

David Wentworth MD
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As Chief of VSDB, Dr. Wentworth leads the Influenza Division's efforts to improve global influenza virus control, prevention, pandemic preparedness, and response. VSDB's work involves conducting comprehensive antigenic, phenotypic, genetic, antiviral sensitivity analysis and developing diagnostic tests. The data generated and analyzed by VSDB is used to guide vaccine virus selection and this branch employs classical and recombinant approaches to generate candidate vaccine viruses that are used by manufacturers to produce vaccines against seasonal and/or pandemic influenza.

In addition to his role at CDC, Dr. Wentworth is director of the Atlanta World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Control of Influenza.

Prior to joining CDC in 2014, Dr. Wentworth was Director of Viral Programs at the J. Craig Venter Institute (JCVI) from 2011 to 2014, where his studies focused on interspecies transmission, pathogenesis, viral evolution and vaccine development using synthetic genomic strategies. Dr. Wentworth was the Director of the Influenza Virus and Coronavirus Pathogenesis laboratory at the Wadsworth Center, NYSDOH, and an Assistant Professor at the State University of New York-Albany from 2002 to 2011, where his laboratory studied interspecies transmission of influenza viruses and SARS-Coronavirus, genomic technologies, and experimental vaccine approaches.

Dr. Wentworth received a B.S. in Poultry Science, an M.S. in Veterinary Medicine, and a Ph.D. in Virology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he specialized in the study of influenza viruses. He studied coronaviruses as a postdoctoral fellow, and later as an Instructor in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver. He has conducted virological research since 1990 and has published over 100 papers and book chapters.