



# New trends in vaccine upstream processing

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## A. Vaccine manufacturing today

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## Vaccines are the most efficient tools to prevent infectious diseases, yet a number of factors prevent global coverage



### Global immunization

- > Averts ~ 2 to 3 million deaths every year (of DTP and Measles)
- > An additional 1.5 million deaths could be avoided, by improving vaccination coverage
- > An estimated 19.4 million infants worldwide are still missing out on basic vaccines

#### Insufficient supply and late availability (i.e.)

- > Prevnar in 2011, USA
- > BCG in 2015, France
- > Meningitis C in 2015, Africa
- > DPTP in 2015, India

#### Crisis

- > Zika virus spread
- > Ebola epidemic

- > Urgent need for increased production capacity and cheaper vaccines
- > The global vaccine market will reach USD 48 bn in 2021, and 90% in the developed countries
- > Emerging countries must be able to manufacture their own vaccines more efficiently





## Vaccination is the only option to eradicate poliomyelitis, for a major impact on global health

Recorded cases of paralytic and non-paralytic poliomyelitis, USA, 1935-2010



Sources: (MMWR), Summary of Notifiable Diseases.





### Vaccine Manufacturing Today...



- > Over 80% of viral vaccines are still manufactured by the scaling out of lab-scale systems
- > Barrier: Very high CAPEX
- > Risk: High number of asceptic manual operations
- > Production capacity  $\downarrow \downarrow$ , cost  $\uparrow$

- > Some vaccines are manufactured in bioreactors – scaling up
- > Barrier: Extremely high CAPEX
- > Reduced risk: Limited asceptic manual operations
- > Production capacity  $\uparrow \uparrow$  , cost  $\uparrow \uparrow$







The majority of vaccine manufacturing techniques are still based on lab-scale principles "outscaled" to manufacturing scales

• T-Flasks



Roller Bottles





I Callin Callin Ca

• Eggs...



Life Science Talks – June 7th 2017







## High-density fixed-bed single-use bioreactors represent the optimal solution in viral culture, yet leaving room for improvement

Evolution of cell immobilization technologies





Outscaling of R&D process

Conventional Microcarriers & reactor

- Reduced manual operations Economy of scale
- Bead-to-bead transfer
   Cumbersome & high CoGs

Last generation

High-density single-use bioreactor



- Microfibers for high cell density- up to 100M cells/ml Reduced CAPEX & CoGs, small footprint
- Limited size for gene therapy Manufacturing robustness Lacks important features



B. Univercells mission How to make biologics available to all





Univercells exists to make biologics available and affordable to all – Its mission embodies the ongoing industry paradigm shift

Biologics for all – Industry paradigm shift



**Centralized manufacturing for developed economies** (e.g. USA, EU, Japan)



### New paradigm

**Distributed manufacturing for local markets** (e.g. Asia, Africa, Latin America)



Paradigm shift supported and **promoted by all health-related NGOs and academics**, i.e. WHO, BMGF, Wellcome Trust and MIT, UCL

## Univercells **mission** supported by key strategic partnerships

#### Viral vaccines

> Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) – Grant for integrated micro facility for vaccine production in GAVI countries

#### **Monoclonal antibodies**

> Network in LMIC countries through Key Opinion Leaders, Strategic Consulting firms, WHO and other NGOs

#### **Enzyme Replacement Therapies**

Private health insurance companies to leverage biosimilar platform to dramatically reduce the cost of orphan drugs, to be produced in hospitals



## This is achieved by bringing out the best of technology innovations allowing a rapid deployment of low CAPEX/OPEX production facilities

Technology-driven affordability by applying chemical engineering rules







Univercells ambition is to provide integrated solutions, to enable the commercialization of high quality vaccines and biosimilars in LMICs

Business opportunities in LMICs

**Extremely low** biologic treatment rates in LMICs

- > Prohibitive price per patient
- > Low availability nmet **Needs** due to unadapted production capacities

Willingness to develop in-country for-country production

### Barriers to bioproduction

- **CAPEX** intensive (~100-300 m EUR)
- **High operational Costs** preventing competitive pricing
  - Scarcity of **technical**, regulatory and clinical know-how

- **Complete CMC** 
  - Biological materials
  - Processes (USP, DSP, F&F, QC \_ assays)
  - Documentation
- > Microfacility

solutio

- Design tuned to manufacturer (includes production equipment)
- > Technology transfer and training
- Jnivercells Clinical/regulatory > development
  - IND submission
  - Immunogenicity (or Biosimilarity) study



C. Innovative technology for manufacturing of viral vaccines







## Univercells platform will produce 40M doses/year of sIPV in a labscale micro-facility at a cost of USD 0.15/dose

Univercells sIPV platform



#### Key benefits

#### > Industrial production at lab scale

- Highly intensified process allows miniaturization of manufacturing
- Isolator-based micro-facility for simplified infrastructure, high containment & safety

#### > Delivering low CoGs

- Target trivalent sIPV at **\$0.15 per dose**
- Broadly applicable to viral vaccines

#### > Rapid implementation

- Building footprint: <1,500m<sup>2</sup>
- Target CAPEX: ~€10-€20M
- Factory operational in a few months
- Implemented in new or existing facilities
- Plug & Play system: rapidly deployed incountry-for country manufacture





## Univercells bioreactor features bring game-changing benefits in adherent cell culture and viral production

Univercells bioreactor main features & benefits

# How to avoid:

- Scale-out of classical adherent/suspension cell culture (cell factories, roller bottles)
- > Large volumes (microcarriers & bioreactors)
- > Manual interventions
- > ... and related footprint, CAPEX and CoGs







We have already achieved a remarkable increase in yields driven by our proprietary high cell density, small footprint, single-use bioreactor

Evaluation of microfiber technology – structured fixed bed with multiple embodiments



Benefits of a structured bed

- > Homogeneity scale up virtually non limited
- > Fast cells entrapment/attachment
- > Easier to fabricate cost effective
- > Compatible with multiple bioreactors





## Cell Entrapment Kinetics







### Cell culture is performed in a bioreactor to significantly increase celldensity, as a way to replace traditional manufacturing process

Increase efficiency in cell culture – Single-use fixed-bed Bioreactor



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Source: Univercells

# Summary of current sIPV Process development in closed system at small scale



- > With current small scale yields, Univercells process would yield:
  - @500m<sup>2</sup> / 37L FB and 2x250L medium in perfusion, ~650DU/mL in 250L
  - ~4.2M doses/run in crude harvest

- > With current small scale yields, Univercells process would yield:
  - @500m<sup>2</sup> / 37L FB and 2x250L medium in perfusion, 52DU/mL in 250L
  - ~0.7M doses/run in crude harvest



Natrix"

All intensified production unit steps are linked together in a chained process into a closed system which is contained inside an isolator

First micro-facility system to be delivered in Q4 2018





## Micro facilities allow GAP III compliance with CAPEX reduction

- > Complete containment solution is proposed as to ensure entire process is contained
  - Production pods
  - QC pods
  - Quarantine pods for storage of inactivated quarantined bulks
- > The conceptual design highlights the small GAP III surface required to produce 40M doses trivalent sIPV/year with 4 MicroFacility systems
- This low GAP III surface allows a reduction of the associated CAPEX (~\$10-20M for the complete facility as depicted below)





D. Conclusions – Benefits of intensified manufacturing platform





Univercells provides customizable solutions for viral production, enabling rapid implementation of novel biomanufacturing capabilities

Our offering for viral production

we Offer	Features	Benefits
Customizable solutions for	> Intensified & cost- effective manufacturing	> High production capacity at very low COGS and limited CAPEX
viral production	process	> Minimized risks
Human & veterinary vaccines, gene therapy, oncolytic viruses	> Adapted to any viral- based product requirements	<ul> <li>Broadly applicable to viral vaccines</li> </ul>
	> Rapid implementation / production revamping	> Record time-to-market
		> Rapid response to epidemics & global threats
Cost-efficient technology		

### ...suited for viral production revamping



### Acknowledgements



BILL& MELINDA GATES foundation

"Humanity's greatest advances are not in its discoveries, but in how those discoveries are applied to reduce inequity." – Bill Gates



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## Biologics available to all !

