

**MEDIA RELEASE - For Immediate Release - May 22, 2009
[ART INCLUDED]**

ICID Releases Details of Plan to bring HIV Vaccine Manufacturing Facility to Winnipeg

*ICID reveals “formidable” consortium partners and planned site in
Winnipeg’s BioMed zone*

WINNIPEG - The International Centre for Infectious Diseases (ICID) today unveiled details of its bid to bring an \$88-million HIV Vaccine Manufacturing facility to Winnipeg, including its formidable list of consortium partners and details of the facility’s location in Winnipeg’s “Biomed Zone.”

In March, ICID applied to the Canadian HIV Vaccine Initiative (CHVI), a joint project of the Government of Canada and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to build a dedicated facility to accelerate the production of promising candidates for a safe, affordable and effective HIV vaccine. It would be the only facility of its kind in the world.

“We have assembled a consortium with an unparalleled depth of expertise with well-deserved international reputations for excellence,” said Terry Duguid, President and CEO of ICID. “When you combine the strength of our consortium with ICID’s singular focus on infectious diseases and the fact that Winnipeg has the largest concentration of HIV researchers in Canada, our bid is the logical choice.”

ICID’s consortium partners include:

- **The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)**, the world’s largest dedicated HIV vaccine research and development not-for-profit organization. TIME recently named Dr. Seth Berkley, President and CEO of IAVI, one of this year’s “100 Most Influential People in the World.”
- **Serum Institute of India Ltd. (SIIL)**, the world’s largest vaccine manufacturer. Vaccines manufactured by SIIL inoculate two out of every three vaccinated children worldwide

- **Cangene Ltd.**, Canada's largest biotechnology firm, based in Winnipeg, is a world leader in the development, manufacture, and commercialization of specialty hyperimmune plasma and biotechnology products.
- **VIDO/InterVac**, located at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, is a world leader in the research and development of vaccine and immunity-enhancing technologies for humans and animals, and will provide vaccine manufacturing assistance.
- **Canadian Trials Network (CTN)**. Based in Vancouver B.C. at the University of British Columbia, CTN is Canada's only HIV clinical trials network and has a partner network for clinical trials in Africa
- **The University of Manitoba**. U of M is a global leader in HIV/AIDS vaccine and prevention research. Its global public health program has major HIV/AIDS research projects in Africa and India and is a recipient of a Gates Grand Challenge grant.
- **The Université de Montréal** U de M is home to one of the world's leading immunology labs working on HIV/AIDS vaccine research.

The facility would be situated on currently vacant land at Alexander and Arlington in Winnipeg's "BioMed" zone, immediately adjacent to the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health and only blocks away from the U of M's Medical School and the Health Sciences Centre. Winnipeg firm Smith Carter Architects and Engineers and U.S. firm Middough would team up to design of the facility.

Duguid said the bid will provide jobs in construction, research and development and an operating budget in the millions annually when it is up and running.

"This is an example of how Canadian expertise can help alleviate suffering around the world, as well as providing economic benefits here at home," said Duguid.

-30-

ART ATTACHED: Please go to <http://icid.com>

Contact: **Terry Duguid**

President & CEO, International Centre for Infectious Diseases
 403-445 Ellice Avenue
 Winnipeg Manitoba, Canada R3B 3P5
 Tel: 204.946.0908

Fax: 204.946.0927

ABOUT ICID

ICID is a not-for-profit charitable organization that brings people and resources together to find new ways to use research and technology to fight infectious diseases worldwide.

BACKGROUND

- Every year more than two million people are newly infected with AIDS and more than a million die from AIDS.
- AIDS is the number four killer in the world and number one in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Despite education and prevention campaigns, every day 7,500 people become infected with HIV.
- Antiretroviral drugs can prolong the lives of those who are infected, but they are not cures, and because of their cost and logistical difficulties, they reach only a minority of those who need them.
- For every two individuals who go on antiretroviral treatment, five become HIV infected.
- As with any major viral pandemic, a vaccine remains the best hope of ending, and not just mitigating, AIDS.

Sources: The World Health Organization, The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative