



# D&I

The Official D&I Newsletter

# Words of Visionaries

Module: Turning Dreams into Reality

The current module, 'Turning Dreams into Reality' at Dreamers & Innovators goes beyond our previous efforts of bringing relevant knowledge and skills to 21st-century learners. With stories of the evolution of billion-dollar ventures from simple idea seeds, we endeavor to bring many essential thinking strategies adopted by entrepreneurs in their journey to young minds.

This week's newsletter discusses among the most sought-after subject as of today: the COVID-19 vaccine. The session based on Pfizer, the pharma giant, and its collaboration with BioNTech, has left the Dreamers with much to discuss. Below are the insights of Anvi, Asmi and Jyotirmay.

Dreamers & Innovators is a knowledge and skill-building platform for 21st century learners. We aspire, design and execute interactive learning experiences where global knowledge relevant to today and tomorrow is brought to young Dreamers. At D&I, 21st century skills are honed, confident communication is developed and independent, informed opinions are nourished.

## Efficacy is the final deciding factor on vaccines

Anvi Chawla  
13 years



In the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, Pfizer has played a huge role in taking care of people's health. They partnered with BioNTech to develop the COVID-19 vaccine and they were one of the first companies to successfully make the vaccine. They started to make the vaccine around March 2019. There are 2 doses of this vaccine. There vaccine had a 91.3% efficacy against COVID-19, based on measuring how well it prevented symptomatic COVID-19 infection seven days through up to six months after the second dose. There can be a few side effects like fever headache, pain, tiredness, and/or redness and swelling at the injection site. All of these symptoms get better after one or two days. For some people if symptoms don't resolve within 72 hours or they have respiratory symptoms, such as cough or shortness of breath, they should call their doctor.

Pfizer is definitely one of the leaders in the race against providing COVID-19 vaccine to the world. However, as per the current available data on Bloomberg, over 50% of the world population vaccinated are from China, India and Europe where Pfizer is not widely used as compared to other available vaccines. Further the new virus variants of COVID-19 are still seen as major risk and sometimes cause breakthrough infections to vaccinated people and thus research are still underway. Therefore, it is not yet conclusive that Pfizer has won the vaccine race against their competitors or COVID-19 virus.

## The story of COMIRNATY & COVID-19

Asmi Chawla  
12 years



BioNTech started to create a vaccine in January 2020 because Dr. Uğur Şahin realised that a huge pandemic was coming well before others. Pfizer and BioNTech came together in March 2020 to create the vaccine, for the virus know as SARS-CoV-2, under the brand name COMIRNATY. Pfizer had a lot of trust of the people and BioNTech had the knowledge to create the vaccine this is why they came together and were successful in making the vaccine within a year. Their vaccine was approved in less than 8 months after the trial started. They achieved this by continuous trials. In trials the vaccine was 95% effective with no such side effects. In July 2020 Donald trump gave a huge contract to the company. The main reason for the success of Pfizer was its strong sales team and the way it used artificial intelligence and also due its high investment in the research and development (R&D) sector. This is how the company Pfizer won the vaccine race against COVID-19.



## Behind the winner of the vaccine race: Pfizer

Jyotirmay Sharma  
16 years



One of the biggest names in this field is Pfizer, a giant, originally established in 1849 by German immigrants, Charles Pfizer and his cousin Charles Earhart. Pfizer has till date been in the shadows, mostly unheard of until Friday December 11th at 11:12 when the Pfizer vaccine got approved by the FDA thrusting it into the limelight as the first company to discover the vaccine for the deadly virus that had forced the world to shut down.

But how did it come into being? "It was over breakfast on the wintry morning of January 24 that Ozlem Tureci and her husband Ugur Sahin decided, "we need to fire the starting gun on this."

The decision by the couple, founders of a small German company called BioNTech, gave birth to Operation Lightspeed - in which the scientists in the company diverted all their resources from cancer therapy research to finding a vaccine to stop COVID-19. On January 28, Germany confirmed its first case of coronavirus infection - also the first known human-to-human transmission on European soil.

As BioNTech and other pharmaceutical companies leapt into action in search of the winning formula, Germany's army of "Mittelstand" companies and other bigger manufacturing and logistics experts would soon prove crucial. Pfizer is often cited to being alone in making the vaccine, when the fact is without the scientists and the visionary from BioNTech, Pfizer would never have succeeded.