Central to “vaccine diplomacy” are its potential as a humanitarian intervention and its proven role in mediating ceasefires or cessation of hostilities during vaccination campaigns.

Dr. Hotez will talk about global programs to support vaccine diplomacy for pandemic threats and discuss the importance of creating a new generation of vaccines for emerging diseases. He will also highlight the need for new vaccines to prevent neglected tropical diseases, a group of chronic and debilitating infections that sustain poverty and affect hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

Today, vaccine diplomacy is endangered by the rise of an aggressive antivaccine movement that has led to major measles epidemics in Europe and the United States. As a vaccine scientist and autism dad he has led national efforts to defend vaccines against the growing “antivaxx” threat.

Dr. Hotez is an internationally recognized physician-scientist in neglected tropical diseases and vaccine development. He leads the only product-development partnership for developing new vaccines for hookworm infection, schistosomiasis, Chagas disease and SARS/MERS.

He obtained his undergraduate degree in molecular biophysics from Yale University in 1980, followed by a PhD in biochemistry from Rockefeller University in 1986 and an MD from Weil Cornell Medical College in 1987. He is a past president of American Society of Tropical Medicine and an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine.

The talk is open to the public. For information contact Hassan Vafai at hvafai@email.arizona.edu or 520.621.5949.