

## **Coming Soon: Universal Flu Vaccines**

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An article titled “Could the silver lining of the pandemic be pan-vaccines” announced what we might expect next from the medical/government/pharmaceutical cabal. The article was written by Ambika Bumb, a biomedical scientist and nanomedicine specialist. She worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the National Cancer Institute and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute before launching her own biotech company. She served as Biden’s Deputy Executive Director of the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. Today she is Deputy Executive Director at the Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense. In other words, her opinions matter, and she has influence in the federal government which makes what she has written really horrifying.

Bumb reports that in addition to coronavirus strains that have the potential to mutate, there are 20 different influenza A and B subtypes that are circulating in animal and human reservoirs and that it is only a matter of time before the next pandemic begins. She notes that the idea of annual COVID shots, similar to flu shots, is impractical; that it is difficult to predict which influenza virus will cause the next pandemic; and that seasonal flu vaccines offer little protection against pandemic influenza viruses.

The answer – a universal vaccine. In fact, scientists at the University of Pennsylvania are already working on it - a vaccine that will provide some protection against 20 known flu viruses. Bumb notes that “We are living in remarkable innovative times.” Moderna, Pfizer, BioNTech, Sanofi, Translate Bio, GlaxoSmithKline, and CureVac are also working on the universal mRNA vaccine.

Bumb notes that there are some great advantages to the mRNA vaccines. The mRNA technology makes it easier to combine many different antigens and the viral proteins are expressed at high fidelity in human cells. AND these vaccines are easier to produce because it is not necessary to culture the viruses in eggs. This will speed up approvals and broaden distribution. Faster approvals and more distribution of mRNA vaccines – what’s not to like about that??

Bumb notes that the need for rapid advances in vaccines is urgent because the risk of naturally occurring pandemics is increasing due to both deforestation and increasing animal-human interactions. She conveniently ignores the fact that SARS-CoV-2 was made in and escaped from a lab, and had nothing to do with deforestation and interactions with animals.

Bumb writes that Congress has many opportunities to facilitate this fast track for new vaccines and preparedness such as reauthorizing the National Defense Authorization Act, the Farm Bill, and the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA). There

seems to be no end to the number of government agencies involved in vaccine development and promotion!

“If there is a silver lining from the emergence of COVID, it is that medical innovation, and specifically vaccine innovation, advanced at a historic pace. We must not lose that momentum as we approach the third anniversary of the pandemic.”

Right. The momentum of closing businesses, bankrupting huge swaths of the middle class, ruining the lives and futures of children, locking people in their homes, closing the parks, and letting older people die alone in their rooms, followed by hurting and killing people with mRNA vaccines – we don’t want to lose that. And won’t it be great that the next mRNA vaccines will include 20 antigens instead of just one. Does this mean 20 times the number of injuries and deaths? No one knows, but uncertainty has never stood in the way of pharmaceutical rollouts before.

Horrifying? Yes. Good to know what they are up to and what’s coming next? Of course. The question is, what are we going to do about it?

Ambika Bumb. Could the silver lining of the pandemic be pan-vaccines? *The Hill*  
3.22.2023

<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/3911957-could-the-silver-lining-of-the-pandemic-be-pan-vaccines/>