Global Call for Mercury-free Vaccines Issued

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SILVER SPRING, Md., March 15, 2012 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- In a historic open letter [1] to the World Health Organization and other public health agencies, the Coalition for Mercury-Free Drugs (CoMeD) [2], and the United Methodist Women are seeking to stop the use of mercury in human drugs, especially vaccines. Currently, the mercury-based preservative Thimerosal, which is 49% mercury by weight, remains in vaccines for the United States and much of the world, despite the fact that it is a known neurotoxin. While other safer and less toxic alternatives [3] are being utilized, industry has been slow to eliminate Thimerosal from many vaccines, including the flu shot [4] given to those most vulnerable to this toxin, children and pregnant women.

The goal of the United Methodist Women and CoMeD is to protect the global immunization program and to safeguard public confidence in vaccines by seeing that the addition of mercury to human pharmaceuticals ceases. Through the ongoing diplomatic work of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee of the United Nations Environment Programme [5], these organizations hope to impact the formulation of a global, legally binding treaty on mercury scheduled to be completed in 2013.

In these negotiations, the World Health Organization and other global distributors of vaccines have defended the continuing use of mercury, especially in vaccines. They maintain that there is no evidence of harm from Thimerosal. Dr. Mark R. Geier, a CoMeD director, cautions, "Recent statements by those
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SOURCE [6]

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[5] http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/Negotiations/INC4/tabid/3470/Default.aspx

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