



VIDO-InterVac Fast Facts

The Organization

- A non-profit research centre owned by the University of Saskatchewan.
- Operates with support from the governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta, the Government of Canada, foundations and industry competitive grants. Income is also generated from service contracts and licensing revenue.
- Annual operating budget exceeds \$12 million.
- VIDO houses the Pan-Provincial Vaccine Enterprise Inc.(PREVENT), one of 11 new Centres of Excellence for Commercialization and Research. PREVENT will bridge a vaccine commercialization gap to accelerate the rate at which essential vaccines reach Canadians.

History

- Created in 1975 to develop vaccines against economically devastating diseases of livestock, and to ensure the technology reached livestock producers.
- From a staff of five temporarily housed in trailers, VIDO has grown to approximately 150 people in 100,000 square feet of laboratory and administrative space.

Research

- Recognized internationally for the design of vaccines and products increasing livestock productivity and improving health and quality of life.
- Known for the development of new vaccination strategies to improve immune protection and ease of delivery of vaccines against both human and animal diseases.
- One of four Canadian teams awarded funding by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative.

The Director

- Dr. Andrew Potter holds a Senior NSERC/Bioniche Industrial Research Chair in Food Safety.
- Dr. Potter initiated VIDO's partnership with the University of British Columbia in developing the world's first vaccine to protect food and water from *E. coli* O157:H7, and was the first to develop a licensed animal vaccine through the use of biotechnology.

InterVac

- Canada's ability to address many emerging, re-emerging and persisting diseases is constrained by a lack of suitable research facilities.
- Partners including the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Government of Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan, the University of Saskatchewan and the City of Saskatoon have awarded funding to build the International Vaccine Centre. InterVac, a \$140 million centre attached to VIDO, will conduct large animal and human Containment Level 3 infectious disease research.
- The focus will be vaccines against emerging and existing diseases and pathogens including avian influenza H5N1, West Nile virus, and tuberculosis.

People

With researchers from more than 20 countries, VIDO believes in teamwork, partnership and training. VIDO hosts visiting scientists and provides a stimulating learning environment for undergraduates, postgraduates, and postdoctoral fellows, who make up one third of VIDO's staff.

Facilities

- Include modern virology, immunology, bacteriology and biochemistry labs and a 160-acre research station.

Corporate Success

- Competitive nationally and internationally, with more than 80 awarded U.S. patents.
- Participates in collaborative agreements and research contracts with a number of multinational animal health and pharmaceutical companies, along with government and academic institutions.
- Licensed vaccines.

Livestock industry technical groups

The VIDO Beef Technical Group and the VIDO Swine Technical Group are composed of representatives from the respective livestock industries and VIDO. These Groups develop and distribute reports, guidelines and tools for cattle and pork producers seeking to refine their operations and enhance the health of their animals.

Research Programs

Emerging Diseases and Microbial Virulence
BSE, Bacterial Biology & Antimicrobials, influenza, Johne's disease

Immune Modulation

Neonatal Immunization

Bacterial Vaccine Development
Food Safety, Bovine Mastitis, Mycoplasma

Viral Pathogenesis & Vaccine Development
DNA Immunization, Hepatitis C, PRRS virus

Vectored Vaccines
Bovine Adenovirus Vectors, Porcine Adenovirus Vectors

Pathogenomics
Pathogenomics of innate immunity, Stress, Disease and Delivery

The following programs support all VIDO research projects:

Chemistry, GMP & Genomics Services

Clinical Research & Epidemiology

Program Managers

Dr. Scott Napper

Dr. George Mutwiri

Dr. Volker Gerdts

Dr. Hugh Townsend

Dr. Sylvia van den Hurk

Dr. Suresh Tikoo

Dr. Philip Griebel

Dr. Sam Attah-Poku

Dr. Don Wilson

“A new vaccine is the kind of opportunity that the public health community is constantly seeking out and adopting in order to improve the health of the public and reduce health inequalities, as individuals and as a society.” (2007)

....Dr. David Butler-Jones, Chief Public Health Officer with the PublicHealth Agency of Canada.