

QUICK SUMMARY
**VACCINES AND RELATED BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**
February 16 & 17, 2005

In open session, the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee met on February 16, 2005 to consider which influenza viruses should be included in vaccines prepared for 2005-2006. Based on data presented on surveillance, responses to current vaccines and the availability of strains and reagents, the committee unanimously recommended that influenza vaccines for 2005-2006 should be trivalent and contain an A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like virus, an A/California/7/2004 (H3N2)-like virus and a B/Shanghai/361/2002-like virus. Appropriate strains for vaccine preparation include A/New Caledonia/20/99 for the H1N1 vaccine component, and B/Jiangsu/10/2003 or B/Jilin/20/2003 for the B vaccine component. Candidate strains to be used for the H3N2 vaccine component are currently under development and expected to be available to manufacturers in March 2005. In open session on February 17, the Committee heard an Open Public Hearing Presentation from Ms. Sadhana Dhruvakumar representing the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals. The Committee was also presented an update on the FDA Critical Path Initiative and heard overviews on the Laboratory of Biophysics and the Laboratory of Pediatrics and Respiratory Viral Diseases.