BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

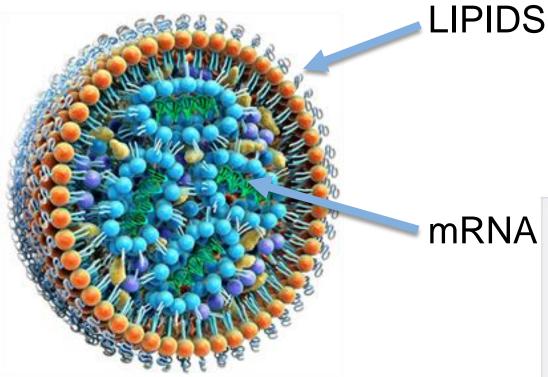
# BMGF strategy to advance mRNA vaccine manufacturing

Philippe-Alexandre Gilbert Senior Program Officer

Vaccine Development, CMC

Last Updated: October 2023





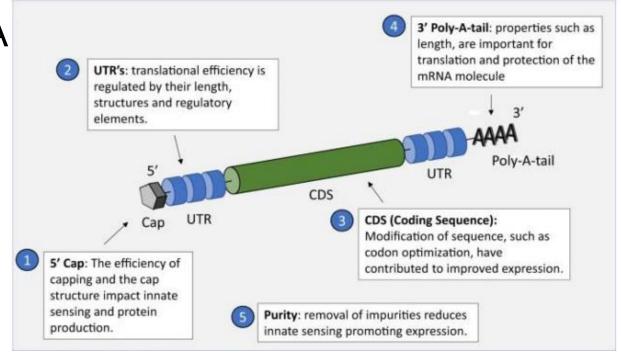
Cholesterol

Cationic lipids

Polyethylene glycol lipids

Phospholipids

**mRNA** 



2

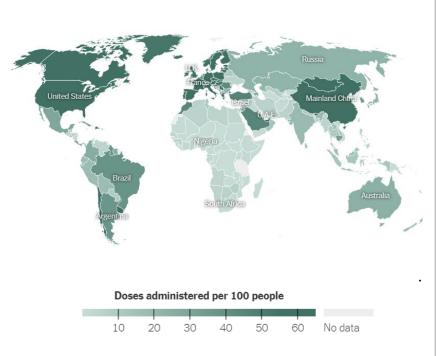
Jackson et al., npj Vaccine 2020 © Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

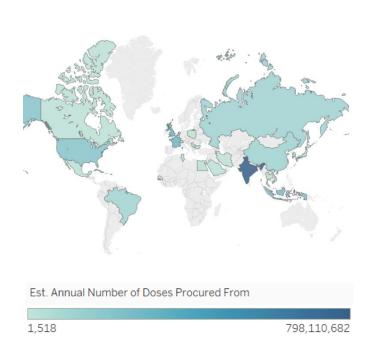
## Covid-19 vaccine rollout has shown that a regional vaccine manufacturing strategy is critical component for preparedness

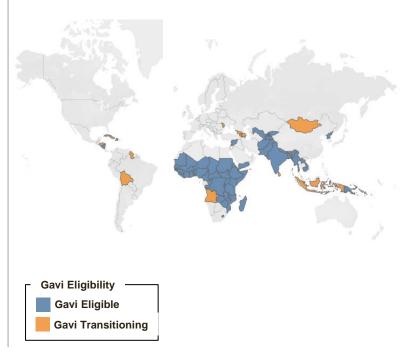
As of June 2021, vaccinations in HICs and UMICs dramatically outpace any LIC campaigns...

...countries with early rollout largely correlates with concentration of production capacity in US, EU, India and China

Lack of production capacity in Gaviserved LMICs meant that local production is not an option for COVID-19







Last updated: June 2021

# MRNA TECHNICAL CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LMIC



Cost of Goods (COG)

- Access to mRNA doses to costs approaching \$1/dose or less.
- Find alternative reagent supply solution
- Use of new production methods



**Thermostability** 

- Develop Liquid and/or Dry form Thermostable Solution
- Use of new delivery devices



**Reagents and Methods Access** 

- Access to methods to produce mRNA
- Provide access to mRNA key critical reagents (modified nucleoside, cap enzymes, cationic lipids)
- Freedom to Operate (FTO)



Scale/Deployment

- Develop new mRNA modular technology
- Avoid scale problems
- Provide high output
- Design in consideration of deployment in LMIC

7 November 2023 © Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

# Univercells, a biotechnology Group of Affiliates on a common mission: making biologics available to all

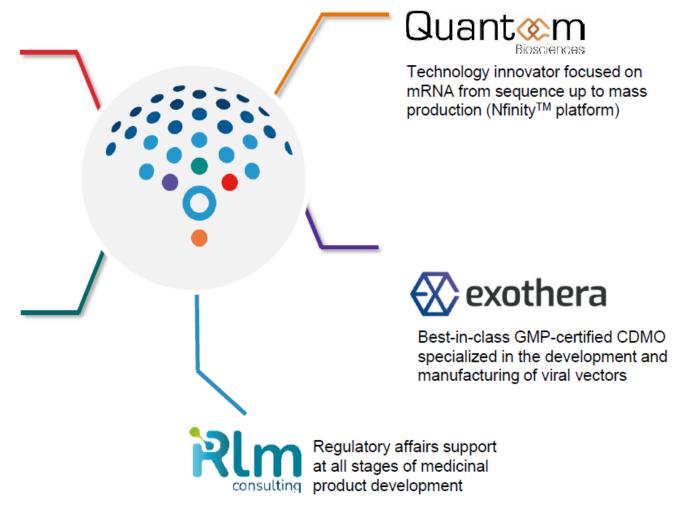


Next-generation cell-based manufacturing technologies (scale-X<sup>TM</sup>, NevoLine<sup>TM</sup>)

Project Management &

country bioproduction

Operational partner for in-





Since 2013: Biologics for All

Proven track record in scaling production and bioprocessing

Technology-driven affordability to support access and promote sustainability

We address the needs of the health value chain

500 people

From 40 nationalities



In equity & nondilutive funding



//Adjuvant Capital

KKR

BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation



facility setup

#### Reduction in facility size based on process intensification has multiple benefits

#### Culture & viral production

Compact bioreactor to concentrate High capacity membrane vaccine production

Source: Univercells

#### **Purification**

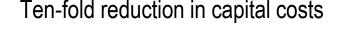
for continuous purification

#### Inactivation

Batch process run in staggered mode



Each unit operation can be hosed in an isolator (glove box) providing increased assurance of operator safety

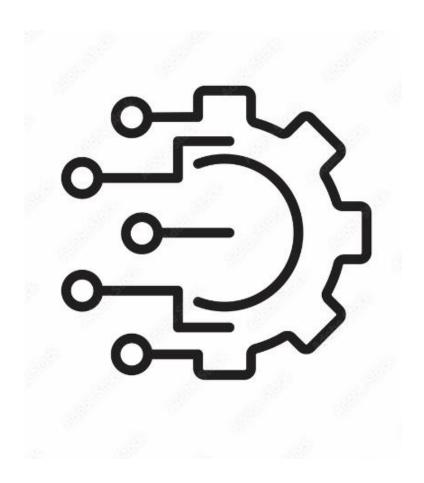




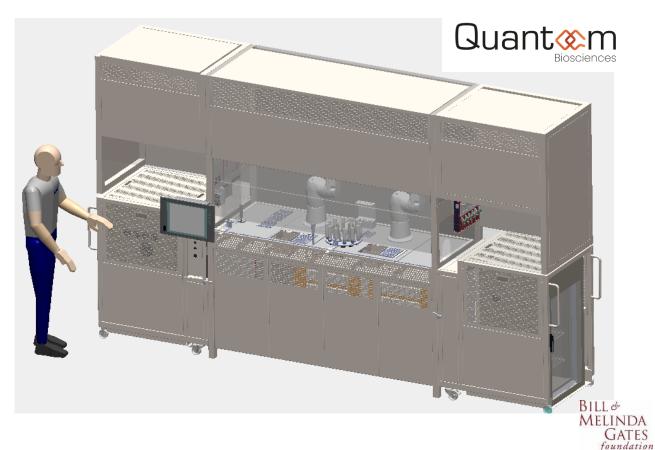
Each production train can be readily placed in a BSL3+ GAPIII compliant facility providing increased assurance of environmental safety

#### mrna production system - design prime directives

- Use known mRNA and LNP reagents
- Maintain low cost of good operation
- Scale out not scale up
- Fully automated better control
- New purification methods (avoid complex system such as tangential flow filtration)
- Wide range of output with the same machine
- R&D operation and GMP operation with the same machine

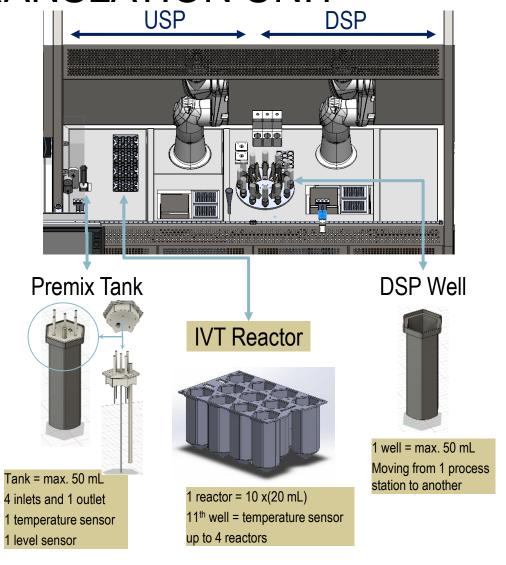


#### DENSIFICATION: RNA IN VITRO TRANSLATION UNIT

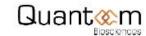




- Bioburden controlled cabinet
- Lower CAPEX









## WP3 – RNA Production Equipment Development & Prototype

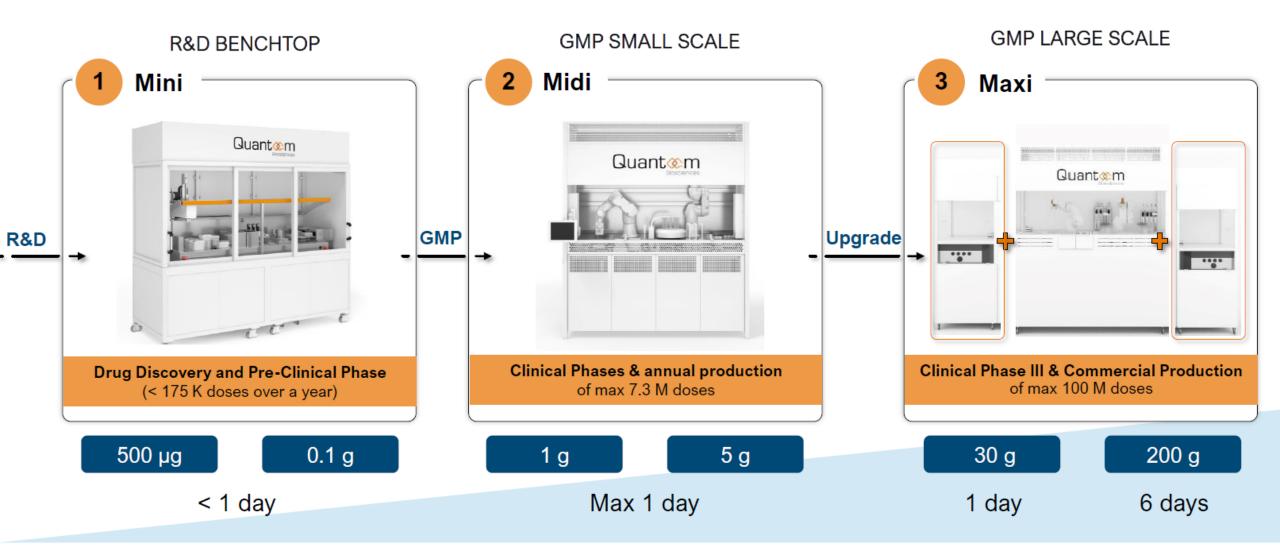
Machine installed (qualification ongoing) in the mobile lab @Quantoom



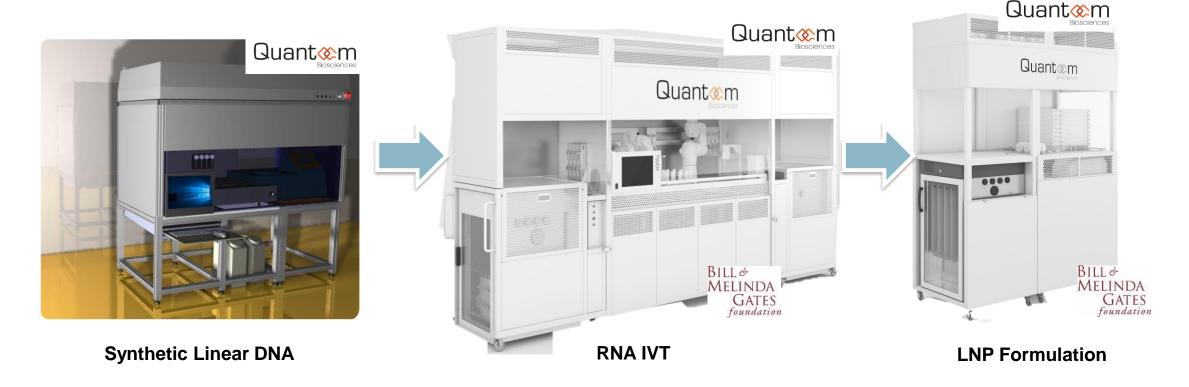




## Ntensify<sup>™</sup> – 3 models designed for increasing RNA capacity requirements



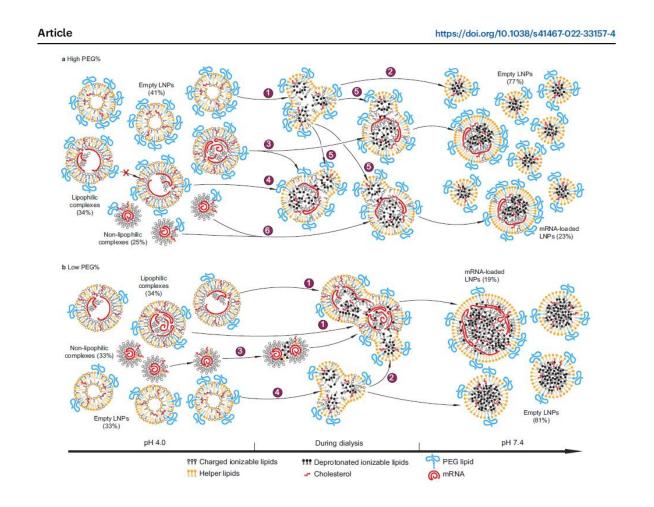
#### CHAINING: DNA TO RNA TO LNP



- Chaining reduces the safety issues and batch-to-batch variations associated with physical handling
- Because the processes are essentially closed, there is also less likelihood of contamination. "Chaining reduces the safety issues and batch-to-batch variations associated with physical handling,"

### LNP FORMULATION SYSTEM - DESIGN PRIME DIRECTIVES

T-mixer Impingement jet mixer **Nanoparticles Microfluidics** mRNA-LNP



### RNA: GAME CHANGER PLATFORM FOR LMIC

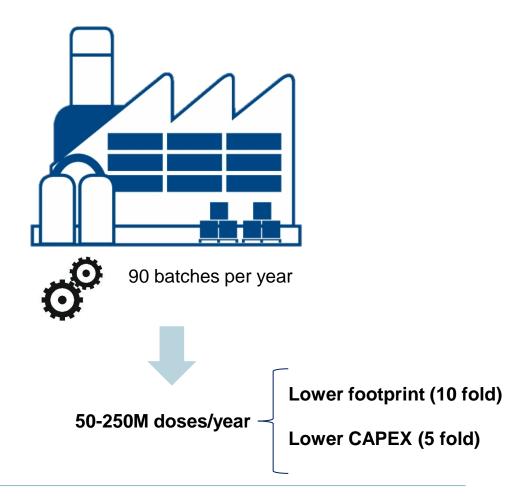
#### COST OF GOODS (COG)

Manufacturing Step	Key Materials	\$/dose*			
mRNA production		Vaccine 1		Vaccine 2	
		Buy	Make	Buy	Make
	pDNA	0.39	0.14	0.10	0.04
	2' O-methyl transferase	0.06	0.03	-	-
	Guanylyl transferase	0.14	0.05	-	-
	T7 RNA polymerase	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00
	Cleancap®	-	-	0.25	0.13
LNP production	Cationic lipid	4.16	0.04	1.72	0.01
	DSPC	0.01	0.00	0.16	0.00
	Cholesterol	0.47	0.00	0.19	0.00
	DMG-PEG	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00
Total		5.25	0.27	2.50	0.18



In-house raw material production 0.25 cents/dose

#### MODELING 50-250M DOSES OUTPUT



## MODULAR FACILITIES

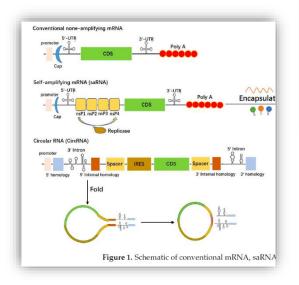


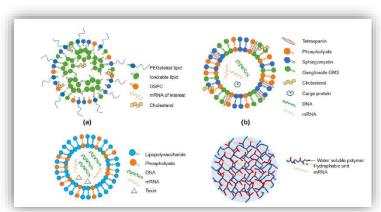




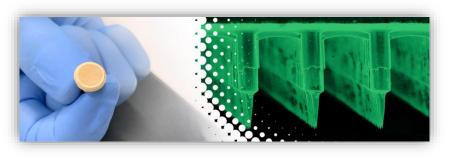


#### What is next?

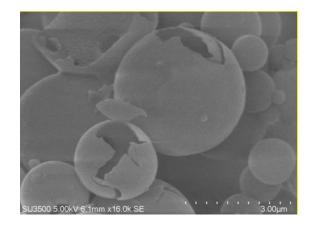




-New LNP (Ionizable lipids, Adjuvant)



-Microneedle

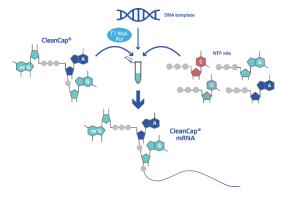


-Advanced Lyophilization



-circRNA

-xRNA



-Advanced reagents (enzymes)



-Advanced potency assays

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## Gates Foundation to Accelerate mRNA Vaccine Innovation and Manufacturing in Africa and Globally

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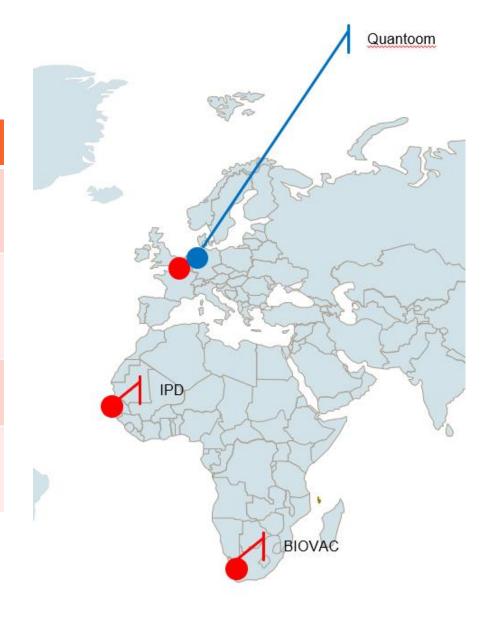


DAKAR (October 9, 2023) – Today at the 2023 Grand Challenges Annual Meeting, Bill Gates, Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, announced new investments to advance access to mRNA research and vaccine manufacturing technology that will support low- and middle-income countries' (LMICs) capacity to develop high-quality, lifesaving vaccines at scale.

The move builds on lessons the foundation has learned from more than 20 years of working with vaccine manufacturers in LMICs and the opportunity to leverage recent scientific advances to develop low-cost, high-quality health tools that reach more people around the world. mRNA technology is considered a potential game-changer for a range of infectious diseases, including

#### RNA ACCESS 2023 GRANTS

GRANT NUMBER	YEAR	LOCATION	TITLE	AMOU NT	DESCRIPTION
INV- 064834	2023	Belgium	Quantoom Sustainability	\$20M	<ul> <li>LNP Formulation Unit</li> <li>LNP FTO</li> <li>In Silico Design unit</li> <li>Critical Reagents Internalization</li> </ul>
INV- 064835	2023	West Africa	DCVM IPD mRNA Enabling	\$5M	<ul> <li>Establish a R&amp;D mRNA laboratory and pilot scale</li> <li>Training on R&amp;D capabilities and first production at IPD</li> </ul>
INV- 064836	2023	South Africa	DCVM BIOVAC mRNA Enabling	\$5M	<ul><li>Ntensify Midi and Ncapsulate</li><li>Training at Quantoom</li></ul>
INV-XXXXX	2024	TBD	DCVM XXXXX mRNA Enabling	\$10M	TBD



## Based on this new mRNA access mission and our desired impact, the Foundation is now focusing on four new strategy pillars

Access to mRNA R&D and GMP manufacturing equipment at commercial scale

Access to mRNA supportive technologies and methods

Access to critical raw
materials

Access to mRNA candidate design services

Pillar objective

Enable DCVMs to acquire R&D and commercial Quantoom units for mRNA development and manufacturing

Enable DCVMs to access supportive technologies such as thermostability, potency, delivery

Enable DCVMs to access critical raw materials, with appropriate freedom-tooperate, and specific focus on LNPs Enable DCVMs to develop their own mRNA vaccine portfolio

Provide DCVMs with latest mRNA candidate design & bioinformatics capabilities

Desired timing for impact

Next 3-5 years

Next 2-3 years

Next 1-2 years

Next 3-5 years

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