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Novel Shigella Vaccine Candidates

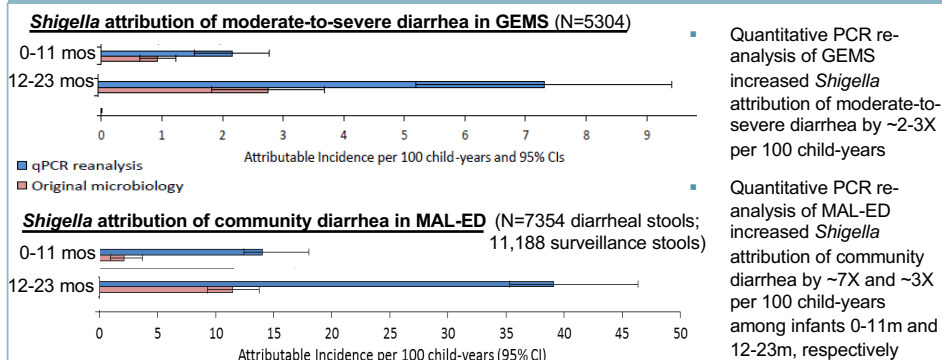
Cal MacLennan
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
DCVMN Annual Meeting
23 October 2019 Rio de Janeiro

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THE CASE FOR A *SHIGELLA* VACCINE

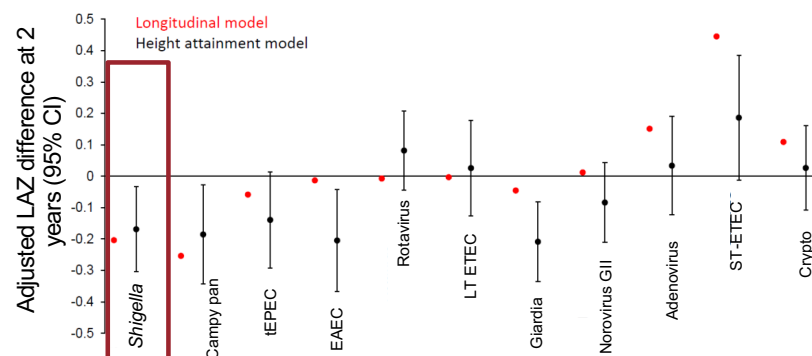
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Shigella burden is greater than we thought...



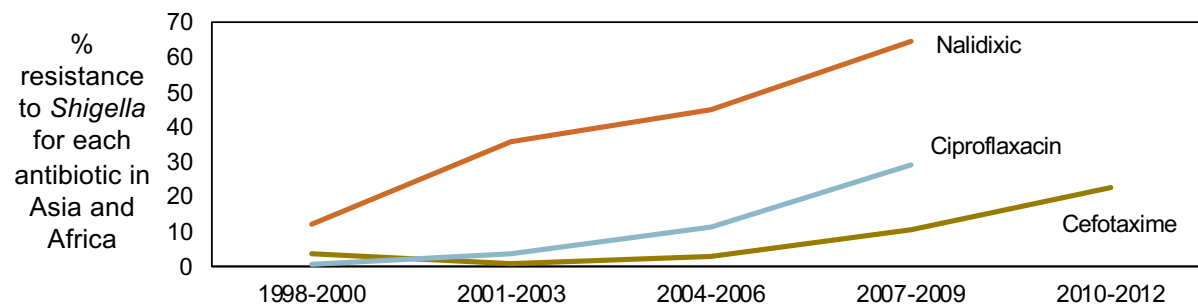
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...its impact on growth faltering is significant...



3

...and the threat of AMR is growing



Adapted from Gu B et al. *Int J Antimicrob Agents* 2012 and Gu B et al, *Epidemiol Infect* 2015

From GEMS:

- Only 35% of Indian *Shigella* isolates were sensitive to ciprofloxacin (WHO-recommended antibiotic for *Shigella* dysentery)
- > 80% of African *Shigella* isolates were resistant to cotrimoxazole (most commonly prescribed antibiotic in African sites)

Source: GEMS; MAL-ED; AMR data adapted from Gu et al. 2012 and 2015

CONFIDENTIAL

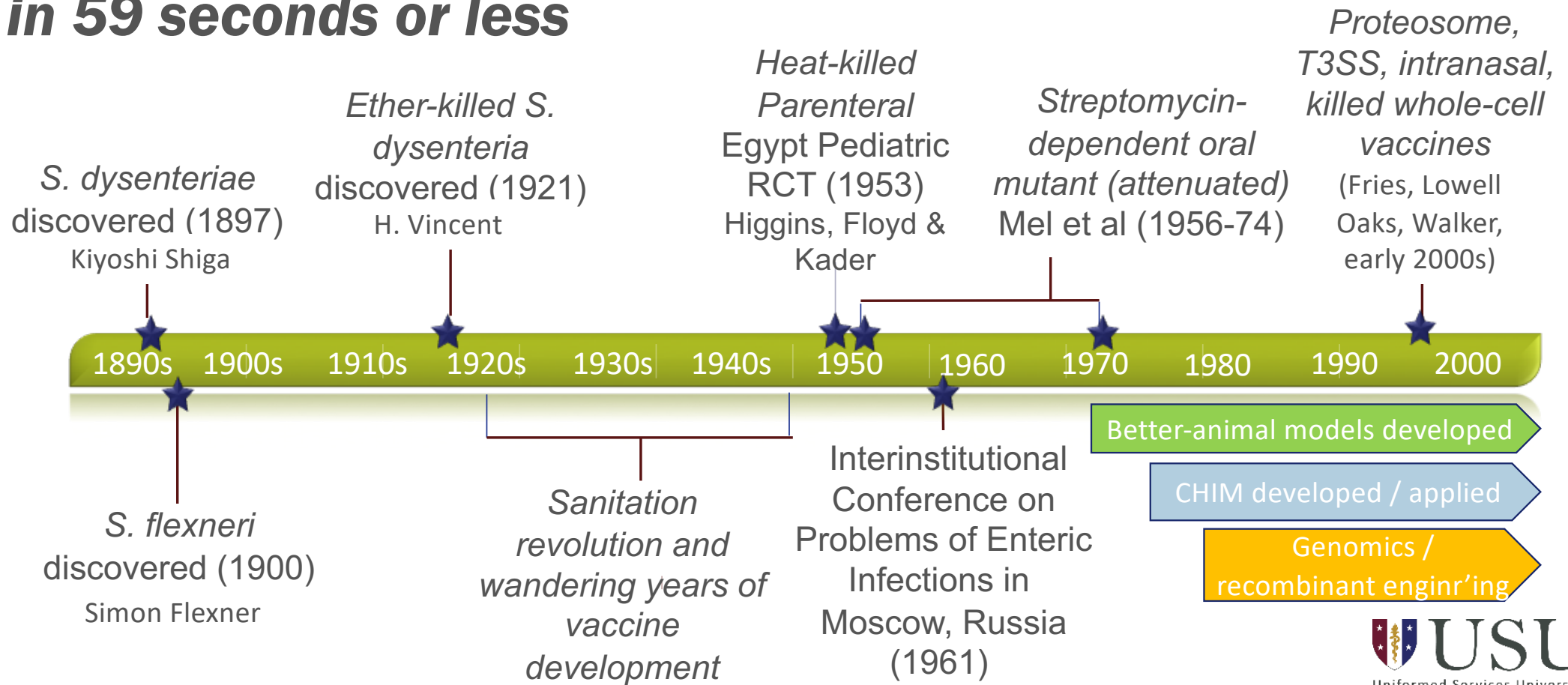
Slide Courtesy of Mark Riddle

Shigella Vaccine History: in 59 seconds or less

Killed-whole cell parenteral approaches

Live-attenuated approaches

Sub-unit era



PHASE 3 EFFICACY WITH SHIGELLA SONNEI CONJUGATE VACCINE IN YOUNG ADULTS

(Cohen D et al. Lancet 1997)

Young Israeli military recruits

S. Sonnei LPS O-antigen – rEPA conjugate 25 ug/75 ug – **single dose**

Overall Vaccine Efficacy **74% (95%CI 28-100)**

Protection GMT IgG to S. sonnei O-antigen 12761 units (day 17)

Vaccine failure GMT IgG to S. sonnei O-antigen 4904 units (day 17)

Clinical Proof of Concept for O-antigen-based approach

Note – this was the **1st generation** Shigella conjugate vaccine.

‘**lattice-type**’ conjugate with random conjugation chemistry.

→ large complex vaccine structure with limited batch-to-batch consistency

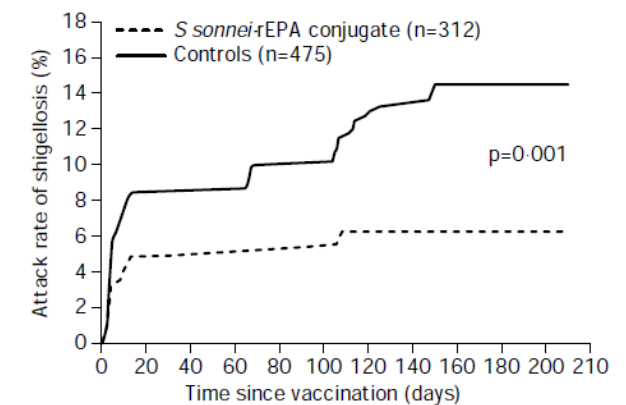


Figure 2: Attack rates of culture-proven *S sonnei* shigellosis in recipients of *S sonnei* conjugate vaccine and controls in groups A-D

PHASE 3 EFFICACY WITH SHIGELLA SONNEI CONJUGATE VACCINE IN ISRAELI CHILDREN DOWN TO 3 YEARS AGE

(Passwell JH et al. Vaccine 2010)

Bivalent vaccine *S. sonnei*/*S. flex* 2a

2 doses 6 weeks apart. 2 year follow up

71.1% vaccine efficacy against *S. sonnei* diarrhea

at 3-4 yrs age, but not < 3yrs

(Insufficient *S. flex* 2a diarrhea cases for efficacy)

Loss of efficacy with reduced IgG LPS O-antigen titer*

→ **Important for new O-antigen-based vaccines to induce high titers of IgG to O-antigen**

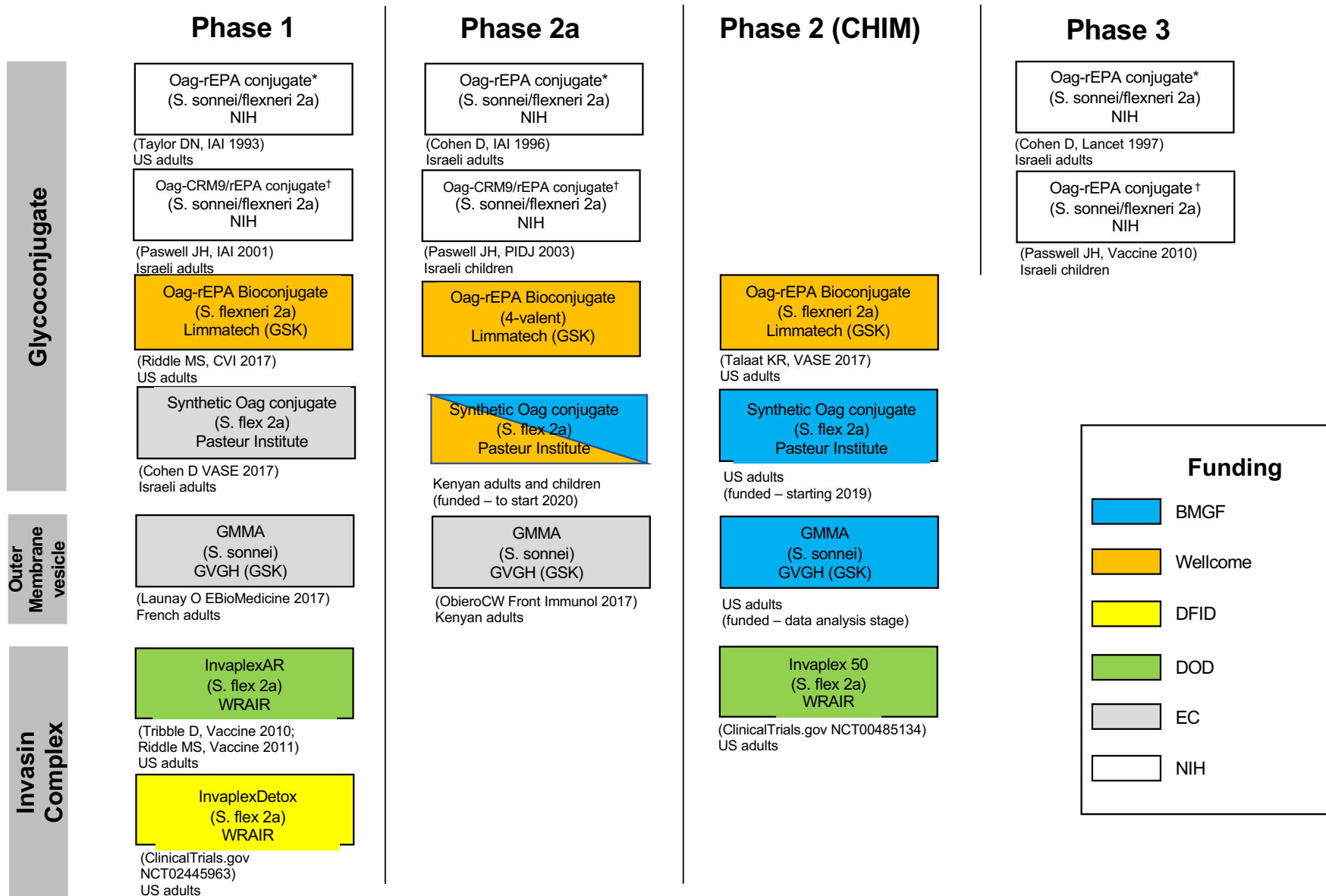
(*different assay to one used in Cohen et al 1997 – indicates urgent need for international assay and standards)

Age	Efficacy	(95% CI)	P
a. <i>Shigella sonnei</i>			
1–2 years	3.8%	(101.1, 46.5)	0.91
>2–3 years	35.5%	(–56.4, 73.4)	0.33
>3–4 years	71.1%	(–4.43, 92.0)	0.04
All ages	27.5%	(–16.9, 54.0)	0.18

G.M. IgG anti-LPS (EU)*			
Vaccine	Age (years)	N	<i>S. sonnei</i>
<i>S. sonnei</i>	1–2	38	1.40
	>2–3	44	3.71
	>3–4	29	6.38

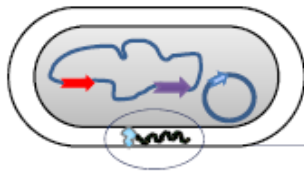
Target Product Profile for Shigella Vaccines

Variable	Minimum <i>The minimal target should be considered as a potential go/no go decision point.</i>	Optimistic <i>The optimistic target should reflect what is needed to achieve broader, deeper, quicker global health impact.</i>
Indication*	Prevention of moderate to severe diarrhea due to <i>Shigella</i> in children six months to two years of age	Prevention of moderate to severe diarrhea due to <i>Shigella</i> in children six months to five years of age.
Target Population*	Children six months to two years of age.	Children six months to five years of age.
Dosing Schedule and Route of Administration*	EPI schedule - 2 doses + booster IM route.	EPI schedule - 1 dose IM route.
Safety	Safety and reactogenicity profile should be clinically acceptable Contraindications should be restricted to known hypersensitivity to any of the vaccine components	Safety and reactogenicity profile should be clinically acceptable. Contraindications should be restricted to known hypersensitivity to any of the vaccine components
Efficacy*	50% efficacy against moderate to severe diarrhea caused by <i>Shigella</i> strains in the vaccine	70% efficacy against moderate to severe diarrhea caused by all <i>Shigella</i> strains
Duration of Protection	To 2 years, with boosting possible to extend protection	To 5 years.
Cost	\$1 - \$3	< \$1
Co-administration	With EPI vaccines without interference	With EPI vaccines without interference
Vaccine volume	0.5 ml/dose	0.5 ml/dose
Target Countries	GAVI-eligible and lower-middle income countries	GAVI-eligible and lower-middle income countries
Onset of immunity	2 weeks after 2 doses	2 weeks after 1 dose
Indirect (herd) protection	No	Yes



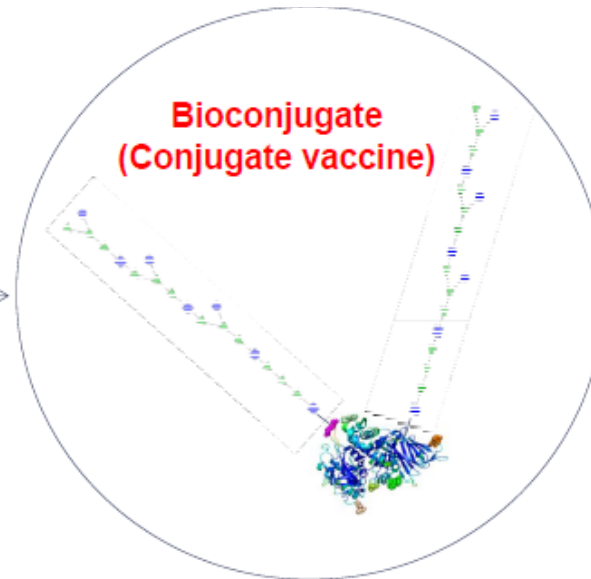
LIMMATECH (GSK) – SHIGELLA BIOCONJUGATE

Recombinant *E. coli*



Fermentation
Purification

**Bioconjugate
(Conjugate vaccine)**



- Simple product
- Periplasmic production
- Site specific, enzymatic conjugation

LIMMATECH (GSK) – BIOCONJUGATE PHASE 1 & CHIM

Phase 1 – US adults (Riddle MS et al CVI 2017)

S flex 2a O-antigen/EPA 10 ug/50 ug

2 doses 4 weeks apart

19-fold increase in O-antigen IgG titers

CHIM – US adults (Talaat KR et al VED Conference 2017)

2 doses 4 weeks apart

- 30% (non-significant) efficacy at preventing shigellosis (primary endpoint)
- **52% efficacy** at preventing moderate and severe shigellosis
- 72% efficacy at preventing more severe diarrhea
- Correlation between serum IgG and IgA to O-antigen and protection

Immune response and sample day	Vaccination group		
	Flexyn2a (n = 12)		
	GMT	Responders ^c	P value ^d
Anti-Sfl2a LPS Serum IgG			
Day 0	2,397		NS
Day 28	45,614	11/12	<0.0001
Day 56	40,637	11/12	<0.0001

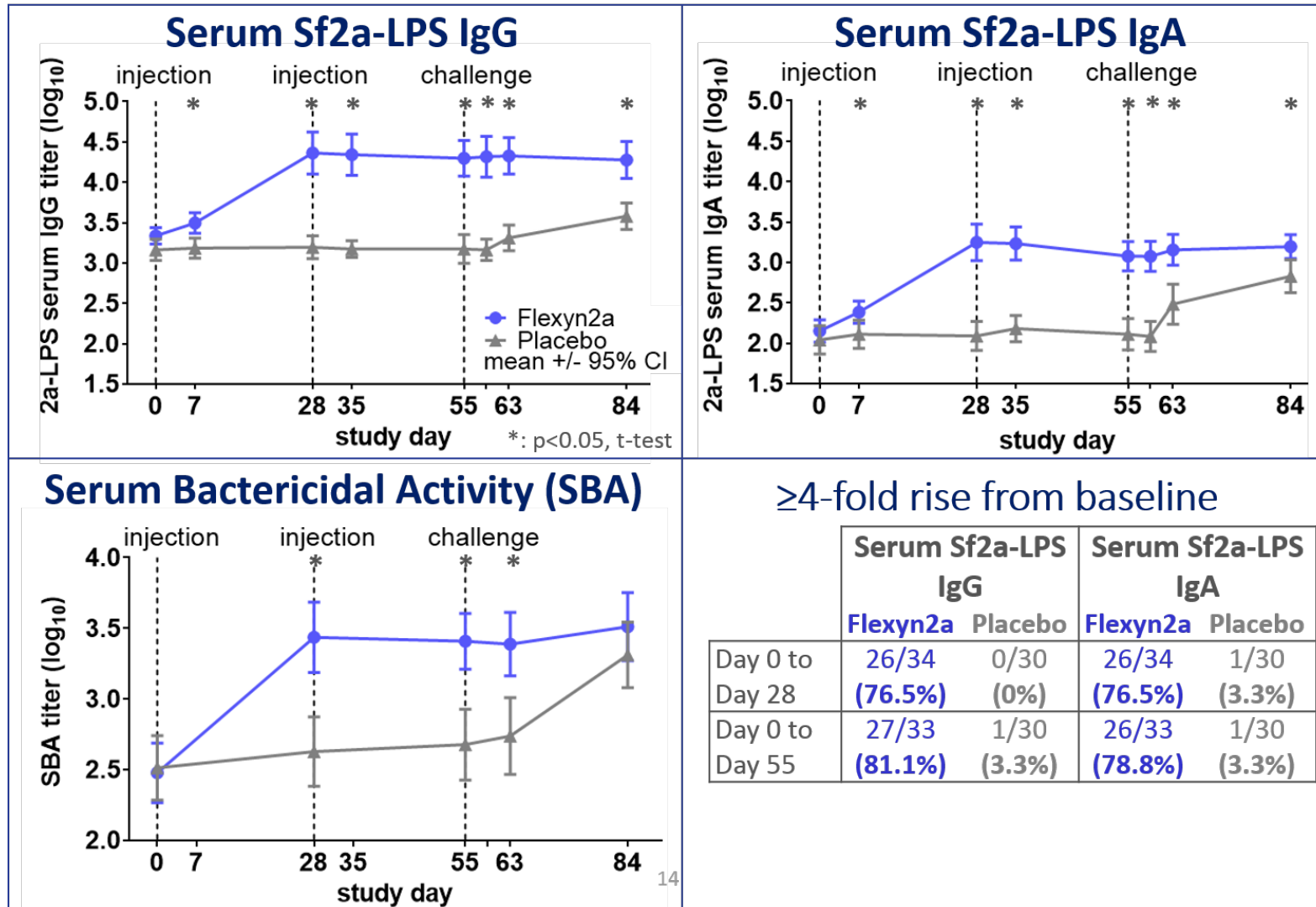
‘Flexyn2a, a candidate bioconjugate vaccine against *Shigella flexneri* 2a induces protective immune response in a controlled human infection model’

Kawsar R. Talaat¹, Cristina Alaimo², A. Lou Bourgeois¹, Robert W. Kaminski³, Anita Dreyer², Chad K. Porter⁴, Subhra Chakraborty¹, Kristen A. Clarkson³, Jessica Brubaker¹, Daniel Elwood¹, Rahel Frolich², Barbara DeNearing¹, Hailey Weerts³, Brittany Feijoo¹, Jane Halpern¹, David Sack¹, Mark S. Riddle⁴, Patricia Martin² and Veronica Gambillara Fonck²

(¹ Department of International Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland, USA; ² LimmaTech Biologics AG, Schlieren, Switzerland; ³ Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA; ⁴ Naval Medical Research Center, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA)

Flexyn2a Immunogenicity

Talaat VED 2017





LIMMATECH BIOCONJUGATE SUMMARY

Strengths

- Most advanced candidate
- Bioconjugate technology - conjugation occurs within bacteria
- Purification as for recombinant protein

GENERALIZED MODULES FOR MEMBRANE ANTIGENS

■ (GMMA) PLATFORM

Pure outer membrane buds by genetic engineering (*tolR*⁻) → efficacy & affordability of whole cell vaccine without the side effects

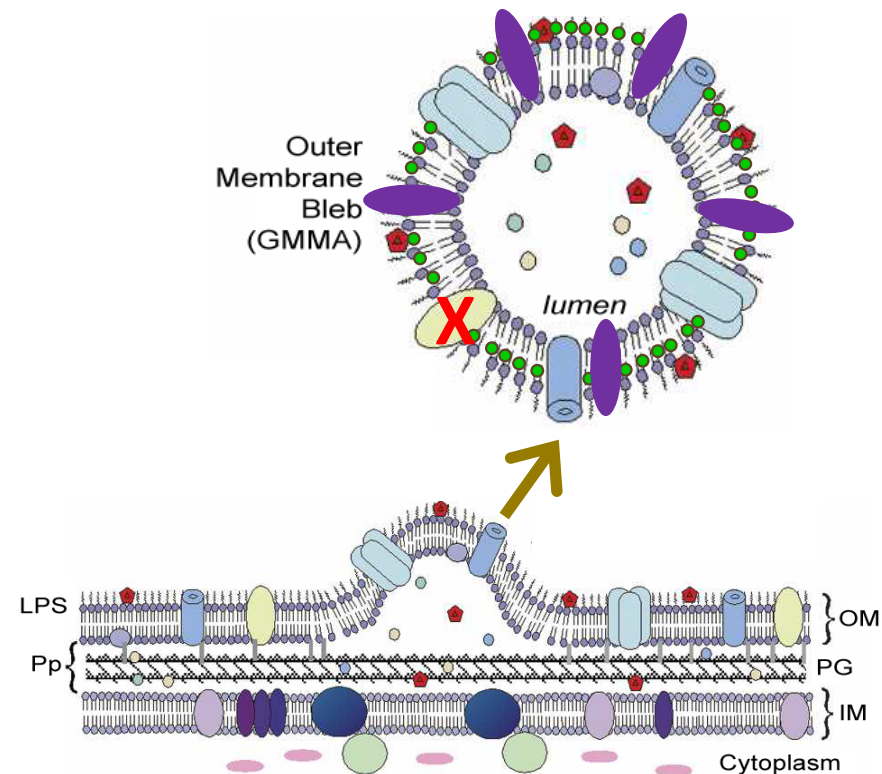
Modify toxic component (*msbB*⁻)

- Lipid A of LPS

Stabilize Sonnei plasmid

4-valent GMMA formulation (*S. sonnei*, *S. flexneri* 2a, 3a and 6) immunogenic in mice

S. sonnei prototype safe and immunogenic in phase 1; descending age and challenge trial start 2017

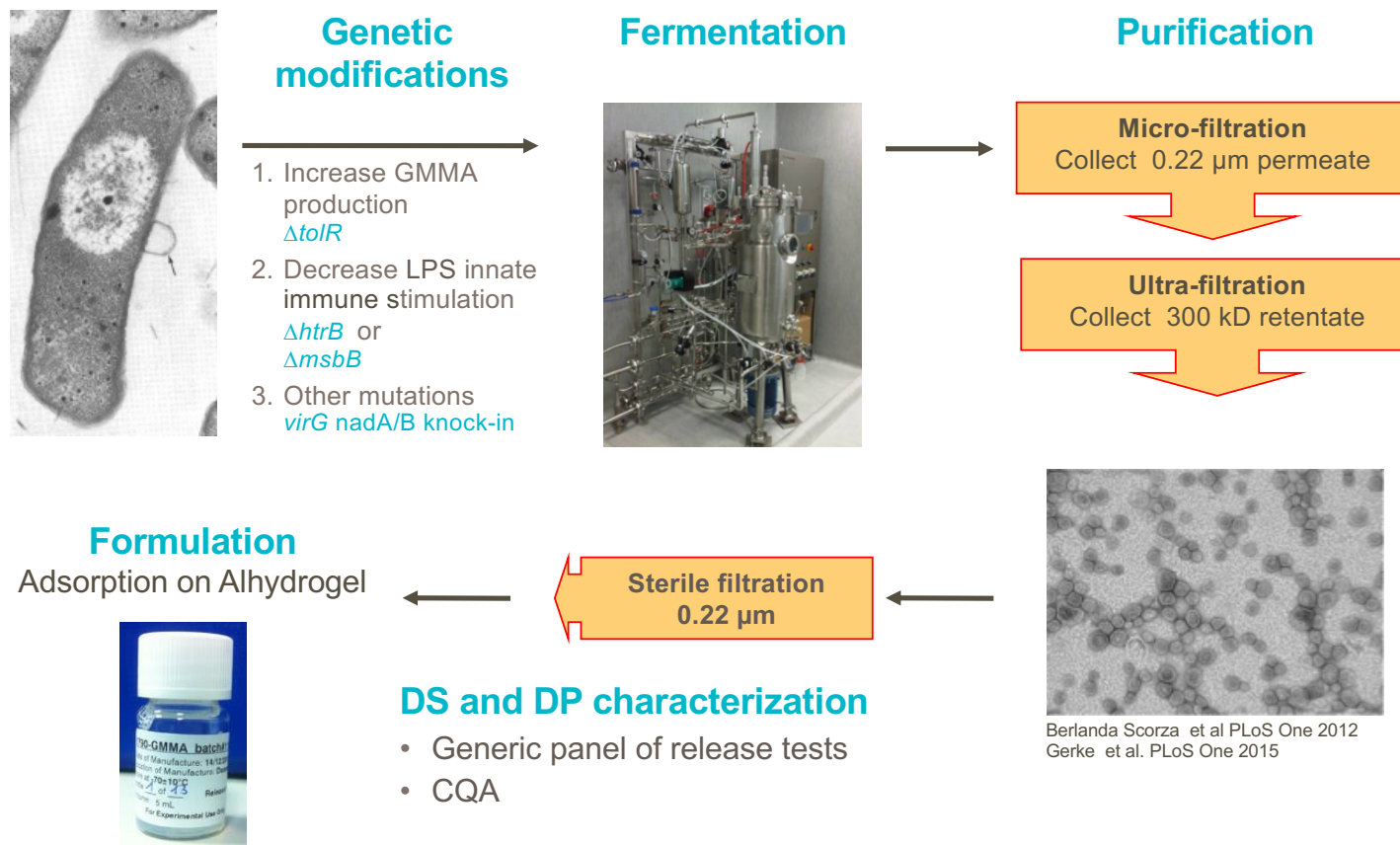


Gerke C et al. PLoS One 2015

GMMA manufacturing – Generic, simple and robust



Building on Shigella GMMA and a technology suited to sub-Saharan Africa



GVGH (GSK) GMMA – PHASE 1 & 2

Phase 1 - French adults (Launay O et al EBioMedicine 2017)

Dose-escalating Phase 1 study with monovalent *S. sonnei* GMMA

O-antigen/protein 0.059/1, 0.29/5, 1.5/25, 2.9/50 & 5.9/100 µg

3 vaccinations, 4 weeks apart

Median GMT post 3rd dose for 3 highest dose groups = **305 ELISA U**

Phase 2 - Kenyan adults – high pre-existing antibody titers -
levels boosted

CHIM study with current monovalent *S. sonnei* GMMA

Interim efficacy data expected November 2019



Research Paper

Safety Profile and Immunologic Responses of a Novel Vaccine Against *Shigella sonnei* Administered Intramuscularly, Intradermally and Intranasally: Results From Two Parallel Randomized Phase 1 Clinical Studies in Healthy Adult Volunteers in Europe

Odile Launay ^{a,g,h,1}, David J.M. Lewis ^{b,1,2}, Alessandra Anemona ^c, Pierre Loulergue ^{a,g,h}, Jo Leahy ^b, Antonella Silvia Sciré ^c, Anaïs Maugard ^{a,g,h}, Elisa Marchetti ^c, Stefano Zancan ^{c,3}, Zhiming Huo ^b, Simona Rondini ^c, Rachid Marhaba ^e, Oretta Finco ^d, Laura B. Martin ^c, Jochen Auerbach ^e, Daniel Cohen ^f, Allan Saul ^c, Christiane Gerke ^{c,4}, Audino Podda ^{c,4}

frontiers
in Immunology

ORIGINAL RESEARCH
published: 22 December 2017
doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2017.01884



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United States

A Phase 2a Randomized Study to Evaluate the Safety and Immunogenicity of the 1790GAHB Generalized Modules for Membrane Antigen Vaccine against *Shigella sonnei* Administered Intramuscularly to Adults from a Shigellosis-Endemic Country

Christina W. Obiero¹, Augustin G. W. Ndiaye², Antonella Silvia Sciré², Bonface M. Kaunyangi¹, Elisa Marchetti², Ann M. Gone¹, Lena Dorothee Schütte², Daniele Riccucci², Joachim Auerbach², Allan Saul², Laura B. Martin², Philip Bejon⁴, Patricia Njuguna^{1,2} and Audino Podda^{2*}



GSK GMMA VACCINE - SUMMARY

Strengths

- Simplicity of manufacture and low COGs
- Multiplicity of Shigella antigens delivered to immune system
- Potentially highly immunogenic due to self-adjuvanting effect

NEW CONJUGATES

Synthesis, characterization, and immunogenicity in mice of *Shigella sonnei* O-specific oligosaccharide-core-protein conjugates

John B. Robbins^{a,1}, Joanna Kubler-Kielb^a, Evguenii Vinogradov^b, Christopher Mocca^a, Vince Pozsgay^a, Joseph Shiloach^c, and Rachel Schneerson^a

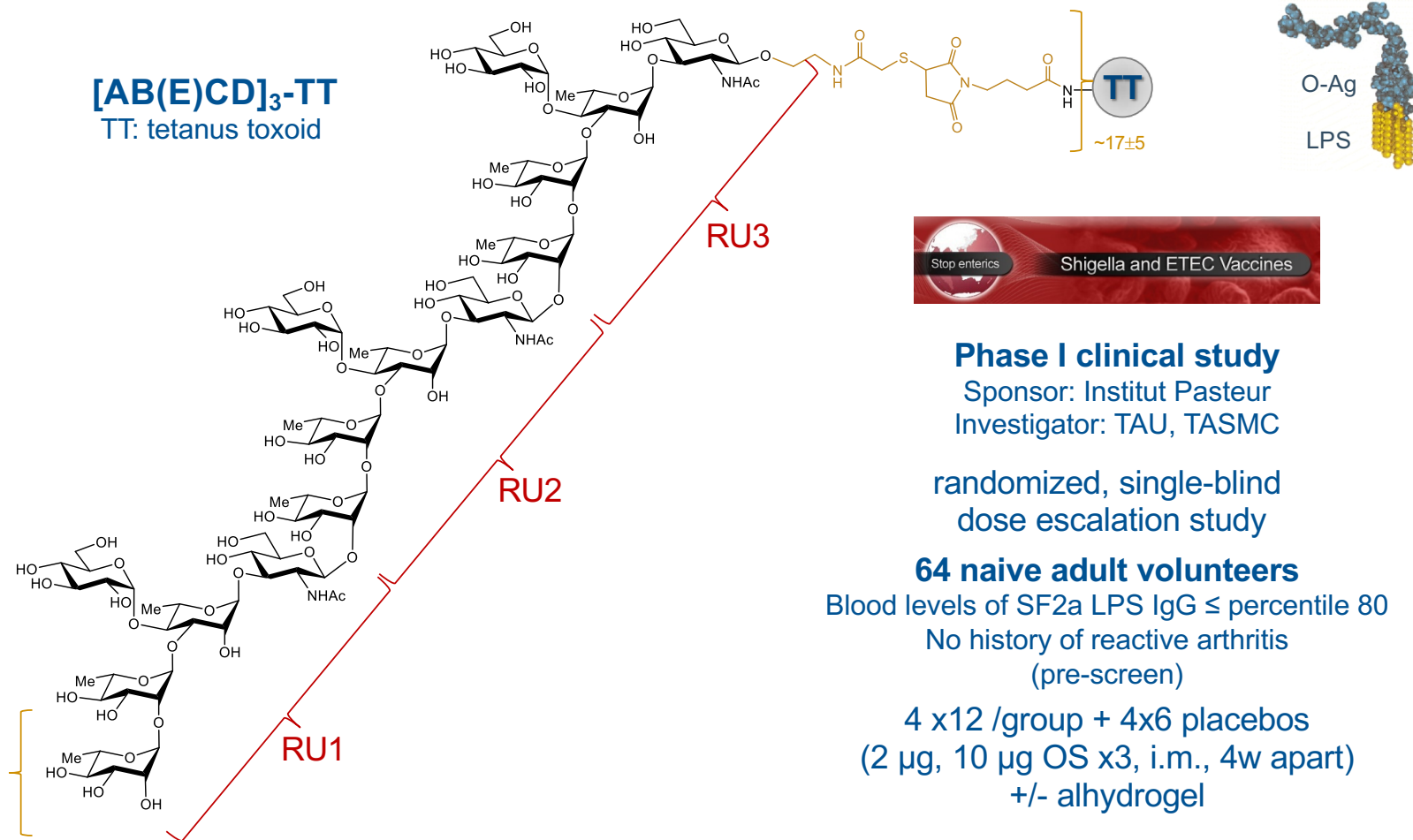
^aNational Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892; ^bInstitute for Biological Sciences, National Research Council, 100 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1A 0R6; and ^cNational Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892

Robbins JB et al PNAS 2009

Sun-type v Lattice-type configuration
Conjugates with shorter O-antigens induce higher IgG O-antigen titers in mice

No.	Conjugate	Molecular mass of conjugate, kDa	Molecular mass of sugar part, kDa	No. O-SPC chains per protein molecule	IgG, EU			
					Anti-LPS		Anti-rDT	
					Second injection	Third injection	Second injection	Third injection
1	BSA/O-SPC-F2*	93.1	22.2	7	79	366	ND	ND
2	rDT/O-SPC-F2	80.6	18.5	6	5	392	2	91
3	rDT/O-SPC-F2	99.5	37.4	12	11	150	0.1	2
4	BSA/O-SPC-F3†	95.2	24.3	11	ND	ND	ND	ND
5	rEPA/O-SP‡	ND	ND	ND	11	67	ND	ND

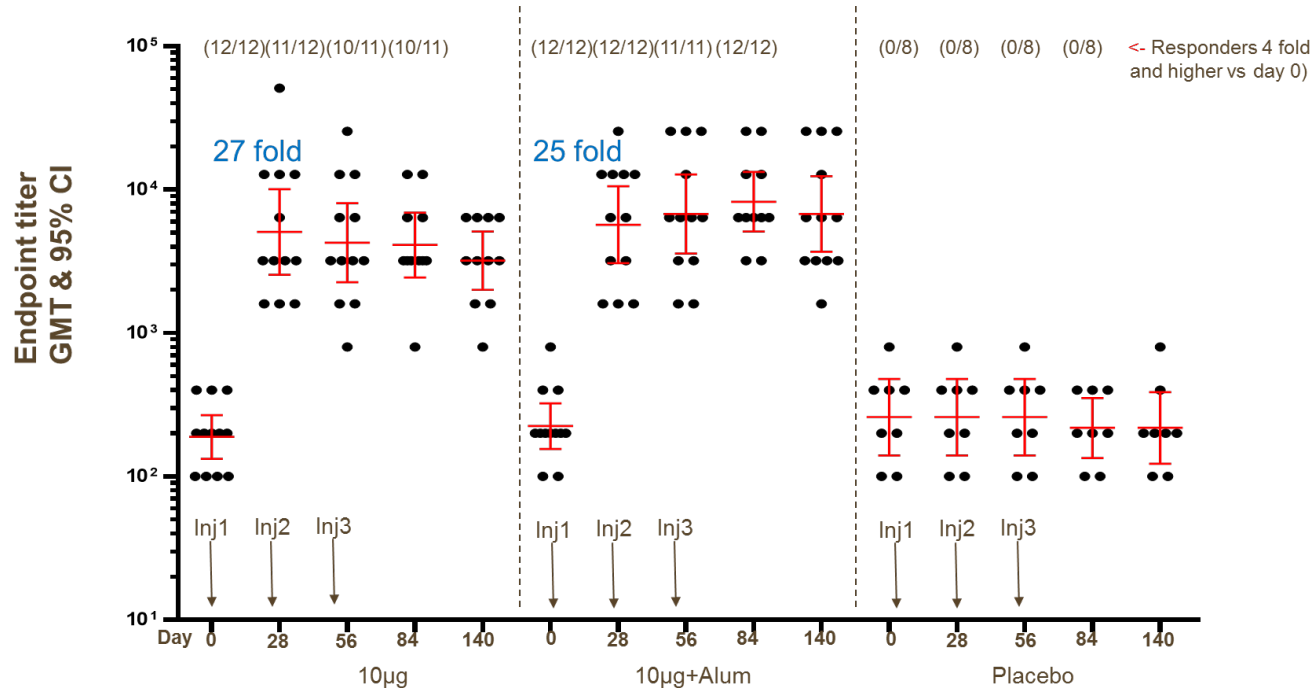
A synthetic carbohydrate-based vaccine candidate against *S. flexneri* 2a produced for a phase I clinical trial



<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02797236>

Bioconjugate Chem 27 883 (2016)

INSTITUTE PASTEUR SYNTHETIC CONJUGATE: ~27-FOLD RESPONSE POST 10 µg SINGLE DOSE



Synthetic conjugate:

Synthetic production of *S. flex* 2a O-antigen


– 3 repeating units

Optimised design for immunogenicity

Conjugated to tetanus toxoid.

'Sun-type' configuration

- High immunogenicity post a single dose with 10 µg O-antigen
- **27-fold increase** in IgG titer to O-antigen without alum (higher than 1st generation conjugates)
- High avidity and functional activity of antibodies
- *S. flex* 3a conjugate already produced. *S. sonnei* and *S. flex* 6 and 1b in progress.



INSTITUTE PASTEUR SYNTHETIC CONJUGATE CURRENT ASSESSMENT

Strengths

- Defined short O-antigen
- Promising strategy with likely improved immunogenicity compared with first generation NIH conjugates vaccines
- Does not require bacterial fermentation – small footprint for production

■ IMMUNOGENICITY STUDIES IN TARGET POPULATION

Are candidates sufficiently immunogenic to confer protection in LMIC children?

- No parenteral *Shigella* vaccine has been tested to date in the target population: children 6 to 12 months in LMICs.
- Must evaluate immunogenicity in this target population, as soon as safety has been established in naive adults
- This requires a safety and immunogenicity study in descending age groups (to <12 months) in LMICs.
- **Age-descending studies of the three leading O-antigen-based *Shigella* vaccines (Limmatech, GVGH and Institut Pasteur) are being co-funded by BMGF and Wellcome**

	2017												2018												2019												2020												2021																																			
	Q3				Q4				Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Q1			Q2																																																
	07	08	09	10	11	12	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	01	02	03	04	05	06																																				
STRATEGY					▲ SME WS				▲ Funders Mtg				▲ Strategy endorsed								▲ SME WS																																																															
REGULATORY	WHO PPC WS				★				WHO PD & Policy Pathway				★																WHO PD & Policy Pathway				★																																																			
<div>← WHO Engagement on ETEC & Shigella OPP1135836</div>																																																																																				
ASSAYS, STDS & COPs					★ ELISA WS				IgG Thresholds OPP1189564 (Tel Aviv University)																								IgG stds flex 2a & S. Sonnei ELISA assay (NIBSC)												★ COPS & ELISA WS																																							
EPIDEMIOLOGY													★ WHO Burden WS																																																																							
CHIM	CHIM Clinical & Assays WS				★				▲ End pt Consensus																★ CHIM Endpt & Assays Papers submitted																																																											
Bioconjugate Vaccine (Limmatech)																																					Multivalent P2 Descending Age Study																																															
GMMA (GVGH) OPP1133860																									S. Sonnei CHIM																								Multivalent P2 Descending Age Study																																			
Synthetic GP Vaccine (IP)																																					Flex 2a CHIM																								Flex 2a Descending Age Study																							

DOES THE *SHIGELLA* CHIM HAVE A ROLE IN LATE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND LICENSURE/POLICY RECOMMENDATION?

Precedent:

- Role of CHIM in cholera and typhoid conjugate vaccine licensure/recommendation
- No established regulatory pathway for using CHIM to facilitate licensure/policy recommendation
- Advice from regulators: all vaccines and diseases needed to be treated separately
- For a first Shigella vaccine: need for field data for safety and efficacy



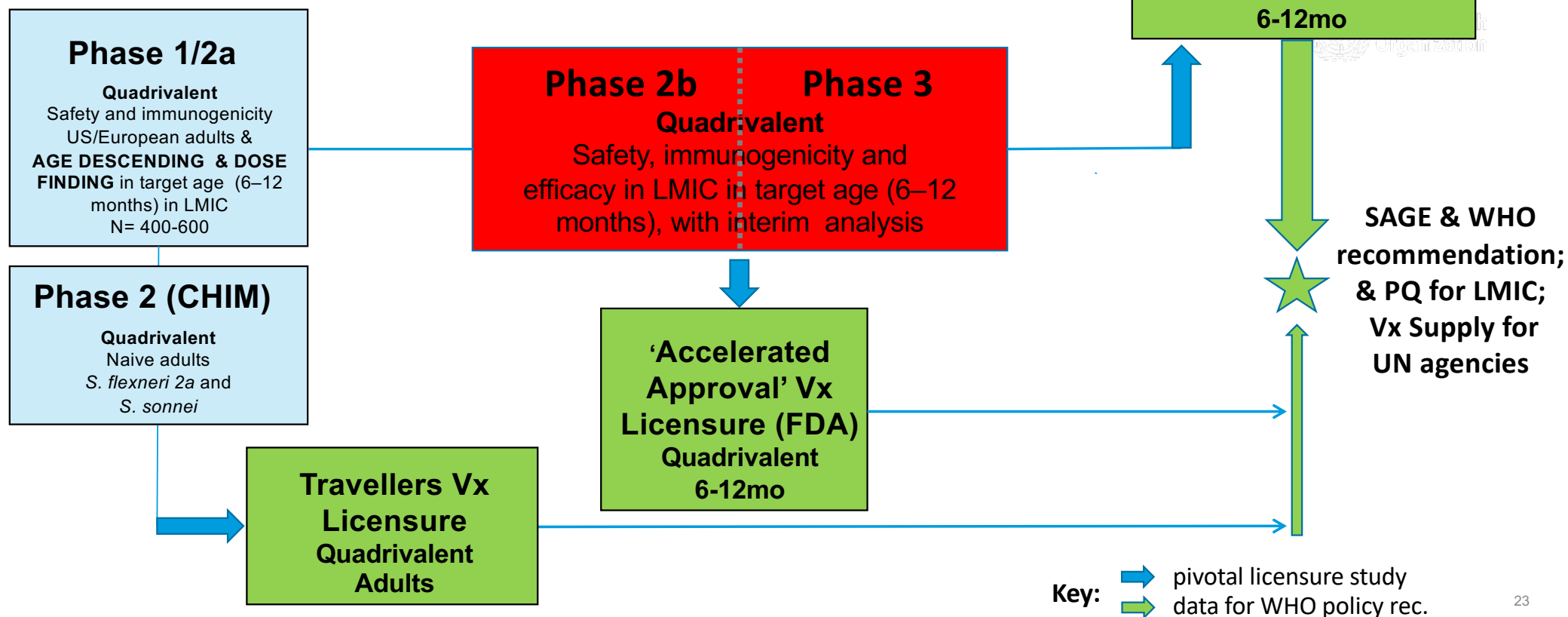
<http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272272/WER9313.pdf?ua=1>



<https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm506305.htm>

Stakeholder consultation identified three potential licensure routes

- Travellers vaccine dependant on efficacy from CHIM
- Accelerated approval supported by efficacy data from CHIM
- **What role does CHIM play in licensure and a policy recommendation for LMICs?**



■ SUMMARY

- Multiple O-antigen-based subunit vaccines in clinical trials
- 3 lead candidates, each employing a different novel technological approach
- Evaluated for efficacy in monovalent formulation in CHIM studies
- All funded for descending-age studies into target population (LMIC children 9 months – 2 years)
- Two in quadrivalent format
- Regulatory clinical pathway under discussion – WHO-led
- Work on parallel enabling activities – international ELISA and serum standard
- Each candidate likely in need of a manufacturing partner for late-stage clinical development

■ BACK-UP SLIDES

SHIGELLA: STRATEGIC SHIFTS IN OUR APPROACH

2007-2014: Broad portfolio approach

- PATH EVI (1-2) re-ignites the field and evaluates ~50 ETEC & *Shigella* vaccine constructs.

2014-2016: Toward a combination ETEC & *Shigella* vaccine

- 2014: EVI 3 funded; portfolio down-selected to 9 candidates. Lead oral ETEC and *Shigella* candidates with combination potential.
- 2015: GSK GMMA platform funded outside of EVI.

2017-2018: Shifting focus towards *Shigella*

- No go decision for lead EVI ETEC candidate (ETVAX), based on Phase 2a data. →
- No go decision for lead EVI *Shigella* candidate (TSWC), given manufacturing delays and ETVAX no go. →

Q1/Q2 2018 decision on future investment in **ETEC** vaccines, pending additional burden data.

New *Shigella* vaccine approach:

- Focus on 2nd generation O-antigen vaccine candidates
- New regulatory approach to accelerate vaccine licensure (~2023)
- New partner: Gates MRI.

New 3-5 year goals:

1. Advance lead O-antigen-based *Shigella* vaccine candidates to efficacy in CHIM and immunogenicity in target population by 2021
2. Advance enabling technologies (e.g. validated international ELISA, human challenge models) and accelerate regulatory pathway to achieve licensure by 2023
3. Identify new target antigens to support 3rd generation *Shigella* vaccine development by 2020
4. Prepare the evidence and policy in support of a future delivery strategy of *Shigella* vaccines

SHIGELLA: 2ND GENERATION O-ANTIGEN-BASED VACCINES

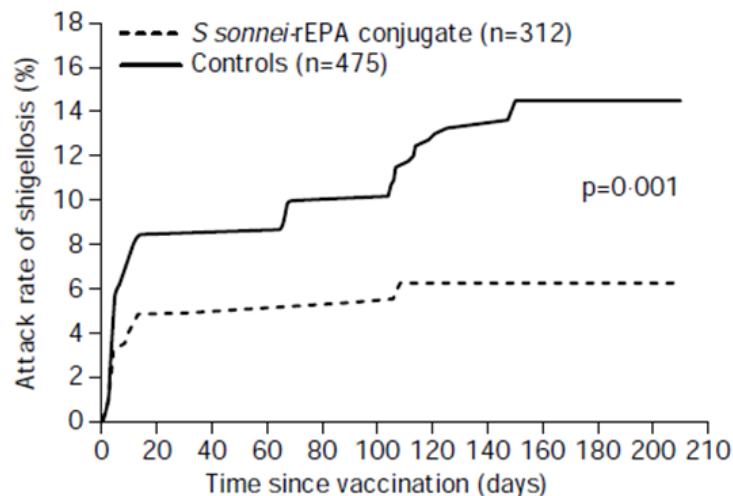


Figure 2: Attack rates of culture-proven *S sonnei* shigellosis in recipients of *S sonnei* conjugate vaccine and controls in groups A-D

20 years ago, a 1st generation NIH 'lattice-type' *S. sonnei* conjugate vaccine gave 74% efficacy among Israeli military. Protection was strongly associated with the IgG antibody response to LPS O-antigen...

...but many years later, the same vaccine failed to protect children <3 years. Loss of protection closely associated with decreased induction of LPS O-antigen IgG (*Passwell JH et al Vaccine 2010*)

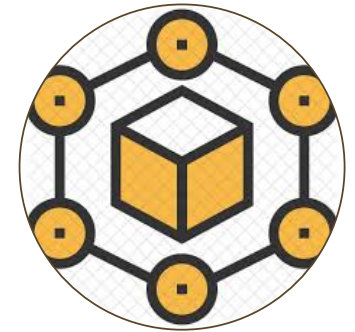
Hypothesis: a 2nd generation vaccine that induces higher levels of IgG to O-antigen will protect young children...

Lead candidates:

1. Limmatech/GSK Bioconjugate vaccine
2. GVGH/GSK GMMA vesicle vaccine
3. Pasteur Institute Synthetic O-antigen conjugate vaccine

Key messages: 1. O-antigen-based conjugate vaccines can protect against *Shigella*
2. serum IgG titer to *Shigella* O-antigen is a strong associate of protection

PREFERRED PRODUCT CHARACTERISTIC



**ETEC and Shigella Vaccine Preferred
Product Characteristics (PPCs):
Global Stakeholder Consultation**
Portugal: 6-7 October 2017

Birgitte Giersing, PhD
Initiative for Vaccine Research
Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals



To develop a safe, effective, affordable vaccine to reduce diarrhea, dysentery and morbidity caused by Shigella in children under 5 years of age, in LMICs

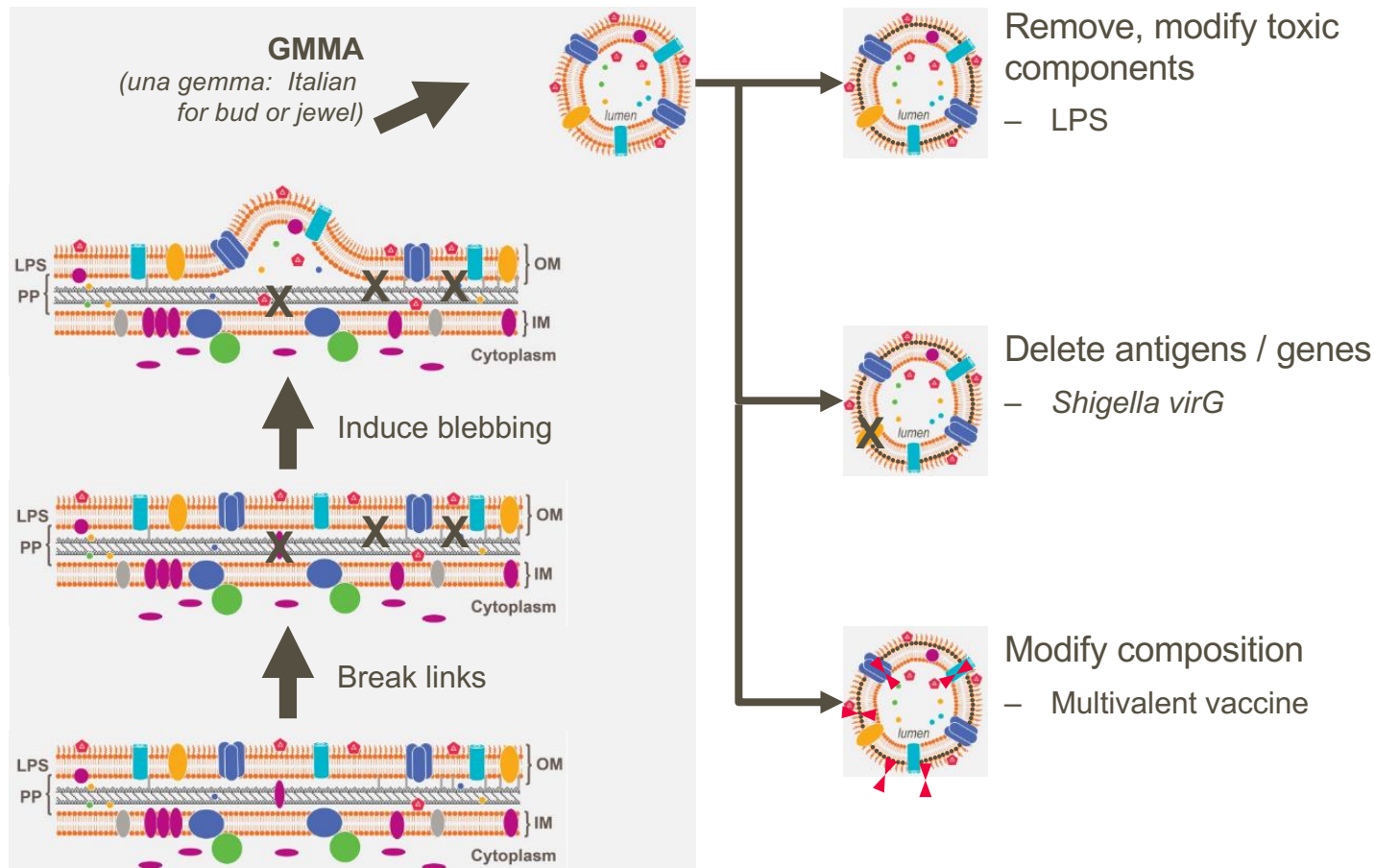


Shigella bioconjugate vaccine

- *S. dysenteriae* O1 phase 1 in 2010 (*Hatz et al., Vaccine 2015*)
 - *S. flexneri* 2a phase 1 and 2b (Wellcome Trust program) 2014-2016
 - Phase 1 results obtained:
 - Safety and immunogenicity (*Riddle et al., Clin Vaccine Immunol 2016*)
 - Phase 2b results obtained:
 - Proof of concept for early indication of efficacy (results will be presented at VED 2017 and Human Challenge Workshop 2017)
 - Supportive data of serological correlation with protection against clinical shigellosis
 - Multivalent *Shigella* conjugate including the four most-dominant serotypes; projected coverage - Sf2a, Sf3a, Sf6 and *S. sonnei* in descending-age study to children 9 months to two years in Kenya
-

From GMMA theory to GVGH examples

Simple to prepare but capable of sophisticated manipulation



GVGH (GSK) GMMA

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online



High Yield Production Process for *Shigella* Outer Membrane Particles

Francesco Berlanda Scorza^{1*}, Anna Maria Colucci¹, Luana Maggiore¹, Silvia Sanzone¹, Omar Rossi¹, Ilaria Ferlenghi², Isabella Pesce¹, Mariaelena Caboni¹, Nathalie Norais², Vito Di Cioccio¹, Allan Saul¹, Christiane Gerke^{1*}

Production of a *Shigella sonnei* Vaccine Based on Generalized Modules for Membrane Antigens (GMMA), 1790GAHB

Christiane Gerke^{1*}, Anna Maria Colucci¹, Carlo Giannelli¹, Silvia Sanzone¹, Claudia Giordina Vitali², Luigi Sollai¹, Omar Rossi¹, Laura B. Martin¹, Jochen Auerbach¹, Vito Di Cioccio¹, Allan Saul¹

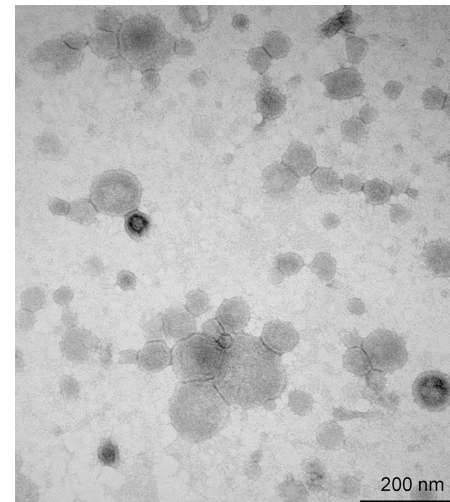
¹ Sclavo Behring Vaccines Institute for Global Health S.r.l., Siena, Italy, ² Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, S.r.l., Siena, Italy

Gerke C et al PLoS One 2016

Up to 5 O-antigen repeat units per LPS molecule

Low O-antigen content - Protein:O-antigen ratio 16:1

<10% of LPS molecules have O-antigen



Berlanda Scorza F et al PLoS One 2012

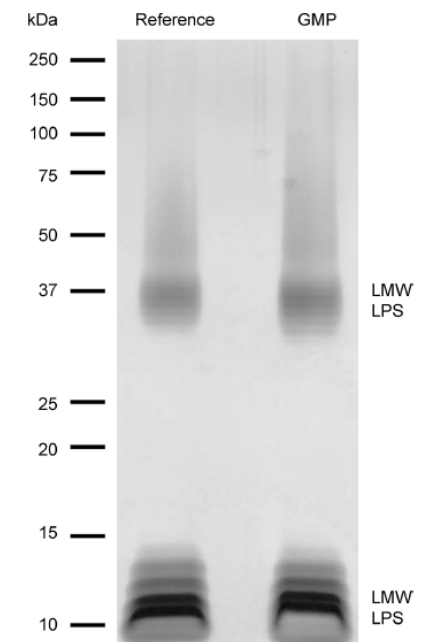


Novel O-antigen vaccine strategy

Enriched for outer membrane proteins

Simplified production process

Potential very low cost of good



Synthetic carbohydrates vaccine for *Shigella*



-
- Homogeneous, well defined oligosaccharides (OS) as alternative to conjugates of detoxified LPS
 - SF2a-TT15
 - Optimum OS selected on basis of immunogenicity testing and protection in mice.
 - Phase 1 initiated 2Q2016 (10 and 2 mg/dose ± alum 3 doses at 3 week intervals
 - Financial support: EC-FP7 STOPENTERICS

Data Courtesy of Armelle Phalipon, Institut Pasteur
