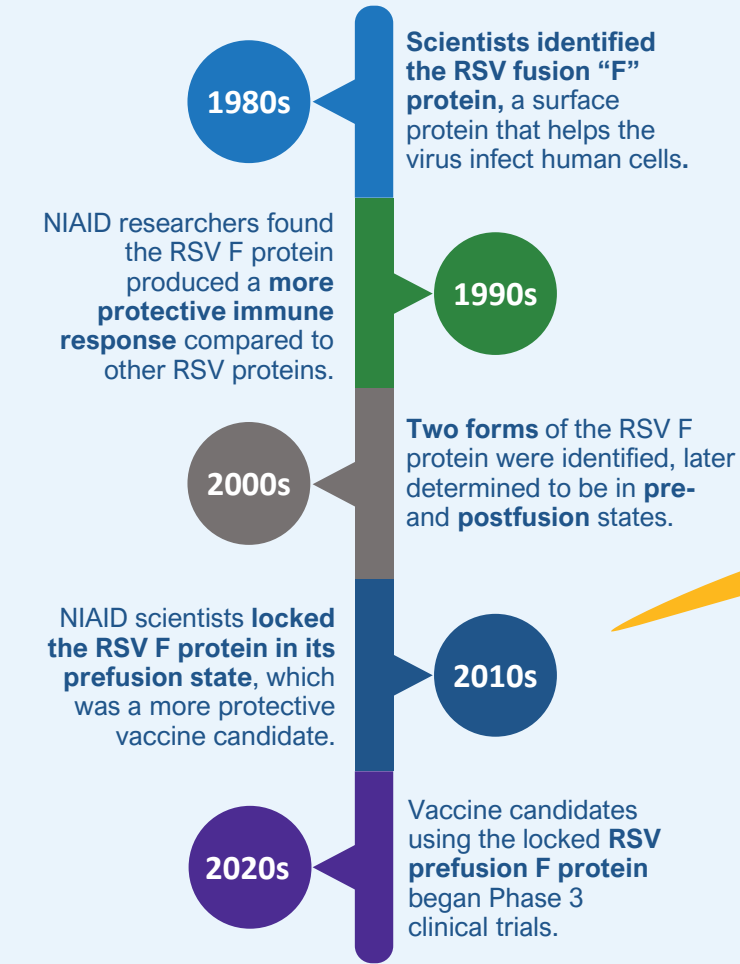


NIAID RESEARCH JOURNEYS: safe and effective RSV protein vaccines

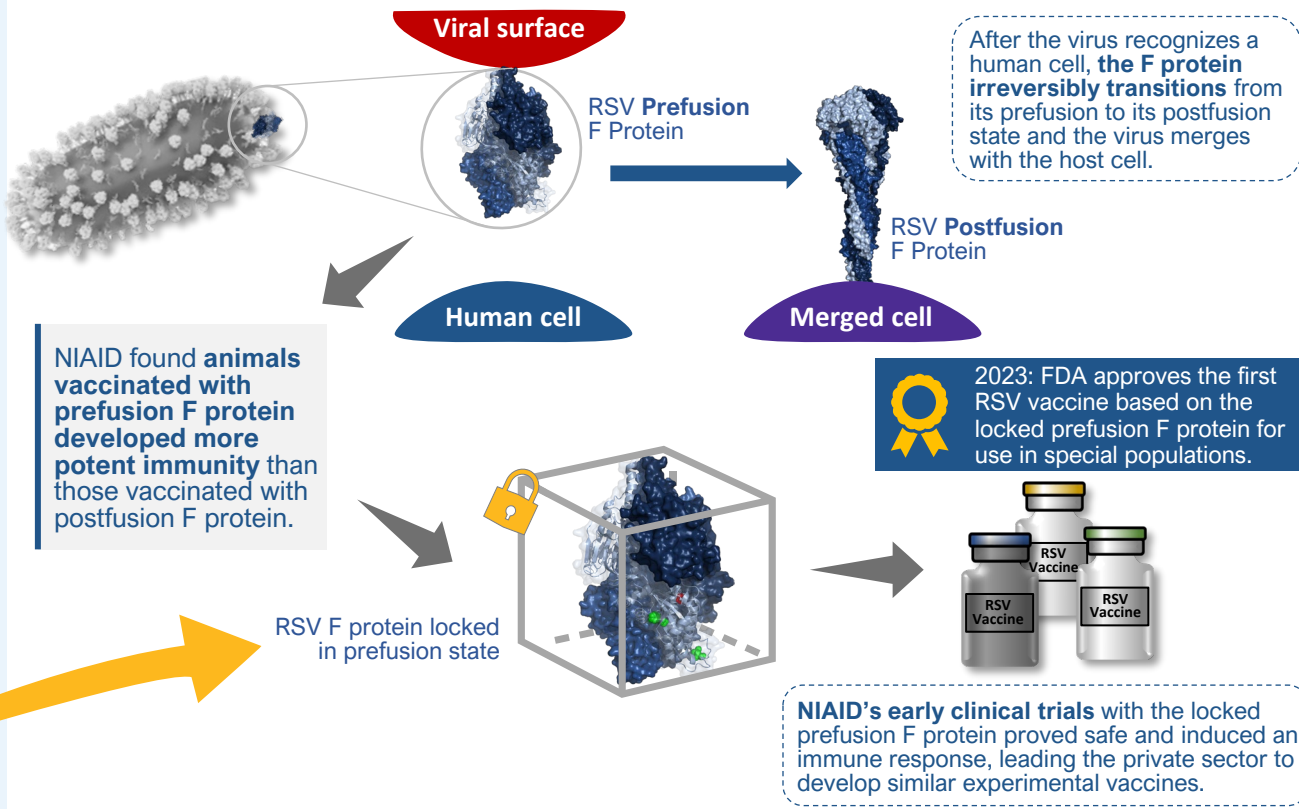
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. However, RSV can cause serious illness or death in premature or very young infants and people over age 65, highlighting a critical need for vaccines in these populations.

JOURNEY TO A BETTER VACCINE

After NIH scientists identified RSV as a human pathogen in 1957, researchers tested multiple vaccines that proved unsuccessful, leading scientists to explore RSV surface proteins as a vaccine target for pregnant people (to protect the newborn) and the elderly.



2010s: NIAID SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH STABILIZED PREFUSION F PROTEIN



The locked (stabilized) prefusion F protein became a primary target for RSV vaccine development for pregnant people (to protect the newborn) and the elderly. Critical work is still needed to develop vaccines for those most affected by RSV, including infants and young children.

Did you know? | The stabilized prefusion protein technology was applied in **the rapid development of COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S.** and vaccines for other viruses.