



January
2024

Message from the Chair

Dear Members

On behalf of the AVMI board, I would like to take this opportunity to share our best wishes for 2024.

We have kicked off with a busy January and the holidays, for those who were fortunate to take them, are now but a distant memory!

The new board convened its first meeting this past week and I felt it an opportune time to share some of the key priorities that we will be focussing on in 2024.

As you would no doubt recall, we closed 2023 with the encouraging news from the Gavi board held in Ghana in December that the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA) had been approved. This instrument provides for \$1bn dedicated funding to support sustainable vaccine manufacturing in Africa. At the invitation of President Macron, GAVI and Africa CDC are planning to co-host a high level launch event in France at the end of June. This official launch of AVMA promises to be a watershed moment for the health agenda of Africa, and we will keep you posted as more details become available. It is also worth noting the opportunity to leverage this upcoming high level event for any planned relevant strategic announcements.

It is a key priority for AVMI that the interests of current and aspiring manufacturers are considered and represented in the governance structures of AVMA, where possible, or at minimum that we are able to influence shaping of the remaining key elements of AVMA - timing of review & consequent addition of priority antigens, the inclusion of CMO etc. The market shaping working group will continue to lead this work on behalf of industry and will share relevant updates or request inputs as necessary.

Another key focus area is our work with Africa CDC towards unlocking continental demand. Post the first manufacturers marketplace meeting held in Marrakesh late last year, we look forward to outcomes from the upcoming February African Union meeting, and working with the Africa CDC team and member states on preferential procurement policies and legislation, as well as shaping & influencing the planned pooled procurement mechanism (PPM).

Beyond these 2 critical priorities, AVMI will of course look to support all enablers and levers of successful regional vaccine manufacturing. Specifically, we look to have robust engagements with key stakeholders in supporting and enhancing regulatory strengthening for the continent and defined pathways to WHO PQ. This will undoubtedly be a focus for WHO, GAVI and alliance partners given AVMA's dependency on WHO PQ for disbursement.

We will be sharing further updates as and when necessary. In the interim, please do look out for further communications in the coming month (Feb/March) regarding opportunities for you to participate and contribute in the various working groups, and also some information on workshops and events that we look to schedule for the year.

Given the many moving parts and the important updates, we will look to schedule an industry/members call sometime in March.

Until next time,

Farrah

AVMI Board Chair