SVF Vaccines announces positive clinical safety and immunogenicity data from the Phase 1 study of its universal Covid-19 vaccine, SVF-002

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SVF Vaccines AB announces positive clinical safety and immunogenicity data following completion of the Phase 1 study of its universal Covid-19 vaccine, SVF-002. SVF-002 is a DNA vaccine that has been designed to elicit a broad neutralizing antibody response directed against the Spike (S) protein of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, as well as T cell responses against highly conserved components of the virus, the membrane protein (M) and the nucleoprotein (N). In preclinical studies, SVF-002 induced a strong antibody response to SARS-CoV-2, and broad T-cell responses against beta-coronaviruses, with similar levels of activity against SARS-CoV-2 and an unrelated coronavirus isolated from bats.

This double-blind first-in-human clinical study was run by the OpenCorona consortium in collaboration with the Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm, Sweden. It recruited healthy individuals who had previously received three doses of approved mRNA Covid-19 vaccines to receive a single dose of either placebo or one of three different doses of the vaccine. The data demonstrated that the vaccine was safe and well-tolerated, and that higher doses of the vaccine boosted neutralizing antibodies to the S protein and unique T-cell responses to the highly conserved M and N proteins. The data were presented earlier today at the annual congress of the International Society for Vaccines in Seoul, South Korea, by the principal investigator of the study, Prof. Soo Aleman, in a presentation entitled “A First-In-Man Placebo Controlled, Randomized, Double-Blind, Phase I Clinical Trial of a Multi Antigen SARS-CoV DNA Vaccine Delivered by In Vivo Electroporation as a Booster Dose, Following Three Doses of Spike-Based mRNA Vaccines”. Prof Aleman is senior physician and section manager at the Medical Unit for Infectious Diseases at the Karolinska University Hospital.

“The successful completion of a first clinical study with one of our vaccines, and the demonstration that it was both safe and well-tolerated as well as immunogenic in human subjects, represents an important milestone for SVF Vaccines as we optimize and develop our portfolio of therapeutic and prophylactic vaccines” said Richard Bethell, CEO of SVF Vaccines.

About the study

The study was run by the OpenCorona consortium, which has a license to perform the study with SVF-002, in collaboration with the Phase 1 unit at the Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm. OpenCorona is a network of academic and commercial organizations that received funding for the study from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 program. The aim of the study was to assess the safety and immunogenicity of SVF-002 in healthy subjects who have received three prior doses of an mRNA-based Covid-19 vaccine.

About OpenCorona

OpenCorona is a Horizon 2020-funded consortium of academic and commercial partners that have collaborated on the development of the SVF-002 vaccine. The members of the consortium are Karolinska Institutet, the Swedish Public Health Agency (Folkhälsomyndigheten), Adlego Biomedical (today Scantox A/S), NorthX Biologics, Igea Biomedical, Karolinska University Hospital and the Justus Liebig University, Giessen. For more information see: https://ki.se/en/research/opencorona

About SVF Vaccines

SVF Vaccines AB is a spin-out from the Karolinska Institutet whose aim is to discover and develop tomorrow's vaccines for the prevention and treatment of serious infectious diseases. Its current portfolio is made up of a therapeutic vaccine for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B, SVF-001, which is in preclinical development, its universal Covid-19 prophylactic vaccine, SVF-002, and two further projects in the discovery phase including a prophylactic vaccine against Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever.

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