26 Suppl. 12). The work included up-dating the estimates on burden of disease and novel opportunities for prevention. The exercise was updated in 2012 (Vaccine 2012, Vol30 Suppl. 5) with a dedicated chapter discussing the value of the HPV vaccines strictly based on the available scientific evidence.

In the review and in all other international reviews and monitoring systems, all alerts in relation to safety of the vaccine and side effects of the vaccination process are independently examined and to date, no scientific evidence is available that HPV vaccines have caused directly or indirectly any specific side effect over and above the naturally occurring episodes of onset of new diseases that one could anticipate in any cohort of girls at that age. Likewise these unavoidable episodes have been recorded with the same frequency among the comparable groups of girls that are not vaccinated in the controlled trials.

Offering protection to girls and young women against a dreadful disease is a blessing that most countries in the world are actively pursuing. These vaccines have a significant record of efficacy and safety and it is unfortunate that some unavoidable clinical cases are manipulated to the extend to cause confusion and uncertainty among the political bodies that have the ultimate say on vaccination policy.

The interactional scientific community is prepared to advise and help the Japanese government in whatever way it is considered appropriate to discuss these issues and help illustrate the global balance to HPV vaccines and its potential impact in the well being of the Japanese population.

With great respect,



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