

## INFORMATION

Press Office: +44 (0)20 8647 4467

Email: [sonya.hayden@garnettkeeler.com](mailto:sonya.hayden@garnettkeeler.com)

Additional press contacts below

## INTERNATIONAL VACCINE DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION EXTENDS REACH TO CONTRIBUTORY ORGANISATIONS

### Animal health innovators encouraged to collaborate on vaccine innovation

Organisers of the US \$30m Brucellosis Vaccine Prize competition are calling on commercial and academic organisations to join forces, in order to progress towards the four available Milestone 2 prizes of US \$1m.

The second phase of the competition requires applicants to satisfy specific criteria with regard to proof of principle of safety and efficacy, and to demonstrate progress on the development of a scaled-up production process for commercial manufacture of a new *Brucella melitensis* vaccine. It is this requisite combination of technical expertise and technological facilities that may necessitate collaboration between organisations, explains GALVmed's CEO Peter Jeffries:

“An academic institution may, for example, have devised a novel approach to solving the issues associated with current vaccines – but may not have the ability to develop, manufacture and commercialise a new product. On the other hand, a commercial organisation may require access to specialist expertise or facilities in order to support development of their ideas. Individually, these two organisations may not reach the requirements for a Milestone 2 prize – but together, they could be a stronger contender.”

To help facilitate collaboration across R&D, manufacture, registration and commercialisation activities, a partner portal has been made available at [www.brucellosisvaccine.org/partners](http://www.brucellosisvaccine.org/partners). The open-access portal enables organisations to profile their expertise and capabilities, or to seek relevant alliances.

The online portal aims to connect groups involved in innovation, with those that have the technology in place to make ideas a reality. “We know from the quality of entries received so far that the level of innovation is high – and this portal has the power to expedite the journey from initial idea to proof-of-concept, for both academic and commercial organisations,” commented Justin Kosoris, the Secretariat AgResults Manager.

The first phase of the competition saw 20 organisations progress through to the second phase of the competition, with ten of those winning prizes.

Brucellosis remains endemic across much of the developing world and impacts the majority of the 600 million people in those regions whose livelihoods depend on livestock. For example, the annual impact to smallholder farmers in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa is estimated at US \$500 million per year.

The Brucellosis Vaccine Prize competition is designed, funded, and managed by [AgResults](#), a collaborative initiative between the governments of Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States as well as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Implemented by the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines ([GALVmed](#)), it involves three phases and can run for up to 10 years.

The competition remains open to new applications from animal health innovators across industry and academia via the competition website [www.brucellosisvaccine.org](http://www.brucellosisvaccine.org). Full details and competition rules are also available on the website.

Mr Jeffries elaborates on the success of the competition so far and looks forward to the next stages in videos available at the site's News section, at [news.brucellosisvaccine.org](http://news.brucellosisvaccine.org).

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#### **About AgResults**

AgResults is a \$122 million collaborative initiative between the governments of Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to incentivise and reward high-impact agricultural innovations that promote global food security, health, and nutrition and benefit smallholder farmers. The initiative is currently implementing six pilots in Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia and the Brucellosis Vaccine Development Prize. Visit <http://agresults.org/>

#### **About GALVmed**

GALVmed, through its partners, makes livestock vaccines, medicines and diagnostics accessible and available to the millions of smallholder livestock and poultry keepers in developing countries for whom livestock is a lifeline. The international not-for-profit company harnesses the best available expertise and capabilities to develop vaccines, medicines and diagnostics for neglected livestock diseases impacting smallholders in Africa and South Asia. GALVmed is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the UK Government. For more information, please visit [www.galvmed.org](http://www.galvmed.org)

#### **Notes to editors:**

For further press information on AgResults, please contact: Justin Kosoris, AgResults Secretariat Manager | AgResults Global Secretariat, Email: [jkosoris@deloitte.com](mailto:jkosoris@deloitte.com)

For further press information on GALVmed, please contact: Gwynneth Clay, Project Manager, Brucellosis Vaccine Initiative | GALVmed, Tel: +44 (0)131 445 6264 Email: [gwynneth.clay@galvmed.org](mailto:gwynneth.clay@galvmed.org)