

## VEC NEWSLETTER

## PARTICIPATE:

### National Immunization Awareness Week #NIAW2017

[National Immunization Awareness Week](#)

(NIAW) is an annual event to highlight and recognize the importance of immunization. We are celebrating the success of vaccines!



The Vaccine Evaluation Center (VEC) brings together six researchers from diverse disciplines that span vaccine research from vaccine discovery and development, such as microbiological research, to translational research, such as vaccine safety, efficacy and program evaluation, to social sciences, which addresses a wide range of societal issues to inform policy and practice. *Below is a selection of our research highlights & news:*

[Hepatitis B Immunity Study \(Human Vaccines Project\)](#)

[QUEST HPV Study](#)

[Vaccinating Children After Chemo for ALL](#)

[Immunization Information & New Mother Study](#)

## VEC RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS & NEWS

### Human Vaccines Project to accelerate the development of vaccines



A first in Canada, the VEC is conducting a clinical trial that will dramatically increase scientific understanding of how the immune system works. This study will assess the immune responses of 10 healthy adults to a licensed Hepatitis B vaccine. We will be looking in great detail at the immune system and how the vaccine works to prevent disease.

The efforts are funded by the [Human Vaccines Project](#) with a mission to unlock basic understanding of the immune system and use that knowledge to accelerate vaccines against infections and cancer. [Read more...](#)

### BC Children's Hospital opening Canada's first onsite immunization clinic in 2017



BC Children's Hospital will open its doors to Canada's first storefront immunization clinic in the fall of 2017. The Family Immunization Clinic will provide immunizations at no cost to children, youth and their families at BC Children's Hospital.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to protect some of the most vulnerable children in our society who come through the doors of BC Children's every day," said Dr. Manish Sadarangani, Asst Prof in Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Director of the Vaccine Evaluation Center, BC Children's. "Offering immunizations to all family members is a simple and highly effective way to extend the impact of the clinic." [Read more...](#)

## Cytomegalovirus (CMV) vaccine



Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a common virus that can cause severe disease in people with weakened immune systems, and is one of the most common causes of birth defects in Canada and worldwide. When a baby is infected with CMV before birth (congenital infection), it often results in permanent hearing loss and intellectual disabilities.

There is currently no way to prevent congenital CMV infection, and a vaccine is urgently needed. VEC researchers are conducting a clinical trial with a new CMV vaccine being given to humans for the first time. [Read more...](#)

## Understanding why some parents are hesitant about vaccines



Researchers at the VEC are listening to parents about their opinions on immunizations in order to better understand reasons that some parents have doubts or concerns about vaccinating their children, in order to improve communication with these “hesitant” parents. A recent study interviewed mothers whose views on vaccinations had changed over time, to better understand what caused them to change. [Read more...](#)

*This research received news coverage in [Sun Media](#), [Ottawa Citizen](#), and [UBC news](#)*

## Early life immune system



Newborns suffer more often from severe infectious diseases than older children or adults. It is unclear why this is the case. VEC researchers are discovering the underlying reasons for this and will use this insight to guide effective interventions. They are finding that the newborn defence (immune system) is not simply less mature than that of an adult, but different. The differences are determined by the particular demands on a newborn’s immune system; and it is precisely these differences that allow us to find ways to improve protection of the newborn. [Read more...](#)

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