



آغا خان یونیورسٹی  
THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

## **Statement from Professor Zulfiqar Bhutta on the World Health Organization (WHO) Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) Decision to Approve Rotavirus Vaccines for Global Use**

**Embargoed for release: June 5, 2009 10:00 am CET; 4:00 am EST**

“I have done extensive research focusing on maternal and child health policy for many years. Even with the advances we have made in recent decades, children around the world are still dying each day from preventable and treatable illnesses like pneumonia and diarrheal diseases such as rotavirus infections,” said Zulfiqar Bhutta, professor and head of the division of maternal and child health at the Aga Khan University and SAGE member. “Rotavirus has long been a serious threat to children around the world, particularly since it is found everywhere; and, unlike other diarrheal diseases, socioeconomic status, improved hygiene, sanitation and water cannot slow its transmission. Vaccines are a critical component in our work to protect children from this deadly diarrheal disease. We need to ensure rotavirus vaccines are available to children everywhere. The need is especially great in developing nations in Africa and Asia where the vast majority of rotavirus associated deaths occur.”

For more information, please visit <http://www.path.org/news/pr090605-who-rotavirus.php>.

To schedule a phone interview with Professor Zulfiqar Bhutta, please contact:

Paul Quirk  
202-572-2879; 202-549-5394 (cell)  
[paul.quirk@gmmb.com](mailto:paul.quirk@gmmb.com)

Jen Farber  
202-572-2878; 202-277-6089 (cell)  
[jen.farber@gmmb.com](mailto:jen.farber@gmmb.com)

###