

# Review of: "The COVID 19 vaccine patent race"

Gopal Krishna Roy

**Potential competing interests:** The author(s) declared that no potential competing interests exist.

In this opinion note, Ulrich Storz discusses the brief history of mRNA-based vaccine research and development. The author concludes that the new mRNA vaccines will find it increasingly difficult to obtain patents and associated protection due to their apparent or non-inventive nature, hurting the incentive to invest in the mRNA vaccine R&D. However, the author does not suggest any policy recommendation that would address the problem. The author can elaborate on the problem further and suggest whether such a situation of underinvestment in mRNA vaccine R&D would result from flawed existing patent laws, which can be modified to accommodate the simple nature of mRNA innovations. The author should discuss the role of government and public R&D infrastructure in filling the gap created by the disincentivized private sector in mRNA vaccine development.