

# Canadian Government Authorized the First Plantbased COVID-19 Vaccine and Spent \$300M Buying 76 Million Doses

It never made it to market. Story of the world's first plant-based COVID-19 vaccine failure.

By Dr. William Makis

Global Research, March 26, 2024

**COVID Intel** 16 March 2024

All Global Research articles can be read in 51 languages by activating the Translate Website button below the author's name (only available in desktop version).

To receive Global Research's Daily Newsletter (selected articles), click here.

Click the share button above to email/forward this article to your friends and colleagues. Follow us on <u>Instagram</u> and <u>Twitter</u> and subscribe to our <u>Telegram Channel</u>. Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

Global Research Fundraising: Stop the Pentagon's Ides of March

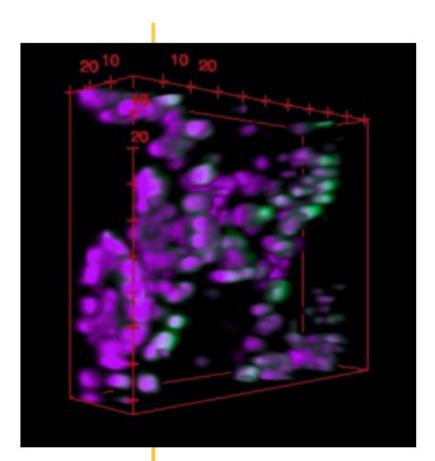
\*\*\*

Sep. 2021 - University of California - Grow and eat your own vaccines?

- A \$500,000 grant from National Science Foundation awarded to: show DNA containing the mRNA vaccine can be successfully delivered into plants, demonstrate plants can produce enough mRNA, determine the right dosage.
- "Ideally, a single plant would produce enough mRNA to vaccinate a single person," said <u>Juan Pablo Giraldo</u>, an associate professor in UC Riverside's Department of Botany and Plant Sciences who is leading the research, done in collaboration with scientists from UC San Diego and Carnegie Mellon University.
- "We are testing this approach with spinach and lettuce and have long-term goals of people growing it in their own gardens"
- Key to making this work are chloroplasts small organs in plant cells that convert sunlight into energy the plant can use. "They're tiny, solar-powered factories that produce sugar and other molecules which allow the plant to grow"
- "They're also an untapped source for making desirable molecules."
- It is possible for chloroplasts to express genes that aren't naturally part of the plant, by sending foreign genetic material into plant cells in a protective casing.
- "Our idea is to repurpose naturally occurring nanoparticles, namely plant viruses, for gene delivery to plants,"
- Some engineering goes into this to make the nanoparticles go to the chloroplasts

and also to render them non-infectious toward the plants. The idea is to do this with mRNA.

• One of the challenges with this new technology is that it must be kept cold to maintain stability during transport and storage.



Chloroplasts (magenta color) in leaves expressing a green fluorescent protein. The DNA encoding for the protein was delivered by targeted nanomaterials without mechanical aid by applying a droplet of the nano-formulation to the leaf surface.

Written by: Jules Bernstein, UC Riverside

Credit: Israel Santana/UC Riverside

\*

- On Feb. 25, 2022, Health Canada approved the world's first plant based COVID-19 vaccine for use in adults aged 18 to 64.
- Canada has ordered 76 million doses of Covifenz, the main ingredient of which was manufactured in the leaves of a tobacco relative.
- Medicago, the Quebec-based pharmaceutical company behind the plant-based jab, has agreed to supply the Canadian government with 76 million doses of the vaccine as soon as possible, the <u>Associated Press</u> reports.
- Medicago uses Nicotiana benthamiana, a close relative of the tobacco plant, to manufacture virus-like particles that mimic SARS-CoV-2's spike protein but don't cause infection or disease.
- The particles are then harvested from the plants, purified, and combined with an immune-boosting adjuvant—made by British pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline—to make the vaccine. The virus-like particles can be stored in a refrigerator at two to eight degrees celsius, unlike the mRNA vaccines that require extremely cold storage.
- Medicago plans to test the shot as a booster.
- Isaac Bogoch, an infectious diseases specialist based in Toronto, tells <u>CBC</u> <u>News</u> that the vaccine's approval is good news, even though most Canadians are already vaccinated with two or more doses. "Is this going to have a major impact on us here in Canada? Probably not. But there might be some individuals who choose to get vaccinated with a non-mRNA product"

#### April 17, 2023 - Government of Canada Website - COVID-19 plant-based vaccines

- Medicago Covifenz<sup>®</sup> COVID-19 vaccine is a SARS-CoV-2 spike (S) recombinant (adjuvanted), protein virus-like particle (VLP).
- The virus' genetic code is delivered to the leaf cell of the plant using a harmless bacteria. The plant's natural cell process is used to produce a non-infectious VLP that mimics the spike virus that causes COVID-19.
- The plant-based technology is developed in carrier plants that can be relatives to the potato, corn, tobacco or others.
- The technology uses the plant's natural cell process to produce protein VLPs and the plants quickly produce large quantities of these VLPs.
- "The particles are injected into your body through a muscle. Once injected, they mimic the structure of the virus."
- "the COVID-19 plant-based vaccine meets the safety, effectiveness and quality standards of Health Canada."

<u>Dec. 8, 2023</u> – Ottawa getting \$40 million refund from former parent company of Quebec COVID vaccine maker

# Ottawa getting \$40 million refund from former parent company of Quebec COVID vaccine maker

Medicago closed in February after receiving \$300 million in federal money, failing to bring vaccine to market



Marina von Stackelberg · CBC News ·

Posted: Dec 08, 2023 11:17 AM MST | Last Updated: December 8, 2023



Medicago successfully produced a COVID-19 vaccine that was approved by Health Canada in February 2022. But a year later, the facility shut down without ever bringing its Covifenz vaccine to market. (Turgut Yeter/CBC)













Ottawa will be getting a \$40 million refund after it gave Quebec City-based biopharmaceutical company Medicago more than \$300 million to develop and manufacture a home-grown COVID-19 vaccine that never made it to market.

- The money Medicago received from the federal government included \$173 million from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) in 2020 to help it develop vaccine technology and build its Quebec City manufacturing facility.
- In a press release, ISED said Ottawa has reached a deal with Medicago's former parent company Mitsubishi to recoup \$40 million that was used to help build the facility.
- The National Post revealed last month that, on top of the ISED money, the government paid an additional \$150 million to Medicago in the form of a non-refundable agreement to purchase COVID-19 vaccine doses in advance.
- Medicago's vaccine was approved for use by Health Canada in February 2022

but never made it to market. The World Health Organization also <u>did not approve</u> <u>it for international use</u> because at the time it was partially owned by tobacco company Philip Morris International.

- Medicago's facility <u>closed down in February 2023</u> after Mitsubishi decided to discontinue marketing its COVID vaccine Covifenz and funding the company overall.
- At the time, Innovation Minister François-Philippe Champagne promised to try to save the intellectual property and some 400 jobs at the facility.
- This past June, Canada's contract with Medicago to purchase the vaccines was terminated by mutual consent.
- A deal has been worked out to allow Medicago's former employees to purchase the facility. Medicago's research and development assets, intellectual property and equipment will be transferred from Mitsubishi to a new Quebec company called Aramis Biotechnologies. Aramis is run by former Medicago employees, ISED said.
- Ottawa probably won't get back the \$150 million it gave Medicago to purchase vaccines in advance.

#### Oct. 24, 2022 - This COVID-19 Vaccine Is the First Plant-based Vaccine for Humans

Medicago's vaccine method is different—it starts by introducing the genetic code for making the spike protein into plants, not humans. This code acts like an instruction manual: the plant cells read it and then use the information to start pumping out spike proteins in surplus, Dr. Ward said.

# Using Virus-like Particles

All of these spike proteins then start clumping together to form molecules that look like viruses. These molecules, called virus-like particles (VLPs), form in the leaves of the plant and are the antigen in Medicago's vaccine.

The spike protein portion of the Coronavirus genome is introduced into the plant so that the plant's cellular machinery can synthesize multiple spike proteins, according to an article from February 2022 in *Cellular and Molecular Immunology*. The spike proteins form together, three at a time, to form trimers. These proteins travel to the plant's cell membrane, spontaneously assemble, and use a piece of the membrane to 'bud off' as a viral-like particle (VLP).

"These VLPs are very complex molecular structures that look like a virus—same size, same organization—except they have no genetic information inside, so they're non-infectious," Dr. Ward explained. Once injected into the body, these "pseudo viruses" trick the immune system into action, Dr. Adalja said. But, unlike actual viruses, they cannot replicate or make us sick.

# Adding an Adjuvant

Other than VLPs, Medicago's vaccine has one other key component: an adjuvant made by GlaxoSmithKline, according to the June 2022 study. Adjuvants are ingredients found in some, but not all, vaccines, which generate a more robust immune response, according to

the CDC.

"Use of an adjuvant can be of particular importance in a <u>pandemic situation</u> as it may boost the immune response and reduce the amount of antigen required per dose," Dr. Ward explained. "[This] allows more vaccine doses to be produced and, therefore, contributes to protecting more people."

Dr. Ward said they do know that the plant-based vaccine produces a stronger immune response than other types of vaccines, thanks to VLPs. According to Dr. Ward, VLPs maintain their structure as they travel through our blood—think of them like flowers drifting in a rapidly moving stream, Dr. Ward said. In comparison, other vaccines use singular spike proteins, which are like individual flower petals that quickly disperse in our bloodstream.

"[Since] VLPs get delivered as a bundle—and a bundle looks more like a virus to the immune system—the immune system reacts more strongly," Dr. Ward said.

The WHO said plant-based vaccines are cheaper to produce. Medicago declined to disclose the cost of its product. Instead, the company stated it is priced fairly and in line with other vaccines.

## My Take...

This is a fascinating story.

How does any company get a deal like this: "government paid an additional \$150 million to Medicago in the form of a non-refundable agreement to purchase COVID-19 vaccine doses in advance." NON-REFUNDABLE.

It is safe to say that the technology probably doesn't work and the Canadian government was either scammed or was in on the scam.

Still...what is this technology? It started off like this:

"Ideally, a single plant would produce enough mRNA to vaccinate a single person"

"We are testing this approach with spinach and lettuce and have long-term goals of people growing it in their own gardens", "Grow and eat your own vaccines"

Instead, it turned into a genetically modified tobacco plant (partly owned by tobacco company Philip Morris) producing clumps of spike protein that had to be extracted, injected into a person's muscle and ended up in the blood stream as floating clumps of spike protein with a fancy name "virus-like particles, or VLPs", which needed an adjuvant from GlaxoSmithKline to induce an immune response.

So that is where we are with "edible vegetable mRNA Vaccines".

That being said, there is a push to get some type of oral mRNA Vaccines on the market. I will cover that in an upcoming substack.

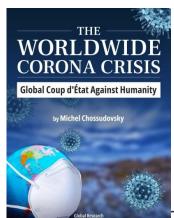
\*

Note to readers: Please click the share button above. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter and subscribe to our Telegram Channel. Feel free to repost and share widely Global

#### Research articles.

Dr. William Makis is a Canadian physician with expertise in Radiology, Oncology and Immunology. Governor General's Medal, University of Toronto Scholar. Author of 100+ peer-reviewed medical publications.

Featured image is from COVID Intel



The Worldwide Corona Crisis, Global Coup d'Etat Against

# Humanity

by Michel Chossudovsky

Michel Chossudovsky reviews in detail how this insidious project "destroys people's lives". He provides a comprehensive analysis of everything you need to know about the "pandemic" — from the medical dimensions to the economic and social repercussions, political underpinnings, and mental and psychological impacts.

"My objective as an author is to inform people worldwide and refute the official narrative which has been used as a justification to destabilize the economic and social fabric of entire countries, followed by the imposition of the "deadly" COVID-19 "vaccine". This crisis affects humanity in its entirety: almost 8 billion people. We stand in solidarity with our fellow human beings and our children worldwide. Truth is a powerful instrument."

#### Reviews

This is an in-depth resource of great interest if it is the wider perspective you are motivated to understand a little better, the author is very knowledgeable about geopolitics and this comes out in the way Covid is contextualized. —Dr. Mike Yeadon

In this war against humanity in which we find ourselves, in this singular, irregular and massive assault against liberty and the goodness of people, Chossudovsky's book is a rock upon which to sustain our fight. –Dr. Emanuel Garcia

In fifteen concise science-based chapters, Michel traces the false covid pandemic, explaining how a PCR test, producing up to 97% proven false positives, combined with a relentless 24/7 fear campaign, was able to create a worldwide panic-laden "plandemic"; that this plandemic would never have been possible without the infamous DNA-modifying Polymerase Chain Reaction test – which to this day is being pushed on a majority of innocent people who have no clue. His conclusions are evidenced by renown scientists.

#### -Peter Koenig

Professor Chossudovsky exposes the truth that "there is no causal relationship between the virus and economic variables." In other words, it was not COVID-19 but, rather, the deliberate implementation of the illogical, scientifically baseless lockdowns that caused the shutdown of the global economy. –David Skripac

A reading of Chossudovsky's book provides a comprehensive lesson in how there is a global coup d'état under way called "The Great Reset" that if not resisted and defeated by freedom loving people everywhere will result in a dystopian future not yet imagined. Pass on this free gift from Professor Chossudovsky before it's too late. You will not find so much valuable information and analysis in one place. –Edward Curtin

ISBN: 978-0-9879389-3-0, Year: 2022, PDF Ebook, Pages: 164, 15 Chapters

Price: \$11.50 FREE COPY! Click here (docsend) and download.

You may also access the online version of the e-Book by clicking here.

We encourage you to support the eBook project by making a donation through Global Research's <u>DonorBox "Worldwide Corona Crisis" Campaign Page</u>.

The original source of this article is <u>COVID Intel</u> Copyright © <u>Dr. William Makis</u>, <u>COVID Intel</u>, 2024

# **Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page**

## **Become a Member of Global Research**

Articles by: Dr. William Makis

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: <a href="mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca">publications@globalresearch.ca</a>

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: <a href="mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca">publications@globalresearch.ca</a>