

# **Prospects for a SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine**

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## Viruses for which we have vaccines



# Vaccines stimulate 3 major arms of immunity

<u>Antibody</u> Blocks initial infection



## Innate immunity Hypes up immune system

<u>T cells</u> Kill cells infected by virus that gets past antibody

# Antibodies that block (neutralize the virus) are the 1<sup>st</sup> line of defense



# Vaccines establish memory cells for rapid and high antibody production



# Major target for SARS-CoV-2 antibody

S, spike protein



- Demonstrated that S protein can raise neutralizing antibody
- Neutralizing antibody correlates with protection of non-human primates



## **Risks for a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine**

Most candidate vaccines use new recombinant DNA approaches and structure-based designs

- Fast days not months to make
- But limited experience
  - Require adjuvants, specialized delivery systems
  - Likely to require 2 doses (prime and boost)

## Vaccinating for a new virus

- Risk of immune enhancement (seen for a SARS S subunit vaccine)
- Unknown durability of antibody
- Unknown potential to escape vaccine-elicited antibody

## **Current Pipeline for SARS CoV-2 vaccines**



# Most advanced in human trials

## Vaccines based on recombinant DNA approaches

- 3 adenovirus (Ad) vectored vaccines
- 2 RNA vaccines
- 1 DNA vaccine
- Protein-based vaccines
  - 1 Subunit vaccine
  - 2 Whole inactivated vaccines

Data as of 6/30/20

## Ad vectored vaccines



#### Oxford / AstraZeneca – England/Sweden

- ChAdOx1 using a chimp Ad vector to avoid pre-existing immunity to human Ad vectors
- Phase 3 efficacy trial (n=6000)

#### CanSino Biologics – China/Canada

- Ad5 vector using a high dose to overcome pre-existing immunity
- Phase 1 /2 human trials
- Harvard / J&J US
  - Ad26 vector using a rare serotype to avoid pre-existing immunity

Ad vectors have good manufacturability, Ad5 has a poor safety history for HIV

## **RNA** vectored vaccines



#### Moderna/NIH Vaccine Research Center - US

- S genetically stabilized for receptor binding conformation
- Phase 2 testing in 18-55; 56-70, and >71-year olds
- Phase 3 targeted for summer 2020

## BioNTech/Pfizer/FOSUN – Germany - China

- RNA vaccine and a self amplifying RNA vaccine
- Phase 1/2 trials in Germany and US

Limited safety information, Use lipid nanoparticles for adjuvant and delivery, Doses are easily manufactured levels of RNA

## **DNA vectored vaccines**



## Inovio Pharmaceuticals – US and South Korea

- Phase 1 trial US
- Phase 1/2 trial South Korea
- Use electroporation for injection of DNA
- Scaling production of electroporators

#### Substantial safety information. Require large amounts of DNA

Data as of 6/30/20

## S subunit vaccine



S DNA used to produce S protein in cell culture

## Sanofi/GSK – France, England

- Sanofi to produce S protein
- GSK to supply adjuvant
- Not yet in clinical trials

#### Monitoring closely for immune enhancement

Data as of 6/30/20

## Whole killed vaccine



### Sinovac – China

- Formalin inactivated, alum adjuvant
- Phase 3 targeted to start in July

## Sinopharm – China

- Inactivated whole vaccine
- Phase 1 / 2

#### Monitoring closely for immune enhancement

# Phase 3 testing

## Three major efforts

#### • Solidarity – WHO

- Mobile units move to local outbreaks
- Directly comparing vaccines, a common placebo
- Warp Speed US
  - Using established vaccine trial sites plus "surge" clinics
  - Projecting 30,000 participant trials
  - Moderna RNA to be tested first, targeted to start summer 2020

#### • Chinese

- Conducting trials in Brazil
- Manufacturing at Butantan Institute
- Targeted start, summer 2020

# **Endpoint for Success**

- Number of people with confirmed infections who develop symptoms in the treated arm compared to the placebo arm.
- Will need to vaccinate 15,000 to 20,000 volunteers in a population that has a 1% per year incidence
- If the vaccine prevents COVID-19 symptoms at least 50% of the time, efficacy should be clear in 6 months - after about 150 infections

## WHO mobile vaccine unit



# **Ongoing Pipeline for SARS CoV-2 vaccines**





Our advancing vaccine, GeoVax Modified Vaccinia Ankara

- Pox vector has sufficient genetic space to carry genes to express SARS-CoV-2 virus like particles
- Three constructs expressing E, M, and various forms of S undergoing down selection





- **1.** Single dose immunizations
- 2. MVA vector confers durability on elicited antibody
- 3. Pre-existing immunity limited to those vaccinated for smallpox
- 4. Extensive safety data

Accelerating vaccine development without compromising safety



**Combining Phase 1 /2 trials** 





Planning for equitable initiation of immunizations as soon as efficacy trials are completed

## When could we have a vaccine?

- Could know if Oxford ChAd, Moderna RNA or Sinovac whole inactivated vaccines work by 2021
- Speed of deployment will depend on manufacture
  - Trained personnel
  - cGMP Facilities
  - Sufficient raw materials

Rule of thumb – actual timelines are at least 2x longer than fastest possible **Goal:** To add SARS-CoV-2 to viruses for which we have vaccines

