



## Leading San Diego institutions partner to improve understanding of immune systems and develop vaccines

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New collective partnering for Human Vaccines Project

SAN DIEGO (KUSI) — The Human Vaccines Project is adding a new chapter to its global initiative, tapping into San Diego institutions to form the Mesa Consortium. UC San Diego, the J. Craig Venter Institute, the La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology and the Scripps Research Institute will partner in an effort to improve understanding of the human immune system.

The group will also work to expedite the development of vaccines and biological methods to prevent and treat global diseases.

"Vaccines have helped us eradicate smallpox and nearly eradicate polio, but we have not yet experienced the same vaccine successes for global killers like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, cancer and other diseases," said Wayne Koff, president and CEO of the Human Vaccines Project. "We need new approaches to address major gaps in knowledge, leverage recent technological advances and hasten vaccine development"

The Mesa Consortium's focus will be to manage immunological analyses from the project's clinical research studies. The group will also serve as the project's bioinformatics hub.

"Driven by partnerships with leading academic centers, and enabled by new technologies and a scientific plan focused on solving the main barriers to developing new immune-based interventions, we believe our collaboration with the project could

help to transform global efforts in vaccine and immunotherapeutic development," said UCSD Chancellor Pradeep Khosla.

The overarching goal for the Human Vaccines Project is to broaden the understanding of the human immune system while also developing vaccines and immunotherapies against major infectious diseases and cancers.