**Sample Letter: Engage Physician Champions in Cervical Cancer Elimination**

*How to use this template*This document provides a pre-written letter to engage a physician in championing HPV vaccination in the context of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) global cervical cancer elimination strategy. Tailor the message by modifying sections highlighted in yellow. Add your organization’s logo as appropriate. Be certain to delete this section before sending.

Dear Colleague,

We need your help to address a public health challenge in India. More than 77,000 women die from cervical cancer in India every year, yet cervical cancer can be easily prevented [1]. Cervical cancer is caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV). We now have a vaccine that can prevent HPV infection and protect against the development of most cervical cancers when given on time to girls between 9 and 14 years old [2, 3].

HPV vaccination is safe, effective and long-lasting. Research shows that millions of girls have safely received the vaccine since it became available globally in 2006. Countries that were early adopters of the HPV vaccine are already seeing dramatic reductions in cervical pre-cancers and cancers.

The HPV vaccine is incredibly effective and can help prevent cervical cancer in more than one hundred thousand Indian women each year. However, the uptake and administration of the HPV vaccine have been low, leaving many women unprotected. Even today, the majority of girls are not benefiting from this cancer prevention vaccine largely because they lack access to the vaccine, or their physician didn’t recommend it. With the recent decision to add the HPV vaccine to India’s Universal Immunization Programme, there is no better time to focus on protecting girls with HPV vaccination.

[INSERT NAME OF MEDICAL SOCIETY] supports and recommends HPV vaccination of all adolescent girls. We have created an **HPV Vaccination Physician Champion** program to raise awareness about the HPV vaccine and its cervical cancer prevention benefits. Today, we are inviting you to become an **HPV Vaccination Physician Champion** and join us in saving the lives of thousands of Indian women.

**What is an HPV Vaccination Physician Champion?**

**HPV Vaccination Physician Champions** are passionate volunteers who amplify the important message of HPV vaccination as cancer prevention and use their passion, skills and experience to promote awareness among fellow physicians and parents/guardians of girls ages 9 to 14 years old. Champions primarily serve as speakers and trainers. They may also engage in local HPV cancer prevention activities hosted by our medical society, other health systems or civil societies.

This is a very flexible opportunity with a time commitment of approximately 1-2 hours per month, depending upon local opportunities and the champion’s schedule. We are seeking volunteers who can participate for one year.

**Become an HPV Vaccination Physician Champion Today!**

A recommendation from a physician is the most important factor in a parent/guardian deciding to vaccinate their daughter. We think that you would be a wonderful HPV vaccination physician champion who can encourage and educate colleagues and parents/guardians of adolescent girls about the cancer prevention benefits of HPV vaccination. Together, we can help save thousands of lives and create a generation of women free of cervical cancer. 

Thank you for your consideration of this opportunity. I will follow up with you within the next week to learn of your interest and discuss next steps.

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME], [INSERT ORGANISATION]

**References**

1. International Agency for Research on Cancer. India Globocan 2020 [Internet]. 2021 [cited 2022 Sep 19]. Available from:<https://gco.iarc.fr/today/data/factsheets/populations/356-india-fact-sheets.pdf>

2. Falcaro M, Castañon A, Ndlela B, Checchi M, Soldan K, Lopez-Bernal J, et al. The effects of the national HPV vaccination programme in England, UK, on cervical cancer and grade 3 cervical intraepithelial neoplasia incidence: a register-based observational study. Lancet [Internet]. 2021 Dec 4 [cited 2022 Sep 20];398(10316):2084–92. Available from:<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34741816/>

3. Mayo Clinic. HPV vaccine: Who needs it, how it works [Internet]. 2021 [cited 2022 Sep 20]. Available from:<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hpv-infection/in-depth/hpv-vaccine/art-20047292>