



Vaccine Evaluation Center Newsletter



Dear: Friends of the Vaccine Evaluation Center (VEC),

This week is [National Immunization Awareness Week \(April 23-30\)](#) and it takes place every year to promote the importance of vaccines. We thought this would be a great time to let you know about the changes happening at the VEC and all the exciting studies we are working on. First off....

Vaccine Evaluation Center's New Director Dr. Manish Sadarangani



Dr. Manish Sadarangani will soon be the new VEC director, taking over from Dr. David Scheifele as he retires after 28 years as VEC co-founder and director.

Dr. Manish plans to study the relationships between bowel bacteria and responses to infant vaccines, as increasing evidence points to "good germs" being able to strengthen immunity. This exciting new area of research could lead to yoghurt-like probiotics being used to enhance vaccine immunity. Learn more about Dr. Manish [here](#).

VEC AT A GLANCE

- **Our studies rely on you!** By participating in a vaccine research study, volunteers help to provide valuable information that could help improve vaccines for millions of people. You can be part of potentially ground-breaking research that can have a profound impact on the field of medicine. Current opportunities to participate are described in the sidebar. Thank you for your involvement in the Vaccine Evaluation Center!
- Our independent research includes:
 - Vaccine safety & effectiveness
 - Vaccine product comparisons
 - Vaccine preventable infections
 - Assessment or enhancement of public immunization programs
 - Monitoring & surveillance
 - Development of the immune system

 vec.med.ubc.ca

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Get Involved, Participate in a Study



Understanding Vaccine Hesitancy in Canada

We are interested in learning about the doubts or concerns some parents have regarding recommended childhood vaccinations.

Participants Needed: Parents of children 5 years old or younger and ages 6-12 years.
[More info...](#)



Vaccinating Children After Treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)

Children are being invited to take part in a study to determine how well children who have completed treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)

2016 STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

- [Vaccinating Children After ALL Treatment](#)
- [Pregnant Mothers' Thoughts About Baby Shots](#)
- [Parents' Changing Feelings About Vaccines](#)
- [Understanding Vaccine Hesitancy in Canada](#)
- [HPV Study \(Teens\) – QUEST HPV STUDY](#)
- [Special Immunization Clinic](#)

2015 STUDIES & ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- [Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccine Safety Survey \(Annual\)](#)

We are one of seven sites across Canada that send out an online safety survey to a total of more than 20,000 people as they receive their flu vaccine. The purpose is to monitor adverse events (side-effects) after the flu vaccine as it changes each year. This year, the VEC recruited 1,851 participants, with over 22,000 recruited from all of Canada. The results were reassuring as no unexpected problems were found.

- [Flu Vaccine Clinic at BC Children's Hospital](#)

At the start of November, we offered the flu vaccine for patients and families in a convenient location right in BC Children's Hospital. Nearly 1,800 individuals were vaccinated by our staff, which included a large number of vulnerable persons who might not otherwise have received the flu vaccine.

- [Meningococcal B Vaccine Study](#)

This study aims at finding out the fastest way to give the Meningococcal B vaccine (Bexsero) to a large group of people in the event of a meningococcal outbreak. The study is looking at 17-25 year olds, as this age group tends to be at higher risk of meningococcal disease because of close person-to-person contact in social settings (university campus, dorms etc).

- [Hepatitis B Vaccine Study](#)

We looked at whether the Hepatitis B vaccine, usually given to babies, still protects children years later. We recruited nearly 360 participants and were surprised to discover that a large portion of the 10-11 year old group (78%) and 15-16 year old group (64%) had non-protective antibody levels. Reassuringly, 100% of the younger group and 98% of the older group with non-protective antibody levels responded to our challenge vaccine doses (booster dose), indicating that immune memory for Hepatitis B vaccination persists even as our antibody levels decrease with time. We are currently writing up the final report and hope it informs Hepatitis B vaccination policy

respond to vaccines against childhood illnesses. [More info...](#)

Participants needed: Children who received ALL care at BC Children's.



Pregnant Mothers' Thoughts About Baby Shots

This purpose of this study is to identify the best time to provide mothers with information about vaccines and identify topics of concern about vaccines. [More info...](#)

Participants needed: pregnant women in their third trimester



HPV Vaccine Evaluation (QUEST HPV Study)

QUEST is designed to evaluate whether two doses of the HPV vaccine are just as effective as three doses at preventing HPV infection and cervical cancer. [More info...](#)

Participants needed: Teenage girls who have received the HPV vaccine



Special Immunization Clinic:

The great success of vaccine programs has resulted in a decrease in vaccine preventable diseases. Now that we rarely see these diseases, attention

- [HPV Vaccine Evaluation Study \(QUEST HPV STUDY\)](#)

In 2015, we recruited over 1,500 teenage girls to the [QUEST HPV Study](#), bringing the total number of participants to 3,500 across Canada. This long term study of the HPV vaccine (up to 5 years of participation) is looking to recruit nearly 9,000 girls. Girls involved in this study are contributing to research that will help understand how effective two doses of the HPV vaccine are. The girls receive monthly newsletters, a certificate of participation, and a chance to engage with other participants via QUEST social media. ([ask us for more details](#))

- [Canadian Immunization Monitoring Program](#)

Did you know that Canada has a vaccine monitoring program at Children's Hospitals which provides surveillance for adverse events following immunization, vaccine failures, and some infectious diseases that are, or will be, vaccine preventable? We are one of 12 Canadian centres' in this surveillance network.

- [Pertussis \(Whooping cough\) Vaccine Study](#)

This study began at BC Women's Hospital where pregnant mother's received the whooping cough (pertussis) vaccine. The purpose of the study was to see if the antibodies (protection) from mother are transferred to baby through placenta and breast milk in high enough levels to protect them from whooping cough. This study has been completed

PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER VEC INFO

- [VEC Publications](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Immunization Resources](#)

has shifted to concerns about vaccine safety. This clinic will collect information about adverse events following immunization.

[Learn more...](#)

VEC Introduction Video



What is the VEC all about? Watch our short introduction video to learn more about us.

Featured Researcher



Dr. Devon Greyson is a postdoctoral researcher at VEC. A social scientist, Dr. Greyson studies the ways people use health information. At VEC, Dr Greyson is investigating the ways parents make decisions about vaccinating their children, and the ways that media and public policy influence those decisions.

Contact Information

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About Vaccine Evaluation Center

Established in 1988, the VEC was the first formal center for vaccine research in Canada. The center is separate from government and vaccine manufacturers and provides independent, expert, vaccine evaluations to help select and build the best vaccines and immunization programs.

www.vec.med.ubc.ca

Our mailing address is

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