

Tri-College University Vaccinology News Conference

Fast Facts

- **Vaccinology defined.** (văk,sə-nŏl'ə-jē,) *n.* The science or methodology of vaccine development.
- **What is the Professorship Endowment?** The endowment established by Sanford Medical Center will fund the release time of faculty members who teach the courses specific to vaccinology. This is the first endowment that has been established in the more than 40 year history of Tri-College University.
- **When does this program officially start?** The first introductory seminar course starts this fall. The first senior seminar course will be offered Spring 2012. Students could graduate with a minor in vaccinology as early as Spring 2012. This vaccinology program is the first in the nation.
- **What type of courses will comprise the academic minor?** The current plan is to offer introductory seminar and senior vaccinology seminar courses. These courses will align with the vaccinology related curriculum at each of the universities to create the 21-24 credits needed to complete the academic minor.
- **How was it decided that vaccinology was a good fit for our region?** The Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation conducted a study to identify business development opportunities for our region. The study, which incorporated input from the business and academic communities, identified vaccinology as a strategic growth industry. It leverages existing businesses, capitalizes on the strengths of our three four-year universities, and is an industry with strong growth potential.
- **How will the vaccinology industry be involved?** Individual faculty members will determine and coordinate the involvement of industry professionals within their syllabi. This will give the students a richer and more applied understanding of the industry.
- **Will internships be available?** Yes. Each campus is responsible for establishing relationships within the industry and helping to coordinate internships for their students who are enrolled in the program.
- **How will students be admitted to this program?** Each campus may admit eight students to the program, for a total of 24 per semester. Generally, students majoring in life sciences, who have completed basic preliminary course requirements, will be approved to participate in the seminar classes.
- **Will scholarships be available?** Yes. To launch the program and generate interest, scholarships of up to \$1,000/student have been secured by Tri-College from community business partners. Approximately half the students pursuing the minor will receive a scholarship.
- **Where will the courses be taught?** Each university will host a majority of the coursework for the program. To enhance collaboration and efficiency, campuses on a rotating basis will host the required seminars. The first year of seminar classes will occur on MSUM's campus.
- **Who will coordinate the programs from the three colleges?** There are Vaccinology Coordinators from each of the three universities: Dr. Jennifer Bath, Concordia; Dr. Mark Wallert, MSUM; and Dr. Charles Peterson, NDSU.