



September 16, 2011  
For immediate release

**Saskatchewan celebrates the science of biotechnology with National Biotechnology Week September 16-23, 2011:  
InterVac Grand Opening kicks off the week of events**

**The Grand Opening of the International Vaccine Centre**, on Friday, September 16, 2011, has been chosen as the National Launch event for National Biotechnology Week.

Ag-West Bio congratulates the University of Saskatchewan's Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization on achieving this milestone with the opening of this facility of great importance to Saskatchewan and all of Canada.

"Besides the obvious benefits to society that we will gain through advances in vaccine development, there will be economic benefits from the research collaborations made possible because of the calibre of this facility. Ag-West continues to work with VIDO-InterVac to develop essential networks for growing our bioeconomy," says Wilf Keller, president and CEO for Ag-West Bio. "The Grand Opening of InterVac is the perfect event to kick off a week of celebrations in the biotech industry," he adds.

Numerous events are planned in Saskatchewan to promote and celebrate the science of biotechnology. The Province of Saskatchewan, the City of Regina and the City of Saskatoon have each proclaimed September 16 – 23 as Biotech Week. Ag-West Bio is the coordinator for Biotech Week in Saskatchewan. The events are organized with the help of a committee drawn from the bioscience cluster.

**Dr. Pamela Ronald**, a plant geneticist from University of California, Davis, has been invited to deliver a public lecture at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Ronald has co-written a book with her husband Raoul Adamchak, who runs the organic farm program at UC Davis, entitled "**Tomorrow's Table: Organic Farming, Genetics and the Future of Food**," which explores the possibility of merging GM technology with organic farming. The lecture is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, Physics 107.

Education outreach this year includes **The Amazing Biotech Race** for post-secondary students (Sept. 22), and **Biotech Blast** for students in grades 7 and 8 (Sept. 23). A commercialization seminar, **The Art of Deal Making**, will take place September 22 at Innovation Place. That afternoon, we toast the science of biotechnology with the **Third Annual Biotech & Beer** at Boffins.

With over 30 percent of Canada's agricultural biotechnology activity and many other life science areas taking hold here –including genomics, plant-made pharmaceuticals and diagnostics— we have much to celebrate. Two university campuses and three research parks, along with numerous research institutions and technical training centres create a significant science cluster, a boost to researchers and businesses. Life science discoveries foster new opportunities in the areas of biofuels and bioproducts, functional foods and natural health products. Outstanding science R&D infrastructure, a talented workforce, quality raw materials and a solid business environment make Saskatchewan the perfect place for bio-business!

For more information about Biotech Week activities in Saskatchewan, see the following page, or visit the Ag-West Bio website: [www.agwest.sk.ca](http://www.agwest.sk.ca). For information about activities across the country, visit the BIOTECANADA's National Biotechnology Week website: [www.imagenation.ca](http://www.imagenation.ca).

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# National Biotechnology Week

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16-23 SEPT. 2011



## Friday, September 16 – National Biotech Week Launch – Grand Opening of VIDO-InterVac

The Grand Opening of the Vaccine & Infectious Disease Organization's International Vaccine Centre was chosen as the Launch event for National Biotechnology Week. InterVac is one of the world's largest, most advanced containment level 3 facilities for vaccine development.

*\*Please contact Shirley Toms at VIDO for details about this event.*

## Monday, September 19 – Lecture by Dr. Pamela Ronald, University of California, Davis

Guest speaker, Dr. Pamela Ronald, is a plant geneticist from UC Davis. Dr. Ronald has co-written a book with her husband Raoul Adamchak, who runs the organic farm program at UC Davis, entitled *"Tomorrow's Table: Organic Farming, Genetics and the Future of Food."*

7:00pm – Physics 107 Physics Building, U of S Campus

## Thursday, September 22 – The Art of Deal Making

This half day commercialization seminar at Innovation Place will focus on how biotech companies can successfully develop market partnerships – with the goal of working toward a signed commercial deal. The speaker line up for this seminar includes Calvin Sonntag (Brett Young), Nancy Hopkins (McDougall Gauley) and Steve Fabijanski (Agrisoma). At this seminar you will hear from industry leaders who will discuss this art, and share their pragmatic experience regarding **how deals get done!**

8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Candle/Spain Room, The Atrium at Innovation Place (111 Research Drive)

## Thursday, September 22 – The Amazing Biotech Race

This fun event will help biotechnology students connect with industry. The Amazing Biotech Race will take place at Innovation Place, with students searching for clues and taking part in quick lab "challenges" that earn them the next clue, while meeting people and becoming familiar with Saskatoon companies along the way. The event ends at Boffins for the Biotech & Beer networking event.

1:30 to 4:00pm

Innovation Place – wrap up at Boffins Club (106 - 111 Research Drive)

## Thursday, September 22 – Biotech & Beer at Boffins

We are raising a toast to the science of biotechnology! The venue is Boffins Club at Innovation Place. Dr. Paul Hodgson (VIDO-InterVac), Dr. Curtis Pozniak (U of S Crop Development Centre) and Walter Murray Collegiate student Rui Song (Top 20 Under 20 Award, SABC 2010 National Winner) will talk about the role of biotechnology in our lives and insight into biotech business and career opportunities. This is a great opportunity for educators and post-secondary students to meet researchers and business people in our biotech community to discover the opportunities in our life science cluster. Local speakers, music, fun and games!

Boffins Club, Innovation Place

4:00 - 7:00pm

Music by The Anderson Burko Band

## Friday, September 23 – Biotech Blast!

A student outreach day at the University of Saskatchewan for grades 7 and 8 gives teachers an opportunity to enhance science learning by bringing their students to the University of Saskatchewan to take part in hands-on workshops. Activities include DNA extraction, The Biodiesel Funhouse, Anatomy of a Spikelet (plant sciences), Veterinary Medicine, Unearthing Soil Science, Food Science and Synchrotron Science.

10:00am to 2:00pm

Agriculture and Bioresources, U of S Campus

## National Biotechnology Week ~ Background Information

Each year, Canada celebrates the innovation and creativity of Canadian life science researchers and entrepreneurs during National Biotechnology Week, a concept initiated by BIOTECCanada with the collaboration of all the provinces in Canada. Events held during the week include lectures, workshops, education outreach, facility tours, advocacy and networking. Municipal and provincial governments issue official proclamations to support Biotech Week.

The objectives of the week include:

- increasing business leaders' awareness of Canada's capacity in biotechnology;
- highlighting the benefits of biotechnology to the general public;
- promoting opportunities in the sciences to high school students;
- fostering relationships among local, provincial and federal politicians.

BIOTECCanada coordinates all the activities in an event calendar available on the Biotech Week website: [www.imagenation.ca](http://www.imagenation.ca)