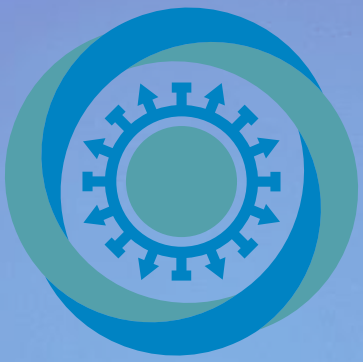

DRIVE

Development of Robust and Innovative Vaccine Effectiveness

drive-eu.org

imi innovative medicines initiative

efpia

Increasing understanding of influenza vaccine effectiveness in Europe

The Innovative Medicines Initiative has launched a new project aiming to set up a platform to study brand-specific influenza vaccines effectiveness (IVE) in the European Union (EU) over a five-year period. The public-private partnership DRIVE, "Development of Robust and Innovative Vaccine Effectiveness", started 1 July 2017 and aims to respond to the European Medicine Agency´s new guidance on influenza vaccines.

DRIVE is now inviting public health institutes (PHIs) and organizations working on vaccine impact evaluation in Europe to collaborate with the project. Collaboration will include sharing of IVE assessment methodology and data sharing, together with discussions on innovative approaches. During the upcoming influenza season 2017–18, DRIVE will use protocols and data that are already being gathered. This includes data from both register-based cohorts and from test-negative case control designs, supplied by its public health partners.

DRIVE's goal is to establish a network that enables brand-specific IVE studies for all influenza vaccines in use in the EU. The network is planned to deliver rapid, yet high-quality outputs. The ultimate aim of DRIVE is to create a sustainable platform for IVE studies by developing a governance framework that allows transparent and efficient collaboration between public and private stakeholders.

To guarantee the scientific independence of the studies, the role and contribution of each member, including the vaccine manufacturers, is clearly defined and traceable. The Independent Scientific Committee of DRIVE will minimize the risk for conflicts of interest in the design of the studies and the reliability of the results and their interpretation.

Influenza a constant public health threat

Influenza is a major public health problem, responsible for 50 million episodes of mild clinical disease, 150 thousand hospital admissions and 40 thousand deaths in the EU every year.
Vaccines are the cornerstone of preventing influenza but their effectiveness can vary each year, across recipient groups and according to the pattern of virus circulation.

Each year the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends adaptations to influenza vaccines based on extensive surveillance of strains in circulation worldwide. Influenza vaccine compositions are updated accordingly to provide optimal protection for the population.

Annual influenza effectiveness evaluation is often not timely or extensive enough to measure accurately the actual benefit of vaccination for various populations and to guide public health measures during an influenza season. Capacity for better and faster assessment and communication of vaccine effectiveness is also needed for pandemic preparedness.

Sufficient sample sizes and geographical coverage are needed for IVE studies to allow the vaccine type- and brand-specific analyses that have been requested in the new guidance on influenza vaccines from the European Medicines Agency (EMA), the agency for the eva-luation of medicines in the EU.
DRIVE promotes improved European cooperation with the intent to overcome these challenges.

For more information on DRIVE, please contact
Professor Javier Díez-Domingo, MD, PhD, Coordinator of DRIVE,
Director of the Vaccine Research Department, FISABIO-Public Health, Valencia, Spain
(email: jdiezdomingo@gmail.com)

Website coming soon:
www.drive-eu.org

DRIVE
Development of Robust and Innovative Vaccine Effectiveness

The DRIVE Consortium

DRIVE is a pan-European consortium whose 15 members from seven countries include public health institutions, universities, small and medium-sized enterprises, industry and patient organizations. The coordinator is Professor Javier Díez-Domingo at the Spanish Fundación para el Fomento de la Investigación Sanitaria y Biomédica de la Comunitat Valenciana (Spain).

Members:

- Fundación para el Fomento de la Investigación Sanitaria y Biomédica (FISABIO), Valencia, 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 (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)

drive-eu.org

Acknowledgement
This project has received funding from the Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking under grant agreement No 777363 . This Joint Undertaking receives support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and EFPIA.