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24

PIONEERING RESEARCH TO SAFEGUARD GLOBAL HEALTH



The Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) is a world leader in infectious disease research and vaccine development for humans and animals.

As part of the University of Saskatchewan, our expertise, infrastructure, and history put us at the forefront of innovation and make us a valuable resource and source of pride for Canada. For almost five decades, we have developed solutions to emerging threats and will continue to do so as Canada's Centre for Pandemic Research.



Table of Contents

2	VIDO Team
3	Mission, Vision, and Values
4	Message from the Chair
5	Board of Directors
6	Message from the Director and CEO
7	Senior Leadership Team
8	10-Year Transformation Roadmap
10	People and Culture
11	Organizational Excellence
17	World Leading Containment Facilities and Capacity
19	Business Development
21	Funding
22	Friends of VIDO
24	Community Liaison Committee Report
25	2023-24 Contributors

The VIDO Team



A team from 35+ nations collaborating to advance research on infectious diseases



VISION: Healthy people, healthy animals

MISSION: To protect the world from infectious diseases

VALUES:

Excellence

We bring relentless passion for progress and meaningful impact every day, as we strive to be known as global thought leaders and innovators.

Commitment

We are purpose driven, committed to being the best we can be, constantly working to improve ourselves, to cultivate our knowledge and attitudes and to achieve positive change.

Respect

We strive for inclusivity and exhibit deferential regard for all manners of diversity and value the talents and beliefs of our clients, partners, and colleagues.

Team

We understand that success lies in our ability to trust each other, behaving with integrity through constructive collaboration, we support one other in the achievement of a common vision.

Accountability

We proactively focus on solutions and results by engaging others in decisions and plans that involve them, and collectively commit to those decisions.

Pioneering research for a healthier tomorrow

I am honoured to reflect on a year of remarkable achievements from our team. Passion and hard work have continued to propel us forward, reinforcing VIDO's position as a global leader in infectious disease research.

Over the past year, VIDO has made considerable progress on addressing human diseases such as influenza, Mpox, tuberculosis, and RSV, and animal diseases such as chronic wasting disease, African swine fever, high-pathogenicity avian influenza and bovine tuberculosis. Through rigorous and innovative scientific approaches, we are advancing our understanding of infectious disease and developing novel solutions to safeguard both human and animal health.

The success of VIDO is a testament to the dedication and skill of Dr. Volker Gerdt, his team, and our board of directors. I am deeply grateful to each of them for their essential contributions.

Additionally, I want to acknowledge the vital role played by all levels of government and our numerous private and corporate donors. Their financial support is key to advancing our groundbreaking research.

Together, we are building a healthier world, better prepared for the future. Our vision of "healthy people, healthy animals" continues to drive us forward, and I am confident that VIDO will continue to make significant contributions to global health in the years to come.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable journey.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Cronin'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Amy Cronin
Chair, Board of Directors

Board of Directors



Volker Gerdts
CEO & Director
Canada (SK)

Amy Cronin
Canada (ON)

Ryan Thompson
Canada (SK)

Heather Davis
Canada (ON)

Duane Thompson
Canada (SK)

Jeremy Gowler
United States

J. Mark Lievonen
Canada (ON)

Preston Smith
Canada (PEI)

Francisco Diaz-Mitoma
Canada (ON)

Dieter Schillinger
Germany

Missing:

Baljit Singh – Canada (SK)

Gillian Muir – Canada (SK)

Kari Harvey – Canada (SK)

Growing as Canada's Centre for Pandemic Research

Recent history has shown that global pandemics are no longer an elusive threat, but a reality. The WHO has declared Mpox a public health emergency of international concern, and avian influenza is spreading across dairy farms in the United States. Preparing for the next global pandemic is crucial to ensure we can respond quickly and efficiently to emerging infectious disease.

As you will see in the following pages, VIDO has taken a leadership role in ensuring the world is better equipped to respond to these challenges as we establish ourselves as Canada's Centre for Pandemic Research. We are doing this in three key ways. First, we are building cutting-edge infrastructure that allows us to develop vaccines from start to finish at our facility. Second, we are continually strengthening our international partnerships to ensure the sharing of critical knowledge and emphasize the importance of collective action in addressing global health challenges. And finally, we are strengthening our scientific expertise by continuing to attract top scientists from around the world, supporting our research priorities and training the next generation of researchers. Our team is now comprised of over 180 personnel.

These many achievements have only been possible with support from Government of Canada, Government of Saskatchewan, City of Saskatoon, and our individual and corporate donors—the Friends of VIDO.

I am excited for what the future holds for VIDO. We are growing rapidly and advancing our ambitious 10-year transformation plan which will continue pushing the boundaries of scientific excellence ensuring we can rapidly respond to new infectious diseases and create a healthier world for humans and animals.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Volker Gerdts'.

Volker Gerdts
Director and CEO

Senior Leadership Team

Cam Ewart
Director of Facilities



Volker Gerdts
Director and CEO



Jordan Hamel
Director of Human Resources



Paul Hodgson
Director of Operations



Trina Racine
Director of Vaccine Development



Jose Rodriguez
Director of Business Development



Lorne Vanin
Director of Finance



Andrew Van Kessel
Director of Research



10-Year Transformation Roadmap

VIDO has a vision for our future and a 10-year roadmap to guide this transformation. This will help ensure our organization remains a global leader for emerging infectious diseases.

To reach this we will focus on the following priorities:



PEOPLE AND CULTURE

Enhance leadership capabilities throughout VIDO that embrace inclusivity and promote an entrepreneurial team culture to ensure organizational viability

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Deliver scientific excellence that consistently supplies products and services that meet stakeholder needs



INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPACITY CREATION

Establish world-class research capacity that positions Canada as a leader in the response to global emerging diseases and pandemics



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Establish a robust business development model, and build global strategic partnerships to secure long-term value creation for stakeholders

People and Culture



VIDO is cultivating a growing team that is engaged in their work, feels respected as a valued team member, empowered, and committed to our strategic goals and research priorities.

VIDO's team possesses the essential expertise to lead Canada and the world in preparing for/responding to future pandemics, ensuring food security and supporting healthy humans and animals.

Growing a highly engaged team who embody VIDO's core values of Excellence, Commitment, Respect, Team and Accountability is a key focus for VIDO. Building for the future, VIDO is recruiting multiple scientists to broaden its expertise, strengthen collaborative networks, and training highly qualified personnel. Trainees are the largest single group at VIDO and are vital to ensuring the next generation of scientists. In 2023-24 VIDO had 96 summer

students, honours students, intern/practicum students, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows in various positions.

VIDO's growth is driven by supporting the development of leaders at all levels, encouraging clear communication, building a strong and positive culture, and advancing equity and inclusion.

To support the development of leaders at all levels VIDO established a Leadership Learning and Development program. This program provides practical education to members of our team in people management roles with a goal to develop our succession planning.

To drive organizational culture,

formal all-staff meetings are held three times a year, communications occur through a biweekly staff newsletter and regular social events are hosted including annual curling, bowling, and golf tournaments as well as staff social gatherings.

Studies show that diverse groups of people are more innovative. With a focus on creating and promoting an inclusive environment, VIDO is increasing representation in under-represented equity groups to build a stronger organization and help promote an innovative culture.

VIDO has an ambitious vision for the future—a vision that will be achieved through our most valuable resource, its people.

REPRESENTATION FROM

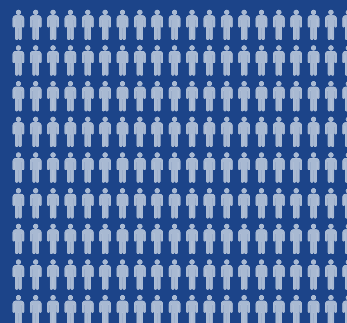
35+

COUNTRIES



180+

MEMBERS OF STAFF AND TRAINEES



Organizational Excellence



HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH

High priority infectious diseases including foreign animal diseases, and Disease X (the name given by the World Health Organization to an unknown pathogen that could emerge in future and cause a serious international epidemic or pandemic) pose a continual risk to animal and human health. Preparedness is critical to enable a rapid response that saves human and animal lives.

VIDO's research focuses on these high impact diseases, and we have integrated a stage-gate approach towards our development to facilitate the success of new vaccines.

The highlights on the following pages describe a selection of our research and development activities. Detailed descriptions of a wider range of VIDO's ongoing research and its impact can be found at www.vido.org.





COMPARATIVE IMMUNOLOGY OF BATS

Understanding Bats to Protect Human Health

In its commitment to global health leadership, VIDO is building capacity in zoonotic disease research (diseases that jump between animals and humans) and scientists trained to work in high-containment labs. A great example is VIDO scientist Dr. Arinjay Banerjee and his team who are building a unique framework for investigating zoonotic pathogens to develop countermeasures against them – in particular bat pathogens.

Bats are known carriers of a variety of deadly viruses, including ebola virus, Marburg virus, Nipah virus, and betacoronaviruses that infect humans but remain unaffected themselves. This fact

intrigues scientists and holds the potential to revolutionize human medicine.

The team is investigating how bats live unaffected with these pathogens yet humans become severely ill. By combining these insights, they aim to develop

therapies that could protect humans.

Preliminary results suggest that immune adaptations in bats may be applicable to develop therapeutic strategies for diseases affecting humans.



Photo Credit: Dr. Arinjay Banerjee



RSV-hPIV3

Development of an RSV/ hPIV3 Combination Vaccine

VIDO is at the forefront of developing a groundbreaking combination vaccine targeting respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and human parainfluenza virus 3 (hPIV3), two significant respiratory pathogens that are deadly in vulnerable populations. RSV, a leading cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia in infants, and pneumonia in older adults, and hPIV3, which primarily affects infants, both pose serious public health challenges. There

is a link between RSV infection and developing asthma later in childhood.

At VIDO, Dr. Sylvia van den Hurk and her team are taking a unique approach to vaccine development, by combining non-infectious parts of RSV and hPIV3 in a new 'bivalent' vaccine. This vaccine was made more effective by formulating it with a special adjuvant, which significantly increased the effectiveness of the vaccines against both viruses in preclinical trials

By addressing two major

respiratory threats simultaneously, the vaccine is differentiated from other vaccines currently in development. VIDO is now preparing to advance the vaccine to phase one human clinical trials to test its safety and immunogenicity.



Dr. Sylvia van den Hurk



MPOX

Strengthening Mpox Preparedness

Mpox (formerly monkeypox) is a viral disease first identified in western and central African countries in 1970. Mpox virus infections lead to painful lesions and, in some cases, death, particularly in vulnerable populations such as the young and immunocompromised. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Mpox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) twice in the past two years, once in July 2022 and again in August 2024. In the most recent outbreak, variations in the virus sequence have made it more infectious.

This underscores the need for heightened vigilance and improved diagnostic capabilities, vaccines and therapeutics. VIDO has been addressing spread through a variety of approaches. The teams' research includes investigating Mpox virus spillover and spillback at the human-animal interface (Dr. Alyson Kelvin), studying the range of livestock that can be infected and the resulting signs and symptoms (Dr. Antonio Facciolo) and establishing genetically diverse mouse models to help create improved vaccines and therapies (Dr. Angela Rasmussen).

VIDO scientists are collaborating on these projects with leading institutions and researchers

worldwide such as Sunnybrook Research Institute, University of Prince Edward Island, University of Toronto, University of Manitoba, University of Arkansas, University of California, Los Angeles, Texas A&M University, New York University and the International Monkeypox Response Consortium.

These efforts enhance both global understanding of Mpox and Canada's preparedness for future outbreaks.

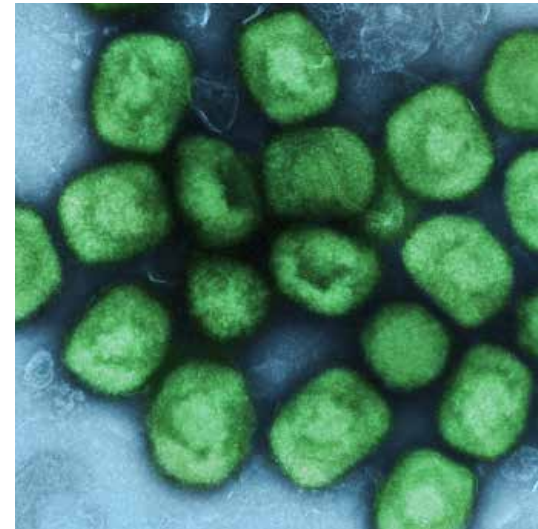


Photo Credit: CDC Public Health Image Library



Photo Credit: CDC Public Health Image Library



CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Advancing Solutions: Progress in Chronic Wasting Disease Vaccine Research

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal, transmissible neurological disease affecting deer, elk, and moose. The disease is caused by prions — proteins that improperly misfold and trigger cellular death. Other more widely known prion diseases are BSE (also called ‘mad-cow disease’) and Creutzfeldt Jakob disease. Both are known to cause disease in humans. Interestingly, several other human diseases including Alzheimer’s, Parkinsons and ALS have now been classified as “prion-like” diseases because they share a common basis of misfolding of a self-protein.

First identified in Colorado in the 1960’s, CWD was detected in Canadian wildlife in 1996. It is now prevalent in several Canadian provinces, with alarming increases in infected wildlife populations across North America.

Prions are shed through saliva, urine, feces and by dead bodies of infected animals. They are incredibly stable and can remain infectious in the environment for decades. More concerning is that prions can also integrate into plants - creating a reservoir of infective material.

CWD’s presence and persistence in the environment raises concerns about potential spillover to livestock and humans. While no human cases have been confirmed to date, recent evidence suggests changes in the prion make this a possibility. Containing CWD is crucial to protect wildlife health, prevent economic losses in hunting and agriculture, and mitigate potential public health risks.

VIDO scientist Dr. Scott Napper is part of a team of scientists at the Universities of Saskatchewan,

British Columbia, Alberta and Calgary working with wildlife groups to develop an oral vaccine for CWD. Recent progress in the identification of protective antigens, strategies to overcome immune intolerance, and efforts to translate these approaches to oral vaccines gives hope for the development of a vaccine for CWD.

Containing CWD is crucial to protect wildlife health, prevent economic losses in hunting and agriculture, and mitigate potential public health risks.



Photo Credit: Dr. Scott Napper



HIGH-PATH AVIAN INFLUENZA

Finding a solution for high-path avian influenza

High-path avian influenza (HPAI), “H5N1”, or “bird flu,” outbreaks are raising concerns world-wide. HPAI is now present in all major global flyways.

HPAI, caused by avian influenza A viruses, can be transmitted between wild and domestic birds and some mammals. The virus causes heavy economic losses for the global poultry industry. There is currently no treatment for infected birds, and outbreaks require mass culling to prevent spread.

Recently, HPAI has increased global concern by infecting dairy cattle in the United States. H5N1’s presence in cattle raises concerns about the virus’ increased ability to spread across different species as Influenza A has never been reported in cattle before now.

Transmission of HPAI from wild birds to domestic birds, mammals, or people can potentially cause severe disease and large outbreaks, with a fear that it may cause an influenza pandemic in humans. Controlling H5N1 in birds and animals is a key strategy in the global effort to manage H5N1 spread.

VIDO research teams led by

Drs. Alyson Kelvin and Yan Zhou are using VIDO’s containment level 3 (CL3) facilities to develop vaccines to protect against multiple influenza virus strains at one time and that ‘Differentiate Infected from Vaccinated Animals’ (DIVA). These vaccines could be deployed quickly in response to an outbreak to avert a major epidemic or pandemic. Another VIDO team comprising Drs. Antonio Facciuolo, Bryce Warner and Yan Zhou are determining how H5N1 infects dairy cattle, and how cattle respond to infection.

VIDO is one of only a few facilities in the world to have the capability to work with dairy cattle in containment. These projects are being completed alongside a handful of other facilities in the world who can conduct large animal research in high containment level 3. A working group has been established and information is being shared between centres (FLI in Germany, Ohio State University, BRI in Kansas and the USDA in Iowa).

Understanding how the virus infects cattle will help livestock producers prepare for what to expect and possible biosecurity measures to be to help control the spread of this virus throughout the world.



Photo Credit: VIDO



INNOVATION
Canada Foundation
for Innovation

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innovation
SASKATCHEWAN

Canada's Centre for Pandemic Research



World Leading Containment Facilities and Capacity



To strengthen Canada's preparedness for emerging infectious diseases, VIDO is enhancing its infrastructure and capabilities. The completion of the Vaccine Development Centre was the first step—other key aspects include establishing containment level 4 (CL4) capacity and building new animal housing that can hold a variety of species. We commonly refer to these collective advances as “Canada's Centre for Pandemic Research”. Progress is described below:

Ensuring Vaccine Manufacturing Capacity

VIDO's Vaccine Development Centre is a CL3-capable biomanufacturing facility built to good manufacturing practice (GMP) quality standards. Biosafety approval has been received and the facility has successfully completed a pre-licensing inspection by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). There are currently three ongoing projects within the Vaccine Development Centre – the development of an mRNA vaccine for fish, the development of a recombinant protein antigen vaccine for cattle in Africa, and the development of an attenuated bacterial vaccine for pigs.

The Vaccine Development Centre leverages our research infrastructure and will help accelerate human and animal vaccine development in Canada. It plays a key role in

Canada's Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences strategy around emergency preparedness and its completion has established VIDO as a fully integrated vaccine research and development centre – from infectious disease identification to vaccine manufacturing.

Upgrading Containment

A portion of our containment level 3 agriculture (CL3-Ag) facility will be upgraded to CL4, the highest level of containment. Once complete, VIDO will be the only non-government CL4 facility in Canada and one of only a few in the world. This upgrade will enable VIDO scientists to study and develop protective strategies for all high-consequence pathogens, significantly boosting Canada's CL4 research capacity.

New Animal Housing Capacity

VIDO's original containment level 2 (CL2) animal housing

was constructed in 1978 and no longer met our requirements. Through significant funding from the Government of Canada, Government of Saskatchewan, City of Saskatoon and Friends of VIDO donors, a new containment level 2-Ag (CL2-Ag) animal facility is under construction. This new facility will be over six times larger and have the capability of housing a broader range of animals, including bats and insects, which are often linked to new outbreaks. The new facility will also offer increased enrichment opportunities for the animals.

A key aspect of these upgrades is ensuring local awareness and support. VIDO has conducted several engagements with the local community and will conduct more in the future.



Business Development

Welcome Dr. Jose Rodriguez!

VIDO is pleased to welcome Dr. Jose Rodriguez as the new Director of Business Development. As part of VIDO's senior leadership team he will lead the out-licensing of our technologies, oversee the

vaccine pipeline for commercial development, and promote contract research and contract manufacturing capabilities.

Dr. Paul Hodgson, who previously led the role has taken on a new position of Director of Operations.



INTEGRATED CONTRACT SERVICES

The combination of VIDO's containment infrastructure, expertise and manufacturing capacity is rare in the world. As part of Canada's National Science Infrastructure, it is accessible by scientists, companies and governments to further their innovations in vaccines and therapeutics.

VIDO's contract services include:

Contract Research

Clients have access to containment facilities, expertise of VIDO scientists, and a variety of animal models using a dedicated veterinary and

animal care team. As a leader in infectious disease research and vaccine development, VIDO helps advance their innovations towards commercialization. In the past five years VIDO has helped more than 200 companies develop over 400 vaccines and therapeutics.

Contract Development and Manufacturing

Clients gain access to VIDO's CL3-capable vaccine development centre and team of highly experienced scientists through VIDO's contract development and manufacturing service.

The vaccine development centre team performs the technical transfer, from process development to scale-up production, of vaccines. Support in vaccine development includes quality control, regulatory support and compliance and project management to ensure good manufacturing processes.

By offering these services externally, VIDO is helping drive the global One Health movement, ensuring that essential vaccines and biologics improve health for all.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Effectively responding to emerging infectious diseases requires a collaborative effort. VIDO continues to expand its strategic network to ensure critical information from infectious disease research and the development of new medicines – such as vaccines and antivirals - are readily available.

VIDO's commitment to global partnerships is reflected in

its participation in several key networks. Recently VIDO was selected as the ninth organization in the world to join the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations' (CEPI) preclinical research network, and one of only seven organizations chosen as a service provider for the National Institutes of Health biopharmaceutical product development program.

Additionally, VIDO is the only Canadian biotechnology focused test centre chosen for NATO's Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) project.

These strategic partnerships broaden VIDO's reach and strengthen its capacity, helping advance technologies to respond swiftly to emerging infectious diseases and protect human and animal health.

Dr. Volker Gerdts pictured with SK Minister of Trade and Export Development Jeremy Harrison and Ms. Samia Saad, Executive Director of Resource Mobilisation and Investor Relations at CEPI.





FUNDING

VIDO conducts leading-edge research and establishes infrastructure to improve preparedness for the next pandemic thanks to the long-term support from a diverse group of stakeholders.

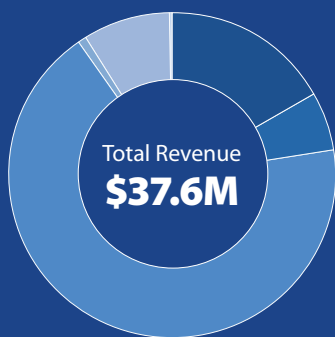
VIDO receives funding support from federal, provincial, and municipal governments, the livestock industry, foundations, human and animal health companies, and private and corporate donors. We are proud to highlight our philanthropic "Friends of VIDO" donors on pages 22-23 and our other contributors on page 25.

Importantly, the benefit of this support goes beyond research and development and the vaccines commercialized.

Overall revenue has decreased slightly this year compared to 2022-2023. Funding was received from research grants, contract research and investments supporting our growth as we become Canada's Centre for Pandemic Research. We saw a large increase in non-government funding this fiscal year due to the recognition of two large awards from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation: the first providing

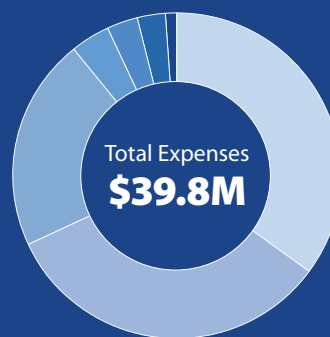
critical operating funding for the organization and the second providing funding for VIDO's CL4 upgrade. VIDO's expenses have decreased by 11% over the previous year primarily due to the timing of expenditures of the ongoing infrastructure projects.

We would like to thank our contributors, in particular the 'Friends of VIDO', for supporting our team, research, and infrastructure upgrades as we continue to strengthen our impact in Canada and abroad.



OPERATIONAL AND RESEARCH FUNDING

- 17% Federal
- 6% Provincial
- 68% Non-Government
- 1% Donations
- 8% Other Funding
- >1% Other Governments



USE OF FUNDS

- 35% Salaries and Benefits
- 33% Materials and Supplies
- 21% Internal Cost Recoveries and Transfers
- 4% Capital Assets
- 3% Utilities
- 3% Maintenance
- 1% Travel and Recruiting



FRIENDS OF VIDO

Since the launch of our *Friends of VIDO* campaign in 2020 we have received significant support from individual and corporate donors—members of our community that believe in and support VIDO’s vision.

This generous group is helping to further our efforts to stop emerging infectious diseases and future pandemics. This includes donations towards facility enhancements, new equipment, scientific training, and the establishment of research chairs and fellowship opportunities that attract the best scientists in the world.

To become a Friend of VIDO, visit www.vido.org to donate!



2023-2024 DONOR ROLL

\$1,000,000+

Gordon and Jill Rawlinson
Ellen Remail

\$100,000+

Cherry Insurance
Royal University Hospital
Foundation

\$10,000+

City of Saskatoon
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 Vern Kiefer
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 Wynne & Kelly Fetter

7 anonymous gifts in this fiscal year

Monthly Donors

Lionel and Marilyn Stehr

2023-2024 Community Liaison Committee Report

CLC Committee Members:

*Dick Batten
Robin Chapman
Volker Gerdts
Brian Gibbs
Noreen Jeffrey
Simon Kapaj
Susan Lamb
Vance McNab
Heather Persson
Patrica Roe
Doug Wegren*

The Community Liaison Committee (CLC) is an example of best practices for containment facilities worldwide. Comprised of community leaders, the committee's role is to provide oversight and information to the public regarding safety and security at VIDO. The committee helps create and maintain an atmosphere of trust, confidence, and transparency with the public.

The CLC was created by the University of Saskatchewan to independently serve to ensure full and open communication on safety issues related to VIDO.

The committee receives reports of incidents as soon as they happen but reviews them again at each meeting. In the 2023-2024 fiscal year we received seven reports. Only one report involved exposure to a group 3 pathogen, specifically Covid. All incidents were resolved to the satisfaction of the committee with no risk to the public.

The committee has been revising its terms of reference and is reviewing its procedures relative to new security and communications regulations for a level 4 facility.

The committee stays up to date on issues relating to infectious diseases, particularly as they apply to VIDO. The CLC also receives regular updates from senior staff regarding work at VIDO including updates to animal housing infrastructure and security. Topics include avian influenza, protein misfolding diseases, foot and mouth disease, research priorities, marketing and the Vaccine Development Centre. The committee keeps up to date with current issues by following credible science writers and researchers between meetings.

To better serve the community the committee provides a website (www.vidocl.ca). Members of the public can contact the committee at vidocl@usask.ca. The next public meeting will be held in 2025.



*Susan Lamb
Chair, Community Liaison Committee*



Members of the Community Liaison Committee at the Annual Public Meeting, June 2024.

2023-2024 Contributors

Alberta Beef Producers
Alberta Conservation Association
Alberta Milk
Alberta Pork
AnGes
Attenubiotics
Beef Cattle Research Council
Boston Children Hospital
Canadian Swine Research and
Development Cluster
Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan
Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness
Innovations
College of Medicine
Dechra Limited
Egg Farmers of Canada
Global Research Award
Government of Alberta
Alberta Innovates
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Result Driven Agriculture Research
Government of Canada
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Canada Foundation for Innovation
Canadian Institutes of Health
Research Natural Sciences and
Engineering Research Council
Parks Canada
PrairiesCan
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Research Council
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Saskatchewan Pork
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University of Ottawa
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Variation Biotechnologies
Washington State University
Western College of Veterinary
Medicine



**VACCINE AND INFECTIOUS
DISEASE ORGANIZATION**

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