Increasing understanding of influenza vaccine effectiveness in Europe

DRIVE – Development of Robust and Innovative Vaccine Effectiveness – is a new public-private partnership launched by the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) in July 2017.

The goal of DRIVE is to establish a sustainable platform for brand-specific influenza vaccine effectiveness (IVE) studies in the European Union. Its network aims to deliver rapid, yet robust effectiveness estimates for all influenza vaccines used in the EU. Simultaneously, a sustainable and transparent governance model for public-private partnerships is being developed.

To guarantee the scientific independence of the studies, the role and contribution of each member, including the vaccine manufacturers, is clearly defined and traceable. An Independent Scientific Committee will monitor the studies and the reliability of the results and their interpretation.

Comprehensive IVE evaluation needs cooperation

While IVE is being evaluated annually in many EU member states, the results may not always be comprehensive enough for accurate effectiveness estimates in different populations or timely enough to properly guide public health measures. Moreover, as part of post-licensure follow-up, the new guidance of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) requests IVE evaluation for all individual vaccine brands used in the EU. Fulfilling this condition requires a sufficiently sized international network with specific emphasis of brand-specific IVE.

The DRIVE consortium

At present, DRIVE consists of 15 partners working together to promote European cooperation in IVE studies. Organizations working on vaccine impact evaluation in Europe will be invited to collaborate.

- Fundación para el Fomento de la Investigación Sanitaria y Biomédica (FISABIO) - Spain
- Abbott Biologicals - Netherlands
- Association Internationale de Standardisation Biologique pour L’Europe - France
- Confederation of Meningitis Organisations - United Kingdom
- GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals - Belgium
- Institut de Recherche pour le Développement - France
- Istituto Superiore di Sanità - Italy
- National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) - Finland
- P95 - Belgium
- Sanofi Pasteur - France
- Seqirus UK - United Kingdom
- Synapse Research Management Partners - Spain
- Università degli Studi di Firenze - Italy
- Université Claude Bernard - France
- University of Surrey - United Kingdom

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