

Pearls from Breakout Session #1

Perspectives on Evaluating Immunization Programs

- The successful establishment of new vaccine programs and subsequent disease control did not happen by accident. Much research was required.
- The Vaccine Evaluation Center (VEC) was the first Canadian academic vaccine research unit (established in 1988). It is a multi-investigator, shared infrastructure model capable of surveillance; clinical, laboratory and data management teams execute multiple concurrent studies from various funding sources (academic grants, gov't contracts, industry) without core funding

Recent Accomplishments

- Leads Rapid Trials group of Influenza Research Network; (8 trials, 4 during the pandemic)
- 1st vaccine studies in Aboriginal children, adults

Recent Accomplishments (2)

- Leads large multi-center study of alternative dosing schedule for HPV vaccine in young girls (2 doses versus 3): Outcome is that BC has changed to a 2 dose plan
- Leads a Men C schedules in Canada – comparison study that is demonstrating that a 2 dose schedule (as in BC) is most cost-effective

The VEC needs help from PHNs

The VEC needs PHNs to be a part of the process of assisting in research by:

1. Understanding central role of research in the success of public programs
2. Championing the VEC and what we do (recruiting, retaining kids on study)

VEC needs PHN (2)

3. Not overriding the study execution plans by rendering children ineligible (e.g. vaccinating a child that got two doses on study by giving a 3rd dose)
4. Disseminating results