



Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization
Home of InterVac | International Vaccine Centre

Saving Lives Through Vaccine Research: VIDO-InterVac at the University of Saskatchewan

By late fall 2010, the University of Saskatchewan 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) and the facilities will operate together as VIDO-InterVac.

Though many Canadian laboratories are rated to Level 3, InterVac will be one of the world's few CL3 facilities that can accommodate disease and vaccine research involving large animals such as cows. The modular design of the individual laboratory spaces will permit an unprecedented degree of research flexibility and combination of experiments. These features are expected to attract researchers from around the world.

Many Level 3 diseases have profound impacts on quality of life and the economy, so there is urgent need for vaccines and treatments. New diseases are also emerging and spreading swiftly as a result of climate change and globalization. Agricultural practices leading to frequent contact between humans, livestock and birds are also contributing to the spread of pathogens such as avian influenza H5N1. These types of emerging diseases, however, can only be studied in a CL3 laboratory.

VIDO-InterVac will help protect animals and humans from emerging and existing infectious diseases by:

- developing new vaccines and improving existing ones;
- creating new and better methods of administering vaccines in both humans and animals;
- enabling researchers to respond quickly to new diseases yet to emerge, and potentially contribute to diagnostic efforts;
- and improving the safety of food and water.

Ultimately, InterVac will enhance the world's capacity to save lives and protect animal and human health.

Funding to date for the project comes from the Government of Canada, the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Government of Saskatchewan, the University of Saskatchewan, and the City of Saskatoon.

VIDO-InterVac will contribute to the University of Saskatchewan's reputation as a centre of excellence for vaccine development and research. It will enhance a unique-in-Canada life sciences research cluster that includes the Canadian Light Source synchrotron. The laboratory will serve the Canadian bioscience R&D community and will link with leading national and international research and commercialization programs.

