

SANOFI PASTEUR DONATES VACCINE STRAIN USED FOR POLIO ERADICATION TO WHO

VACCINE STRAIN USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF ORAL POLIO VACCINES AGAINST TYPE 3 POLIOVIRUS

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- Dr Albert Sabin developed attenuated polio strains (Types 1, 2, 3) for the production of live attenuated vaccines, in 1954.
- In 1975, Albert Sabin transferred the responsibility of the strains and technology to WHO/Biologicals.
- In parallel, in 1963, Dr Robert Stones, from Pfizer Ltd., UK, completed a new Type 3 polio vaccine strain. This OPV3 strain has a better safety profile than the Sabin OPV3 strain.
- In 1975, Institut Mérieux (now Sanofi Pasteur) acquired Pfizer OPV technology which included OPV 3 vaccine strain.
- In 1976, this strain, was renamed RSO1 (Robert Stone Origin 1) in honor of its creator.
- From 1977 onwards: Sanofi Pasteur provided free of charge its OPV3 strain to manufacturers worldwide who made the request.
- In 1990, the OPV (RSO1) vaccine strain was officially recommended by WHO (TRS 800 published in 1990) for the production of OPV Type 3.
- In 2011, Sanofi Pasteur donated its OPV3 vaccine strain to WHO.



SANOFI PASTEUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE

- Since 1988, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative — spearheaded by WHO, Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and UNICEF — has achieved a 99% reduction of the number of polio cases worldwide. This reduction has been achieved as a result of the large-scale administration of OPV.
- Sanofi Pasteur has provided more than 5 billion doses of OPV to UNICEF over last two decades.
- Between 1997 and 2005, Sanofi Pasteur donated over 120 million doses for polio eradication to respond to emergency situations in African countries affected by conflicts.
- In response to an outbreak in Egypt and a request from WHO, Sanofi Pasteur developed the first monovalent oral polio vaccine, which helped Egypt to become polio-free in 2006.
- Recently, Sanofi Pasteur responded to a UNICEF request by committing to provide 400 million doses of OPV in 2011-2012 for use in developing countries.