**From:** Dawn Rudolph <drudolph@AUCD.ORG>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 3, 2021 6:19 PM  
**To:** John Tschida <jtschida@AUCD.ORG>; Rylin Rodgers <rrodgers@AUCD.ORG>  
**Subject:** IDD & COVID vaccine

Imagine my surprise when the 5 pm meeting with Alice Kuo wasn’t about AIR-P, but was also with [Peter Hotez](https://peterhotez.org/) (whose covid vaccine is currently being tested in India, one of his kids has autism and another is Alice’s co-lead in AIR-P) and [Peter Szilagyi](https://www.macpac.gov/people/peter-szilagyi-md-mph/) (who just rotated off being ACIP voting member). I would have asked you to join! Alice, Emily and Peter Hotez called the meeting with Peter Szilagyi to ask why Down Syndrome is a named priority for vaccine, and not all IDD. Peter S shared about data presented to ACIP to inform their discussions, and remembered no data being presented at all on the IDD population in general, only Down Syndrome. Rare conditions weren’t included because there wasn’t enough evidence. Is an equity issue as the population doesn’t have great access to primary care, in this way is similar to Black population. Have data that shows this, along with data on secondary conditions for Black population, “brutal debates” within ACIP about prioritizing, “brutal pushback”. Discussed level of evidence required, unsure if data was presented and evidence was below par, did studies control for all compounding variables, would there be any value in further segregating the IDD population (a resounding NO).

Recommendation on how to address:

* Alice, Emily and Peter Hotez have a commentary on this topic due to be published Friday 2/5 @ 7am in [EClinicalMedicine (thelancet.com)](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/eclinm/home" \t "_blank)
  + This will not be the level of evidence ACIP needs
* Emily and I will pull together all studies each of us have on IDD morbidity/mortality data (I’ve already requested from Patti, please send me whatever you have anyway so we’re sure to have everything)
* Wait to see how the press picks up Friday’s article. If it doesn’t get enough press:
  + Draft letter for Peter Hotez to give Amanda Cohen at ACIP with data & studies
    - Who to co-sign? AUCD? UCLA? Both?
  + AUCD send also to MGM/Casey for HELP committee, press

That was the highlight of my day…wish you were there…

Take care, give care,

*Dawn Rudolph, MSEd (she/her)*

*Sr. Director, Technical Assistance & Network Engagement*

*Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)*

*1100 Wayne Ave., Suite 1000, Silver Spring, MD 20910*

[*www.aucd.org*](http://www.aucd.org/)*240-821-9387*