Vaccines are broadly accepted as the most effective public health intervention after clean water supply. Yet several million humans die every year of infectious diseases, particularly in the developing world, either because they have no access to existing vaccines or because no vaccines have been developed against diseases that are more “specific” to their geographic presence, such as a number of tropical viral or parasitic infections. At GlaxoSmithKline, we have decided to apply our best innovation and knowledge in vaccines discovery and development to both “western world” infectious diseases, for which a financial return will be expected, and to “least developed world” infectious diseases for which no or very limited financial return is expected.

In this presentation we will describe how a very similar platform technology, namely, adjuvants aimed at enhancing and directing the type of immune responses induced through immunization, has enabled the feasibility of the world’s first ever vaccine against a human parasitic disease, malaria, that kills 500,000 to 600,000 children every year in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the feasibility of a highly improved shingles vaccines aimed principally to the elderly populations in the west.