

Dr. OZLEM TURECI 1967-



- Co-founder of BioNTech and Chief Medical Officer since 2018.
 - Tureci is primarily responsible for R&D for the company which began partnership with Pfizer in 2018.
 - She and her husband, Dr. Ugur Sahin, developed the first mRNA-based vaccine for Covid-19.
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- In January 2020 Tureci and Sahin applied the mRNA technology they had been working on for 20 years to the Covid-19 virus and by March 2020, they had 5 vaccine candidates to test on humans. By November 2020, the results showed the vaccine BNT162b2, which became Pfizer–BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, brand name Comirnaty, to be more than 90% effective.
 - Comirnaty received final FDA approval for people 16 and older on Aug. 23
 - Tureci and Sahin’s work has centered around cancer drugs using monoclonal antibodies (mAb or moAb). These are made by cloning unique white blood cells. They can be produced to specifically bind to virtually any substance to allow detection or to purify it.
 - Monoclonal antibodies have been used for cancer, multiple sclerosis, viral infections including Covid-19; cardiovascular, autoimmune, inflammatory diseases; also, macular degeneration and transplant rejection.
 - The company has several mRNA-based cancer vaccines they hope to offer for patients in the next two years.
 - Tureci has filed for more than 80 international patents, and she is an active publisher in scientific journals. She is an international lecturer.

Türeci and her husband were named *Financial Times* People of the Year for 2020 based on their production of safe and effective vaccine for COVID-19 less than a year after the genetic sequence of the virus was released, an achievement cited as “one of the greatest medical breakthroughs of our time. They also appeared on the cover of the American news magazine *Time* in January 2021.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ozlem_Türeci

David Gelles: [*The Husband-and-Wife Team Behind the Leading Vaccine to Solve Covid-19. The New York Times*](#), 10 November 2020