

Insights Into Pfizer's Lipid Nanotechnologies

Lipid nanoparticles are highly-advanced biotechnologies. Each lipid nanoparticle is designed to adsorb to cells inside the human body and reprogram them using mRNA.



Karen Kingston ✓
Dec 13

♥ 109

💬 29



Whether you are pro-vaccine, anti-vaccine, or don't care what people do with their own bodies, we can all agree that the COVID-19 lockdowns were mentally and emotionally exhausting for everyone. We just wanted a quick-and-easy solution to 'get back to normal.'

The COVID-19 vaccines were pitched as the 'quick and simple' solution so many of us desperately wanted. Pfizer explains how the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines were neither developed quickly, nor are they a simple solution.

COVID-19 mRNA Lipid Nanotechnology has been Around for Decades

"Though many people first became aware of mRNA technology because of COVID-19 vaccines, it is not new to the scientific community. For decades, scientists have studied mRNA, looking for ways to unlock its potential to prevent and treat disease. While the mechanism of action for mRNA technology is relatively simple—once inside cells, it instructs them to build proteins—The approval of the first mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccines was a scientific turning point, establishing mRNA as a versatile, flexible TECHNOLOGY."



[Science](#)

[Products](#)

[Stories](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[About](#)



[Contact Us](#)



The Potential of mRNA to Deliver New Vaccines and Treatments

KarenKingston.Substack

Though many people first became aware of mRNA technology because of COVID-19 vaccines, it is not new to the scientific community. For decades, scientists have studied mRNA, looking for ways to unlock its potential to prevent and treat disease. While the mechanism of action for mRNA technology is relatively simple—once inside cells, it instructs them to build proteins—researchers have had to work for years develop technologies to allow mRNA to work in the real world. mRNA has proved to be a great platform for vaccine development (and potentially therapeutics), so that our own cells can do the hard work of producing proteins, resulting in an immune response which helps protect us against diseases.

The approval of the first mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccines was a scientific turning point, establishing mRNA as a versatile, flexible technology. The focus and drive Pfizer gave to developing our COVID-19 vaccine in partnership with BioNTech gave us a wealth of scientific knowledge in just one year.

https://www.pfizer.com/science/innovation/mrna-technology?cid=bn_corp_wrdm_pfc_mrna-search_what%20is%20mrna%20technology__4139d_0922&gclid=CjwKCAjwh4ObBhAzEiWAhzZYUw1DKErnz8euCKR-BuRZGD0n99upuXNzi4aWEiL4CnrfEOKuU36WIRoCy3kQAvD_BwE

Analysis Karen Kingston © 2022

mRNA technology has been researched and developed for around 40 years but never passed the FDA's safety and efficacy standards for human use; not until August 23 of last year. When the FDA approved Pfizer's mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine this was a turning point establishing mRNA as a *technology*; a technology that was approved as a vaccine.

The Kingston Report is a reader-supported publication. To receive new posts and support my work, consider becoming a free or paid subscriber.

Subscribe

Are the COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines a Biologic or a Technology Device?

COVID-19 mRNA vaccines contain lipid nanoparticles which are highly-advanced biotechnologies. The lipid nanoparticles are both delivery devices for penetration into cells and mRNA (editing software). The mRNA are the instructions or computer codes that program the lipid nanoparticles. The mRNA injections do not contain a biological virus or portion of a biological virus. There is truly nothing about Pfizer's mRNA technology that meets the FDA's definition of a vaccine.

COVID-19 mRNA injections deliver lipid nanoparticle technology directly into cells inside the human body. As you can see per Pfizer's [website](#), the mRNA are the instructions (codes) that the lipid nanoparticle technology uses to *turn human cells into spike protein producing factories.*



Science Products Stories Newsroom About



Contact Us



When the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine is injected into the arm, these LNP delivery vehicles shuttle the mRNA instructions into cells. The instructions are then unloaded, and the cell can make the spike protein, which induces immunity against the spike protein encoded by the mRNA.

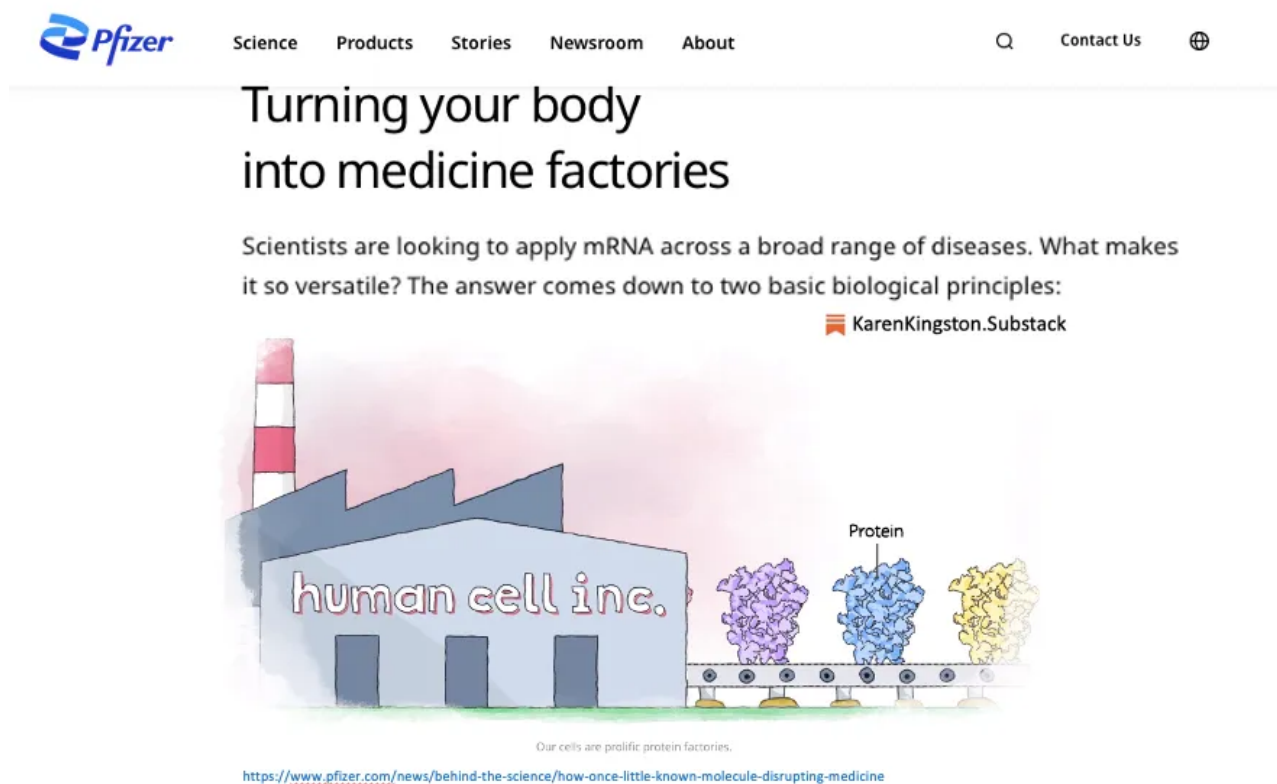
 KarenKingston.Substack



Analysis Karen Kingston © 2022

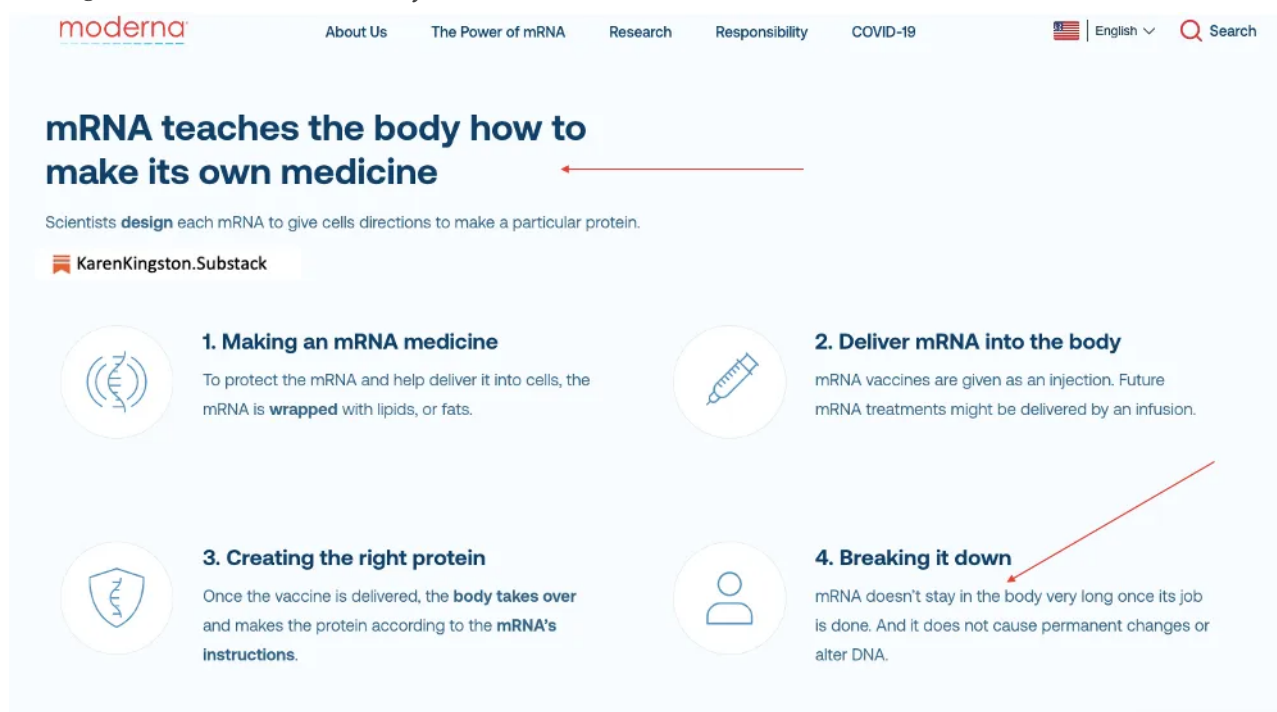
<https://www.pfizer.com/news/behind-the-science/inside-delivery-vehicles-critical-success>

Not only can mRNA sequences (codes) instruct lipid nanoparticles to turn cells into spike protein producing the factories, the mRNA sequences can also be written to “*Turn your body into medicine producing factories,*” per Pfizer’s [website](#).



The Pfizer website header includes the Pfizer logo, navigation links for Science, Products, Stories, Newsroom, and About, a search icon, and a Contact Us link. The main article title is "Turning your body into medicine factories". The subtext reads: "Scientists are looking to apply mRNA across a broad range of diseases. What makes it so versatile? The answer comes down to two basic biological principles:". The author is KarenKingston.Substack. The illustration shows a factory labeled "human cell inc." with a smokestack. To the right, a conveyor belt carries three protein structures (purple, blue, and yellow) labeled "Protein". Below the illustration, a caption states: "Our cells are prolific protein factories." and a URL is provided: <https://www.pfizer.com/news/behind-the-science/how-once-little-known-molecule-disrupting-medicine>

Moderna makes similar claims regarding mRNA turning the body into a drug production factory, stating ‘*mRNA teaches the body to make its own medicine.*’



The Moderna website header includes the Moderna logo, navigation links for About Us, The Power of mRNA, Research, Responsibility, and COVID-19, a US flag, a language dropdown set to English, and a search icon. The main article title is "mRNA teaches the body how to make its own medicine". The subtext reads: "Scientists **design** each mRNA to give cells directions to make a particular protein." The author is KarenKingston.Substack. The article is divided into four steps: 1. Making an mRNA medicine (To protect the mRNA and help deliver it into cells, the mRNA is **wrapped** with lipids, or fats.), 2. Deliver mRNA into the body (mRNA vaccines are given as an injection. Future mRNA treatments might be delivered by an infusion.), 3. Creating the right protein (Once the vaccine is delivered, the **body takes over** and makes the protein according to the **mRNA's instructions**.), and 4. Breaking it down (mRNA doesn't stay in the body very long once its job is done. And it does not cause permanent changes or alter DNA.). A red arrow points from the title to step 2, and another red arrow points from step 4 to the bottom right.

I don’t know of anyone who signed up to have their bodies turned into ‘medicine factories,’ ‘spike protein factories,’ or any other kind of factory for that matter. I think most folks thought they were getting a ‘vaccine’ that contained a synthetically recreated portion of a virus that would produce

antibodies and then disappear from their bodies. No one signed up to have disease-causing spike protein factories installed in their bodies.


Pfizer States that the mRNA Doesn't Stay in Your Body and Doesn't Make Permanent Changes

Pfizer and Moderna both claim that the mRNA doesn't stay in the body and doesn't alter DNA. While these statements are not 100% false, they are misleading.

It's the lipid nanoparticle (LNP) technology that stays in your body and alters your DNA. The mRNA just provides the instruction on how to alter DNA, but it's the LNP that does the actual genetic editing inside of cells.

On October 7, 2021, Pfizer published an article entitled *Shot of a Lifetime*. The article discusses the urgent need for Pfizer to produce mass quantities of something called a 'cationic lipid,' for the mRNA vaccines. The cationic 'lipid' is one of four nanoparticles that make up the lipid nanoparticles in the COVID-19 mRNA injections.


Pfizer stated, "*Without these lipid nanoparticles there could be no Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine.*"

Science Products Stories Newsroom About

Programs & Initiatives Vaccines Diseases & Conditions COVID-19

Shot of a Lifetime: How Pfizer Developed its Own Raw Materials to Ensure a Steady Supply for the COVID-19 Vaccine

https://www.pfizer.com/news/articles/shot_of_a_lifetime_how_pfizer_developed_its_own_raw_materials_to_ensure_a_steady_supply_for_the_covid_19_vaccine



It was December 15, 2020 when Melissa French got the message: Pfizer needed large quantities of something called a cationic lipid that was critical to the COVID-19 vaccine. "This isn't an everyday lipid that's readily available," says French, who is a Project Manager with Pfizer Global Supply, and handles lipid production at a facility in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She was being asked to lead a team in producing large amounts of this important raw material.

produce the quantities needed. Now, it was just a matter of assembling the right team.

French has been working at Pfizer for 27 years, ever since she was studying biology at Western Michigan University. Across those decades, she'd worked in a number of different areas and met scores of colleagues at Pfizer. Now, she drew upon that experience to pull together a top-notch team who could complete in a matter of weeks a project that could normally take at least six months.

This tiny fat glob, known as a functional lipid, is actually one of four lipids that make up the lipid nanoparticles that go into the vaccine. Without these lipid nanoparticles, in fact, there could be no Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine. That's because mRNA, which is the genetic material that teaches our cells to make the protein that will help our immune systems produce antibodies that helps to protect us from COVID-19, is incredibly delicate. It needs structure and protection to do its job in the human body, and lipids provide that. The cationic lipid, in particular, is the one that does the protecting. "It's the primary component of the lipid nanoparticle, so it was needed in much larger quantities," says French. If Pfizer were to manufacture the cationic lipid, itself, it would become an important component of building a reliable supply chain—and helping to protect against potential shortages—for vaccine production in the future.

Manufacturing the lipid involves multiple chemical reactions and a purification step. To expedite the timeline, the team found ways to consolidate steps when possible. "Oftentimes, you generate each chemical reaction and then 'isolate' or package the part of the product we need, step by step, reaction by reaction. And you do another reaction and you isolate the product. We found a way to keep the product in the tank and not have to package it between each reaction, which helped to expedite the process," she says.

Per Pfizer's article, "*(the cationic lipid... known as a functional lipid, is actually one of four lipids that make up the lipid nanoparticles that go into the vaccine.*"

Cationic means that the 'lipid' hosts a positive electronic. There is no lipid in nature that can host an electronic charge.

The cationic lipid is not actually a 'lipid.' It's a nanoparticle technology. It's important to note that per Pfizer's website, the cationic lipid is a biosynthetic nanoparticle that can host a positive charge, meaning it's actually an electronic device, not a biologic. Vaccines are supposed to be comprised of biological substances, not electronic biosynthetic nanoparticle devices.

Why Would Pfizer Call Nanoparticle Technologies ‘Lipids’?

Pfizer refers to the biosynthetic nanoparticle technologies as ‘lipids’ because it sounds a lot less scary to be injected with lipids (which are natural biological substances found in the human body) than to be injected with nanoparticle technologies that were never approved for human-use before. This is a 3D CGI image of the lipid nanoparticle technology that is used in the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines. (Image from [C&EN](#), March 2020)

“The devil is absolutely in the details as far as LNPs are concerned.”
— **Giuseppe Ciaramella**, former head of infectious diseases, Moderna

c&en TOPICS MAGAZINE COLLECTIONS
CHEMICAL & ENGINEERING NEWS
Analysis Karen Kingston © 2022

“Fragile mRNA molecules used in COVID-19 vaccines can’t get into cells on their own. They owe their success to lipid nanoparticles that took decades to refine.”

by **Ryan Cross**
March 6, 2021 | A version of this story appeared in **Volume 99, Issue 8**

https://cen.acs.org/pharmaceuticals/drug-delivery/Without-lipid-shells-mRNA-vaccines/99/i8?utm_source=mostread&utm_medium=mostread&utm_campaign=CEN

Below is the image of the lipid nanoparticle technology next to COMIRNATY’s listed ingredients (Pfizer mRNA vaccine) from page 7 of [Pfizer’s FDA application](#).

KarenKingston.Substack

Table 2. Composition of COMIRNATY Multiple Dose

Ingredients
SARS-CoV-2 spike glycoprotein mRNA (UNII: 5085ZFP6SJ)
ALC-0315 [4-hydroxybutyl)azanediyl)bis (hexane-6,1-diyl)bis(2-hexyldecanoate) (UNII: AVX8DX713V)
ALC-0159 [2-(polyethylene glycol 2000)-N,N-ditetradecylacetamide] (UNII: PJH39UMU6H)
DSPC [1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine] (UNII: 043IP12M0K)
Cholesterol (UNII: 97C5T2UQ7J)

Analysis Karen Kingston © 2022

<https://www.fda.gov/media/151733/download>

c&en

Hundreds of siRNA in each LNP

Pegylated lipid
Ionizable lipid
Phospholipid
Cholesterol
Nucleic acid (siRNA shown)

<https://cen.acs.org/pharmaceuticals/drug-delivery/Without-lipid-shells-mRNA-vaccines/99/i8>

You can see in the above screenshot of ingredients that Pfizer’s COVID-19 mRNA injections contain the ionizable lipid DSPC [1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine] and the PEGylated

lipid ALC-0159.

ALC-0159 also contains polyethylene glycol 2000, also known as PEG-2000.

Is Pfizer the Exclusive Manufacturer for DSPC and ALC-0159?

Despite what they may claim, Pfizer is not the exclusive manufacturer of DSPC. Through the FDA's Global Substance Registration System, you can link to the [database](#) for all manufacturers of ingredients for FDA-approved products, including Pfizer's COVID-19 mRNA injections.

BroadPharm is listed as a manufacturer of DSPC (as are many other manufacturers world wide). DSPC is the ionizable lipid (electronic nanoparticle) listed as an ingredient in Pfizer's COVID-19 mRNA injections.

The screenshot displays the FDA's Global Substance Registration System interface. At the top, the compound name "1,2-Distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (Compound)" is shown. Below this, a section titled "6 Chemical Vendors" lists various manufacturers. A red box highlights "BroadPharm" with its PubChem SID (441533655) and Purchasable Chemical (BP-25623). Other vendors listed include eNovation Chemicals, Ambeed, Smolecule, BOC Sciences, abcr GmbH, CymitQuimica, BydoneChem, and MuseChem. A sidebar on the right contains a table of contents with 16 items, including "6 Chemical Vendors". The URL at the bottom is <https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/94190#section=Chemical-Vendors>.

Vendor	PubChem SID	Purchasable Chemical
eNovation Chemicals	319472369	D505874
BroadPharm	441533655	BP-25623
Ambeed	376262804	A793066
Smolecule	438807708	S576169
BOC Sciences	386391587	816-94-4
abcr GmbH	329870425	AB449562
CymitQuimica	470727000	CQ_816-94-4
BydoneChem	469128936	BD05675 (URL not provided...)
MuseChem	355624954	BY37420

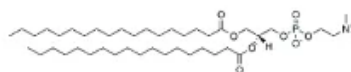
BroadPharm states DSPC is reagent grade, for research purposes only. (This means not for human use).

DSPC

DSPC [1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine]
(UNII: 043IP12M0K)

 KarenKingston.Substack

DSPC (1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine) is a phosphatidylcholine with saturated tails. It has a melting temperature of ~54°C and a cylindrical geometry that allows DSPC molecules to form a lamellar phase, which stabilizes the structure of lipid nanoparticles. DSPC has been used in the mRNA-1273 and BNT162b2 COVID-19 vaccines. Reagent grade, for research use only.



Analysis Karen Kingston© 2022

Catalog:	BP-25623
Name:	DSPC
Formula:	C44H88NO8P
MW:	790.2
CAS:	816-94-4
Purity:	
Ships Within:	24 Hours
Storage Condition:	-20°C
Shipping:	Ambient temperature
NMR:	View
SDS:	Inquire about MSDS

Analysis Karen Kingston© 2022

DSPC

DSPC (1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine) is a phosphatidylcholine with saturated tails. It has a melting temperature of ~54°C and a cylindrical geometry that allows DSPC molecules to form a lamellar phase, which stabilizes the structure of lipid nanoparticles. DSPC has been used in the mRNA-1273 and BNT162b2 COVID-19 vaccines. Reagent grade, for research use only.

[INQUIRE](#)

Keep reading with a 7-day free trial

Subscribe to **The Kingston Report** to keep reading this post and get 7 days of free access to the full post archives.

Start trial

Already a paid subscriber? [Sign in](#)