It is well accepted that childhood immunization, after clean water, is the most effective public health intervention available resulting in significant reductions in disease incidence and its associated death and disability. In some countries vaccine-preventable diseases are vanishingly rare.

However, controversies and myths have surrounded vaccination since its early days. In her presentation, Dr Bedford discusses this and focuses mainly on the UK immunization programme to consider how approaches should be targeted to maximize vaccine uptake based on the best available evidence.

Dr Cherian provides a WHO perspective on immunization issues.

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