



February 6, 2020

Dr. Tamar Gabunia
Deputy Minister of Health of the Republic of Georgia
144 Ak.Tsereteli avenue
Tbilisi, 0119, Georgia

Dear Hon. Tamar Gabunia:

On behalf of the [Sabin Vaccine Institute](#) (Sabin), I would like to invite you at a Reporting on Immunization workshop that will be held 12-14 March in Tbilisi, Georgia. This workshop will provide 30 journalists and media professionals from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova with a comprehensive, evidence-based understanding of vaccines and immunization programs and policies in recognition of the critical role they play in shaping public perceptions of vaccines and demand for vaccines.

For more than five years, Sabin has worked alongside [Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance](#) to foster political will for vaccines and immunization in Eastern Europe in order to address the increases in vaccine hesitancy and vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks that this region has recently experienced. As Sabin continues to work with Gavi to support immunization in Eastern Europe, we are responding to a regional request for more effective communication on vaccine challenges.

In partnership with the [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#), Sabin has designed the Reporting on Immunization workshop to provide journalists in this region with the knowledge and skills necessary to generate more effective, accurate and timely coverage of immunization in mainstream and social media. Thomson Reuters Foundation trainers, comprised of current or former Reuters journalists who specialize in health reporting, will address key journalism skills, combined with practical exercises based on real-life scenarios and group work. The program will also identify opportunities to sustain in-country momentum for reporting on immunization by arranging for key stakeholders to speak to and connect with the media professionals who are participating in the workshop. As a leader and policy maker of the hosting country, we would like to ask you to welcome and make an opening remarks to media professionals who are trying to keep the public informed and expand immunization coverage across the region.

The workshop will be held on **March 12-14, 2020** at the **Tbilisi Marriott Hotel** in **Tbilisi, Georgia**. The draft agenda with workshop overview is enclosed to the letter. Our regional representative, **Dr. Eka Paatashvili**, will be able to answer any questions you might have. She can be reached at Eka.Paatashvili@Sabin.org or by **+995 577288890**.

We look forward to collaborating with you. Together we can affect positive change for immunization and diminish the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases in the region by generating more effective, accurate and timely coverage of immunization in mainstream and social media.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Finan'.

Amy Finan
CEO, Sabin Vaccine Institute, Washington, DC, USA