



# Séminaire / Seminar

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## Bringing a COVID vaccine from concept to (possible) licensure

Opportunities for academics to take ideas from the bench to licensed products are rare. What started as a role on Medicago's scientific advisory board in 2003 slowly evolved into an academic-industry position that permitted participation in the design and oversight of non-clinical and clinical development programs for novel plant-made monoclonal antibodies (eg: the Z-MAPP antibodies for Ebola) and vaccines targeting influenza, SARS-COV-2 and other viruses. If licensed in the coming days, Medicago's candidate COVID-19 vaccine will be the first plant-based vaccine ever introduced for human use. The compressed development program for the SARS-COV-2 vaccine will be described and the results of the recently-completed global Phase 3 efficacy trial will be presented. The risks and benefits inherent in such 'hybrid' academic-industry positions will also be briefly discussed.

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