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(54) Title: MULTIVALENT PNEUMOCOCCAL POLYSACCHARIDE-PROTEIN CONJUGATE COMPOSITION

(57) Abstract: An immunogenic composition having 13 distinct polysaccharide-protein conjugates and optionally, an aluminum-based adjuvant, is described. Each conjugate contains a capsular polysaccharide prepared from a different serotype of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 9V, 14, 18C, 19A, 19F and 23F) conjugated to a carrier protein. The immunogenic composition, formulated as a vaccine, increases coverage against pneumococcal disease in infants and young children globally, and provides coverage for serotypes 6A and 19A that is not dependent on the limitations of serogroup cross-protection. Also described is a method for making an immunogenic conjugate comprising Streptococcus pneumoniae serotype 1 polysaccharide covalently linked to a carrier protein, the method including partial de-O-acetylation of the polysaccharide by mild hydrolysis in an alkaline pH buffer.