

Self-copying RNA vaccine wins approval

Japanese regulators have approved a COVID-19 vaccine constructed using a form of RNA that can make copies of itself inside cells. It's the first 'self-amplifying' RNA (saRNA) vaccine platform to be granted full regulatory approval anywhere in the world. Because it could be used at a lower dose, it might have fewer side effects than other messenger RNA (mRNA) treatments have. When used as a booster in clinical testing, the newly authorized vaccine, ARCT-154 — developed by US biotechnology firm Arcturus Therapeutics and Australia-based CSL — triggered higher levels of virus-fighting antibodies that circulated the body for longer than did a standard mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

Nature