



Bovine Serum Meeting: Challenges and opportunities in the research and development and manufacture of vaccines and other biological products

**September 29-30, 2026
Virtual Meeting**

Bovine Serum: Enabling Human and Animal Health Through Science-Based, Sustainable Supply – Marc Wintgens

Bovine serum has played a fundamental role in the development and manufacture of biological medicinal products for more than seven decades, beginning with the introduction of the Salk inactivated polio vaccine in 1955.

Today, bovine serum remains an important component of cell culture systems used in the development and production of human and veterinary vaccines, biological medicines, diagnostics and emerging advanced therapies.

This presentation examines the current role of bovine serum from the perspective of both serum producers and serum users.

It brings together scientific, regulatory, supply-chain, animal-welfare and sustainability considerations to provide, a fact-based perspective, on the continued use of bovine serum in biomanufacturing.

As an example of the importance of bovine serum applications, particular attention is given to the contribution of animal vaccination to disease prevention, animal welfare, antimicrobial-use reduction and the avoidance of unnecessary animal losses.

The presentation also addresses the complexity of international trade in bovine serum. Import requirements differ substantially between jurisdictions, reflecting different approaches to animal health, mitigation of transmissible-agents, geographical sourcing, processing and optimisation of safety.

These differences can create unnecessary barriers to international trade and may affect both supply security and the sustainability of global serum supply chains.

Rather than considering animal-derived materials solely as hazards to be eliminated, the presentation proposes a proportionate, science- and evidence-based approach in which potential issues are identified, characterized and appropriately controlled.

It highlights the importance of close cooperation between serum producers, medicinal-product manufacturers, regulators and other stakeholders to optimize safety, ensure supply-chain resilience, facilitate international trade and minimize unnecessary environmental impacts.

The presentation concludes with a call for greater international cooperation and harmonization, where scientifically justified, to ensure continued access to safe, high-quality bovine serum for the production of life-saving and preventive medicinal products while maintaining high standards of animal welfare, sustainability and public health.

