Vaccines

A WORLD TO PROTECT

The development of vaccines to prevent serious disease is an extraordinary story of medical achievement – one in which Pfizer and its ‘legacy’ companies have played a critical role for more than a century. Today, the Company is helping to usher in a new era of vaccine innovation.

A Legacy of Achievement in Preventing Disease

The significant impact of Pfizer’s vaccines – including those of its predecessor companies Wyeth, Lederle Laboratories and Praxis Biologics – dates back more than a century. In the early 1900s the Company was involved in the commercial production of a smallpox vaccine. Later, the Company was the first to develop a heat-stable, freeze-dried smallpox vaccine as well as the bifurcated needle, which ultimately helped lead to the worldwide eradication of smallpox.

Among its other innovative contributions, the Company was the first to introduce a combined vaccine for preventing diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus. Lederle also produced more than 600 million doses of the first live trivalent oral poliovirus vaccine, substantially contributing to the 1994 eradication of polio in the Americas.

As vaccine research and development took exciting new directions through emerging knowledge about viral and bacterial diseases, the Company continued to press forward. Even as many others abandoned vaccine research, Pfizer remained on the leading edge of vaccine development. In 1988, the Company pioneered the use of novel conjugation technology which led to the introduction of groundbreaking vaccines, ones that were effective even in young children, and reduced the incidence of disease and rates of transmission. Conjugation involves linking the sugar chains often found on the outer surface of bacterium to a specific protein called CRM197 – a non-toxic variant of the diphtheria toxin. Doing so boosted the body’s immune response and immune memory in very young children. The Company has successfully developed three first-in-class vaccines using this technology.

Notably, the Company was proud to be recognized with a Prix Galien USA Award for “Best Pharmaceutical Agent” in 2011 for its 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine. In addition, the Company received the 2005 National Medal of Technology – the U.S. government’s highest honor for technological achievement, for its 7-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.

The Developing World

Pfizer is committed to working with the global health community to accelerate global access to its vaccines in the world’s poorest countries on an affordable and sustainable basis.

As an expression of that commitment, Pfizer has pledged to supply up to 480 million doses of its 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine to infants and young children in GAVI-eligible countries through 2023 under the auspices of the Advance Market Commitment (AMC), an innovative program piloted by the GAVI Alliance.

The AMC is a public-private approach to health funding designed to create a sustainable marketplace, ensure an affordable and stable supply of pneumococcal vaccines at a steeply discounted price, and stimulate the development and expansion of manufacturing capacity for vaccines specifically for the world’s poorest countries.
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Pfizer was proud to introduce its vaccine into the childhood immunization program of a developing country within one year of its launch in the United States and European Union – a historic precedent given the average 10-15 year lag for introducing newer vaccines into developing countries following their introduction into industrialized nations. As of December 2011, Pfizer’s 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine was available in more than 85 percent of countries which have launched pneumococcal immunization programs under the AMC with many additional launches planned.

A key component of Pfizer’s commitment to make true inroads toward global healthcare access is to work through private-public partnerships, such as the AMC, which are vital to accelerating the availability of affordable vaccines to those children who are most vulnerable.

A New Era of Vaccine Innovation

Pfizer is focusing on the next generation of vaccine development – both to prevent and treat disease. As the global leader in pneumococcal disease prevention, Pfizer will continue to push the boundaries of innovation to pursue the next scientific breakthrough for the prevention of pneumococcal disease. In addition, Pfizer is developing vaccines that target meningococcal serogroup B disease — which is an important cause of meningitis and bloodstream infections for which no vaccine is currently available, and a vaccine for *Staphylococcus aureus* — the leading cause of hospital-acquired infections.