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## Astellas, ClearPath launch vaccines firm aimed at healthcare-associated infections

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As healthcare-associated infections continue to burden the medical system and grab headlines, [Astellas](#) and ClearPath Development are forming a vaccines company looking to help tackle the issue.

The second company in a 2014 partnership between Astellas and ClearPath, Nosocomial Vaccine Corporation will seek to address an "important area of unmet medical need," ClearPath Vaccines CSO George Siber said in a statement. To develop the vaccines, the new company has established research pacts with [Affinivax](#) in Cambridge, MA, and the Center for Vaccine Development at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. It'll work with Affinivax's vaccine platform, Multiple Antigen Presentation System, which the statement said "represents a highly innovative approach for creating novel vaccine formulations that may provide broad protection against the most challenging pathogens."



*ClearPath Vaccines CSO  
George Siber*

Each year in the United States, healthcare-associated infections cost \$9.8 billion, *JAMA Internal Medicine* has said. To date, however, there are no vaccines for any of the leading healthcare-related pathogens, ClearPath's release said, including those responsible for a majority of highly antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

The need for protection against the infections has led other organizations such as [NIH](#), Sanofi ([\\$SNY](#)), Pfizer ([\\$PFE](#)), Valneva and the University of London to support development of their own respective vaccine candidates. Sanofi is in the process of initiating a 200-site Phase III trial of its *C. diff* vaccine, while Pfizer's *C. diff* vaccine isn't far behind in Phase II but with an FDA fast-track nod.

In June, the [NIAID](#) said a candidate it was supporting, NDV-3, was the first to demonstrate "cross-kingdom" protection against fungal and bacterial pathogens, showing preclinical and clinical efficacy against *Candida* and *S. aureus* infections. And one month later, Pfizer said it was taking its *S. aureus* vaccine candidate into a "pivotal" Phase IIb trial for surgical site infections in elective spinal fusion surgery.

A development and financing outfit that helps biopharma companies expand their early pipeline, ClearPath partnered with Astellas in January 2014 to build a global vaccine franchise. The pair launched RSV Corporation in 2013. That company licensed a respiratory syncytial virus ([RSV](#)) vaccine candidate from Swiss biotech [Mymetics](#) in a deal worth up to \$82 million in upfront and post-proof-of-concept milestone payments.

- here's the [release](#)