

**Contact Information:**

Joanna Colbourne  
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases  
<http://www.nfid.org>  
[jcolbourne@nfid.org](mailto:jcolbourne@nfid.org)  
(301) 656-0003 x120

**William Schaffner, MD Recognized for Excellence in Vaccine Communication**

**Bethesda, MD (June 6, 2017)** - William Schaffner, MD, medical director of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), has been named the 2017 National Vaccine Program Office (NVPO) UpShot Award winner for excellence in vaccine communication.

NVPO recognized Dr. Schaffner for his tireless commitment to harnessing the power of collaboration and innovation to provide clear, actionable, evidence-based information about vaccines to healthcare professionals, the media and parents across the nation.

“Congratulations to Dr. Schaffner for receiving this well-deserved honor,” said Marla Dalton, CAE, NFID Executive Director and CEO. “During these times of uncertainty, with misinformation being widely shared across the internet and social media, the importance of being a sustained and passionate communicator to both healthcare professionals and the public becomes more evident than ever. Dr. Schaffner is consistently the voice of reason in ongoing public debates regarding vaccine skepticism and remains dedicated to promoting sound science on the importance and safety of vaccines.”

As NFID medical director, Dr. Schaffner works tirelessly to advance the NFID mission of educating healthcare professionals and the public about the causes, prevention and treatment of infectious diseases across the lifespan. As a professor of preventive medicine and infectious diseases at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, he has mentored generations of vaccine advocates who now share his passion for communicating about important public health issues, with a focus on vaccines.

Dr. Schaffner is also a “go to” source for health and science reporters for both professional and consumer outlets. He is frequently called upon to provide scientific advice and perspective about emerging infectious disease issues in language that speaks directly to those who need the information most. Reporters routinely describe Dr. Schaffner as one of the top medical communicators. Among his many skills is the consistent ability to filter through seemingly disparate needs and views to find common ground among stakeholders.

**About The National Vaccine Program Office**

The National Vaccine Program Office (NVPO) is responsible for coordinating and ensuring collaboration among the many federal agencies involved in vaccine and immunization activities. NVPO collaborates with these agencies to carry out the goals of the National Vaccine Plan (NVP), which provides a framework, including goals, objectives and strategies, for pursuing the prevention of infectious diseases through immunizations. 2017 is the first year of the NVPO UpShot Awards. The awards program aims to recognize and honor individuals and organizations whose leadership, collaboration, innovation, research and practice advance the National Vaccine Plan. For additional information about the awards program, visit <https://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/national-vaccine-plan/awards>.

**About the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases**

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1973 dedicated to educating the public and healthcare professionals about the causes, prevention and treatment of infectious diseases across the lifespan. For additional information, visit <http://www.nfid.org>.

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