

# AdaptVac's Phase III validated cVLP platform central to new Nipah virus vaccine pandemic preparedness effort

**Copenhagen, Denmark, December 1, 2023 – AdaptVac, a VICI-Disease consortium member, announces awarding of EU Horizon Europe grant for a Nipah virus vaccine development programme. The award amounts to €8M to develop vaccines against Nipah, Marburg and Sudan viruses pre-clinically and translate a Nipah virus vaccine to PhI/IIa safety and proof-of-concept clinical study within four years.**

This pandemic preparedness program builds on the successful EU and Danish Government funded Bavarian Nordic/AdaptVac ABNCoV2 COVID-19 capsid Virus-Like Particle (cVLP) vaccine. The new vaccines will utilize AdaptVac's cVLP display technology, which has demonstrated best-in-class longevity in Phase II studies and non-inferiority to the marketed Pfizer/BioNTech COMIRNATY mRNA COVID-19 vaccine in Phase III without the need for an adjuvant.

*"The more than €100M EU and Danish governmental support enabled successful Phase III validation of our cVLP platform in collaboration with Bavarian Nordic. Building on this support, we are now able to utilize the cVLP platform advances to further accelerate pandemic preparedness efforts. It is our aim to develop a range of effective and durable vaccines against known viral threats to help prevent future pandemics."* says Wian de Jongh, AdaptVac's CEO.

VICI-DISEASE is an ambitious project which combines existing cutting-edge expertise with new advances in this critical field. The consortium's main objective is to develop a vaccine candidate portfolio and perform a clinical proof-of-concept study, to enable stocks of vaccine candidates ready for clinical validation in large-scale efficacy trials in case of pandemic outbreaks. The primary target will be Nipah virus, a virus causing high-mortality disease with no vaccines or treatments available. This capsid Virus-Like Particle (cVLP) vaccine will be uniquely positioned to help control and prevent future Nipah virus epidemics and pandemics.

*"Recent clinical data has shown that our cVLP platform is safe and capable of inducing durable antibody responses in humans. This underscores the great potential of this technology to developing improved vaccines against both existing and emerging pathogens."* said Prof. Adam Bertelsen, CSO AdaptVac.

The EU Horizon Europe consortium members are world-leading experts in their respective fields, covering all relevant areas of high biosafety level viral research and vaccine development required for rapid clinical development of Nipah, Marburg and Sudan virus vaccines. This includes extensive pre-clinical experience from UCPH and FLI, and clinical experience by Radboud University Medical Center, ExpreS<sup>2</sup>ion's *Drosophila* S2 insect cell expression system, and AdaptVac's cVLP vaccine technology.

The VICI-Disease consortium consists of AdaptVac, ExpreS<sup>2</sup>ion, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), the Radboud university medical center (RUMC) and University of Copenhagen (UCPH). UCPH acts as the project coordinator. Furthermore, PSG Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambaréné (CERMEL) and NIH/NIAID are associated participants in this grant-sponsored development project.

## **About AdaptVac**

AdaptVac was founded in 2017. Based on a ground-breaking capsid Virus-like Particle (cVLP) platform technology invented at the University of Copenhagen, we aim to accelerate the development of long-lasting, highly efficient therapeutic and prophylactic vaccines within high value segments of oncology, infectious diseases, and immunological disorders. Apart from high commercial value assets, we are also involved in equitable access vaccine development. The company is owned by NextGen Vaccines ApS (66%) and ExpreS<sup>2</sup>ion Biotechnologies ApS (34%). Please visit: [www.AdaptVac.com](http://www.AdaptVac.com)

## **About the Nipah virus**

Nipah virus infection in humans causes a range of clinical presentations, from asymptomatic infection (subclinical) to acute respiratory infection and fatal encephalitis. **The case fatality rate is estimated at 40% to 75%.** Nipah virus can be transmitted to humans from animals (such as bats or pigs), or contaminated foods and can also be transmitted directly from human to

human. Fruit bats of the *Pteropodidae* family are the natural host of Nipah virus. There is no treatment or vaccine available for either people or animals. Accordingly, WHO has identified Nipah virus as one of the pathogens in the WHO Research and Development (R&D) blueprint list of epidemic threats which needs urgent R&D action. Further, Nipah virus has been classified as a category C potential bioterrorism agent by the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Until now, NiV outbreaks have been confined to South-East Asia. However, the reservoir host, Pteropus bats, can be found across the globe, and serological and molecular evidence strongly suggest the circulation of apparently apathogenic henipaviruses in various African countries, and future evolution of more pathogenic variants cannot be excluded. More information on WHO's webpage [www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/nipah-virus](http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/nipah-virus)

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