

# OPTIONS FOR RSV PREVENTION MATERNAL IMMUNIZATION

## ADVAC ALUMNI MEETING AT ESPID SLOVENIA 2019

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- DSMB Member

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- BioCSL – Seqirus
- Moderna
- Thrasher
- PROPEL study

- Advisory role

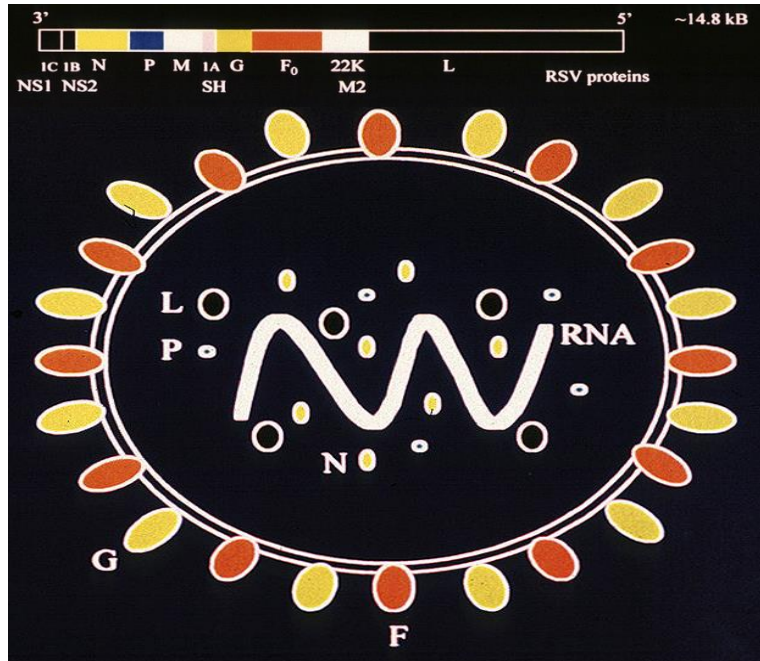
Novavax  
GSK  
Pfizer



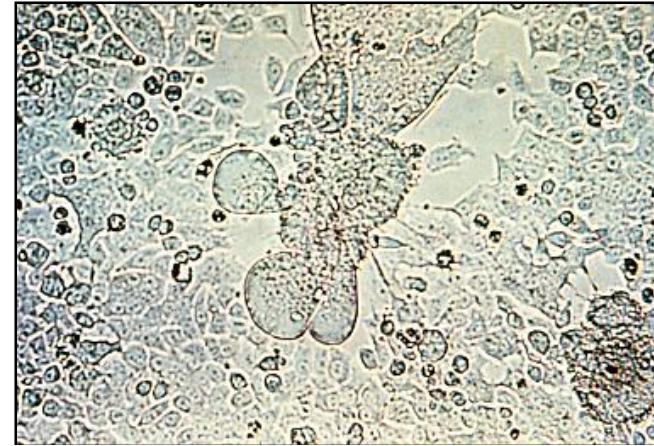
# Objectives

- RSV epidemiology and burden of disease in infants and pregnant women
- Rationale for maternal immunization with RSV vaccine
- Goals and challenges in the development of RSV vaccines for administration during pregnancy to protect young infants.
- Implementation Strategies

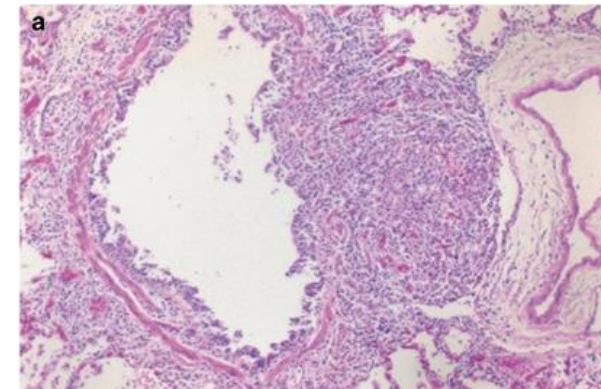
# Respiratory Syncytial Virus



- Neg sense, **ssRNA Paramyxovirus**
- Two main types – **A, B co-circulate**
- 11 proteins, of which 2 are NS
- **Conserved F** (fusion – viral penetration, spread) and **variable G** (attachment) surface glycoproteins induce **Neutralizing Ab**



Multinucleated RSV **syncytium** in cell culture



Peribronchiolar and interstitial lymphocytic infiltrates with airway trapping (**Bronchiolitis**)

# Features of Respiratory Syncytial Virus

- First described in 1957 (Chimpanzee coryza agent)
- Causes **URI and LRTI – Bronchiolitis**
- **Co-circulation subgroups (A and B) winter outbreaks**
- Illness burden and disease severity is greatest in **infants, young children** and **elderly adults**
- **Recurrent infections** occur throughout life and are milder except for people with chronic medical conditions
- **Virus-specific serum neutralizing antibody** protects against severe RSV LRTI
  - infection-induced
  - maternally derived
  - passively administered





# Impact of RSV Disease in Children

- Most important cause of LRTI in infants and young children
- Nearly all children are infected at least once by age 2
- Recurrent infections common
- **30% to 40% of primary infections result in LRTI**
- **2-3% of infected children require hospitalization** – one of the most important causes of hospitalization in HIC
- **>75% of RSV disease hospitalization occurs in full term, healthy infants.**
- **Higher (2x) mortality than influenza in infants**
- **Severe infection associated with subsequent reactive airways/asthma**



# RSV is a Major Global Pathogen In Children under 5 years

## 2005 Estimates:

- **33.8** (19.3-46.2) **million cases** annually of **RSV-ALRI**
- **3.4** (2.8-4.3) **million cases** annually of **severe RSV-ALRI** (22% of all episodes)
- **55,000 to 199,000 deaths** annually attributed to RSV
  - Most of the deaths in developing countries occur in young children

## 2015 Estimates in 132 developing countries:

- **33.1** (21.6-50.3) **million cases** annually of **RSV-ALRI**
- **3.2** (2.7-3.8) **million hospitalizations** in children **<5 yr** and **1.4** (1.2-1.7) **million** in **<6 mo**
- **~60,000 (48-75K) in-hospital deaths** in children **<5 yr** and **27,000 (21-36K)** in **<6 mo** attributed to RSV

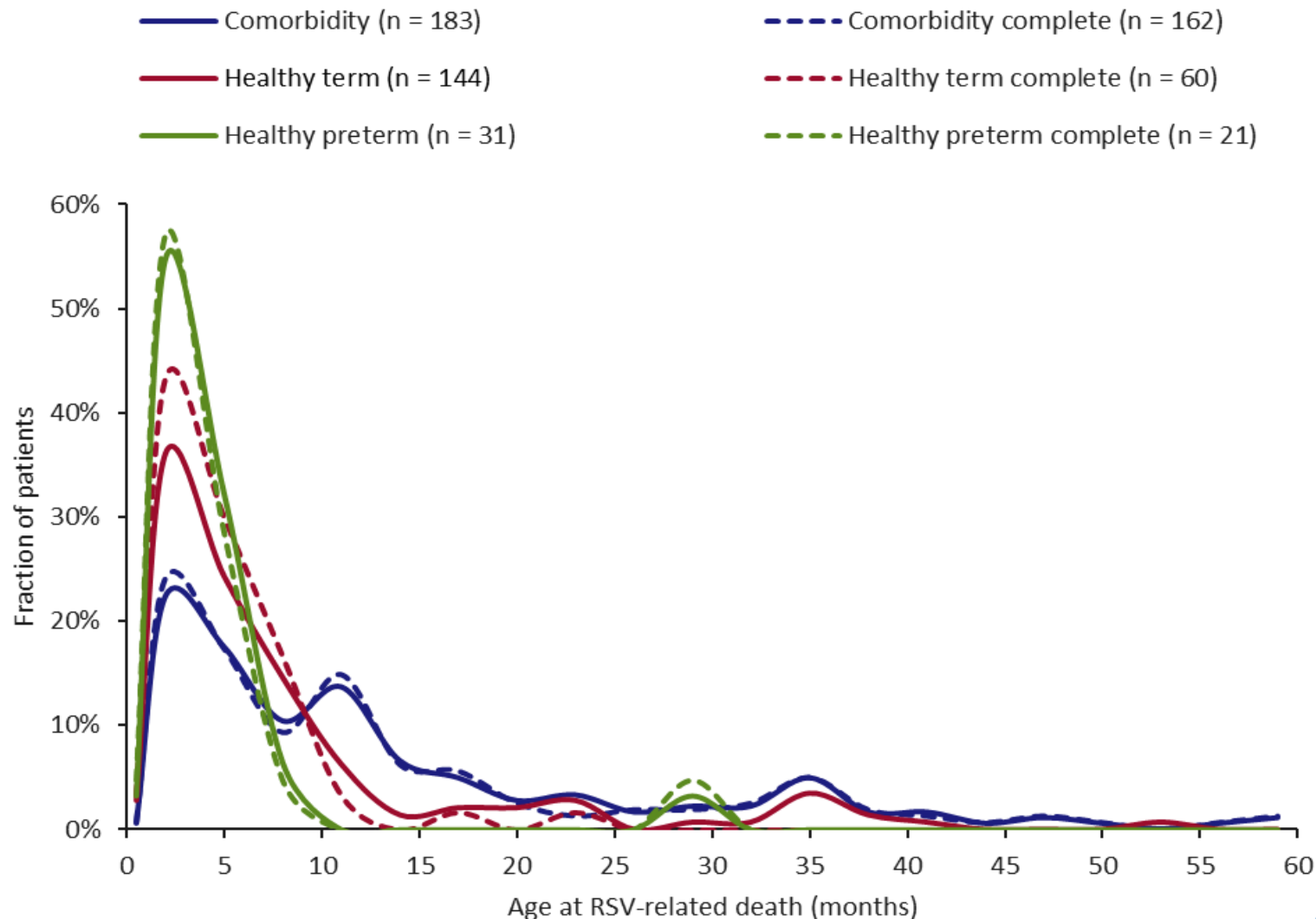
**Mortality estimates suggest RSV is an important cause of death in children**

**Overall mortality: ~120,000 (95,000 to 150,000)**

**99% of the deaths occur in developing countries**

**45% of deaths occur in infants < 6 months**

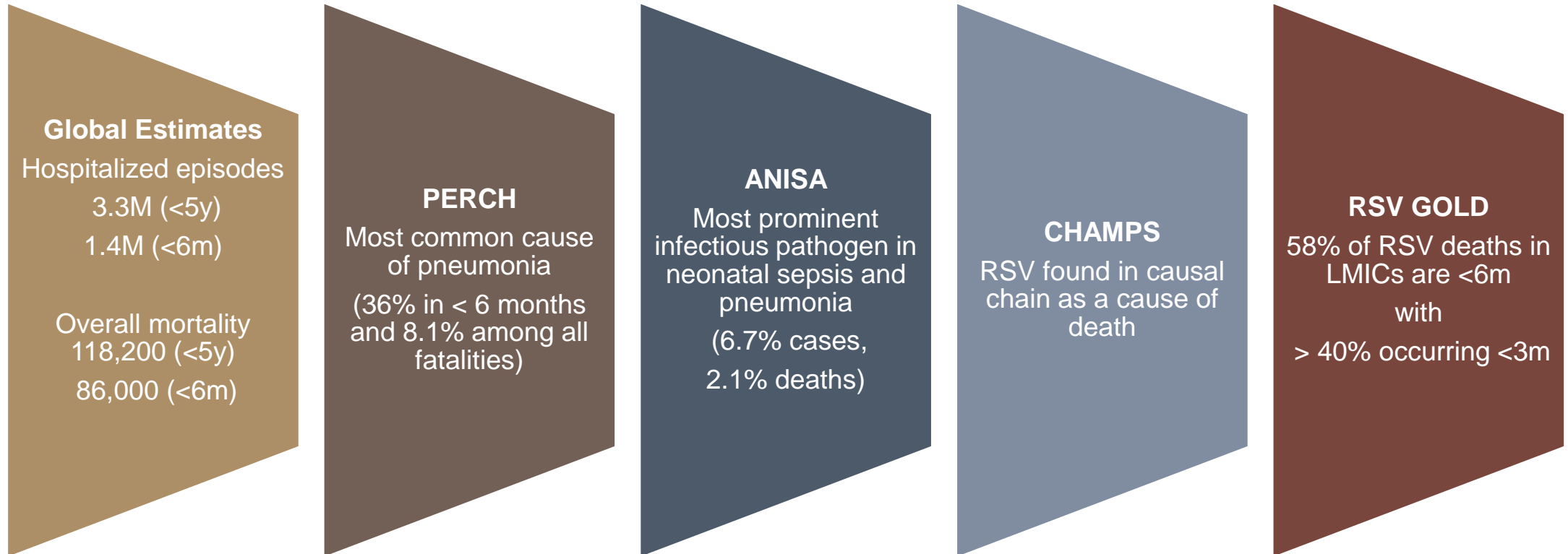
# Very young infants are most at risk for RSV-related death



- Case series hospital data from 23 countries
- **Median age** for RSV-related deaths in LMICs is **5 months**, with **more than 40% occurring in under 3 months**
- RSV deaths from community higher



# Growing evidence of the global burden of RSV



*ANISA = Aetiology of Neonatal Infection in South Asia; PERCH = Pneumonia Etiology Research for Child Health; RSV GOLD = Respiratory Syncytial Virus GLObal Database; CHAMPS = Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance Network.*

# MOST URGENT NEED IN RSV PREVENTION AND TREATMENT STRATEGIES IS: TO PROTECT YOUNG INFANTS



Source: [www.jcpportraits.com](http://www.jcpportraits.com)

# RSV in Children

## Current Prevention Strategies

- **No licensed vaccine for children or adults**
- **Passive Antibody**
  - **RSV-Specific IgG** (RSV-IG or Respigam®)
  - **Monoclonal antibody** (Palivizumab or Synagis®)
    - Licensed 1998 US
    - Binds F protein of RSV preventing infection of host cell, replication and spread
    - Effective: Reduces mortality and severity of RSV disease
  - Restricted to:
    - Preterm infants < 29 weeks of gestation
    - Preterm infants with chronic lung disease (O2 requirement > 28 days)
    - Infants with hemodynamically significant/cyanotic congenital heart disease
  - Requires monthly IM administration
  - Protective levels need to be achieved *prior to* exposure
  - Most infants who are at risk for RSV (term) are excluded
  - Costly



# Why don't we have a RSV vaccine for children?

- Primary target population, the very young infant (0-4 months of age), has a **suboptimal immune response to vaccination** in part due to presence of **maternal antibody**
- **Incomplete immunity to natural RSV infection**, especially in younger patients
- Enhanced pulmonary disease (pneumonia)/death in very young seronegative infants receiving **formalin-inactivated RSV vaccine in the 1960's**
- Subunit vaccines safe but not immunogenic enough
- Live attenuated vaccines administered intranasally pose challenges to balance between immunogenicity and reactogenicity

# FI-RSV Experience (Pfizer vaccine)

## Children 2 to 23 months of age

RSV-outcome	Vaccinated group	Control group	Time between last dose and outcome	Reference
pneumonia	9/13 (69%)	4/47 (9%)	15 to 236 days	Kapikian
hospitalization	9 cases	2 cases	Not provided	Chin
hospitalization	16/31 (52%)	1/40 (2.5%)	23 d to 11 mo	Kim
hospitalization	10/111 (9%)	2/173 (1.2%)	Not provided	Fulginiti

Kapikian et al, AJE 1969;89:405-421

Chin et al, AJR 1969;89:449-463 (<1yr & 1-4 yrs: FI-RSV 43 & 99; FI-PIV 43 & 91)

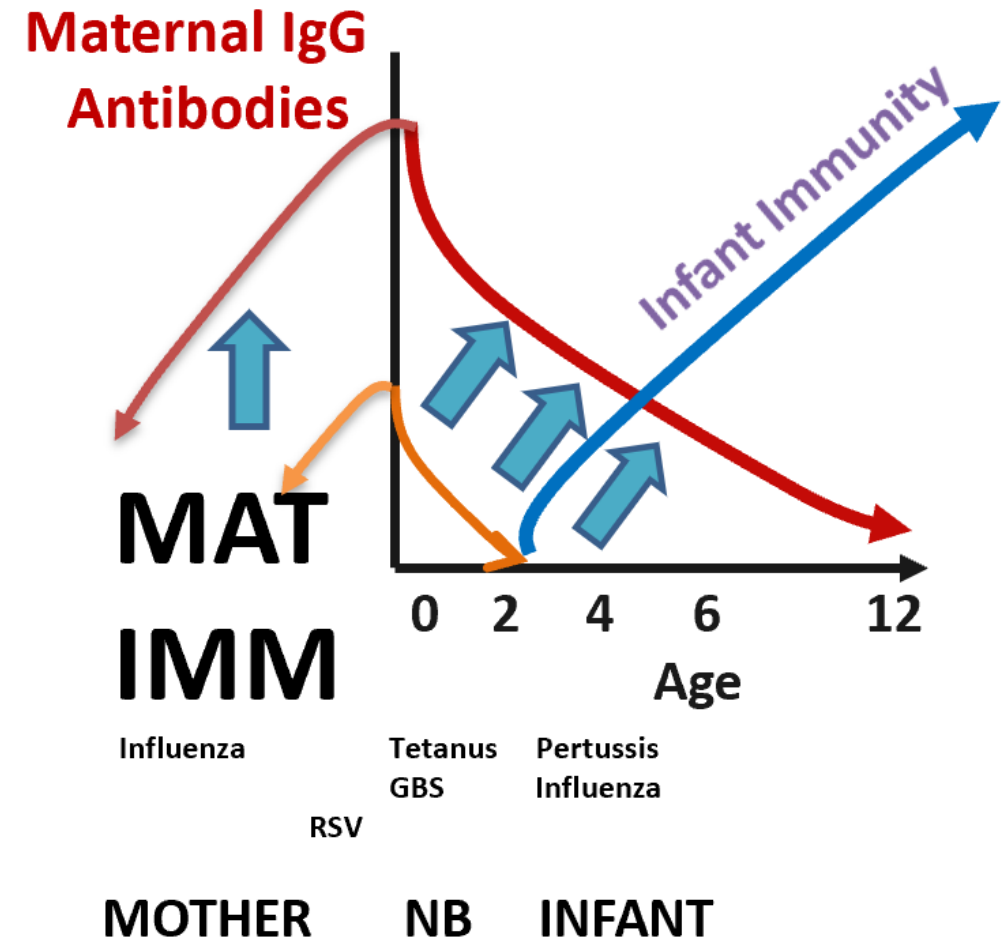
Kim et al, AJE 1969;89:422-433 (2 infants died at 14 and 16 months; vaccination started at 2 and 5 months, respectively; both received 3 doses)

Fulginiti et al., AJE 1969;89:435-448



# Rationale for Maternal Immunization to Protect Infants Against RSV

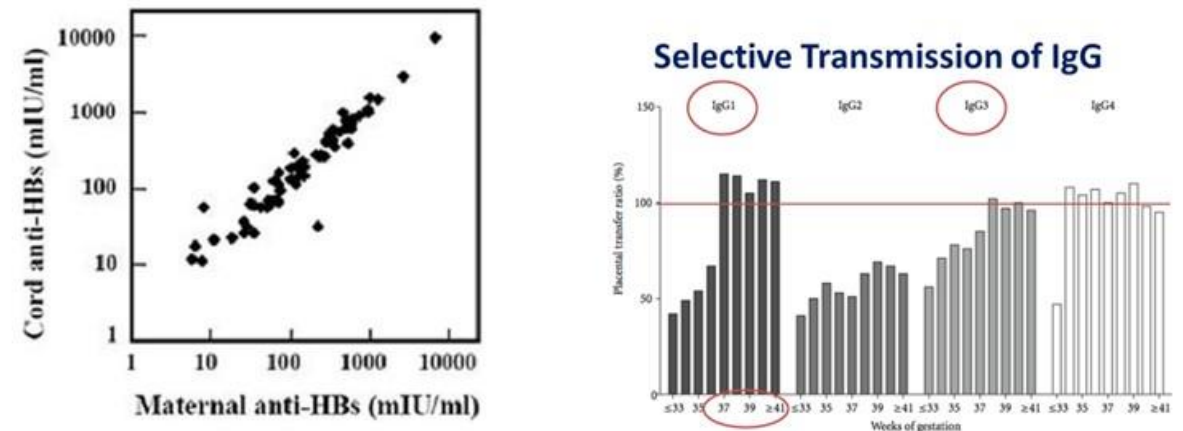
- Reduced incidence of RSV disease in neonates during the first several months after birth correlates with higher concentrations of RSV-specific maternal antibody.
- Passive anti-F IgG (e.g., Palivizumab) reduces incidence of severe disease.
- Adults (mothers) are primed from previous infections and vaccine will boost antibodies.
- RSV-specific IgG transfer from mothers to neonates is efficient.
- Potential protection from breast milk antibodies.
- Success of similar strategies for Tetanus, Pertussis, Influenza.



# Factors that affect transplacental transfer of antibodies

- Gestational age at birth
- Interval vaccination to delivery
- Maternal IgG level
- IgG Subclass
  - IgG1 ~ IgG3 > IgG4 > IgG2
- Placental abnormalities
- Infections (malaria, HIV)
- Other factors (maternal health, nutritional status, parity, etc)

- Maternal IgG crosses the placenta by a **selective** and **active** receptor-mediated transport system (hFcRn) (not IgM, IgA or IgE)
- Passage begins at ~ 17 wk, increases through term
- Cord/Maternal Ab correlation favors infant
- 40 wk: Fetal > Mat IgG
- **Half life ~ 30-40 days**
- High Ab → longer protection



# Goals of a Maternal Vaccination Program Against RSV


- Prevent infant death and hospitalization
- Prevent and/or reduce severity of lower respiratory illness in young infants
- Delay onset of first RSV infection in infants
- Reduce infection / transmission in the household and community
- Indirect benefits
  - Reduce secondary complications of RSV in infants - otitis media, bacterial infections
  - Reduce antibiotics usage for the treatment of ARI
  - Reduce virus-associated wheezing in the first decade of life
  - Improve maternal health and pregnancy outcomes (?)



# RSV In Pregnancy

- Burden of RSV in pregnancy is mostly **unrecognized** (most OB providers do not test for respiratory viruses), but seems to be less frequent than rhinovirus/coronavirus and maybe more frequent than influenza
- Although most infections are likely **mild-moderate and self limited**, RSV can cause severe **lower respiratory tract illness in pregnant women**
- **Complications** of RSV infection in pregnancy include:
  - Maternal: Fever (uncommon), secondary bacterial infection, respiratory failure, preterm labor, emergent C-section
  - Infant: Preterm birth, low birth weight (?)
- Other effects: Physician visits, inappropriate antibiotics prescriptions, transmission within household

# RSV in Pregnancy

- Burden of disease is unknown
- Clinical impact on pregnant women and outcomes of pregnancy unknown
- Several studies correlating maternal and prenatal factors with severity of bronchiolitis in infants
  - Eg. Maternal alcohol consumption, Cesarean section  Risk
  - Maternal infection within 3 months prior to delivery  Risk
- Literature review :
  - 1 report of clinical cases USA
  - 1 study each in Nepal, Mongolia, South Africa
  - PREVENT study
  - 1 study in Houston
  - Ongoing epidemiologic evaluations in context of vaccine trials



# Maternal Effects of RSV Infection during Pregnancy

Wheeler, et al. Em Infect Dis, Nov 2015 – Duke – Winter 2014

	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3
Age, GA at Dx	26 yr / 33 wk G1	27 yr / 34 wk G2P0	21 yr / 32 wk G1
Infection	RSV	RSV and H1N1	RSV and GASrep
Diagnostic tool	PCR - BAL	PCR – NP aspirate	PCR – NP aspirate
Disease	Bronchitis Pneumonia-VAP	Pneumonia	Pharyngitis
Complications	<b>Mechanical Vent 6 d</b> <b>C-section delivery at 34 weeks</b> b/c LRTI. <b>Hospitalization 14 d</b>	<b>Preterm labor and delivery at 34 weeks</b> <b>Mechanical Vent 1 d</b>	None Outpatient treatment Delivery at 39 weeks
Symptoms	5 d malaise, cough, wheezing, 1 d fever	5 d cough, congestion 3 d fever, chills	3 d sore throat, congestion, fever
Treatment	Broad Atbx	Broad Atbx, steroids	Penicillin
Underlying cond.	Asthma Smoker	Asthma Smoker	Mild aortic coarctation Cognitive delay
Exposures	Young child URI	-	-

# RSV infection in pregnancy: Clinical presentation and birth outcomes in Nepal.

- Chu et al. PLOS one March 2016

- Prospective, randomized **trial of influenza** immunization in pregnancy in rural Nepal, 2011-2014
- Enrollment and immunization in 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester (~ 17 weeks of gestation)
- Weekly home-based surveillance for **febrile respiratory illness in mothers** from enrollment until 180 days post-partum
- Mid nasal swabs during illness tested for RSV by PCR
- **Maternal illness = Fever** ( $> 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) *plus* at least one of cough, myalgia, sore throat, rhinorrhea
- Infant illness = any of – fever, cough, wheeze, difficult or rapid breathing, draining ear.

# RSV infection in pregnancy: Clinical presentation at birth outcomes in Nepal.

Chu et al. PLOS one March 2016

Outcome	Description
<b>Incidence RSV</b>	<b>14 (0.4%) RSV positive febrile illness episodes</b> in 3693 women over 3554 person-years of surveillance <b>3.9/1000 person-years overall</b> 11.8/1000 person-years between September and December
<b>Morbidity</b>	<b>7/14 (50%) women sought medical care</b> Median 2 (total 4) days of fever, myalgia, cough, rhinorrhea, sore throat No deaths
<b>Pregnancy effects</b>	<b>7/14 (50%) infected during pregnancy</b> All live births – median BW 3060 g [vs. 2790 g in women w/o RSV] <b>2 (29%) preterm births 34 and 36 weeks</b> [vs. 469 (13%) in women w/o RSV]
<b>Post-partum effects</b>	<b>7/14 (50%) infected post-partum</b> RSV was detected in 4 (47%) of their infants
<b>Exposures</b>	No difference in number of children in household, indoor cook stove or smoking between RSV pos and RSV Neg
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>RSV is uncommon cause of febrile respiratory illness in mothers during pregnancy and post-partum in Nepal</b>

# Burden of RSV in Pregnant Women – Mongolia

Chaw L, et al. PLOS One. Feb 2016

Outcome	Description
<b>Study design</b>	Prospective, observational, open cohort of 1260 unvaccinated pregnant women and their infants, 2013-2015 <b>ILI and severe ARI</b> identified by bi-weekly call Flu and RSV point of care test
<b>Maternal Incidence rate</b>	ILI – 174 episodes in 160 PW or 11.8/1000 person days Severe ARI – 0.1 (0.0 – 0.4)/ 1000 person days  Among 165 ILI cases tested: - 26 (15.8%) = influenza A (1.7 [1.5-1.9]/1000 person days) - 2 (1.2%) = influenza B (0.1 [0.1-0.2]/1000 person days) - <b>4 (2.4%) = RSV (0.3 [0.2-0.4]/1000 person days)</b> - 2 women tested pos for both flu and RSV from separate ILI episodes in 2014/15
<b>Illness</b>	Testing within 5 days of onset Mean interval to resolution 8.1 days (3-20) No deaths

# RSV in Pregnant and Post-partum Women

**South Africa.** Madhi et al. Burden of RSV in SA HIV+/HIV- pregnant women. CID, 2018

- 2011-2012 **study of influenza vaccine efficacy in pregnant women**
- 1060 and 1056 HIV Neg; 194 HIV Pos
- **Incidence of RSV illness:**
  - **HIV Neg 1.2 – 4.0 per 1000 person-months**
  - **HIV Pos: 3.4 per 1000**
- Maternal RSV infection was associated with respiratory symptoms including cough (72.1%), rhinorrhea (39.5%), sore throat (37.2%), and headache (42%), but fever was absent.
- RSV infection during pregnancy was **not associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes.**
- Postpartum, RSV infection in mothers was associated with **concurrent infection** among 51.9% of **their infants** and, conversely, 29.8% of mothers investigated within 7 days of their infants having an RSV illness also tested positive for RSV.






# RSV In Pregnancy – PREVENT\* Study

Regan A, et al. RSV hospitalization in PW in four high income countries. CID May 2018

- 2010-2016 **Hospitalizations** for Acute Respiratory or Febrile Illness (ARFI) AND PCR testing for RSV
- Total population: **1,604,2016 pregnant women in US, Canada, Israel, Australia**

## RESULTS

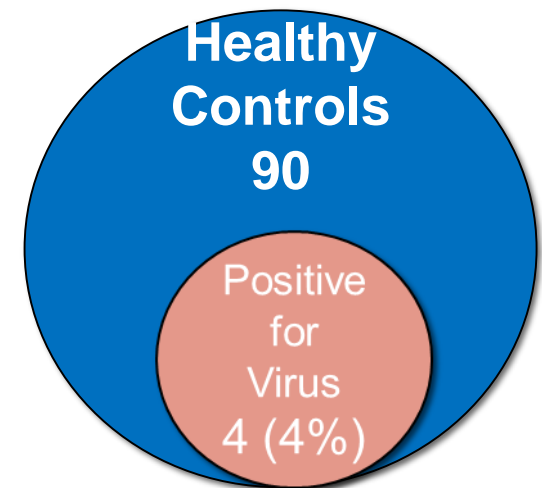
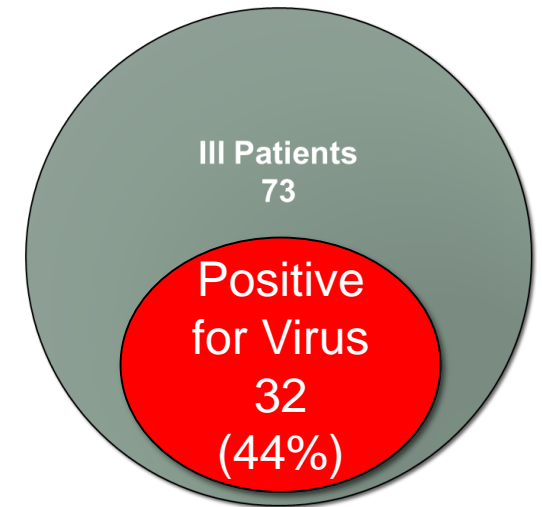
- **(0.9%)15,287  $\geq$  1 ARFI related hospitalization**
- **Only 6%** (846/13,694 unique admissions for ARFI) **were tested for RSV**
- **2.5 % (21) POS for RSV (range: 1.9 – 3.1%); positivity by year: 0 to 4% (2013-14)**
- 51% pos for influenza; < 1% pos for both RSV and influenza
- **63% tests and 67% detections in the 3rd trimester of pregnancy**
- **38% women had pre-existing health condition (19% was asthma)**
-  • **Pneumonia was more common in RSV POS vs. neg women (38% vs. 19%, P=0.046)**
-  • **48% of RSV POS women were admitted for  $\geq$  3 days**
- No difference in preterm, SGA, and LBW births between RSV-pos and RSV-neg women.
-  • Among ARFI admissions where no delivery occurred, **there was association between RSV-positivity and subsequent preterm birth** (RSV-pos: 29% and RSV-neg: 15%; P=0.034).

\*Pregnancy Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Network (CDC-Abt:)

# RSV Pregnancy Houston.

Hause A. ARI among Pregnant Women. JID May 2018

- Aim: Incidence and impact of RSV infection in pregnant women
- 2015-16 season (October – April)
- Cross sectional cohort of pregnant women receiving routine prenatal care at private OB practice
- Enrolled when healthy or ill
- Mid turbinate nasal swab for PCR viral diagnosis
- Symptom history and follow up for outcomes 2 weeks after enrolment if ill
- **RSV identified by PCR in 10% of women, and attributed cause of ARI in 14% of women (PCR + serology)**



# RSV Positive Patients

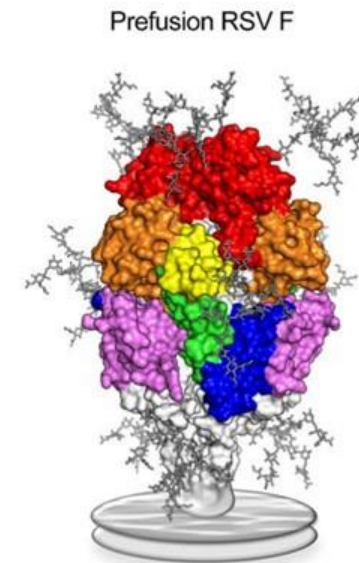
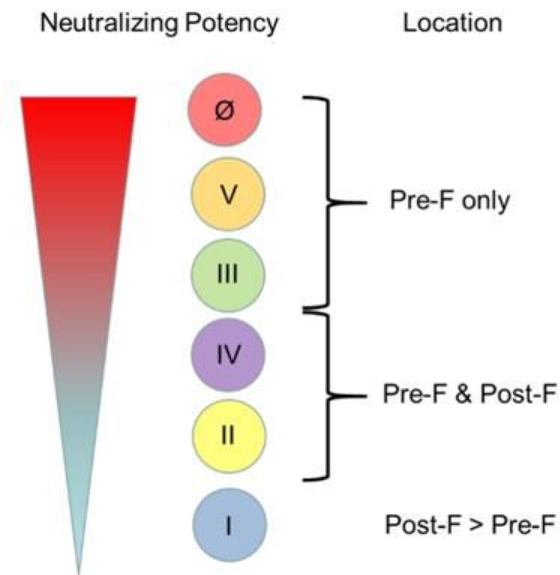
	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Case 5	Case 6
<b>Date of Enrollment</b>	Nov. 10	Nov. 16	Nov. 25	Dec. 12	Dec. 22	Mar. 31
<b>Maternal Age</b>	26 years	28 years	33 years	31 years	37 years	28 years
<b>Gestational Age</b>	39 weeks	24 weeks	37 weeks	15 weeks	26 weeks	34 weeks
<b>Days Post-Onset</b>	2 days	1 day	5 days	1 day	25 days	8 days
<b>Symptoms</b>	Congestion Sneezing Cough	Congestion Sore throat Cough	Congestion Sore throat Cough	↓ Activity ↓ Appetite Sore throat	Fever ↓ Activity ↓ Appetite Congestion Sore throat Cough Chest pain Short of breath Wheezing	Congestion Sore Throat Cough Short of breath
<b>Duration of Illness</b>	11 days	7 days	18 days	9 days	30 days	34 days

# RSV Vaccine for Maternal Immunization

- Which vaccine?
- Which antibodies?
- How much antibody is necessary to protect infants?
- What should outcomes in infants be?
- How is severe RSV defined? LRTI? Hypoxemia? Hospitalization? Death?
- How long will protection last?
- Role of breastmilk antibodies?
- What is acceptable safety/risk in mothers and infants?
- Risk for enhanced disease?
- Why maternal vaccination over infant vaccination or passive antibodies?
- What is the role of MI in the overall strategy of infant disease prevention?

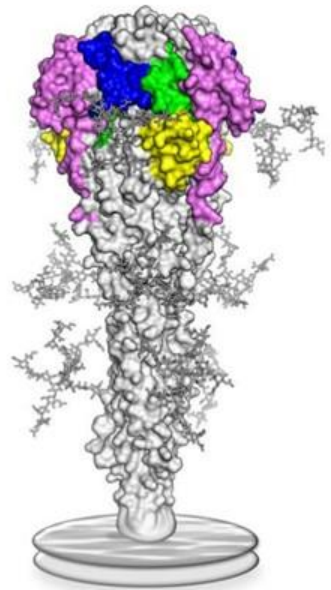
# MI: Which vaccine and which antibody?

- Non-live vaccine with or without adjuvants – one dose in 2-3<sup>rd</sup> trimester gest.
- F-Protein – Conformation dependent immunogenicity and structure based vaccine design
- Neutralizing antibodies, palivizumab competing antibodies (PCA), IgG – IgA
- Preserving neutralization-sensitive epitopes on functional form of F-protein essential for vaccine antigen design



Site Ø  
Site I  
Site II  
Site III  
Site IV  
Site V

Postfusion RSV F

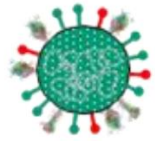




# RSV Vaccines in Development

## Historical

Recombinant or chimeric viruses



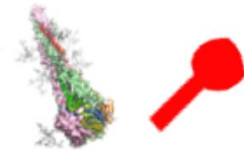
WT or attenuated virus



Whole-inactivated virus



Postfusion F or G subunit

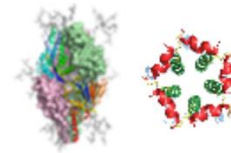


Subunit F (F+G+M, FG, F+G) and G (BBG2Na) given to adults and children with pre-existing immunity (2-3 fold rise in NT; >10-20 fold rise in ELISA titers)

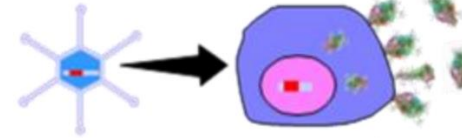
Eg: Lederle – Wyeth  
Connaught – Sanofi vaccines

## New

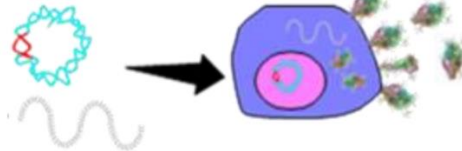
Prefusion F subunit or SH pentamer



Vectors



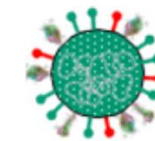
Naked DNA or mRNA



VLPs or virosomes



Genetically modified and recombinant chimeric viruses



Eg: GSK/NIH/Pfizer  
Eg: Novavax vaccine (pre-post-fusion epitopes)

Eg: GSK/Janssen vaccine (adenovirus vector)

Eg: Moderna vaccine

# MI: How much antibody?

RSV Antibody Titer		Assay Method	Article
No RSV disease	RSV disease		
652.6	198.1	Membrane Fluorescent Antibody Test	Ogilvie, J Med Vir 1981 7:263 Maternal Ab & RSV
92	9.5	Neutralizing Ab	Glezen, J Ped 1981 98:708
40.00	11.08	MFAT Neutralizing Ab	Roca, J Med Vir 2002 67:616 IgG Mozambique
44.16	11.37		
238.9	68.6	Neutralizing Ab	Piedra, Vaccine 2003 21:3479 Correlates of imm
538.0	392.1	Neutralizing Ab	Eick, Ped Inf Dis J 2008 27:207 Native Americans
1047	646	ELISA	Ochola, PLOS One 2009 4:e8088 Infants in Kenya

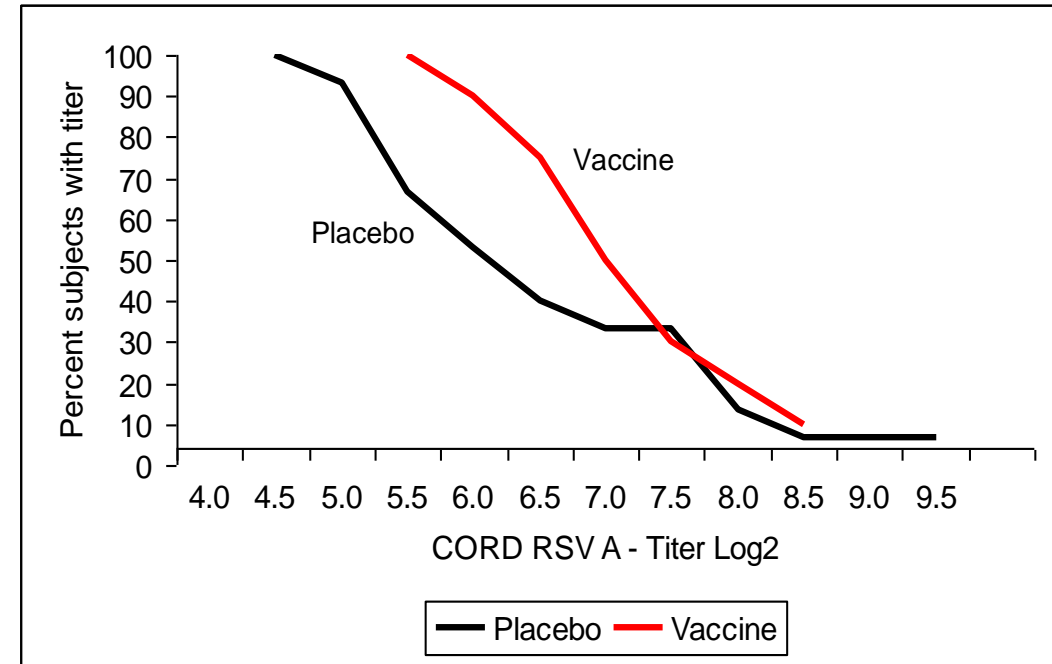
Fold-increase	Log2	reciprocal NT titer	~months of protection
32	13	8,000	7
16	12	4,000	6
8	11	2,000	5
4	10	1,000	4
2	9	500	3
1	8	250	2
0	7	125	1

Source: B. Graham lecture ADVAC

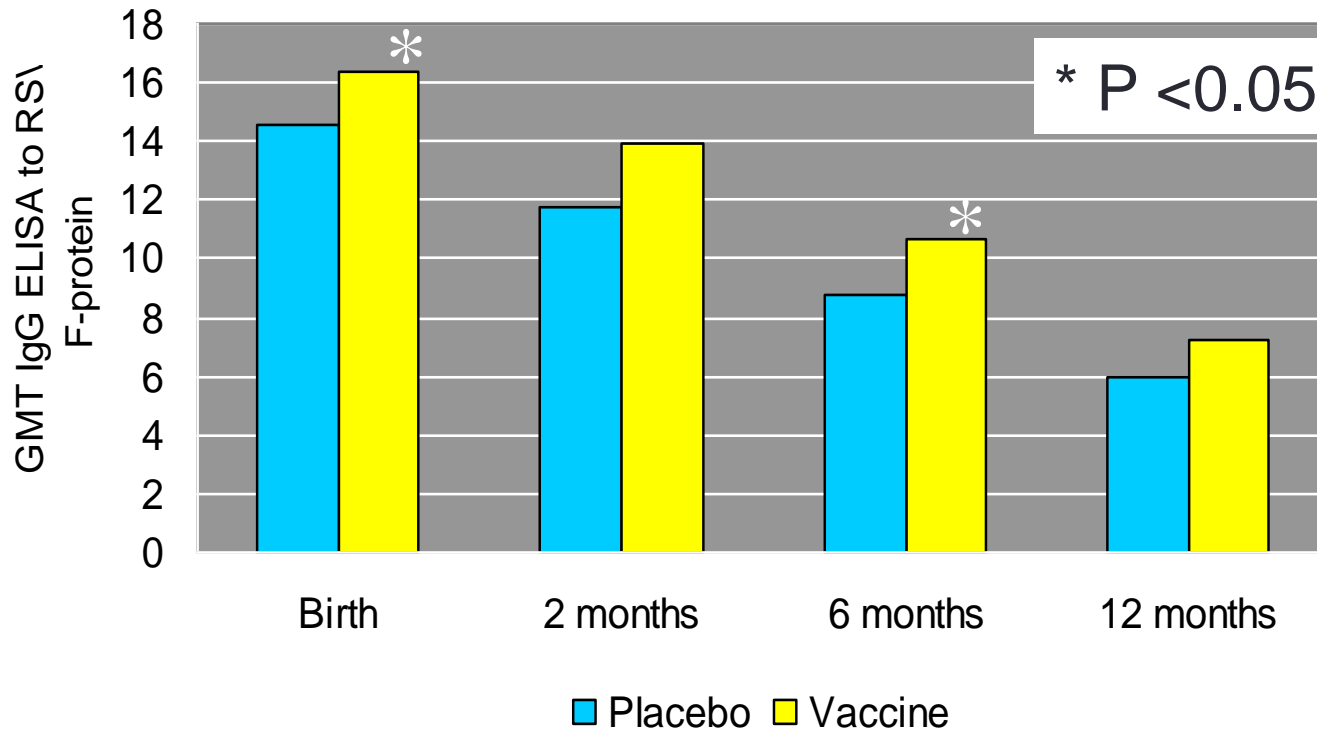
A 2- to 4-fold lower concentration of RSV-specific antibody titers is seen in infants with RSV disease compared to infants with no disease.

# PFP-2 Subunit RSV Vaccine in Pregnant Women

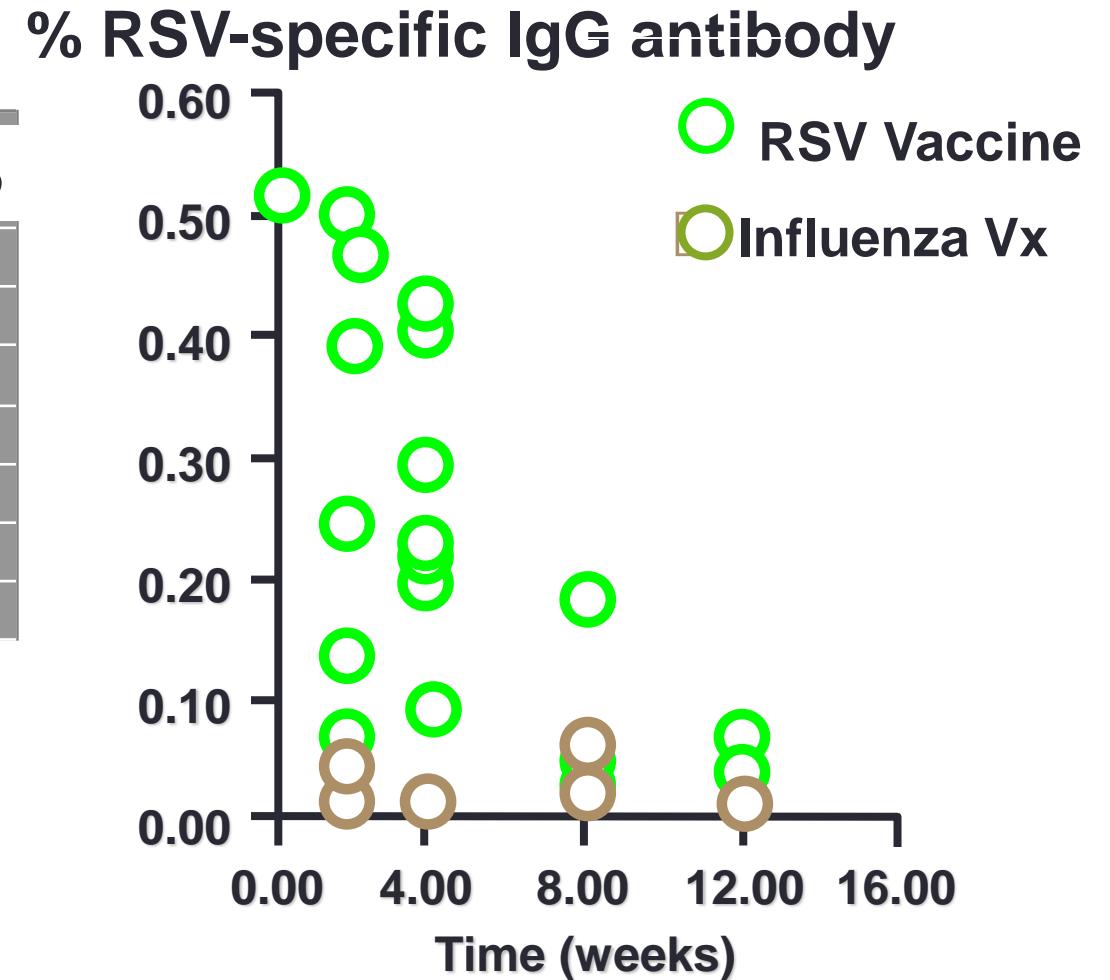
- 1999-2002, Houston, US
- 35 healthy women, 30-34 wk GA
- Vaccine was safe, well tolerated
- Vaccine response in mothers:
  - **95% with 4x-rise anti-F IgG ELISA** vs. 6.6% placebo
  - **Only 10% with 4x rise in Neut Ab**
  - 75% by WB vs. 0 placebo
- Women with low antibody concentrations rose to higher, potentially protective levels (6.0 Log2)
- Efficient transplacental passage of IgG antibodies (>100%)
- Infant antibody higher than controls up to 6 months of age (half life 30-40 days)
- **Ab in breast milk: Anti-F IgG and IgA > placebo at 2 and 6 months**
- **RSV infection** in 2 infants of vaccine recipients and 4 placebo recipients (culture or serology). **No enhanced infant RSV disease.**



# Serum and Breast milk IgG following RSV PFP-2 in Pregnant or Postpartum women



\*Munoz, et al. Vaccine 2003

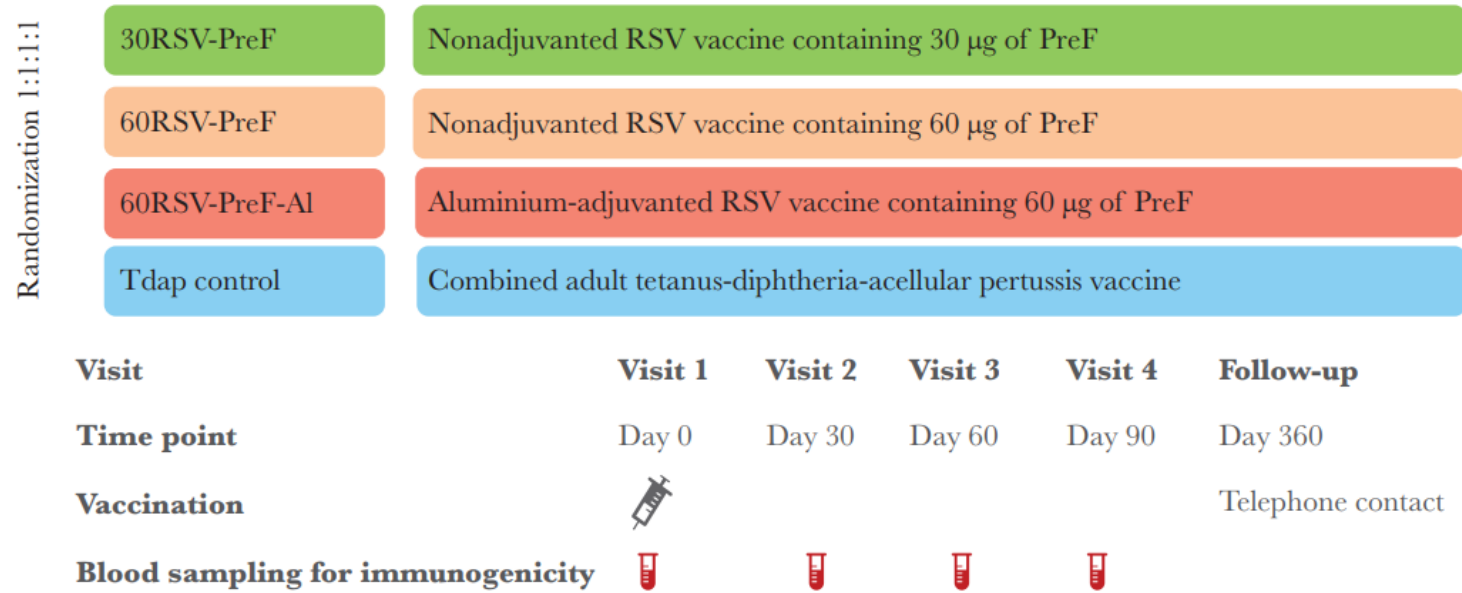


Glezen, WP, Vaccine 2003

# Phase 2 clinical trial of investigational Pre-F RSV vaccine in non-pregnant women

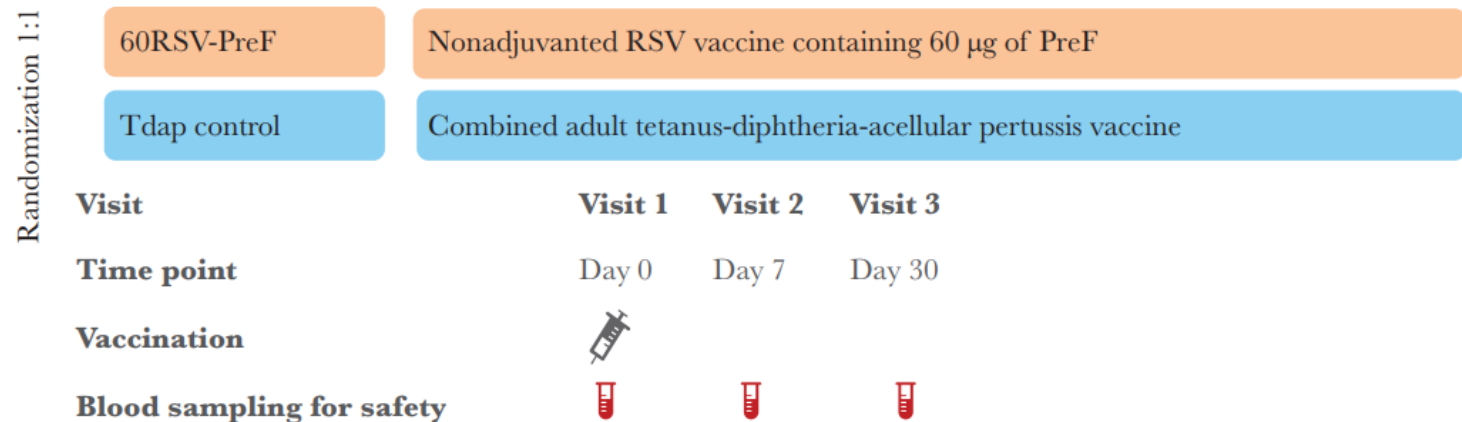
**Australia**  
**US**  
**Czech Republic**  
**Germany**  
**N= 500**

## RSV F-020

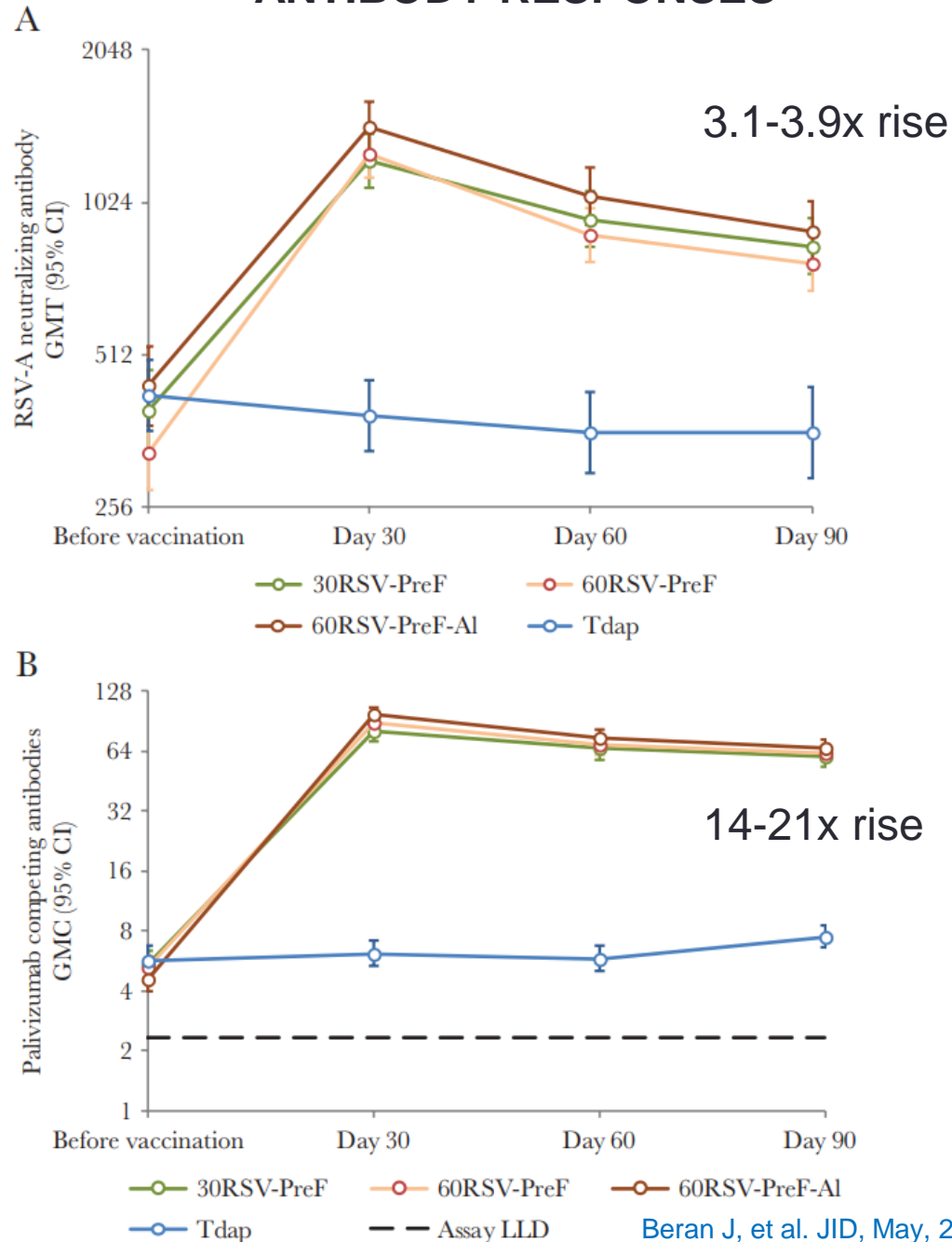


**Belgium**  
**N=100**

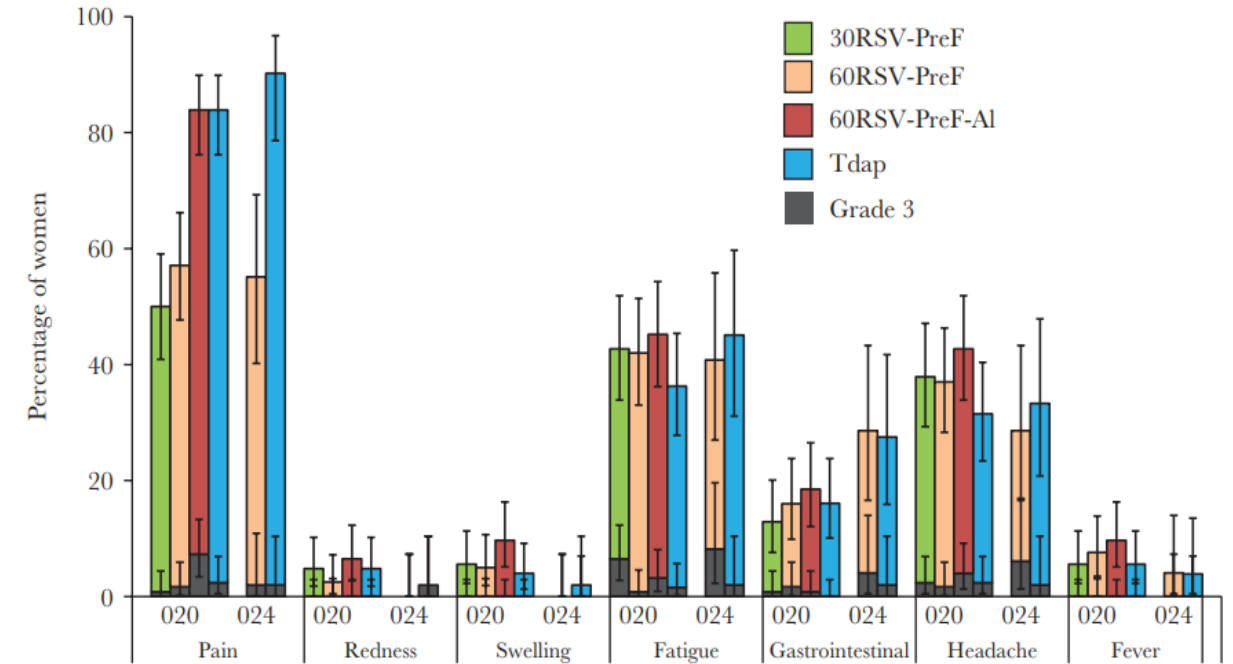
## RSV F-024



## ANTIBODY RESPONSES



## REACTOGENICITY



- All formulations of RSV-PreF boosted preexisting immune responses in 18–45-year old women with comparable immunogenicity.
- The RSV-PreF safety profile was similar to that of Tdap vaccine.

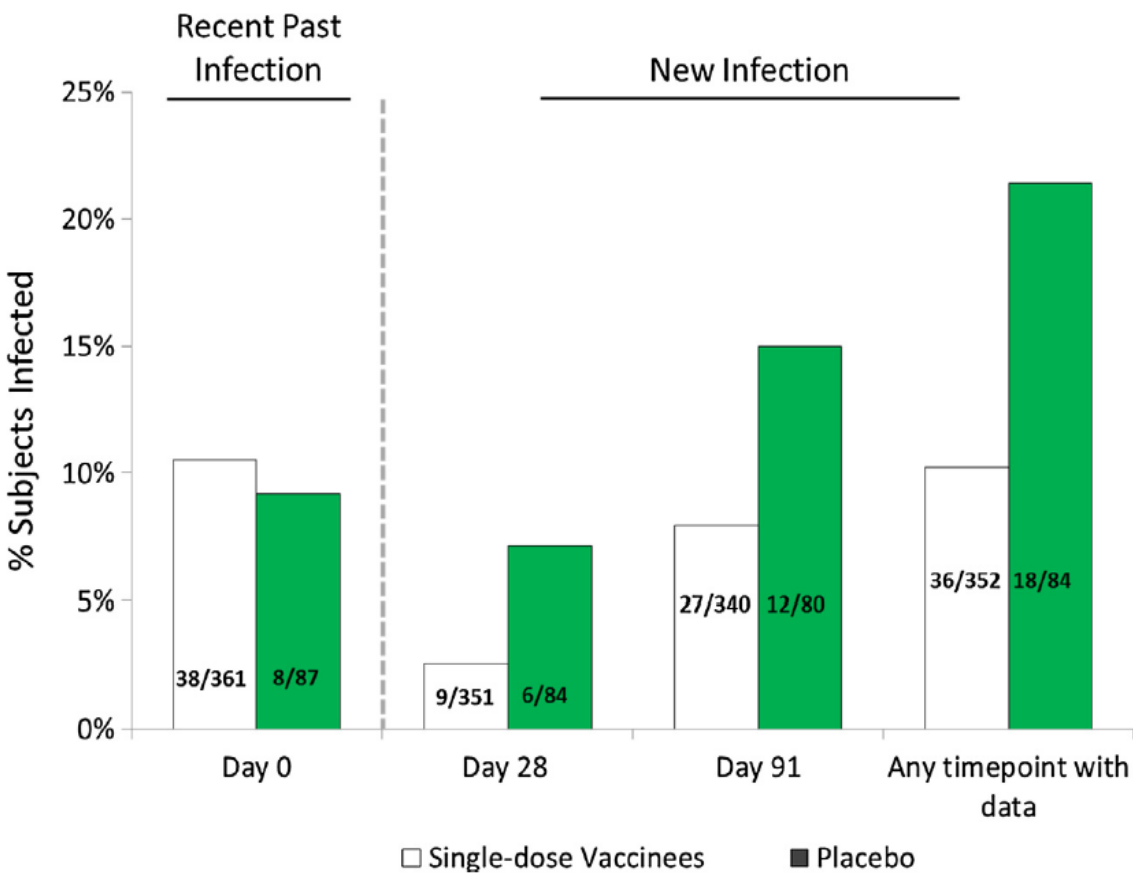
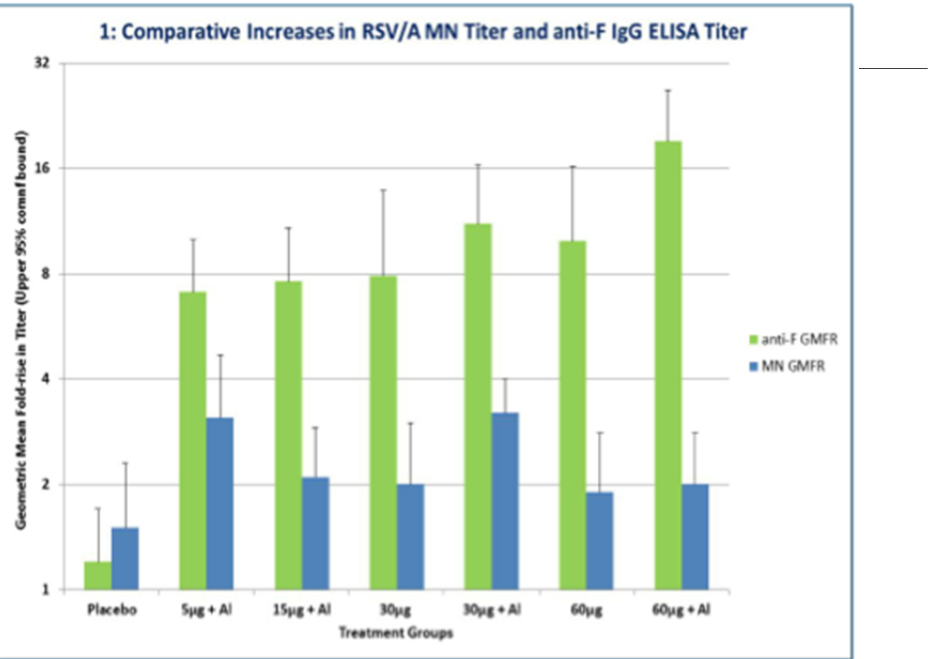


# RSV F-nanoparticle aluminum adjuvanted vaccine protects women of childbearing age



A Phase 2 randomized, observer-blind, placebo-controlled, dose-ranging trial of aluminum-adjuvanted respiratory syncytial virus F particle vaccine formulations in healthy women of childbearing age

Allison August<sup>a</sup>, Gregory M. Glenn<sup>a</sup>, Eloï Kpamegan<sup>a</sup>, Somia P. Hickman<sup>a</sup>, Dewal Jani<sup>a</sup>, Hanxin Lu<sup>a</sup>, D. Nigel Thomas<sup>a</sup>, Judy Wen<sup>a</sup>, Pedro A. Piedra<sup>b</sup>, Louis F. Fries<sup>a,\*</sup>



Serological determination of RSV infection before and after RSV season

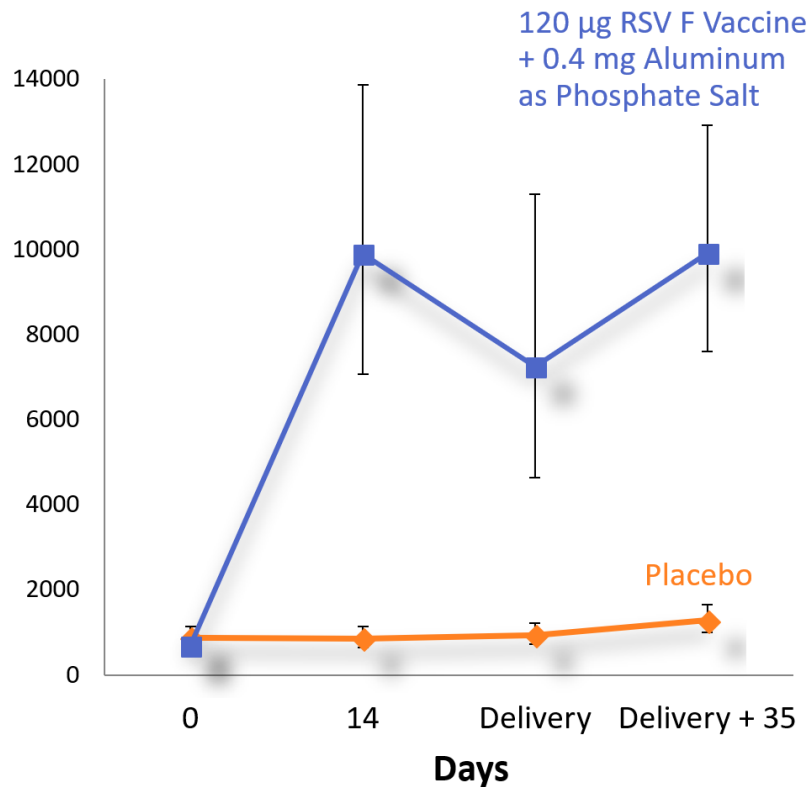


# RSF F-nanoparticle vaccine in Pregnant Women

## Phase 2 study

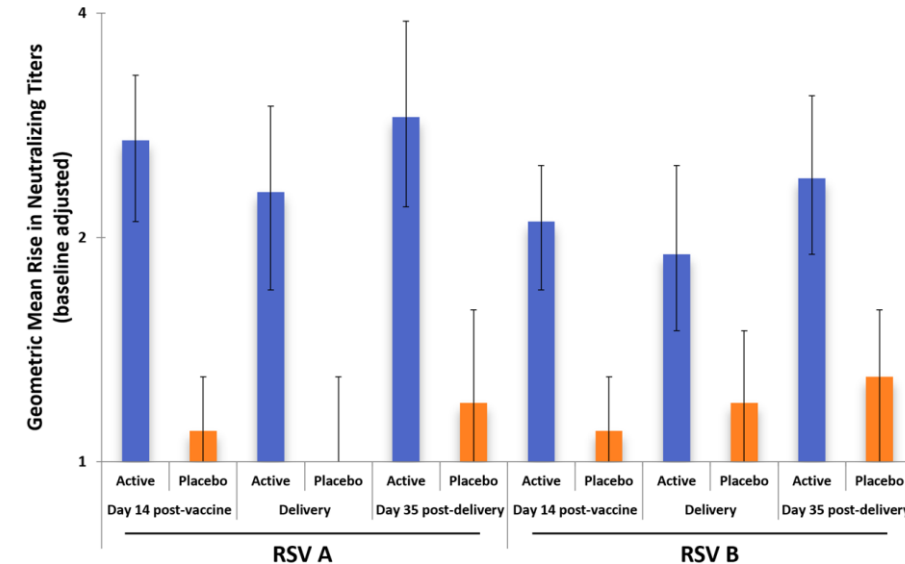
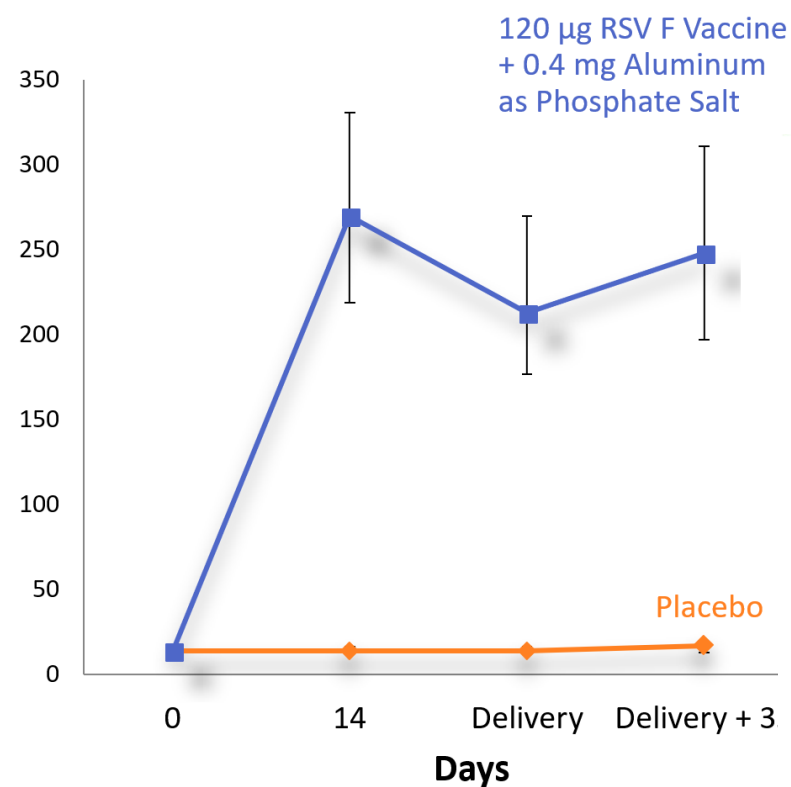
### Phase 2 - Antibody response in maternal participants

Anti-F IgG GMEU (95% CI)



### Phase 2 – PCA response in maternal participants

PCA GMC (µg/mL)



<http://novavax.com/presentation.show> (accessed April 2018)

# RSV F-nanoparticle vaccine in Pregnant Women

## Phase 2 study

2 Infants: Time from Vaccination to Delivery (Days)  
Impacts Placental Antibody Transfer

Assay	Source	Del. < 30d post vacc., n=7*	Del. > 30d post vacc., n=14	All n=21*
Anti F IgG	Cord	7,227	8,659	8,153
	Mothers	12,979	6,993	8,594
	Ratio	0.6	1.2	0.9
PCA	Cord	177	195	189
	Mothers	303	178	213
	Ratio	0.6	1.1	0.9
RSV/A	Cord	928	672	748
	Mothers	1,448	580	786
	Ratio	0.6	1.2	1.0
RSV/B	Cord	565	512	529
	Mothers	724	410	495
	Ratio	0.8	1.2	1.1

### Important Findings:

- Maternal antibody peaks 14d after vaccination
- Period of placental transfer >30 days maximizes antibody titer in infants
- P3 recruitment window opened to 31 weeks to maximize antibody transfer

\*[http://novavax.com/download/files/presentations/FIGO\\_7OCT2015\\_AA\\_P2\\_Data\\_10\\_14\\_15\\_FINAL\(1\).pdf](http://novavax.com/download/files/presentations/FIGO_7OCT2015_AA_P2_Data_10_14_15_FINAL(1).pdf)

GA = gestational age  
Ad hoc analysis

\*Excludes 1 mother/infant pair with delivery 5 days post-immunization, late pre-term delivery

# The RSV F-Nanoparticle Vaccine Phase 3 Trial in Pregnant Women

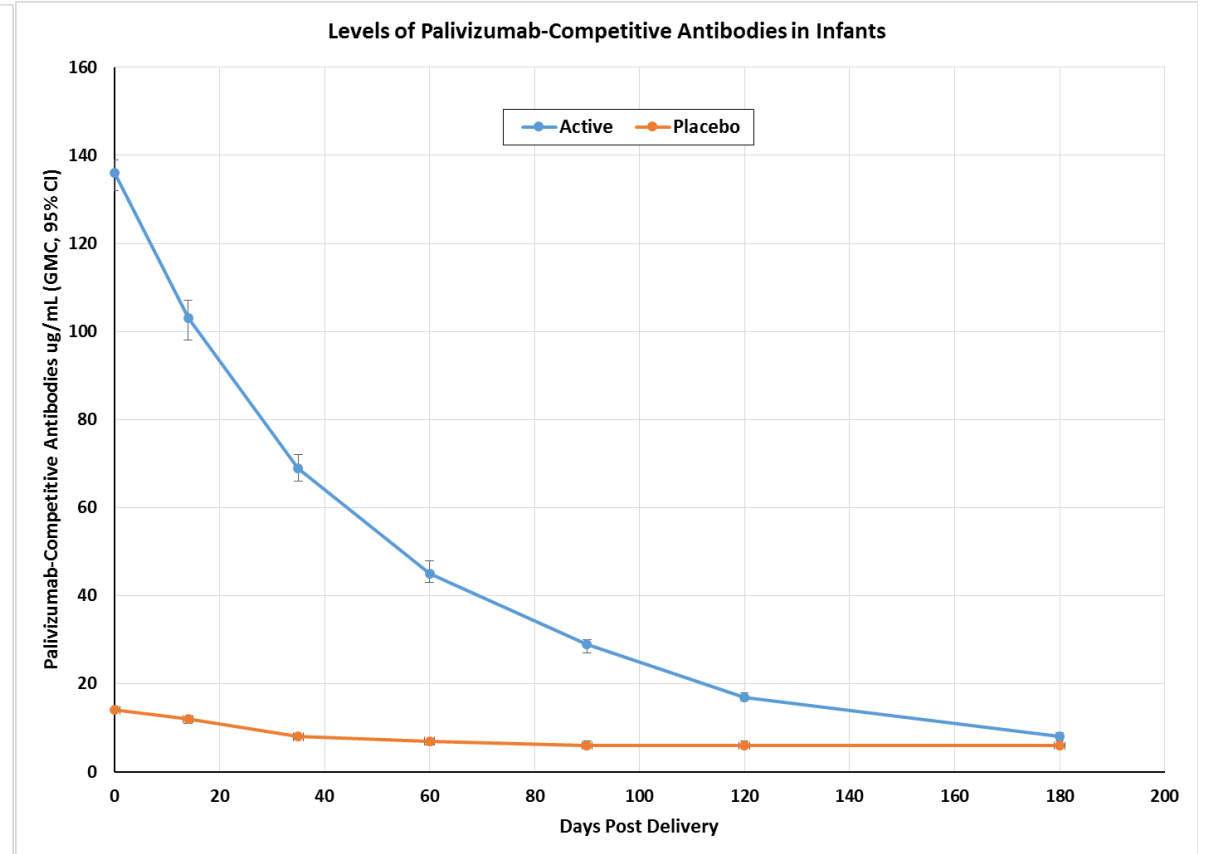
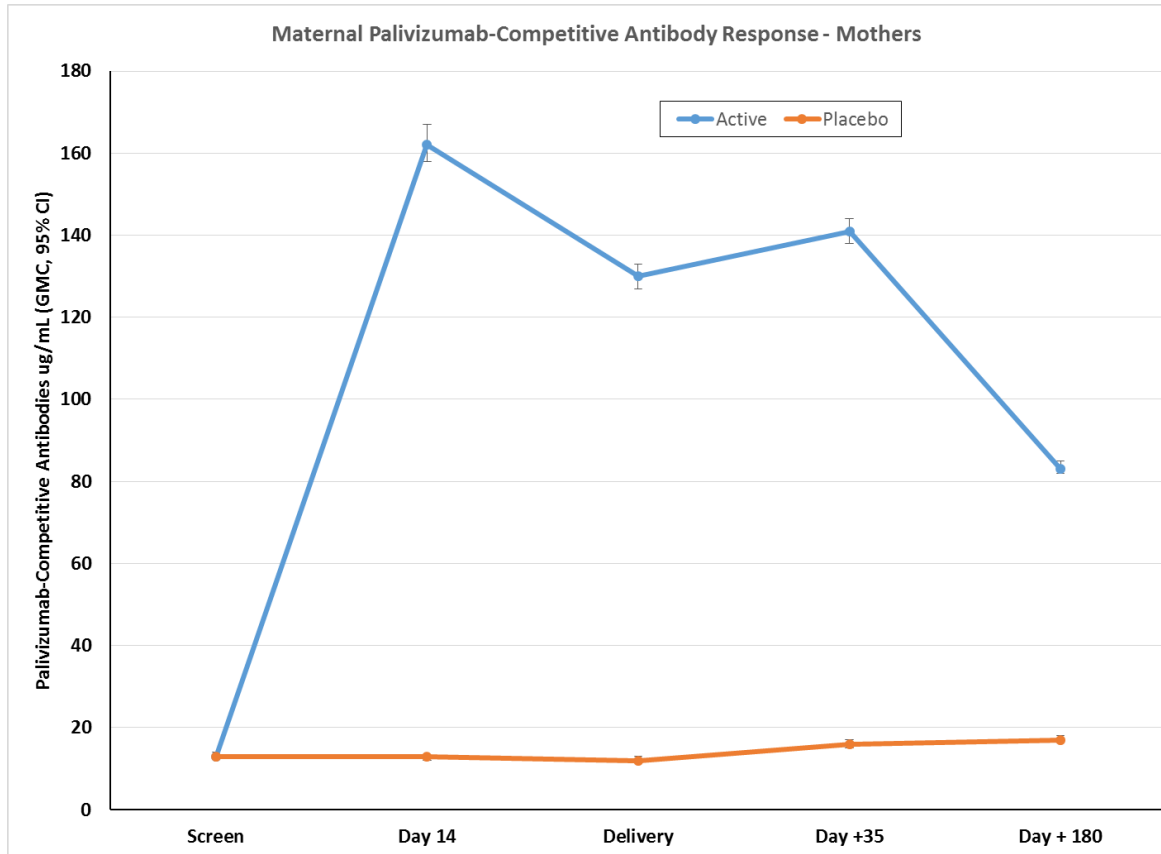
## Primary objective

Determine the **efficacy** of maternal immunization with the RSV F vaccine against **medically significant RSV lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI)** through 90, 120, 150 and 180 days of life in infants.

Design	Randomized, Observer-Blind, Placebo-Controlled	
	Number of Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>4,636</b> third trimester pregnant women <b>randomized 2:1 (vaccine:placebo)</b></li><li>• <b>87 clinical sites in 11 countries (northern and southern hemisphere)</b></li></ul>
	Length of Study Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mothers: up to 9 months</li><li>• Infants: 1 year after delivery</li></ul>
	Dosing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 intramuscular (IM) Injection of RSV F vaccine or placebo at <b>28-36 weeks</b> Estimated Gestational Age (EGA)</li></ul>
	Safety Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Through 6 months post-partum in mothers</li><li>• Through 1 year in infants</li></ul>
	Efficacy Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Active/passive surveillance in mothers and infants</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Confirmation of RSV infection by RT-PCR</li><li>• Medically significant tachypnea or pulse oximetry (infants only)</li><li>• Confirmation of LRTI (infants only)</li></ul></li></ul>

Pre-post-fusion F-nanoparticle recombinant (baculovirus) vaccine produced in insect cells, adjuvanted with aluminum phosphate

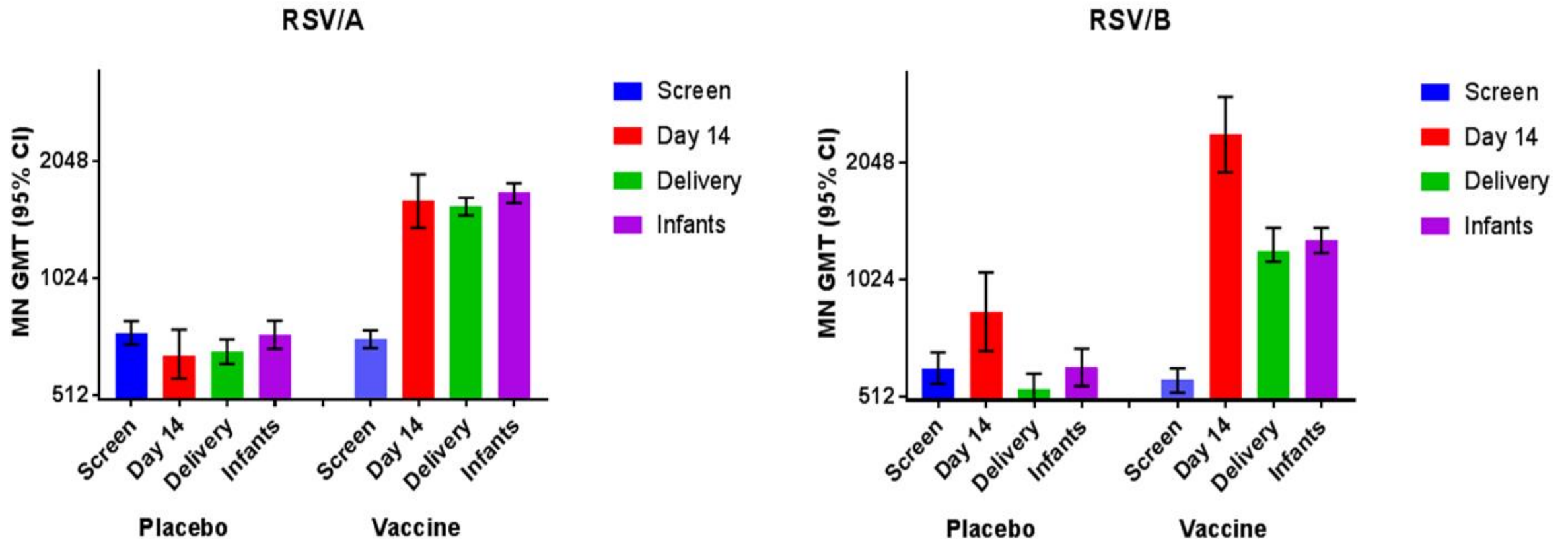
# Vaccine Immunogenicity and Transplacental Transfer of Antibodies: Palivizumab-Competitive Antibodies (PCA)



- **Seroresponse rate** in vaccinated mothers = 99.4%,  $\geq 4$ -fold rise in 88.1%.
- Cord blood serum / maternal delivery serum = 104%;  $T_{1/2}$  = 49.1 days
- Anti-F IgG levels behave similarly

# Vaccine Immunogenicity and Transplacental Transfer of Antibodies: Neutralizing Antibodies

Microneutralization Responses from Subset of Season 1 and 2 Subjects



# Efficacy Endpoints

- **Primary endpoint (site only data\*)**
  - **Medically-significant RSV LRTI**
    - RSV detected by **RT-PCR** and
    - At least one manifestation of **LRTI**, and
    - At least one of the following:
      - **SpO2 <95% or,**
      - **Tachypnea** (RR  $\geq 70$  bpm in infants 0-59 d or  $\geq 60$  bpm in infants  $\geq 60$  d)
- **Secondary endpoints (site only data\*)**
  - RSV LRTI with **hospitalization**
  - RSV LRTI with **severe hypoxemia**, SpO2 <92 %
- **Exploratory efficacy endpoints (data from *sites plus hospitalizations*)**
  - **Same as primary and secondary criteria**
  - Referred to as “expanded data”



<https://www.whattoexpect.com/first-year/newborn-sleep.aspx>

\* Data collected by study personnel using standardized pulse oximeter and method of recording, physical exam by study staff and study PCR only



# Summary of Key Efficacy Findings

Efficacy (%) (97.52%CI and 95%CI for MS RSV LRTI primary endpoint at 90 days, all others 95%CI) Placebo, Vaccine cases <sup>3</sup>	Time Interval	MS RSV LRTI	RSV LRTI hospitalizations	RSV LRTI w/ severe hypoxemia
Primary and secondary RSV+ w/ Site data	0 to 90 days	<b>39.4</b> (-1, 63.7) <sup>1</sup> (5.3, 61.2) <sup>2</sup> 35/1430, 41/2765	<b>44.4</b> (19.6, 61.5) 53/1430, 57/2765	<b>48.3</b> (-8.2, 75.3) 14/1430, 14/2765
	0 to 180 days	<b>26.6</b> (-7.8, 50.1) 43/1430, 61/2765	<b>40.4</b> (16.0, 57.7) 59/1430, 68/2765	<b>42.2</b> (-10.9, 69.9) 17/1430, 19/2765
Pre-specified exploratory RSV+ w/expanded data	0 to 90 days	<b>40.9</b> (15.9, 58.5) 56/1430, 64/2765	<b>41.7</b> (16.7, 59.2) 55/1430, 62/2765	<b>59.6</b> (32.1, 76.0) 32/1430, 25/2765
	0 to 180 days	<b>26.5</b> (-0.6, 46.2) 64/1430, 91/2765	<b>35.6</b> (10.3, 53.7) 61/1430, 76/2765	<b>51.2</b> (21.9, 69.6) 35/1430, 33/2765

1. (97.5% CI); 2. (95.0% CI); 3. Per-protocol population



# Efficacy in World Bank High and Low/Middle Income Countries

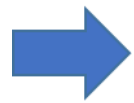
Endpoint	Location	Placebo (cases / N)	Vaccine (cases / N)	Efficacy	95% CI
<b>Medically Significant RSV LRTI</b>	<b>All sites</b>	35/1430	41/2765	<b>39.4%</b>	5.3, 61.2
	<b>HIC</b>	12/576	14/1079	<b>37.7%</b>	-33.3, 71.8
	<b>LMIC</b>	23/854	27/1686	<b>40.2%</b>	-3.1, 65.7
<b>RSV LRTI with severe hypoxemia</b>	<b>All sites</b>	14/1430	14/2765	<b>48.3%</b>	-8.2, 75.3
	<b>HIC</b>	5/576	5/1079	<b>46.6%</b>	-83.6, 84.5
	<b>LMIC</b>	9/854	9/1686	<b>49.3%</b>	-27.1, 79.8
<b>RSV LRTI with hospitalization</b>	<b>All sites</b>	53/1430	57/2765	<b>44.4%</b>	19.6, 61.5
	<b>HIC</b>	11/576	19/1079	<b>7.8%</b>	-92.4, 55.8
	<b>LMIC</b>	42/854	38/1686	<b>54.2%</b>	-29.5, 70.2

Low/middle income (**LMIC**) = Bangladesh, South Africa, Mexico, and Philippines;  
 High income countries (HIC) = US, Spain, UK, Argentina, Chile, Australia, New Zealand.  
 Per-protocol analyses of primary and secondary endpoints

# Impact of Immunization Timing on Efficacy

	Gestational Age at Immunization		Interval from Immunization to Delivery	
	<33 weeks	≥33 weeks	14 to <30 days	≥30 days
Transfer of anti-F IgG	<b>138%</b> (135, 141)	91% (88, 94)	66% (63, 70)	<b>127%</b> (125, 130)
Transfer of PCA	<b>122%</b> (119, 124)	83% (81, 86)	63% (60, 66)	<b>113%</b> (111, 115)
Transfer of RSV/A MN	<b>118%</b> (112, 125)	98% (93, 104)	85% (77, 94)	<b>114%</b> (104, 119)
Transfer of RSV/B MN	<b>117%</b> (111, 124)	97% (91, 103)	87% (80, 96)	<b>112%</b> (107, 117)
Efficacy vs. MS RSV LRTI*	<b>41.4%</b> (4.1, 64.2)	40.3% (0.9, 64.0)	11.1% (-118.9, 63.9)	<b>45.5%</b> (19.9, 63.0)
Efficacy vs. RSV LRTI w/severe hypoxemia*	<b>70.2%</b> (37.6, 85.7)	44.0 (-18.4, 73.5)	-19.7% (-510.8, 76.6)	<b>65.1%</b> (38.8, 80.1)
Efficacy vs. RSV LRTI w/hospitalization*	<b>53.5%</b> (23.0, 71.9)	26.3% (9-23.1, 55.9)	-43.6% (-339.0, 53.0)	<b>48.7%</b> (24.7, 65.1)

\*expanded dataset, 90 day data

 **Earlier gestational age at immunization (< 33 weeks) and longer interval between immunization and delivery (≥30 days) enhance transplacental antibody transfer and efficacy**

# RSV F-Nanoparticle Vaccine Phase 3 RCT – My take

- First phase 3 clinical trial of RSV vaccine in pregnant women (**pregnancy indication**)
- **Global** participation, generating burden of disease and impact data
- Demonstrated the vaccine was **safe** for women and their infants (high standards/GA)
- Was **immunogenic** (neutralizing and PCA antibodies)
- Vaccine-induced antibody **transfer** was efficient favoring infant
- Determined that **gestational age** at immunization (< 33 weeks) and **interval** from vaccination to delivery (>30 days) **impact vaccine efficacy**
- Demonstrated challenges in selection and achievement of **efficacy outcomes**
- Demonstrated population based differences (HIC/US vs. LMIC)
- Showed **efficacy in prevention of severe RSV in most vulnerable period** (0-90 days) **in term infants**, where no alternative prevention strategy exists (40-50% reduction which is substantial given burden of disease)
- Final analyses ongoing – more lessons to be learned – the work continues

# RSV Vaccine Design and Research in Pregnancy



## WHO Preferred Product Characteristics for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccines



PATH  
J. Flemming

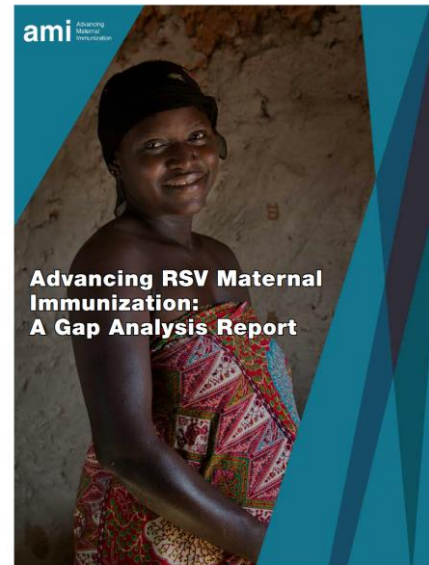
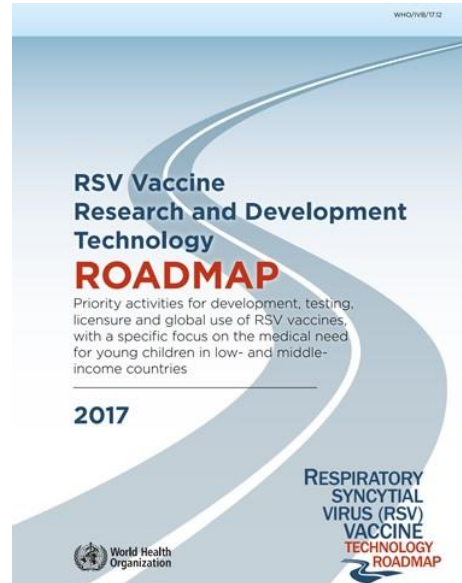
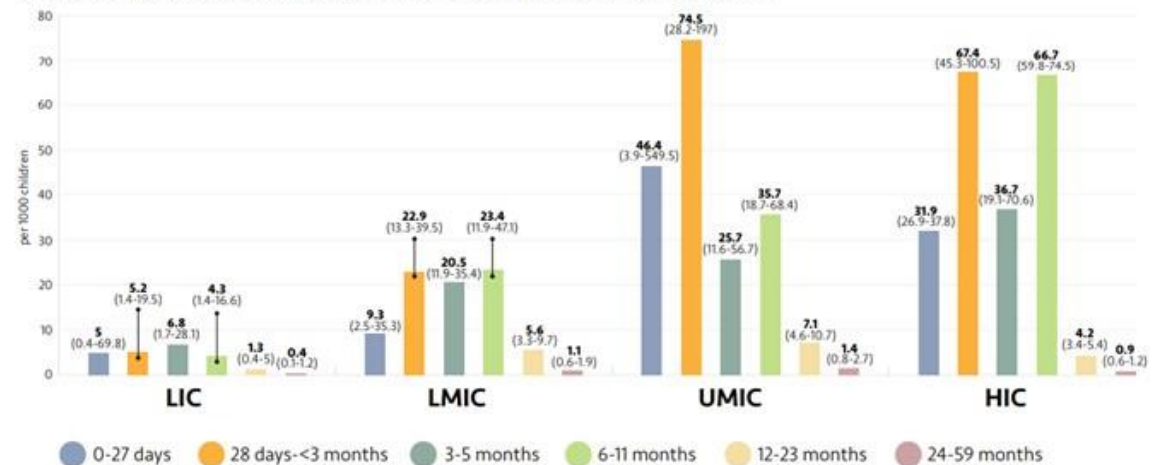


FIGURE 2. Estimated RSV-ALRI hospitalization rates by narrow age bands, 2015



Source: Shi et al, *Lancet* (2017)

LIC = low-income country (3 to 5 studies); LMIC = lower-middle-income country (9 to 17 studies); UMIC = upper middle income country (5 to 15 studies)

HIC = high-income country (9 to 34 studies)

FIGURE 3. Estimated percent fatality of RSV-ALRI hospitalizations by narrow age bands, 2015



Source: Shi et al, *Lancet* (2017)

LIC = low-income country (9 studies); LMIC = lower-middle-income country (16 studies); UMIC = upper-middle-income country (12 studies)

HIC = high-income country (6 studies)

# Comparison of Deaths from MI-Preventable Diseases

According to GBD 2016 estimates, U5M is 5 million globally, including 2.1 million deaths in neonates. Amongst these, a total of 895,565 deaths were due to **lower respiratory tract infection (LRI) and neonatal sepsis**

- **LRI** remains the leading cause of mortality in children U5 (**652,572**)
- **Neonatal sepsis** is ranked as the 8<sup>th</sup> (from 10<sup>th</sup> previous year) cause of death (**242,992**)

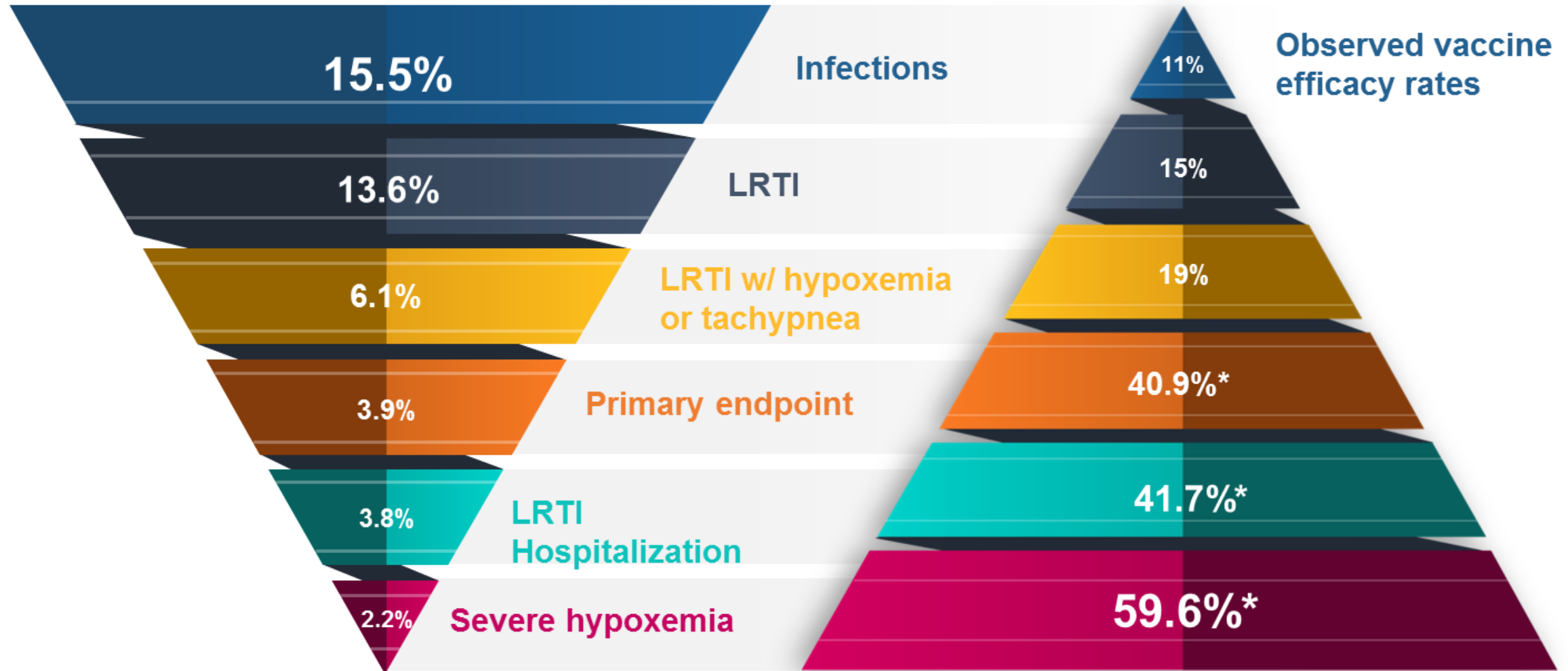
	OUTCOMES PER YEAR		
	Stillbirths	Neonatal or other deaths related to maternal infection or non-immunity	Neonatal or infant cases
Group B <i>Streptococcus</i>	57,000 (12,000- 103,000)	90,000 <sup>a</sup> (36,000-169,000)	319,000 (119,000- 417,000)
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	NA	86,000 <sup>b</sup> (69,000-109,000)	1.4 million
Syphilis	200,000	62,000 <sup>c</sup>	102,000
Tetanus	NA	34,000 (18,000- 84,000) <sup>c</sup>	1,996 <sup>cd</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Young infants (0-89 days); <sup>b</sup> Overall <6 months (hospital + community; in-hospital alone, 27,300); <sup>c</sup> Neonates (0-27 days); <sup>d</sup> WHO Joint Reporting Form, 2016; NA not available.

Adapted from Seale A et al. *CID* 2017;65(S2):S200-19.

# MI RSV-F Nanoparticle Vaccine

## A Hierarchy of Efficacy by Severity of Disease



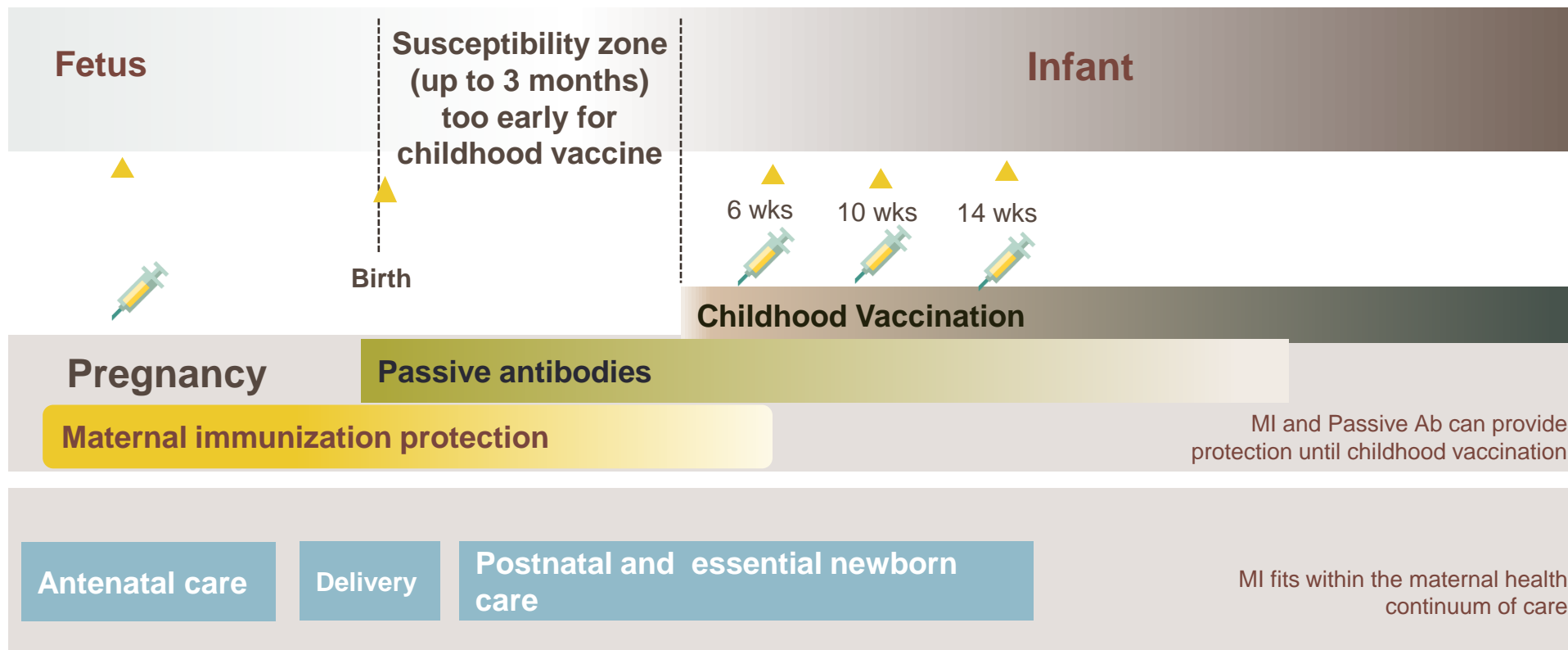
1. Expanded data from sites and hospitalizations, through 90 days, \* LB 95%CI >0

# RSV Vaccine for Maternal Immunization – Key Lessons

- Understanding the burden and impact of disease
  - Mothers and infants (term, preterm, other comorbidities)
  - HIC and LMIC settings
- Diagnosis and Surveillance of RSV disease
- Safety
  - Vaccine associated adverse events vs Obstetric (background rates)
  - Vaccine enhanced disease upon natural infection under 2 years of age is NOT a significant consideration when vaccine is given to mother
- Efficacy Endpoints (eg. severe LRTI, hospitalization, death)
- Immunologic correlates of protection (may vary by vaccine and outcome)



# RSV Prevention: Implementation Strategies



1. Maternal + Infant vaccination at 2 – 6 months
2. Passive antibody + Infant vaccination

# Maternal Vaccine vs. Infant Passive Antibodies

- Enhances natural immune mechanism of infant protection with mother as target
  - Opportunities for implementation during ANC
  - Requires administration in 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> trimester and sufficient time from vaccination to delivery to achieve benefit.
  - Benefits mostly **term** infants
  - Affected by factors that alter antibody production and transplacental transfer in pregnant mothers (nutrition, co-infections, placental pathologies)
  - Duration of **protection short**: 2-<6 mo
  - Risks perceived vs. real
  - Bridge until infant vaccination
- Enhances natural immune mechanism of infant protection with infant as target
  - Requires administration early in life, and establishment of protection **prior to exposure to RSV**
  - Multiple administrations needed to maintain protective levels
  - However, this also ensures **longer duration of protection**
  - Restricted to **preterm** infants, where most benefit is perceived, but term infants could benefit too.
  - **Cost and implementation** challenges
  - Prone to variable efficacy depending on “match” with RSV strains (escape mutants, variable epitopes/genotypes)

# Thank you



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## Maternal Immunization Safety Monitoring in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Roadmap for Program Development



Building an approach that is practical,  
affordable, and sustainable

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation

 gappps Building a Roadmap for Maternal  
Immunization and Stillbirths

## ami Advancing Maternal Immunization Vision—To improve infant health and survival

- AMI is a WHO/PATH collaboration, convening global, cross-sector experts to establish a framework for informing, coordinating, tracking, and contributing to global efforts to advance RSV maternal immunization.
- Key activities:
  - **Identify evidence needs** to enable efficient, well-informed global and country decisions and requirements for rapid launch and uptake of RSV maternal vaccines in LMICs
  - **Assess evidence gaps** and priorities, and **articulate the way forward** in a **RSV maternal immunization roadmap**
  - **Develop a plan** for meeting the full spectrum of decision-making, rapid launch, and uptake needs

 Advancing  
Maternal  
Immunization



