



Stephen Poretz, RN, MSHA, MBA
Chief Operating Officer

mRNA vaccines have changed the way we fight infectious diseases.

Annandale, VA; September 27, 2022 – The leaders and researchers at the Clinical Alliance for Research and Education-Infectious Diseases (CARE-ID) are pleased to announce their continuing efforts in the vaccine development area. Messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) biotechnology, used to develop several COVID-19 vaccines, is beginning to open the way for rapid development of other important vaccines. CARE-ID will again be working with one its most prominent partners, Pfizer, by participating in the clinical study for its modRNA-based influenza (Flu) vaccine [modified RNA]. The primary objective of the study is to determine if the vaccine candidate is safe and helps the body produce antibodies that fight off the flu virus.

“Much of our attention over the past 2 years has focused on the COVID-19 virus. Now that most of our communities around the United States have been able to manage through the unprecedented nature of the COVID threat, we must now return to fighting more common viral threats like flu,” said Donald Poretz, MD, FACP, FIDSA, principal study investigator. “The supporting science and the real-world results of mRNA-based vaccines suggest this approach can be highly effective at activating an individual’s immune system. This could be an important breakthrough since an mRNA flu vaccine wouldn’t contain weakened or dead flu virus permitting more rapid development and higher volume production of flu vaccines.”

“For years, there has been a need to better address the burden of influenza, despite the use of existing seasonal flu vaccines. Our experience with RNA viruses and mRNA technology has given us an even deeper understanding of the opportunity to potentially provide more efficacious vaccines that could further reduce the yearly rates of the severe outcomes of viral disease like flu, including hospitalization and death,” said Annaliesa Anderson, Ph.D., Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer, Vaccine Research and Development, Pfizer. “We are excited to start the first Phase 3 efficacy study of an mRNA-based influenza vaccine that could potentially deliver an improved flu vaccine to help address the significant burden of this disease.”

CARE-ID joins other sites across the United States to reach a goal of 25,000 participants for this important Phase III clinical study. “This new collaboration with Pfizer is an important next step in expanding our portfolio of clinical research studies and experience” said Stephen Poretz, RN, MSHA, MBA, CARE-ID Chief Operating Officer. “With this study we also further demonstrate our commitment to the well-being of our community by bringing additional time and attention to one of the most significant infectious diseases of our time.”

Pfizer has reported in its published materials regarding this clinical study, “that influenza annually causes 140,000 to 710,000 hospitalizations, 12,000 to 52,000 deaths and about \$25 billion in economic loss in the U.S. The impact of flu on racial and ethnic minority groups in the U.S. is even larger. Black Americans are 1.8 times more likely than their white counterparts to be hospitalized for flu while Latino and Indigenous Americans are 1.2 and 1.3 times more likely, respectively. Although vaccination remains one of the best ways to help prevent infection and serious illness, clinical trial enrollment for new or improved vaccines tend to lack diversity. Pfizer has made a public commitment to help reduce health disparities through its clinical trials and ensure that Pfizer’s clinical study populations fully represent the racial and ethnic diversity in communities where trials are conducted.”

<https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-initiates-phase-3-study-mrna-based-influenza-vaccine>

“The importance of vaccines has reached a new level with the emergence of mRNA and other fast turnaround technologies,” said Stephen Poretz. “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.”

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 Pfizer

Pfizer Inc. is an American multinational pharmaceutical and biotechnology corporation headquartered in Manhattan, New York City, New York. The name of the company commemorates its co-founder, Charles Pfizer (1824-1906). It applies science and its global resources to bring therapies to people that extend and significantly improve their lives. Every day, Pfizer colleagues work across developed and emerging markets to advance wellness, prevention, treatments, and cures that challenge the most feared diseases of our time. Consistent with its responsibility as one of the world's premier innovative biopharmaceutical companies, it collaborates with health care providers, governments, and local communities to support and expand access to reliable, affordable health care around the world. <https://www.pfizer.com/>