



Steve Poretz, RN, MSHA  
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## **The Clinical Alliance for Research and Education – Infectious Diseases (CARE-ID) Opens a New Arm of Vaccine Study** *Partnering with Pfizer to Expand Research into HIV and Hepatitis Patients*

**Annandale, VA; September 17, 2020** – CARE-ID has reached its allocated target for enrollees in its collaboration with Pfizer for clinical research to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of its SARS-CoV-2-RNA vaccine candidate against COVID-19. This is a major CARE-ID milestone in the collaboration and initially this target was thought to be the end goal of its research effort. However, Pfizer has now expanded the original study. The expansion will allow the further increase in trial population diversity, and inclusion of people with chronic, stable HIV (human immunodeficiency viruses), Hepatitis C, or Hepatitis B infection, as well as provide additional safety and efficacy data. In this expansion, Pfizer gains a particularly valuable partner given CARE-ID decades long experience in researching treatments for these particular infectious diseases.

“What we were able to accomplish in the initial phase of our research participation was very satisfying”, said Donald M. Poretz, MD, FACP, FIDSA, principal study investigator, founder and senior partner of Infectious Diseases Physicians, Inc. (IDP), the private clinical practice partner of CARE-ID. “While this first phase now enters the follow up and 2<sup>nd</sup> dose administration stage, we are very excited to now be involved with the HIV and Hepatitis phase expansion. We remain in contact with many of our past patients with these conditions because of their on-going interest in research studies and new treatment regimens. This gives us a good foundation to start from for inviting volunteers for the expanded vaccine study.”

“This was an unexpected development in our collaboration with Pfizer”, said Stephen Poretz, RN, MSHA, CARE-ID Executive Director. And while we initially had to gear up quickly and stretch our resources to support the general population vaccine study, the needs of the HIV and Hepatitis patients are very, very familiar to us. This will enable us to approach this arm of the study without delay and further apply our new resources to this vital research effort.”

Pfizer has established a team of clinical researchers in 120 clinical investigational sites around the world, including 39 states across the United States to accelerate enrolling and managing over a now expanded number of 44,000 volunteers who are expected to participate in this study. “Clinical trials of this magnitude are vital in testing potential defenses against COVID-19. These prove the worth of infectious disease clinical research in protecting significant portions of the population from diseases,” said Donald M. Poretz, MD. “CARE-ID is very pleased to once again join the front lines of the fight against COVID-19 along with Pfizer.”

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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 our participants, quality of our data, and integrity of our results. We partner with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to develop experimental therapies for both the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases.