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Localizing Vaccine Manufacturing

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Vaccine supply to the developing and lower income countries of the world continues to be inadequate and is limited by price, quantity and supply issues. Historically, vaccine supply in these areas was met with localized manufacturers, typically government sponsored 'vaccine institutes'. However, the funding mechanisms for these local producers was inadequate to maintain increasing quality requirements, to meet growing population demands and to introduce newly developed vaccines. In the period between 1980 and now, vaccine manufacturing has been centralized in developed countries, with good effects on quality and new vaccine development, but by price, quantity and supply limitations leave many children with inadequate immunization, and new vaccines often take decades to diffuse worldwide. Today, with increased economic prosperity, improved education worldwide and the standardization of vaccine regulations and the expectations of National Control Authorities, it is now possible to once again localize vaccine manufacturing to overcome current limitations in the worldwide vaccine distribution system.

Biography:

Dr. Donald Gerson is President and CEO of PnuVax Inc, a developer and manufacturer of low-cost, high quality vaccines for the Developing World that has been supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Dr. Gerson's career has included: President and COO of Celltrion, a large-scale manufacturer of mammalian cell produced protein biopharmaceuticals in Songdo, Korea; Managing Director for Manufacturing at Wyeth-Lederle Vaccines in New York with responsibility for 50% of the US vaccine supply including DTP, OPV, Hib conjugate, PPV23, and process development and commercial production of the 1st Pneumo-conjugate vaccine (Prenar) and the first Meningococcal-C conjugate vaccine.