



CEVAC

| CENTRUM VOOR VACCINOLOGIE

## *Recruitment of healthy volunteers in vaccine research and its challenges*



Flanders Vaccine: Immunity for Health 2024 – VACCINES & IMMUNOTHERAPY

Fien De Boever  
16OCT2024

### CEVAC Mission

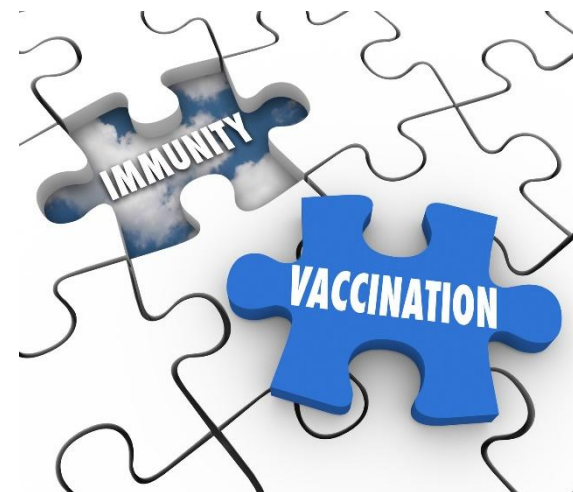
Contribute to the development of new vaccines and the improvement of existing vaccines for the prevention of infectious diseases.

### CEVAC history

- Officially founded in 1995
- > 250 vaccine trials in healthy (older) adults

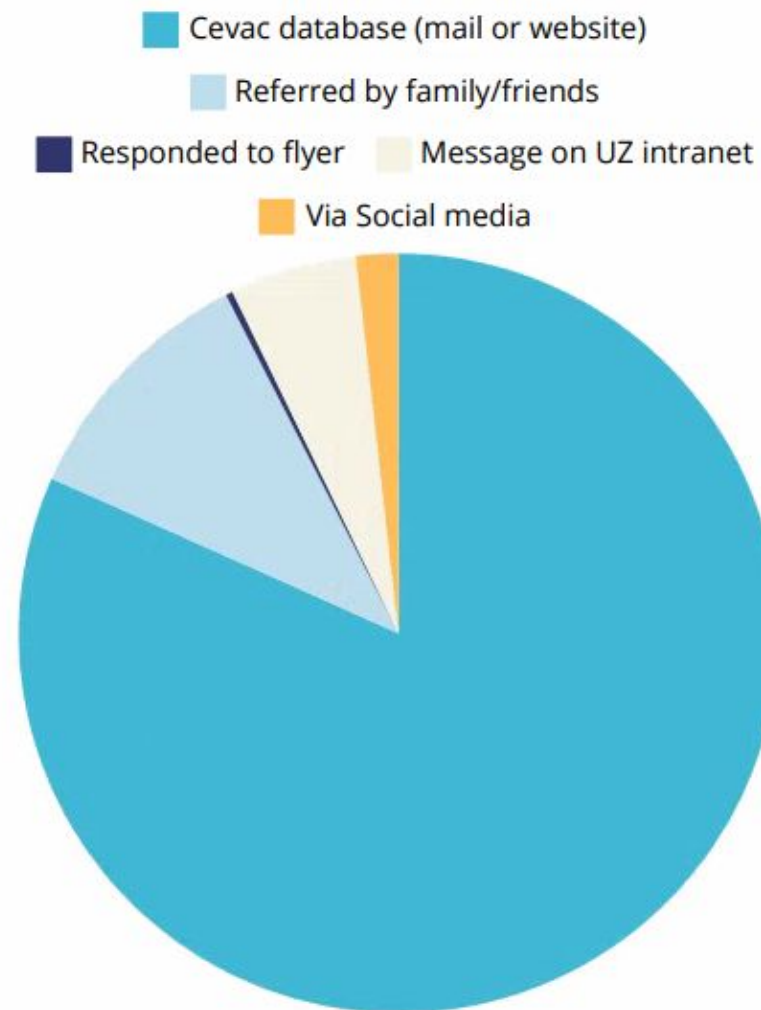
### CEVAC center

- Clinical trial unit
- Immunomonitoring Lab
- QUA department



## Recruitment channels

- CEVAC website  
<http://www.uzgent.be/cevac>
- Email to own database of healthy volunteers
- Flyers (pharmacies, GP,...)
- Social media



## CEVAC database

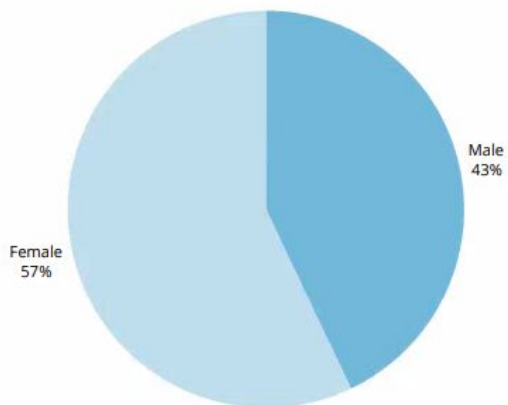


**12 793**

candidates in  
CEVAC data base

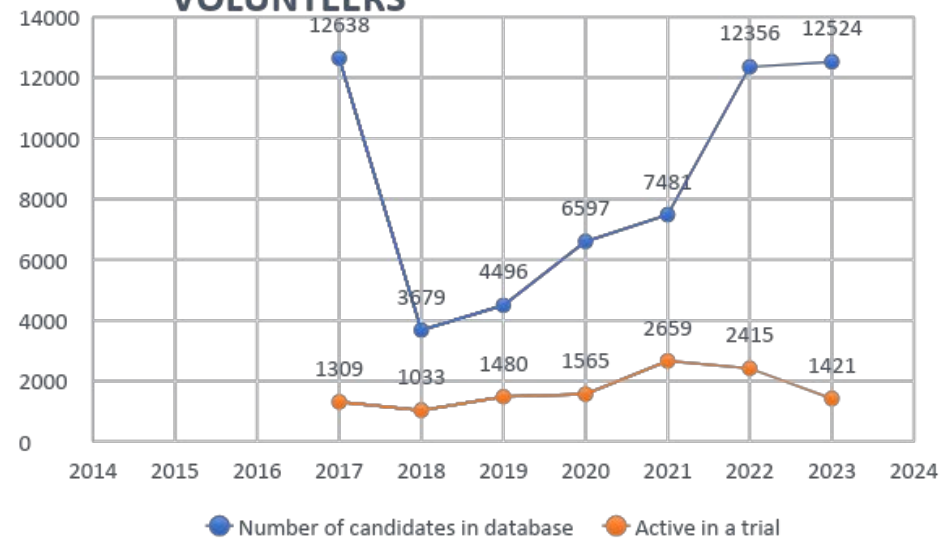


463 new candidates  
in last year



7298 Female candidates  
5495 Male candidates

## CEVAC DATABASE OF HEALTHY VOLUNTEERS

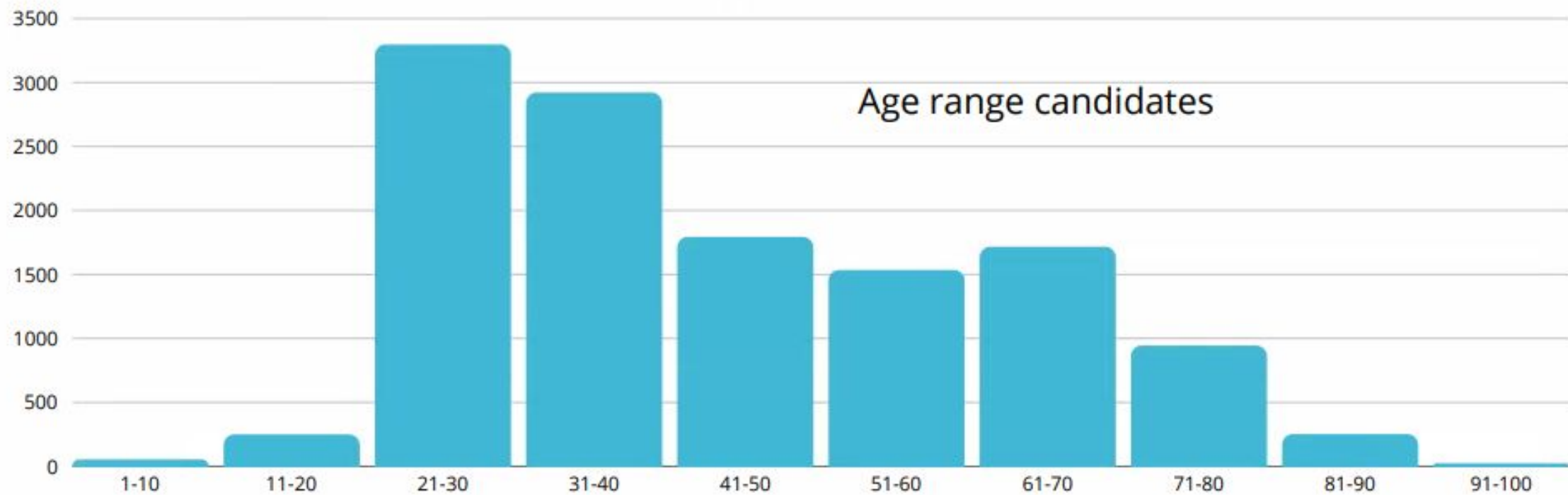


Candidates with 5 -10 studies:

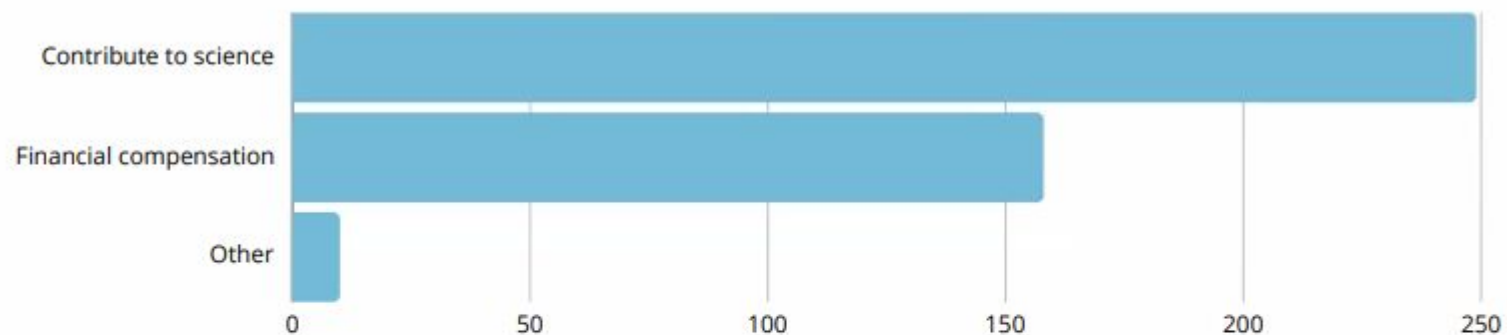
**625**

Candidates with 10+ studies:

**20**



## Reasons why someone participates in a vaccine study at CEVAC \*



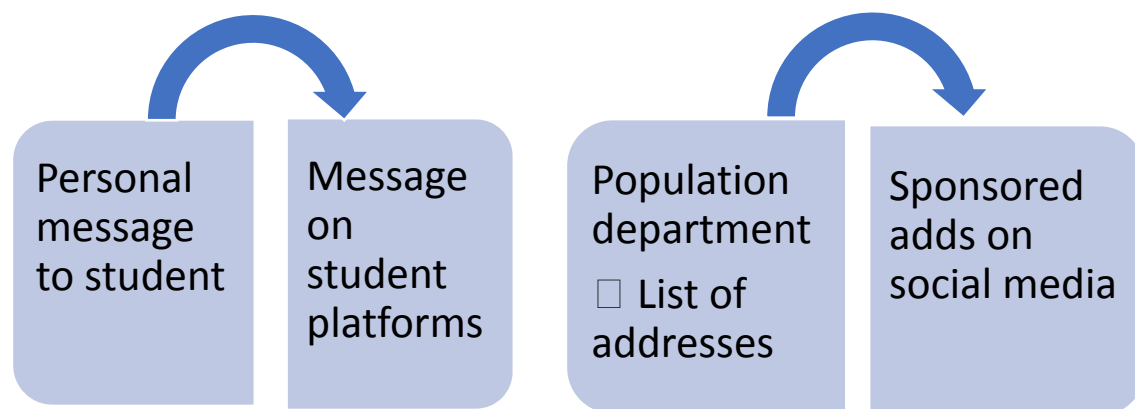
Other reasons:

- Receive a free vaccine (or vaccine not yet on the market)
- Follow-up of health condition
- Curiosity related to clinical development and clinical research



## Challenges

\* GDPR 'General Data Protection Regulation', 2018



## Social media

Creativity to create content + Frequency

Monitoring of reactions! (eg reactions of anti-vaxxers)

Several platforms, different public:

- Facebook
- Instagram
- LinkedIn

Use of social media for recruitment

- Studies with healthy volunteers
- Disable the functionality of 'tagging'





Cevac - Centrum Voor Vaccinologie

26 jun. · 🌐

👋 Wij zoeken gezonde kandidaten van 18 tot 40 jaar voor deelname aan een fase 1-studie met een kandidaatvaccin tegen gele koorts.... [Meer weergeven](#)



**Gezocht M/V/X**  
(18 t.e.m 40 jaar)  
**voor vaccinstudie**  
**tegen gele koorts**

➦ Share



Promoot dit bericht om tot 2553 extra personen te bereiken als je € 10 besteedt.

Bericht promoten



Cevac - Centrum Voor Vaccinologie

14 sep. · 🌐

💡 Op deze internationale dag van de eerste hulp willen we graag een weetje delen.

💖 Onze artsen en verpleegkundigen volgen elke 2 jaar een opfriscursus reanimatie en worden getraind in het gebruik van de AED (automatische externe defibrillator).

😊🚑 Gelukkig hebben we dit nog niet hoeven toe te passen in de praktijk, maar zo we zijn altijd voorbereid, want veiligheid is onze topprioriteit.



Voor Vaccinologie

HIV-vaccin Dag vandaag!

· vaccinatie tegen HIV?

**E DAT...**

ds geen vaccin  
t bescherming  
n hiv, het virus  
roorzaakt.



Vandaag de dag zijn er wel goede antivirale middelen beschikbaar. Deze kunnen de infectie niet genezen, maar de besmettelijkheid en ziekte sterk verminderen. De nood aan een hiv-vaccin blijft dus hoog.



## Challenges: prescreening and participant scheduling

Interested in participation?

- ☐ Registration via subscription form
- ☐ Pre-screening questionnaire

### Pre-screening by phone

Direct contact

- Privacy?
- Difficult to reach potential candidates

### Online form

- Easier to reach potential candidates

- More privacy

- Sometimes more difficult for older adults

- Secured system required!

- No direct contact

## Challenges: Ethnic diversity

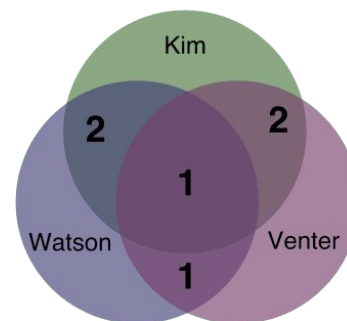
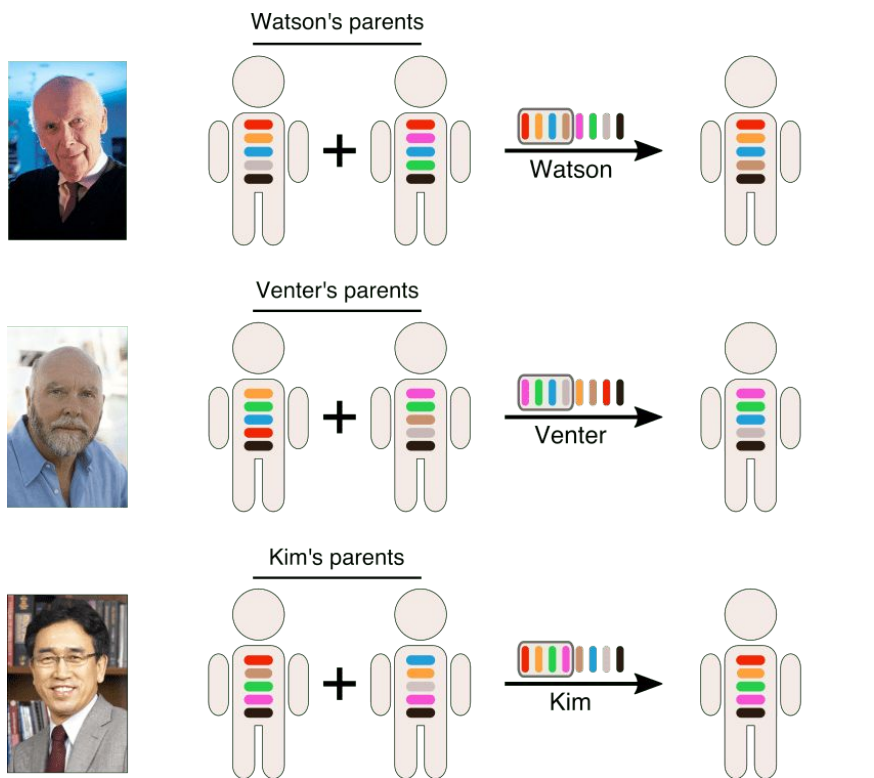


Ethnicity: ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino ☐ Hispanic or Latino ☐ Unknown

Race: ☐ White ☐ Black or African American  
☐ Asian ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander  
☐ American Indian or Alaska Native  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

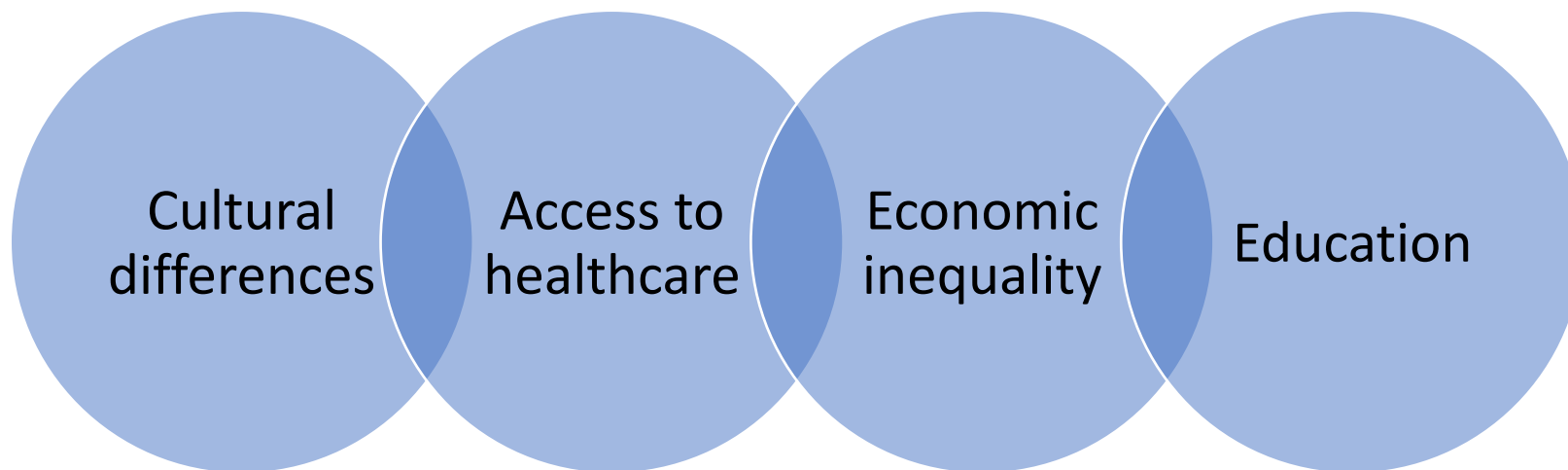


## Challenges: Ethnic diversity



*Population studies show only small genetic differences between races, while they show greater variation between individuals of the same race.*

## Challenges: Ethnic diversity



Only focus on race and ethnicity?

## Challenges: Phase 3 trials

Longer timelines imposed by the EU-CTR

Other non-EU countries often have a head start

Studies are often competitive

- Message to halt enrollment immediately
- Disappointments
- Harm to centre's credibility



## Challenges: seasonal efficacy trials in older adults

Influenza efficacy trials in older adults

- Compare the efficacy of a new influenza vaccine compared to a marketed influenza vaccine

CTR: longer timelines □ timely study start!

Pharmacies/GP's □ early promotion influenza vaccination

Interference with routine vaccines

## Challenges: ethical principles



### Participant reimbursement

Should be reasonable

Cover travel costs,  
investment of time, ...

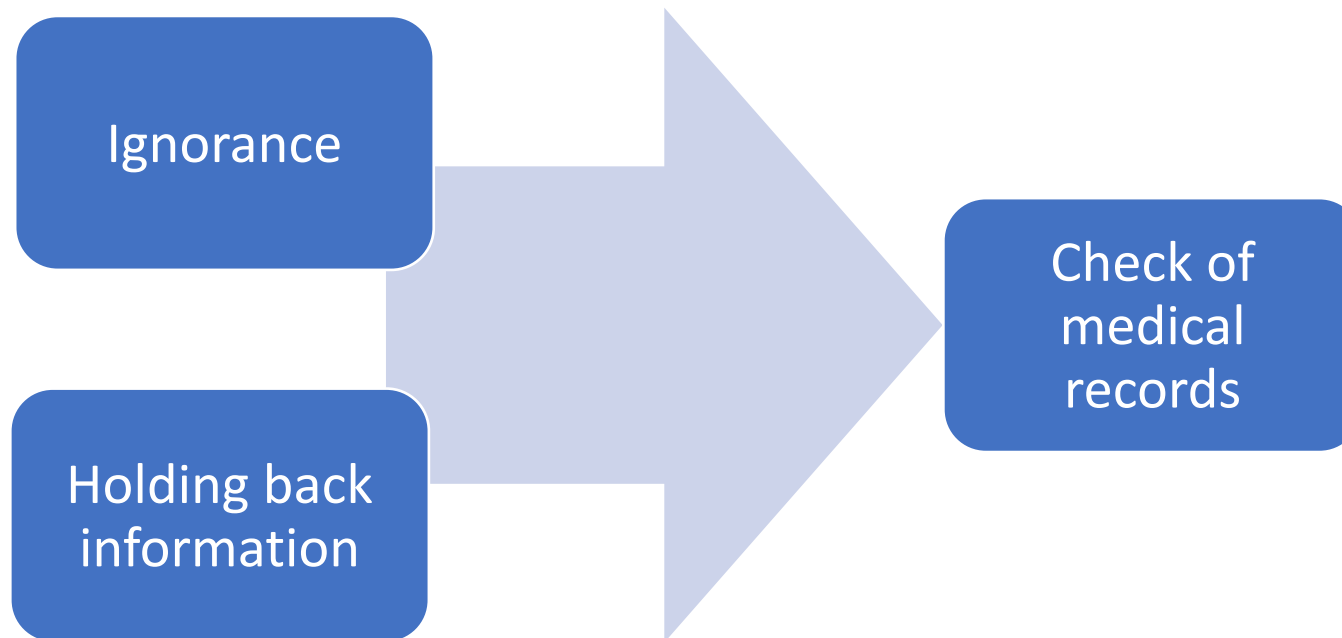
### Recruitment messages

Should be neutral and  
not too persuasive

Inconsistency among  
ethics committees

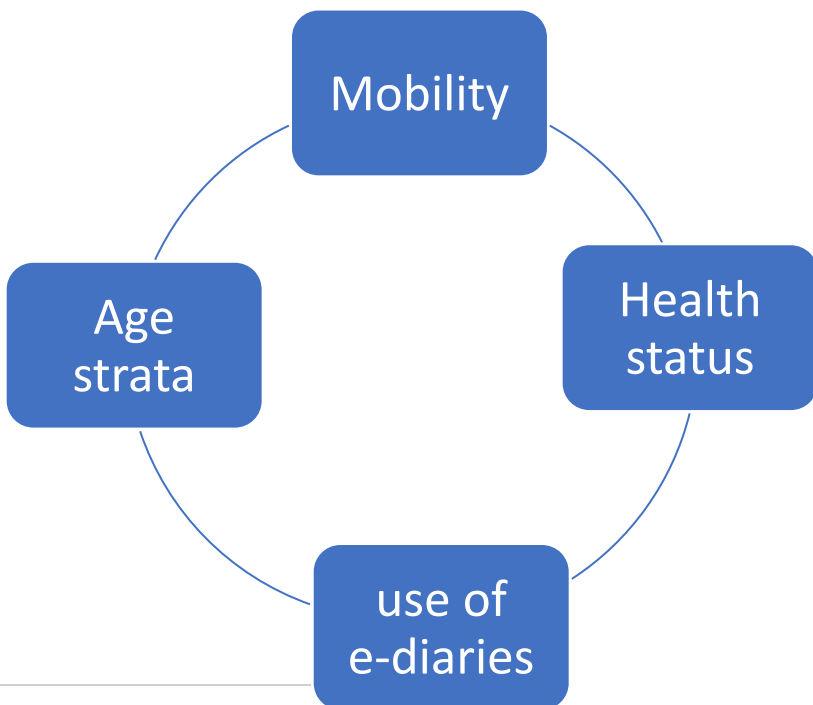


## Challenges: Medical history and reliability of potential candidates



## Challenges: older adults

Increasing demand of enrollment of older adults



### Yvonne (97) oudste proefpersoon ooit voor nieuw vaccin in UZ Gent

Deze ochtend namen de 97-jarige Yvonne De Coninck en haar 84-jarige echtgenoot uit Schelderode deel aan een studie rond een nieuw RSV-vaccin. Hiermee is ze de oudste proefpersoon ooit die deelneemt aan een klinische studie in het Gentse UZ en mogelijks in heel Vlaanderen. "Het is mijn plicht om mee te doen", zegt ze.

FIEN DE BOEVER

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Volg ons op 

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