



Press Release

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Gamma Vaccines Pty Ltd develops universal flu vaccine able to protect against a diverse range of influenza viruses including swine and bird flu

A new entrant into the vaccine development industry has emerged with the creation of Gamma Vaccines Pty Ltd – an Australian vaccine company whose first product, GammaFlu™, affords broad protective immunity against a wide diversity of influenza virus A strains¹.

The recent experience of swine flu, and the continuing fears of the medical, scientific and world health community of the sudden emergence of a deadly bird flu strain means that a new approach to flu vaccines needs to be contemplated that provides some protection against all influenza virus A strains, including any emergent pandemic virus.

“One of the great challenges in vaccinating individuals against influenza is that new strains can suddenly emerge, rendering currently available vaccines ineffective,” said Gamma Vaccines founding scientist Professor Arno Müllbacher, the Head of the Viral Immunology Group at The Australian National University.

Dr Mohammed Alsharifi, the co-founder of Gamma Vaccines said that *“our key discovery was finding a method of isolating and killing the influenza virus that preserves the proper structure of the virus and its various proteins. This was achieved by using gamma irradiation – a procedure widely used to sterilize surgical instruments and stop the spoilage of perishable fruits.*

Professor Tim Hirst, Executive Chairman of Gamma Vaccines commented *“This new approach to influenza vaccines provides for the development of a broad-based, highly cross-protective flu vaccine that can be stored or stocked-piled and then used immediately on the emergence of a new pandemic flu strain.*

For further information about Gamma Vaccines, please contact:

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¹Alsharifi et al (2009) Intranasal Flu Vaccine Protective Against Seasonal and H5N1 Avian Influenza Infections. PLoS 4 (4), e5336. www.plosone.org