

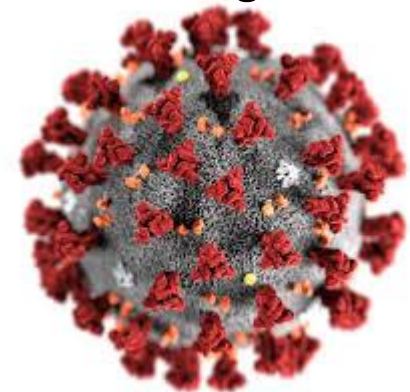
# Professor Sarah Gilbert



**Sarah Catherine Gilbert** (born April 1962) is a British vaccinologist who is Professor of Vaccinology at the University of Oxford and co-founder of Vaccitech. She specialises in the development of vaccines against influenza and emerging viral pathogens. She led the development and testing of the universal flu vaccine, which underwent clinical trials in 2011.

Professor Gilbert recently moved into the limelight when Chinese scientists published genetic details of the new Coronavirus providing her with a target for vaccine development.

Oxford have published encouraging results from the first phase of testing of its ChAdOx1 vaccine, showing it generated antibodies and immune cells to recognise and kill the Sars-Cov-2 virus responsible for Covid-19.





John Bell, Oxford's senior medical professor said, 'It is truly astonishing that, within 100 days of learning the genetic sequence of the virus, Sarah and her team were able to begin a clinical trial of the vaccine. She is a terrific scientist. She knew exactly what was needed and was absolutely effective at getting it done.'

Sarah Gilbert has been involved with the development of a new vaccination to protect against coronavirus since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. She leads the work on this vaccine candidate alongside Andrew Pollard, Teresa Lambe, Sandy Douglas, Catherine Green and Adrian Hill. As with her earlier work, the COVID-19 vaccine makes use of an adenoviral vector, which stimulates an immune response against the coronavirus spike protein. Animal studies began in March 2020, and recruitment began of 510 human participants for a phase I/II trial at the end of March.

In April 2020, Professor Gilbert was interviewed about the developments by Andrew Marr on BBC television. That same month, she was reported as saying that her candidate vaccine could be available by September 2020, if everything goes to plan with the clinical trial, which has received funding from sources such as the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations. Professor Gilbert delivered an update in September 2020 that the vaccine, AZD1222, was being produced by AstraZeneca while phase III trials were ongoing. Because of her vaccine research, Gilbert featured on The Times' 'Science Power List' in May 2020.

Professor Gilbert is a truly inspirational woman and scientist of our times. She has reluctantly become the 'face of the vaccine' but she prefers to keep details of her life private. As well as being an accomplished scientist she also became a mother to triplet girls in 1998. The triplets are now following in her footsteps, with all three studying biochemistry at university. They were also early volunteers for the clinical trial of Oxford's Covid-19 vaccine.

**Let us hope that this essential work will indeed find a vaccine against Covid-19.**