

GVN Signs Scientific Declaration on Polio Eradication

Baltimore, Maryland – The Global Virus Network joined hundreds of scientists, doctors and technical experts from around the world to launch the Scientific Declaration on Polio Eradication on 11 April 2013.

GVN's President said "Polio is a priority in GVN and it is imperative that we are not complacent. We have an opportunity to put an end once and for all for to this disease and encourage public and private agencies to support researchers in this final stage. This declaration is critical to public health and we are delighted to lend our support in calling for the last mile efforts to finally end this terrible disease." The three scientific GVN co-founders, Dr. Robert Gallo (Institute of Human Virology, University of Maryland), Dr. William Hall (University College Dublin), and Dr. Reinhard Kurth (Ernst Schering Foundation), all signed the declaration on behalf of their individual organizations, in addition to 10 members of the GVN. Dr. Robert Gallo, speaking on behalf of the three scientific co-founders said, "GVN was built on a science-driven foundation, to arm medical virologists with all the tools necessary to end viral disease, such as polio. This declaration raises awareness of the importance of laboratory science driving sound public health policy."

Today, the world is closer than ever to eradicating polio, with just 223 cases in five countries last year. To capitalize on this time-limited opportunity to finally end the disease, a wide range of experts have signed the declaration to emphasize the achievability of polio eradication and endorse the Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan, a new strategy by the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#) (GPEI) to reach the end of polio by 2018. The scientists and experts signing the declaration come from more than 75 countries and include Nobel laureates, vaccine and infectious disease experts, public health school deans, pediatricians and other health authorities. For additional information about the Scientific Declaration or to view a full list of signatories, please visit the [Emory Vaccine Center Website](#).