

## **SVF Vaccines announces the start of a Phase 1 study of its universal Covid-19 vaccine**

**Stockholm, Sweden; February 28, 2023.**

SVF Vaccines AB, formerly Svenska Vaccinfabriken Produktion AB, announces that the first subject has been dosed with its universal Covid-19 vaccine (SVF-002). SVF-002, which has been developed and evaluated by the Horizon 2020 funded OpenCorona project, has been designed to elicit a strong neutralizing antibody response directed against the Spike (S) protein of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19. Neutralizing antibodies directed against the S protein are known to be correlated with protection against the disease. However the S protein is highly variable, allowing escape variants to emerge. Unlike approved Covid-19 vaccines, SVF-002 contains three different variants of the receptor binding domain of the spike in combination with two other viral proteins. The vaccine has been designed to induce both neutralizing antibodies and T-cell responses to parts of the virus that are genetically stable and capable of eliminating cells in which the virus is present. This is thought to be especially important for clearing infections in people whose antibody response to vaccination is poor. By directing this T-cell response against parts of the virus that are much more highly conserved, the vaccine can induce a protective immune response against diverse strains of SARS-CoV-2. 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.

### About the study

The study is being 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 is 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, 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 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.

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