



By late fall 2010, the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) will be home to the \$140-million International Vaccine Centre (InterVac), one of the largest Containment Level 3 (CL3) vaccine research and development facilities in North America. InterVac will be located at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO).

> A MESSAGE TO OUR PARTNERS IN GOVERNMENT:

“The goal of VIDO and the new International Vaccine Centre, InterVac, is to address the world’s most challenging diseases and suppress future epidemics by bringing effective vaccines to market quickly, thus supporting the ‘common good’. We can only achieve this goal through partner support. As construction on InterVac continues, we are now working hard to secure on-going operational funding in the amount of \$25 million per year.

“We all have a role to play in ensuring that the threat of pandemics worldwide and infectious diseases are mitigated and eliminated. VIDO-InterVac is the facility that will help ensure we rise to this challenge. Through innovation, and the combined efforts of our partners in industry and government, we will pursue our combined vision of anticipating and responding to the changing face of infectious disease on our planet.”

– Dr. Andrew Potter, Director, VIDO-InterVac

VIDO-InterVac: Working together for a safe, healthy population

The VIDO-InterVac laboratory is the largest vaccine research investment to date in Canada and will significantly enhance Canada’s capacity to develop vaccines and new methods of delivery for both animals and humans.

VIDO-InterVac will be a key player in Canada’s vaccine preparedness strategy. This will re-shape the landscape for infectious disease research in Canada, secure Saskatchewan’s international leadership in vaccine development, and provide unparalleled research, teaching and student training opportunities.

Enhancing Canada’s science and technology capacity

Canada’s Science and Technology Strategy identifies health and related life sciences and technologies as a priority area for enhanced investment and activity.

Canada continues to make significant contributions to vaccine R&D. These accomplishments have saved lives, decreased human suffering, and reduced health care costs, protecting the well-being of individuals and societies in Canada and around the world.

The 2008 Canadian Institutes of Health Research report entitled “Vaccines for the 21st Century” confirms Canada’s strong track record in leading vaccine R&D efforts.

Our Strengths

- Current strengths exist in basic research (including development of methods for antigen delivery and enhancing immune responses to vaccines), as well as in the areas of epidemiology, vaccines for special populations, and vaccine evaluation research.
- The cutting-edge technology that VIDO-InterVac can provide, along with the knowledge and expertise of its own researchers and scientists, will attract additional human and health expertise to the facility, which will in turn contribute significantly to fostering Canada's competitiveness in science and technology.

Strengthening Saskatchewan's focus on health care

- The Government of Saskatchewan has pledged to strengthen provincial efforts to promote wellness and preventive care, and has expressed an interest in building on the University's strengths in animal and human health care and vaccine development. VIDO-InterVac will help strengthen that commitment.
- VIDO-InterVac will contribute to increased economic growth and development for the province of Saskatchewan. In addition to construction jobs, VIDO-InterVac will bring more than 50 new full-time research-related employment positions to the province.

About Vaccines

VACCINE FACT: Today, more than 25 infectious diseases are vaccine-preventable.

- The benefits of vaccination often extend beyond the individual to the overall population. For example, complete courses of vaccination for infants against invasive pneumococcal infection have helped decrease its incidence in adults 65 years or older by 75.1% (Kellner et al., 2006).

VACCINE FACT: The majority of new infectious diseases have direct links to animals.

- More than 75% of emerging infectious diseases in humans can be linked to animal sources.
- Investing in vaccine R&D for animals will enable researchers to gain deeper understanding of CL3 infectious diseases that affect animal health.

VACCINE FACT: \$1 spent on vaccine development = \$3 saved on health care costs.

- Vaccines are inexpensive compared to the long-term care required for disease treatment, and remain the most cost-effective health intervention available.

- Canadian spending on vaccines accounts for less than 0.17% of the annual health care budget (PHAC, 2007 & CIHI, 2006).
- Public funding is the most important factor in achieving high immunization rates. Every dollar spent on vaccination against measles, mumps and rubella saves nearly three times as much in health care dollars. In Canada, vaccination against these diseases saves \$88 million in treatment costs per year and over 420,000 lives annually.

VACCINE FACT: Canadian innovation is driving the discovery of new vaccines that will transform the future of public health in Canada.

- Across the industry, the research pipeline is bulging. Vaccines that target cervical cancer caused by HPV and gastroenteritis due to rotavirus are examples of some of the newer products that are changing the health of Canadians.
- Continued future investment in Canadian innovation will lead to progress in the development of new vaccines against major diseases such as HIV and malaria, as well as treatments for cancer and other degenerative diseases.



For more information about VIDO or InterVac, please visit www.vido.org or contact us at:

VIDO-InterVac
120 Veterinary Road, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E3
Phone (306) 966-7465 Fax (306) 966-7478

