

BACKGROUNDER



Scott A. Halperin, MD

Dr. Halperin is a Professor of Pediatrics and Microbiology and Immunology at Dalhousie University and the Head of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. He was educated in the United States, completing his undergraduate degree in Biology at Stanford University and his medical degree at Cornell University. His postgraduate residency training was in pediatrics at the University of Virginia and his fellowship in pediatric infectious diseases at the University of Virginia and the University of Minnesota. He has lived in Halifax since 1985 where he is the Director of the Canadian Centre for Vaccinology, Halifax. He held one of two Canadian Institutes of Health Research/Wyeth Pharmaceuticals Clinical Research Chairs in Vaccines. These chairs firmly established Halifax and Vancouver as model centres for innovative vaccinology research. The awards also favoured training, leadership and excellence both locally and among collaborators across the country and established a long-term legacy of benefits for the whole community of basic and applied vaccinologists.

Dr. Halperin's research focuses on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of pertussis and other vaccine-preventable diseases. He is interested in developing needle-free immunization systems targeting the mucosal immune systems for protection against important human respiratory pathogens. Strategies are being pursued for single-dose immunization providing protection against multiple pathogens. Studies are being undertaken to further explore the epidemiology of vaccine preventable diseases and to identify important targets for new vaccines. Public perceptions and attitudes about the novel technology will be determined, including ethical, legal and health policy implications, and integrated with the discovery and evaluation programs. A particular emphasis will be placed on exploring better ways to protect the newborn, including pre-conception, during pregnancy, and immediate post-partum immunization of the mother and neonate.

To arrange an interview with Dr. Scott Halperin, please contact IWK Health Centre Public Relations at 470-6740.