

# Afrigen's RSV mRNA vaccine project

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### Introduction - RSV

- Causes respiratory cold-like symptoms (spectrum of disease)
- Most common cause of hospitalization in infants
- Significant burden of disease in elderly (>65 yrs)
- Majority of deaths occur in LMICs & <u>outside of hospital setting</u>
- Mab treatment palivizumab/nursevimab (high income countries)
- No Licenced vaccine but Ph<sub>3</sub> Pfizer/GSK/Moderna
  - 34 million acute lower respiratory tract infections in young children
  - 3 million hospitalizations
  - 66000-199000 fatalities
  - 99% LMICs



## RSV infection and immunity

- Natural infection doesn't result in durable immunity and reinfection occurs throughout life
- Antibodies target viral envelope F & G proteins but F is well-conserved
- Nabs preferentially target prefusion F (PreF)
- RSV IgA and Nabs correlate with reduced infection risk
- Th1 response, IFN-y
- Th2 tracks with disease severity



## Stabilization of F protein in prefusion state

Pre-fusion F is absent on the surface of formalin-inactivated respiratory syncytial virus

April M. Killikelly, Masaru Kanekiyo & Barney S. Graham

#### Structure of RSV Fusion Glycoprotein Trimer Bound to a Prefusion-Specific Neutralizing Antibody

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#### Structure-Based Design of a Fusion Glycoprotein Vaccine for Respiratory Syncytial Virus

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# Prefusion F-specific antibodies determine the magnitude of RSV neutralizing activity in human sera

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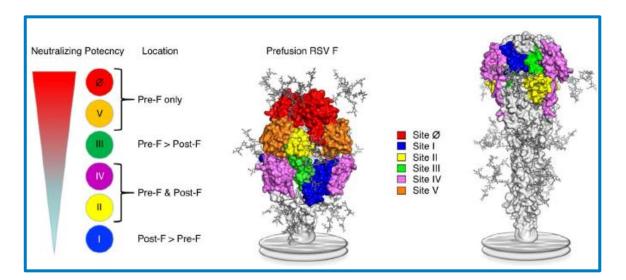


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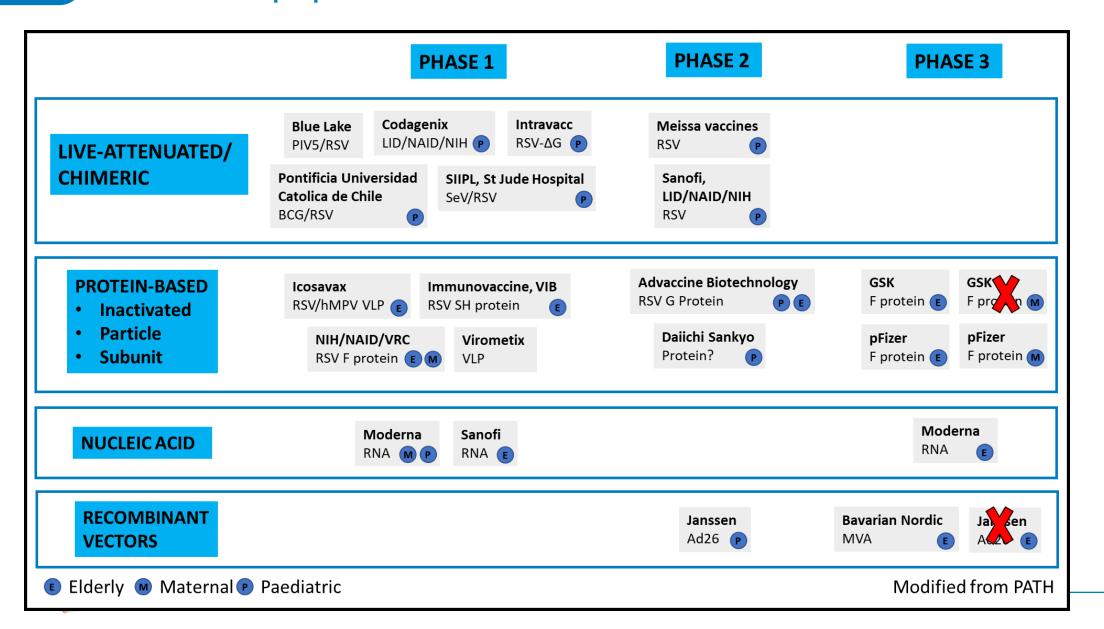
### What does an mRNA RSV vaccine look like?

- PreF membrane-bound
- Delivered by mRNA LNP
- Nabs & Cellular immunity without Th2 skewing
- Maternal immunization followed by paediatric
- In line with WHO preferred product characteristics for RSV vaccine





### Clinical pipeline for RSV vaccines

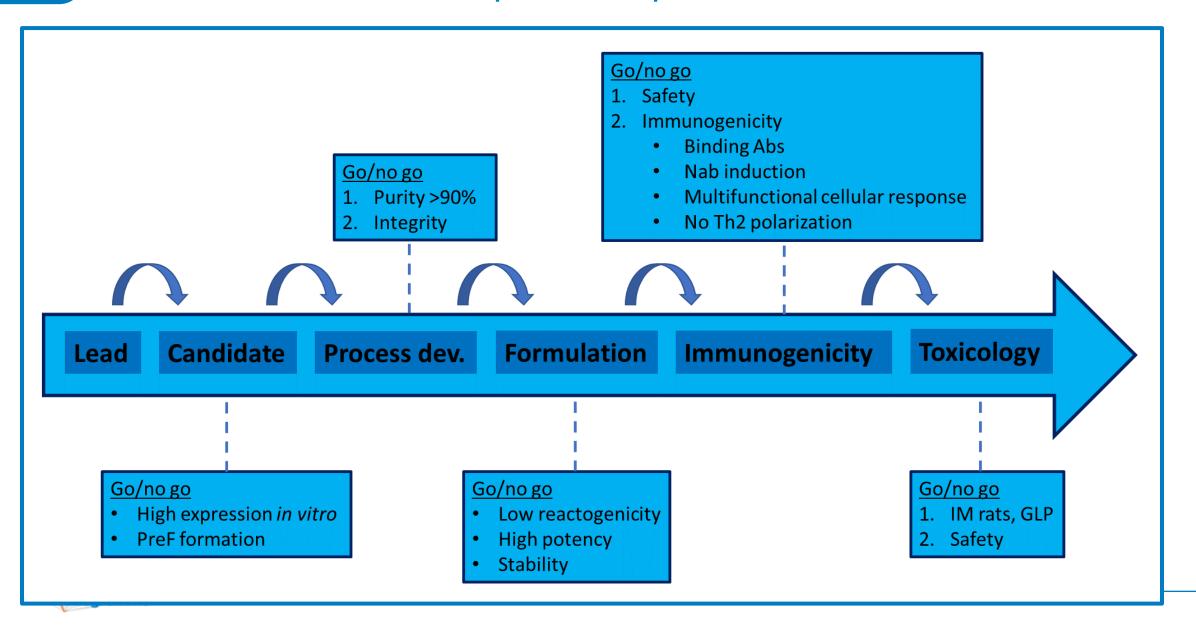


## Afrigen's value proposition for RSV

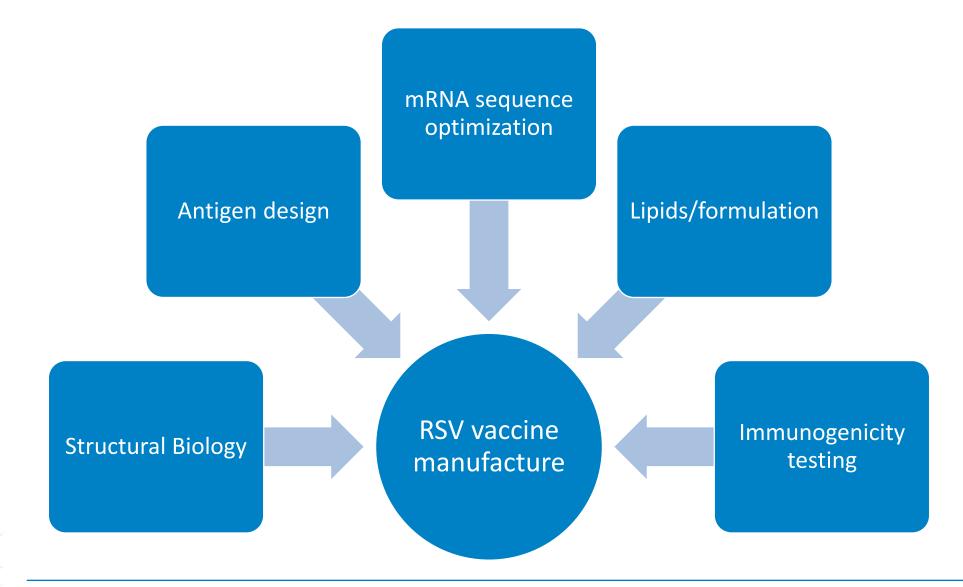
- 1. Partnerships for end-to-end vaccine development
- 2. mRNA technology transfer programme driving access for LMICs
- 3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation technology promising lower cost
- 4. Formulation partnerships geared at improved temperature stability
- 5. Local production of drug substance and drug product
- 6. Strengthen biomanufacturing know-how in Africa
- 7. Harness the capacity & ecosystem for end-to-end manufacturing



## Preclinical development plan



## Afrigen network for RSV





## Summary

- High disease burden in Africa
- Likely lack of access to vaccine
- Well established concept for safe & effective vaccine
- Supported by clinical efficacy data (GSK, Pfizer, Moderna)
- Integration of novel UTRs & alternate lipids = freedom to operate
- Targeting refrigeration temperature stable formulations
- Establishing supporting network to commence experimental work



### Acknowledgements

















