

Astrazeneca joins the Covid-19 vaccine push



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The UK's Oxford University put one of the first potential Covid-19 vaccines into the clinic, but it was always going to need a big partner to scale up and distribute any viable product. Step forward Astrazeneca, [which will take on such activities](#). Final terms of the deal are still being hammered out but, echoing pledges made elsewhere, the partners will operate on a [not-for-profit basis](#) during the pandemic. Huge share price reactions at certain coronavirus companies imply that investors expect a return at some stage, and the biopharma sector's largesse will certainly have its limits. But profit is a dirty word right now, and while the longevity of the crisis and future demand remain unknowable, such calculations are almost impossible. Curbing the virus as quickly as possible is a global priority, and bringing in Astrazeneca will certainly boost Oxford University's efforts. A separate question is why the much more established vaccines player Glaxosmithkline, also headquartered in the UK, was not signed up. *Evaluate Vantage* understands that discussions with multiple parties were held. Perhaps Astra was prepared to let the university retain more of the economics in the future, when returns on these investments will start to be considered.

Clinical-stage Covid-19 vaccines

Company/collaborators	Vaccine	Type	Target	Detail
Moderna/NIAID/Cepi	mRNA-1273	mRNA vaccine	SARS-CoV-2 spike protein	IND filed to start 600 patient phase II study
Cansino Biologics/Academy of Military Medical Sciences	Ad5-nCoV	Adenovirus type 5 vaccine	SARS-CoV-2 spike protein	China study under way
Shenzhen Genoimmune	LV-SMENP-DC	Synthetic minigene vaccine	Multiple antigens	Clinical trial started Mar 2020
University of Oxford/Astrazeneca	COV001	Chimp adenovirus vaccine	SARS-CoV-2 spike protein	1,100 patient trial started April
Biontech/Pfizer	BNT162	mRNA vaccine	SARS-CoV-2 spike protein (four projects)	Dosing commenced in Germany, in phase I/II trial
Inovio	INO-4800	DNA vaccine	SARS-CoV-2 spike protein	Enrollment in phase I trial complete, results expected June

Source: WHO list, EvaluatePharma & company statements.