

## Little growth expected in vaccine development

Although the average number of anti-infective vaccines that have entered clinical trials each year since 2000 is higher than in the 1990s, this product area may experience little global growth for the rest of the decade, according to a recent analysis from the Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development.

Every year from 2000–2004, 14 products entered clinical trials, whereas an average of 12 products/year began clinical trials between 1990 and 1999. However, since 1990, the number of pathogens targeted and the number of companies beginning to study new vaccines have not changed significantly (35 pathogens and 38 companies).

Development of new vaccines is a slow, risky and expensive process, according to Kenneth I Kaitin, Director of the Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development. Compared with new biopharmaceuticals, new vaccines are often associated with a lower return on investment, greater liability concerns and a more stringent benefit-to-risk profile. These reasons may explain why there are limited numbers of vaccine development programmes.

Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development. Little Growth Seen in Vaccine R&D for Rest of Decade. Media Release : 11 Jul 2006. Available from: URL: <http://csdd.tufts.edu>

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