

Biotechnology & Health:

Pharmaceuticals and Therapeutics

Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine Approved: Novavax, Inc.'s Nuvaxovid™ 2025-2026 Formula COVID-19 Vaccine received approval in the U.S., making it available to the public.

Gene Therapy for Rare Disease: The FDA granted full approval to Precigen's gene therapy, Papzimeos (zopapogene imadenovec), for the treatment of a rare airway tumor disease in adults, making it the first-ever treatment for adult recurrent respiratory papillomatosis (RRP).

Lilly's Obesity Pill Breakthrough: Eli Lilly announced promising results for their new obesity pill. A high-dose group saw a significant percentage of patients lose at least 15% of their body weight, with results approaching those of leading injectable therapies.

Psychedelic Drug Acquisition: AbbVie entered an agreement to acquire brexisiloin, an experimental fast-acting psychedelic-based depression drug, from Gilgamesh Pharmaceuticals for up to \$1.2 billion, marking a significant entry for a major pharmaceutical company into the psychedelic therapeutics field.

India's First National Biofoundry Network: India's Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, launched the country's first National Biofoundry Network. The initiative aims to support young innovators in designing biological solutions for challenges in health, agriculture, and the environment.

Medical Technology and Research

Regenerative Medicine: Abbott's dissolving stent, Esprit BTK, for peripheral artery disease earned CE Mark clearance in Europe. The stent, which delivers a drug and then dissolves over three years, is designed to help prevent limb amputations in patients with critical limb ischemia.

Breath Diagnostics: New technology has been developed that can predict pneumonia through the analysis of exhaled breath, offering a non-invasive diagnostic tool.

Gene Editing Quality of Life: A study published in Blood Advances showed that the gene editing therapy exa-cel led to robust and sustained improvements in the quality of life for patients with severe sickle cell disease or transfusion-dependent beta thalassemia.

Microgravity CPR: New research has found a more effective way to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in microgravity, which is essential for astronaut health and safety on long-duration space missions.

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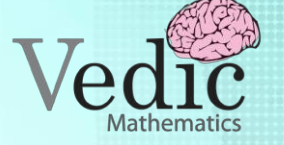
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MCQS

1:Which pharmaceutical company's new COVID-19 vaccine formula for 2025-2026 received approval in the U.S.?

- A) Precigen
- B) Novavax, Inc.
- C) Eli Lilly
- D) AbbVie

Answer: B) Novavax, Inc

The news states that "Novavax, Inc.'s Nuvaxovid™ 2025-2026 Formula COVID-19 Vaccine received approval in the U.S."

2:What is the name of the new gene therapy approved by the FDA for treating adult recurrent respiratory papillomatosis (RRP)?

- A) Nuvaxovid™

- B) Esprit BTK
- C) Papzimeos
- D) exa-cel

Answer: C) Papzimeos

The text mentions that the "FDA granted full approval to Precigen's gene therapy, Papzimeos... for the treatment of a rare airway tumor disease."

3:What is the primary goal of India's newly launched National Biofoundry Network?

- A) To develop new vaccines for infectious diseases
- B) To support young innovators in designing biological solutions
- C) To research new methods for performing CPR in microgravity
- D) To regulate the approval of new pharmaceuticals

Answer: B) To support young innovators in designing biological solutions

The news states that the initiative "aims to support young innovators in designing biological solutions for challenges in health, agriculture, and the environment."

4:What is the primary purpose of Abbott's dissolving stent, Esprit BTK, that received CE Mark clearance in Europe?

- A) To treat heart disease
- B) To help prevent limb amputations in patients with critical limb ischemia
- C) To assist in microgravity CPR
- D) To dissolve blood clots in the brain

Answer: B) To help prevent limb amputations in patients with critical limb ischemia

The text specifies that the stent "is designed to help prevent limb amputations in patients with critical limb ischemia."





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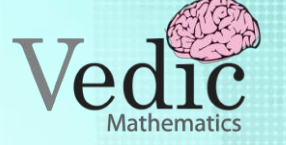
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5:What did the study published in Blood Advances show about the gene editing therapy exa-cel?

- A) It can predict pneumonia through breath analysis.
- B) It helps perform CPR more effectively in space.
- C) It improved the quality of life for patients with severe sickle cell disease or beta thalassemia.
- D) It is an effective treatment for RRP.

Answer: C) It improved the quality of life for patients with severe sickle cell disease or beta thalassemia.

The news states that the study showed "robust and sustained improvements in the quality of life for patients with severe sickle cell disease or transfusion-dependent beta thalassemia."



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