BioSpectrum
the business of Bio & Health Sciences
ASIA EDITION

Intravacc, Therapyx develop world's first prophylactic gonorrhea vaccine

August 25, 2020 | News

Gonorrhea is the second most common bacterial infectious disease worldwide



Dutch firm Intravacc, a global leader in translational research and development of viral and bacterial vaccines, has partnered with US based Therapyx to further develop and optimize the world's first prophylactic vaccine against gonorrhea, NGoXIM. Therapyx received a $ 2.8 million Phase IIB grant in the US and has chosen to partner with Intravacc for its unique capabilities and infrastructure for the optimization of vaccines, vaccine processes and vaccine technologies.

NGoXIM is a microsphere vaccine with encapsulated interleukin-12 (IL-12) and outer bacterial membrane vesicles from Neisseria gonorrhoeae, developed with Intravacc's OMV platform. This vaccine, therefore, consists of a combination of adjuvant and antigen, specifically designed for mucosal immunization. Vaccination with NGoXIM has been shown to induce potent and persistent antibacterial activity in primates.

In this collaboration, the parties will focus on enhancing and optimizing the specific adaptive immune response in non-human primates as a prelude to testing in humans. This should ultimately lead to a vaccine that provides lasting protection against infection with the Neisseria gonorrhoeae bacteria.

Gonorrhea is the second most common bacterial infectious disease in the US, with a reported incidence of more than 300,000 cases per year. There is currently no effective gonorrhea vaccine available and the disease is known to be contracted repeatedly without apparently developing protective immunity as a result of the previous infection.