

# Approaches to TB Vaccine Development

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Beyond BCG: Towards an Effective New Vaccine for TB All Party Parliamentary Group on Global Tuberculosis 20 May 2009 London







### Link between public policy and public health



The tax on light and air leads to an increase in TB





- Key donor to GAVI Alliance, Global Fund to Fight Aids, TB and Malaria and Stop TB Partnership
- Supporting AMC for pneumococcal vaccines
- New research strategy nearly doubles funding for development research by 2010/2011
- Global leader in recognition and support of PDPs for neglected diseases



# Accelerating TB Vaccine R&D through Product Development Partnerships (PDPs)

- Non-profit enterprises created to accelerate R&D for new products to fight AIDS, TB, malaria and other neglected diseases
- Manage resources and partnerships from across public, private and philanthropic sectors
- Complements partners expertise, facilities and capacity
- Utilize a portfolio management approach
- Act as a catalyst to advance new products through the development pipeline towards registration and launch
- Range from "virtual" to "bricks and mortar" depending on availability of external capacity
- Commitment to access, availability and affordability







#### **Mission:**

To develop new, more effective TB vaccines and ensure their affordability and availability to all who need them.

#### **Goals:**

- A more effective, safe and affordable TB vaccine
- Identify correlates and surrogate markers of vaccine induced protection
- Develop second generation TB vaccines with increased potency and broader protection





**Aeras Global Vaccine Development Partners** 

#### Industry GSK, UK

Crucell, Netherlands Sanofi/SSI, Denmark

ImmunoBiology, UK
Wuhan Biologicals, China

Serum Institute, India Thymed, Germany Alphalyse, Denmark Japan BCG Laboratory, Japan

Korean Institute of TB, Korea

Cyncron, Denmark Cellestis, Australia

Immune Solutions, New Zealand Larimer, U.S.

Sanofi Pasteur, France Smittskyddsinstitutet, Sweden BIOCON, U.S.

Emergent BioSolutions, U.S.
Intercell, Austria
Spring Valley Laboratories, U.S.
Statens Serum Institute, Denmark

Industry

Foundations/
Government

#### Foundations/Governments/NGOs

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, U.S. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Fogarty International Center and NIAID, National Institutes of Health, U.S.

Research Council of Norway, Norway

Wellcome Trust, UK

**AIDS Fondet, Denmark** 

Cambodian Health Committee, Cambodia European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), European Commission

LHL/ The Norwegian Association of Heart and Lung Patients,

Norway

Planeta Salud, Spain

Manhiça Health Research Centre, Mozambique Medicine in Need (MEND), U.S.

STOP TB Partnership, Switzerland

TB-Alert, UK TBVI, Europe Academia

Oxford University, UK University of Wales, UK

**SATVI, South Africa** 

St. Johns Research Institute, India

Makerere University, Uganda

Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenya

Karolinska Institute, Sweden

Wuhan University, China

Albert Einstein College of Medicine, U.S.

Arizona State University, U.S.

iomedical Primate Research Center, The Netherlands

Case Western Reserve University, U.S.

Central Institute for Tuberculosis, Russia

Centre for International Health at the University of

Bergen, Norway

Colorado State University, U.S.

Emory University, U.S.

Food and Drug Administration, U.S.

FIND, Switzerland

Harvard University, U.S.

International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)

Johns Hopkins University, U.S.

**KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, The Netherlands** 

Leiden University Medical Center, The Netherlands

Life Science Research Israel (LSRI), Israel

Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, Germany

McGill University, Canada

National Cancer Institute, The Netherlands

New York University, U.S.

Oregon Health Sciences University, U.S.

**Public Health Research Institute** 

Stanford University, U.S.

Saint Louis University., U.S.

University of Bergen, Norway

University of California-Davis, U.S.

University of California- San Francisco, U.S.

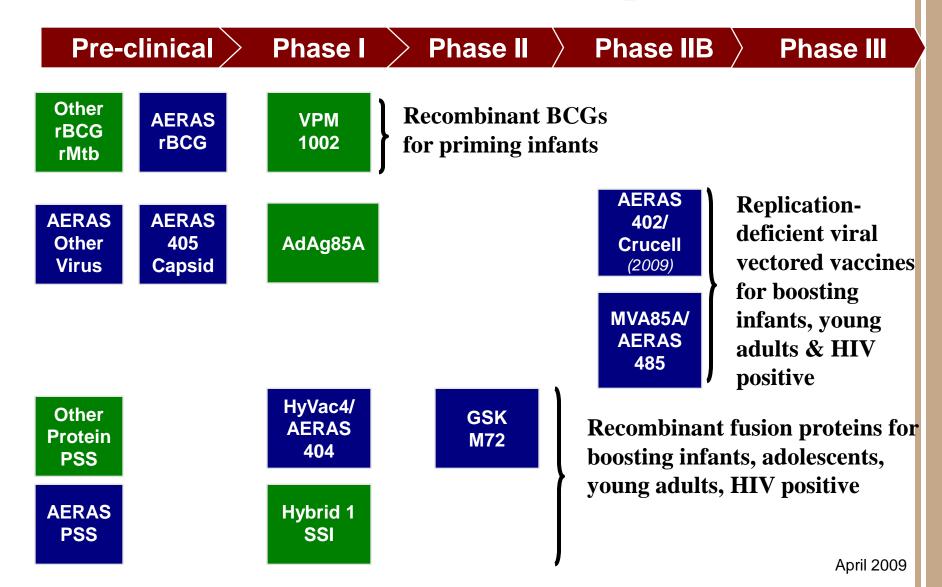
University of Maryland, College Park, U.S.

University of Tampere, Finland Vanderbilt University., U.S.

Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, U.S.



## **Current TB Vaccine Pipeline**







## **Recombinant BCG (rBCG) –** Goals for Making a Better BCG

- Safer
  - Incorporates escape from the endosome where it hides
  - Safer in HIV infected infants or others with immune-suppression
  - May eliminate need for HIV screening of infants prior to rBCG
- More immunogenic
  - BCG or rBCG boosted with another TB vaccine (either viral vector or protein + adjuvant) is much better than either vaccine alone
  - Constructed to over-express antigens from each stage of the TB life cycle
- Prevent infection and reactivation utilizing "prime-boost" regimens
- A new vaccine candidate with all of these properties is expected to enter the clinic in 2009





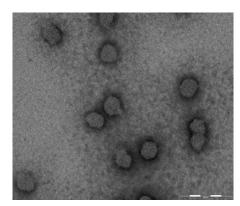


## Developing Novel Technologies: Aerosol Delivery of New TB Vaccines

- Very small particles (2-4 microns) get deep into the lung, where infection occurs
- Two methods of creating and delivering these particles are being developed
  - Nebulizer with laser drilled filter for liquid vaccines
  - Spray drying that yields dry powder particles delivered by a low-cost plastic inhaler
- Preclinical studies with US NIH indicate potential for better immune response than with injections
- Aerosol delivery may provide an easy, affordable delivery mechanism that could eliminate the need for needles and cold chain and provide superior protection



Spray Drying



Purified nucleocapsid







- Reduce the cost and time to manufacture and deliver vaccines to all who need them
- Produce enough bulk doses of rBCG (~200 million/year) and nucleocapsids (>1 billion/year) to meet the world's estimated need
- Work with partners in emerging economies such as India, China, Brazil and South Africa to produce, fill, finish and distribute vaccines at the lowest possible price
- Ensure uniformity of quality
- Minimize lag time between licensure and distribution



Fermentation Tanks Aeras Manufacturing Facility Rockville MD USA



# Developing Field Sites for TB Vaccine Research

- Clinical trials are conducted in countries with a high burden of TB
  - New vaccines need to be tested in areas with high enough incidence rates to determine efficacy
  - Trials in endemic countries will demonstrate vaccine safety and efficacy in the populations that most need it
  - Safety trials are conducted in US and/or Europe before initiating trials in high burden countries
- Vaccine trials require community outreach, education and engagement
- Aeras partners with local research institutions to establish field sites and conduct clinical research
  - Scientific expertise combined with knowledge of research environment
  - Build local infrastructure and health care/research capacity
  - Contributes to development of local clinical research profession







## **Challenges to Site Development**

### Areas with very high rates of TB

- Usually do not have capacity to maintain Good Clinical Practice (GCP)
- Do not have capacity for TB diagnosis by culture
- Do not have capacity for collection and storage of blood for immunology
- Do not have adequately trained staff at the community level



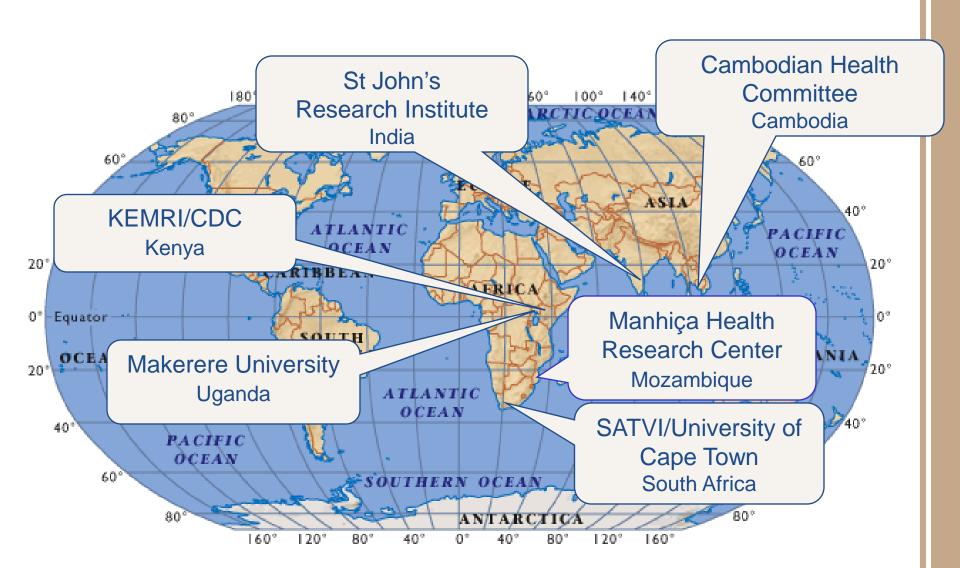
Palamaner, India site before development



Lab at Palamaner, India site after development



## **Aeras Partnerships in Clinical Development**









- TB diagnosis laboratory set-up and maintenance
- Epidemiology cohort studies
- Establishment of a Professional Development Program
- Implementation and maintenance of Quality Management Systems
- Data management infrastructure setup or augmentation
- Clinical trials of vaccine candidates









## **Example of Site Development: South Africa**

- Partnership with South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI)
- Field site developed in Worcester (~120 km from Cape Town)
- Infrastructure developed:
  - Approximately \$14 million invested over 7 years to build infrastructure
  - State-of-the-art immunology laboratory
  - Highly skilled staff capable of performing the duties necessary to maintain the infrastructure and execute clinical research
  - Clinical and office facilities
  - Professional Development Program (Siyantinga-"Reach for the Stars") – program initiated in 2001
  - Resource Center established in 2005









## Accomplishments in South Africa

- BCG randomized clinical trial from 2001-2006: 11, 680 infants vaccinated and followed-up for two years
- Epidemiology studies involving more than 11,500 participants
- Conducting Phase I and Phase II studies of 4 vaccine candidates, several additional trials planned for 2009
- Initiating Phase IIb trial of a new TB vaccine
- 231 staff trained since 2004, including 162 female staff
- Establishment of a locally maintained Quality Management System
- Establishment of a locally maintained robust data capture mechanism
- Most advanced site for large-scale TB vaccine trials in the world









- State-of-the-art immunology and mycobacteriology laboratory established at **India** site, first of the kind in the area for TB diagnosis
- Professional Development Programs established in Kenya, Uganda and India
- Epidemiological cohort studies initiated in Kenya and Uganda
- Kenya, Uganda and Mozambique to participate in planned multicountry Phase II trial
- Laboratory capacity being developed in Kenya and Uganda





- Retain local talent and expertise
- Raise awareness about TB in the community
- Support and enhance local clinical research capacity
- Community health and education
- Infrastructure remains in the community
- Leverage investment in infrastructure to use for clinical trials of other diseases





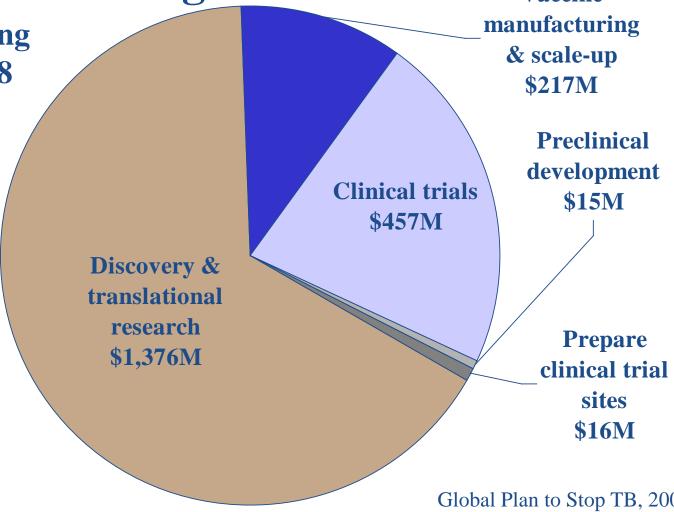


Global TB Vaccine R&D Funding Needs 2006-15 Vaccine

**Total funding** 

needs: \$2.08

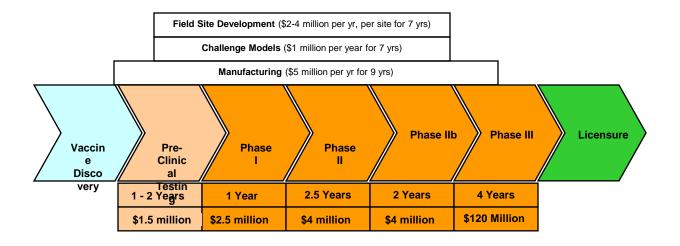
billion



Global Plan to Stop TB, 2006-15







- 4 of Aeras' 6 TB vaccine candidates are in clinical trials in Africa; the others are expected to enter trials in 2009
- •\$120 million to conduct a Phase III licensure trial of one candidate
- With sufficient resources, a new TB vaccine could be ready by 2016





## **New TB Vaccines are Global Priority**

- New TB vaccines are an important part of a comprehensive strategy to control and eliminate TB as a public health threat
- Aeras and its partners leading effort to develop new TB vaccines
  - Development process for leading candidates identified
  - Field sites and manufacturing being prepared
  - Working with researchers on exciting new concepts in TB vaccine development
- New vaccines need to be a global priority to help ensure rapid development and distribution
- According to Global Plan to Stop TB, \$1 billion over the next 10 years is needed to develop new TB vaccines







# Aeras gratefully acknowledges the support of the following major donors

BILL&MELINDA GATES foundation



Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs



## CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

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