



University of Michigan
C.S. Mott Children's Hospital

“Innovation Bridge”
Linking Biotech Breakthroughs to Developing Country
Vaccine Manufacturers

Child Health Evaluation
and Research Unit



University of Michigan

Background

Between vaccine developers (ie, biotechnology companies and academic groups) in industrialized countries and vaccine manufacturers in developing countries, there is a need for a new ‘innovation bridge’ to facilitate research and development regarding novel vaccines to prevent infectious disease in the developing world. The Innovation Bridge will consist of:

- (a) an entirely novel communication network designed to connect biotech firms and academic groups creating novel vaccines with developing country vaccine manufacturers (DCVMs), and
- (b) an unprecedented financing mechanism to support new and unique partnerships between industrialized-world vaccine developers and Developing Country Vaccine Manufacturers (DCVMs).

Objective

The overarching goal of this project is to help new vaccine ideas become available for children and adults in the developing world more quickly and at more affordable prices. Experts in vaccines and economics will help link vaccine developers in the industrialized world with vaccine manufacturers in developing countries, to facilitate partnerships and transfer of new vaccine technologies. The Innovation Bridge team will concentrate on the vaccine priorities of the Gates Foundation, including vaccines against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, diarrheal diseases and pneumonia.

Program Design

- (1) Communication Bridge –The development of candidate vaccines (vaccines with developing-world applications) will be tracked through multiple information sources, including direct conversations with lead executives and scientists at biotech firms, academic groups, and DCVMs. Dynamic candidate vaccine profiles (including current phase of development and projected development timing) will be updated frequently. These profiles will be presented to DCVMs as a group, and also individually through routine, frequent conversations with each DCVM. The IB team will help vaccine developers and DCVMs form new partnerships, by facilitating communication and offering opportunities for stakeholders to meet and understand each other’s vaccine development priorities.
- (2) Financing Bridge –The IB Team will also work with potential financial stakeholders to identify ways in which financial assistance may be provided to help support product-specific partnerships between vaccine developers and DCVMs.

For more information on this project, please visit: <http://www.med.umich.edu/innovationbridge/>

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Questions regarding this study should be directed to:

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