



# 1<sup>st</sup> EBOVAC2 e-newsletter

March 2016



[www.ebovac2.com](http://www.ebovac2.com)

# Welcome to the 1st Edition of the EBOVAC2 e-newsletter!

The EBOVAC2 project is one of 8 projects funded under IMI Ebola+ programme that was launched in response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak. Through several clinical trials conducted in Europe and Africa, the EBOVAC1 and EBOVAC2 projects will assess the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of different vaccine regimen against Ebola.

**How?** To expedite the development of a novel prophylactic Ebola vaccine regimen, several clinical trials are carried out in parallel and therefore coordinated by two separate teams within EBOVAC1 (Phase 1 and Phase 2B large scale safety and immunogenicity studies) and EBOVAC2 (Phase 2 studies) projects.

**What?** The vaccine regimen used in the Phase 2 studies involves two different components given a few weeks apart, Ad26.ZEBOV developed by Crucell Holland B.V., one of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson and MVA-BN® Filo developed by Bavarian Nordic. The first dose, or 'prime', is intended to stimulate an initial immune response. The second dose then is designed to 'boost' the level of the body's immune response further. The EBOVAC2 consortium also wants to work out the best timing for each of the vaccine doses so volunteers will therefore receive different vaccination schedules. This strategy offers the advantage of potentially identifying the optimal schedule for improved and, especially, longer lasting immunity.

**Who?** The consortium brings together industrial and academic stakeholders: Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) as sponsor, French Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) as coordinator, University of Oxford (OXF), London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), Centre MURAZ (CM) and Inserm Transfert (IT).

## 1 EBOVAC2 – KEY DATES

- 12 February 2015: The EBOVAC2 **Kick off meeting** took place in Paris with all represented partners.
- 6 March 2015: The **grant agreement** between IMI2 and the EBOVAC2 partners was signed.
- 28 May 2015: The **EBOVAC2 website** was launched: [www.ebovac2.com](http://www.ebovac2.com).
- 7 July 2015: The **first volunteer was dosed in United Kingdom**.
- 9 December 2015: The **first volunteer was dosed in France**.
- 10 December 2015: The **first volunteer was dosed in Uganda**.

- 20-22 January 2016: The **EBOVAC1 and EBOVAC2 Annual meeting** took place in Paris. The purpose of the meeting was to present the progress of trials's implementation and results obtained since the start of the IMI project.
- 11 February 2016: The **first volunteer was dosed in Burkina Faso**.
- 26 February 2016: The **first volunteer was dosed in Côte d'Ivoire**.

## 2 EBOVAC2 – INSIDE THE TRIAL

Beginning the EBOVAC2 Phase 2 trials has been subject to the preliminary results from several ongoing phase 1 trials being carried out in Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States, which showed that the vaccine regimen was well-tolerated.

As part of the EBOVAC2 Phase 2 studies, one trial (EBL2001) is being carried out in France and the United Kingdom with a total of 630 volunteers. A second trial (EBL2002) is being conducted in several countries in Africa, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire and Rwanda, with a total of 1,188 volunteers expected to be recruited.

**More than 350 subjects have been recruited so far in Europe and more than 130 subjects in Africa by March 22, 2016.**

## 3 EBOVAC2 – DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION

- The EBOVAC2 project was presented at the 1st International Congress on Targeting Ebola Virus organized by The **Targeting Infectious Diseases Committee**, Pasteur Institute, COPED (Committee for Developing Countries) and France Ebola Task Force on May 28-29, 2015 in Paris. More than 300 international participants attended.

Professor Rodolphe Thiébaud, INSERM U1219, EBOVAC2 coordinator made a presentation on "Accelerated development of Ebola vaccines". Professor Peter Piot, Director of LSHTM and EBOVAC1 coordinator, spoke about "Epidemiological and control of Ebola: Continuity and change". [A poster](#) on both projects was also presented at the event.

- The EBOVAC2 project was presented at the **Scientific Conference on the Ebola Virus Disease held in Ouagadougou** from April 21 to 23, 2015. Scientists from several African countries and international organizations (WHO, IOM) attended the conference. The EBOVAC2 project and the socio-anthropologic study on acceptability and feasibility of the EBOVAC2 trial in Burkina Faso was presented by Professor Nicolas Méda from Centre MURAZ and his team.
- The **University of Oxford** published a [press release](#) on the **first participants vaccinated in the EBOVAC2 study in July 2015**.

- **Centre MURAZ launched an EBOVAC2 newsletter** on November 9, 2015 to support local community engagement. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition was published in Centre MURAZ website and shared with researchers in Burkina Faso and the EBOVAC2 team.
- A **volunteer recruitment campaign was launched on December 8, 2015 by Inserm** with a [press release](#), posters, [video](#), website ([www.recherche-vaccinebola.fr](http://www.recherche-vaccinebola.fr)) and free number (0800 156 156) to help recruitment in France.

## 4 LATEST REPORTS ON THE EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE OUTBREAK

28,639 cases of Ebola virus disease and 11,316 deaths were recorded on 13 March 2016.

For more information: [Ebola situation report](#)

- **Hundreds of contacts identified and monitored in new Ebola flare-up in Guinea**

22 March 2016 - Nzérékoré, Guinea — More than 800 contacts of recently confirmed Ebola cases in Guinea's southern prefecture of Nzérékoré have been identified and placed under medical monitoring in a bid to contain a new flare-up of Ebola virus disease.

- **New Ebola cases confirmed in Guinea as WHO warns of more possible flare ups**

18 March 2016 - 2 new cases of Ebola were detected and confirmed in Guinea. Guinea's National Emergency Response Centre is convening a meeting 18 March to further coordinate a rapid response to contain the country's first re-emergence of Ebola since its original outbreak was declared over on 29 December 2015. The new infections in Guinea were confirmed the same day that WHO declared the end of the latest Ebola flare-up in neighbouring Sierra Leone. WHO said recurrences of the disease should be anticipated and that the 3 Ebola-affected countries must maintain strong capacity to prevent, detect and respond to disease outbreaks. WHO/M. Winkler

- **Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone "effectively managing" Ebola flare-ups**

16 March 2016 - Health authorities from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and representatives of partner organizations have expressed confidence in the capacity of the 3 Ebola-impacted countries to effectively manage residual risks of new Ebola infections - pointing to the rapid government-led containment of recent flare-ups of the disease. WHO/M. Winkler

- **Meeting on infection prevention and control**

17 -19 February 2016 - Improving water and sanitation, infection prevention and control (IPC) infrastructure and practices in health-care facilities is crucial. Many lessons have been learned during the dramatic developments of the Ebola outbreak. The affected countries have made progress in the field of IPC. However, putting in place a deeply rooted and sustainable system for IPC in health care requires major efforts and focus. WHO/S. Saporito

- [More about the IPC meeting in Liberia](#)
- [Read more about infection prevention and control](#)

## OPINION EDITORIAL

NYT – 24 November 2015:

[Amid Failure and Chaos, an Ebola Vaccine](#)

The Guardian – 24 November 2015: From Paul Stoffels and Peter Piot

[Ebola will always return unless we develop the tools to end it](#)

## EBOVAC2 Partners



LONDON  
SCHOOL of  
HYGIENE  
& TROPICAL  
MEDICINE



**Inserm** **Transfert**

## EBOVAC2 Funding



This project has received funding from the Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking under grant agreement No [Number]. This Joint Undertaking receives support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and EFPIA. [www.imi.europa.eu](http://www.imi.europa.eu)