

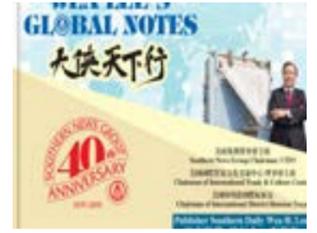


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Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## Iran's top nuclear scientist stayed in shadows but his work was uncovered



VIENNA/DUBAI (Reuters) - Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who was killed on Friday, led a life of such secrecy that even his age was under wraps but much about the clandestine nuclear weapons programme he is believed to have run has long been known.

The U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said it suspected Fakhrizadeh oversaw sweet work to fit a warhead on a ballistic missile, test high explosives suitable for a nuclear weapon and process uranium.

Iran insists it never had such a programme nor any ambition to make a bomb. The IAEA and U.S. intelligence agencies believe it had a coordinated weapons programme that it halted in 2003.

Western suspicions that Iran would resume that programme were at the heart of the deal struck in a 2015 deal under which Tehran agreed with world powers to curb its nuclear work in return for the lifting of sanctions.

Israel, Iran's arch foe, staunchly opposed that deal and President Donald Trump pulled out of it in 2018.

The killing of Fakhrizadeh is a blow to Iran given he was closely guarded and shielded from the public. But Iranian officials say Iran has a network of scientists to fill any gap.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's top authority, promised on Saturday to retaliate for Fakhrizadeh's

killing and said officials must continue to pursue "scientific and technical efforts of Martyr Fakhrizadeh in all the fields he was engaged."

Iran ramped up nuclear work after Washington quit the 2015 deal, exceeding limits set by the agreement on production of enriched uranium - which can be refined into bomb material - although Tehran still has far less than its pre-2015 stockpile.

### PRINCIPAL ROLE

Even as Fakhrizadeh stayed in the shadows, the IAEA in 2011 identified him as the suspected head of the AMAD Plan, which is believed to have been set up about two decades ago to oversee the main elements of the nuclear weapons programme.

While that military programme is thought to have been shelved in 2003, the IAEA said in its 2011 report that some related work continued and Fakhrizadeh retained "the principal organisational role", citing a member state for the information.

The IAEA said in a 2015 "final assessment" that even those related efforts appeared to have ended in 2009. Fakhrizadeh was the only Iranian scientist named in that 2015 report.

For years, helped by new, intrusive inspection powers, the IAEA produced reports showing Iran was sticking to the main limits imposed by the nuclear deal, whose aim was to extend the time needed to produce enough nuclear material for a bomb, if that was Iran's goal, to a year from two to three

months.

After Trump entered the White House promising to scrap the nuclear deal, Israel stepped up a campaign saying Iran had lied about the extent of its past nuclear activities.

In 2018, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that Israel had seized a huge "archive" of Iranian documents showing Tehran had done more work than previously known.

Israel shared much of the material with the IAEA and allies. Diplomats say the archive appears to have included additional information on activities carried out during Fakhrizadeh's leadership of the AMAD Plan in the early 2000s.

"Remember that name, Fakhrizadeh," Netanyahu had said in 2018 presentation on the material.

### MOVING UNDERGROUND

Since then, the IAEA has inspected several sites possibly linked to the AMAD Plan, filling in some information gaps but without so far revealing major new areas of weapons work, diplomats say

Exactly how long Iran would need to build a nuclear weapon if it chose to do so is unclear.

Its main enrichment plant at Natanz, built underground apparently to resist bombardment, is operating at a fraction of its pre-2015 capacity because of the deal but Iran is now enriching at other facilities as well and its stockpile of low-enriched uranium is rising.



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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

11/28/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

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We need to put Country first

Millions of people disregarded the CDC's warning they still went back home for Thanksgiving dinner with the love ones according to latest report across the country hospitals are facing a crisis-level shortage of beds and staff to provide adequate care of patients

Today Philadelphia appeal court also ruled that the Trump campaign could not stop—or attempt to reverse the certification of the voting result in Pennsylvania. In the 21 pages ruling the judge pointed out "free fair election are the lifeblood of our democracy"

In Washington President Trump lashed out at reporter calling the journalist a "lightweight" after the president was pressed about his election defeat. Trump will travel to Georgia to help two Republican Senator to be elected in January next year.

Last week a federal judge in Atlanta appointed by Trump denied an emergency request to halt the certification of Georgia's vote saying that such move would breed confusion and disenfranchisement that We find have no basis in fact and law.



Giving the national crisis in pandemic we strongly suggested President should concede in the election after all the country is always important than individual



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Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

Where Do We Fit In The Big Picture? On The Vaccine Front Lines — Fall-Winter 2020



KEY POINTS

The search for more COVID-19 vaccines to finally bring the pandemic under control is moving fast.

Teams around the world are at work on dozens of potential vaccines in the hopes that one — and possibly more — will crack the code in the coming months: passing clinical testing and gaining regulatory approval.

Thousands of people are already rolling up their sleeves for clinical vaccine testing, while debates about the reality issues are underway, including: Who should get a vaccine first? How will it be distributed? How do we make sure parts of the world aren't left out?

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Pfizer and Moderna bolster global vaccine hopes It's been a busy week on the vaccine front, with both the Pfizer/BioNTech and the Moderna doses posting promising results, heating up the race for first-place status. Both companies are using a new technology that employs what's called mRNA to prompt an immune response — a technique with Canadian roots, via stem cell biologist Derrick Rossi and a glowing mouse — and in recent weeks have emerged as front-runners in the vaccine race.

In the first major update of the week, Massachusetts-based Moderna released an early look at the results from its final phase of human testing, which suggested its candidate could be as much as 94.5 per cent effective. Moderna also gained a slight edge over Pfizer when it comes to the "cold chain" problem. The new technol-

ogy both are using was expected to need storage conditions as cold as -80 C, but Moderna says it has figured out how to keep the doses stable for a month in normal fridge temperatures. Not to be outdone, Pfizer announced two days later that its final phase of testing was now complete, and that the dose was 95 per cent effective with no serious safety effects. This wraps up a trial of 43,000 volunteers conducted at 151 sites in six countries.

The companies' results also represent good news for seniors, with data suggesting doses are very effective in older adults. While cold storage remains an issue for Pfizer, the company did say it has developed special temperature controlled shipping containers.



The Trump administration has paid \$1.95 billion for 100 million initial doses of the Pfizer vaccine. Pfizer says it could have up to 50 million doses available by the end of this year if approved.

Next up? Pfizer submitted the results to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for emergency use approval last Friday, and it has said a peer-reviewed study is in the works.

AstraZeneca publishes a study on Phase 2 results The spotlight was focused squarely on Pfizer and Moderna this week, but AstraZeneca also published a study on its Phase 2 results, which was notable for the promise it held for seniors, and the fact that it was a study at all.

AstraZeneca is the Swedish-British company that has been working on a vaccine with the University of Oxford. They're generally regarded as the furthest along of the vaccine candidates that are not using mRNA — the promising but new technology being pioneered by Pfizer and Moderna.

Many companies are putting out results before they've been scrutinized by other scientists — a practise occasionally derided as "science by press release." But AstraZeneca's Phase 2 results appeared in the journal The Lancet, available for anyone to read.



HHS secretary Alex Azar offered up a timeline on Tuesday regarding who would be the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccination if they can start rolling out the jobs next month as planned.

The results themselves are more good news for seniors. Older adults have borne the brunt of the pandemic, and yet vaccines aren't always as effective for them, prompting worries in some circles that these first COVID-19 doses might not work for those who need it most. But the AstraZeneca study suggested not only that its

vaccine could spark an immune response in all age groups, but it appeared to be "better tolerated" in older adults.

The third and final phase of human testing for that vaccine is ongoing. (Courtesy www.thestar.com/news)

Most States Aren't Ready For Distribution Of The Leading COVID-19 Vaccine

Officials Are Trying to Hit "a Moving Target" Health officials stressed that the plans are still evolving as they receive changing information. Even though Pfizer's vaccine has long been seen as the likely front-runner, details from the trial, including the vaccine's efficacy in specific populations like the elderly, have yet to be published. Shipping and storage logistics are also expected to continue to be fine-tuned with each passing week.

"It's a moving target," Dr. Philip Huang, director of the Dallas County Health and Human Services Department, said. "There's new info every day." The changing details make it harder to plan, and some officials acknowledged they haven't gotten very far. "There are too many variables still to be worked out at the federal level," a spokeswoman for the Georgia Department of Public Health said by way of declining an interview request for this article. "Much of what happens going forward will depend on the vaccine itself, when we receive it and what the protocols will be for prioritizing distribution among various populations." The problem with waiting for details on the vaccine to be revealed is that mass immunization is a multilayered process, involving public communication campaigns, ordering of equipment, hiring of staff, training of vaccine providers and the added complexity, in this pandemic, of making sure all vaccine sites are safe and won't contribute to the spread. Operation Warp Speed has said its goal is to begin shipping the day that a vaccine is given the green light by the FDA, so states need to be ready at any moment.

WHO COULD GET COVID-19 VACCINE FIRST?

- December: Adults with underlying medical conditions that are risk factors for severe COVID-19 illness; People 65 years of age or over; January: Healthcare personnel; Non-healthcare essential workers; March - April: Rest of the population (priority to be determined)

For the initial months after the Food and Drug Administration signs off on a vaccine, the CDC advised state and local health authorities to prioritize health care workers, then move on to other essential workers and

at-risk populations such as nursing home residents. Access would expand to the general public as manufacturing ramps up to make more doses available.

Who will get the vaccine first and when will it be rolled out?

HHS secretary Alex Azar offered up a timeline on Tuesday regarding who would be the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccination if they can start rolling out the jobs next month as planned.

The elderly in nursing homes and assisted living facilities will likely be the first to the vaccinated. Adults with underlying medical conditions that put them at risk of severe COVID-19 illness and people over 65 years of age could also fall into this initial category, according to Operation Warp Speed's strategy plan. Inoculations of healthcare workers and first responders will follow, with a goal to complete those shots by the end of January. Azar said he expects to have enough vaccinations for 'all Americans' by the end of March to early April.

A final priority list is still being determined by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices that will be based, in part, on vaccine efficacy data from the various trials, including Pfizer and Moderna. But there are a lot of details left to determine within those broad categories. Some health care workers have more exposure than others; North Dakota wants hospitals to document how they decided whom to vaccinate first. Maryland is prioritizing people in jails and prisons (where sharing close quarters has led to severe outbreaks), but states like Idaho and Mississippi have scheduled them for later. (Courtesy www.propublica.org and www.dailymail.co.uk)

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# Editor's Choice



Venezuelan migrants, who were recently deported, eat after arriving on Los Iros Beach after their return to the island, in Erin, Trinidad and Tobago, November 24, 2020. Lincoln Holder/Courtesy Newsday/Handout via REUTERS



People gather outside the Diego Armando Maradona stadium to mourn the death of the soccer legend in Buenos Aires, Argentina November 25, 2020. Maradona, widely regarded as one of the greatest soccer players of all time before drug and alcohol addiction marred his career, died November 25 at his home in Argentina after suffering a heart attack, his lawyer said. He was 60. REUTERS/Martin Villar



An aerial view shows the burial area provided by the government for victims of the coronavirus, at Pondok Ranggon cemetery complex, in Jakarta, Indonesia November 25, 2020. REUTERS/Willy Kurniawan



Healthcare personnel prepare to discharge a patient who had been quarantining after a possible exposure to the coronavirus at a hospital in Lakin, Kansas, November 19, 2020. After pounding big U.S. cities in the spring, COVID-19 now has engulfed rural and small-town America, seeming to seep into the country's every nook and cranny. According to Reuters' interviews with more than a dozen medical care providers and public health officials in the nation's heartland, many hospitals are severely lacking in beds, equipment and - most critically - clinical staff, including specialists and nurses. REUTERS/Callaghan O'Hare



An Israeli soldier attempts to detain a wounded Palestinian demonstrator lying in an ambulance during a protest against Jewish settlements in Jordan Valley in the Israeli-occupied West Bank November 24, 2020. REUTERS/Raneen Sawafta



Migrants on a rubber dinghy are pictured during a rescue operation, off the coast of Libya in the Mediterranean Sea. Picture taken November 13, 2020. REUTERS/Stringer



Travelers wearing protective face masks and face shields hug at the airport in Denver, Colorado, November 24, 2020. Americans defied pleas from state and local officials to stay home for the Thanksgiving holiday in the face of the surging coronavirus...



Residents bathe, wash and pump water in their destroyed village following the damage caused by Typhoon Vamco, in Rodriguez, Rizal province, Philippines, November 20, 2020. REUTERS/Eloisa Lopez

Oxford And AstraZeneca's Vaccine Won't Only Go To Rich Countries



Waiting, in New Delhi. Photo: Jewel Samad/AFP via Getty Images

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

While the 95% efficacy rates for the Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines are great news for the U.S. and Europe...

Why it matters: Oxford and AstraZeneca plan to distribute their vaccine at cost (around \$3-4 per dose)...

Details: The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine had an average efficacy of 90% in clinical trials...

The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine can also be stored at standard refrigeration levels for six months.

Moderna's vaccine can be kept under standard refrigeration for 30 days but otherwise must be stored at -20°C

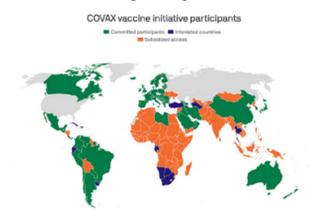
Pfizer's must be stored at -70°C, a requirement that few developing countries are equipped to handle.

By the numbers: AstraZeneca has already promised 940 million doses to developing countries and another 300 million to the COVAX initiative...

Moderna is also a participant in the COVAX initiative, through which wealthier countries will subsidize access for poorer ones.

But Moderna's chief medical officer told Axios last week that when it came to COVAX, the company hadn't "quite aligned with them on how many doses and when those doses would be available."

Pfizer is not a participant in COVAX.



Data: Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance; Map: Naema Ahmed/Axios

Breaking it down: Pfizer has sold a minimum of 614 million doses to high-income countries and just a combined 14 million in bilateral deals with

lower-income countries (Ecuador, Lebanon and Peru), according to Duke's tracker.

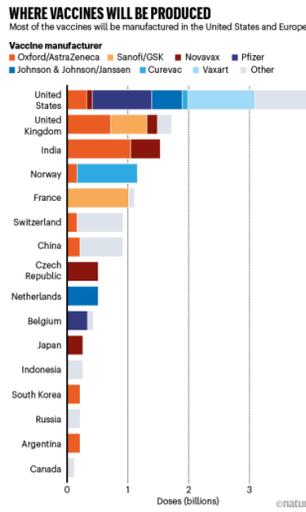
If rich countries exercise their options to buy more of the Pfizer vaccine, they could swallow up nearly all of the 1.3 billion doses the company aims to produce in 2021.

Moderna has also been selling almost exclusively to rich countries.

In addition to the 1.24 billion for developing countries, AstraZeneca has sold 1.17 billion doses to rich countries (the U.S., EU, U.K., Japan, Australia and Canada).

The flipside: AstraZeneca will manufacture its vaccine in multiple countries, including India and Brazil, and aims to produce a total of 100 million to 200 million doses per month by the spring.

Both India (500 million doses) and Brazil (100 million) have secured their access to the vaccine, as have countries including Indonesia (100 million), Bangladesh (30 million), Egypt (30 million) and Argentina (22 million), according to the Duke tracker.



What to watch: While countries like Canada, the U.S. and the U.K. have hedged their bets by buying enough doses of multiple vaccine candidates to cover their populations several times over, less wealthy countries are cutting deals

wherever they can.

At least 11 countries plan to obtain Russia's vaccine candidate, Sputnik V. The government says the vaccine is 92% effective and has given it partial approval...

Related

Key Information About The Effective COVID-19 Vaccines

The race for a COVID-19 vaccine is ramping up, with three major candidates now reporting efficacy rates of more than 90%.

Why it matters: Health experts say the world can't fully return to normal until a coronavirus vaccine is widely distributed. But each potential vaccine has its own nuances...

Some global vaccines have been approved for limited distribution, including vaccines in China and Russia that did not wait for Phase 3 results before authorization.

No vaccines have been approved for full use.



Illustration: Sarah Grillo/Axios

The major vaccine candidates

Pfizer-BioNTech:

- Efficacy: 95%
Vaccine type: mRNA
Doses required: 2
Storage: Five days in a refrigerator or -70C for long-term storage
Manufacturing: Up to 50 million doses in 2020 and 1.3 billion in 2021, per Pfizer

- Cost: \$20 per dose
State of play: Pfizer has applied for an emergency use authorization (EUA) from the FDA.

Moderna:

- Efficacy: 94.5%
Vaccine type: mRNA
Doses required: 2
Storage: 30 days in the refrigerator or six months at -20C
Manufacturing: 20 million in 2020 and up to 1 billion in 2021, per Moderna
Cost: \$32-37
State of play: Moderna said it plans to apply for an EUA in the next few weeks

Oxford-AstraZeneca:

- Efficacy: 62% to 90%, depending on dosage (average 70.4%)
Vaccine type: Combination of common cold virus and coronavirus genetic material
Doses required: 1.5
Storage: Six months in the refrigerator
Manufacturing: Total annual capacity of 3 billion doses, per AstraZeneca
Cost: \$3-4 (Courtesy Axios.com)

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