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Community research

TB VAC

An Integrated project for the design and testing of vaccine candidates against tuberculosis: Identification, development and clinical studies

<p>Total cost : € 20 800 000</p> <p>EU contribution : € 16 800 000</p>	<p>Coordinator : Dr Jelle Thole, ID-Lelystad - NL Jelle.Thole@wur.nl</p>
<p>Summary :</p> <p>The recent sequencing of the genome of <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> (Mtb), the bacillus that causes tuberculosis (TB), and the availability of new research tools have provided new opportunities for the development of better interventions against this killer disease.</p> <p>The TBVAC project aims at optimising and developing improved TB vaccines. Such vaccines should be useful for endemic countries where people have been exposed to bacteria similar to Mtb. Furthermore, they should be safe and effective in HIV- positive persons.</p> <p>The project integrates the work of the most relevant European actors in this field and comprises strategic research as well as discovery components. The strategic research part aims at optimising existing vaccine candidates for further development and evaluation in animal models. The best candidates will subsequently progress to evaluation in human clinical trials.</p> <p>During the project, it is expected to perform 6 clinical trials with the 3 most advanced candidates. Two additional candidates could follow at a later stage.</p> <p>The first trials will be done in Europe (three European sites have already being selected) and, later on, new studies will be performed in Africa. A site in Gambia is already involved in a clinical trial in co-operation with Oxford University and two further sites are foreseen in Ethiopia and the Senegal. Initial trials of new candidates will be done in healthy individuals neither TB infected nor BCG-vaccinated. Afterwards, trials will be expanded to the populations most likely to benefit from the new vaccines.</p> <p>The discovery part of the project will carry out back-up research to identify and develop novel vaccine candidates in addition to those already available. Substantial work will be devoted to the improvement of vaccines that are superior to BCG in animal models and to the discovery of vaccines suitable for use in people already infected with Mtb or HIV, or both.</p>	<p>Participants :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ID-Lelystad, Institut for Animal Science and Health BV - NL - Leiden University Medical Center - NL - Biomedical Primate Research Center - NL - Universite Libre de Bruxelles - BE - GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals - BE - Statens Serum Institute - DK - Armauer Hansen Research Institute - ET - Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique - FR - Institut Nationale de la Sante et de la Recherche Médicale - FR - Institut Pasteur - FR - University of Lübeck - DE - Universität Erlangen Nürnberg - DE - Max Plank Institute for Infection Biology - DE - Technical University of Munich - DE - National Institute for Infectious Diseases "Lazzaro Spallanzani" - IT - University of Palermo - IT - Universite Cheikh Anta Diop CHU Le Dantec - SN - University of Zaragoza - ES - Institute for Research in Biomedicine - CH - University of Geneva - CH - University Hospital of Basel - CH - Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois - CH - The University of Birmingham - UK - Aston University - UK - Manchester University - UK - The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine - UK - National Institute for Biological Standards and Control - UK - University of Oxford - UK - London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine - UK - Health Protection Agency - UK