



Our STN: BL 125741/0

**MID-CYCLE COMMUNICATION  
SUMMARY**  
March 24, 2021

Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.  
Attention: Charisse Mandimika, M.D.  
351 N. Sumneytown Pike  
P.O. Box 1000  
UG2D-68  
North Wales, PA 19454

Dear Dr. Mandimika:

Attached is a copy of the summary of your March 17, 2021, Mid-Cycle Communication Teleconference with CBER. This memorandum constitutes the official record of the Teleconference. If your understanding of the Teleconference outcomes differs from those expressed in this summary, it is your responsibility to communicate with CBER as soon as possible.

Please include a reference to STN 125741/0 in your future submissions related to Pneumococcal 15-Valent Conjugate Vaccine [CRM197 Protein], (b) (4) (VAXNEUVANCE).

If you have any questions, please contact the Regulatory Project Managers Tatiana Claro da Silva, PhD, at [Tatiana.ClarodaSilva@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Tatiana.ClarodaSilva@fda.hhs.gov) or Taruna Khurana, PhD, at [Taruna.Khurana@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Taruna.Khurana@fda.hhs.gov), or by phone at 301-796-2640.

Sincerely,

Doran Fink, MD, PhD  
Deputy Director - Clinical  
Division of Vaccines and Related Products Applications  
Office of Vaccines Research and Review  
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research

### Mid-Cycle Communication Teleconference Summary

**Application type and number:** BLA STN 125741/0

**Product name:** Pneumococcal 15-Valent Conjugate Vaccine [CRM197 Protein], (b) (4) (VAXNEUVANCE)

**Proposed Indication:** For active immunization for the prevention of invasive pneumococcal disease caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* serotypes (1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 9V, 14, 18C, 19A, 19F, 22F, 23F and 33F) in adults 18 years of age and older

**Applicant:** Merck Sharp and Dohme Corp.

**Meeting date & time:** March 17, 2021, 1:00 pm EDT

**Committee Chair:** Qun Wang, PhD

**RPM:** Tatiana Claro DaSilva, PhD; Taruna Khurana, PhD

#### Attendees from the FDA:

Mustafa Akkoyunlu, MD, PhD	OVRR/DBPAP
Maria Allende, MD	OVRR/DVRPA
Marie Anderson, PhD	OCBQ/DBSQC
Drusilla Burns, PhD	OVRR/DBPAP
Dennis Cato,	OCBQ/DIS
John Cipollo, PhD	OVRR/DBPAP
Tatiana Claro DaSilva, PhD	OVRR/DVRPA
Jon Daugherty, PhD	OVRR/DVRPA
Brendan Day, MD, MPH	OBE/DE
Martin Dave Green, PhD	OVRR/DVRPA
James Erich Keller, PhD	OVRR/DBPAP
Doran Fink, MD, PhD	OVRR/DVRPA
Nick Geagan, DO	OVRR/DVRPA
Lei Huang, PhD	OBE/DB
James Kenney, PhD	OCBQ/DBSQC
Taruna Khurana, PhD	OVRR/DVRPA
Lucia Lee, MD	OVRR/DVRPA
Sarah Lee, MPH	OCBQ/DMPQ
Loris McVittie, PhD	OVRR/DVRPA
CAPT Tim Nelle, PhD	OVRR/DVRPA
Scott Norris, BS	OVRR/DBPAP
M. Nahid Parvin, PhD	OCBQ/DBSQC
Gregory Price, PhD	OCBQ/DMPQ
Anuja Rastogi, MD, MHS	OVRR/DVRPA
Jeff Roberts, MD	OVRR/IOD
Nikunj Sharma, PhD	OVRR/DVRPA

Jay Slater, MD	OVRP/DBPAP
LCDR Matthew Steele, PhD	OVRP/DVRPA
Daphne Stewart	OVRP/DVRPA
Lisa Stockbridge, PhD	OCBQ/APLB
Xinyu Tang, PhD	OBE/DB
Elizabeth Teeple	OBE/DB
Willie Vann, PhD	OVRP/DBPAP
Leslie Wagner,	OVRP/DBPAP
Qun Wang, PhD	OVRP/DVRPA
Lihan Yan, PhD	OBE/DB

**Attendees from Merck Sharp and Dohme Corp.:**

Charisse Mandimika, MD	Associate Director, Global Regulatory Affairs, Vaccines & Infectious Diseases
James Kollmar, MD	Executive Director, Global Regulatory Affairs, Vaccines & Infectious Diseases
Dave Gutsch, MD	Vice President, Global Regulatory Affairs, Vaccines & Infectious Diseases
Ulrike Buchwald, MD, MS	Distinguished Scientist, Clinical Research, Vaccines
Luwu Musey, MD	Distinguished Scientist, Clinical Research, Vaccines
Alain Bouckennooghe, MD, MPH	Scientific Associate Vice President, Clinical Research, Vaccines
Paula Annunziato, MD	Vice President, Clinical Research, Vaccines
Alison Pedley, PhD	Senior Principal Scientist, Biostatistics
Jonathan Hartzel, PhD	Executive Director, Biostatistics
Michael Jordan, PhD	Director, Global Regulatory Affairs, Vaccines CMC
Heather Eurenus, BS	Executive Director, Global Regulatory Affairs, Vaccines CMC
Scott Woollens, MS	Associate Vice President, Global Regulatory Affairs, Vaccines CMC
Shrita Patel, MD	Distinguished Scientist, Clinical Safety and Risk Management
Katrina Nolan, PhD	Principal Scientist, Pharmacokinetics
Roy Helmy, PhD	Executive Director, Pharmacokinetics
Christine Fandozzi, PhD	Associate Vice President, Pharmacokinetics
Lisa Plitnick, PhD	Distinguished Scientist, Preclinical Development
Tracie Spangler, M. Eng	Director, Project Management
Neika Vendetti, MPH	Principal Scientist, Epidemiology
Patricia Saddier, MD, PhD	Executive Director, Epidemiology

**Agenda:**

1. Any significant issues/major deficiencies identified by the Review Committee to date.

At this time the review committee has not identified any significant issues or major deficiencies.

2. Information regarding major safety concerns.

No major safety concerns have been identified to date.

3. Preliminary Review Committee thinking regarding risk management.

We have not identified any issues related to risk management to date; therefore, REMS is not needed.

4. Any information requests sent and responses not received.

- **Information Request (IR) sent on February 17, 2021:** Comment #1 – assess Linearity, Accuracy, Repeatability, and Range using Polysorbate 20 spiked samples.

Section 3.2.P.5.3 Validation of Analytical Procedures – Polysorbate 20 will be updated and submitted. Subject to no delays due to Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) or International material transfer, the Applicant will submit the update by April 23, 2021.

- **IR sent on March 12, 2021:** Request for additional information regarding CRM<sub>197</sub> final bulk intermediate impurities, drug product process validation deviation report, (b) (4) validation at (b) (4) facility, shipping qualification, and Saccharide content and Conjugate CRM (b) (4) validation report. Response expected by March 25, 2021.

5. Any new information requests to be communicated.

We do not have new IRs at this time. Additional IRs may be communicated to the Applicant as review progresses.

**Meeting discussion:** CBER informed the Applicant that a new clinical and a product IRs were being drafted and would be sent to the Applicant by March 19, 2021. The Applicant had no further questions.

6. Proposed dates for the Late-Cycle Meeting and the Late-Cycle Meeting Materials:

- The Late-Cycle Meeting (LCM) between you and the Review Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 2:00 PM (EDT).
- We intend to send the LCM materials to you approximately 10 days in advance of the LCM.

7. Updates regarding plans for the AC meeting, if appropriate.

We are not currently planning to hold an advisory committee meeting to discuss this application.

8. Other projected milestone dates for the remainder of the review cycle, including changes to previously communicated dates.

- LCM: to be held on May 12, 2021.
- Labeling Comments: we intend to send our labeling comments no later than June 16, 2021.
- Action Due Date: we intend to take action on this application no later than July 18, 2021.