

Dr David Wentworth

Chief of the Virology, Surveillance, and Diagnosis Branch (VSDB), US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Influenza Division

Dr David Wentworth is the Chief of the Virology, Surveillance, and Diagnosis Branch (VSDB) in US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Influenza Division, and also serves as the Director of the Collaborating Centre for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Control of Influenza at CDC. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Poultry Science, a Master of Science degree in Veterinary Medicine, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Virology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he specialized in the study of influenza viruses. Dr. Wentworth conducted virological research since 1990 and has published over 200 papers and book chapters.

As Chief of VSDB, Dr. Wentworth leads the Influenza Division's efforts to improve global influenza virus control, prevention, pandemic preparedness, and response. VSDB conducts comprehensive virus surveillance to analyze antigenic, phenotypic, and genetic characteristics of viruses circulating in humans and animals. The data generated and analyzed by VSDB is used to guide influenza vaccine virus selection, assess viral sensitivity to therapeutics (e.g., antiviral drugs), and develop/assess diagnostic tests. Finally, VSDB employs classical and recombinant approaches to generate candidate vaccine viruses that are used by manufacturers to produce vaccines against seasonal and/or pandemic influenza.

Before joining CDC in 2014, Dr. Wentworth was the 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. From 2002 to 2011, 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, where his laboratory studied interspecies transmission of influenza viruses and coronaviruses (e.g., SARS-CoV), genomic technologies, and experimental vaccine approaches.