

BioSpect

the business of BI

24 years of leveraging the business of Bio
www.biospectrumindia.co

Oxford and Serum Institute of India to advance development of new malaria vaccine candidate

04 May 2026 | News

Part of a broader ecosystem of collaborations supporting the development of novel malaria vaccine



The University of Oxford, through Oxford University Innovation (OUI), and the Serum Institute of India (SII), have entered into a licence agreement to support the development and manufacture of the new malaria vaccine candidate R78C, based on two *Plasmodium falciparum* blood-stage antigens (RIPR and CyPRA), for use in clinical settings.

The agreement grants SII a non-exclusive, worldwide licence to develop R78C as part of a next-generation multi-stage malaria vaccine - a major step designed to target the parasite at multiple points in its lifecycle, with the aim of improving efficacy and durability of protection.

The collaboration builds on a longstanding association between Oxford and Serum Institute of India, including the 2019 licence for the R21 pre-erythrocytic stage vaccine and subsequent work to further incorporate the RH5.1 blood-stage vaccine candidate.

The licence will enable SII to support the continued development, large-scale manufacture, and potential future commercialisation of the multi-stage vaccine candidate, helping to accelerate its progression into clinical evaluation.

This agreement forms part of a broader ecosystem of collaborations supporting the development of novel malaria vaccines. In parallel, SII has entered into a related agreement with ExpreS2ion to secure access to its proprietary ExpreS2 expression platform, which has been used in the clinical-stage production of RH5.1 and R78C vaccine components.

Malaria remains a major global health challenge, with hundreds of millions of cases reported annually, predominantly affecting children in sub-Saharan Africa. The development of more effective vaccines is widely recognised as a critical component of long-term malaria control and eradication strategies.