



MEDIA ALERT | For Immediate Release
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**LOCAL AND NATIONAL HEALTH EXPERTS EXPLORE VACCINE SCIENCE & SAFETY AT
CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER**

***FREE, VIRTUAL WEBINARS ADDRESS VACCINE HESITANCY AND WHY VACCINATION IS KEY TO
THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19***

PITTSBURGH, May 17, 2021 – Vaccines are among the most significant achievements of public health. Understanding the science behind vaccines as well as how viruses affect the immune system is imperative to the fight against COVID-19. Beginning **Thurs., May 20**, [Carnegie Science Center](https://www.carnegiesciencecenter.org) is hosting a three-part [Vaccine Speaker Series](https://www.carnegiesciencecenter.org/vaccine-speaker-series) to engage the community in panel discussions with local and national experts on COVID-19, vaccines, and the immune system. Each free webinar will focus on a different topic – vaccine science and safety on May 20, community health on June 10, and what's next for public health on July 1 – followed by a moderated Q&A with the panelists.

“As a community resource, we want to create the opportunity for you to learn, ask questions, and be in the know about the latest science discoveries. Our Vaccine Speaker Series invites local and national health experts to address the many aspects of vaccination,” said Jason Brown, Henry Buhl, Jr., Director of Carnegie Science Center. “Learn more about the science and safety behind vaccines, how they work, and why vaccination plays a critical role in the next phase against COVID-19. As more COVID-19 vaccines become available, we want to empower our community to take advantage of learning about the science behind vaccines to make the best decision for their families.”

The Vaccine Speaker Series features conversations with:

Thurs., May 20 – Vaccine Science & Safety

- **Dr. Damani Arnold Piggott, MD, PhD**
Assistant Dean for Graduate Biomedical Education and Graduate Student Diversity; Associate Professor of Medicine, *Johns Hopkins University*
- **Dr. Anthony Cillo, PhD**
Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Immunology, *University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine*
- **Dr. Tara Vijayan, MD, MPH**
Associate Professor of Medicine, *UCLA*
- **Dr. Imran Qadeer**
Chief Medical Officer, *Allegheny General Hospital*

Thurs., June 10 – Community Health

- **Dr. Tullia C. Bruno, PhD**
Assistant Professor of Immunology, *University of Pittsburgh*
- **Dr. Paul Duprex, PhD**
Director, *University of Pittsburgh Center for Vaccine Research*
- **Dr. Amesh Adalja, MD**
Senior Scholar, *Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Health Security*

Thurs., July 1 – What's Next for Public Health?

- **Dr. Anuradha Ray, PhD**
Professor, Department of Immunology, *University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine*
- **Alison Beam**
Acting Secretary of Health, *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*
- **Dr. Ariangela Kozik, PhD**
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, *University of Michigan*; Co-founder and Vice President, *Black Microbiologists Association*
- **Dr. Debra Bogen, MD**
Director, *Allegheny County Health Department*

Have a question for one of the panelists? [Submit them ahead of time](#) to be addressed during the moderated Q&A. The events are free to attend, but [preregistration](#) is required to receive the webinar link.

Vaccine Speaker Series is sponsored by Highmark.

About Carnegie Science Center

Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center's goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh's premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.

Accessibility: Features for All

Carnegie Science Center welcomes all visitors. We work to assist visitors with disabilities in obtaining reasonable and appropriate accommodations, and in supporting equal access to services, programs, and activities. We welcome visitors in wheelchairs on the deck of our USS Requin (SS 481) submarine. Below-deck visits require full mobility. Hearing assistance devices are available for The Rangos Giant Cinema. Please ask when you buy your ticket.

Please note that requests for accommodations should be made at least two weeks prior to your visit. For specific questions about wheelchairs, strollers, or other programmatic or equipment needs, see the ticket counter located on the first floor of the main building or contact Customer Service at 412.237.1641 or info@carnegiesciencecenter.org. Please contact Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh's Accessibility Coordinator with concerns regarding accessibility for visitors with disabilities at the museums. On weekdays, call 412.622.6578 or email accessibility@carnegiemuseums.org.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, [Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh](#) is a family of four dynamic, distinctive museums: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. The museums reach 1.5 million people a year through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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