

CHINESE FOSUN PHARMA DANCES WITH THE GORILLA'S PFIZER AND GILEAD ON COVID-19

FOSUN PHARMA
复星医药

Health, Happiness and Wealth

The business focus of the Chinese conglomerate FOSUN is Health, Happiness and Wealth. Like many Chinese big firms, they prefer to do business with the global Fortune 500. Likewise, non-Chinese top global players are attracted to Fosun. Why? Because Fosun is private, successful, has money to invest and is a trustworthy and powerful partner to enter the Chinese market. Fosun International ranks #416 on the 2019 Forbes Global 2000 List.

Making every family healthier

Part of the Fosun Health group is Fosun Pharma (or Shanghai Fosun Pharmaceutical), established in 1994, and stock listed in Shanghai (code: 600196.SH) and Hong Kong (code:02196.HK). “Making every family healthier” is Fosun’s motto. How? “Through leveraging the strategy of “Combining China’s Growth Momentum with Global Resources”.

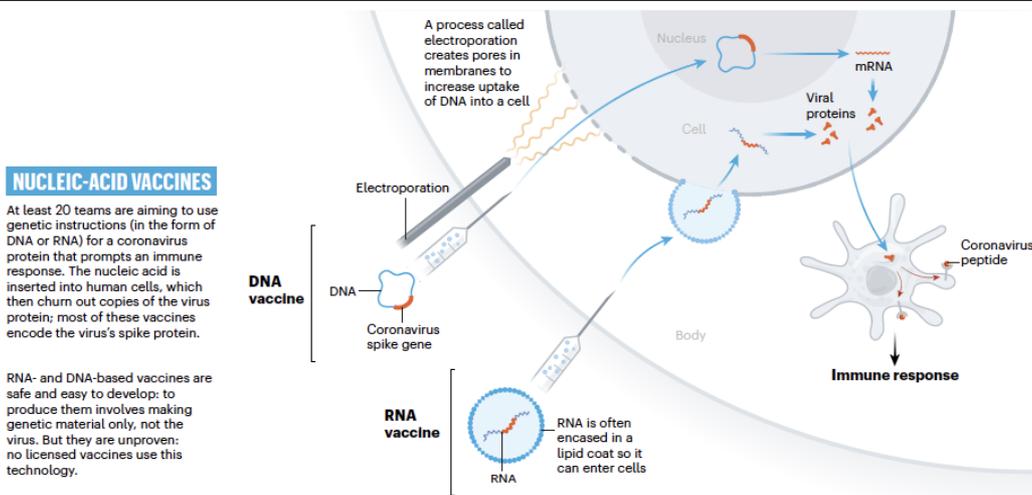
Fosun Pharma, BioNTech and Pfizer

The implementation of this strategy makes Fosun Pharma and the gorilla pharmaceutical of this world are dancing with each other. Pfizer and BioNTech – a Turkish owned biotech company based in Mainz, Germany listed on Nasdaq as BNTX - are conducting clinical trials to develop a Covid-19 vaccine, known as BNT162 in Germany and the US. Fosun Pharma is BioNTech’s partner to test BNT162 in China and to bring BNT162 to the China market.

BioNTech and Fosun Pharma will share future gross profits from the sale of the vaccine in China. Fosun took a 0.7% stake in BioNTech for \$50 million. Furthermore, both companies reached an agreement for additional investment by Fosun Pharma BioNTech up to \$135 million in upfront and potential future investment and payments linked to particular milestones related to the development of the vaccine.

Pfizer/BioNTech is competing with Moderna another US business, which is working with the U.S. National Institutes of Health and with another Germany company CureVac.

All are using a similar technology to develop a COVID-19 vaccine which uses messenger RNA (mRNA) molecules to instruct human cells to produce proteins that trigger an immune response to fight COVID-19 – see figure below -.



Source: Springer Nature Limited, Nature Volume 580

Wu Yifang, President and CEO of Fosun Pharma: “A potential pandemic requires a collective effort and both companies are passionate about contributing to the fight against the current coronavirus outbreak. We are excited to collaborate with BioNTech, one of the leading companies worldwide in the mRNA field. Our shared objective is to develop a vaccine against the coronavirus and to be able to rapidly manufacture a vaccine to turn the tide of COVID-19 infection.”

Fosun Pharma, FosunKite and Gilead

And there is another link between Fosun Pharma and the leading global pharmaceuticals. Since 2007 Gilead’s company Kite Pharma is in a joint venture with Fosun Pharma called FosunKite (<http://www.fosunkitebio.com>). FosunKite is Gilead’s partner to develop, manufacture and sell drugs in China. When Gilead’s Remdesivir which has been accepted in the US to treat Covid-19 patients will be marketed outside the US, FosunKite will be Gilead’s natural partner in China.

Must- read:

- the continuously updated list of WHO with the projects to find a covid-19 vaccine <https://www.who.int/blueprint/priority-diseases/key-action/novel-coronavirus-landscape-ncov.pdf>
- The race for coronavirus vaccines, Nature, Volume 580, 30 April 2020