



DIABETES VACCINE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

**Closing date: 31 May, 2004
2004-2005, round 1**

**The DVDC is a joint initiative of the
National Health and Medical Research Council
and the
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International**



dedicated to finding a cure

Diabetes Vaccine Development Centre

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BACKGROUND

The Diabetes Vaccine Development Centre (DVDC) is a joint initiative of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (JDRF). The DVDC was formally launched in March, 2003 and effectively commenced operations in May, 2003.

OVERVIEW OF THE CENTRE

The DVDC's mission is:

“To accelerate the development of one or more vaccines that would prevent or delay progress of Type 1 diabetes, aiming to have clinical proof of concept within 3-5 years, with the studies conducted and documented to a standard acceptable to an eventual industrial partner.”

The DVDC brings together the crucial components of the vaccine/immunotherapy development process, up to and including clinical proof of concept studies. The DVDC funds, supports and facilitates the activities of a range of groups with relevant expertise. Although based in Australia, the DVDC has widened the search for promising therapeutic candidates worldwide.

The DVDC is physically located within The University of Melbourne, which acts as the sponsoring administering institution for the Centre.

The joint funding partners of the DVDC, NHMRC and JDRF, have allocated AUD10 million for the first three years of the program and have indicated a preparedness to consider further support, subject to satisfactory progress. Some of these funds have already been committed following similar calls for proposals in 2001/2002, and 2003/2004.

The DVDC is now calling for two rounds of Expressions of Interest each year. This call is for round 1, 2004-2005.

DVDC FUNDING

From its uncommitted funds, the DVDC has the ability to support selected new initiatives aimed at the development of new candidate vaccines.

DVDC invites submissions of short proposals (not more than 5 pages) from organisations worldwide outlining their proposed project and explaining how it fits the mission of the DVDC. All information sent to DVDC will be kept confidential.

The DVDC reserves the right to remove Expressions of Interest for projects that are clearly too early in development from further consideration. As an indication, projects to be considered should be at a stage close to or having commenced clinical studies.

Applicants invited to submit a full application, will be provided with a written assessment from the peer review process and will have an opportunity to respond.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The submission will be assessed according to the following criteria, listed roughly in descending order of significance:

- 1) Likelihood of a candidate vaccine generating clinical data within 3-5 years.
- 2) Suitability of the product to be developed commercially. In this context the following issues are of importance:
 - Evidence of efficacy in animal models
 - Safety profile
 - Intellectual property situation
 - Innovative approach
 - Likely cost of production with clear indication of currency used
 - Proposed arrangements for ethical clearances
 - Expertise of personnel involved
 - Estimated likelihood of success
- 3) Current (if any) and proposed funding support for the project. DVDC funding can be for a variable duration and will be performance and milestone based. (Note: the DVDC has limited funds and will look favourably on projects where co-funding arrangements are proposed.)

TIMETABLE OF AWARDS

Invitation to organisations worldwide to submit 5 page (maximum) expressions of interest (EOI)	19 April, 2004
Closing date for submission of EOI	31 May, 2004
EOI reviewed by scientific members of DVDC Board	15 June, 2004
Full applications may be invited	30 June, 2004
Closing date for full applications	30 July, 2004
Full applications reviewed by DVDC review panel	1 September, 2004
DVDC Board reviews full applications	15 September, 2004

SUBMISSION OF EOI AND QUERIES

Expressions of Interest, preferably by email in PDF format, and all queries should be directed to:

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Diabetes Vaccine Development Centre
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