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Chief Operating Officer

Older Adults Need to Combat RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) Too!

Annandale, VA; June 1, 2022 – The leaders and researchers at the Clinical Alliance for Research and Education-Infectious Diseases (CARE-ID) are continuing their efforts on the vaccine development front in the area of another respiratory virus commonly associated with children but which is also a danger to many older adults. Working with Bavarian Nordic for the very first time, CARE-ID is beginning a Phase III trial of the recombinant MVA-BN[®] RSV vaccine in adults aged 60 years and older. The primary objective of the study is to assess the efficacy of the vaccine candidate in lower-respiratory tract disease caused by RSV compared to placebo.

“Most of our attention over the past 2 years has been on the COVID-19 virus. But it’s not the only respiratory virus we need to be concerned about,” said David Wheeler, MD, FACP, FIDSA, principal study investigator, managing partner of Infectious Diseases Physicians, Inc. (IDP), the private clinical practice partner of CARE-ID. “Just as we have developed vaccine protections against COVID and influenza, we have an opportunity to do the same for RSV. Most people who get an RSV infection will have mild illness and will recover in a week or two. Some people, however, are more likely to develop severe RSV infection and may need to be hospitalized. RSV can also make chronic health problems worse. For example, people with asthma may experience asthma attacks as a result of RSV infection, and people with congestive heart failure may experience more severe symptoms triggered by RSV.”

Paul Chaplin, President and CEO of Bavarian Nordic, said “The development of an RSV vaccine is one of our main priorities that could help fulfil the significant unmet need for a preventative therapy, particularly for the elderly who may be at risk from serious complications from the disease. Our vaccine incorporates five different RSV antigens to stimulate a broad immune response against both RSV subtypes (A and B), thus mimicking the immune response observed following a natural response to an RSV infection.”

CARE-ID is one of the over 100 sites across the United States and Germany (Bavarian Nordic’s research base) participating in this important Phase III clinical study. “This is a follow-on study building on the 2021 reported results of the Bavarian Nordic Phase II, double blind trial which demonstrated significant reduction in viral load in persons vaccinated with MVA-BN[®] RSV compared to placebo,” said Stephen Poretz, RN, MSHA, MBA CARE-ID Chief Operating Officer.

“Additionally, the vaccinated in that study exhibited significantly reduced clinical symptoms typically associated with RSV.”

Bavarian Nordic has also previously reported strong results from another Phase II trial of MVA-BN[®] RSV in older adults that demonstrated the vaccine was well tolerated and induced both broad and durable antibody and T-cell responses against RSV. It also produced mucosal immune responses that may be important for protection against RSV. This trial included a revaccination of subjects after one year, following which the immune responses were rapidly and significantly increased.

“Before the start of the COVID Pandemic, CARE-ID had a strong focus on studying new medicines for treating various infectious diseases,” said Stephen Poretz. “The importance of vaccines has reached a new level with the emergence of mRNA and other fast turnaround technologies. To be a part of this new era is tremendously important. We are particularly energized by the role we can play by bringing our many years of experience working with and caring for our clinical study participants.”

According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the CDC) an RSV infection’s typical symptoms include: runny nose, sore throat, cough, and headache. But RSV can sometimes lead to serious conditions. In a recent publication, the CDC estimated hospitalizations due to RSV infection for older adults is 177,000 annually. “This is a virus well worth paying attention to”, said Stephen Poretz.

Anyone interested in participating in this study or needing more information about the study should contact CARE-ID directly.

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About CARE-ID

CARE-ID conducts clinical research trials in the field of infectious diseases with particular focus on the safety and confidentiality of participants, quality of data, and integrity of results. It partners with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to develop experimental therapies for both the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases.

About Bavarian Nordic

Bavarian Nordic A/S is a fully integrated biotechnology company focused on the development, manufacturing and commercialization of vaccines for infectious diseases and cancer immunotherapies. The company is headquartered in Hellerup, Denmark; has a research and development facility in Martinsried, Germany; and offices in Zug, Switzerland and Morrisville, North Carolina.