

WHO recommends R21/Matrix-M™ vaccine for malaria prevention

Hannover, Germany, October 10, 2023 – Serum Life Science Europe GmbH (SLS Europe) is delighted to announce the recommendation by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the novel R21/Matrix-M™ Malaria Vaccine for prevention of malaria in children. This recommendation is an exciting milestone and was achieved by the joint global efforts of SLS Europe (former VPM), Serum Institute of India (SII) and Oxford University.

Malaria is one of the leading causes of pediatric morbidity and mortality in sub-Saharan Africa. Children under 5 account for approximately 80% of all malaria-related deaths. R21/Matrix-M™ has emerged as the most effective vaccine against malaria ever produced and shall contribute to alleviating the burden of 600,000 deaths per year. R21/Matrix-M™ was initially developed by the lab research team of Adrian Hill, also Chief investigator of the R21/Matrix-M™ program, and Director of the University of Oxford's Jenner Institute. SII then licensed and scaled up manufacturing of R21/Matrix-M™ for commercial use. Based on available clinical data, the efficacy of the vaccine is greater than 75%, which is far above the efficacy of the only other currently approved malaria vaccine. Notably, the manufacturing capacity of 200 million doses/year by SII will increase the current supply capacities by >20-fold globally.



Adar Poonawalla, CEO, Serum Institute of India, shared, “For far too long, malaria has threatened the lives of billions of people across the globe, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable amongst us. This is why the WHO recommendation and approval of the R21/Matrix-M™ vaccine marks a huge milestone on our journey to combat this life-threatening disease, showing what exactly can be achieved when the public and private sector, scientists and researchers, all work together towards a shared goal.”

Prof. Adrian Hill, Director of the Jenner Institute said “The R21/Matrix-M™ malaria vaccine has been shown to be safe and highly effective across multiple clinical studies and is now approved as WHO policy for widespread use. The vaccine is easily deployable, cost effective and affordable, ready for distribution in areas where it is needed most, with the potential to save hundreds of thousands of lives a year.”

SLS Europe is proud to have contributed to this major success. “This partnership is a proof of our ambition towards supporting the development of safe and effective vaccines to ensure healthy living for all,” said by Dr. Leander Grode, Managing Director of SLS Europe. “Our expertise in vaccine development, and our collaboration with global institutions and vaccine developers and manufacturers, further validates our role as a leading consultancy in the pharmaceutical industry.”

SLS Europe remains committed to advancing innovative research and development and working collaboratively with global partners to transform ground-breaking ideas into life-saving medication.

About SLS Europe

Serum Life Science Europe GmbH (SLS Europe, formerly known as Vakzine Projekt Management GmbH) is a German consultancy and service provider established in 2002. Within the last decades, SLS Europe has successfully managed the development of promising biopharmaceutical candidates, ranging from small molecules, recombinant proteins up to gene-modified live vaccines and ATMPs. SLS Europe clients are small, medium, and large biopharmaceutical enterprises, as well as private funding organizations,

and research groups. SLS Europe brought their products from preclinical stage through clinical phases I-II-III up to approval.

Since 2012 SLS Europe has its consulting and service business. Based on its in-depth experience and a strong network of reliable partners, SLS Europe offers tailor-made hands-on services. The consulting and service offers refer to the entire product development phases as SLS Europe has successfully progressed its own products along the development value chain. Read more about SLS Europe on: <https://sls-eu.com/>

About Serum Institute of India

Driven by the philanthropic philosophy of striving to make vaccines affordable around the world, Serum Institute of India Pvt (SII), Ltd. is the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by number of doses produced and sold globally (more than 2.5 billion doses), supplying the world's least expensive and WHO-accredited vaccines to as many as 170 countries. It was founded in 1966 with the aim of manufacturing lifesaving immunobiological drugs including vaccines worldwide. With a strong commitment towards global health, the institute's objective has been proliferated by bringing down the prices of newer vaccines such as Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Hib, BCG, r-Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccines. SII is credited with bringing world-class technology to India, through its state-of-the-art equipped multifunctional production facility in Manjri, Pune along with spearheading the race of vaccine development against the COVID-19 pandemic. Serum Life Sciences Ltd is a subsidiary company of Serum Institute of India, with a global sales office in London to market vaccines manufactured by Serum Institute of India.

About the University of Oxford

Oxford University has been placed number 1 in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings for the seventh year running, and number 2 in the QS World Rankings 2022. At the heart of its success are the twin-pillars of their ground-breaking research and innovation and their distinctive educational offer.

Through its research commercialization arm, Oxford University Innovation, Oxford is the highest university patent filer in the UK and is ranked first in the UK for university spinouts, having created more than 200 new companies since 1988. Over a third of these companies have been created in the past three years. The university is a catalyst for prosperity in Oxfordshire and the United Kingdom, contributing £15.7 billion to the UK economy in 2018/19, and supports more than 28,000 full time jobs.

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