APTAR PHARMA: VACCINE PLATFORM ADDRESSES COVID-19 DEVELOPMENT & LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT

The academic research, pharmaceutical, and medical technology industries have come together to develop, test, produce, and deliver COVID-19 therapies and vaccines. Aptar Pharma has been at the forefront of this response.

To date, 13 vaccines have received approval and many more are currently under development and trial. Regulatory approval is obtained not only for drug formulation but also for the primary container with which the drug is in direct contact. Therefore, choosing the right container and closure solution is essential to mitigate the risk in the development stage, obtain rapid approval to release the drug on the market, and secure the supply for large-scale delivery.

As vaccination campaigns are rolled out, the emergence of new COVID-19 variants suggests that, once under control, this pandemic could become a seasonal epidemic, says Audrey Chardonnet, Business Development Director, Aptar Pharma. “Drawing from our experience with the flu, we know seasonal vaccination is very different from the mass vaccination context we are currently expe-riencing. Instead of relying on large vaccination centers, where many vaccinations are performed sequentially, seasonal vaccines are usually administered by trained nurses, physicians or even pharmacists directly in their offices. In this context, single-dose prefilled syringes become highly relevant, as they limit drug waste compared to multidose vials and dramatically simplify the administration process. Preparing now for the transition from vials to prefilled delivery solutions is essential.”

Aptar Pharma’s vaccine platform approach, which includes complete PFS closure solutions, rigid needle shield solutions for staked needles, and various tip-cap designs for luer applications, is designed to de-risk and accelerate pharma partners’ vaccine developments. Ms. Chardonnet explains that COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers are selecting Aptar’s PremiumCoat® stopper with state-of-the-art ETFE film coating technology to reduce risks linked to extractable and leachables, as well as for its performance in multi-piercing situations. “Our vaccine platform can support our pharma partners by delivering complete PFS closure solutions,” she says.