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Influenza virus non-structural protein NS1 cooperatively binds virus-specific (+)-strand RNA sequences

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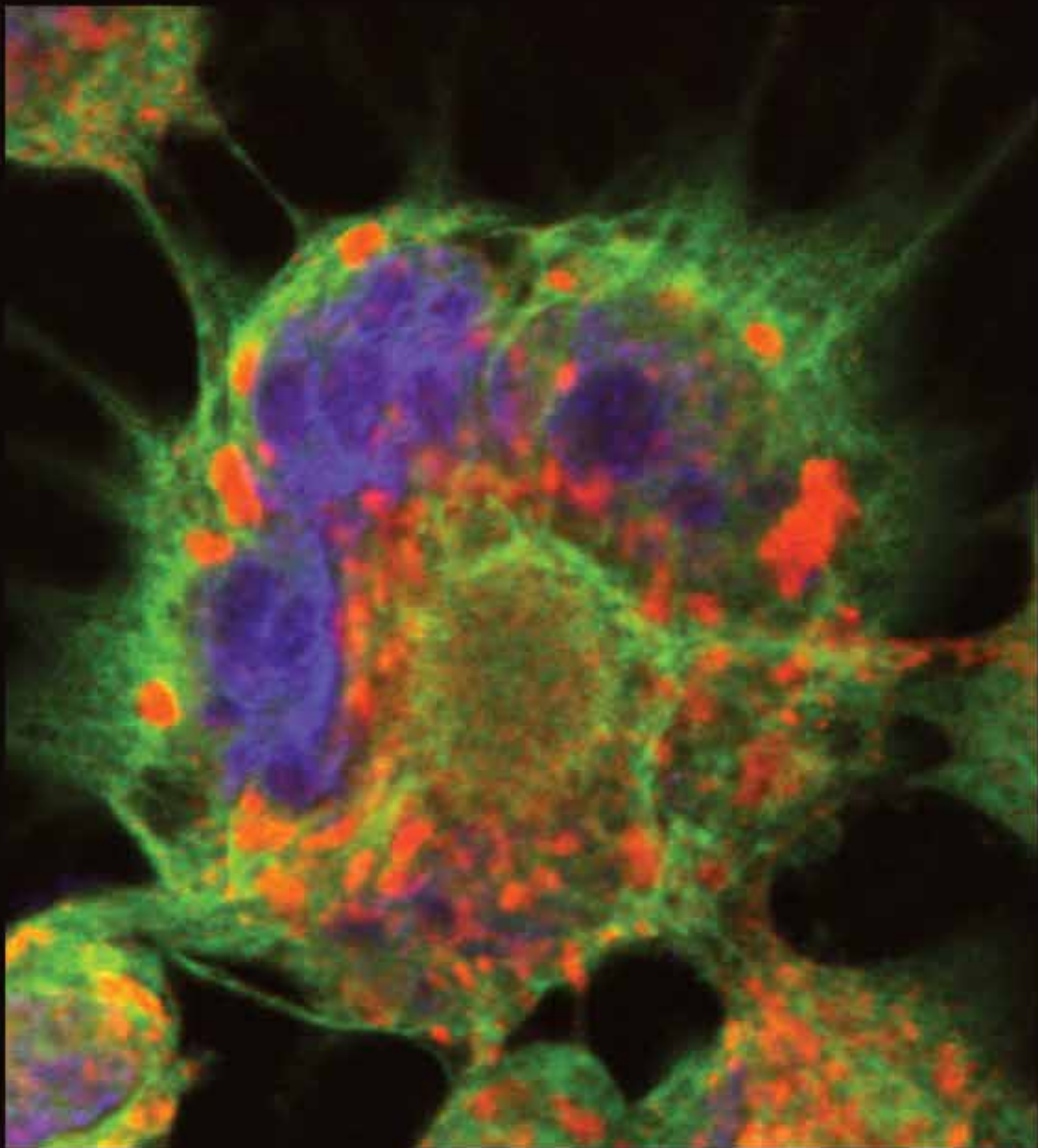
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*XV International Conference on
Negative Strand Viruses*



16 - 21 June 2013, Granada, Spain

The front cover shows a middle optical section of MDCK cells infected with Sendai virus in the process of forming a limited syncytium. The red stain corresponds to the nucleocapsid protein and the green to a M protein mutated so it does not reach the cell plasma membrane. The nuclei are colored with DAPI.



15th International Negative Strand Virus Meeting

NSV 2013

16 - 21 June 2013, Granada, Spain





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Registered participants	237



General Information:

Badges

All participants and accompanying persons must wear the official badges in order to get Access to the lecture halls and/or social activities.

Official Language

The official language of the Conference is English. Simultaneous translation will not be provided.

Audiovisuals

All presentations are to be uploaded in the conference room. Hand in your PowerPoint presentations to the technicians at least one hour before your talk .

Poster Presentations

Posters in sessions I to V:

These posters are to be mounted between 14.00 hrs and 19.00 hrs on Sunday afternoon, June 16.

These posters are to be removed during the morning coffee break (11:30- 12:30) on Wednesday, June 19.

Posters in Sessions VI to VIII :

These posters are to be mounted during the lunch break (13:50 – 15:20) on Wednesday, June 19.

These posters are to be removed between 12:00 and 14:00 on Friday , June 21.

Conference Documents

Participants will receive a badge , a certificate of attendance and a conference bag with conference- related documents at the registration desk.

Meals

Lunches will be provided in the Palacio de Congresos , as indicated in the programme. Evening meals will be provided as part of the social programme. The cost of these are included in the registration fee.

Non-Smoking Policy

In Spain you are only allowed to smoke outside buildings.

Granada's city buses

Granada's urban bus network is managed by the Transportes Rober bus company. Bus network maps, timetables, fares, and also buses to the Alhambra and Albayzin etc are available on

Granada's city buses such.

Granada's taxis

You can find taxis at exit of bus stations, trains and airports. Granada is a small city, and it is easy to get around, taxis are not very expensive.

Tele - Radio - Taxi Granada

Telephone: +34 958 28 06 54

Radio Taxi Company:

Telephone: +34 958 13 23 23

Spanish timing and habits



Breakfast: Between 8am - 10am

Lunch: Kitchen service is usually open in restaurants between 1pm - 4pm, although some offer food even earlier

Dinner: Usually from 8.30pm until 11pm

Climate

The climate in Granada is Continental Mediterranean. Temperatures are fresh in Winter, and **hot in summertime**, reaching maximums above 35°C (95°F). Check the weather in the **Spanish Agency of Meteorology**

Social Programme

Opening Reception on Sunday , June 16

The Opening Reception will take place at Palacio de Congressos at 20.00 hrs.

Address :

Walking Guided Tour of Granada on Monday , June 17. And free evening.

The walking tour will start from the Palacio de Congressos at 19.30 hrs. And will end at approx 21.00 hrs.

Alhambra's visit + dinner in the gardens overlooking Granada by night.

The Alhambra visit start from Palacio de Congressos at 19.30 hrs.

Gala Dinner on Thursday , June 20

The Gala Dinner will take place in "La Mamounia". Buses start from Palacio de Congressos at 20.00 hrs.





Program Summary:

Sunday June 16

- 14:00 - 19 :00 Registration Palacio de Congressos,
Put up posters for sessions 1-4
- 19:00-23 :00 Opening reception Palacio de Congressos
- 20:00 Flamenco concert: roof of Palacio de Congressos

Monday June 17

- 09:45-10:00: Welcome and introductory information
Session I: In and Out and Moving About (10:10- 13:50)
- 10:00 -10:10 Chairpersons's remarks
- 11:30 -12:30 Coffee break-Poster session
- 13:50 -15:20 Lunch- Poster session
- 15:20-15:30: Session II: RNA synthesis and gene expression (15:30-18:50)
Chairpersons's remarks
- 16:50 -17 :50 Coffee break-Poster session
- 19:30 Guided tour of Granada and free evening

Tuesday June 18

- 10:00-10:10: Session III: Structure and Function (10:10-13:50)
Chairpersons's remarks
- 11:30 -12 :30 Coffee break-Poster session
- 13:50-15:20 Lunch- Poster session
Session IV: Host-cell interactions (15:30-19:10)
- 15:20-15:30: Chairpersons's remarks
- 16:50 -17 :50 Coffee break-Poster session
- 20:00 Alhambra's visit + dinner in the gardens overlooking
Granada by night

Wednesday June 19

- 09:00-10:00 Put up posters for sessions V-VIII
Session V: Antiviral response (10:10-13:50)



10:00-10:10: Chairpersons's remarks
11:30 -12:30 Coffee break-Poster session
13:50-15:20 Lunch- Poster session
Session VI: Pathogenesis (15:30-19:00)
15:20-15:30 Chairpersons's remarks
17:00 -18:00 Coffee break-Poster session
Free evening

Thursday June 20

10:00-10:10: Session VII: Vaccines and antivirals (10:10-13:20)
Chairpersons's remarks
11:30 -12 :30 Coffee break-Poster session
13:20-15:00 Lunch- Poster session
Session VII:Vaccines and antivirals continued (15:10-17:50)
15:00-15:10 Chair persons's remarks
16:10 -17 :10 Coffee break-Poster session
20:00 Gala dinner .

Friday June 21

Session VIII: Natural and unnatural virus evolution (09:10-12:10)
09:00 - 09:10 Chair persons's remarks
10:00 -11 :00 Coffee break-Poster session
12:10 Lunch and beer session



Program

Sunday June 16

14:00- 19 :00

Registration Palacio de Congresos,
Put up posters for sessions 1-4

19:00-23 :00

Opening reception Palacio de Congresos

20:00

Flamenco concert: roof of Palacio de Congresos

**Monday June 17****09:45-10:00: Welcome and introductory information****Session I: In and Out and Moving About**

Chairpersons : Christina Spirolopulo and Benhur Lee

10:00-10:10: Chairpersons's remarks

- 10:10-10:30 1 **Fusion activation by parainfluenza virus HN protein**
Sayantan Bose, Theodore S. Jardetzky and **Robert A. Lamb**
- 10:30-10:50 2 **Unraveling a 3-step Mechanism of Nipah Virus Receptor-Induced Membrane Fusion Triggering**
Qian Liu, Jacqueline A. Stone, Birgit Bradel-Tretheway, Jeffrey Dabundo, Javier A. Benavides, Montano, Jennifer Santos-Montanez, Scott B. Biering¹, Xiaonan Lu, **Hector C. Aguilar**
- 10:50-11:10 3 **PVRL4 (Nectin-4) is the epithelial cell for measles and canine distemper viruses and is a target for oncolytic therapy**
Christopher Richardson, Ryan Noyce, Sebastien Delpeut, Ricky Siu
- 11:10-11:20 4 **The measles virus hemagglutinin β 4- β 5 hydrophobic groove governs the interactions with nectin-4 and CD46 but not with SLAM**
Mathieu Mateo, Sabriya Syed, Chanakha Navaratnarajah, Roberto Cattaneo
- 11:20-11:30 5 **Conversion of the parainfluenza virus 5 F protein to a simian virus 41 HN-specific protein by amino acid substitutions**
Talk **Masato Tsurudome**, Morihito Ito, Machiko Nishio, Tetsuya Nosaka
- 11:30 -12:30 Coffee break-Poster session
- 12:30-12:50 6 **Vesiculovirus glycoprotein intermediate structures during the fusion associated conformational change.**
Talk Eduard Baquero, Aurélie A. Albertini, Malika Ouldali, Linda Buonocore, John K. Rose, Jean Lepault, Stéphane Bressanelli, **Yves Gaudin**
- 12:50-13:00 7 **Host cell entry of Respiratory Syncytial Virus involves macropinocytosis followed by proteolytic activation of the F protein** **Magdalena Krzyzaniak**, Ari Helenius
- 13:00-13:10 8 **Acid-activated structural reorganization of the Rift Valley fever virus Gc fusion protein**
Matthijn de Boer, **Jeroen Kortekaas**, Lotte Spel, Peter Rottier, Rob Moormann, Berend Jan Bosch
- 13:10-13:20 9 **Insights into transport of Marburg virus nucleocapsids in living cells**
Schudt Gordian, Kolesnikova Larissa, Dolnik Olga, Becker Stephan



- 13:20-13:30 10 **Essential role of the Sendai virus fusion (F) protein in the formation of virus particles**
Manel Essaidi-Laziosi, Anastasia Shevtsova, Carole Bampi, Laurent Roux
- 13:30-13:40 11 **Orientations of the influenza A viral ribonucleoprotein complexes**
Yukihiko Sugita, Hiroshi Sagara, Takeshi Noda, Yoshihiro Kawaoka
- 13:40-13:50 12 **Diverse Morphologies of Influenza Filament Budding: an Ultrastructural Study**
Swetha Vijaykrishnan, Colin Loney, Dave Jackson, David Bhella
- 13:50-15:20 Lunch- Poster session

Poster Presentation

- 14 **The molecular motor KIF13A mediates intracellular transport of the Lassa virus matrix protein Z**
Sarah Katharina Fehling, Wolfgang Garten, Thomas Strecker
Institute of Virology, Philipps-University Marburg, Germany
- 15 **The peste des petits ruminants virus (PPRV) receptors: ovine SLAM and Nectin-4**
Jamie Birch 1, Nicholas Juleff 1, Michael P. Heaton 3, Ted Kalbfleisch 4, James Kijas 5 and Dalan Bailey 1,2
- 16 **Andes Hantavirus Gn and Gc glycoproteins: Self-assembly into virus-like particles and functions during cell entry**
Rodrigo Acuña, Nicolás Cifuentes, Pierre-Yves Lozach, Nicole Tischler
- 17 **Identification of functional domains of class II Rab11-FIPs that participate in the polarized transport of influenza virus vRNP**
Fumitaka Momose, Takashi Ohkura, Yuko Morikawa
- 18 **Inhibition of Membrane Fusion by a mAb interacting with the Morbillivirus Attachment Protein Stalk Domain**
Nadine Ader-Ebert^{1,2}, Andreas Zurbriggen¹ and Philippe Plattet¹
- 19 **Interaction between M1 and NP affects influenza virus morphology**
Kristy Bialas, Kendra Bussey, Toru Takimoto
Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Rochester Medical Center
- 20 **A Critical Threonine Residue in the Respiratory Syncytial Virus Matrix Protein is required for Matrix Oligomerization and Affect**
Monika Bajorek (1), Sarit Kipper (2), Kim Tran (3), Michael Teng (3), Doron Gerber (2), Reena Ghildyal (4), David Jans (5)



- 21 **A novel bunyavirus causing severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome in humans**
Mifang Liang, Guoyu Liu, Jiandong Li, Lina Sun, Chuan Li, Quanfu Zhang, Cong Jin, Xianjun Wang, Shujun Ding, Zheng Xing, Shiwen Wang, Zhenqiang Bi, Dexin Li
- 22 **Filamentous influenza viruses**
Alex Atkins, Matthew Badham, Jeremy Rossman
School of Biosciences, University of Kent
- 23 **Respiratory syncytial virus matrix protein: key role in infection**
Reena Ghildyal, Michael N. Teng, John Mills, Philip G. Bardin, David A. Jans
- 24 **Functional characterization of the surface glycoproteins G and F of an African henipa-like bat virus**
Nadine Krüger, Markus Hoffmann¹, Jan-Felix Drexler, Marcel Müller, Michael Weis, Andrea Maisner, Christian Drosten, Georg Herrler
- 25 **Molecular basis for small molecule inhibitor of Ebola virus infection that targets receptor NPC1**
John Misasi, Anna Bruchez, Marceline Cote, Tao Ren, Kyungae Lee, Soo-mi Lee, James Cunningham
- 26 **Assembly and budding of Rift Valley Fever virus**
Emily A. Bruce¹, Robert W. Doms
- 27 **Comparative analysis of matrix ubiquitination and nuclear-cytoplasmic trafficking across the paramyxoviridae genera**
Mickey Pentecost, Talia Lester¹, Arnold Park, Yao Wang, Ajay Vashisht, James Wohlschlegel, Benhur Lee
- 28 **Autophagy pathway plays a critical role in entry of Ebolavirus into host cells**
Olena Shtanko and Robert A. Davey
- 29 **The impact of GPC and N-terminal region of Lassa virus Z on virus-like particle release**
Shuzo Urata, Jiro Yasuda
- 30 **Analysis of Borna disease virus transport**
Caroline Marie Charlier, Yuan Ju Wu, Sophie Allart, Cécile Elisabeth Malnou, *Martin Schwemmler, Daniel Gonzalez-Dunia*
- 31 **The molecular motor KIF13A mediates intracellular transport of the Lassa virus matrix protein Z**
Sarah Katharina Fehling, Wolfgang Garten, Thomas Strecker
- 32 **Thermodynamics Tune the Paramyxovirus Membrane Fusion Machinery**
Mislav Avila Sánchez, Lisa Alves, Mojtaba Khosravi, Nadine Adler-Ebert, Andreas Zurbriggen and Philippe Plattet



- 33 **Studies on fluorescently labeled Nipah virus matrix protein**
Boris Lamp, Erik Dietzel, Marc Ringel, Larissa Kolesnikova, Andrea Maisner
- 34 **Interaction of Rift Valley Fever virus with the host ESCRT machinery**
Amber Riblett, Emily Bruce, Bob Doms
- 35 **Endosomal Trafficking of the Nipah Virus Fusion Protein**
Michael Weis, Lucie Sauerhering, Sandra Diederich, Andrea Maisner
- 36 **Investigating the molecular determinants of mumps virus (MuV) entry and egress**
Connor G. G. Bamford, Martin Ludlow, Michael R. Wilson, Linda J. Rennick, Ken Lemon, Bertus K. Rima, W. Paul Duprex
- 37 **Temporal analysis of HMPV infection reveals the interplay between viral proteins during the replication cycle**
Farah El Najjar, Brent Hackett and Rebecca E. Dutch
- 38 **A charge-dependent interaction is necessary for Rift Valley fever virus-like particle entry into its host cell**
Maria Baudin, Delowar Hossain, Magnus Evander

Session II: RNA synthesis and gene expression
Chairpersons: Amiya Banerjee and Rob Ruigrok

- 15:20-15:30: Chairpersons's remarks
- 15:30-15:50 39 **An upstream open reading frame modulates ebola virus polymerase translation and virus replication**
Reed S. Shabman, Omar Jabado, **Christopher F. Basler**
- 15:50-16:10 40 **Initiation and regulation of respiratory syncytial virus transcription and genome replication**
Laure Deflube, Sarah Noton, Chadene Tremaglio, **Rachel Fearn**
- 16:10-16:30 41 **Functional insights into the measles virus NTAIL-PXD interaction using site-directed and random mutagenesis**
Antoine Gruet, Marion Dosnon, Johnny Habchi, David Blocquel, Christophe Bignon, Yaoling Shu, Joanna Brunel, Michael Oglesbee, Denis Gerlier and **Sonia Longhi**
- 16:30-16:40 42 **The EM structure of the complementary cRNP replicative intermediate of influenza A virus and host-pathogen interactions**
Ashley York, Juha T. Huiskonen, Ervin Fodor
- 16:40-16:50 43 **The role of the influenza virus nucleoprotein in viral transcription and replication**
L Turrell, EC Hutchinson, JW Lyall, LS Tiley, E Fodor and FT Vreede



- 16:50 -17 Coffee break-Poster session
- 17 :50-18 44 **Influenza nucleoprotein N-terminal deletion mutant is deficient in functional vRNP formation and viral RNA expression.**
Abel Sanchez, Christian F. Guerrero-Juarez, Charles C. Peterson, Ryan Laurel, Muriel Makamure, Jose Ramirez, Jacqueline Olivas, and **Laura L. Newcomb**
- 18 :10-18 :20 45 **Phosphorylation of Ebola virus VP30 influences the composition of the viral nucleocapsid complex: Impact on viral transcription**
Nadine Biedenkopf, Stephan Becker
- 18 :20-18 :30 46 **The mechanism of RNA synthesis inhibition by the matrix protein of vesicular stomatitis virus**
Benjamin Morin, Philip J. Kranzusch, Gergely Tekes, Robin A. Ross and Sean P. J. Whelan
- 18 :30-18 :50 47 **Recoding the L gene of vesicular stomatitis virus by computer-aided synthesis leads to unexpected biological phenotypes**
Bingyin Wang, Gergely Tekes, Charles Ward, Steve Skiena, Bruce Futcher, Steffen Mueller, Sean Whelan, and **Eckard Wimmer**
- 19:30 Guided tour of Granada and free evening
- Poster Presentation**
- 48 **Functional interaction between PB2 and PA polymerase subunits of influenza virus is a critical determinant of the replication of**
Koyu Hara, Yoko Nakazono, Takahito Kashiwagi, Nobuyuki Hamada, Hiroshi Watanabe
- 49 **The N-terminal fragment of influenza A virus (H5N1) PB2 subunit strongly inhibits its RNA-dependent RNA polymerase**
Takahito Kashiwagi*, Koyu Hara, Yoko Nakazono, Yusaku Uemura, Yoshihiro Imamura, Nobuyuki Hamada, Hiroshi Watanabe
- 50 **Role of non-coding sequences in Arenavirus mRNAs translation**
Sabrina Foscaldi, Alejandra D'Antuono, Nora Lopez
- 51 **Mutations in the mRNA capping enzyme active site of the VSV L protein induce abnormal transcription initiation and termination**
Tomoaki Ogino, Amiya K. Banerjee
- 52 **A novel regulatory mechanism determining the genome polarity of the Mononegavirales**
Takashi Irie, Isao Okamoto, Asuka Yoshida, Yoshiyuki Nagai, Takemasa Sakaguchi
- 53 **Efficient rescue and reverse genetics of viruses from all Paramyxovirinae genera without the use vaccinia-driven T7 polymerase**
Shannon M Beaty, Arnold Park, Tatyana Yun, Olivier Pernet, Frederic Vigant, Adria Allen, Yao Wang, Mike Lyons, Nancy L. McQueen, Alexander N Freiberg, Subbiah Elankumaran, Paul Duprex, Benhur Lee



- 54 **THE ROLES OF PHOSPHORYLATION OF THE MUMPS VIRUS PHOSPHOPROTEIN IN VIRUS REPLICATION**
Adrian Pickar, Pei Xu, James Zengel, Andrew Elson, Zhuo Li, Zhenhai Chen and Biao He
- 55 **Factors affecting respiratory syncytial virus polymerase activity at the promoters**
Sarah Noton, Laure Deflubé, Chadene Tremaglio, Rachel Fearn
- 56 **An alternative method to determine the 5' extremities of non-segmented, negative sense RNA viral genomes using positive replicat**
Paul A. Brown, Francois-Xavier Briand, Olivier Guionie, Evelyne Lemaitre, Celine Courtillon, Aurelie Henry, Véronique Jestin and Nicolas Eterradosi
- 57 **Establishment of a Nipah virus reverse genetics system**
Erik Dietzel, Bevan Sawatsky, Markus Czub, Gary Kobinger, Veronika von Messling, Andrea Maisner
- 58 **Strategies of avian influenza A virus polymerases for efficient replication after zoonotic transmissión**
Benjamin Mänz, Ron Fouchier
- 59 **Defective interfering particles hamper continuous influenza virus propagation**
Timo Frensing, Stefan Heldt, Ilona Behrendt, Ingo Jordan, Yvonne Genzel, Udo Reichl
- 60 **Effect of nuclear export protein (NEP) of influenza virus on regulation of polymerase activity and viral RNA síntesis**
Hongbo Zhou, Anna V. Cauldwell, Olivier Moncorgé, Wendy S. Barclay
- 61 **Ebola virus: transcriptional RNA editing versus premature poly-adenylation.**
Valentina A. Volchkova, Jaroslav Vorac, Viktor E. Volchkov
- 62 **Development of a reverse genetics system to generate recombinant Marburg virus derived from a bat isolate**
Luke Uebelhoer, Cesar Albarino, Joel Vincent, Stuart Nichol, Jonathan Towner
- 63 **Spatiotemporal analysis reveals inclusion bodies as sites of ebola-virus replication**
Thomas Hoenen, Vinod Nair, Reed Shabman, Allison Groseth, Astrid Herwig, Christopher F. Basler, Stephan Becker, Heinz Feldmann
- 64 **Molecular requirements for inhibiting viral RNA synthesis and host responses by the Nipah virus C protein,** David Karlin, Stuart Nichol, Christina Spiroloulou
- 65 **Analysis of MARV Viral Genome Non-coding Regions**
Jesus Alonso, Jean L. Patterson



- 66 **Elucidating the biochemical determinants for restriction of influenza virus polymerase activity by PB2 627E in mammalian cells** by TCPDF
Duncan Paterson, Ervin Fodor
- 67 **Phosphorylation of Marburg virus NP and its influence on replication and assembly**
Anne Brueggemann, Olga Dolnik, Stephan Becker
- 68 **Involvement of some P residues in the replication complex activity of rabies virus**
Florence Larrous, Olivier Delmas, Alexander Ghanem, Karl Klaus Conzelmann, Hervé Bourhy
- 69 **Growth kinetic analysis of recombinant measles viruses containing mutations in the phosphorylation sites of nucleoprotein**
Akihiro Sugai, Hiroki Sato, Misako Yoneda, Chieko Kai
- 70 **Efficient rescue and reverse genetics of viruses from all Paramyxovirinae genera without the use vaccinia-driven T7 polymerase**
Shannon M Beaty, Arnold Park1, Tatyana Yun, Olivier Pernet, Frederic Vigant, Adria Allen, Yao Wang, Michael Lyons, Linda J. Rennick, Nancy L. McQueen, Alexander N Freiberg, Subbiah Elankumaran, W. Paul Duprex, Benhur Lee

Tuesday June 18**Session III: Structure and Function**

Chairpersons :Ming Luo and Adolfo Garcia Sastre

10:00-10:10: Chairpersons's remarks

- 10:10-10:30 71 **Self-organization of the vesicular stomatitis virus nucleocapsid into a bullet shape**
Ambroise Desfosses, Euripedes A. Ribeiro Jr, Guy Schoehn, Gregory Effantin, Danielle Blondel, Delphine Guilligay, Marc Jamin, Rob W. H. Ruigrok and **Irina Gutsche**
- 10:30-10:50 72 **The crystal structure and RNA-binding of an orthomyxovirus nucleoprotein**
Wenjie Zheng, John Olson, Vikram Vakharia, **Yizhi Jane Tao**
- 10:50-11:10 73 **Functional and structural studies on Schmallenberg virus, a newly emerged orthobunyavirus in Europe**
Richard M. Elliott, Gjon Blakqori, Ingeborg C. van Knippenberg, Elina Koudriakova, Ping Li, Angela McLees, Xiaohong Shi, Agnieszka M. Szemiel, Haohao Dong and Changjiang Dong
- 11:10-11:20 74 **Structural basis for encapsidation of genomic RNA by La Crosse Orthobunyavirus nucleoprotein**
Juan Reguera, Hélène Malet, Friedemann Weber and Stephen Cusack



11:20-11:30	75	Dissecting the Multifunctional Nucleoprotein of Arenaviruses Emilio Ortiz-Riaño , Benson Y.H. Cheng, Juan C. de la Torre, Luis Martínez-Sobrido
11:30 -12 :30		Coffee break-Poster session
12:30-12:50	76	Structural analyses of influenza A virus polymerase and RNPs RocíoArranz, Rocío Coloma, Patricia Resa-Infante, NoeliaZamarreño, Maria Angeles Recuero-Checa, Roberto Melero, José M. Valpuesta, José L. Carrascosa, Oscar Llorca, Jaime Martín-Benito and Juan Ortín
12:50-13:10	77	Biochemical and biophysical analysis of disctinctive human resiratory syncytial virus proteins: phospoprotein, M2-1 antiterminat Sebastián Esperante, Esteban Pretel and Gonzalo de Prat Gay , Fundación Instituto Leloir. IIBBA CONICET. Buenos Aires, Argentina
13:10-13:30	78	A polymerase supercomplex within vesicular stomatitis virus Jeffery Hodges, Xiaolin Tang, Michael B. Landesman, John B. Ruedas, Anil Ghimire, Manasa V. Gudheti(, Jacques Perrault, Erik M. Jorgensen, Jordan M. Gerton and SaveezSaffarian
13:30-13:50	79	Crystal structure of the N0-P complex of Nipah virus and of VSV provide new insights into the encapsidation mechanism FilipYabukarski, CédricLeyrat, Nicolas Tarbouriech, MaleneRingkjøbing Jensen, Martin. Blackledge, Rob Ruigrok1 and Marc Jamin
13:50-15:20		Lunch- Poster session

Poster Presentation

- 80** **Functional insights into measles virus NTAIL-PXD interaction using the biGene/biSilencing (biG/BiS) system**
Joanna Brunel, Antoine Gruet, Marion Dosnon, Patricia Devaux, Roberto Cattaneo, Sonia Longhi et Denis Gerlier
- 81** **A STRUCTURE FUNCTION ANALYSIS OF THE SENDAI VIRUS MATRIXPROTEIN USING AN INTEGRATED SUPPRESSION COMPLEMENTATION SYTEM (ISCS)**
Geneviève Mottet-Osman and Laurent Roux
- 82** **Isolation and characterization of an N^o-P complex of the Respiratory Syncytial Virus**
Marie Galloux, Gaëlle Gabiane, Jean-François Eléouët



- 83 **Amino acid substitutions in human respiratory syncytial virus N protein affect differentially viral transcription and replication**
Ana Asenjo, Maria Luisa Navarro and Nieves Villanueva
- 84 **Labeling of influenza viruses with synthetic fluorescent and biotin-labeled lipids**
Natalia A. Ilyushina, Evgeny S. Chernyy, Elena Y. Korchagina, Aleksandra S. Gambaryan, Stephen M. Henry, Peter F. Wright, Nicolai V. Bovin
- 85 **Disulphide-linked CM2 oligomers are required for efficient replication of influenza C virus**
Yasushi Muraki, Takako Okuwa, Toshiki Himeda, Seiji Hongo, Yoshiro Ohara
- 86 **Structure of the mumps virus phosphoprotein**
Robert Cox, Todd J. Green, Sangeetha, Champion Deivanayagam, Gregory J. Bedwell, Peter E. Prevelige and Ming Luo
- 87 **Location and structure of an antibody-binding site of the body domain of influenza A virus nucleoprotein**
Natalia Varich, Galina Sadykova, Prilipov Alexey, Kochergin-Nikitsky Konstantin, Kaverin Nikolai
- 88 **Influenza virus non-structural protein NS1 cooperatively binds virus-specific (+)-strand RNA sequences**
Daniel MARC, Denis Soubieux
- 89 **NMR reveals alpha-helical propensity in RSV P protein outside the oligomerization domain**
Safa Lassoued, Marie Galloux, Jenna Fix2, Carine Van Heijenoort, François Bontems, Jean-François Eléouët, Christina Sizun
- 90 **Characterization of the multiple Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever Virus Nucleoprotein interactions**
Jessica M. Levingston Mac leod, Natalia Frías-Staheli and Adolfo García-Sastre
- 91 **NiV N expression is repressed by hnRNP D with its binding to NiV N 3'UTR**
Kimihiro Hino, Hiroki Sato, Akihiro Sugai, Masahiko Kato, Misako Yoneda, Chieko Kai
- 92 **Interactions between the Sendai virus HN glycoprotein and the matrix M protein**
Anastasia Shevtsova, Manel Essaidi-Laziosi, Laurent Roux
- 94 **The Cys3-His1 Zinc binding motif of the hRSV M2-1 tetramer modulates its dissociation to folded apo-monomers.**
Sebastian Esperante, Maria Gabriela Noval, Tamara Antonella, and Gonzalo de Prat Gay



- 95 **The Measles Virus Nucleoprotein Tail is Required for Packaging of Viral Polymerase Components into Nascent Particles**
Stefanie Krumm, Richard Plemper
- 96 **Folding and conformational diversity of the non-structural NS1 protein from hRSV.**
Esteban Pretel, Mariana Gallo, Gabriela Camporeale and Gonzalo de Prat Gay
- 97 **Probing conformational changes of the RSV F protein using conformation-specific antibodies and recombinant soluble F proteins**
Alan Rigter, Ivy Widjaja, Peter J.M. Rottier, Bert Jan Haijema, Cornelis A.M. de Haan
- 98 **Structural characterization of measles virus P oligomerization domain**
David Blocquel, Johnny Habchi, Eric Durand, François Ferron, Nicolas Papageorgiou and Sonia Longhi
- 99 **The N-terminus of NEP of Influenza A viruses regulates the polymerase-enhancing function by backfolding to the C-terminu**
Peter Reuther, Linda Brunotte, Veronika Götz, Martin Schwemmle

Session IV: Host-cell interactions

Chairpersons: Denis Gerlier and Peter Staehli

15:20-15:30: Chairpersons's remarks

- 15:30-15:50 100 **Lyssavirus targeting of STAT proteins: a critical determinant of pathogenicity and potential therapeutic target**
Linda Wiltzer , Aaron Brice , Satoko Yamaoka , Florence Larrous, Herve Bourhy , Danielle Blondel , David Jans , Naoto Ito , Gregory Moseley
- 15:50-16:10 101 **Marburg virus structural protein VP24 acts as an activator of Nrf2 pathway by targeting cellular Keap1.**
A.Page, SP.Reid, M.Mateo, K.Nemirov, V.A.Volchkova, A.C.Shurtleff, P.Lawrence, A.Baule, O.Reynard, M.Ottmann, V.Lotteau, R.K.Thimmulappa, S.Biswal, S.Bavari, V.E.Volchkov
- 16:10-16:20 102 **Identification of an Endocytic Calcium Channel TPC2 as a Novel Host Factor of Ebolavirus Infection**
Yasuteru Sakarai, Andrey A. Kolokoltsov, Robert A. Davey
- 16:20-16:40 103 **Epigenetic Factors in Arenavirus Infection: Roles for Glycosylation and Phosphorylation**
Michael Buchmeier, Cyrille Bonhomme, Kristeene Knoop, Lydia Bederka



- 16:40-16:50 104 **The Intracellular Cargo Receptor ERGIC-53 is Required for the Production of Infectious Arenavirus Particles**
Joseph P. Klaus , Philip Eisenhauer, Joanne Russo, Anne Mason, Danh Do1, Benjamin King, Douglas Taatjes, Cromwell Cornillez-Ty, Jonathan Boyson, ChunleiZheng, Lujian Liao, John R. Yates III, Bin Zhang, Bryan A. Ballif, and Jason Botten
- 16:50 -17 :50 Coffee break-Poster session
- 17:50-18:00 105 **Deciphering the glycosylome of dystroglycanopathies with a haploid genetic screen for Lassa virus cell entry**
MatthijsRaaben, Lucas T. Jae, MoniekRiemersma, Ellen van Beusekom, Vincent A. Blomen, Arno Velds, Ron. M. Kerkhoven, Jan E. Carette, HalukTopaloglu, Peter Meinecke, Marja W. Wessels, Dirk J. Lefeber, Hans van Bokhoven, Thijn R. Brummelkamp and Sean P. Whelan
- 18:00-18:10 106 **Nairobi Sheep Disease Virus (NSDV) blocks the JAK-STAT-signalling pathway at the level of the Janus kinases**
Barbara Holzer, Michael D Baron
- 18:10-18:20 107 **Analysis of the NSs protein of the newly emerged Schmallenberg virus**
Gerald Barry , Mariana Varela , Marco Caporale , FraukeSeehusen, MaximeRatinier , Esther Schnettler, Iliaria M. Piras , Melanie McFarlane , Wolfgang Baumgärtner , Alain Kohl, Massimo Palmarini
- 18:20-18:40 108 **Fragile X Mental Retardation Protein Stimulates Ribonucleoprotein Assembly of Influenza A Virus**
Zhuo Zhou, Yang Guo, Lili Zhao, Jingfeng Wang1, Xue Jia Qinghua Xue, Sheng Cui, Qi Jin, Jianwei Wang, **Tao Deng**
- 18:40-18:50' 109 **The Splicing Factor Proline-Glutamine Rich (SFPQ/PSF) Is essential in Influenza Virus Polyadenilation**
Sara Landeras-Bueno, Núria Jorba, Maite Pérez-Cidoncha and Juan Ortín
- 18:50-19:00 110 **Viral proteins and RIG-I like receptor interaction**
Maria T Sanchez-Aparicio, Juan Ayllon, Adolfo Garcia-Sastre
- 19:00-19:10 111 **B-1 is a porter to lead influenza viral ribonucleoprotein complexes to microtubules**
Atsushi KAWAGUCHI,Kyosuke NAGATA
- 20:00 Alhambra's visit + dinner in the gardens overlooking Granada by night

Poster Presentation

- 112 **Interaction between human parainfluenza virus type 2 V protein and an antiviral host factor, tetherin**
Machiko Nishio, Keisuke Ohta, Masato Tsurudome, Daniel Kolakofsky



- 113 **Extrinsic apoptosis subversion by RSV P in macrophages**
Yuko Nakamura-López, Nicolás Villegas-Sepulveda , Beatriz Gómez
- 113.a **Paradoxical effect of nitric oxide on respiratory syncytial virus replication in a persistently infected murine macrophage cell**
Kenya M. Maldonado-Pérez, Carlos Santiago-Olivares, Beatriz Gómez
- 114 **Tracking of fluorescently labeled Newcastle Disease Viruses in living cells**
Angela Römer-Oberdörfer, Anja Röder, Stefan Finke, and Thomas C. Mettenleiter
- 115 **Hsp70 protein positively regulates Rabies Virus infection**
Xavier Lahaye, Aurore Vidy, Baptiste Fouquet, Danielle Blondel
- 116 **CELL-SURFACE RECEPTOR USAGE OF OCOZOCOAUTLA DE ESPINOSA VIRUS**
Yíngyún Cai, Steven Mazur¹, Shuǐqìng Yú¹, Lián D ñg, Krisztina Janosko¹, Téngfēi Zhāng, Marcel A. Müller, Sina Bavari, Peter B. Jahrling, Sheli R. Radoshitzky, and Jens H. Kuhn
- 117 **Deciphering the antiviral activity of the human Mx system in a transgenic mouse model**
Christoph Deeg, Pascal Mutz, Carsten Kalfass, Cindy Nürnberger, Sébastien Soubies and Peter Staeheli
- 118 **The host-cell transcription machinery is a target for influenza virus polymerase-induced degradation that contributes to viral**
A. Rodriguez, R. Alfonso, C. Llompарт & A. Nieto
- 119 **Phospholipase (PLC) gamma 1 signaling plays a subtype-specific role in cell entry of influenza A virus**
Liqian Zhu, Vikram Verma, Naveen Kumar, Nishi R. Sharma, and Yuying Liang
Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, MN 55108. USA.
- 120 **Isolation and Characterization of Hokkaido Virus, Genus Hantavirus**
Takahiro Sanada¹, Yuka Ozaki, Takahiro Seto, Momoko Nakao, Saa-sa Ngonda, Kumiko Yoshimatsu², Jiro Arikawa, Kentaro Yoshii, Ikuo Takashima and Hiroaki Kariwa
- 121 **Relative cytopathogenesis of RSV in nasal epithelial cell cultures from infant cohorts with histories of severe and mild RSV.**
Hong Guo-Parke, Olivier Touzelet, Isobel Douglas, Rémi Villenave¹, Liam G. Heaney, Peter V. Coyle, Michael D. Shields and Ultan F. Power
- 122 **ANP32B is a Nuclear Target of Hendra Virus Matrix Protein**
Sebastian Neumann, Axel Karger, Ann-Kristin Henning, Linda Kwasnitschka, Anne Balkema-Buschmann, Günther Keil, Stefan Finke
- 123 **High-content siRNA screen to identify cellular factors required for infection of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus**
Olena Shtanko, Raisa Nikitina, Alexander Chepurnov, Robert Davey



- 124 **Host mTORC1 signaling regulates Andes virus replication**
Shannon McNulty, Michael Flint, Stuart Nichol, Christina Spiropoulou
- 125 **Differential recognition of arenavirus glycoproteins and cellular substrates by subtilisin kexin isozyme 1/site 1 protease**
Dominique J. Burri, Joel Ramos da Palma, Nabil G. Seidah, Giuseppe Zanotti, Laura Cendron, Antonella Pasquat1, and Stefan Kunz
- 126 **Viral dsRNA detection by the RIG-I Like Receptors family**
Jessica Guerra, Stéphanie Anchisi, Dominique Garcin
- 127 **Dissecting the molecular interaction of influenza A virus RNA polymerase and host RNA polymerase II.**
Mónica Martínez-Alonso, Narin Hengrung, Lauren Turrell,
- 128 **African Henipavirus surface proteins promote viral entry, cell fusion & cytopathic effects in Human, Simian & Bat cell lines**
Philip Lawrence, Jan-Felix Drexler, Victor Max Corman, Beatriz Escudero-Perez1, Valentina Volchkova, Marcel Müller, Christian Drosten & Viktor Volchkov
- 129 **Mutual Antagonism between Ebola virus VP35 and PACT**
Priya Luthra, Parameshwaran Ramanan, Chad Mire, Carla Weisend, Yoshimi Tsuda, Benjamín Yen, Daisy W. Leung, Thomas W. Geisbert, Hideki Ebihara, Gaya. K. Amarasinghe, Christopher F. Basler
- 130 **Residue 57 of the Marburg Virus VP40 Matrix Protein Determines Resistance to Human Tetherin**
Alicia Feagins, Christopher Basler
- 131 **Borna disease virus X protein: a new tool against neurodegenerative disorders?**
Marion Szelechowski , Alexandre Bétourné, Yann Monnet, Anne Thouard, Jean-Michel Peyrin, Stéphane Hunot, Daniel Gonzalez-Dunia
- 132 **Length of the NS1 linker region determines pathogenicity of a highly pathogenic H5N1 influenza A virus**
Mirco Schmolke, Benjamin G Hale, Rong Hai, Jianqiang Ye, Balaji Manicassamy, Daniel R Perez, Adolfo García Sastre
- 133 **The tetraspanin proteins, CD81 and CD9, promote efficient influenza A virus budding through interactions with HA and NA**
Yuhong Liang, Megan L. Shaw
- 134 **Importance of the P2 and P3 residues of fusion proteins of respiratory viruses for their proteolytic activation by TMPRSS2**
Maino Tahara, Masako Abe, Kouji Sakai, Kazuya Shirato, Kazuhiko Kanou1, Shutoku Matsuyama1, Hideo Fukuhara, Katsumi Maenaka, Yasushi Ami, Mariko Esumi, Atsushi Kato, Makoto Takeda



- 135 **Influenza A virus NS1 and PI3K: strain and isotype specificity of a complex virus-host interaction**
Ayllon Juan, Hale Benjamin G., Sánchez-Aparicio María T., García-Sastre Adolfo
- 136 **Modulatory effect of heat shock protein 70 (Hsp70) on influenza A virus polymerase activity**
Rashid Manzoor, Kazumichi Kuroda, Reiko Yoshida, Yoshimi Tsuda, Daisuke Fujikura, Hiroko Miyamoto, Masahiro Kajihara, Hiroshi Kida, Ayato Takada
- 137 **The importin- α 7 gene is a determinant of influenza virus cell tropism in the murine lung**
Patricia Resa-Infante, René Thieme, Petra Arck, Rudolph Reimer, Gülsah Gabriel
- 138 **Characterization of influenza virus receptors in the respiratory tract of ferrets**
Miranda de Graaf, Angela van Diepen, Monique I. Spronken, Sander Herfst, Corneel H. Smit, Albert D.M.E. Osterhaus, Derek J. Smith, Corneel H. Hokke, Ron A.M. Fouchier
- 139 **Novel host factors that promote influenza A virus uncoating**
Yohei Yamauchi, Ari Helenius
- 140 **Identification of host factors interacting Borna disease virus ribonucleoprotein in the nucleus**
Tomoyuki Honda, Akiko Makino, Kan Fujino, Kozue Sofuku, Shoko Nakamura, Keizo Tomonaga
- 141 **Analysis of cell entry of a novel arenavirus, Lujo virus, using pseudotype VSV**
Hideki Tani, Masayuki Shimojima, Shuetsu Fukushi, Tomoki Yoshikawa, Masayuki Saijo, and Shigeru Morikawa
- 142 **Role of cholesterol transporter proteins NPC1 and NPC1L1 in Lujo virus entry and replication.**
Punya Shrivastava-Ranjan, Ayan K Chakraborti, Stuart T Nichol, Chrsitina F Spiropoulou
- 143 **Cellular adaptation for establishment of measles virus persistent infection in culture**
TOMOMITSU DOI, HIROKI SATO, MISAKO YONEDA, CHIEKO KAI
- 144 **DDX1 and DDX3 as potential host factors affecting influenza virus replication in Swine Respiratory Epithelial cells (SRECs)**
Sathya Narayanan Thulasi Raman, Yan Zhou
- 145 **Influenza A virus protein PB1-F2 reduces viral pathogenesis in chicken**
Olivier Leymarie , Hana Weingartl, Bernard Delmas,Ronan Le Goffic



- 146 **Characterization of the role of human cathepsin W in the entry process of influenza A virus**
Thomas Edinger, Marie-Theres Pohl, Silke Stertz
- 147 **Primary airway epithelial cells from swine provide a model system to study proteolytic activation of influenza viruses**
C. Peitsch, H.- D. Klenk, W. Garten, E. Böttcher-Friebertshäuser
- 148 **The regulation and functional significance of GALNT3 expression during influenza A virus infection**
Shoko Nakamura, Masayuki Horie, Mayo Yasugi, Daisuke Okuzaki, Akiko Makino, Tomoyuki Honda, Keizo Tomonaga
- 149 **Nairobi sheep disease virus causes translocation of ER chaperones in infected cells**
Lidia Lasecka, Haru-Hisa Takamatsu, Dirk Werling, Michael D Baron
- 150 **Junin virus NP but not Tacaribe virus NP serves a decoy-function to prevent apoptosis induction during infection**
Svenja Wolff, Allison Groseth, Stephan Becker
- 151 **Prolidase (PEPD) is a required human factor for influenza A virus entry**
Marie-Theres Pohl, Thomas Edinger, Silke Stertz
- 152 **Host-dependence of the thermosensitivity of measles virus vaccine strains and critical function of HSP90 in viral replication**
Louis-Marie Bloyet, Jérémy Welsch, Jessica Rabilloud, Branka Horvat, Denis Gerlier, Boyan Grigorov.
- 153 **Novel insights into the divergent mechanisms of paramyxovirus immune evasion**
Michelle Audsley, Glenn Marsh, Mary Tachedjian, Linfa Wang, David Jans, and Gregory Moseley.



Wednesday June 19

09:00-10:00 Put up posters for sessions V-VIII

Session V: Antiviral response

Chairpersons : Klaus Conzelmann and Danielle Blondel

10:00-10:10: Chair persons's remarks

- | | | |
|---------------|-----|--|
| 10:10-10:20 | 154 | Paramyxovirus V proteins disrupt the fold of the innate immune sensor MDA5 to inhibit antiviral interferon response
<u>Carina Motz</u> , Kerstin Monika Schuhmann , Axel Kirchhofer , Manuela Moldt , Gregor Witte , Karl-Klaus Conzelmann , Karl-Peter Hopfner |
| 10:20-10:30 | 155 | Paramyxovirus V proteins interact with the TRIM25/RIG-I regulatory complex and inhibit RIG-I signaling
<u>Leighland J. Feinman</u> , Maria T. Sanchez-Aparicio , Adolfo García-Sastre, Megan L. Shaw |
| 10:30-10:40 | 156 | Molecular basis of RIG-I activation
<u>Stéphanie Anchisi</u> , Jessica Guerra, Dominique Garcin |
| 10:40-10:50 | 157 | Unanchored Lysine48-linked polyubiquitin chains positively regulate the type I IFN-mediated antiviral response
<u>Ricardo Rajsbaum</u> , Gijs A. Versteeg, Sonja Schmid, Ana M. Maestre, Alan Belicha-Villanueva, Jenish R. Patel, Juliet Morrison, Giuseppe Pisanelli, Ana Fernandez-Sesma, Benjamin R. ten Oever, Adolfo García-Sastre |
| 10:50-11:10 | 158 | STAT2 deficiency and susceptibility to (NSV) viral illness in humans
ophie Hambleton, Stephen Goodbourn, Dan F. Young, Paul Dickinson, Siti M.B. Mohamad, Manoj Valappil, Naomi McGovern, Andrew J. Cant , Scott Hackett, Peter Ghazal, Neil V. Morgan & <u>Richard E. Randall</u> |
| 11:10-11:20 | 150 | Differences in interferon β inhibition between the C proteins of measles virus vaccine and wildtype strains
<u>Konstantin Sparrer</u> , Christian K. Pfaller , Karl-Klaus Conzelmann |
| 11:20-11:30 | 160 | The matrix protein of rabies virus binds to RelAβ3 to suppress NF-κ-B dependent gene expression related to innate immunity
Youcef Ben Khalifa , Sophie Luco , Mehdi Archambaud , Olivier Delmas , Jonathan Grimes, <u>Hervé Bourhy</u> |
| 11:30 -12 :30 | | Coffee break-Poster session |
| 12:30-12:50 | 161 | Sequestration of RNA-regulating proteins in Ebola virus inclusions
Kristina Maria Schmidt , Emily Nelson Judith Olejnik , Kristina Brauburger , Travis Taylor , Logan Banadyga , Hideki Ebihara , <u>Elke Mühlberger</u> |



- 12:50-13:00 162 **Ebola Virus Secreted Glycoprotein Alters the Host Antibody Response via “Antigenic Subversion”**
Gopi S. Mohan, Ling Ye, Chinglai Yang, Richard W. Compans
- 13:00-13:10 163 **Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) NS1 protein inhibits host cell apoptosis mediated by the interferon induced transmembraneprot**
Shirin Munir, Peter L. Collins
- 13:10-13:20 164 **Utilization of host ubiquitin ligases by Rift Valley fever virus virulence factor NSs**
Markus Kainulainen , Matthias Habjan, Laura Busch , Philipp Hubel , Simone Lau , Andreas Pichlmair , GiulioSuperti-Furga, Friedemann Weber
- 13.20-13 :30 165 **Interferon-inducible Mx1 protein inhibits influenza virus by interfering with viral ribonucleoprotein complex assembly**
Judith Verhelst , EefParthoens , Bert Schepens , and Xavier Saelens
- 13 :30-13 :50 166 **Pandemic influenza A viruses escape from restriction by human MxA through adaptive mutations in the nucleoprotein**
Benjamin Mänz , Dominik Dornfeld , Veronika Götz , Roland Zell , Petra Zimmermann , Otto Haller , Georg Kochs and Martin Schwemmle
- 13:50-15:20 Lunch- Poster session

Poster Presentations:

- 167 **Chicken MDA5 senses short double-stranded RNA and is involved in interferon induction against influenza virus infection**
Takehiko Saito, Tsuyoshi Hayashi, Chiaki Watanabe, Yasushi Suzuki, Taichiro Tanikawa, Yuko Uchida
- 168 **Humoral response at immunization with live and inactivated EBOV**
Alexander Chepurnov
- 169 **Degradation of RIG-I and inhibition of IFN-beta induction by Toscana Virus NSs protein.**
Maria Grazia Cusi, Gianni Gori Savellini, Chiara Terrosi, Barbara Martorelli
- 170 **Cytokine profil in Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic fever**
Anna Papa, Katerina Tsergouli, Dilek Yağcı Çağlayık, Gulay Korukluoglu, Yavuz Uyar, Najada Como, Majlinda Kota, Eugena Tomini, Silvia Bino



- 171 **A Comprehensive Proteomic View of the Suppression of Host Cell Antiviral Responses by Respiratory Syncytial Virus**
Keyur Dave¹, Alexander Bukreyev, Emma Norris¹, Ursula Buchholz, Marcus Hastie, Madeleine Headlam, Buddhika Jayakody, Kirsten Spann, Cassandra Wright, Toshna Singh, Peter Collins and Jeffrey Gorman
- 172 **Influenza virus infection induced Ebp1 modification**
Aya Honda, Shinichiro Kume, Yukari Miyake, Koji Kadoi
- 173 **Intrinsic and innate immune properties of PMLIV during VSV infection**
Faten El Asmi, Mohamed Ali Maroui, Nathalie Roders, Danielle Blondel, Sébastien Nisole, and Mounira K. Chelbi-Alix
- 174 **Antigen editing by monocyte-derived dendritic cells in the lung shapes the quality of anti-influenza T cell immunity**
Jazmina L.G. Cruz, Anja Lüdtke, Sergio Gómez-Medina, José V. Pérez-Girón and César Muñoz-Fontela
- 175 **Both the C and V proteins of canine distemper virus play essential roles for the virus replication in human epithelial cells**
Noriyuki Otsuki, Tsuyoshi Sekizuka, Toru Kubota, Yuichiro Nakatsu, Fumio Seki, Kouji Sakai, Ryoji Yamaguchi, Hideo Fukuhara, Katsumi Maenaka, Makoto Kuroda, Makoto Takeda
- 176 **Responses to Pneumococcus in Human Influenza infection Directly Alters Innate IL-23 and IL-12p70 and Subsequent IL-17A and IFN-**
Sinead Loughran*, Patrick Power*, Samantha McQuaid, Ingileif Jonsdottir, Richard Lalor and Patricia A Johnson
- 177 **Prevalence and predictors for heterosubtypic antibodies against influenza A in Humans**
Ines Kohler, Alexandra U. Scherer, Osvaldo Zagordi, Arkadiusz Wyrzucki, Matteo Bianchi, Marco Steck, Bruno Ledergerber, Huldrych F. Günthard and Lars Hangartner
- 178 **Inhibition of Borna disease virus replication by an endogenous bornavirus element in ground squirrel genome**
Kan Fujino, Masayuki Horie, Tomoyuki Honda, Keizo Tomonaga
- 179 **Systematic Identification and Characterization of Interferon-Induced Antiviral Factors**
Yao Wang, Su-Yang Liu, Roghiyh Aliyari, Genhong Cheng
- 180 **Interferon (IFN) induces an antiviral state in cells that results in alterations of the patterns**
Jelena Andrejeva, Hanna Norsted, Stephen Goodbourn, Rick Randall
- 181 **Interactions between Natural Killer cells and antigen presenting cells during the infection by Lassa virus**
Marion Russier, Stéphanie Reynard, Sylvain Baize



- 182 **Variation in the interferon response induced by influenza A virus strains.**
Konrad Bradley, Lorian Hartgroves, Ruth Elderfield, Holly Shelton and Wendy Barclay.
- 183 **Deep sequencing analysis of defective genomes of parainfluenza virus 5 and their role in interferon induction.**
Marian Killip, Dan Young, Derek Gatherer, Craig Ross, Andrew Davison, Steve Goodbourn, Richard Randall
- 184 **RVFV growth in human macrophages is severely restricted by knockout of a PSL motif in the virus NSs virulence factor**
Anita K McElroy, Kimberly A Dodd, Stuart T Nichol and Christina F Spiropoulou
- 185 **Interferon-inducible antiviral protein Tetherin/BST-2 inhibits Hazara virus Replication**
Yohei Kurosaki, Akiko Nishimura, Shuzo Urata and Jiro Yasuda
- 186 **Interaction between human parainfluenza virus type 2 V protein and tetherin, an antiviral host factor**
Keisuke Ohta, Hideo Goto, Natsuko Yumine, Machiko Nishio
- 187 **Inhibition of NF- κ B activation by peptide derived from nucleoprotein of Bornavirus**
Akiko Makino, Kan Fujino, Yuya Hirai, Kozue Sofuku, Shoko Nakamura, Shohei Kojima, Tomoyuki Honda, Keizo Tomonaga
- 188 **The never-ending battle between the Innate Immune System and the viruses: Influenza A NS1 protein**
Jessica Guerra, Stéphanie Anchisi, Dominique Garcin
- 189 **Mononegavirales leader RNA as agonist of RIG-I**
LOUBER Jade, BLOYET Louis-Marie, KOWALINSKI Eva, CUSACK Stephen, GERLIER Denis
- 190 **Different production of a viral RNA species between Sendai virus strains causes their remarkable difference in IFN inducibility**
Asuka Yoshida, Ryoko Kawabata, Takemasa Sakaguchi, Takashi Irie
- 191 **Measles Virus Neutralization: Genotype-dependent neutralization epitopes in the Hemagglutinin protein which are immunogenic in natural infection and vaccination and elicit a long-term B cell memory.**
Miguel Ángel Muñoz-Alía, César Santiago, José M. Casasnovas, María L. Celma y Rafael Fernández-Muñoz
- 192 **PPRV, The role of its accessory proteins in the inhibition of the induction of IFN β**
Beatriz Sanz Bernardo, Stephen Goodbourn, Michael D Baron



- 193 **Respiratory syncytial virus induces but antagonises innate antiviral responses in well-differentiated paediatric primary bronchi**
Rémi Villenave, Lindsay Broadbent, Isobel Douglas, Jeremy D. Lyons, Peter V. Coyle, Michael N. Teng, Ralph A. Tripp, Liam G. Heaney, Michael D. Shields, Ultan F. Power
- 194 **An UNBIASSED GENETIC SCREEN REVEALS the POLY-GENIC NATURE of the INFLUENZA VIRUS ANTI-INTERFERON RESPONSE**
Maite Pérez-Cidoncha, Marian J. Killip, Juan C. Oliveros, Víctor Asensio, José A. Bengoechea, Richard E. Randall, Juan Ortín
- 195 **Characterizing the antiviral response of the Pteropus vampyrus bat, an important ecological reservoir of henipaviruses**
Nicole B Glenno, Omar Jabado, Michael K Lo, Megan L Shaw
- 196 **Rabies virus P-protein interaction with STAT proteins is critical to lethal rabies Disease**
L. Wiltzer, S. Yamaoka (3), F. Larrous, H.V. Kuusisto , D. Blondel, A. Brice, H. Bourhy, D.A. Jans, N. Ito and G.W. Moseley
- 197 **Determinants for dsRNA-binding and PKR inhibition in the NS1 protein of influenza A virus as revealed by reverse genetics**
Kristina L. Schierhorn, Katrin Hoegner, Julia Dzieciolowski, Susanne Herold, Stephan Pleschka, Thorsten Wolffl
- 198 **ISG15 and its role in the restriction of influenza A virus host range**
Jessica Knepper, Viola K. Weinheimer, Thorsten Wolff

Session VI: Pathogenesis

Chairpersons: Otto Haller and Yoshi Kawaoka

15:20-15:30 Chairpersons's remarks

- 15:30-15:50 199 **Impact of borna disease virus persistence on neuronal homeostasis**
AlexandreBétourné, Marion Szelechowski, Emilie Bonnaud, Anne Thouard, Charlotte Foret, Daniel Gonzalez-Dunia, Cécile E. Malnou
- 15:50-16:10 200 **Cedar virus: A novel henipavirus isolated from Australian bats**
Glenn A Marsh, Lin-Fa Wang
- 16:10-16:20 201 **Soluble Proteins Of Ebola Virus Activate Dendritic Cells And Macrophages Causing Release Of Pro- And Anti-Inflammatory Cytokines**
Beatriz Escudero Pérez, Philip Lawrence and Viktor Volchkov
- 16:20-16:30 202 **Human Metapneumovirus SH and G glycoproteins Inhibit Macropinocytosis-Mediated Entry Into Dendritic Cells and Reduce CD4+ T Cell**
Cyril Le Nouën, PhilippaHillyer , Linda G Brock , Christine C Winter , Ronald L Rabin , Peter L Collins , and Ursula J Buchholz



- 16:30-16:40 203 **Wild Type Measles Virus Infection Up-Regulates PVRL4 and Causes Apoptosis in Brain Endothelial Cells by Induction of TRAIL**
Hani'ah, Abdullah , Brenda Brankin , Clare Brady , S. Louise Cosby
- 16:40-16:50 204 **Furin cleavage and in vivo imaging of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus secreted non-structural glycoproteins**
Éric Bergeron, Dennis A. Bente, Ayan K. Chakrabarti, Alexander McAuley, Jessica R. Spengler, Stuart T. Nichol, César G. Albariño, Christina F. Spiropoulou
- 16:50-17 :00 205 **Contribution of the NSm proteins of Rift Valley Fever virus to virus propagation and virulence in mammalian and arthropod hosts**
Felix Kreher, Carole Tamietti , Celine Gomet , Laurent Guillemot , Anna-Bella Failloux , Jean Jacques Panthier , Michèle Bouloy , Marie Flamand
- 17:00 -18:00 Coffee break-Poster session
- 18:00-18:10 206 **Hantavirus infection confers resistance to NK cell-mediated killing and hantavirus N protein inhibits gzmB and caspase 3**
Shawon Gupta, Monika Braun, Nicole Tischler, Malin Stoltz, Karin Sundström, Niklas Björkström
- 18:10-18:30 207 **The hemagglutinin, nucleoprotein and neuraminidase gene segments contribute to virulence in a chimeric H4/H5 avian influenza virus**
Jutta Veits, Jana Hundt, Siegfried Weber, Jürgen Stech and Thomas C. Mettenleiter, Institute of Molecular Biology, Friedrich
- 18:30-18:40 208 **Mitochondrial Targeting Sequence Mutations In PB1-F2 Protein Enhance The Virulence of Pandemic H1N1 Influenza A Virus**
Subbiah Elankumaran, Jagadeeswaran Deventhiran, Sandeep RP Kumar
- 18:40-18:50 209 **Newly identified motifs of influenza A protein PB1-F2 that prime viral and secondary bacterial pneumonia**
Irina Alymova, Amali Samarasinghe, Amanda Green, Peter Vogel, Jon McCullers
- 18:50-19:00 210 **A Systems Biology Approach Reveals Novel Host Response Genes that Differentially Regulate Influenza Virus Pathogenicity**
Amie J. Eisfeld , Hugh Mitchell , Michael G. Katze , Katrina M. Waters , and Yoshihiro Kawaoka Free evening



Poster Presentation

- 211 **Efficient induction of viral encephalitis after aerosol exposure to Rift Valley Fever Virus**
Amy L. Hartman, Diana S. Powell, Laura M. Bethel, Amy L. Caroline, Jacquelyn M. Bales, Richard J. Schmid, Timothy D. Oury, and Douglas S. Reed
- 212 **Heterologous exchanges of non-virion protein and glycoprotein in Novirhabdoviruses: effects on pathogenicity and host specificity**
Arun Ammayappan, Gael Kurath, Tarin Thompson, Shamila Yusuff, Vikram Vakharia
- 213 **Experimental infection of rhesus and cynomolgus macaques with a wild water bird-derived highly pathogenic avian influenza virus**
Tomoko Fujiyuki, Misako Yoneda, Fumihiko Yasui, Takeshi Kurai-shi, Shosaku Hattori, Hyun-jeong Kwon, Keisuke Munekata, Yuri Kiso, Hiroshi Kida, Michinori Kohara, Chieko Kai
- 214 **Symptomatic highly pathogenic avian influenza virus restores pathogenicity in chicken by serial egg passages**
Yuko Uchida, Yasushi Suzuki, Takehiko Saito
- 215 **The incubation period is longer than the latent period in chickens and turkeys experimentally infected with Highly Pathogenic Av**
James Seekings, Chad Fuller, Caroline Warren, June Mynn, Ross Cooper, Elizabeth Aldous, Richard M. Irvine and Ian H. Brow
- 216 **Pathogenesis of infection of pregnant gilts with H1N2 swine influenza virus**
Iwona Markowska-Daniel, Krzysztof Kwit, Małgorzata Pomorska-Mól
- 217 **Novel paramyxovirus causes severe illness in a wildlife biologist working in South Sudan and Uganda**
Cesar G. Albariño, Michael Foltzer, Jonathan Towner, Mike Frace, Shelley Campbell, Carlos M. Jaramillo, Brian Bird, DeeAnn Reeder, Megan Vodzak, Paul Rota, Christina Spiropoulou, Barbara Knust, Stuart T. Nichol, Pierre E. Rollin, Ute Stroher
- 218 **Type II pneumocytes are the major target cells for seasonal and highly pathogenic influenza A viruses in the human lung**
Viola K. Weinheimer, Anne Becher, Jessica Knepper, Stefan Hippenstiel, Andreas Hocke, Thorsten Wolff
- 219 **Subacute Sclerosing Panencephalitis: Where does Measles Virus persist inside the host? Some facts and one hypothesis**
Rafael Fernandez-Muñoz¹, Juan Carabaña*, Monserrat Caballero*, Miguel A. Muñoz-Alfá, and María L. Celma
- 220 **Fatal encephalitis in African green monkeys and common marmosets after aerosol infection with Rift Valley Fever virus.**
Douglas Reed, Diana Powell, Laura Bethel, Amy Caroline, Anita Trichel, Timothy Oury, and Amy Hartman



- 221 **Avian Influenza Virus Hemagglutinins H2, H4, H8, and H14 support a highly pathogenic phenotype**
Olga Stech, Jutta Veits, El-Sayed Abdelwhab, Ute Wessels, Siegfried Weber, Angele Breithaupt, Marcus Gräber, Sandra Gohrbandt, Jessica Bogs, Jens P. Teifke, Thomas C. Mettenleiter, Juergen Stech
- 222 **Establishment and characterization of a highly efficient reverse genetics system for Henipavirus rescue**
Tatyana Yun, Arnold Park, Olivier Pernet, Terry L. Juelich, Jennifer Smith, *Lihong Zhang, Benhur Lee, Alexander N. Freiberg*
- 223 **Characterization of virulence mechanisms of hemorrhagic fever-causing arenaviruses**
Yuying Liang, Hinh Ly
- 224 **Immunopathogenesis of Henipavirus infection: role of Interferon type I signalling**
Kevin Dhondt, Cyrille Mathieu, Marie Chalons, and Branka Horvat
- 225 **Rabies virus-induced expression of chemokines/cytokines enhances the blood-brain-barrier (BBB) permeability in mice**
Qing Q. Chai, Wen Q. H, Zhen F. Fu
- 226 **A 3D organotypic lung tissue model to study hantavirus pulmonary syndrome**
Karin B. Sundström, Anh Thu Nguyen Hoang, Puran Cheng Shawon Gupta, Clas Ahl, Mattias Svensson and Jonas Klingström
- 227 **The incubation period is longer than the latent period in chickens and turkeys experimentally infected with Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza viruses**
James Seekings, Chad Fuller, Caroline Warren, June Mynn, Ross Cooper, Elizabeth Aldous, Richard M.
- 228 **Elements in the Canine Distemper Virus M 3' UTR Contribute to Control of Replication Efficiency and Virulence**
Danielle E. Anderson, Alexandre Castan, Martin Bisailon, Veronika von Messling
- 229 **Pathogenicity of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza virus in wild ducks and Herons**
Kosuke Soda, Tatsufumi Usui, Yukiko Uno, Yasuko Nagai, Hiroichi Ozaki, Hiroshi Ito, Naoki Yamamoto, Tomokazu Tamura, Takahiro Hiono, Masatoshi Okamoto, Yoshihiro Sakoda, Ayato Takada, Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi, Toshihiro Ito
- 230 **Interferon type I and T cells determine susceptibility of mice to various Old World Arenaviruses**
Toni Rieger, Doron Merkler, Lisa Oestereich, and Stephan Günther
- 231 **Ebola virus targets Nrf2-dependent antioxidative stress response via its structural protein VP24.**
St Patrick Reid, Kirill Nemirov, Mathieu Mateo, Audrey Page and Viktor Volchkov.



- 232 **Length of the NS1 linker region determines pathogenicity of a highly pathogenic H5N1 influenza A virus**
Mirco Schmolke, Benjamin G Hale, Rong Hai1, Jianqiang Ye, Balaji Manicassamy, Daniel R Perez, Adolfo García Sastre
- 233 **Substitutions T200A and E227A in the hemagglutinin of pandemic 2009 influenza A virus increase lethality but decrease transmissi**
Carles Martínez-Romero, Erik de Vries4), Alan Belicha-Villanueva, Ignacio Mena, Donna M. Tscherne, Virginia L. Gillespie, Randy A. Albrecht, Cornelis A. M. de Haan, Adolfo García-Sastre
- 234 **Pathogenicity of a pH1N1 influenza virus isolated from a fatal case. Role of host genetics in the outcome of the infection**
Ana Falcon, Ariel Rodríguez, Maite Cuevas, Francisco Pozo, Inmaculada Casas, Juan Ortín, Amelia Nieto
- 235 **Influenza HA subtypes demonstrate divergent phenotypes for cleavage activation and pH of fusion: implications for host range and**
Summer E. Galloway, Mark L. Reed, Charles J. Russell, David A. Steinhauer
- 236 **Modeling the Nipah virus transmission cycle**
Emmie de Wit, Joseph B. Prescott, Darryl Falzarano, Trenton Bushmaker, Dana Scott, Vincent J. Munster, Heinz Feldmann
- 237 **PATHOGENICITY FUNCTIONS OF LYSSAVIRUS GLYCOPROTEINS**
Tobias Nolden, Jens Peter Teifke, Stefan Finke
- 238 **Analysis of the Immune Response to Sin Nombre Hantavirus in the Rhesus Macaque Model of Hantavirus Cardiopulmonary Syndrome**
Joseph Prescott, David Safronetz, Heinz Feldmann
- 239 **Role of Neutrophils in the Induction of Pulmonary Edema during Hantavirus Infection in C.B-17Scid Mice**
Jiro Arikawa, Takaaki Koma, Kumiko Yoshimatsu, Noriyo Nagata, Yuko Sato, Kenta Shimizu, Takako Amada, Sanae Nishio, and Hideki Hasegaw
- 240 **Antigenic and chicken embryonic phenotype differences between Korean-like and G1 lineage H9N2 avian influenza viruses**
Bethany Nash, Alejandro Núñez, Daniel Hicks, Sharon M. Brookes, Ian H. Brown
- 241 **Genetic Determinants of Junin Virus Attenuation**
Alexey V. Seregin, Nadezhda E. Yun, Slobodan PaesslerX
- 242 **Role of different regions of Newcastle disease virus fusion protein for its Pathogenicity**
Sandra Warlich, Christian Grund, Denis Kühnel, Thomas C. Mettenleiter, Angela Römer-Oberdörfer



- 243 **Molecular diagnostics for Lassa fever at Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital, Nigeria**
Danny A. Asogun, Donatus I. Adomeh, Jacqueline Ehimuan, Ikponmwonsa Odia, Meike Hass, Martin Gabriel, Stephan Olschlager, Beate Becker-Ziaja, Onikepe Folarin, Eric Phelan, Philomena E. Ehiane, Veritas E. Ifeh, Eghosasere A. Uyigüe, Yemisi T. Oladapo, Ekene B. Muoebonam, Osagie Osunde, Andrew Dongo, Peter O. Okokhere, Sylvanus A. Okogbenin, Majeed Momoh, Sylvester O. Alikah, Odigie C. Akhuemokhan, Peter Imomeh, Maxy A. C. Odike, Stephen Gire, Kristian Andersen, Pardis C. Sabeti, Christian T. Happi, George O. Akpede, Stephan Gunther
- 244 **Rabies virus phosphoprotein gene functions to facilitate viral neuroinvasion by viral replication in muscle.**
Satoko Yamaoka, Naoto Ito, Keisuke Nakagawa, Kazuma Okada, Kota Okadera, Makoto Sugiyama
- 245 **Measles virus inclusion bodies may be implicated in development of myopathy**
Hyun-Jeong Kwon, Tomoyuki Honda, Aya Nambu, Tetsuro Arai, Atsushi Miyakawa, Hiroki Sato, Susumu Nakae, Misako Yoneda, Chieko Kai
- 246 **Single Mutations in PB2 and NP Mediate Enhanced Pathogenicity of 2009 Pandemic H1N1 Influenza A Viruses in Mice**
Anna Otte, Martina Sauter, Karin Klingel and Gülsah Gabriel
- 247 **Protection from RVFV neurologic disease is dependent on a functional CD4+ T cell Response**
Kimberly A. Dodd, Anita K. McElroy, Megan E. B. Jones, Stuart T. Nichol, and Christina F. Spiropoulou
- 248 **Given the high mortality rates and lack of therapeutic treatments associated with the infections they cause, filoviruses are classified as BSL-4 agents.**

Thursday June 20

Session VII: Vaccines and antivirals

Chairpersons :Vaccine part : Beatrice Gomez and Bert Rima

10:00-10:10: Chairpersons's remarks

- 10:10-10:20 249 **A replication-incompetent influenza virus possessing PspA gene protects mice from influenza virus and S, pneumoniae infection.**
Hiroaki Katsura, Zhenyu Piao, Kiyoko Iwatsuki-Horimoto, Yukihiro Akeda, Kazunori Oishi, Yoshihiro Kawaoka



10:20-10:30	250	Recombinant influenza virus expressing the F protein of respiratory syncytial virus as a bivalent vaccine <u>Wendy Fonseca</u> , Makoto Ozawa, Masato Hatta, Esther Orozco, Máximo B Martínez, Ramón Ocádiz-Ruiz, Yoshihiro Kawaoka.
10:30-10:40	251	A protective and safe intranasal RSV vaccine based on a recombinant prefusion form of the F protein bound to a bacterium-like particle <u>Alan Rigter</u> , Ivy Widjaja, HannekeVersantvoort, Maarten van Roosmalen, KeesLeenhouts, Peter J.M. Rottier, <u>Bert Jan Haijema</u> , and Cornelis A.M. de Haan,
10:40-10:50	252	Guiding the immune response against influenza hemagglutinin towards the conserved stalk domain by altering glycosylation <u>Dirk Eggink</u> , Peter Palese
10:50-11:00	253	Heterosubtypic antiviral activity of influenza virus hemagglutinin-specific antibodies MiekoMuramatsu, ReikoYoshida, <u>Ayato Takada</u>
11:00-11:10	254	M2e-immunity provides heterosubtypic protection and allows the induction of robust cross-protective T cell responses Michael Schotsaert, Tine Ysenbaert, KatrijnNeyt, Lorena I. Ibañez, Pieter Bogaert, Bert Schepens, Bart Lambrecht, Walter Fiers& <u>Xavier Saelens</u>
11:10-11:20	255	What do we know about the 2009 H1N1 pandemic influenza virus and vaccine? Z. Chen, C. Cotter, AL Suguitan, X. Cheng, W. Wang, Q. Xu, J. Lu, S. Jacobson, S. Gee, R. Broome and <u>H. Jin</u>
11:20-11:30	256	Pseudotyped Newcastle Disease Virus with Paramyxovirus 8 Surface Glycoproteins and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus HA <u>ConstanzeSteglich</u> ; Christian Grund; Kristina Ramp; Angele Breithaupt; JuttaVeits; Dirk Höper; Günter Keil; Mario Ziller; HaraldGranzow; Thomas C. Mettenleiter and Angela Römer-Oberdörfer
11:30 -12:30		Coffee break-Poster session
12:30-12:50	257	Important immunogenic and antigenic differences between the fusion (F) proteins of hRSV and human metapneumovirus Laura Rodríguez, Vicente Mas, Olga Cano, Mónica Vázquez, Lorena Ver, M. Carmen Terrón, Daniel Luque, Bernadette G. van den Hoogen, Concepción Palomo and <u>José A. Melero</u>
12:50-13:00	258	Efficacy of a nonspreading Rift Valley fever virus expressing the Gn glycoprotein from the small genome segment <u>Nadia Oreshkova</u> , RiankaVloet, Rob Moormann, Jeroen Kortekaas
13:00-13:10	259	Vesicular stomatitis virus-based vaccines protect Syrian hamsters from lethal Nipah virus challenge <u>Blair L. DeBuysscher</u> , Joseph Prescott, Heinz Feldmann



- 13:10-13:20 260 **Respiratory vaccination with live-attenuated measles virus: studies towards identification of the optimal site of delivery**
Rik de Swart
- 13:20-15:00 Lunch- Poster session
- Session VII: Vaccines and antivirals continued**
Chairpersons: Antiviral part :Stephan Becker and Richard Plemper
- 15:00-15:10 Chair persons's remarks
- 15:10-15:30 261 **Exploring host targets for broad-spectrum antivirals against respiratory viruses**
Daniel J. Chin , Cristian Cillóniz , Jade Carter , Gong Chen, Grant Beylveveld , Juan Ayllon , Peter Palese , Adolfo García-Sastre, **Megan L. Shaw**
- 15:30-15:50 262 **MAP kinases and influenza virus infection - Inhibition of p38 MAP kinase protects mice from lethal H5N1 infection**
Ivonne Boergeling, Mirco Schmolke, Katharina Koether, Christina Ehrhardt, **Stephan Ludwig**
- 15:50-16:00 263 **Hemagglutinin activating host cell proteases provide promising drug targets for the treatment of influenza virus infections**
Eva Böttcher-Friebertshäuser , Catharina Peitsch , Carolin Tarnow , Daniela Meyer , Torsten Steinmetzer , Hans-Dieter Klenk , Wolfgang Garten
- 16:00-16:10 264 **A cell-based screening system for influenza A viral RNA transcription/replication inhibitors**
Makoto Ozawa, Masayuki Shimojima, Hideo Goto, Shinji Watanabe, Yasuko Hatta, Maki Kiso, Yousuke Furuta, Taisuke Horimoto, Noel R. Peters, F. Michael Hoffmann, and Yoshihiro Kawaoka
- 16:10 -17 :10 Coffee break-Poster session
- 17:10-17:30 265 **Mechanism-Based Covalent Inhibitors of Influenza Virus Neuraminidases show broad spectrum antiviral efficacy in vitro and in vivo**
Jennifer L. McKimm-Breschkin, Susan Barrett, Victor A. Streltsov, Pat Pilling, Jin-Hyo Kim, Ricardo Resende, Tom Wennekes, Hong-Ming Chen, Nicole Bance, Sabrina Buchini, Andrew G. Watts, Martin Petric⁵ Richard Liggins, Masahiro Niikura and Stephen G. Withers
- 17:30-17:40 266 **A cell-based screening system to evaluate the susceptibility of influenza viruses to T-705 (favipiravir)**
Emi Takashita, Miho Ejima, Seiichiro Fujisaki, Noriko Kishida, Hong Xu, Masaki Imai, Masato Tashiro, Takato Odagiri



17:40-17:50 267 **New generation of fusion inhibitors against paramyxoviruses**
Cyrille Mathieu , Samantha G Palmer , Ilaria De Vito ,
AntonelloPessi , Stefan Niewisk , Branka Horvat , MatteoPorotto
and Anne Moscona

20:00 Gala dinner at La Mamounia

Poster Presentation:

268 **Development of a Robust RSV Replicon Assay for High-Through-
put Screening**
Choi Lai Tiong-Yip, Helen Plant, Jun Fan, Paul Sharpe, Kirsty Rich,
Elise Gorseth, Qin Yu

269 **Non-invasive real-time monitoring of Junin virus infection**
Nadezhda Yun, Alexey Seregin, Milagros Miller and Slobodan Paessler.

270 **Recombinant adenovirus-based DIVA vaccine protects
against virulent peste des petits ruminants virus**
Becky Herbert, Jana Baron, Geraldine Taylor, Michael D Baron

271 **A Microparticle Vaccine Containing the CS3C motif of the RSV G
Protein Induces Protection Against RSV Infection in Mice**
Patricia Jorquera, Katie Oakley, Thomas J. Powell, and Ralph A. Tripp

272 **Prime-boost vaccination against highly pathogenic avian influenza
H5N1 using a Newcastle disease virus vector in day-old chicks**
Helena Lage Ferreira, Fabienne Rauw, Jean François Pirlot,
Frédéric Reynard, Thierry van den Berg, Michel Bublot³, Béné-
dicte Lambrecht

273 **Tyrosine-Kinase Inhibitor (Vandetanib) reduces virus replication
and increase survival in a Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome model**
Brian H. Bird, Punya Shirvastava-Ranja, Bobbie Rae Erickso, Kim-
berley A. Dodd, Christina F. Spiropoulou

274 **Screening and optimization of Respiratory Syncytial Virus fusion
inhibitors**
Vanessa Gaillard, Julien Héritier, Dominique Garcin, Jean-Manuel
Segur, Elodie Baechler, Marc
Mathieu¹ and Origène Nyanguile

275 **DNA vaccine provides solid protection in ducks against heterolo-
gous H5N1 Avian Influenza Virus challenge**
Junping Li, Shuangcheng Zhao, Guojun Wang, Jinxiong Liu, Pucheng
chen, Jianzhong Shi, Xianying Zeng, Yanbing Li, Guohua Deng,
Guobin Tian, Yongping Jiang and Hualan Chen

276 **intranasal Vaccination with Integrase-Defective Lentiviral
Vectors encoding Influenza Nucleoprotein Induce Protective
Immunity t**
J. Fontana, Z. Michelini, D. Negri, A. Cara, M. Salvatore



- 278 **Development of Recombinant Canine Distemper Virus (rCDV) Vectors for SIV/HIV Vaccine Delivery**
Xinsheng Zhang, Olivia Wallace, Kevin Wright, Palka Sharma, Ninkka Tamot, Mary Lopez, Arban Domi, John Coleman, Gavin Morrow, Christopher Parks
- 280 **Vaccination with recombinant PIV5 expressing influenza antigens provides diverse immunity and protection against homologous and**
S. Mark Tompkins, Alaina J. Mooney, Zhou Li, Jon D. Gabbard, Dan Dlugolenski, Scott Johnson, Biao He
- 281 **Virus-like Particles as Vaccines for Paramyxoviruses**
Pramila Walpita
- 282 **The human respiratory syncytial virus (hRSV) is an ubiquitous pathogen that causes severe lower respiratory tract infection worldwide**
Marie-Anne RAMEIX-WELT, Julien SOURIMANT, Jenna FIX, Aude REMOT, Sabine RIFFAULT, Elyanne GAULT , Jean-Francois ELEOUE
- 283 **An eight segments swine influenza virus harbouring H1 and H3 hemagglutinins as a LAIV candidate for pigs**
Hyun-Mi Pyo , Aleksandar Masic, Shawn Babiuk and Yan Zhou
- 284 **Analysis of Complete Genome Sequences of Bovine Parainfluenza Virus Type 3 BN-1 and Vaccine Strain BN-CE for Reverse Genetics**
Takashi Ohkura , Takehiko Kokuho , Misako Konishi , Ken-ichiro Kameyama , Kaoru Takeuchi
- 285 **2'-Fluoro-2'-deoxypurineriboside ProTides: a step forward towards developing influenza virus polymerase inhibitors**
E. Vanderlinden, S. Meneghesso, A. Brancale, J. Balzarini, C. McGuigan, L. Naesens
- 286 **NICLOSAMIDE AND CURCUMIN ARE POTENT INHIBITORS OF ARENAVIRUS INFECTION**
Antonella Pasquato, Florian Zoppi, Joel Ramos da Palma, Anggakusuma, Eike Steinmann, and Stefan Kunz *Institute of Microbiology,*
- 287 **Generation and evaluation of recombinant, live-attenuated Edmonston-Zagreb measles viruses which express EGFP**
Linda J. Rennick, Rory D. de Vries, Thomas J. Carsillo, Ken Lemon, Geert van Amerongen, Selma Yüksel, R. Joyce Verburch, W. Paul Duprex1 and Rik L. de Swart
- 288 **Evaluation of avian paramyxovirus serotype 2-10 as vaccine vectors for chickens pre-immunized against Newcastle disease virus**
Ryota Tsunekuni, Hirokazu Hikono, Takehiko Saito



- 290 **A novel antiviral compound displays potential broad-spectrum activity through a dual mechanism of action.**
Oliver Dibben, Heinrich Hoffmann, Megan L. Shaw
- 291 **Two new broadly neutralizing human antibodies binding to the highly conserved stem-epitope of Influenza A hemagglutinin**
Wyrzucki A, Bianchi M (1), Dreyfus C, Blattmann B, Steck M, Kohler I, Grütter M, Wilson I, Hangartner L
- 292 **Antiviral susceptibilities of A(H3N2)v, A(H1N1)v, A(H1N2)v influenza viruses isolated from humans in the United States in 2011-2**
Katrina Sleeman, Vasiliy P. Mishin, Zhu Guo, Rebecca J. Garten, Amanda Balish, Julie Villanueva, James Stevens, and Larisa V. Gubareva
- 293 **Rapid strategy for screening by pyrosequencing of influenza reassortants for**
Tatiana Bousse, Svetlana Shcherbik, Marnie Levine and Alexander Klimov
- 294 **A 900,000 small molecule screen reveals potent anti-influenza and broad-spectrum antiviral compounds.**
Kris M. White, Paul De Jesus, Pablo Abreu, Quy Nguyen, Atsushi Inoue, Silke Stertz, Renate Koenig, Adolfo Garcia-Sastre, Peter Palese, Sumit K. Chanda, and Megan L. Shaw
- 295 **Antibody-mediated inhibition of Marburg virus budding**
Masahiro Kajihara, Andrea Marzi, Eri Nakayama, Takeshi Noda, Manabu Igarashi, Makoto Kuroda, Rashid Manzoor, Keita Matsuno, Heinz Feldmann, Reiko Yoshida, Yoshihiro Kawaoka, and Ayato Takada
- 296 **In Vitro and In Vivo Evaluation of DHODH as a Host Target for Antiviral Drug Development**
Nagraj Mani, Joshua Leeman, Raj Kalkeri, Steven Jones, Colleen McNeil, Carlos Faerman, Ioana Davies, Alice Tsai, Mark Ledebor, Michael Clark, Chao Lin, Rene Rijnbrand, Randy Byrn
- 297 **In ovo administration of chimeric recombinant Newcastle disease virus expressing VP2 protein of infectious bursal disease virus**
Jinying Ge, Xijun Wang, Meijie Tian, Zhiyuan Wen, Qiulin Feng, Honglei Gao, Xiaole Qi, Xiaomei Wang, and Zhigao Bu
- 298 **NIAID RESOURCES FOR THE GLOBAL RESEARCH COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF NEW VACCINES AND ANTIVIRALS FOR SEVERE VIRAL INFECTIONS**
Amy E. Krafft, Ph.D.
- 299 **Real-time monitoring of RSV viral replication in BALB/c mice through detection of luciferase expression using the IVIS® Spectrum**
Joshua DiNapoli, Rachel Groppo, Changhong Zhou, Michael Kishko,



- 300 **Protective Efficacy of Neutralizing Monoclonal Antibodies in a Nonhuman Primate Model of Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever**
Reiko Yoshida, Andrea Marzi, Yasuhiko Suzuki¹, Manabu Igarashi, Friederike Feldmann, Douglas Brining, Heinz Feldmann, and Ayato Takada
- 301 **A replication-incompetent influenza virus bearing the HN glycoprotein of human parainfluenza virus as a bivalent vaccine**
Hirofumi Kobayashi, Kiyoko Iwatsuki-Horimoto, Maki Kiso, Ryuta Uraki, Yurie Ichiko, Toru Takimoto, Yoshihiro Kawaoka
- 302 **Live-attenuated respiratory syncytial virus vaccine candidates for clinical studies: Improved genetic stability and multiple mechanisms**
Ursula J. Buchholz, Cindy Luongo, Christine C. Winter, Ruth A. Karron, Roderick S. Tang, Jeanne H. Schickli, and Peter L. Collins
- 303 **Mutational analysis of the binding pockets of the diketo acid inhibitor L-742,001 in the influenza virus PA endonuclease**
Annelies Stevaert, Roberto Dallochio, Alessandro Dessi, Nicolino Pala, Dominga Rogolino, Mario Sechi, Lieve Naesens
- 304 **Investigating the functionality and antigenicity of chimeric lyssavirus glycoproteins and their neutralisation profiles**
Jennifer S Evans, Edward Wright, Andrew J Easton, Anthony R Fooks, Ashley C Banyard
- 305 **Protection is attributed to both humoral and cellular responses that are reactive against conserved, internal influenza proteins**
Steven F. Bake, Hailong Guo, Randy A. Albrecht, Adolfo García-Sastre, David J. Topham, Luis Martínez-Sobrido
- 306 **Generation of recombinant arenavirus in FDA-approved cell lines: implications for vaccine development**
Benson Y. H. Cheng, Emilio Ortiz-Riaño, Juan C. de la Torre, Luis Martínez-Sobrido
- 307 **A PB2-KO influenza virus-based bivalent vaccine protects mice against pandemic H1N1 and highly pathogenic H5N1 virus challenge.**
Ryuta Uraki, Maki Kiso, Kiyoko Iwatsuki-Horimoto, Satoshi Fukuyama, Emi Takashita, Makoto Ozawa, and Yoshihiro Kawaoka
- 308 **SHe's a novel target for RSV vaccination**
Bert Schepens, Sarah De Baets, Koen Sedeyn, Pieter Bogaert, Brian Gilbert, Pedro A. Piedra, Walter Fiers and Xavier Saelens
- 309 **FcγRIII Is Dispensable for Protection against Influenza by Matrix Protein 2 Ectodomain-Specific IgG2a**
Silvie Van den Hoecke, Karim El Bakkouri, Anouk Smet, Kenny Roose, Michael Schotsaert, Walter Fiers, Xavier Saelens
- 310 **Hemagglutinin-Neuraminidase from HPIV3 mediates human NK regulation of T cell proliferation via NKp44 and NKp46.**
Samantha McQuaid, Sinead Loughran, Patrick Power, Dermot Walls, Maria Grazia Cusi, Claes Orvell and Patricia Johnson



- 311 **Antiviral compounds that prematurely activate and disable the paramyxovirus fusion Protein**
Ilaria De Vito, Laura Palermo, Matteo Porotto and Anne Moscona
- 312 **Development of a live attenuated peste des petits ruminants DIVA vaccine using reverse genetics techniques**
Murali Muniraju1*, Ashley Banyard2, Hubert Buczkowski , Carrie Batten1 and Satya Parida
- 313 **Coordinated viral replication and TLR-3 activation enhances T cell immunity generated by live attenuated influenza vaccines**
Vicente Pérez-Giron, Alan Belicha-Villanueva, Sergio Gomez-Medina, Jazmina Gonzalez-Cruz, Anja Lüdtke, Adolfo García-Sastre and César Munoz-Fontela.

Friday June 21

Session VIII: Natural and unnatural virus evolution

Chairpersons :AniceLowen and Stefan Kunz

09:00-09:10:Chair persons's remarks

- 09:10-09:30 314 **Investigating mechanisms of influenza polymerase host adaptation**
Anna Cauldwell, Jason Long, Hongbo Zhou, Olivier Moncorge, and Wendy Barclay
- 09:30-09:40 315 **Evolution of the hemagglutinin of pandemic H1N1 (2009): maintaining optimal receptor binding by compensatory substitutions**
Erik de Vries, Robert P. de Vries, CarlesMartínez-Romero, Ryan McBride, Peter J.M. Rottier, Adolfo García-Sastre , James C. Paulson, Cornelis A.M. de Haan
- 09:40-09:50 316 **Hemagglutinin (HA) acid stability regulates H5N1 influenza virus replication, virulence, transmission and interspecies adaptation**
Hassan Zaraket, Rebecca M. DuBois, Olga Bridges, Sun-Woo Yoon, Richard J. Webby, Stephen W. White, Robert G. Webster, and Charles J. Russell
- 09:50-10:00 317 **Evolution-guided analysis of primate MxA proteins: the flexible loop L4 is a major determinant for its antiviral specificity**
Corinna Patzina , Patrick S. Mitchell , Michael Emerman , Otto Haller , Harmit S. Malik , Georg Kochs
- 10:00 -11 :00 Coffee break-Poster session
- 11:00-11:20 318 **Modulating paramyxovirus polymerase function rationally and randomly: towards tunable attenuation**
Linda J. Rennick and W. Paul Duprex



- 11:20-11 :30 319 **Evidence for Henipavirus spillover into human populations in Africa.**
Olivier Pernet , Shannon M Beaty , Matthew Lebreton , Brad Schneider, Nathan Wolfe , Benhur Lee
- 11:30-11 :40 320 **High potential of canine distemper virus in the ability to use macaca and human receptors**
Kouji Sakai, Fumio Seki, Maino Tahara, Noriyuki Otsuki, Yasushi Ami, Ryoji Yamaguchi, Masayuki Saijo, Katsuhiko Komase, Shigeru Morikawa, Makoto Takeda
- 11:40-11:50 321 **Cell entry pathway of an extinct virus**
Lindsey R. Robinson, Matthijs Raaben, and Sean P.J. Whelan
- 11 :50-12 :10 322 **Measles virus entry pathway governs efficacy of mantle cell lymphoma radio-virotherapy**
Tanner S. Miest, Marie Frenzke, Roberto Cattaneo
- 12:10 Lunch and beer session

Poster Presentation

- 323 **New World bats are reservoirs of diverse influenza A viruses**
Suxiang Tong, Xueyong Zhu, Yan Li, Mang Shi, Jing Zhang, Melissa Bourgeois, Hua Yang, Xianfeng Chen, Sergio Recuenco, Jorge Gomez, Li-Mei Chen, Ying Tao¹, Cyrille Dreyfus, Wenli Yu, Ryan McBride, Paul J. Carney, Amy T. Gilbert, Jessie Chang, Zhu Guo, Charles T. Davis, James C. Paulson, James Stevens, Charles E. Rupprecht, Edward C. Holmes, Ian A. Wilson, Ruben O. Donis
- 324 **Sever fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome in Japan**
Masayuki Shimojima¹, Toru Takahashi², Shuetsu Fukushi¹, Hideki Tani¹, Tomoki Yoshikawa, Tetsuya Mizutani, Shigeru Morikawa, Masayuki Saijo, Ken Maeda
- 325 **Recent Emergence and Spread of a Phylogenetic Lineage of Rabies Virus in Nepal**
Ganesh R. Pant, Rachel Lavenir, Frank Y. K. Wong, Andrea Certoma, Florence Larrous, Dwij R. Bhatta, Hervé Bourhy, Vittoria Stevens, Laurent Dacheux
- 326 **Investigations of Marburgvirus Spillover from Natural Populations of *Rousettus Aegyptiacus***
Jonathan S. Towner, Brian R. Amman, Serena A. Carroll, Tara K. Sealy, Stuart T. Nichol, Pierre E. Rollin and the Filovirus Bat Ecology Team
- 327 **Influenza virus reassortment is highly efficient in the absence of segment mismatch**
Nicolle Marshall¹, Lalita Priyamvada, Ende, John Steel¹, Anice Lowen



- 328 **Investigating the Dynamics of Filovirus Evolution in Cell Culture**
Kendra Alfson, Anthony Griffiths
- 329 **Evolution of parainfluenza virus 5**
Bert Rima, Derek Gatherer, Hanna Norsted, Andrew Davison and Richard Randall
- 330 **Importin- α 3 Restricts Influenza Virus Replication in the Mammalian Respiratory Tract**
Swantje Thiele, Debby van Riel, A.D.M.E. Osterhaus, Gülsah Gabriel
- 331 **Evolutionary analysis of Peste-des-petits ruminants virus**
Pow Murali Muniraju, Muhammad Munir, Ashley Banyard, Jingyue Bao, Aravindh Babu, Mana Mahapatra, Geneviève Libeau, Carrie Batten, Satya Parida
- 332 **Viral factors affecting the transmission of H1N1 influenza virus**
Patricia J. Campbell, Shamika Danzy, Anice C. Lowen, and John
- 333 **Genomic analysis of filoviruses associated with 4 hemorrhagic fever outbreaks in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo in**
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- 001. Fusion activation by parainfluenza virus HN protein**
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The Paramyxoviridae family of enveloped viruses enters cells through the concerted action of two viral glycoproteins. The receptor-binding protein (HN, H or G) binds its cellular receptor and activates the fusion protein (F), which, through an extensive refolding event, brings viral and cellular membranes together mediating virus-cell fusion. However, the underlying mechanism of F-activation on receptor engagement remains unclear. Current hypotheses propose conformational changes in HN, H or G propagating from the receptor-binding site in the HN, H or G 'globular head' to the F-interacting 'stalk' region. We provide evidence that the receptor-binding globular head domain of the paramyxovirus parainfluenza virus 5 (PIV5) HN protein is entirely dispensable for F-activation. Taking together the crystal structures of HN from different paramyxoviruses, varying energy requirements for fusion activation, F-activation involving the PIV5 HN stalk domain and properties of a chimeric paramyxovirus HN protein, we propose a simple model of paramyxovirus fusion activation.

- 002. Unraveling a 3-step Mechanism of Nipah Virus Receptor-Induced Membrane Fusion Triggering**
Qian Liu¹, Jacqueline A. Stone¹, Birgit Bradel-Tretheway¹, Jeffrey Dabundo¹, Javier A. Benavides Montano¹, Jennifer Santos-Montanez¹, Scott B. Biering¹, Xiaonan Lu², Hector C. Aguilar¹
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Membrane fusion is essential for entry of the biomedically-important paramyxoviruses into their host cells (viral-cell fusion), and for syncytia formation (cell-cell fusion), often induced by paramyxoviral infections [i.e. those of the deadly Nipah virus (NiV)]. Paramyxovirus membrane fusion requires the coordinated actions of two viral glycoproteins. Upon binding its cell surface receptor, the attachment glycoprotein (HN/H/G) triggers the fusion glycoprotein (F) to undergo conformational changes that merge viral and/or cell membranes. However, there is a knowledge gap on how HN/H/G couples cell receptor binding to F-triggering. Here we report via interdisciplinary approaches the first comprehensive mechanism of NiV membrane fusion triggering, involving three spatiotemporally sequential cell receptor-induced conformational steps. Two conformational changes in two distinct domains of the NiV-G head and one in a NiV-G stalk domain are sequentially required for NiV-F triggering. Moreover, we found that a headless NiV-G mutant is able to trigger NiV-F, and that the NiV-G head's primary fusion modulatory function is to prevent premature triggering of NiV-F on virions by concealing a F-triggering stalk domain until the spatiotemporally correct receptor-binding time and place. Importantly, our results inform our understanding of the general mechanism of paramyxovirus membrane fusion triggering and viral entry.



003

PVRL4 (Nectin-4) is the epithelial cell for measles and canine distemper viruses and is a target for oncolytic therapyChristopher Richardson, Ryan Noyce, Sebastien Delpeut, Ricky Siu
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Our laboratory recently discovered that PVRL4 (Nectin-4) is the epithelial cell receptor for measles and canine distemper viruses using a comparative microarray analysis [Noyce et al. (2011) PLoS Pathogens 7(8): e1002240; Noyce and Richardson (2012) Trends Micro. 20: 429-439; Noyce et al. (2013) Virology 436: 210-220]. This discovery established a new paradigm for spread of virus from lymphocytes to airway epithelial cells and virus release into the environment. We have investigated the interactions of the V domain of human and canine PVRL4 with the viral H proteins using site-specific mutagenesis and chimeric molecules. Laboratory strains of measles virus use CD46 as a receptor, while vaccine strains of CDV have adapted to use a ubiquitous receptor, which we have also identified. PVRL4 exists at low levels in the adherens junctions of airway epithelial cells, but it is also present in small quantities within the brains of mice, dogs, and humans, accounting for the neurotropic properties of these viruses. Finally, PVRL4 is a tumor cell marker that is highly expressed on many adenocarcinomas including breast and prostate tumors. Recombinant measles viruses that express green fluorescent protein, luciferase, or the suicide gene, thymidine-active deoxycytidine kinase, were shown to target tumors that express PVRL4. Virus spreads via membrane fusion throughout the tumor, causing cell death. Incorporation of the gene for thymidine-active deoxycytidine kinase into the virus genome, enhances the tumor killing effect of these viruses through use of nucleoside analogues. The oncolytic potential of these viruses has been evaluated in human xenograft/syngeneic mouse tumor models.

004

The measles virus hemagglutinin β 4- β 5 hydrophobic groove governs the interactions with nectin-4 and CD46 but not with SLAMMathieu Mateo, Sabriya Syed, Chanakha Navaratnarajah, Roberto Cattaneo
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To spread in humans, wild type measles virus (MV) relies sequentially on two receptors: the signalling lymphocytic activation molecule SLAM/CD150, expressed on immune cells, and nectin-4/PVRL4, expressed at high levels only in epithelial cells of the upper respiratory tract. Unlike wild type MV, vaccine strains also bind the ubiquitous protein CD46; indiscriminate cell entry through CD46 correlates with attenuation. Co-crystal structures of the MV attachment protein H with its three receptors revealed that all three make contacts with the β 4- β 5 hydrophobic groove in MV H. However, while nectin-4 and CD46 extend into this groove, SLAM only lays over it. Here we generated multiple H substitution mutants and tested their ability to use each receptor in cell-based fusion assays. These functional assays highlighted a strong overlap between the nectin-4 and CD46 functional binding sites, while the SLAM binding site was easily separated. Moreover, a soluble form of nectin-4 abolished MV entry in CD46-expressing cells but only reduced entry through SLAM. We generated mutant forms of the MV H ectodomain; binding kinetics of selected mutants with the three receptors confirmed a strong overlap of nectin-4 and CD46 binding. These results indicate that the binding modes of the two wild type MV receptors are fundamentally different, while CD46 inhabits the groove used by nectin-4. We are currently attempting to generate a MV retaining entry through CD46 but not nectin-4. This virus will be attenuated but will not be shed, two properties required in the end stage of measles eradication.



005 Conversion of the parainfluenza virus 5 F protein to a simian virus 41 HN-specific protein by amino acid substitutions

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For most parainfluenza viruses, virus type-specific interaction between the hemagglutinin-neuraminidase (HN) and fusion (F) proteins is prerequisite for mediating virus-cell fusion and cell-cell fusion. The molecular basis of this functional interaction is still obscure partly because it is unknown which region of the F protein is responsible for the physical interaction with the HN protein. Our previous cell-cell fusion assay using the chimeric F proteins of parainfluenza virus 5 (PIV5) and simian virus 41 (SV41) indicated that replacement of two domains in the head region of the PIV5 F protein with the SV41 F counterparts bestowed the PIV5 F protein the ability to induce cell-cell fusion on coexpression with the SV41 HN protein while retaining its ability to induce fusion with the PIV5 HN protein. In the study presented here, we furthered the chimeric analysis of the F proteins of PIV5 and SV41, finding that the PIV5 F protein could be converted to an SV41 HN-specific chimeric F protein by substituting five domains in the head region with the SV41 F counterparts. The SV41 F-derived five domains of this chimera were then divided into 16 segments; nine out of 16 proved to be not involved in determining the specificity for the SV41 HN protein. Finally, mutational analyses of a chimeric F protein, which harbored SV41 F-derived seven segments, revealed that substitution of at most 21 amino acids of the PIV5 F protein with the SV41 F-counterparts was enough to convert the HN protein specificity of the PIV5 F protein.

006 Vesiculovirus glycoprotein intermediate structures during the fusion associated conformational change.

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Three different classes of viral fusion proteins have been identified to date based on their common structural motifs. Crystal structures have provided atomic, static pictures of pre- and post-fusion conformations for several of these glycoproteins; however, the transition pathway still remains elusive. VSV G is the prototype of the third class and forms different trimers in both pre- and post-fusion conformations. We report a crystal structure for G of Chandipura virus, another vesiculovirus responsible for deadly encephalopathies. In this single crystal, two distinct conformations corresponding to early and late refolding states of G form a fusion loop-exposing flat heterotetramer with twofold symmetry. Consistent with these data, electron microscopy and tomography show different intermediates at the viral surface depending on experimental conditions. This work reveals the chronological order of the structural changes in the protein and offers a detailed pathway for the conformational transition for the spikes located outside the contact zone with the target membrane. Particularly, our data confirm that the conformational change involves monomeric intermediates and that it likely proceeds to an elongated hairpin monomer before subsequent collapse into the post-fusion trimer. Furthermore, our data and previously published mutagenesis analysis indicate that after dissociation of the pre-fusion trimer into monomers, vesiculovirus fusion glycoprotein could re-associate not only into trimers but also into a dimeric (and even tetrameric) assembly which is eerily similar to that of the pre-fusion shell of the flavivirus fusion glycoprotein



007

Host cell entry of Respiratory Syncytial Virus involves macropinocytosis followed by proteolytic activation of the F protein

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Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a highly pathogenic paramyxovirus. We developed assays for RSV endocytosis, intracellular trafficking, membrane fusion, and infection. The results showed that RSV was rapidly and efficiently internalized, and that acid-independent membrane fusion occurred intracellularly after endocytosis. Cell biological studies demonstrated that endocytosis was macropinocytotic, and that it was required for infection. The process involved activation of the EGF receptor and its downstream effectors including Cdc42, Pak1, and myosin II. RSV induced transient actin rearrangements accompanied by plasma membrane blebbing, elevated fluid uptake, and internalization of intact RSV particles into large macropinosomes. Expression of a dominant negative Rab5 mutant but not Rab7 decreased infection indicating that RSV penetration is intracellular, and takes place in Rab5 positive macropinosomes before fusion with endolysosomal compartments. The reason why RSV, unlike most paramyxoviruses, depended on endocytic entry was found to be the need for activation of the F protein by a second proteolytic cleavage. It occurred after endocytosis, and involved most likely a furin-like, vacuolar enzyme.

008

Acid-activated structural reorganization of the Rift Valley fever virus Gc fusion protein

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Entry of Rift Valley fever virus (RVFV) into the host cell is mediated by the viral glycoproteins Gn and Gc. We investigated the RVFV entry process and, in particular, its pH-dependent activation mechanism using our recently developed RVFV replicon particle system. Entry of the virus into host cells was efficiently inhibited by lysosomotropic agents that prevent endosomal acidification and by compounds that interfere with dynamin- and clathrin-dependent endocytosis. Exposure of plasma membrane-bound virions to an acidic pH (<pH 6) equivalent to the pH of late endolysosomal compartments allowed the virus to bypass the endosomal route of infection. Acid exposure of virions in the absence of target membranes triggered the class II-like Gc fusion protein to form extremely stable oligomers that were resistant to SDS and temperature dissociation and concomitantly compromised virus infectivity. By targeted mutagenesis of conserved histidines in Gn and Gc, we demonstrated that mutation of a single histidine (H857) in Gc completely abrogated virus entry, as well as acid-induced Gc oligomerization. Our data suggest that after endocytic uptake, RVFV traffics to the acidic late endolysosomal compartments, where histidine protonation drives the reorganization of the Gc fusion protein that leads to membrane fusion.



009

Insights into transport of Marburg virus nucleocapsids in living cells

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Marburg virus, a filovirus, causes severe hemorrhagic fever in humans and non-human primates with high fatality rates. The viral nucleocapsid is formed by five of the seven structural proteins: The nucleoprotein NP, RNA-dependent polymerase L, polymerase cofactor VP35, VP24, and VP30 and the non-segmented, single stranded, 19.1 kb RNA genome. The nucleocapsid is associated with a regular layer of the matrix protein VP40, which also contacts the viral envelope in which the glycoprotein GP is inserted.

To investigate transport and assembly processes of VP40 and nucleocapsids in living cells VP40 was fused to red fluorescent protein (RFP-VP40) and VP30 was fused to the green fluorescent protein (VP30-GFP). The gene encoding RFP-VP40 was cloned into a plasmid encoding the full-length genome of MARV. Recombinant MARV expressing RFP-VP40 in addition to the authentic VP40 (MARVRFP-VP40) was rescued. To visualize MARVRFP-VP40 infected cells, which transiently expressed nucleocapsid-associated VP30-GFP, dual-color live-cell fluorescence microscopy was established under biosafety level 4 conditions. Using these tools we describe (i) intracellular trafficking of nucleocapsids, (ii) interplay of nucleocapsids with RFP-VP40 and (iii) cytoskeleton components required for transport of nucleocapsids. Key words: Marburg virus - nucleocapsid - VP40 - intracellular trafficking - cytoskeleton

010

Essential role of the Sendai virus fusion (F) protein in the formation of virus particles

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Previous studies have shown the importance of the fusion protein (F) during Sendai virus particle (VP) production. We are interested in the role of the cytoplasmic domains (CT) of F during this process. The absence of the TYTLE motif of F protein has the same deleterious effect on VP production as the suppression of the entire CT (Fouillot-Coriou, N. and Roux, L. 2000). The mechanism by which TYTLE is involved in this process is not understood. We demonstrate by confocal microscopy and immunoprecipitation that a mutated FTYTLE/5A protein is not expressed at the cell surface although it is still able to interact with the matrix protein (M). Interestingly, the absence of the mutated F at the cell surface correlates with a lower representation of HN and M at cell surface. In addition, these two proteins show a more diffused and disorganized pattern, both at the cell surface and in the cytoplasm. In the end, the mutated F retains M in the cytoplasm and prevents the process of assembly. These results highlight the important role of the fusion protein during virus particle formation.



011

Orientations of the influenza A viral ribonucleoprotein complexes

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Background

The influenza A virus possesses an eight-segmented, single-stranded RNA genome (vRNA) of negative polarity. Each vRNA segment binds to multiple copies of viral nucleoproteins together with a small number of heterotrimeric polymerase complexes to form a rod-like ribonucleoprotein complex (RNP). In the RNP, the polymerase complex associates with the conserved 3' and 5' ends, which form the double-stranded vRNA promoter region. Later in infection, eight RNPs are coordinately incorporated into the progeny virion. However, how these RNPs are organized within the virion is not fully understood. Aim To determine the orientation of RNPs within the budding virion.

Methods The fine structure of purified RNPs and their orientations within virions were analyzed by using electron tomography and immuno-electron microscopy.

Results and Discussion

We observed that individual RNPs possess a single polymerase complex at one end of the rod-like structure, and that some RNPs are incorporated into budding virions with their polymerase-binding ends at the budding tip, whereas others align with their polymerase-binding ends at the bottom of the budding virion. These results suggest that interactions among vRNA segments are not restricted to one site within the virion. Our study provides a novel model of influenza virion morphogenesis and important insights

012

Diverse Morphologies of Influenza Filament Budding: an Ultrastructural Study

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Influenza viruses exhibit striking variations in morphology between strains and are characterized as being either filamentous or spherical. This pleomorphic character of the virus poses a huge challenge for structural biology. Clinical isolates have shown to produce long filaments while laboratory-adapted strains are predominantly spherical. However, the function of these virus filaments in the infectious cycle remains undetermined. Here we report the results of the first three-dimensional ultrastructural study of filamentous particles budding from infected cells by cryo-electron tomography (ET) and immunofluorescent confocal microscopy. Filaments often longer than 10 microns were observed, some of which had bulbous heads at the leading end. Although some bulb headed filaments contained tubules that we attribute to M1, none had any recognisable ribonucleoprotein (RNP) genome segments. Long filaments that did not have bulbs were less frequently seen to have an ordered complement of RNPs at their distal ends. ET imaging of purified virus also showed various filament morphologies; short rods (bacilliform) and longer filaments. While bacilliform possessed the classic arrangement of "7+1" RNPs, longer filaments were narrower and mostly lacked this feature but often contained fibrillar material along their entire length. We hypothesise that the important ultrastructural differences between the diverse virus morphologies that we observe suggest distinct assembly pathways and functions. While long filaments containing RNPs may be important for cell-to-cell transmission, empty filaments may serve as a decoy for immune response or help in the spread of smaller virus particles. Thus this work provides novel insights into virus morphology and infection mechanisms.



014

The molecular motor KIF13A mediates intracellular transport of the Lassa virus matrix protein ZSarah Katharina Fehling, Wolfgang Garten, Thomas Strecker
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The matrix protein Z of arenaviruses is the main driving force to promote viral particle production at the plasma membrane. Although multiple functions of Z in the arenaviral life cycle have been uncovered, the mechanism of intracellular transport of Z to the site of virus budding is poorly understood and cellular motor proteins that mediate Z trafficking remained to be identified. We found that the Z protein of the Old World arenavirus Lassa virus (LASV) interacts with the kinesin family member 13A (KIF13A), a plus-end-directed microtubule-dependent motor protein that has been reported previously to transport vesicles containing M6PR from the trans-Golgi-network to the plasma membrane. Overexpression of KIF13A results in relocalization of Z to the cell periphery, while functional blockage of endogenous KIF13A by a dominant-negative mutant or KIF13A-specific siRNA causes a perinuclear accumulation and decreased production of both Z-induced virus-like particles and infectious LASV. The interaction of KIF13A with Z proteins from both Old and New World arenaviruses suggests a conserved intracellular transport mechanism. In contrast, the intracellular distribution of the matrix proteins of prototypic members of the paramyxovirus and rhabdovirus family is independent of KIF13A. In summary, our studies identify for the first time a molecular motor protein as a critical mediator for intracellular microtubule-dependent transport of arenavirus matrix proteins.

015

The peste des petits ruminants virus (PPRV) receptors: ovine SLAM and Nectin-4

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Peste des petits ruminants virus (PPRV), a Morbillivirus in the Paramyxovirus family, causes a devastating disease of small ruminants (sheep and goats especially) that is prevalent across much of Africa, the Middle East and Southern Asia. Poor subsistence farmers are disproportionately affected by this virus which is capable of causing large outbreaks, with high associated mortality, in naïve hosts. A better understanding of the molecular biology of PPRV is required in order to determine the route of infection, the primary cause of the characteristic viral bronchopneumonia in infected ruminants and the role of host receptor distribution in disease onset and pathogenesis. In addition more sensitive cell lines are required for the isolation and analysis of PPRV. In this study we have demonstrated that ovine Nectin-4 is a permissive receptor for PPRV and mapped the expression of this gene's mRNA (and ovine SLAM, another Morbillivirus receptor) to multiple tissues in the host. Bi- and tri-cistronic lentiviruses encoding combinations of ovine SLAM and/or Nectin-4 were used to generate Morbillivirus-permissive cell lines. In addition we investigated the role of ovine Nectin-4 SNPs in PPRV infection. This lentivirus-based approach was also expanded to probe the interactions between the morbillivirus attachment protein (haemagglutinin) and its viral receptors, SLAM and Nectin-4. We have identified important differences in the interactions between morbilliviruses and these receptors which may determine host-range specificity. Developing a better understanding of the interactions between the virus and its host is a critical step in dissecting the molecular determinants of pathogenicity.



016

Andes Hantavirus Gn and Gc glycoproteins: Self-assembly into virus-like particles and functions during cell entry

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Current efforts to understand the basic processes of the replicative cycle of hantaviruses have been in part hampered by the lack of a reverse genetic system and by biosafety requirements. Recombinant Hantaan virus-like particles (VLPs) have been previously described being prepared by co-expression of the viral Gn/Gc glycoproteins and the nucleoprotein. Our current research is focused on understanding the participation of viral proteins in the formation of Andes virus (ANDV) and other hantavirus particles and on the hantavirus cell entry mechanism. ANDV-VLPs were obtained from purified supernatants of transfected cells and characterized by Western blots, electron microscopy and dynamic light scattering. The results show that ANDV Gn and Gc are sufficient to self-assemble into VLPs without the need of other viral components. Further, we investigated the function of Gn and Gc during cell entry. Specifically, we discuss results related with VLP-cell binding, glycoprotein activation and multimerization, membrane interaction and fusion. Funding: FONDECYT 1100756 and CONICYT PFB-16. RA is supported by a CONICYT doctoral fellowship.

017

Identification of functional domains of class II Rab11-FIPs that participate in the polarized transport of influenza virus vRNP

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Influenza A virus RNA genome is replicated in the nucleus and exists as eight-segmented ribonucleoprotein complexes containing viral RNA polymerase and nucleoprotein (vRNPs). Following the replication, progeny vRNPs are exported to the cytoplasm. We have revealed that cytoplasmic vRNPs are localized to the recycling endosomes, depend on the interaction between GTP-bound Rab11 and viral RNA polymerase, and are finally localized under the apical plasma membrane where packaging of vRNPs and budding of progeny virions occur. We found that the polarized transport of vRNP-positive recycling endosomes was inhibited by co-expression of Rab binding domain (RBD) deletion mutants of class II Rab11-family interacting proteins (Rab11-FIP3/4 Δ RBD). These mutants did not inhibit the localization of vRNP to the recycling endosomes but vRNP-positive recycling endosomes were kept in the cytoplasm or were transported to the lateral plasma membrane. Deletion of amino-terminal proline rich region (PRR) did not alter the dominant-negative activity of Rab11-FIP3 Δ RBD but further deletion of both PRR and EF-hand domain (EFHD) resulted in the loss of the inhibitory activity. Deletion of carboxyl-terminal Arf binding domain (ABD) also resulted in the loss of the dominant-negative activity. These results suggest that both EFHD and ABD of endogenous class II Rab11-family interacting proteins are required for the apical transport of vRNP-positive recycling endosomes



018 Inhibition of Membrane Fusion by a mAb interacting with the Morbillivirus Attachment Protein Stalk Domain

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The MeV and CDV entry systems rely on two interacting envelope glycoproteins: the tetrameric attachment (H) and the trimeric fusion (F) proteins that tightly co-operate to achieve plasma membrane fusion. Each H-monomeric ectodomain consists of a stalk domain supporting a cuboidal head region that contacts different receptors. While the central section of morbillivirus H-stalks “opens” to trigger F, last models suggest that tetrameric H-heads may also move as “dimeric-blocs” to transmit signals for F-activation. We here characterized an anti-CDV-H mAb (1347), which inhibited both viral-cell and cell-cell fusion without influencing receptor-binding. Epitope mapping, using engineered soluble H-forms, revealed a linear segment in the H-stalk domain (126-NPNREFDF-133), which, once transposed into a foreign protein, allowed for its recognition by 1347. MAb-1347 did not cross-react with MeV-H, but substitution of two residues in the epitope by the corresponding CDV-H amino acids (D128N and Y131F) enabled MeV-H detection and cell-cell fusion inhibition. Importantly, the epitope locates membrane-distal from the putative F-contacting segment (residues 110-116), which correlated with 1347-binding activities being unaffected by the presence of F. However, 1347 bound to a membrane-anchored “headless” CDV-H variant (headless-H) with a higher efficiency, suggesting that H-heads, in a pre-receptor-bound conformation, impeded full 1347-recognition. Remarkably, a spontaneous basal level of F-triggering was monitored in headless-H/F-coexpressing cells, and this, regardless of the presence or absence of 1347. Overall, these findings suggest that mAb-1347 does not inhibit F-activation by impairing H-stalks-dependent intrinsic triggering activity. Rather, our preliminary data suggest that mAb-1347 may alter putative receptor-induced H heads-to-stalks “un-clamping” movements.

019 Interaction between M1 and NP affects influenza virus morphology

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Influenza matrix protein 1 (M1) is the key component in viral assembly at the plasma membrane. In addition to initiation of bud formation, M1 mediates efficient genome packaging and is known to be a key determinant of virion morphology. Although the mechanism by which M1 controls virion morphology has not yet been defined, it is suggested that M1 interaction with other viral proteins may play an important role. In this study, we rescued recombinant A/WSN/33 (WSN) virus expressing M1 from A/Aichi/2/68 (Aichi), which differs from WSN by 7 amino acids, and includes those identified to be responsible for filamentous virion formation. Whereas both WSN and Aichi wt viruses produced spherical virions, WSN-AichiM1 exhibited filamentous morphology as detected by immunofluorescence and electron microscopy. Purified WSN-AichiM1 virions also contained less NP compared to wt WSN, consistent with the phenotype of filamentous virions. Additional incorporation of Aichi NP, but not HA, NA, or M2 rescued spherical virion morphology and enhanced levels of NP incorporation, suggesting that specific M1-NP interactions affect virion morphology. Further characterization of viruses containing WSN/Aichi chimeric NPs identified residues 214 and 217 of Aichi NP to be necessary and sufficient for the formation of spherical virions by the recombinant WSN-AichiM1 virus. These findings indicate that a specific interaction between M1 and NP or vRNP can determine the morphology of influenza virions.



020

A Critical Threonine Residue in the Respiratory Syncytial Virus Matrix Protein is required for Matrix Oligomerization and Affect

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Human respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a member of Paramyxovirus family, is the most common cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia in infants and elderly worldwide. RSV assembles on the apical surface of polarized epithelial cells where viral filaments are formed. These filaments, together with budded spherical virus, are thought to be essential to cell-to-cell spread. We are interested in identifying the key viral and host cell proteins involved in the assembly and budding. The minimal RSV viral proteins essential for filament formation and budding are matrix (M), fusion (F), nucleoprotein (N), and phosphoprotein (P). Here we focus on M protein and its role in filament formation. M proteins are believed to form grid-like arrays on the inner surface of viral membranes while interacting with the glycoproteins and with the nucleocapsids during viral assembly. Recent structural data suggests that Paramyxovirus M proteins must first form dimers that will later assemble into higher order oligomers, probably determining the curvature of plasma membrane in sites of budding. In this study, we identify a key Threonine (Thr) residue that is critical for RSV M assembly. Using biochemical approaches in combination with immunofluorescence staining, we show that RSV M must form dimers in order to be efficiently recruited to viral filaments. Single mutation abolishes M oligomerization. By generating recombinant mutant virus we prove that defects in M assembly results in non-infectious virus production. We suggest that this is partly due to impaired binding to specific cellular proteins on plasma membrane.

021

A novel bunyavirus causing severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome in humans

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SFTS virus (SFTSV) is a newly identified pathogenic Phlebovirus in the family Bunyaviridae, which causes human severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome (SFTS) with an average case fatality rate of 12%. SFTS has been reported in at least 13 provinces in the Central, Eastern, and Northeastern regions of China and also found in USA, Japan and Korea recently. Although the tick *Haemophysalis longicornis* has been implicated as a vector of SFTSV, the circulation and transmission of SFTSV in nature still remains unclear. To investigate SFTSV infections in ticks and domesticated animals, we sampled a total of 3039 animals and 3141 ticks in two counties of Shandong province, China, from April to November 2011. SFTSV-specific antibodies were detected in 328 of 472 sheep (69.5%), 509 of 842 cattle (60.4%), 136 of 359 dogs (37.9%), 26 of 839 pigs (3.1%), and 250 of 527 chickens (47.4%). SFTSV RNA was detected in all sampled animal species, but the prevalence was low, ranging from 1.7% to 5.3%. Among the collected ticks, the dominant species was *H. longicornis* ticks, the SFTS viral RNA was detected in about 2% *H. longicornis*. Phylogenetic analysis of the virus isolates obtained from the sheep, cattle, dog and *H. longicornis* revealed over 95% homology with SFTSV isolated from patients from the same region, suggesting that the ticks may act as a potential link of SFTSV infections between humans and animals.



022

Filamentous influenza viruses

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Influenza viruses exist in two distinct morphological forms, filamentous and spherical virions, although the significance of these morphologies is unknown. Recently we have shown that filamentous and spherical virions differ in many basic aspects of viral replication including entry and budding. Whilst many of the interactions required for these processes have been determined, the relevance of the filamentous morphology to viral infection remains poorly defined. Here we analyse a panel of clinical influenza virus isolates and show that morphology is directly related to human infection. Further analysis of the entry and budding of filamentous virions suggests that morphology may affect viral replication, indicating a functional significance of the filamentous morphology.

023

Respiratory syncytial virus matrix protein: key role in infection

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Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is the major respiratory pathogen of infants and major cause of severe respiratory disease in the elderly, causing significant mortality worldwide, with no effective treatment or vaccine available. As in all paramyxoviruses, the RSV matrix protein (M) plays a key role in virus assembly in the host cell cytoplasm. In addition, M has been found to localize in the nucleus of infected cells early in infection, where it acts to inhibit host cell transcription and thereby contribute to pathogenesis. Later in infection, M is central in RSV assembly and budding of RSV, localizing in the cytoplasmic inclusions, co-localising with RSV nucleocapsids and inhibiting its transcriptase activity, perhaps in preparation for packaging and budding, as well as at membranes, co-localising with envelope glycoproteins F and G. We have delineated the various interactions of M with envelope glycoproteins and the nucleocapsid as well as its nuclear trafficking motifs and nuclear import and export pathways. Additionally, we have elucidated its functions in the nucleus and the cytoplasm, establishing the mechanism by which it inhibits host cell transcription, dependent on nuclear localization and nucleic acid binding activity. Our results will enable the development of urgently needed anti-viral agents to tackle RSV infection.



024

Functional characterization of the surface glycoproteins G and F of an African henipa-like bat virusNadine Krüger¹, Markus Hoffmann¹, Jan-Felix Drexler², Marcel Müller², Michael Weis³, Andrea Maisner³, Christian Drosten², Georg Herrler¹*Institut für Virologie, Tierärztliche Hochschule Hannover, Hannover, Germany**Institut für Virologie, Universität Bonn, Germany**Institut für Virologie, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Marburg, Germany*

The henipaviruses Hendravirus and Nipah virus are among the most pathogenic viruses causing disease in humans. The natural reservoir hosts for henipaviruses appear to be flying foxes of the genus *Pteropus*. The geographic range of pteropid bats comprises countries of South East Asia and Australia. The existence of African henipa-like viruses was indicated by the presence of neutralizing antibodies in Ghanaian fruit bats and by the identification of genomic RNA in fecal samples from *Eidolon helvum*. No henipavirus has been isolated so far from African bats. We analysed the functional activity of the F and G proteins of an African henipa-like virus (M74) and found that co-expression in a bat cell line resulted in syncytium formation. Fusion induced by the M74 glycoproteins was less efficient when compared to NiV glycoproteins and characterized by a restricted cell tropism. However, the glycoproteins of M74 and NiV resembled each other in their interaction with the ephrin B2 receptor and in the sensitivity of the fusion activity to cathepsin inhibitors. Our results help to characterize African henipa-like virus es in more detail and provide a basis for isolation of infectious virus from African bats.

025

Molecular basis for small molecule inhibitor of Ebola virus infection that targets receptor NPC1John Misasi^{1,2}, Anna Bruchez¹, Marceline Cote¹, Tao Ren³, Kyungae Lee³, Soo-mi Lee^{1,2}, James Cunningham¹*1 Division of Hematology, Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA USA 02115.**2 Division of Infectious Disease, Department of Medicine, Children's Hospital, Boston, MA, USA 02115.**3 New England Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA USA 02115.*

Ebola virus (EboV) infection is dependent on proteolytic cleavage of glycoprotein (GP) and binding of cleaved GP1 subunit to receptor Niemann-Pick C1 (NPC1). We identified 3.47, a small molecule inhibitor of infection that targets NPC1 and interferes with binding to cleaved GP1. We analyzed the molecular basis for 3.47 inhibition using resistant viruses and purified proteins. We find that Sudan GP binding and infection are resistant to 3.47 under conditions where Zaire GP is inhibited by >95%. Analysis of chimeric Zaire/Sudan GPs revealed that replacement of residues Ala141-Gln142 in Sudan with Val141-Ser142 from Zaire conferred sensitivity to 3.47 and the reciprocal exchange in Zaire conferred resistance. These exchanges did not alter virus infectivity. Residues 141-2 reside at the apex of a loop that protrudes from the surface of GP1 that makes critical contacts with NPC1. Since 3.47 inhibits GP1 binding to NPC1, we investigated the interaction between NPC1 and 3.47 using purified luminal domains N, C and I from NPC1. We found that luminal domain C specifically binds to cleaved GP1 and is a competitive inhibitor of infection, consistent with published results. We probed the purified luminal domains with 3.98, a 3.47 analog that contains a photoreactive aryl azide, and found that 3.98 forms a covalent adduct with domain C under conditions that inhibit virus infection. Taken together, these findings suggest a model in which the target of 3.47 is a pocket in luminal domain C of NPC1 that must accommodate GP1 Val141-Ser142 for EboV Zaire receptor binding and infection.



026

Assembly and budding of Rift Valley Fever virusEmily A. Bruce¹, Robert W. Doms^{1,2}*1*Department of Microbiology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA.*2*Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Rift Valley Fever virus (RVFV) is an enveloped, negative-sense virus that has major economic and public health consequences, causing febrile illness in humans and abortion rates of nearly 100% in pregnant livestock. A member of the Bunyaviridae family, RVFV possesses a tri-partite negative-sense genome, two glycoproteins (GN and G_C), a nucleoprotein (N), a polymerase and several non-structural proteins that are dispensable in tissue culture. Little is known about the assembly and budding of RVFV, though the Bunyavirus family is generally thought to bud into membranes derived from the Golgi compartment, before trafficking to the plasma membrane through an undefined route. We confirm that RVFV budding occurs into Golgi cisternae, as observed by transmission electron microscopy. While the glycoproteins rapidly localized to the Golgi compartment after translation, we observed by immunofluorescence and fluorescent in situ hybridization that N and vRNA were localized in a diffuse cytoplasmic pattern at early points in infection and were redirected to Golgi membranes only shortly before budding. Post-budding, we observed virions trafficking to the plasma membrane inside cellular vesicles. In some cases the cellular vesicles appeared elongated and contained multiple virions, suggesting that RVFV may be capable of altering cellular membrane structures during the assembly, budding and final transport phases of its life cycle.

027

Comparative analysis of matrix ubiquitination and nuclear-cytoplasmic trafficking across the paramyxoviridae generaMickey Pentecost¹, Talia Lester¹, Arnold Park¹, Yao Wang¹, Ajay Vashisht², James Wohlschlegel², Benhur Lee¹.*1*) Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, USA. *2*) Department of Biological Chemistry, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

The matrix (M) protein of paramyxoviruses is crucial for viral budding from the plasma membrane. We found that the nuclear-cytoplasmic trafficking of Nipah virus M is a prerequisite for budding, and is regulated by a classical bipartite NLS, a leucine-rich NES, and monoubiquitination of the K258 residue within the NLS itself (244RR-X10-RRK258). Interestingly, these motifs are conserved in matrix proteins across *Paramyxoviridae* genera. To study the molecular regulation and evolution of M, we generated NES and the NLS-lysine mutants in matrix proteins from the Henipavirus (Nipah and Hendra), Morbillivirus (Measles), Respirivirus (Sendai), Rubulavirus (Mumps), Avulavirus (Newcastle disease virus), and Pneumovirus (RSV) genera, including the unclassified Tupaia paramyxovirus. Using quantitative 3D confocal microscopy, we show that these motifs control nuclear localization to varying degrees among M proteins and that Nipah-M, Hendra-M and Sendai-M display the most significant and conserved regulation. Notably, intracellular localization of Measles-M was unaffected by mutations in its putative NLS or NES motif. Interestingly, Measles-M and Hendra-M showed significant hetero-oligomerization with Nipah-M, indicated by functional matrix-matrix bimolecular fluorescence complementation (BiFC) and Co-immunoprecipitation, Biochemical studies indicate that nearly all of the representative *Paramyxoviridae* M proteins



028

Autophagy pathway plays a critical role in entry of Ebolavirus into host cells

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Ebolavirus (EBOV) is a zoonotic, emerging virus which causes severe hemorrhagic fever in humans with up to 90% mortality. Despite much work, there are presently no licensed vaccines or drugs for treatment.

Our and others' previous studies demonstrated that virions enter host cells by macropinocytosis and subsequently traffic through the endocytic network before release of nucleocapsids into the cell cytoplasm. Despite the findings, the mechanism of EBOV entry is complex and poorly understood. Our earlier work showed that the PI3K pathway regulates vesicular trafficking and EBOV entry. While PI3K is known to trigger macropinocytosis, it also associates with Vps34, Beclin-1, p150, and Atg14-like proteins to initiate and coordinate the autophagy pathway, a catabolic process that normally leads to lysosomal degradation of abnormal protein aggregates and organelles. Recently, roles for the autophagy pathway in non-degradative vesicular trafficking have been reported. Here, we demonstrate that disruption of autophagy by siRNA or overexpression of dominant negative forms of the regulatory proteins blocked wild-type EBOV infection. For several viruses, autophagic membranes are important for genome replication, but surprisingly, for EBOV, the autophagy pathway appeared to regulate virus infection in a glycoprotein-dependent manner. Using 3D high-resolution microscopy of virus particle-cell interaction, we show that disrupting formation of autophagic vesicles blocked EBOV at an early entry step. For EBOV, the block appeared novel by preventing virus access to or interaction with a virus receptor or by inhibiting macropinosome internalization. This work was supported by NIH R01AI063513; DTRA HDTRA1-12-1-0002; and the Dou

029

The impact of GPC and N-terminal region of Lassa virus Z on virus-like particle release

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Lassa virus (LASV) causes a hemorrhagic fever to human. There is no licensed vaccine against LASV and ribavirin is the only option for treatment, but shows only partial effect and cause significant side effects. Therefore, to understand the life cycle of LASV and develop anti-LASV therapies is an urgent matter.

LASV Z is a viral matrix protein, and its sole expression produces virus-like particle (VLP). L-domain is the short amino acid motif which plays a critical role in virus budding and conserved among many enveloped virus matrix protein. PT/SAP and PPXY are the most characterized L-domains, and interact with Tsg101 and E3 ligase, respectively, to promote VLP production. Two L-domains are located at the C-terminal region of Z, and showed to be important for VLP production. Here, to determine other domain in LASV Z which affects VLP production, we constructed a series of Z protein deletion mutants and examined its VLP production. Most of the mutants did not affect to the VLP production, but only the mutant deleted the amino acid 3-9, Zd3-9, dramatically decreased its VLP production. The GPC expression did not rescue Zd3-9 VLP production, but modified the sensitivity of the VLP production to MbCD treatment in 293T cells. In addition, Z and GPC mediated VLP production was decreased by the treatment with siRNA specific for Tsg101. These data indicate that the N-terminal region of Z is important for the virus budding, and expression of GPC together with Z may reflect the proper LASV budding.



030

Analysis of Borna disease virus transport

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Borna disease virus (BDV), a highly neurotropic and non-cytolytic virus, differs from other Mononegavirales by its nuclear site for replication and transcription. The cellular cycle of Bornavirus remains poorly understood, in particular concerning the modalities of intracellular transport of viral ribonucleoproteins (RNP). To track RNP transport in live, infected cells, we constructed a recombinant virus in which a tetracycline tag was fused to the BDV phosphoprotein (P). Upon rescue and characterization of this recombinant virus, we analyzed viral dynamics in persistently infected cells using live imaging. This analysis revealed that nuclear vSPOTs (viral speckle of transcripts), the viral replication sites, were however very static. We thus performed FRAP (Fluorescence Recovery After Photobleaching) and FLIP (Fluorescence Loss Induced by Photobleaching) experiments, which revealed that one fraction of P protein was very static in vSPOTs, suggesting interaction with cellular partners, whereas another fraction of P was highly mobile and exchanged between all cellular compartments. In coculture experiments, we also observed the early steps of BDV infection by live confocal imaging and visualized viral transfer from cell to cell and its transfer to the nucleus. We also studied the molecular mechanism of BDV transport in primary cultures of neurons. We hypothesized that BDV is transported by specialized vesicles, the axonal endosomes, also used by other viruses such as canine adenovirus. Colocalization studies using immunofluorescence and biochemical purification unambiguously showed that BDV is indeed transported in these Rab7-dependent axonal endosomes. These results open new perspectives for a better characterization of BDV cellular cycle.

031

The molecular motor KIF13A mediates intracellular transport of the Lassa virus matrix protein Z

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The matrix protein Z of arenaviruses is the main driving force to promote viral particle production at the plasma membrane. Although multiple functions of Z in the arenaviral life cycle have been uncovered, the mechanism of intracellular transport of Z to the site of virus budding is poorly understood and cellular motor proteins that mediate Z trafficking remained to be identified. We found that the Z protein of the Old World arenavirus Lassa virus (LASV) interacts with the kinesin family member 13A (KIF13A), a plus-end-directed microtubule-dependent motor protein that has been reported previously to transport vesicles containing M6PR from the trans-Golgi-network to the plasma membrane. Overexpression of KIF13A results in relocalization of Z to the cell periphery, while functional blockage of endogenous KIF13A by a dominant-negative mutant or KIF13A-specific siRNA causes a perinuclear accumulation and decreased production of both Z-induced virus-like particles and infectious LASV. The interaction of KIF13A with Z proteins from both Old and New World arenaviruses suggests a conserved intracellular transport mechanism. In contrast, the intracellular distribution of the matrix proteins of prototypic members of the paramyxo- and rhabdovirus family is independent of KIF13A. In summary, our studies identify for the first time a molecular motor protein as a critical mediator for intracellular microtubule-dependent transport of arenavirus matrix proteins.



032

Thermodynamics Tune the Paramyxovirus Membrane Fusion Machinery

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The Morbillivirus cell entry machinery consists of a fusion (F)-trimer that drastically refolds to mediate membrane fusion following receptor-induced conformational changes in its binding partner, the tetrameric attachment (H) protein. To investigate the molecular determinants that control F refolding, we initially generated F-chimera between measles virus (MeV) and canine distemper virus (CDV) and identified a central pocket within the Morbillivirus F's globular head domain that regulates the stability of the metastable, prefusion conformational state. Most mutants of this "pocket" appeared to be destabilized, a phenotype associated with enhanced membrane fusion activity. Strikingly, under specific triggering conditions, some F-mutants also exhibited resistance to a potent Morbillivirus cell entry inhibitor; a molecule known to enhance the most stability of prefusion F-trimer to levels that preclude H-dependent F-triggering. However, in contrast to wild-type F-complexes, we found that de-stabilized F-variants resisted to the antiviral because their low intrinsic thermal stabilities could not be sufficiently raised by the drug. Furthermore, our data revealed that the nature of the triggering combination (receptor-type and H's origin) and the energy level of the prefusion F state act in a concerted manner not only to regulate the initiation of F refolding but also to control resistance to the membrane fusion inhibitor. In conclusion, our results demonstrate that thermodynamics are a key factor contributing to antiviral drug resistance and to the fine regulation of the triggering of the Morbillivirus membrane fusion machinery.

033

Studies on fluorescently labeled Nipah virus matrix protein

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Nipah virus (NiV) is a zoonotic and highly pathogenic paramyxovirus that causes respiratory or encephalitic diseases in pigs and humans. During *in vivo* infection, epithelial cells of the respiratory and urinary tract become productively infected leading to virus shedding via airway secretions or urine. We recently showed that NiV efficiently spread in epithelia and is predominantly released from the apical surfaces of polarized epithelial cells. While virus spread through the epithelial layer is mediated by glycoprotein-induced cell-to-cell fusion, polarized virus budding is most likely due to the restricted apical sorting of the NiV matrix (M) protein (Lamp, Dietzel et al., 2013).

Aim of this study is to establish tools that allow us to analyze M protein trafficking by live-cell microscopy techniques in NiV-infected polarized epithelial cells. For this purpose, we generated GFP- or mCherry-tagged NiV M protein. Plasmid-encoded M proteins showed an unaltered intracellular distribution, a complete colocalization with untagged M proteins, and an efficient virus-like particle formation. Initial live-cell microscopy studies revealed a rapid accumulation of labeled M proteins at the plasma membrane, often at the tips of filopodia-like protrusions of transfected cells. Ongoing studies in NiV-infected cells address the question if fluorescently labeled M proteins are sufficiently incorporated into infectious particles, and thus allow us in the future to monitor NiV replication in live epithelial cells with recombinant NiV encoding tagged M proteins.



034

Interaction of Rift Valley Fever virus with the host ESCRT machinery

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Rift Valley Fever virus (RVFV, family Bunyaviridae, genus Phlebovirus) is a negative-sense RNA virus borne by its mosquito vector into livestock and human hosts. Its tripartite genome is packaged into icosahedral virions with four structural proteins: the glycoproteins Gn and Gc, nucleocapsid, and polymerase. In animals, RVFV causes spontaneous abortions; in humans, a febrile illness that is typically self-limiting but can progress to severe symptoms including encephalitis, hepatitis, and hemorrhagic fever. To date, there are no FDA-approved vaccines or therapeutics for this disease, and its viral life cycle within the mammalian host is poorly characterized. We characterize here the interaction of Rift Valley Fever virus with the cell's ESCRT (endosomal sorting complex required for transport) pathway. The ESCRT pathway was first identified ten years ago as a series of protein complexes that act to sort ubiquitinated cargo from endosomes into multivesicular bodies en route to the yeast vacuole (or mammalian lysosome) for degradation. The ESCRT pathway has also been shown to play a role in other cellular processes, among them viral budding, cytokinetic abscission, and autophagy. Viruses that use ESCRT machinery for budding do so by way of late domain motifs contained in cytoplasmically-accessible regions of structural proteins. We examine a putative late domain contained within the cytoplasmic tail of the RVFV Gn glycoprotein, and characterize interactions between RVFV structural proteins and the host ESCRT machinery.

035

Endosomal Trafficking of the Nipah Virus Fusion Protein

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Nipah virus (NiV) is a highly pathogenic, BSL-4 classified paramyxovirus which encodes for two viral surface glycoproteins: the receptor-binding protein G and the fusion protein F. As for all paramyxoviruses, proteolytic activation of the NiV F protein is an indispensable prerequisite for viral infectivity and thus an important pathogenicity factor. In contrast to other ortho- and paramyxoviruses, activation of the NiV F protein takes place within the endosomal-recycling compartment and is mediated by cellular cathepsin L or B. Activation of F therefore depends on a functional YxxΦ endocytosis signal in the cytoplasmic tail of the protein. Aim of the study was to characterize the trafficking pathway of F proteins through the different endosomal-recycling compartments in epithelial cells by colocalization studies with various cellular marker proteins (rab and adaptor proteins). We furthermore generated F truncation mutants to identify NiV F cytoplasmic tail sequences that are involved in correct intracellular transport and which are therefore essential for functional F cleavage and cell-to-cell fusion.



036

Investigating the molecular determinants of mumps virus (MuV) entry and egress

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Mumps virus (MuV) is a respiratory spread, neurotropic human pathogen. Despite widespread vaccination, large MuV outbreaks continue to occur in the developed world. The mechanisms MuV utilises to infect and cause disease are poorly understood, in part due to lack of well characterized clinical isolates and animal models. We generated a reverse genetics system for the rescue of recombinant (r) MuV based on the sequence of unpassaged, clinical material (MuV/New York/2009 genotype G). This isolate (MuVG09) was obtained from an outbreak with over 4,000 symptomatic cases in many individuals who had been vaccinated twice.

Complete, consensus genome sequences of clinical material and passage 1 isolates were compared. Full-length plasmids were constructed containing the MuVG09 anti-genome and inserted an additional transcription unit encoding enhanced green fluorescent protein (EGFP) between the V/P and matrix (M) genes (position 3). Helper plasmids expressing the nucleocapsid (N), phospho- (P) and large (L) proteins and minigenome constructs expressing EGFP and Gaussia luciferase (Gluc) were used to optimise rescue. rMuVG09 and rMuVG09EGFP(3) were rescued, plaque picked, grown on Vero cells and characterised virologically and molecularly in vitro.

Observation of rMuVG09EGFP(3) infection in vitro highlighted diverse modes of transmission. To determine its mechanistic basis, we generated expression vectors encoding MuVG09 structural proteins: Hemagglutinin-Neuraminidase (HN), Fusion (F) and M and EGFP fused to M. Co-expression of EGFP-M and structural proteins showed that EGFP-M trafficking to assembly sites was HN and F-dependant. The effect on EGFP-M localisation by truncation of the cytoplasmic tail domains of HN and F was investigated.

037

Temporal analysis of HMPV infection reveals the interplay between viral proteins during the replication cycle

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Human metapneumovirus (HMPV) is a novel human respiratory pathogen and a leading cause of respiratory tract infections across all age groups worldwide. HMPV belongs to the Paramyxoviridae family, subfamily Pneumovirinae, which contains enveloped, negative sense, single stranded RNA viruses. The process of forming progeny virus particles requires complex interactions between viral nucleoproteins (N), phosphoproteins (P), matrix (M) proteins and viral glycoproteins. To understand the mechanisms of HMPV replication in more details, we performed a time-course analysis of HMPV infection. Confocal microscopy studies revealed that the subcellular localization of N and P is dramatically altered from punctate, cytoplasmic inclusions at early timepoints to long, filamentous extensions later in infection. HMPV M was cytosolic and did not co-localize with N and P at early timepoints, but at later times in infection M localized with N and P in filaments that form at the plasma membrane and extend between cells. The fusion (F) glycoprotein was also detected in these filamentous extensions. Interestingly, we report that overexpression of P in the absence of infection causes similar morphologies to those seen in late stages of infection. The observed morphology is akin to that of the pneumovirus, human respiratory syncytial virus (HRSV), which forms filaments containing N, P, M and F proteins. Our results are the first to demonstrate the interplay of HMPV proteins throughout the natural course of viral infection. Overall, the data suggest that filament formation may be a distinguishing feature of Pneumovirinae pathogenicity while playing a role in cell-to-cell virus transmission.



038

A charge-dependent interaction is necessary for Rift Valley fever virus-like particle entry into its host cell

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Background: Rift Valley fever virus (RVFV) is a mosquito borne Phlebovirus belonging to the species *Bunyaviridae*. It can cause retinitis, encephalitis and haemorrhagic fever. The virus is able to infect animals, humans and mosquitoes but not much is known about the entry mechanisms. It is important to better characterize the determinants for RVFV entry into its host cells.

Methods: The assay was based on RVF virus-like particles (VLPs) containing a reporter gene. Cells or RVF VLPs were treated with various compounds to characterize their effect on RVFV binding to its host cell. The net surface charge of the RVFV glycoproteins was also analysed. Results: Binding of RVF VLPs to cells was dependent on charge and divalent ions. Binding was inhibited by the highly negatively charged heparin. The RVFV Gn glycoprotein had a predicted isoelectric point (pI) of 7.6 and a net positive charge of +1.7 at pH 7.4, suggesting interaction between the Gn ectodomain and the negatively charged cell surface. RVFV Gc on the other hand, was highly negatively charged, -14.2 at pH 7.4, most probably reflecting that Gc is not exposed until after binding. Sialic acid, β 3-integrins and heparan sulfate was not important for RVF VLP binding.

Conclusions: The binding of RVFV to host cells was dependent on charge interactions between the cell surface and, most probably, the ectodomain of the RVFV Gn glycoprotein. Divalent ions were also important, while sialic acid, β 3-integrins and heparan sulfate had no involvement in RVFV cellular binding.

039

An upstream open reading frame modulates ebola virus polymerase translation and virus replication

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Ebolaviruses possess longer genomes than most other non-segmented negative-strand RNA viruses due in part to long 5' and 3' untranslated regions (UTRs). To date, specific functions have not been assigned to these UTRs. With reporter assays, we demonstrated that the Zaire ebolavirus (EBOV) 5'-UTRs lack internal ribosomal entry site function. However, the 5'-UTRs do differentially regulate cap-dependent translation when placed upstream of a GFP reporter gene. Most dramatically, the 5'-UTR derived from the viral polymerase (L) mRNA strongly suppressed translation of GFP. The L 5'-UTR is one of four viral genes to possess upstream AUGs (uAUGs), and ablation of each uAUG enhanced translation of the primary ORF (pORF), most dramatically in the case of the L 5'-UTR. Under conditions where eIF2 α was phosphorylated, the presence of the uORF sustained translation of the L pORF, indicating that the uORF modulates L translation in response to cellular stress. To directly address the role of the L uAUG in virus replication, a recombinant EBOV was generated in which the L uAUG was mutated to UCG. Strikingly, mutating two nucleotides outside of previously-defined protein coding and cis-acting regulatory sequences attenuated virus growth to titers 10-100-fold lower than a wild-type virus in Vero and A549 cells. The mutant virus also exhibited decreased viral RNA synthesis as early as 6 hours post-infection and enhanced sensitivity to the stress inducer thapsigargin. Cumulatively, these data identify novel mechanisms by which EBOV regulates its polymerase expression, demonstrate their relevance to virus replication and identify a potential therapeutic target.



040

Initiation and regulation of respiratory syncytial virus transcription and genome replication

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We characterized the mechanisms by which the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) polymerase initiates transcription and RNA replication by reconstituting RNA synthesis *in vitro* using purified polymerase and RNA oligonucleotides, utilizing a minigenome system, and/or analyzing RNA from RSV infected cells. We identified two initiation sites in the leader (Le) and trailer-complement (TrC) promoters, at +1 and +3. Mutations that affected RNA synthesis from the +3 site of the Le also impacted mRNA synthesis from the first and subsequent genes, indicating that the +3 initiation site is responsible for initiating sequential mRNA transcription. Analysis of the +1 and +3 initiation mechanisms using the *in vitro* assay showed that addition of sequence specific primers increased the efficiency of initiation at +1, but not +3, suggesting that two initiation mechanisms are involved. Evidence was also obtained to suggest how the polymerase might be regulated. It was found that substitutions in the capping domain in conserved region V of L inhibited transcription and RNA replication, but at different stages of RNA synthesis, suggesting this region might determine polymerase activity. Furthermore, it was found that in addition to directing RNA synthesis initiation, the TrC promoter sequence could be modified by a back-priming activity, resulting in the addition of nucleotides to the 3' end of the antigenome RNA. This modification inhibited TrC promoter activity. Together these findings suggest a model to explain how the polymerase initiates transcription and RNA replication and is regulated between mRNA, antigenome and genome synthesis during the viral replication cycle.

041

Functional insights into the measles virus NTAIL-PXD interaction using site-directed and random mutagenesisAntoine Gruet¹, Marion Dosnon¹, Johnny Habchi¹, David Blocquell¹, Christophe Bignon¹, Yaoling Shu², Joanna Brunel³, Michael Oglesbee², Denis Gerlier³ and Sonia Longhi¹*1CNRS et Aix-Marseille Université, Architecture et Fonction des Macromolécules Biologiques (AFMB), UMR 7257, Marseille, France**2Dept Veterinary Biosciences, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA.**3CIRI, INSERM U1111, CNRS UMR5308, Université Lyon 1, ENS Lyon, CERVI, Lyon, France.*

Recruitment of the measles virus polymerase onto the nucleocapsid template relies on interaction between an alpha-helical Molecular Recognition Element (alpha-MoRE) located within a conserved region (Box2) of the C-terminal intrinsically disordered domain of the nucleoprotein (NTAIL), and the C-terminal X domain (PXD) of the phosphoprotein. Modifying the interaction strength between NTAIL and XD is predicted to modulate the polymerase processivity. The impact of three substitutions in Box2 on PXD-induced NTAIL alpha-helical folding, on NTAIL/PXD affinity and on polymerase rates unveiled rather unexpectedly that a reduced binding strength or a loss of the alpha-helical folding capacity of NTAIL has no obvious impact on the polymerase function. In a fully naive approach, we also submitted the whole NTAIL sequence to random mutagenesis and assessed how amino acid substitutions affect partner recognition using a protein complementation assay based on split-GFP reassembly. NTAIL variants generated by error-prone PCR were picked at random, and characterized in terms of sequence and binding abilities towards PXD. The approach identified determinants of the NTAIL/PXD interaction in good agreement with previous work, but also provided new insights. In particular, we discovered that Box2 is poorly evolvable in terms of binding abilities towards PXD and identified NTAIL regulatory sites that either enhance or dampen the interaction while being located outside the primary interaction site. Selected mutants were introduced into biGene-biSilencing recombinant viruses to assess their impact on transcription and replication to get information on the critical dynamics of the NTAIL/PXD interaction in



042 **The EM structure of the complementary cRNP replicative intermediate of influenza A virus and host-pathogen interactions**

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During influenza A virus infection, genomic single-stranded viral RNA (vRNA) is replicated via a complementary (cRNA) intermediate, both of which are encapsidated in viral nucleoprotein and bound by the viral RNA-dependent RNA polymerase to form viral ribonucleoprotein (vRNP) and complementary viral ribonucleoprotein (cRNP) complexes. The viral polymerase is also responsible for viral transcription by a cap-snatching mechanism, the mRNA products of which are occupied by an ever-changing repertoire of RNA-binding proteins to form dynamic mRNP complexes. Here we report a novel RNA tagging and affinity-purification technique being applied to a negative strand virus for the first time in order to purify ribonucleoproteins from infected cells. Recombinant influenza A viruses have been generated by reverse genetics to contain an RNA tag which binds the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* phage 7 coat protein with nanomolar affinity, the interaction of which is exploited for the RNA-based affinity purification of influenza A mRNPs, cRNPs and vRNPs from infected cells with high specificity. We use electron microscopy techniques and single-particle analysis to study the elusive structure of the cRNP replicative intermediate. Two-dimensional class averages of the cRNP, derived by simultaneous alignment and classification of over 3,000 particles reveal that the cRNP forms a double helical structure, similar to that of the recently reported vRNP structure. We also use highly sensitive mass spectrometry to identify host cellular factors that interact with purified viral ribonucleoprotein complexes. Taken together, these findings contribute to our understanding of viral replication mechanisms and host-pathogen relationships.

043 **The role of the influenza virus nucleoprotein in viral transcription and replication**

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The eight vRNA genome segments of influenza A virus are bound by the viral RNA polymerase at the 5' and 3' ends and associated with oligomeric nucleoprotein (NP) to form viral ribonucleoprotein (vRNP) complexes. These vRNP complexes carry out both viral transcription and replication within the nucleus of the host cell. The role of NP in viral transcription and replication, although essential, is not well understood. Here we show that NP is not required for transcription and replication of short viral-like RNA templates *in vivo*, indicating that NP does not determine the mode of initiation or termination by the viral polymerase. We also show that the recruitment of NP to nascent RNP complexes during replication of full-length viral genes is mediated through NP-NP homo-oligomerisation in a 'tail-loop first' orientation. Finally, we have identified a phosphorylation site in the oligomerisation domain of influenza A virus NP and mutating this site causes a significant decrease in both viral transcription and replication. When the equivalent residue in influenza B virus NP is mutated, viral transcription and replication is inhibited, highlighting the importance of this residue in NP function. We propose that phosphorylation of this domain prevents the oligomerisation of NP and that the oligomerisation status of NP within the host cell is controlled by phosphorylation. This work provides new mechanistic insights into the assembly and regulation of viral RNP complexes.



044

Influenza nucleoprotein N-terminal deletion mutant is deficient in functional vRNP formation and viral RNA expression.

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The influenza RNA dependent RNA polymerase (RdRP) synthesizes viral RNA in the nucleus as functional viral ribonucleoprotein (vRNP) complexes with RNA and nucleoprotein (NP). The N-terminus of NP contains an unconventional nuclear localization signal (NLS) important for initial vRNP nuclear localization and also interacts with host RNA processing factor UAP56. To study the role of the N-terminus of NP aside from its NLS function, we generated an N-terminal NP mutant encoding the conventional NLS from SV40 T-antigen. Using reconstituted vRNP assays we demonstrate this NP mutant is expressed, present in the nucleus, and binds nucleic acids, but is defective for viral RNA expression. The defect is exacerbated with increased vRNA template length; long vRNA templates result in no detectable viral full-length or partial mRNA transcripts, and no NP containing high molecular weight complexes, providing evidence the defect resides in functional vRNP formation and not mRNA elongation. Interestingly, the shortest template, NS vRNA, exhibits only a limited defect. However, we show this is not due to short template length, but rather activity of the NS protein(s). Expression of NS1 rescues the gene expression defect at the protein level, a finding consistent with the role of NS1 as a viral mRNA translational enhancer. NS1 mutant analysis confirms NS1-RNA binding is not required for the rescue and reveals the NS1-CPSF30 interaction surface is essential, a novel finding. Our results support a role for the N-terminus of NP in efficient formation of functional vRNPs and confirm NS proteins have effects on viral gene expression.

045

Phosphorylation of Ebola virus VP30 influences the composition of the viral nucleocapsid complex: Impact on viral transcription

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Ebola virus is a non-segmented negative-sense RNA virus causing severe hemorrhagic fever with high fatality rates in humans and nonhuman primates. For transcription of the viral genome four viral proteins are essential: the nucleoprotein NP, the polymerase L, the polymerase cofactor VP35, and VP30. VP30 represents an essential Ebola virus specific transcription factor whose activity is regulated via its phosphorylation state. In contrast to viral transcription, VP30 is not required for viral replication. Using a minigenome assay, we show that phosphorylation of VP30 inhibits viral transcription while viral replication is increased. Furthermore, phosphorylation of VP30 reciprocally regulates a newly described interaction of VP30 with VP35, and strengthens the interaction with NP. Our results indicate a critical role of VP30 phosphorylation for viral transcription and replication, suggesting a mechanism by which VP30 phosphorylation modulates the composition of the viral polymerase complex presumably forming a transcriptase in presence of non-phosphorylated VP30 or a replicase in the presence of phosphorylated VP30.



046 **The mechanism of RNA synthesis inhibition by the matrix protein of vesicular stomatitis virus**

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The RNA synthesis machinery of nonsegmented negative-strand RNA viruses comprises a genomic RNA encased by a nucleocapsid protein (N-RNA), and associated with the RNA dependent RNA polymerase (RdRP). The RdRP resides within a large (L) protein that engages the N-RNA template via a phosphoprotein (P) cofactor which also serves to enhance RdRP processivity. The L-P complex transcribes the genome RNA into a series of discrete monocistronic mRNAs that are capped, methylated and polyadenylated by L. In the presence of ongoing viral protein synthesis the genomic template is replicated through an encapsidated antigenomic intermediate. Assembly of genomic RNA into virions requires the matrix (M)-dependent condensation of the template with a concomitant inhibition of polymerase activity and the acquisition of the glycoprotein studded lipid envelope. Here we define the mechanism by which the polymerase activity is inhibited during the assembly of virions. Using a simple *in vitro* polymerase assay comprising pure recombinant viral proteins, and synthetic naked RNA templates, we show that M directly inhibits the RdRP activity of L. Inhibition of the RdRP is independent of the presence of P and requires the C-terminal domain of M. We further demonstrate that M inhibits the RdRP by direct binding of L and we measure an affinity constant for the formation of the M-L complex. This work shows that the RdRP activity of L is suppressed by the direct engagement of L by M, a mechanism that ensures that the viral polymerase is packaged into virions.

047 **Recoding the L gene of vesicular stomatitis virus by computer-aided synthesis leads to unexpected biological phenotypes**

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Codon pair bias (CPB), a neglected phenomenon affecting gene expression, results from some synonymous codon pairs disliking or favoring each other. The differences are small but when amplified by recoding and chemical synthesis (producing hundreds of nt changes) robust phenotypes are scored. For example large scale deoptimized (disliking) codons pairs attenuate virulence as shown previously by computation/synthesis of a highly attenuated influenza virus (Flu) suitable as vaccine candidate. A second possibility for genome recoding is scrambling synonymous codons to introduce maximal nt changes by changes of synonymous codon pair ratios. Scrambling does generally not change replication phenotypes unless essential signal(s) are destroyed. Note that our recodings change neither protein sequences nor codon usage. We report unexpected results by scrambling the genome of vesicular stomatitis virus of Mononegavirales, which, in contrast to Flu, expresses genes from a single stranded RNA. We focused on gene L (Lscr), dividing it into segments L1, L2, and L3. VSV containing L1src (858/2574 nt mutations) replicated like VSV in cell culture whereas, astonishingly, VSV L2src (517/1485) and VSV L3src (627/1788) were dead. The latter suggested hitherto unknown replication signals in the L gene that were destroyed by scrambling. Equally surprising was that VSV L1src is highly attenuated in Balb/c mice: whereas wt VSV killed (intra nasally) at LD50 of 10^5 pfu. VSV L1src could hardly kill the animals even at very high dose. However, VSV L1src induced a very robust adaptive immune response on intranasal infection. The reason for this remarkable atn phenotype caused by scrambling L1 is under investigation.



048

Functional interaction between PB2 and PA polymerase subunits of influenza virus is a critical determinant of the replication of

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The RNA polymerase of influenza A virus plays an important role in virulence and host-range restriction, and also in the regulation of genetic reassortment. Recent studies suggest that the co-incorporation of PA and PB2 from the same H3N2 strain appears to be important for the efficient virus replication; however, the underlying mechanism remains unclear. Here, we reconstituted reassortant ribonucleoprotein (RNP) complexes and demonstrated that the RNP activity was severely impaired when the PA subunit of H3N2 strain A/NT/60/1968 (NT PA) was introduced into H1N1 or H5N1 polymerase. The NT PA did not affect the correct assembly of the polymerase trimeric complex; however, it severely reduced the replication-initiation activity to 47% *in vitro*, and the accumulation of RNP to 43% *in vivo*, of that achieved by the H1N1 polymerase, which led to the loss of RNP activity. Mutational analysis demonstrated that PA residues 184N and 383N were the major determinants of the inhibitory effect of NT PA and 184N/383N sequences were unique to human H3N2 strains. Significantly, the inhibitory effect of NT PA was specifically relieved by NT PB2, and the PB2 residue K627 played a key role. Our results suggest that PB2 from the same H3N2 strain might be required for overcoming the inhibitory effect of H3N2 PA in the genetic reassortment of influenza virus.

049

The N-terminal fragment of influenza A virus (H5N1) PB2 subunit strongly inhibits its RNA-dependent RNA polymerase

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Introduction Influenza A virus has an eight segmented RNA-genome which causes a genetic reassortment to generate newly pandemic influenza viruses. Mathematically, 256 types of influenza viruses can be generated when eight genomes derived from two different influenza strains merge into one viral particle in the host animals. On the other hand, the reassortment of influenza virus is strongly restricted has been shown. Recently we also showed that H5N1 PB2 subunit severely impaired WSN RNP activities, might play an important role for the restriction of the genomic reassortant.

Materials and Methods

In this report, we have extended a previous result that the H5N1 PB2 subunit severely impaired the RNP activity, and applied the PB2 subunit as a competitor against influenza RNA polymerase. To investigate the competitive effect of the PB2 subunit against to the influenza RNP, we have performed RNP reconstitution assay in 293T cell with/without inhibitors, and measured its RNP activity by luciferase reporter assay.

Results and Discussion

N-terminal H5N1 PB2 subunit competitively inhibited the RNP activity. Moreover we have determined the important amino acid on the PB2 subunit for the strongly inhibitory effect. Our results suggested that the N-terminal fragment of H5N1 PB2 subunit becomes a new agent as an inhibitor. We propose that we must have various ways to fight the threat infectious diseases such as influenza virus, and continue this kind of research to accumulate the fundamental data.



050

Role of non-coding sequences in Arenavirus mRNAs translation

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The genome of Tacaribe virus (TCRV), prototype of the New World arenaviruses, comprises two RNA segments each containing two non-overlapping open reading frames with an ambisense arrangement. TCRV coding sequences are expressed from subgenomic messenger RNAs (mRNAs) transcribed from the 3' regions of the genomes and antigenomes. Viral mRNAs contain cap structure and short stretches of non-viral nucleotides upstream of viral 5' untranslated regions (UTR). Also, they lack a 3' poly(A) tail, exhibiting a 3' non-coding region predicted to form stable secondary hairpin structures with a suspected role in translation modulation. To analyze the contribution of non-coding sequences to TCRV mRNAs translation, we generated a synthetic transcript mimicking the TCRV Nucleoprotein (N) mRNA, where the N gene was swapped for the one of Firefly Luciferase (LUC). Mutant mRNAs were designed to carry modifications in either the 5' or the 3' non-coding sequence. Translation from these virus-like mRNAs in transfected cells was evidenced by LUC activity. Deletion of the complete 5' UTR caused loss of LUC activity, while significantly reduced levels of reporter gene activity were associated to deletion of the 3' non-coding region. These results suggest that both 5' and 3' non-coding sequences stimulate virus-like mRNA translation. Studies are underway to define the role of viral proteins in this process and to identify structural signatures in viral mRNAs that may be relevant for their translation.

051

Mutations in the mRNA capping enzyme active site of the VSV L protein induce abnormal transcription initiation and termination

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mRNA capping is one of essential mRNA processing events that occurs co-transcriptionally. The RNA-dependent RNA polymerase L protein of vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) forms a covalent enzyme-RNA intermediate for pre-mRNA capping using a nucleophilic histidine residue in the conserved histidine-arginine (HR) motif. To analyze the effects of cap-deficient mutations in the HR motif on mRNA synthesis, we performed in vitro transcription with recombinant L mutants in the presence of the N-RNA template and co-factor P protein. Using this system, we have previously shown that the wild-type L protein efficiently synthesizes full-length N, P, M, and G mRNAs with a cap structure and poly(A) tail. In contrast, cap-deficient L mutants were found to frequently terminate N mRNA synthesis at an early stage of RNA chain elongation, producing 38- and 40-nucleotide pppA-RNAs, although they synthesized the 47-nucleotide leader RNA from the 3' end of the genomic RNA to similar extents as the wild-type L protein. We also found that these mutants frequently initiate transcription from a cryptic initiation site within the N gene and immediately terminate transcription to yield a 28-nucleotide pppG-RNA. In addition, these mutants produced small amounts of 3' polyadenylated full-length N mRNA and its shorter form started with 5' pppG- that is synthesized using another cryptic initiation site. These findings suggest that the HR motif in the L protein and/or pre-mRNA capping is essential to repress aberrant transcription initiation and termination using cryptic signals within the N gene.



052

A novel regulatory mechanism determining the genome polarity of the Mononegavirales

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The order *Mononegavirales* comprises a huge number of nonsegmented negative-strand RNA viruses (NNSVs). How an NNSV can be an NNSV has been extensively studied using a prototypic species, vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV). It was established that the negative polarity of VSV genome is defined solely by the *cis*-acting replication promoters; the promoter of the replication-intermediate positive-sense antigenome RNA [the sequence complementary to the 5'-terminal trailer sequence (Tr) of the genome] to direct the negative-sense genome RNA is much more stronger than the promoter, 3'-leader sequence (Le) of the genome to direct the positive sense antigenome RNA, thereby resulting in the preferential production of progeny with the negative-strand RNA genome. The quantitative ratio of genome to antigenome is invariable in cells throughout the lifecycle with great predominance of genome relative to antigenome. In contrast, we show here that a remarkable shift from the early antigenome-dominant to late genome-dominant phase takes place during the single cycle replication of another prototype species, Sendai virus (SeV). This shift appeared to be governed primarily by the expression of the accessory C protein because no such shift occurred and antigenomes were dominant throughout infection with a recombinant SeV with the C gene deleted, generating antigenome-dominant and noninfectious progeny virions. We thus propose for the first time a *trans*-acting regulation for genome polarity decision of an NNSV. A series of Le/Tr swapping studies further suggested the importance of the primary and secondary structures of the promoters in this *trans*-regulation.

053

Efficient rescue and reverse genetics of viruses from all Paramyxovirinae genera without the use vaccinia-driven T7 polymerase

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Reverse genetics systems for rescue of paramyxoviruses are notoriously inefficient. The requirements for high levels of cytoplasmic T7-RNA polymerase (T7-RNAP) to drive initial expression of antigenomic viral transcripts and the N, P and L proteins for jump-starting a productive replication cycle, are inconveniently coupled with the suboptimal codon usage of the T7-bacteriophage gene, and the cytotoxicity of T7-RNAP. Successful rescue generally requires co-infection with T7-RNAP-expressing recombinant vaccinia viruses (rVV). However, increasing restrictions on the use of rVV, and added complications of using a cytotoxic (pox) virus to express a cytotoxic (bacteriophage) gene to rescue a recombinant paramyxovirus is decidedly inefficient, even if successful. We have created a codon-optimized T7 polymerase (T7opt) gene that enables the rescue of recombinant paramyxoviruses entirely from cloned cDNAs using a single-step transfection methodology. This method was used to rescue representative viruses from every Paramyxovirinae genus. The use of T7opt makes efficient rescue of paramyxoviruses possible on highly transfectable cell types (e.g. Vero, and 293T) without rVV-T7-RNAP. Compared to other T7 deliver methods, our T7opt-transfection methodology is faster, safer, more efficient, and allows greater latitude in the ratios of transfected plasmids that result in successful rescue of recombinant viruses. Rescue efficiency was further enhanced, up to 3-logs in some cases, with the addition of a hammerhead ribozyme (Hh-Rbz) sequence in the transcribed antigenome. This Hh-Rbz, engineered between the full T7 promoter and the 3' leader sequence of the recombinant viral genome, ensures adherence to the rule of six by pre-designed autocatalytic cleavage of the transcript-initiating 3Gs.



054

THE ROLES OF PHOSPHORYLATION OF THE MUMPS VIRUS PHOSPHOPROTEIN IN VIRUS REPLICATION

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Mumps virus (MuV), a paramyxovirus, is a human pathogen that causes an acute infection with symptoms ranging from parotitis to mild meningitis and severe encephalitis. The phosphoprotein (P) and the large protein (L) of MuV form viral RNA-dependent RNA polymerase complex. The P protein is highly phosphorylated. However, the specific role of this phosphorylation is unknown. In this work, we have taken three approaches to investigate the roles of phosphorylation of P in MuV replication. First, we performed a mass spectrometry analysis of P from infected cells and identified T91 and T165 as phosphorylated; however, mutating these residues to alanine resulted in no significant change in a minigenome system. Second, we have taken a bioinformatics approach to identify potential phosphorylation sites. Mutating these putative phosphorylation sites did not affect the functionalities of the P proteins in the mini-genome system. Last, we have systematically mutated all serine and threonine residues of the P protein to alanine and tested these mutants in the minigenome system. We have identified ten S/T residues that were critical for replication and transcription in this system: nine significantly reduced and one significantly enhanced mini-genome activity. We are incorporating these mutations into MuV genome and have recovered some infectious MuV. Using these mutant viruses and mutant proteins, we have investigated the mechanism of viral gene expression regulated by the phosphorylation of P. The work will not only lead to a better understanding of viral RNA transcription and replication

055

Factors affecting respiratory syncytial virus polymerase activity at the promoters

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Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) RNA synthesis was reconstituted *in vitro* using recombinant RSV polymerase and an RNA oligonucleotide template. This assay revealed the RSV polymerase could initiate *de novo* RNA synthesis at positions +1 and +3 of the trailer-complement (TrC) promoter and could add a specific sequence of nucleotides to the 3' terminus of the TrC RNA using a mechanism that involved base pairing of 3'-UG with internal nucleotides 13C and 14A. RNA products consistent with these activities were also detected in RSV infected cells. Analysis of factors that affect these events showed that *de novo* RNA synthesis and 3' template extension were impacted by salt and metal cations. Increasing concentrations of NaCl inhibited all synthesis events, while Mg²⁺ ions promoted all activities. Addition of Mn²⁺ as an alternative to Mg²⁺ supported both 3'-extension and *de novo* initiation, but affected the relative ratios of these products in a concentration dependent manner. Analysis of templates of different lengths showed that nucleotides 1-14 of TrC were sufficient to direct initiation at +1 and +3, but sequence beyond nucleotide 16 was required for 3' template extension. Analysis of the Le promoter showed that while Le RNA was modified by 3'-extension *in vitro*, there was no evidence this occurred during RSV infection. These data suggest that *de novo* RNA synthesis and 3' template extension activities are mediated by different mechanisms, and that in infected cells the efficiency of 3'-extension is controlled by a factor missing from the *in vitro* assay.



056

An alternative method to determine the 5' extremities of non-segmented, negative sense RNA viral genomes using positive replicat

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Determining the sequence of non-segmented, negative sense RNA viral genomes is far from routine and often requires the application of several techniques. Here, an existing method currently used just for determination of the genomic 3' extremity was used to determine both the 3' and 5' sequence extremities of a Newcastle disease virus and an avian metapneumovirus. This was achieved with a single 3' nucleotide tailing reaction of both the genomic RNA and the full length, positive sense, antigenomic RNA, followed by a single reverse transcription reaction targeted to the common poly nucleotide tails, and then individual PCRs specific for each extremity using PCR primers derived from the sequence of the RT primer or from previously known neighbouring virus sequences. For each virus the method was employed separately. Sequences from both viruses were in agreement with those previously reported for other paramyxoviruses, yet one extra base at the 3' and one extra base at the 5' were identified for the avian metapneumovirus studied here. Importantly, the newly determined extremities maintained the complementarity known to exist between the extremities of these viruses. The method was equally successful with both viruses and can be easily tailored to function with other non-segmented, negative sense viruses through minor modification of only the primer sequences.

057

Establishment of a Nipah virus reverse genetics system

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Reverse genetics technology is an indispensable tool to study various aspects of the negative strand RNA virus life cycle. To apply this technology to Nipah virus, a highly pathogenic BSL-4 classified paramyxovirus, we first generated a pBR-based plasmid encoding the full-length antigenome from viral RNA of the NiV Malaysia strain under control of the T7 promoter. A derivative carrying an additional transcription unit expressing the enhanced green fluorescent protein (eGFP) between the glycoprotein and polymerase (L) open reading frames, and helper plasmids encoding the nucleoprotein (N), the phosphoprotein (P) and the L protein genes also under control of the T7 promoter were produced. After optimization of the relative plasmid concentrations, infection of 293 cells with MVA-T7 and subsequent transfection of the parental or eGFP-carrying full length plasmids together with the helper plasmids led to syncytia formation and production of infectious cell-free virus particles. Using this reverse genetics system, we successfully recovered wildtype and eGFP-expressing recombinant Nipah viruses. Both recombinant viruses displayed similar growth characteristics and reached final titers of 10^9 TCID₅₀/ml, corresponding to results obtained with the non-recombinant parental strain. This new system will thus allow us to investigate the role of specific mutations and functional domains in the viral context and contribute to our understanding of NiV biology.



058 **Strategies of avian influenza A virus polymerases for efficient replication after zoonotic transmission**

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Influenza A viruses are major human pathogens, for which wild aquatic birds act as the natural host reservoir. Several “species barriers” are known to limit the spread of avian influenza viruses (AIVs) to non-avian hosts. A strong restriction of the AIV polymerase in mammals generally limits the occurrence of beneficial genomic mutations that are needed to overcome these barriers. Several adaptive mutations in the polymerase genes were reported. However, only little information is available about the precise domains, adaptive mutations are located in, and the function of these domains. Moreover, no studies were performed on naturally occurring mutations in the viral promoter structures. The objective of this project was to characterize polymerase domains and promoter mutations involved in host adaptation. Using database information, candidate mutations that evolved in the polymerase and non-coding-regions during natural selection of AIVs in mammals (including humans) were identified. Next these mutations were tested in the context of human cells. We could identify several activity enhancing mutations in the polymerase genes. Modeling these amino acid exchanges into available crystal structures of PB2 and PA revealed a strong clustering, e.g. PB2-740 between the adaptive positions PB2-701 and PB2-627. The intensity of activity increase was dependent on the segment specific non-coding-regions. Currently, we are testing mutations in the viral promoter regions to show how the influenza polymerase and its promoter regulate efficient genome transcription/replication. These data illustrate the flexibility, but simultaneously complexity of the adaptation of the influenza polymerase to a new species.

059 **Defective interfering particles hamper continuous influenza virus propagation**

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The best protection against the contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses is annual vaccination. However, the current production capacities for influenza vaccines are insufficient to meet increasing global demands. Therefore, we explored the possibility to establish a continuous production process for influenza viruses using the duck-derived suspension cell line AGE1.CR (ProBioGen AG, Germany). To propagate influenza viruses in continuous culture, a two-stage bioreactor setup was used. AGE1.CR cells were cultivated in a first stirred tank bioreactor. Here, an almost constant cell concentration was maintained and cells were constantly fed to a second bioreactor where virus infection and replication took place. Using this two-stage reactor system it was possible to continuously produce influenza viruses. However, subsequent virus titer analysis revealed a periodic increase and decrease of virus titers during the run-time of 17 days. These titer fluctuations were caused by the accumulation of defective interfering particles (DIPs), which were detectable by PCR. With increasing amounts of DIPs the concentration of infectious viruses started to decrease. In turn, total virus titers also declined since DIPs are unable to replicate without complete helper viruses. Subsequently, due to the constant dilution rate, both infectious viruses as well as DIPs were washed out and at a low multiplicity of infection virus replication restored. In the future, this system shall be analyzed in more detail for its suitability to produce influenza viruses and to study aspects of viral evolution including the generation of DIPs.



060

Effect of nuclear export protein (NEP) of influenza virus on regulation of polymerase activity and viral RNA synthesis

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The influenza virus nuclear export protein NEP can regulate the synthesis of viral vRNA, cRNA and mRNA and such regulation is independent of its nuclear export function. Currently, the reported effects of NEP on polymerase activity are not consistent between different research groups who have used different strains of influenza virus in their experiments. What's more, the molecular mechanism of NEP regulation of virus polymerase is unclear. In this study, using human, pig, and avian influenza virus polymerases, firstly, we showed NEP increased the polymerase activity of swine and avian virus but decreased the polymerase activity of human viruses in human 293T cells. Our data indicated a balance between the level of polymerase activity and the regulation of NEP. NEP increased cRNA, mRNA and vRNA synthesis when viral polymerase activity was low, but increase the accumulation of cRNA and decrease the mRNA when viral polymerase activity was higher. The regulation of NEP was not observed on avian cells. Finally we found that using two different NEPs cloned from different strains of avian of swine influenza virus showed distinctive effects upon the regulation of polymerase activity. By creating chimeric NEP proteins derived from these two natural NEPs we defined the key function sites on NEP associated with the regulation of polymerase activity.

061

Ebola virus: transcriptional RNA editing versus premature poly-adenylation.

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Ebola virus (EBOV), a member of the Filovirus family causes lethal hemorrhagic fever in man. The EBOV glycoprotein (GP) gene encodes several transcripts due to RNA editing at a conserved site consisting of 7 consecutive uridines. The majority of GP gene transcripts are unedited and encode for secreted sGP, whereas surface GP is synthesized from edited mRNAs containing an extra adenosine inserted at the editing site by viral polymerase. Here we demonstrate for the first time that the editing site can serve as a cryptic transcriptional stop signal causing synthesis of truncated mRNA. Northern blot analysis revealed that nearly 50% of GP mRNAs in EBOV-infected cells represent full-length GP transcripts whereas others are products of premature transcription termination. Sequence analysis of short mRNAs showed a presence of poly (A) tail consisting of 27-44 adenosines and an absence of translation termination codon at the end of reading frame. Expression of this nonstop mRNA was assayed using a truncated poly-adenylated mRNA (tr-mRNA) synthesized in vitro from a plasmid by T7 polymerase. No specific protein was detected when capped tr-mRNA was used for transfection of 293T cells whereas invitro translation of this RNA resulted in synthesis of a 36kDa GP-specific polypeptide. Of note, introduction of stop codon upstream to the poly (A) sequence restored protein synthesis indicating that mammalian cells possess a mechanism preventing expression of aberrant mRNAs. Role and significance of the editing site as well as function of novel GP gene product in replication of EBOV will be discussed.



062

Development of a reverse genetics system to generate recombinant Marburg virus derived from a bat isolateLuke Uebelhoeer, Cesar Albarino, Joel Vincent, Stuart Nichol, Jonathan Towner
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African marburg- and ebolaviruses, Family Filoviridae, are causative agents of severe viral hemorrhagic fevers. Recent investigations have demonstrated the Egyptian fruit bat (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*) to be a natural reservoir for marburgviruses. To better understand the viral molecular genetic determinants essential for virus replication in the natural reservoir host, a new reverse genetics system was developed for the reliable rescue of a Marburg virus originally isolated directly from a *R. aegyptiacus* bat (Bat-371) captured in southwest Uganda. Although virus rescue systems have been previously developed for Marburg (Musoke) and Ebola viruses (Mayinga), such viruses were originally isolated from humans followed by multiple rounds of virus passage in cell culture. These passage histories may have allowed for the accumulation of adaptive mutations detrimental for replication in its reservoir host. To develop a robust system for rescuing Bat-371 Marburg virus, the exact terminal sequences were determined by 5' and 3' RACE, followed by the expression cloning of NP, VP35, VP30 and L ORFs. Using optimized ratios of support plasmids, conditions were developed to efficiently replicate virus mini-genomes, some containing GFP-reporter constructs, under BSL-2 conditions. Plasmids containing full-length genomic sequences were then constructed, including ones containing GFP insertions in various UTRs throughout the genome. Using near-identical optimized conditions, wild type and GFP-containing Bat-371 Marburg viruses were reliably rescued. These recombinant bat-derived Marburg viruses grew to similar high titers in VeroE6 cells and will have utility in controlled laboratory infections of bats from our *R. aegyptiacus* colony.

063

Spatiotemporal analysis reveals inclusion bodies as sites of ebolavirus replication

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Genome replication and transcription are essential processes in the virus life cycle. For ebolaviruses they have been extensively studied using minigenome systems. A strength of these systems is that they allow dissection of individual aspects of the virus life cycle. To this end, we developed replication-deficient minigenomes, which for the first time allowed replication and transcription to be studied separately, and used them to investigate the regulation of these processes by the ebolavirus proteins. However, since minigenome systems rely on plasmid-driven expression of only a subset of viral components, they likely do not reflect the full complexity of these processes during viral infection. In order to better understand genome replication and transcription in live ebolaviruses, we have generated a number of recombinant viruses expressing reporter genes from additional transcriptional units, or fused to viral genes without significant loss of function of the viral gene products. We then performed spatiotemporal analyses of replication and transcription with these viruses, and could demonstrate that genome transcription begins within two hours post-infection, whereas genome replication is detectable only at much later times. Further, we showed that replication and transcription are localized in inclusion bodies, demonstrating for the first time a function for these virus-induced structures. Interestingly, our data also suggest that several classes of inclusion bodies exist, which we are currently characterizing using correlative light-electron microscopy. These studies demonstrate that combining minigenome systems and recombinant viruses is a powerful approach to study the details of virus genome replication and transcription.



064

Molecular requirements for inhibiting viral RNA synthesis and host responses by the Nipah virus C protein

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Nipah virus is a highly pathogenic paramyxovirus which has caused fatal human encephalitis in Bangladesh on a near-annual basis since 2001. We have previously demonstrated a role for the Nipah virus (NiV) C protein in inhibiting both viral replication and host antiviral responses. Through the use of protein alignment programs, we identified certain residues/motifs conserved among henipaviruses, as well as others conserved between the henipaviruses and morbilliviruses. In order to determine the functional significance of these conserved residues, we performed targeted mutagenesis these residues within the context of their respective abilities to inhibit Nipah minigenome replication and to inhibit interferon beta (IFN- β) transcription. Our results indicate that residues among several distinct regions of the NiV C protein contribute to protein stability, as well as to its respective abilities to inhibit minigenome replication and IFN- β transcription.

065

Analysis of MARV Viral Genome Non-coding Regions

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The Marburg viruses Musoke (MARV-Mus) and Angola (MARV-Ang) have highly similar genomic sequences. Analysis of viral replication using various assays consistently identified MARV-Ang as the faster replicating virus. Non-coding genomic regions of negative sense RNA viruses are known to play a role in viral gene expression. A comparison of the six non-coding regions using bicistronic minigenomes revealed that the first two non-coding regions (NP / VP35 and VP35 / VP40) differed significantly in their transcriptional regulation. Deletion mutation analysis of the MARV-Mus NP / VP35 region further revealed that the MARV polymerase (L) is able to initiate production of the downstream gene without the presence of highly conserved regulatory signals. Bicistronic minigenome assays also identified the VP30 mRNA 5' untranslated region as an rZAP-targeted RNA motif. Overall, our studies indicate that the high variation of MARV non-coding regions may play a significant role in observed differences in transcription and/or replication.



066

Elucidating the biochemical determinants for restriction of influenza virus polymerase activity by PB2 627E in mammalian cells

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Most avian influenza viruses do not replicate efficiently in human cells. This is partly due to the low activity of the RNA polymerase of avian influenza viruses in mammalian cells. An E→K adaptive mutation at residue 627 of the PB2 subunit of the polymerase increases the activity of avian-derived virus polymerases in mammalian cells. Accordingly, viral ribonucleoprotein (RNP) reconstitution assays show that a viral polymerase containing PB2 627E characteristic of avian influenza viruses exhibits impaired activity in mammalian cells compared to a viral polymerase that contains PB2 627K characteristic of mammalian-adapted influenza viruses. In contrast, purified viral polymerases containing either PB2 627E or PB2 627K show comparable levels of activity in transcription assays that require no RNP assembly. To reconcile these conflicting observations, we used an NP-independent cell based transcription/replication assay to assess viral polymerase activity. We found that PB2 627E polymerase inhibition in mammalian cells is independent of NP expression, but is dependent on the length of the viral RNA template. In addition, restriction of PB2 627E polymerase was overcome by mutations specific to the viral RNA template promoter sequence. Consequently, we propose that PB2 627 affects recruitment of the viral RNA promoter by the viral polymerase in mammalian cells.

067

Phosphorylation of Marburg virus NP and its influence on replication and assembly

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Marburg virus causes severe hemorrhagic fevers among humans and nonhuman primates. The nucleoprotein NP, together with the viral proteins VP30, VP35, VP24 and the polymerase L, form the nucleocapsid that encapsidates the viral RNA. Previous studies have shown that NP is phosphorylated at C-terminal serine and threonine residues. While in infected cells both phosphorylated and unphosphorylated NP can be detected, only the phosphorylated form is incorporated into released viral particles, suggesting a role of the phosphorylation in virogenesis. Seven phosphorylation regions have been identified in NP, some of which have already been studied more in detail.

To study function of phosphorylation of S619 (region VII), two mutants were constructed replacing S619 by aspartate (NP S619D) or alanine (NP S619A) to mimic either a constantly phosphorylated or non-phosphorylated state of the amino acid. Functional investigations of the obtained mutants were performed using an infectious virus-like particle assay as a model system for filoviral infections. Substitution of NP by NP S619A led to increased rates of transcription and/or replication while the phenotype of NP S619D did not significantly differ from wtNP. However, compared to wtNP, mutant NP S619D showed an enhanced incorporation into infectious virus-like particles, suggesting phosphorylation of S619 to regulate the switch from RNA synthesis to assembly.



068

Involvement of some P residues in the replication complex activity of rabies virus

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Lyssaviruses are the causative agents of rabies, which potentially affect all mammals and consistently induced fatal encephalitis in humans. Their genome (single-stranded RNA of negative polarity) encodes five proteins. Among them the nucleoprotein (N), the phosphoprotein (P), and the viral polymerase (L) participate to the viral replication complex. The interaction between these 3 proteins in the replication complex is not well understood due to a lack of high-resolution structural and functional data. Previously our group identified some residues of the P involved in the interaction with N (Assenberg et al. 2010; Delmas et al. 2010). In the present study we focused more specifically on 4 residues of the P: K212, Y213, R260 and Y294 and investigated their role on the replication complex activity. To this aim, a minireplicon system was developed on the basis of a dog rabies virus isolated in Thailand (THA strain). By co-immunoprecipitation and confocal analysis we studied the interaction between the 3 partners of the complex and by Q-PCR we quantified the distribution of the positive and negative sense viral RNA populations produced during the minireplicon assay. Furthermore, a reverse genetics system was developed on the basis of the THA strain to observe the effect of these mutations on the replication of the virus. Some of these mutations allowed the rescue of the THA virus but with a loss of efficiency. We were able to identify that each of the mutants tested act on different steps of the transcription/replication process.

069

Growth kinetic analysis of recombinant measles viruses containing mutations in the phosphorylation sites of nucleoprotein

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Measles virus nucleoprotein (N protein) is the most abundant viral protein which tightly associates with viral RNA genome to form the N-RNA complex that provides a template for viral RNA synthesis. In our previous study, major phosphorylation sites of N protein have been identified as S479 and S510. However, the functions of these phosphorylation sites have not yet been clarified. In the present study, we rescued recombinant MVs (rMVs) whose phosphorylation sites of N protein were substituted (rMV-S479A, rMV-S510A, and rMV-S479A/S510A) by reverse genetics, and analyses of these recombinants were performed. In the one-step growth experiment, rMVs showed more rapid growth kinetics and N protein accumulation than those of wt-MV, implying that N-phosphorylation had an important role to control the viral growth rate through regulating viral gene expression. On the other hand, the multi-step growth curves revealed that N-phosphorylation intensity correlated inversely with virus yield. Furthermore, excessive N-phosphorylation resulted in the lower stability against RNase and the faster turnover of the viral genome RNA. Taken together, these results suggest that N-phosphorylation is involved in both the viral gene expression and viral genome RNA stability.



070

Efficient rescue and reverse genetics of viruses from all Paramyxovirinae genera without the use vaccinia-driven T7 polymerase

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Reverse genetics systems for rescue of paramyxoviruses are notoriously inefficient. The requirements for high levels of cytoplasmic T7-RNA polymerase (T7-RNAP) to drive initial expression of antigenomic viral transcripts and the N, P and L proteins for jump-starting a productive replication cycle, are inconveniently coupled with the sub-optimal codon usage of the T7-bacteriophage gene, and the cytotoxicity of T7-RNAP. Successful rescue generally requires co-infection with T7-RNAP-expressing recombinant vaccinia viruses (rVV). However, increasing restrictions on the use of rVV, and added complications of using a cytotoxic (pox) virus to express a cytotoxic (bacteriophage) gene to rescue a recombinant paramyxovirus is decidedly inefficient, even if successful. We have created a codon-optimized T7 polymerase (T7opt) gene that enables the rescue of recombinant paramyxoviruses entirely from cloned cDNAs using a single-step transfection methodology. This method was used to rescue representative viruses from every Paramyxovirinae genus. The use of T7opt makes efficient rescue of paramyxoviruses possible on highly transfectable cell types (e.g. Vero, and 293T) without rVV-T7-RNAP. Compared to other T7 deliver methods, our T7opt-transfection methodology is faster, safer, more efficient, and allows greater latitude in the ratios of transfected plasmids that result in successful rescue of recombinant viruses. Rescue efficiency was further enhanced, up to 3-logs in some cases, with the addition of a hammerhead ribozyme (Hh-Rbz) sequence in the transcribed antigenome. This Hh-Rbz, engineered between the full T7 promoter and the 3' leader sequence of the recombinant viral genome, ensures adherence to the rule of six by pre-designed autocatalytic cleavage of the transcript-initiating 3Gs.



071

SELF-ORGANISATION OF THE VESICULAR STOMATITIS VIRUS NUCLEOCAPSID INTO A BULLET SHAPE

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The typical bullet shape of Rhabdoviruses is thought to rely on the matrix protein for stabilising the nucleocapsid coil. In our recent manuscript (Desfosses et al., Nature Communications 2013), we go further in deciphering the mechanism underlying the nucleocapsid folding and demonstrate that information necessary for packing of viral genetic material into helical bullets is actually contained in the nucleoprotein alone. We scrutinize the polymorphism of purified viral and recombinant N-RNA and show that it can fold into bullets in the absence of other viral components solely under the effect of pH and ionic strength. We provide cryoEM reconstructions of both the conical tip and the helical trunk, analyze the conformational variability and/or flexibility of the reconstituted nucleocapsids, in particular in terms of the helical symmetry, and address the issue of constraints imposed by binding of the matrix protein *in vitro*. On the whole, our findings overturn the current ideas on rhabdovirus assembly and finally bridge the gap between the view of an isolated nucleocapsid template for replication and transcription in its form of an undulating ribbon, commonly accepted since more than 30 years, and the tight bullet-shaped virion skeleton described in the landmark paper of the Hong Zhou group (Ge et al., Science 2010) three years ago. In addition to this breakthrough in the understanding of the bullet assembly, we also provide new insights into the replication process via a very recent 3D EM analysis of yet another flexible helical state of nucleocapsids.

072

The crystal structure and RNA-binding of an orthomyxovirus nucleoprotein

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Genome packaging for viruses with segmented genomes is often a complex problem. This is particularly true for influenza viruses and other orthomyxoviruses, whose genome consists of multiple negative-sense RNAs encapsidated as ribonucleoprotein (RNP) complexes. To better understand the structural features of orthomyxovirus RNPs that allow them to be packaged, we performed structural/functional studies of the nucleoprotein (NP) of one orthomyxovirus, the infectious salmon anemia virus (ISAV). As the major protein component of the RNPs, ISAV-NP possesses a bi-lobular structure similar to the influenza virus NP. Because both RNA-free and RNA-bound ISAV NP forms stable dimers in solution, we were able to measure the NP RNA binding affinity as well as the stoichiometry using recombinant proteins and synthetic oligos. Our RNA binding analysis revealed that each NP binds ~12 nts of RNA, shorter than the 24-28 nts originally estimated for the influenza A virus NP based on population average. The 12-nt stoichiometry was further confirmed by results from electron microscopy and dynamic light scattering. Our findings thus suggest that NP-free RNA exists on orthomyxovirus RNPs, and selective RNP packaging is likely accomplished through direct RNA-RNA interactions.



073

Functional and structural studies on Schmallenberg virus, a newly emerged orthobunyavirus in Europe

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Schmallenberg virus (SBV) is a newly emerged orthobunyavirus that has caused widespread disease in the offspring of cattle, sheep and goats in Europe. Like other orthobunyaviruses the tripartite SBV genome encodes four structural and two nonstructural proteins. The SBV genome segments were cloned as cDNA and a three-plasmid rescue system was established to recover infectious virus. Using this system a recombinant virus lacking expression of the NSs protein, encoded on the S segment, was recovered. The NSs-deleted virus induced interferon in cells, indicating that like other orthobunyaviruses, NSs functions as an interferon antagonist most probably by globally inhibiting host cell metabolism. The SBV nucleoprotein was expressed in bacteria and its structure determined to 3.06 Å resolution. The protomer is composed of two domains (N-terminal and C-terminal domains) with flexible N-terminal and C-terminal arms. The N protein has a novel fold, and forms a central positively charged cleft for genomic RNA binding. Structural and functional analyses demonstrate that both N-terminal and C-terminal arms are involved in N-N interaction and oligomerization and play an essential role in viral RNA synthesis. The crystal structure of SBV N in complex with a 42-nucleotide long RNA was also determined, to 2.16 Å resolution. The complex comprises a tetramer of N that encapsidates the RNA as a cross-shape inside the protein ring structure, with each protomer bound to 11 ribonucleotides. The structure suggests that conformational changes of hydrophobic residues in the RNA binding cleft may render the RNA in the RNP accessible to the viral polymerase.

074

Structural basis for encapsidation of genomic RNA by La Crosse Orthobunyavirus nucleoprotein

Juan Reguera, Hélène Malet, Friedemann Weber and Stephen Cusack

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The nucleoprotein (NP) of segmented negative-strand RNA viruses such as Orthomyxo-, Arena- and Bunyaviruses coats the genomic viral RNA and together with the polymerase forms ribonucleoprotein particles (RNPs) which are both the template for replication and transcription by cap-snatching and are packaged into new virions. We will describe the crystal structure of La Crosse Orthobunyavirus (LACV) NP both RNA free and a tetrameric form with single-stranded RNA bound. LACV NP is a largely helical protein with a fold distinct from other bunyavirus genera nucleoproteins. It binds 11 nucleotides RNA in the positively charged groove between its two lobes and hinged N- and C-terminal arms mediate oligomerization, allowing variable protein-protein interface geometry. Oligomerization and RNA binding are mediated by residues conserved in the Orthobunyavirus genus. In the 2-fold symmetric tetramer, 44 nucleotides bind in a closed ring with sharp bends at the NP-NP interfaces. The RNA is largely inaccessible within a continuous internal groove. Electron microscopy of RNPs released from virions shows them capable of forming a hierarchy of more or less compact irregular helical structures. We discuss how the planar, tetrameric NP-RNA structure might relate to a polar filament that upon supercoiling could be packaged into virions. This work gives insight into the RNA encapsidation and protection function of bunyavirus NP but also highlights the need for dynamic rearrangements of the RNP to give the polymerase access to the template RNA.



075

Dissecting the Multifunctional Nucleoprotein of ArenavirusesEmilio Ortiz-Riaño¹, Benson Y.H. Cheng¹, Juan C. de la Torre², Luis Martínez-Sobrido¹¹ Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Rochester, 601 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14642² Department of Immunology and Microbial Science, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, California 92037

Arenaviruses are enveloped viruses with a negative-sense bi-segmented RNA genome. Several arenaviruses cause severe hemorrhagic fever (HF) in humans and pose important public health problems in their endemic regions. These concerns are aggravated by the potential for person-to-person transmission, the lack of Food and Drug Administration-licensed vaccines and current therapeutic intervention limited to an off-label use of ribavirin. Arenavirus genome encodes only four proteins: the RNA-dependent RNA-polymerase (L), the matrix-like protein (Z), the glycoprotein (GP), and the nucleoprotein (NP). NP encapsidates the viral genome, and together with L, is involved in viral replication and transcription. Additionally, NP counteracts the type I interferon (IFN-I) response, an activity mediated by specific amino acid residues located within its C-terminal region. There is however very limited information about the interactions of NP with other viral components. We have characterized domains in the NP of the prototypic arenavirus Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis Virus (LCMV) that are involved in self-association (NP-NP) and interaction with Z (NP-Z). We mapped the domains involved in NP-NP interaction within the N-terminal region, while the NP-Z interaction was mapped to the C-terminal region of NP, overlapping with the previously described anti-IFN-I domain. However, specific amino acid mutations affecting the NP anti-IFN-I function did not affect its interaction with Z, indicating that different residues contribute to these two distinct NP functions. A detailed characterization of NP domains required for its interaction with other viral, as well as cellular, proteins might uncover novel targets for the development of antiviral drugs to combat human pathogenic arenaviruses.

076

Structural analyses of influenza A virus polymerase and RNPsRocío Arranz², Rocío Coloma¹, Patricia Resa-Infante¹, Noelia Zamarreño¹, Maria Angeles Recuero-Checa³, Roberto Melero³, José M. Valpuesta², José L. Carrascosa², Oscar Llorca³, Jaime Martín-Benito² and Juan Ortín¹¹Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Centro Nacional de Biotecnología (CSIC), Darwin 3, 28049 Madrid, Spain and CIBER de Enfermedades Respiratorias (ISCIII).²Department of Macromolecular Structures, Centro Nacional de Biotecnología (CSIC), Darwin 3, 28049 Madrid, Spain. ³Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas (CSIC), Ramiro de Maeztu 9, 28040 Madrid, Spain.

The genome of influenza viruses contain 8 virus ss-RNA segments of negative polarity that associate to the polymerase complex (PB1+PB2+PA) and nucleoprotein (NP) monomers to form ribonucleoprotein particles (vRNPs), which are responsible for virus transcription and replication. We have analysed the structure of biologically active polymerase-RNA template complexes, recombinant mini-RNPs and full-length virion RNPs by cryo-EM and 3D reconstruction. The structure of a recombinant RNP containing a 248 nt-long mini-replicon showed a nonameric NP ring with two monomers connected to the polymerase complex. In contrast, full-length virion RNPs showed a double helical structure with a minor and a major groove and revealed NP-NP interactions among the forward and backward NP chains that may be important for the biological activity of the RNPs. Docking the atomic structure of the NP and mutational analyses defined the interactions between the functional elements of the RNP. In addition, the structure of RNPs in intact virions was verified by cryo-electron-tomography and volume averaging. Altogether, these results provide the first model for a functional negative-stranded RNA virus RNP. To analyse the structure of the polymerase we generated polymerase-RNA template complexes by replication in vivo of a 46 nt-long micro-replicon. Their generation was strictly dependent on the polymerase activity, they contained mainly negative polarity viral RNA and transcribed and replicated efficiently in vitro. The structure of these polymerase-vRNA complexes was similar but distinct from that of the



077

Biochemical and biophysical analysis of distinctive human respiratory syncytial virus proteins: phosphoprotein, M2-1 antiterminator

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Human respiratory syncytial virus (hRSV) is a worldwide distributed pathogen that infects most infants and elderly people. It shares several basic gene products with the paramyxoviridae family related to replication, attachment and fusion. With the aim of understanding fundamental, either comparative or distinctive, biochemical mechanisms, we tackled the characterization of: i) the phosphoprotein (P), the RNA polymerase cofactor; ii) the M2-1 transcription antiterminator, present only in pneumovirus, and iii) the non-structural protein NS1, a type I interferon antagonist, unique to RSVs. The P tetramer is highly stable with a modular unfolding coupled to dissociation. The M2-1 tetramer shares a strikingly similar stability (36.8 and 37.3 kcal/mol), but is highly dependent on pH. Both proteins interact with with a KD of 8 nM through a singular tetramer-tetramer interface. M2-1 bears an essential cys3-his1 zinc binding motif that can be found in Sendai and Ebola viruses and some eukaryotic transcription factors. We found that removal of the zinc atom leads to an Apo-M2-1 monomer, with secondary structure and stability identical to the tetramer. Dissociation is highly increased at pH 5.0 strongly suggesting that zinc removal, and therefore dissociation, is governed by the protonation of the histidine residue, indicative of an independent folding module with its non-specific RNA binding activity unaffected. Rather different solvent conditions cause irreversible self-oligomerization of NS1, leading to discrete stable and spherical species (NS1SOs). The convergence of these conditions, including a mild temperature change, suggest that N1SOs may accumulate in cells, where multiple conformational equilibria could be related to NS1 low binding specificity.

078

A polymerase supercomplex within vesicular stomatitis virus

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Negative sense non-segmented (NNS) RNA viruses package multiple copies of their polymerase complexes, which include a catalytic subunit L and a template-binding subunit P bound to a nucleoprotein-encapsidated RNA genome template (N-RNA). In the case of VSV, the bullet-shaped appearance of the virion results from tightly wound helical turns of the N-RNA template around a central cavity where 50 L and 400 P proteins are located, although their precise position within the cavity has not been defined. Using fluorescence photoactivatable localization microscopy (fPALM) and atomic force microscopy (AFM), we show that L and P proteins form a supercomplex starting from the blunt end of the virus and extending 57 ± 12 nm along the central cavity. Within this supercomplex, 4.5 L and 35 P proteins package per turn of the N-RNA helix. Together these observations suggest that there is significant (L-P)-(L-P) interactions within the virion and these interactions stabilize the supercomplex near the 5' end of the genome during virus budding.



079

Crystal structure of the N0-P complex of Nipah virus and of VSV provide new insights into the encapsidation mechanismFilip Yabukarski¹, Cédric Leyrat¹, Nicolas Tarbouriech¹, Malene Ringkjøbing Jensen², Martin Blackledge², Rob Ruigrok¹ and Marc Jamin¹¹ - UMI 3265 UJF-EMBL-CNRS, Unit of Virus Host Cell Interactions, 6 rue Jules Horowitz, 38042 Grenoble, France² - UMR 5075 CEA-CNRS-UJF, Institut de Biologie Structurale, 41 rue Jules Horowitz, 38027 Grenoble, France

Encapsidation of newly synthesized viral RNA genomes and antigenomes in a helical homopolymer of nucleoprotein (N) is an essential step in the replication of non-segmented negative strand RNA viruses. For *Rhabdoviridae* and *Paramyxoviridae*, encapsidation relies on the continuous production of soluble RNA-free nucleoprotein (N0) in the form of a complex with the phosphoprotein (P), named the N0-P complex. In both families, this complex is formed by the interaction between the N-terminal region of P and the core of the N protein. We developed a strategy to reconstruct the N0-P complex from purified components using an N mutant deleted of its N-terminal arm (~ 20 aa) and a peptide of P containing the N0-binding site. For vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV), a rhabdovirus, and for Nipah virus (NiV), a paramyxovirus, we characterized the structure of the N-terminal region of P alone in solution and we solved the crystal structure of the reconstructed N0-P complex. This work demonstrates that the N-terminal region of P is globally disordered but contains transiently populated α -helices, and that it folds upon binding to the N0. The structure of the reconstituted N0-P complexes revealed how P prevents N0 from polymerizing and thereby from binding RNA. These structures also suggest mechanisms by which P stimulates initiation of RNA synthesis and controls encapsidation of the RNA genome. The structure of the NiV complex provides the first glimpse at the structure of the nucleoprotein of a *Paramyxovirinae*.

080

Functional insights into measles virus NTAIL-PXD interaction using the biGene/biSilencing (biG/BiS) systemJoanna Brunel¹, Antoine Gruet², Marion Dosnon², Patricia Devaux³, Roberto Cattaneo³, Sonia Longhi² et Denis Gerlier¹¹CIRI, INSERM U1111, CNRS UMR5308, ENS Lyon, Université Lyon 1, CERVI, 21 Avenue Tony Garnier 69007 Lyon.²CNRS et Aix-Marseille Université, Architecture et Fonction des Macromolécules Biologiques (AFMB), UMR 7257, Marseille, France³ Mayo Clinic, Rochester MN, USA

The dynamic interaction of the C-terminal X domain (PXD) of P with the alphaM-oRE located at the C-terminal of N (NTAIL) of each N subunit is proposed to allow the P tetramer to cartwheel along the helicoidal NC of paramyxovirinae. This ensures the regular displacement of the P-L polymerase complex during viral RNA synthesis. Mutations that possibly affect the dynamics of PXD/NTAIL interaction were introduced in PXD and tested in the virus infection context. The failure of P provided in trans to rescue measles virus whose endogenous P gene expression was silenced by RNAi led us to set up the bigene-bisilencing system "biG-biS". This consists in building recombinant viruses with a duplicated P gene, P1 and P2, with each gene copy being targeted by siRNA si1 and si2, respectively, so as to get selective expression of P1 or P2 in two independent cell lines constitutively expressing the corresponding shRNA. By allowing selective expression of natural P1, bi-P viruses with a wild-type phenotype were easily rescued and amplified in si2 cells. Infection of si1 cells allowed studying the functional impact of mutations introduced in P2. F497D substitution was deleterious for virus growth albeit tolerated when co-expressed with wild type P. F497A substitution resulted in a much slower virus growth. To circumvent the poor expression of PXD mutants in *E. coli*, the impact of these substitutions on the strength of interaction with NTAIL was explored using a mammalian luciferase-based protein complementation assay adapted for measuring monomeric and oligomeric interactions in cellula.



081

A STRUCTURE FUNCTION ANALYSIS OF THE SENDAI VIRUS MATRIX-PROTEIN USING AN INTEGRATED SUPPRESSION COMPLEMENTATION SYSTEM (ISCS)

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The Sendai virus (SeV) matrix protein M appears as one of the central organizers of viral assembly at the plasma membrane. It is proposed to bridge the interactions of the nucleocapsid with the cytoplasmic tails of the glycoproteins. To get some more insights of the SeV M function, recombinant SeV viruses (rSeV) were constructed carrying the property i) to conditionally suppress the endogenous M protein and ii) to express a second copy of M, marked with an HA-tag, that was mutated in different motifs proposed to play a role in M function, namely late domains, actin binding domain or native structure stabilization domain. Serial N-ter and C-ter deletions were also produced. This integrated suppression complementation system (ISCS) allowed the evaluation of the importance the motifs/domains for the ability of M to support SeV particle production. This approach allowed us to characterize non-functional M proteins that were not incorporated into virus particles, even in the presence of wt-M. These were, of course, not able to complement for wt M suppression. Of the mutants that were still functional in that they were incorporated in virus particles, those that were still able to bind to nucleocapsids were more prone to complement for wt-M suppression, providing that they still bound to membrane fractions. In the end, the ISCS approach provided access to characterization of mutants in the context of the infection that could not have been analyzed otherwise

082

Isolation and characterization of an N^o-P complex of the Respiratory Syncytial Virus

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Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is the leading cause of severe respiratory tract infections in young children and calves, however no human vaccine or antiviral drugs are still available. The viral polymerase complex (RdRp), which presents no equivalent in the cell, represents a target of choice for drug design. To this end, characterization of the structure and function of the proteins belonging to the RSV RdRp constitute a prerequisite. As for all non-segmented negative-strand RNA viruses the genome of RSV is always tightly bound to the viral nucleoprotein (N) and maintained as a helical N:RNA ribonucleoprotein (RNP) complex, which is used as a template for transcription and replication by the viral polymerase. The specific recognition of the RNP by the viral RNA polymerase (L) is mediated by the phosphoprotein (P). During replication of the viral genome, the newly synthesized (+) RNA intermediate antigenomes and (-) RNA genomes must be encapsidated by RNA-free nucleoprotein (N^o). A second function of P is to interact with N and to act as an N-specific chaperone to maintain a pool of N^o. However the N^o-P complex of the RSV has never been isolated. We have recently generated a N recombinant protein mutated on two residues that are involved in the interaction with RNA. This N protein is i/ monomeric, ii/ RNA-free, and iii/ still interacts with P, suggesting that it could mimic the N^o. We have also identified 2 sites of interaction of P with N^o, at the N- and C-terminus of P.



083

Amino acid substitutions in human respiratory syncytial virus N protein affect differentially viral transcription and replication

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Human respiratory syncytial virus, a pneumovirus from the Paramyxoviruses family, is the main cause of severe lower respiratory tract infections affecting babies and toddlers and immunocompromised and old adults. After broad molecular and immunological studies of HRSV infections, two main conclusions have been reached: the best vaccine should be an attenuated virus and because the primoinfection is unable to induce long term protective immunity, other reactives in addition to vaccines are needed for the virus health control. Among these reactives are the antiviral compounds. Our contribution to the developing of HRSV specific antivirals is to identify viral protein residues essential for developing its functions in the viral growth cycle. This information and that of the tridimensional structure viral proteins could be useful for designing specific antivirals against HRSV. In the paramyxoviruses, the N protein always enwrapped the viral RNA that acts as template for the synthesis of the different viral RNAs. This synthesis is carried out by the viral RNA dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp). N protein suffers different posttranscriptional modification as phosphorylation in tyrosine (Y) at position 38. By locating N protein modified or in contact with the RNA residues, several of them have been found essential for viral transcription, or replication or both, as it has been described for other mononegaviruses. The implication of these results on the existence of two RdRp one for transcription (RdRpT) and other for replication (RdRpR) should be discussed

084

Labeling of influenza viruses with synthetic fluorescent and biotin-labeled lipids

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Direct labeling of virus particles is a powerful tool for visualization of virus-cell interactions. However, this technique involves chemical modification of viral proteins that affects viral biological properties. Here we describe an alternative approach of influenza virus labeling that utilizes Function-Spacer-Lipid (FSL) constructs that can be gently inserted into virus membrane and are optimized for integration into viral membranes. We assessed whether labeling with fluorescent, fluo-Ad-DOPE, or biotin-labeled, biot-CMG2-DOPE, probes has any deleterious effect on influenza virus hemagglutinin (HA) receptor specificity, neuraminidase (NA) activity, and replicative ability *in vitro*. Our data showed that both constructs did not significantly affect infectivity and affinity to sialyl receptors of the human and avian influenza A and B viruses. Neither constructs influenced NA activities of all the influenza viruses tested, except A/Puerto Rico/8/34 (H1N1) strain. N1 NA enzyme activity of this virus was reduced in ~82 % and ~52 % after labeling with fluo-Ad-DOPE and biot-CMG2-DOPE, respectively, which could be associated with the individual properties of the particular NA protein. FSL lipid-labeling provides a powerful new tool for studying early stages of influenza virus infection, such as virus attachment, endocytosis of the virus into the target cells and intracellular trafficking of the endocytosed virus. The features of the FSL constructs should make it possible to use labeled influenza virions to identify cells (such as dendritic cells, macrophages, B cells, and cells in the mucosa) that interact with the virus early in infection and assess which subsets of cells internalize/bind the virus *in vivo*.



085 **Disulphide-linked CM2 oligomers are required for efficient replication of influenza C virus**

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CM2, the second membrane glycoprotein of influenza C virus, consists of 115 amino acids and is encoded by the RNA segment 6 (M gene) of the virus. CM2 possesses three conserved cysteines at residues 1, 6 and 20 in its extracellular domain, all of which are involved in the formation of disulphide-linked oligomers. To examine the effect(s) of CM2 oligomerization on influenza C virus replication, we generated rC1620A, a mutant recombinant virus in which all three cysteines on CM2 were substituted to alanines, and C1620A-VLPs, virus-like particles (VLPs) possessing the mutant CM2 protein. The rC1620A virus grew less efficiently than did the wild-type (rWT) virus in cultured cells. The amount of the genome incorporated into one-step grown rC1620A virions tended to be smaller than that into rWT, suggesting the involvement of CM2 oligomerization in the packaging process. Analyses of VLPs and VLP-infected cells showed that the amount of the genome (GFP-vRNA) present in C1620A-VLPs was approximately 31% of that in wild-type (WT-) VLPs, and the incoming genome (GFP-vRNA) from VLPs was less efficiently transported to the nucleus in the C1620A-VLP-infected cells than in the WT-VLP-infected cells, leading to reduced GFP expression in the C1620A-VLP-infected cells. The former and the latter findings suggest the involvement of CM2 oligomerization in the packaging and the uncoating processes, respectively. Taking these findings together, we conclude that disulphide-linked CM2 oligomers affect the packaging and the uncoating processes, facilitating efficient influenza C virus replication.

086 **Structure of the mumps virus phosphoprotein**

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The phosphoprotein (P) is virally encoded by the Rhabdoviridae and Paramyxoviridae in the order Mononegavirales. P is a self-associated oligomer and forms complexes with the large viral polymerase protein (L), the nucleocapsid protein (N), and the assembled nucleocapsid. P from different viruses has shown structural diversities even though their essential functions are the same. We systematically mapped the domains in mumps virus (MuV) P and investigated their interactions with nucleocapsid-like particles (NLPs). Similar to other P proteins, MuV P contains N-terminal, central, and C-terminal domains with flexible linkers between neighboring domains. By pulldown assays, we discovered that in addition to the previously proposed nucleocapsid binding domain (residues 343-391), the N-terminal region of MuV P (residues 1-194) could also bind NLP. Further analysis of binding kinetics was conducted using surface plasmon resonance. This is the first observation that both the N- and C-terminal regions of a negative strand RNA virus P are involved in binding the nucleocapsid. Additionally, we defined the oligomerization domain (POD) of MuV P as residues 213-277 and determined its crystal structure. The tetrameric MuV POD is formed by one pair of long parallel α -helices with another pair in opposite orientation. Unlike the parallel orientation of each α -helix in the tetramer of Sendai virus POD, this represents a novel orientation of a POD where both the N- and C-terminal domains are at either end of the tetramer. This is consistent with the observation that both the N- and C-terminal domains are involved in binding the nucleocapsid.



087

Location and structure of an antibody-binding site of the body domain of influenza A virus nucleoprotein

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Data on the amino acid positions recognized by monoclonal antibodies (MAbs) in influenza A virus nucleoprotein (NP) were reported in our previous publications and in reports of other authors. However, only the highly variable amino acid residues scattered in the 3D structure of NP were identified as important for antibody binding, so that no patterns of the architecture of antibody-binding sites could be identified. In the present studies a screening of amino acid residues surrounding an amino acid position identified earlier as a part of linear epitope have been performed. The presented data have identified the first minimal pattern of a site containing variable and conservative amino acid residues recognized by partially overlapping MAbs on a body domain in 3D structure of the influenza virus NP.

088

Influenza virus non-structural protein NS1 cooperatively binds virus-specific (+)-strand RNA sequences

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Non-structural protein NS1 of influenza viruses plays a major role in countering the interferon response of the host, and is involved in the metabolism of viral and cellular RNAs. Its multiple activities all require a functional RNA-binding domain. NS1 is generally thought to bind non-specifically to several viral and cellular RNAs, notably to double-stranded RNAs (dsRNAs). We asked whether NS1 could exhibit some sequence-specificity towards its RNA ligands, and performed an in vitro selection (SELEX) to isolate NS1-specific aptamers. We identified two virus-specific sequences that are characteristic of the viral RNAs of positive polarity. The first motif, AGCAAAAG, is strictly conserved at the 5'-end of all (+)-strand RNAs of influenzaviruses A. The second motif, UGAUUGAAG, is highly conserved in NS1-mRNA, 15 nucleotides downstream of NS1's stop codon. In addition, most of NS1-aptamers had one or two symmetrically positioned copies of the 5'-GUAAC / 3'-CUUAG double-stranded motif, which closely resembles the canonical 5'-splice site. We characterized the interaction of NS1 with its RNA-aptamers and showed that NS1's RNA-binding domain specifically recognizes both the sequence and structure of the virus-specific RNA-sequences. Cooperative binding of NS1's RNA-binding domain leads to its oligomerization on the bound RNA. This strong and intimate interaction suggests that NS1 activity towards viral RNAs is much more specific than previously thought.



089 **NMR reveals alpha-helical propensity in RSV P protein outside the oligomerization domain**

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The P protein of human Respiratory syncytial virus (hRSV) is an essential co-factor of the polymerase during replication and transcription. As compared to other Mononegavirales P proteins, hRSV P is rather short and does not seem to comprise domains with stable tertiary fold outside the central trypsin-resistant tetramerization domain, modeled in coiled-coil conformation (Llorente, 2006 & 2008). Although the regions at the N and C-termini of the oligomerization domain are predicted to be mainly intrinsically disordered, alpha-helical propensity was suggested in both (Simabucco, 2011). Here we took advantage of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance as a unique tool to investigate intrinsically disordered proteins and regions (IDRs) to analyze the secondary structure propensities of the N- and C-terminal regions of hRSV P, using backbone chemical shift analysis and ¹⁵N relaxation experiments. Data were measured with full-length P as well as several truncated forms, where the N- or C-terminal regions were deleted. Our results provide experimental evidence that the N- and C-terminal regions are indeed IDRs, but we also mapped two regions, located at the N-terminus of the protein and downstream of the tetramerization domain, that exhibit clear alpha-helical propensity. In contrast, the 10 residue long C-terminal stretch that was shown to bind to ribonucleoprotein complexes (Tran, 2007) is completely unfolded. The identified regions are likely sites for molecular recognition of the other components of the hRSV polymerase complex and more particularly of the nucleoprotein, which is expected to display different binding modes, corresponding to the N^o-chaperone or decapsidation functions of hRSV P.

090 **Characterization of the multiple Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever Virus Nucleoprotein interactions**

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Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus (CCHFV) is a nairovirus, member of the family *bunyaviridae*, which infection often causes severe hemorrhagic fever in humans, with mortality rates above 30%. CCHFV is the most widespread among the tick-borne human viral diseases and it is endemic in areas of Asia, Middle East and Africa. Its viral genome consists of three negative-sense RNA segments. The largest segment encodes a 448 kDa viral RNA-polymerase (L) and the Small segment encodes the Nucleoprotein (N). The Nucleoprotein of the bunyaviruses binds the viral RNA forming the Ribonucleoprotein (RNP) complex, subsequently; the RNA polymerase is attached to these structures allowing the initiation of the viral replication. The nucleoprotein also interacts with cellular proteins in critical process for the viral replication cycle, although the residues/regions implicated in these interactions within the nucleoprotein were hitherto unknown. By immunoprecipitation (IP) and immunofluorescence analysis, we mapped the regions within N protein implicated in RNA, actin and self binding. These results correspond with the previously shown importance of some of the residues within the carboxy terminal region for the formation of a RNA binding pocket or platform. In contrast, the central region (250-300) of N protein is required for the oligomerization and actin interactions. Furthermore, we described for the first time the interaction with the L protein in IP assays, and the importance of the amino and carboxy terminal regions within the RNA polymerase that might be necessary for the formation of the N-L complexes. The functional mapping of the N protein may improve the development of new CCHFV antiviral strategies.



091

NiV N expression is repressed by hnRNP D with its binding to NiV N 3'UTR

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Nipah virus (NiV) is a non-segmented single-stranded negative-sense RNA virus belonging to the genus Henipavirus, family Paramyxoviridae. NiV causes acute encephalitis and respiratory disease in humans with high mortality, and poses a threat in southern Asia. The genomes of henipaviruses are about 18.2 kb (nt) in size, which is longer than those of other paramyxoviruses (around 15.4 kb nt). This difference is caused by the noncoding RNA region, particularly the 3' untranslated region (UTR), which occupies more than half of the noncoding RNA region. To determine the function(s) of the NiV noncoding RNA region, we investigated the effects of NiV 3'UTRs on reporter gene expression. The NiV N 3'UTR (nt 1-100) demonstrated strong repressor activity associated with hnRNP D protein binding to that region. Mutation of the hnRNP D binding site or knock-down of hnRNP D resulted in increased expression of the NiV N 3'UTR reporter. Our findings suggest that NiV N expression is repressed by hnRNP D through the NiV N 3'UTR binding, and demonstrated the involvement of post-transcriptional regulation in the NiV life cycle. To the best of our knowledge, this provides the first report of the functions of the NiV noncoding RNA region.

092

Interactions between the Sendai virus HN glycoprotein and the matrix M protein

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Sendai virus encodes two glycoproteins HN and F. Incorporated into virus particles, both proteins are essential for virus fusion and entry into the cell. HN binds to the cellular receptor and F makes the fusion between the viral envelope and the cell plasma membrane. At late steps of the multiplication cycle, F plays an essential role in virus particle formation, in contrast to HN, which can be dispensable. In the cytoplasmic domain of HN glycoprotein, the motif SYWST is responsible for HN uptake in virus particles. We made the hypothesis that SYWST motif works by interacting with the matrix M protein. Pull down experiments using cytoplasmic domain of HN fused to a peptide which allows its biotinylation showed weak interactions with M protein in comparison with the F counterpart. We next took advantage of recombinant viruses harboring SYWST mutations that impaired HN uptake in virus particles to select revertants at secondary sites. Mutations in the M protein were observed and relevance of these mutations will be discussed.



094

The Cys3-His1 Zinc binding motif of the hRSV M2-1 tetramer modulates its dissociation to folded apo-monomers.Sebastian Esperante, Maria Gabriela Noval, Tamara Antonella, and Gonzalo de Prat Gay *Fundación Instituto Leloir. - IIBBA CONICET*

The M2-1 protein of human respiratory syncytial virus (hRSV) functions as a transcription antiterminator by increasing polymerase processivity, thus enhancing readthrough of intergenic junctions. It is present only in pneumoviruses, namely hRSV and metapneumovirus. The hRSV M2-1 is a tight tetramer bearing a Cys3-His1 motif present in eukaryotic transcription factors, which binds one zinc atom per monomer, and was shown to be essential for protein function by mutational analysis of the zinc coordinating residues. Using chemical perturbation, cross-linking, size exclusion chromatography, and dynamic light scattering, we showed that removal of the zinc atom leads to an Apo-M2-1 monomer. However, the secondary structure and stability of the apo-monomer is indistinguishable from the M2-1 holo-tetramer, indicating conservation of the native fold in the monomer. Thus, the complete exposure of its unique trp residue is not indicative of tertiary structure loss but is a sensitive reporter for metal removal and quaternary structure. Dissociation is much increased at pH 5.0 compared to pH 7.0 which strongly suggests that pH modulates zinc removal by histidine protonation and this, in turn, dissociation. Although no specific RNA sequence has been identified so far for M2-1, the monomeric apo form binds tRNA at least as well as the holo-tetramer. On the other hand, the monomer appears not to be competent for interacting with the phosphoprotein P, the essential RNA polymerase cofactor. We discuss the results in connection with possible consequences in hRSV RNA transcription and genome replication.

095

The Measles Virus Nucleoprotein Tail is Required for Packaging of Viral Polymerase Components into Nascent ParticlesStefanie Krumm¹, Richard Plemper^{1 2}¹ *Georgia State University*² *Emory University*

The paramyxovirus polymerase complex consists of the P and L proteins that interact with N protein-encapsidated RNP for replication and transcription. N contains a core domain involved in RNA encapsidation and an ~100-residue C-terminal N-tail considered to mediate P-L binding to RNP for polymerization. N-tail of measles virus (MeV) is largely unstructured, but a terminal microdomain is implicated in P binding. To better understand the organization of MeV N and the role of N-tail sections upstream of this microdomain in polymerase activity and particle assembly, we subjected the protein to linker insertion mutagenesis and monitored N bioactivity in minireplicon assays. A central section of N-core and all sites tested in N-tail tolerated linker insertion. However, only N-tail accepted insertion of larger epitope tags upstream of the interaction microdomain in minireplicon assays and, after recovery of the corresponding recombinant MeV, the context of viral infection. This recombinant showed a 24-hour initial delay in replication, followed by wild type-like proliferation. Reinfection with progeny virus reproduced this growth profile, excluding viral adaptation during the lag phase. Monitoring the amplification kinetic of viral mRNA and genome after infection revealed a threshold-effect: delayed onset of primary transcription and replication, followed by wild type-like late-state polymerization. Characterization of purified mutant RNPs revealed reduced incorporation of P-L into virions. Our study identifies folding domains in the MeV N-core. Modifying the N-tail section has little effect on polymerase bioactivity, but a proper spatial organization of the tail is critical for efficient packaging of polymerase components into particles.



096

Folding and conformational diversity of the non-structural NS1 protein from hRSV.

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Human respiratory syncytial virus (hRSV) is the most important infectious agent responsible for pediatric respiratory disease worldwide. The virus encodes two non-structural proteins, NS1 and NS2 that are unique to RSV. These proteins are known to suppress type I interferon (IFN) response and signalling, and to interact with members of different pathways. Although NS1 is considered one of the main virulence factors of hRSV, the biochemical and biophysical knowledge is very scarce and there is no structure available. In this work, we describe a comprehensive analysis of the NS1 protein stability, folding, and conformational equilibria. Despite being a monomer, an important portion of the molecule is subjected to slow conformational motions as judged from NMR experiments. Under different conditions NS1 is able to self-oligomerize. Mild temperatures induce conformational changes displaying a highly cooperative transition. As a result, soluble spherical oligomers (SOs) with amyloid-like or repetitive β -sheet type of structures were found. Conformational stability analysed by chemical perturbation showed a cooperative unfolding of the monomeric protein in a fully reversible process. In the case of NS1SOs, two transitions were observed indicating the presence of a native-like monomeric intermediate prior to unfolding.

Different solvent perturbations were remarkably coincident in the formation of β -sheet enriched oligomer species with a secondary structure highly similar to those obtained after mild temperature treatment. Conformational complexity may well be related to NS1 function and binding promiscuity, expanding the possibilities of interactions in the different environments of the host cell.

097

Probing conformational changes of the RSV F protein using conformation-specific antibodies and recombinant soluble F proteinsAlan Rigter^{1,2}, Ivy Widjaja^{1,2}, Peter J.M. Rottier¹, Bert Jan Haijema², Cornelis A.M. de Haan¹*1. Virology Division, Department of Infectious Diseases & Immunology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University, The Netherlands.**2. Mucosis B.V., Meditech Center, L.J. Zielstraweg 1, 9713 GX Groningen, The Netherlands.*

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is an important cause of respiratory tract disease. Currently, no licensed vaccine against RSV is available. The RSV F protein is a class I fusion protein that is cleaved by furin into F1 and F2. Homotrimers of F form the metastable pre-fusion structure. During infection, conformational changes in the F protein lead to the insertion of the hydrophobic fusion peptide into a host cell membrane. This fusion intermediate then refolds into the highly stable post-fusion structure. Although the post-fusion form of RSV F was shown to contain neutralizing epitopes, F protein preparations mimicking a pre-fusion form of RSV F probably expose more relevant epitopes. Therefore, we designed a set of recombinant soluble F proteins and evaluated their conformation and reactivity with (non)-neutralizing antibodies. Our data indicate that soluble F readily adopted the post-fusion conformation, the formation of which was not prevented by the addition of a GCN4 trimerization motif. Mutation of the furin cleavage sites or of heptad repeat B (HRB) prevented the formation of the post-fusion form and gave rise to different intermediate conformations. The pre-fusion conformation of F was only stabilized by the introduction of cysteine residues in HRB of GCN4-extended soluble F, which led to the formation of intermolecular disulfide bridges. The pre- and post-fusion forms of F clearly differed in their reactivity with neutralizing antibodies. Our results are in agreement with models in which the pre-fusion form of F undergoes consecutive conformational changes resulting in the formation of its post-fusion structure.



098

Structural characterization of measles virus P oligomerization domain

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The genome of Paramyxoviridae is encapsidated within a helical nucleocapsid by the N protein. The viral polymerase is recruited onto the nucleocapsid template by the P protein that serves as an essential polymerase cofactor. In Paramyxoviridae members, the P protein was shown to possess a modular organization, consisting in alternating intrinsically disordered and structured regions. The P proteins from members of the Paramyxovirinae subfamily are predicted to share a similar organization consisting in a large N-terminal disordered region (PNT) common to both P and V, and a C-terminal region (PCT) that is unique to the P protein. Previous computational studies showed that measles virus (MeV) PCT consists of a structured domain (PMD), predicted to be responsible for P multimerization, of a disordered linker and of a C-terminal alpha-helical X domain (XD). The exact oligomeric state of MeV P is not known, although it is thought to be tetrameric by analogy with the related Sendai virus (SeV). So far, structural data on Paramyxovirinae PCT are only available in the case of SeV. Here, using a combination of Small Angle X-ray Scattering (SAXS) and X-ray crystallography, we provide the first structural description of MeV PMD. Both biochemical and structural data consistently show that MeV PMD adopts a coiled-coil conformation in solution with an overall elongated shape consisting of an N-terminal structured moiety and of a disordered C-terminal appendage.

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The N-terminus of NEP of Influenza A viruses regulates the polymerase-enhancing function by backfolding to the C-terminus

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Transmissions of highly pathogenic avian H5N1 viruses to humans pose a constant risk of a new pandemic. The lower temperature of the human upper respiratory tract represents a major hurdle for the establishment of infection by avian H5N1 viruses. Consistently, we observed an almost inactive H5N1 polymerase at 34°C after reconstitution in 293T cells, while a human adapted polymerase was not affected. Strikingly, the presence of NEP, harboring an adaptive mutation within its N-terminus, rescued the avian H5N1 polymerase activity at 34°C to levels observed at 37°C. The NEP-dependent rescue of polymerase activity at lower temperature was also observed after infection of A549 cells with recombinant H5N1 virus encoding the human-adapted NEP as compared to the same virus expressing avian NEP. Analysis of deletion mutants revealed that the polymerase-enhancing function of NEP resides in the C-terminus and that removal of the last three amino acids abrogates this activity. We therefore speculated that the adaptive mutation in the N-terminus regulates accessibility of the C-terminus by reducing the affinity between N- and C-terminus. Subjecting the protein to an intra-molecular conformation assay using split-luciferase technology, we show that human-adapted NEP retains an open conformation compared to avian NEP at lower temperatures. We therefore propose that the N-terminus of NEP exerts an autoregulatory function by backfolding to the C-terminus. In this model, adaptive mutations in NEP allow the protein to “open up” preferentially at low temperature.



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Lyssavirus targeting of STAT proteins: a critical determinant of pathogenicity and potential therapeutic target

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The lyssaviruses are a genus of zoonotic viruses including rabies virus (RABV) and Australian bat lyssavirus that cause neurological disease with ~100% case-fatality rates, resulting in >55,000 human deaths/year. Lyssaviruses inhibit interferon (IFN)-mediated immune signaling through the activity of viral IFN-antagonist P-proteins. We have shown that IFN-antagonism by P-proteins involves diverse mechanisms dependent on interactions with host-cell STAT1/STAT2 proteins, nuclear transport factors, and the microtubule cytoskeleton (1-4). These mechanisms are thought to be essential to pathogenicity, thus representing potential targets for new vaccine strains/antivirals. However, their importance to virulence has not been demonstrated *in vivo*. Using an approach combining single-cell imaging, immune signaling assays, reverse genetics and a unique *in vivo* pathogenicity model, we identified specific sequences of P-protein underlying interactions with STATs, nuclear transporters and microtubules. Through detailed mapping studies, we generated P-proteins with specific defects in these interactions, but which retain functions in viral replication, enabling the production of viable recombinant viruses impaired for particular IFN-antagonism mechanisms. Using these strains, we have been able to delineate the importance of these mechanisms in infection *in vivo* for the first time, demonstrating critical contributions to the development of lethal neurological disease in animals. Importantly, our recent work identified point mutations able to increase the IFN-sensitivity of an invariably lethal RABV strain, rendering it apathogenic *in vivo*. These mutations are being used to generate new potential animal vaccine strains.

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Marburg virus structural protein VP24 acts as an activator of Nrf2 pathway by targeting cellular Keap1.

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Marburg virus (MARV) causes hemorrhagic fever in man characterized by massive virus replication, dysregulated inflammation and an extremely high fatality rate. In this study we have discovered a previously unknown function of MARV VP24 protein and reveal the mechanism by which this virus activates an antioxidant signaling pathway. We demonstrate that VP24 binds Kelch-like-ECH-associated protein-1 (Keap1), a negative regulator of an important cellular transcription factor; Nuclear factor erythroid-derived-2 (Nrf2). Binding of VP24 to Keap1 releases Nrf2 from Keap1 control, allowing its translocation into the nuclei and activation of a panel of cytoprotective genes implicated in cellular responses to environmental insults and regulation of inflammation. Furthermore we show that knockout of Nrf2 in mice inhibits MARV replication resulting in resistance to infection compared to wild-type animals. Persistent activation of the Nrf2-pathway evidently favor prolonged survival of MARV-infected cells despite massive virus replication and may explain dysregulation of inflammatory responses during infection.



102 **Identification of an Endocytic Calcium Channel TPC2 as a Novel Host Factor of Ebolavirus Infection**

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Ebolavirus (EBOV) is a negative stranded RNA virus that causes hemorrhagic fever with high mortality in humans and the other primates. While promising candidates have been proposed, there are currently no vaccines or antiviral drugs licensed for clinical use. The virus has a complex, yet poorly understood infection mechanism and this knowledge is important for developing new therapies. Previously, we reported the involvement of host calcium signaling pathways in EBOV infection and have been working to understand the roles of the components and also how calcium, itself, is involved in the infection. While most other viruses utilize calcium related pathways during or after genome replication, we found that EBOV requires calcium to be present before genome replication begins, indicating a role in virus entry. Here we report that several known L-type calcium channel inhibitors, such as the FDA approved drug verapamil, strongly blocked EBOV infection. However, we found that the classical L-type channel proteins were not necessary for infection. Instead, a novel endocytic calcium channel, TPC2, which has been shown sensitive to L-channel inhibitors, is the key host factor. Among other data, TPC2-specific siRNAs suppressed EBOV infection and Ned19, a chemical antagonist of TPC2, inhibited virus entry. We will discuss the mechanistic role of TPC2 in controlling EBOV entry into host cells and the potential for using the inhibitors as therapy for EBOV disease. This work was supported by funding from the Ewing Halsell Foundation.

103 **Epigenetic Factors in Arenavirus Infection: Roles for Glycosylation and Phosphorylation**

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The arenaviruses glycoprotein (GPC) is glycosylated at 11 conserved N-glycosylation sites. We have used recombinant Lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (rLCMV) featuring additions or deletion of these N-glycans to investigate their role in protein expression, tropism and immune recognition. N-glycosylation at sites T87 and S97 was necessary to rescue rLCMV. Three of the 9 successfully rescued mutant rLCMV (G104N, S398A, and T234A) fell under selective pressures in either epithelial, neuron, or macrophage cells to conserve their N-glycan sites. Of the 7 N-glycan deletion mutants, 5 of these led to variable modifications in viral fitness and cell tropism towards either neurons or macrophages. Early studies of LCM Virus showed that nucleoprotein (NP) was phosphorylated during the process of replication. We have re-examined this old observation in light of recent structural models of the arenavirus NP. Three sites of phosphorylation in the LCMV NP have been confirmed. These confirmed phosphorylation sites mapped to the extended portion of Helix $\alpha 5$, which is disordered when RNA is bound. To determine how these sites might regulate replication and transcription of the viral genome we made recombinant virus (rLCMV) containing point mutations at each of these confirmed phosphorylation sites. One site, LCMV NP T206 is conserved in all mammalian Arenaviruses, and this residue is required for formation of replication transcription complexes in the cytoplasm. NP T206A is functional in transcription, however, in the presence of the matrix protein, Z, this mutant demonstrates almost complete loss of transcription and replication, and a loss of infectivity in rLCMV.



The Intracellular Cargo Receptor ERGIC-53 is Required for the Production of Infectious Arenavirus Particles

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Arenaviruses and hantaviruses cause severe and often fatal diseases in humans. Effective antivirals or FDA-approved vaccines do not exist for these pathogens and little is known regarding host proteins required for their propagation. To address this deficiency we have comprehensively identified human proteins that interact with the glycoproteins (GPs) of a prototypic arenavirus and hantavirus. We show that ERGIC-53 - an intracellular cargo receptor that facilitates the anterograde transport of a limited number of glycoprotein ligands in the early exocytic pathway, including the blood coagulation factors (F)V and FVIII - has a highly conserved association with arenavirus and hantavirus GPs. The molecular basis for ERGIC-53's interaction with arenavirus GPs is unique from its previously characterized cellular ligands; only the C-terminal region of ERGIC-53's carbohydrate recognition domain (CRD) is required for the interaction whereas ERGIC-53's ability to oligomerize, traffic, or bind mannose, Ca²⁺, or multiple coagulation factor deficiency 2 protein are not. ERGIC-53 trafficking is strikingly altered during arenavirus infection; it traffics to sites of virus assembly and budding at the plasma membrane and is incorporated into virions. Finally, ERGIC-53 is required for the propagation of both Old and New World arenaviruses; in its absence, GP-containing virions form, but are noninfectious due to a defect in their ability to undergo early replication events, namely attachment to, and/or entry into, host cells. In summary, we have identified a new class of ERGIC-53 ligands, a novel, lectin-independent basis for ERGIC-53's association with these ligands, and a critical role for ERGIC-53 in arenavirus replication.



Deciphering the glycosylome of dystroglycanopathies with a haploid genetic screen for Lassa virus cell entry

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Lassa virus (LASV), a member of the family Arenaviridae, is a highly pathogenic agent causing hemorrhagic fever in humans with several hundred thousand infections per year in Africa and thousands of deaths annually. Alpha-dystroglycan (α -DG), an ubiquitous receptor for extracellular matrix proteins, serves as the cell entry receptor for LASV. α -DG is extensively modified by sugar chains, including an unusual O-linked glycan, which is essential for its function as a LASV receptor. Interestingly, defects in α -DG glycosylation cause Walker-Warburg syndrome (WWS), a severe hereditary multi-organ dystrophy. At least eight proteins are critical to glycosylate α -DG, but many of the genes mutated in WWS patients remain unknown. Here, we performed a haploid genetic screen for LASV cell entry using a recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus expressing the LASV glycoprotein. This screen identified several *Registration, Abstract Submission & Payment form- page 2* of host factors essential for LASV cell entry, including all known WWS genes and five additional genes involved in glycosylation (e.g. *TMEM5*, *B3GALNT2*, *B3GNT1*, *SLC35A1*, and *SGK196*). Validation experiments showed that these genes are critical for the post-translational modification of α -DG. We sequenced the coding exons of *TMEM5* and *SGK196* in a panel of 28 patients with severe dystroglycanopathy, not carrying mutations in any known WWS gene. Two families with patients that carried homozygous mutations in *TMEM5* were identified and one patient with a heterozygous mutation in *SGK196* was discovered in another family. Our findings accentuate the complexity of α -DG glycosylation and point out new genes defective in inherited dystroglycanopathies as well as potential targets for antiviral therapy.



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Nairobi Sheep Disease Virus (NSDV) blocks the JAK-STAT-signalling pathway at the level of the Janus kinasesBarbara Holzer, Michael D Baron
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Nairobi sheep disease virus (NSDV) is highly pathogenic in sheep and goats, causing acute haemorrhagic gastroenteritis and abortion. NSDV (known as Ganjam virus (GV) in India) is a member of the genus *Nairovirus* within the family *Bunyaviridae* and is closely related to Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus, which causes a similar severe disease in humans. Many viruses have evolved systems to overcome innate immune responses, and we have previously shown that NSDV/GV is able to block the STAT1 and 2 phosphorylation induced by type I and II interferons (IFN). In this study we have shed light on how the virus is interfering with the Jak-STAT signalling pathway. Expression of the individual viral proteins revealed that the N-terminal half (L1-1757) of the viral RNA-dependent polymerase is able to block IFN-induced phosphorylation of STAT1. However, no physical interaction of STAT1 or STAT2 with L1-1757 could be detected. We could show that NSDV/GV is able to block Jak1 and Tyk2 phosphorylation in infected cells upon induction with IFN β or IFN γ . Immunoprecipitation studies carried out with FLAG-tagged Jak1 and Tyk2 showed an interaction between those proteins and L1-1757. In addition, we could show that Jak1 autophosphorylation was inhibited by L1-1757. Interestingly, the enzymatic activity of the Ovarian Tumour-like protease (OTU) domain in L1-1757 was not required for the block in autophosphorylation of Jak1 or the block of IFN-induced STAT1 phosphorylation. Our data suggest that NSDV/GV blocks the IFN action pathway by targeting the tyrosine kinases of the Janus (JAK) family, Jak1 and Tyk2.

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Analysis of the NSs protein of the newly emerged Schmallenberg virus

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Schmallenberg virus (SBV) is an orthobunyavirus that emerged in Europe in late 2011 and is now widespread in Europe. SBV causes a mild disease in adult cattle and sheep but it has been associated with outbreaks of congenital defects in offspring, often leading to abortion of the foetus. SBV is an arbovirus, believed to be transmitted by biting midges. Using a synthetic approach, we developed a reverse genetics system for the rapid rescue and genetic manipulation of SBV and also an experimental animal model of infection that has allowed us to study SBV pathogenesis. We found that a SBV deletion mutant lacking the non-structural NSs protein (SBV Δ NSs) is less virulent in mice than wild type SBV. Attenuation of SBV virulence depends on the inability of SBV Δ NSs to block cellular transcription and protein production by inhibiting RNA polymerase II function and not being able to block IFN production from virus infected cells. The SBV NSs protein also appears to manipulate apoptotic pathways that may be central to disease manifestation. Collectively these data suggest that the SBV NSs protein has similar functions to the NSs protein of other bunyaviruses although important differences do exist.



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Fragile X Mental Retardation Protein Stimulates Ribonucleoprotein Assembly of Influenza A Virus

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The viral ribonucleoprotein (RNP) of influenza A virus consists of the viral RNA polymerase complex (PB1, PB2 and PA) bound to a genomic RNA segment that is coated with multiple copies of nucleoprotein (NP). The RNPs perform viral RNA transcription and replication in the nucleus, which require various interplays between host factors and the RNP components. By a cellular transcriptional profiling-based siRNA screen, we find that Fragile X Mental Retardation Protein (FMRP) is required for influenza virus replication. We show that FMRP supports influenza virus replication and directly targets viral RNA synthesis machinery. We further demonstrate that FMRP transiently associates with viral RNP and stimulates viral RNP assembly through interacting with viral nucleoprotein (NP). Furthermore, we find that the KH2 domain of FMRP mediates its association with NP. A point mutation (I304N) in the KH2 domain, identified from a Fragile X syndrome patient, disrupts the FMRP-NP association and destroys the ability of FMRP in viral RNP assembly. We conclude that FMRP is a critical host factor used by influenza viruses to facilitate viral RNP assembly. Our observation reveals a mechanism of influenza virus RNA synthesis and provides insights into FMRP functions.

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The Splicing Factor Proline-Glutamine Rich (SFPQ/PSF) Is essential in Influenza Virus Polyadenylation

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The influenza A virus RNA polymerase is a heterotrimeric complex responsible for viral genome transcription and replication in the nucleus of infected cells. We recently carried out a proteomic analysis of purified polymerase expressed in human cells and identified a number of polymerase-associated cellular proteins. Here we characterise the role of one such host factors, SFPQ/PSF, during virus infection. Down-regulation of SFPQ/PSF by silencing with two independent siRNAs reduced the virus yield by 2–5 log in low-multiplicity infections, while the replication of unrelated viruses as VSV or Adenovirus was almost unaffected. Down-regulation of SFPQ/PSF by siRNA silencing led to a reduction and delay of influenza virus gene expression. Immunofluorescence analyses showed a good correlation between SFPQ/PSF and NP levels in infected cells. Analysis of virus RNA accumulation in silenced cells showed that production of mRNA, cRNA and vRNA is reduced by more than 5-fold but splicing is not affected. Likewise, the accumulation of viral mRNA in cicloheximide-treated cells was reduced by 3-fold. In contrast, down-regulation of SFPQ/PSF in a recombinant virus replicon system indicated that, while the accumulation of viral mRNA is reduced by 5-fold, vRNA levels are slightly increased. In vitro transcription of recombinant RNPs generated in SFPQ/PSF-silenced cells indicated a 4–5-fold reduction in polyadenylation but no alteration in cap snatching. These results indicate that SFPQ/PSF is a host factor essential for influenza virus transcription that increases the efficiency of viral mRNA polyadenylation and open the possibility to develop new antivirals targeting the accumulation of primary transcripts, a very early step during infection.



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VIRAL PROTEINS AND RIG-I LIKE RECEPTOR INTERACTION

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The host innate immune system acts as the first line of defense to prevent viral invasion. Viral products are detected through several classes of pathogen recognition receptors (PRR), including the cytosolic RIG-I like receptors (RLRs). Once activated, RIG-I interacts with polyubiquitin chains generated by TRIM25 and binds MAVS, leading to the production of type I IFN. Using Bimolecular Fluorescence Complementation we have analyzed the subcellular localizations and interactions among RIG-I, MAVS and TRIM25. Many viruses have developed multiple mechanisms to interfere with the RLR pathway and evade the innate immune response in infected cells. Here we show in living cells the impact of different viral proteins in the protein-protein interactions among cellular components of the RLR pathway. NS1, the main IFN antagonist encoded by influenza A viruses, prevents the formation of the complexes RIG-I-MAVS and TRIM25/TRIM25, but does not have any effect on the complex RIG-I/TRIM25. These complexes are localized in different compartments in the host cell. The NS3/4A protease of hepatitis C virus changes the localization of the complexes RIG-I-MAVS and MAVS-MAVS. V protein of Nipah virus interacts directly with RIG-I and TRIM25, participating in RIG-I/RIG-I and RIG-I/TRIM25 complexes. Experiments are in progress to further analyze the localization and the effects of the viral IFN antagonist proteins on these complexes in the host cell.

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B-1 is a porter to lead influenza viral ribonucleoprotein complexes to microtubules

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De novo synthesized RNAs are under the regulation of multiple post-transcriptional processes by a variety of RNA-binding proteins. The influenza virus genome consists of single-stranded RNAs and exists as viral ribonucleoprotein complexes (vRNP). After the replication of vRNP in the nucleus, vRNP is exported to the cytoplasm and then reaches the budding site beneath the cell surface mediated by Rab11a-positive recycling endosomes along microtubules. However, the regulatory mechanisms of post-replicative processes of vRNP immediately after the nuclear export are largely unknown. Here, we identified, as a novel vRNP-interacting protein, Y-box binding protein-1 (YB-1), a cellular protein that is involved in regulation of cellular transcription and translation of cellular mRNAs. YB-1 translocated to the nucleus from the cytoplasm and accumulated in PML nuclear bodies in response to influenza virus infection. vRNP assembled into the exporting complexes with YB-1 at PML nuclear bodies. Using YB-1 knockdown cells and in vitro reconstituted systems, after nuclear export YB-1 was shown to be required for the interaction of progeny vRNP with microtubules around the centrosome, which functions as a microtubule organization center (MTOC), where Rab11a-positive recycling endosomes were located. Further, we also found that over-expression of YB-1 increases the production of progeny virions in an Rab11a-dependent manner. Taken altogether, we propose that YB-1 is a porter that leads vRNP to microtubules from the nucleus and put it on the vesicular trafficking system. Currently, analyses to clarify the effect of YB-1 on the centrosome function are ongoing.



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Interaction between human parainfluenza virus type 2 V protein and an antiviral host factor, tetherinMachiko Nishio¹, Keisuke Ohta¹, Masato Tsurudome², Daniel Kolakofsky³¹: Department of Microbiology, Wakayama Medical University,²: Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, Mie University Graduate School of Medicine,³: Department of Microbiology and Molecular Medicine, University of Geneva School of Medicine

Tetherin, also known as BST-2/CD317/HM1.24, is a cellular protein that restricts budding of a number of enveloped viruses including HIV-1, HIV-2, SIV and Ebola virus. These viruses have evolved specific countermeasures to overcome restriction by tetherin, e.g., the membrane protein of HIV-1, the glycoproteins of HIV-2, SIV and Ebola virus. Human parainfluenza virus type 2 (hPIV-2) belongs to the family *Paramixoviridae* and also one of enveloped viruses. However, little is known about the relationship between hPIV-2 and tetherin. The accessory V protein of hPIV-2 is multifunctional and is reported to induce STAT protein degradation and the blockage of TLR7/9-dependent signaling. Recently, we have found that V interacts with tetherin using immuno-precipitation, which leads to hypothesis that V is a candidate for tetherin antagonist although it is not a membrane protein unlike other viral antagonists. P protein of hPIV-2, whose N-terminal domain is common to the V, did not bind to tetherin, indicating that the C-terminal V-specific region interacts to tetherin. Tetherin is a type II trans-membrane protein containing of an N-terminal cytoplasmic tail, an extracellular domain, and a C-terminal glycosyl phosphatidylinositol membrane anchor (GPI). The deletion of GPI disrupted the interaction with V, suggesting that GPI is critical for the binding to V. Since V is the first reported protein that binds to GPI of tetherin, hPIV-2 might antagonize it with a different mechanism from those by other enveloped viruses.

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Extrinsic apoptosis subversion by RSV P in macrophages

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Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is associated with high morbidity and mortality due to bronchiolitis and pneumonia in children with sequels of chronic hyperreactivity, suggesting persistence of RSV. P and determined cell viability and caspase-8 activity. N with the viral protein from M N). RSV proteins involved in the apoptotic process were searched by comparing sequence between viral and cell proteins involved in apoptotic process. The effect in the apoptotic process by viral proteins was evaluated through transfecting M P and mock-infected macrophages (M P). We extended these observations to determine whether the extrinsic apoptotic process was also altered and if viral proteins participate in changes of the apoptotic process. To this end, we analyze comparatively the expression of several components of the DISC complex in M Previously we reported that intrinsic apoptosis pathway is subverted in a murinemacrophage cell line persistently infected with RSV (M RSV). Data suggest that suppression of extrinsic pathway is related to enhance cIAP2 and the expression of RSV P protein acting as a vFLIP. These findings are important to understand the intracellular and viral genes involved in subversion of apoptosis by RSV persistence in macrophages. RSV) survives 20% more than mock-transfected macrophages, and the caspase-8 activity were not observed in M transfected with RSV P protein (M N, though caspase-8 was not activated. P sequence showed 38% similarity to caspase-8 death domain. After staurosporine treatment, M P expression of TNF-alpha, its receptor and anti-apoptotic protein cIAP2 were enhanced with respect to M In M *Acknowledgment*. This work is supported by CONACYT- grant 78862 and by GlaxoSmithKline Mexico



113.a **Paradoxical effect of nitric oxide on respiratory syncytial virus replication in a persistently infected murine macrophage cell**

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The production of nitric oxide (NO), a highly reactive free radical, acts as an important component of the host immune response in several viral infections and is considered as an antiviral effector of some DNA and RNA virus. The aim of this study was to examine the effects of endogenous and exogenous nitric oxide on the level of respiratory syncytial virus replication in a persistently infected macrophage cell line (M ϕ P). Confirmation of RSV persistence in M ϕ P was monitored by determining cell viral antigen expression and the percentage of RSV-positive cells through flow cytometry assays, extracellular virus infectivity determined by TCID₅₀/ml. NO synthesis was indirectly determined by NO₂⁻ production through Griess assay, the number of RSV genome copies (RSVc) was measured through amplifying RSV N protein by qRT-PCR with the Path –RSV-ÁD Prime Design Kit, Southampton, United Kingdom. Macrophages endogenous NO production was stimulated by treatment with inactivated non-typeable Haemophilus influenza (NTHi), and NO production inhibited with LNAME, competitor substrate of inducible synthase II. Exogenous NO was produced with SNAP a nitric oxide donor. Endogenous NO in M ϕ P reduced RSVc in a factor of 1.94 and increased nitrate concentration in 1.83 factor. Inhibition NO synthesis by LNAME, increased RSVc and reduced nitrite concentration in 2.47 and 0.62 factors respectively. The data suggests that NO has in M ϕ P antiviral effect. Surprisingly in the same cell line exogenous NO production had an opposite effect, RSVc increased in a 185 times, implying that NO viral RSV polymerase activity and/or its synthesis were stimulated.

114 **Tracking of fluorescently labeled Newcastle Disease Viruses in living cells**

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Expression of green fluorescent protein (GFP) by recombinant Newcastle Disease Virus from an additional gene has already been described. However, for virus tracking in living cells autofluorescent label of specific viral proteins is required. Therefore, the hemagglutinin-neuraminidase protein (HN) was fused at the carboxy terminus with GFP. Two different recombinant NDV on the basis of lentogenic NDV Clone 30 genome were rescued, one of them contains a polybasic amino acid sequence at the cleavage site of the fusion protein, resulting in virus which replicates well in a number of tissues. Characterization of both viruses demonstrates that labeled virus recombinants are similar in their replication characteristics to their unlabeled precursor, despite an increase of the HN protein by 230 amino acids of GFP. The incorporation of GFP labeled HN into virus particles could be confirmed by western blot analyses of purified virions. Infection of QM9 cells with both autofluorescent NDV demonstrated that the intracellular transport rate of HN protein from perinuclear regions to the plasma membrane is unaffected, whereas the number of new infected cells within 17 hours of observation was increased after infecting with NDV which carried the polybasic amino acid sequence at the F cleavage site. These data confirm the results of replication kinetics and the known causal connection between amino acid sequence at the cleavage site and infectivity.



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Hsp70 protein positively regulates Rabies Virus infection

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Hsp70 chaperone plays a central role in multiple processes within the cells, including protein translation, folding, intracellular trafficking and degradation. This protein is implicated in the replication of numerous viruses. We have shown that rabies virus infection induced the cellular expression of Hsp70 that accumulated in Negri bodies-like structures where viral transcription and replication take place. In addition, Hsp70 is present in both nucleocapsids purified from infected cells and purified virions. Hsp70 has been shown to interact with the nucleoprotein N. Down regulation of Hsp70, using specific chaperon inhibitors such as quercetin or RNA interference resulted in a significant decrease of the amount of viral mRNAs, viral proteins and virus particles. These results indicate that Hsp70 has a proviral function during rabies virus infection and suggest that Hsp70 is involved in at least one stage(s) of the viral life cycle such as viral transcription and/or translation and/or viral production. The mechanism by which Hsp70 controls viral infection will be discussed.

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CELL-SURFACE RECEPTOR USAGE OF OCOZOCAUTLA DE ESPINOSA VIRUS

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Ocozocoautla de Espinosa virus (OCEV) is a novel uncharacterized and uncultured arenavirus from Mexico's Chiapas State. Chiapas State experienced multiple viral hemorrhagic fever epidemics in the past, which led to the hypothesis that OCEV may have been their cause. Using gammaretrovirion-like particles pseudotyped with OCEV's glycoprotein or control arenavirus glycoproteins, we demonstrated that the New World clade B arenavirus receptor TfR1 functions also as the cell-surface receptor for OCEV. However, whereas OCEV pseudotypes could use TfR1 from mammals of multiple species, human TfR1 could not function as an interacting partner. In accordance, OCEV glycoprotein-pseudotyped particles were able to transduce several mammalian cell lines efficiently, but could not transduce more than 60 tested human cell lines. Furthermore, the introduction of TfR1 residues from a nonhuman mammal TfR1 ortholog into human TfR1 turned the latter into an efficient OCEV receptor. Expression of the nonhuman mammal TfR1 ortholog or of the chimeric TfR1 in human cells made them permissive for particle transduction. Together, these results suggest that the currently circulating OCEV variant is not a human virus, and therefore not a cause of viral hemorrhagic fever.



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Deciphering the antiviral activity of the human Mx system in a transgenic mouse model

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Mx proteins are interferon (IFN)-induced GTPases that confer antiviral activity in many vertebrates. Mouse Mx1 accumulates in the nucleus of IFN-treated cells and mediates antiviral activity *in vitro* and *in vivo* against orthomyxoviruses, such as influenza A and Thogoto viruses. Human MxA is a cytoplasmic protein that exhibits an even broader antiviral activity in cultured cells. However, to date, its *in vivo* potential remained poorly investigated. To fill this knowledge gap, we created a new mouse line that carries the entire human Mx locus as a transgene. We found that high levels of MxA were induced in cultured embryonic fibroblasts from transgenic mice upon treatment with IFN- α . Further, high levels of MxA were found in most organs of transgenic mice at 24 hours post treatment with recombinant IFN- α but not in organs of untreated animals, indicating faithful regulation of the human Mx locus in our transgenic mouse. Challenge experiments demonstrated that our transgenic mice are well protected from lethal infections with Thogoto virus and highly pathogenic avian influenza A virus strains. Interestingly, protection against influenza A virus strains of human origin, such as the H1N1 strains A/PR/8/34 and A/WSN/33 or the H3N2 strain A/HK/68, was only moderate. These results provide strong indirect evidence that the Mx locus plays an important role in influenza A virus protection of humans. They further indicate that human influenza viruses can largely overcome this barrier.

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The host-cell transcription machinery is a target for influenza virus polymerase-induced degradation that contributes to viral

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Infection with non-attenuated influenza viruses induces profound alterations in the host-cell transcription machinery including degradation of the RNA polymerase II (RNAP II). Besides that, we have observed a concomitant degradation of CHD6, a chromatin remodeler that modulates host-cell transcription. The viral polymerase triggers both, RNAP II and CHD6 degradation in a proteasome-independent manner and interestingly, CHD6 degradation is also observed *in vivo* in the lungs of influenza virus infected mice that correlates with the increase of viral titers in the lungs. Reverse-genetics experiments have indicated the role of PA and PB2 subunits on RNAP II degradation and here we have characterized that changes at positions 504 of PB2 together with 550 of PA in attenuated viruses confer the ability for RNAP II degradation and conversely, these changes in non-attenuated viruses abolish its degradation capacity. The introduction of these mutations in a 2009 pandemic strain, A/California/07/09 (CAL) virus, abolishes its RNAP II degradation capacity. Moreover the pathogenicity of the wild type or mutated CAL viruses has been examined in an *in vivo* model. Loss of body weight was more pronounced in the wt CAL-infected mice and 75% lethality was observed in this situation compared with 100% survival on mutant CAL- or mock-infected animals. These results indicate that influenza virus induces a degradative process upon transcription-related host-factors that might contribute to its virulence and confirm the role of PA and PB2 subunits in the degradation process.



119 **Phospholipase (PLC) gamma 1 signaling plays a subtype-specific role in cell entry of influenza A virus**

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Influenza virus infection causes acute lung disease that can lead to severe and deadly complications and is responsible for annual epidemics and occasional pandemics with high morbidity and mortality. Novel antiviral drugs are in urgent need due to the rapid emergence of drug-resistant viral variants against current antiviral medications. Host-based therapeutics are receiving increasing attention as an alternative approach due to their broad-spectrum therapeutic potential and expected low frequency of emergence of drug resistant viruses. Our laboratory studies the biological roles and functional mechanisms of host signaling pathways in the influenza viral life cycle and evaluates the therapeutic potentials of the respective inhibitors of cell signaling pathways in treating influenza virus infection (Kumar et al., J Virol 2008; Kumar et al., J Virol 2011; Kumar et al., AAC 2011). We have found that a specific receptor tyrosine kinase TrkA plays important roles in multiple replication steps of various strains of influenza virus and that TrkA inhibitor strongly blocks viral replication in vitro and in vivo. We have also identified for the first time the subtype-specific interplay of host PLC- γ 1 signaling and H1N1 virus in the early virus entry step. The functional mechanisms of TrkA and PLC- γ 1 signaling pathways in the influenza viral replication and their potential applications as new antiviral therapeutics will be discussed. In summary, our studies provide important insight into the virus-host interactions during influenza viral infections, and demonstrate that host signaling pathways may have a general or subtype-specific mechanism in the replication of different influenza viral strains.

120 **Isolation and Characterization of Hokkaido Virus, Genus Hantavirus**

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Hantaviruses belong to the Bunyaviridae family and cause two severe human illnesses, hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS) and hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS). We isolated Hokkaido virus (HOKV), one of the hantaviruses using a new cell line, MRK101, derived from a kidney of gray red-backed vole (*Myodes rufocanus bedfordiae*), the natural host of HOKV. To characterize the isolated HOKV strain, Kitahiyama128/2008 in more detail, we analyzed the viral growth of HOKV in VeroE6 and MRK101 cells as well as the sequences of S, M, and L segments of the virus. In MRK101 cells, the expression of HOKV N protein was confirmed at 14 days post inoculation (dpi) and the level of progeny virus gradually increased until 14 dpi. In contrast, no HOKV propagation was observed in VeroE6 cells. On the other hand, Puumala virus (PUUV) Samara 94 strain propagated both in MRK101 and VeroE6 cells. The nucleotide and amino acid sequences of HOKV were most closely related to PUUV (Identities in S segment, 81.9–83.8% nt and 94.7–95.8% aa) which causes HFRS. Phylogenetic analysis based on the nucleotide sequence of the coding region of the S, M, and L segments supported the close relationship between HOKV and PUUV. This is the first report of the hantavirus which propagates in a cell line that originated from the natural host but not in VeroE6 cells. Analyzing the reason for the inability of HOKV propagation in VeroE6 cells would provide us important information such as the host specificity of hantavirus.



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Relative cytopathogenesis of RSV in nasal epithelial cell cultures from infant cohorts with histories of severe and mild RSV.Hong Guo-Parke¹, Olivier Touzelet¹, Isobel Douglas², Rémi Villenave¹, Liam G. Heaney¹, Peter V. Coyle³, Michael D. Shields^{1,2} and Ultan F. Power¹*1Centre for Infection & Immunity, School of Medicine, Dentistry & Biomedical Sciences, Queens University Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK, BT9 7BL; 2The Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, Northern Ireland;**3The Regional Virus Laboratory, Belfast Trust, Belfast, Northern Ireland.*

One to 3% of infants are hospitalised with RSV-induced bronchiolitis or pneumonia annually. The vast majority of infected infants, therefore, do not suffer severe disease. However, little is known about the relative behaviour of RSV in airway epithelial cells, the principle targets for RSV infection, from those that suffered severe or mild disease. To help address this, we developed a model of RSV infection based on well-differentiated paediatric primary nasal epithelial cells (WD-PNECs). The cells were derived from bilateral brushings of the medial aspect of the inferior turbinate from cohorts of infants with clinical histories of severe or mild RSV infections, respectively, in an ethically approved and consented study. WD-PNECs from each cohort were indistinguishable in terms of pseudostratification, ciliated and goblet cell content and tight junction integrity. RSV BT2a (clinical isolate) infection of WD-PNECs from both cohorts was restricted to apical ciliated cells but did not cause noticeable damage to the cultures over 6 days. Virus growth curves were similar in WD-PNECs from both cohorts. Syncytia were also evident on the apical surface of both. CXCL10, TRAIL and IL-29 secretions were significantly increased and to similar levels in RSV-infected cultures from both cohorts. RSV infection did not stimulate matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 secretions. Interestingly, however, endogenous MMP1 secretion levels were significantly higher in cultures derived from the mild cohort. Our data suggest that RSV interaction with airway epithelium may not be the determining factor in disease outcomes following RSV infection.

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ANP32B is a Nuclear Target of Hendra Virus Matrix ProteinSebastian Neumann¹, Axel Karger¹, Ann-Kristin Henning¹, Linda Kwasnitschka, Anne Balkema-Buschmann, Günther Keil¹, Stefan Finkel*1 Institute of Molecular Biology, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut**2 Institute of Institute of Novel and Emerging Infectious Diseases, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut*

Membrane envelopment and budding of NSVs is mainly driven by viral matrix (M) proteins. In addition, several M proteins are also known to be involved in host cell manipulation. Knowledge about the cellular targets and detailed molecular mechanisms, however, is poor for many M proteins. For instance, Nipah Virus (NiV) M protein trafficking through the nucleus is essential for virus release, potential nuclear targets of NiV M, however, have not been identified. To identify cellular interactors of henipavirus M proteins, tagged Hendra Virus (HeV) M proteins were expressed in transfected cell cultures and M-containing protein complexes were isolated by affinity purification. The composition of isolated protein complexes was analyzed by nLC-MALDI-TOF/TOF mass spectrometry and cellular ANP32B (acidic leucine-rich nuclear phosphoprotein 32 family, member B) was identified, suggesting that ANP32B directly or indirectly interacts with HeV M protein. ANP32B is involved in various cellular processes and could represent a target to affect cellular gene expression, apoptosis regulation and Exportin-1 (Crm1) dependent mRNA export. As ANP32B is involved in nuclear export, we tested whether nuclear shuttling of M was affected by ANP32B. Indeed, over-expression of ANP32B led to nuclear accumulation of M, whereas Exportin-1 dependent transport of Rabies virus P protein was not affected. From these data we conclude that ANP32B indeed is a specific nuclear target of HeV M and that ANP32B may participate in HeV M protein nuclear shuttling and/or in host cell manipulation by affecting cell survival or specific mRNA transport processes.



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High-content siRNA screen to identify cellular factors required for infection of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus

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Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus (CCHFV) is a tick-borne bunyavirus causing outbreaks of severe hemorrhagic disease in humans, with a fatality rate approaching 30%. The virus is endemic to much of Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa, although recent studies have detected CCHFV in ticks collected in Spain, indicating an expanding geographic distribution. The high lethality of CCHFV and the lack of approved countermeasures require work to be performed in a biosafety level 4 (BSL-4, P4) laboratory, hampering research of the pathogen. To date, little is known about host factors facilitating CCHFV infection. Here, we describe the first high-throughput small interfering RNA (siRNA) screen to identify cellular proteins required for entry and replication of fully infectious CCHFV. To perform this work, we generated a recombinant virus expressing the red fluorescent protein mKate2 (CCHFV-mKate2). Mammalian cells grown in 384-well plates were transfected with the druggable genome library of siRNA (26,600 siRNA targeting 6,650 genes) and infected with CCHFV-mKate2 in our BSL-4 laboratory at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute. Infected cells were imaged and counted by high-content analysis. Host genes important for infection were identified using the Redundant siRNA Activity Analysis Tool (Novartis), and gene networks were modeled by Ingenuity Pathway Analysis software. Endocytic regulators, kinases, phosphatases, and potential receptor proteins for CCHFV infection were identified. We will discuss novel aspects of this work and implications of our findings for drug development. This work was supported by HDTRA1-12-1-0002 FRBAA09-6H-2-0043 and Douglass and Ewing Halsell Foundations.

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Host mTORC1 signaling regulates Andes virus replication

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Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) is a severe respiratory disease characterized by pulmonary edema, with fatality rates of 35 to 45%. Disease occurs following infection with pathogenic New World hantaviruses, such as Andes virus (ANDV), which targets lung microvascular endothelial cells. During replication, the virus scavenges 5'-m(7)G caps from cellular mRNA to ensure efficient translation of viral proteins by the host cell cap-dependent translation machinery. In cells, the mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) regulates the activity of host cap-dependent translation by integrating amino acid, energy, and oxygen availability signals. We initially investigated whether inhibitors of the mTOR pathway could reduce hantavirus infection. We found that treatment with the FDA-approved rapamycin analogue temsirolimus (CCI-779) blocks ANDV protein expression and virion release but not entry into primary human microvascular endothelial cells. This effect was specific to viral proteins, as temsirolimus treatment did not block host protein synthesis. We confirmed that temsirolimus targeted host mTOR complex 1 (mTORC1) and not a viral protein, as knockdown of mTORC1 and mTORC1 activators but not mTOR complex 2 components reduced ANDV replication. Additionally, primary fibroblasts from a patient with tuberous sclerosis exhibited increased mTORC1 activity and increased ANDV protein expression, which were blocked following temsirolimus treatment. We also shown that ANDV glycoprotein Gn colocalized with mTOR and lysosomes in infected cells. Together, these data demonstrate that mTORC1 signaling regulates ANDV replication and suggest that the hantavirus Gn protein may modulate mTOR signaling during infection.



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Differential recognition of arenavirus glycoproteins and cellular substrates by subtilisin kexin isozyme 1/site 1 proteaseDominique J. Burri¹, Joel Ramos da Palma¹, Nabil G. Seidah², Giuseppe Zanotti³, Laura Cendron⁴, Antonella Pasquato¹, and Stefan Kunz¹*1 Institute of Microbiology, University Hospital Center and University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland**2 Laboratory of Biochemical Neuroendocrinology, Clinical Research Institute of Montreal, Montreal, Canada (Affiliated to the University of Montreal)**3 Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Padua, Padua, Italy*

The arenaviruses are an important family of emerging viruses including several causative agents of severe hemorrhagic fever in humans that represent serious public health problems. A crucial step of the arenavirus life cycle is maturation of the envelope glycoprotein precursor (GPC) by the cellular subtilisin kexin isozyme-1 (SKI-1)/site-1 protease (S1P). Proof-of-concept studies with peptide-derived and small molecule inhibitors pinpointed SKI-1/S1P as a promising target for anti-viral therapeutic intervention. However, considering the importance of SKI-1/S1P for normal physiology, the development of inhibitors that specifically block processing of viral GPCs but not cellular substrates is a primary goal. Using a combination of molecular modeling and structure-function analysis, we provide evidence for striking differences in the molecular recognition of viral GPCs and cellular substrates by SKI-1/S1P. Immature forms of SKI-1/S1P show normal activity towards cellular substrates but are impaired in processing of viral GPCs. Moreover, Old World and Clade C New World arenaviruses contain a characteristic aromatic “signature residue” at P7 in the GPC, which is recognized by residue Y285 of SKI-1/S1P, distal of the catalytic triad. The data suggest that during co-evolution with its mammalian host, GPCs of Old World and Clade C New World viruses expanded the molecular contacts with SKI-1/S1P beyond the classical four amino acid recognition sequences and currently occupy an extended binding pocket.

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Viral dsRNA detection by the RIG-I Like Receptors family

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The innate immune system is the first line of defense that all organisms have to sense and fight incoming pathogens, thanks to the presence of specific receptors: Pattern Recognition Receptors (PRRs) that discriminate between self and non-self in the host. RIG-I like receptors (RLRs) are a family of proteins that specifically detect RNA viruses in the cytoplasm of infected cells. Their activation ends up in the production of IFN β and inflammatory cytokines, leading to the establishment of an anti-viral state. Over-production of IFN β could be deleterious for the organism; therefore RLRs are tightly regulated by different mechanisms and at different levels. It is reported that the spliced variant form of RIG-I (RIG-I SV) functions as negative regulator of the signaling cascade, whereas to date the function of the third member of the family (LGP2) is still unclear. Interestingly the kind of RNA that both RIG-I SV and LGP2 could bind is unknown as well as possible cellular partners. Thus the aim of this work was to elucidate the contribution of the RNA binding capacity and protein-protein interaction to their function. LGP2 and the Δ CARDs form of RIG-I were tested for their ability to: 1) interfere with RIG-I in the IFN β production; 2) bind RNA. We could demonstrate that both of them negatively affect RIG-I signaling, upon different stimuli, leading to a reduction in IFN β induction. Additionally we showed their binding to 5'ppp dsRNA pointing to a competition mechanism, however further investigations are needed to shed light into the regulation of RLRs family.



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Dissecting the molecular interaction of influenza A virus RNA polymerase and host RNA polymerase II.

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The viral RNA polymerase is at the core of the transcription and replication complex of influenza virus, and viral transcription is functionally linked to transcription by cellular RNA polymerase II (Pol II). The viral polymerase interacts with the C-terminal domain (CTD) of Pol II (which consists of 52 heptad repeats of the conserved consensus sequence YSPTSPS) only when the CTD is phosphorylated in Ser5 (initiating form of Pol II). This interaction may be required for the synthesis of viral mRNA *in vivo*. However, it is unclear if this interaction is direct or indirect and whether viral RNA is involved. To address these questions we developed an *in vitro* binding assay to characterise the interaction between the viral polymerase and Pol II. We incubated synthetic Pol II CTD mimic peptides consisting of four heptad repeats (unphosphorylated or phosphorylated at Ser2 or Ser5) with a viral polymerase purified from mammalian cells and observed specific binding when Ser5 in the CTD is phosphorylated and a short vRNA is co-expressed with the viral polymerase. We observed similar results with a viral polymerase expressed in insect cells and bound to synthetic 5' and 3' ends of the vRNA promoter. Moreover, all three types of viral RNA could be co-immunoprecipitated with Pol II from 293T cells infected with influenza A/WSN/33 virus. Together, these results suggest that the interaction between the viral polymerase and initiating Pol II is direct and hint at a role of viral RNAs in this interaction.

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African Henipavirus surface proteins promote viral entry, cell fusion & cytopathic effects in Human, Simian & Bat cell lines

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Throughout history, the emergence of new infectious diseases of animal origin has caused considerable problems for human health. Bats have been shown to serve as reservoirs for an array of infectious agents, including Henipa-, Filo-, Corona- and Lyssaviruses. Although Henipaviruses are traditionally limited to Pteropus bats of South Asia, the recent discovery of distinct viral clades in phylogenetic relation to Henipaviruses in diverse bat species in five African countries raises the possibility that these highly-pathogenic viruses may not be as geographically restricted as previously thought. In the absence of isolated infectious African Henipavirus, we have undertaken experiments with the viral entry proteins F and G from a representative African strain (M74a) with the aim of determining if this virus presents the same broad cross-species tropism as its Henipa relatives. When the M74a entry proteins are cross-expressed with those from Nipah virus, the M74a G protein is able to substitute for the NiV G protein but with delayed fusion kinetics for a variety of cell lines from different species. Co-expression of M74a G and F proteins in simian and host bat cell lines results in rapid cytopathic effects. Pseudotyped-MLV GFP reporter infection assays were used to evaluate the capacity of these viral surface proteins to permit entry into target cells. Entry mechanisms of the African Henipavirus will be discussed further. Results suggest that this virus could be expected to show a similar cell tropism to that of the other Henipa viruses and therefore present a risk for zoonosis.



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Mutual Antagonism between Ebola virus VP35 and PACT

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RIG-I-like receptors (RLR) are activated by viral RNA displaying a 5'-ppp motif and induce type I IFN responses to control viral replication. Recent studies show that cellular dsRNA binding protein PACT can also activate RIG-I. To counteract such antiviral pathways, some viruses, including Ebola virus (EBOV), encode proteins that antagonize RLR signaling. Here, we show that EBOV VP35 inhibits PACT-induced RIG-I ATPase activity in a dose-dependent manner. Co-immunoprecipitation of RIG-I with PACT is disrupted by WT VP35, but not by VP35 mutants unable to bind PACT. In addition, PACT-VP35 interactions impair VP35-polymerase interaction, diminishing viral RNA synthesis and modulating EBOV replication. However, PACT-deficient cells are defective in IFN induction and are insensitive to VP35 function. These data support a model where VP35-PACT interaction plays a critical role in determining the outcome of EBOV infection and host innate immune responses.

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Residue 57 of the Marburg Virus VP40 Matrix Protein Determines Resistance to Human Tetherin

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Marburg viruses, members of the Filoviridae family, cause severe hemorrhagic fever in humans and non-human primates. The Ravn (RAVV) and Ci67 (MARV) strains of Marburg virus were recently adapted to mice. During adaptation, mutations accumulated throughout the viral genome with several occurring in the gene encoding VP40. VP40, the viral matrix protein, drives Marburg virus budding. RAVV and maRAVV VP40s bud effectively from Hepa1.6 cells (a mouse liver cell line) but only RAVV VP40 buds from Huh7 cells (a human liver cell line). Transfecting Hepa1.6 cells with either RAVV or maRAVV VP40 and increasing amounts of human tetherin revealed RAVV VP40 to be more resistant to the effects of tetherin than maRAVV VP40. Subsequent analysis revealed residue 57 to be important for VP40 resistance to human tetherin as there was a significant decrease in budding from Hepa 1.6 cells

transfected with a RAVV VP40 V57A mutant and increasing amounts of human tetherin when compared to RAVV VP40. Hepa1.6 cells transfected with a maRAVV VP40 A57V mutant and increasing amounts of tetherin had a modest increase in budding at lower concentrations of tetherin when compared to maRAVV VP40. The RAVV VP40 V57A and maRAVV VP40 A57V mutants however, maintained their ability to bud in Hepa1.6 cells transfected with increasing amounts of mouse tetherin. Taken together, the data suggests that amino acid residue 57 determines RAVV and maRAVV VP40 resistance to human tetherin but not mouse tetherin and that VP40 budding can be restricted by tetherin in a host cell-dependent manner.



131 **Borna disease virus X protein: a new tool against neurodegenerative disorders?**

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Control of cellular apoptosis by virus-encoded products is a strategy often used by viruses to limit cellular damage and allow persistence in their host. Given the poor renewal capacity of neurons, it is even a key element for persistent neurotropic viruses. Among them, Borna disease virus persistence in the central nervous system of infected animal involves expression of a small 10 kDa mitochondrial protein called X. This observation led to the tantalizing hypothesis that the X protein may be endowed with neuroprotective properties. Here, using an innovative oriented primary neuronal culture based on microfluidics, we demonstrate that X protein is also neuroprotective in vitro against toxins that target the mitochondrial respiratory chain, even when expressed alone independently of the viral context. We show that the presence of X protein in the mitochondria network of neurons is sufficient to prevent the mitochondrial hallmarks of oxidative stress, i.e., ROS overproduction, membrane potential shutdown and cytochrome C release. We will also present clues of the underlying molecular mechanisms. Finally, we demonstrate that X protein expression in vivo in the nigrostriatal pathway is able to significantly reduce neuronal loss in murine models of Parkinson's disease. Based on these findings, it is tempting to speculate that the X protein could represent a new lead for the development of novel therapies against neurodegeneration.

132 **Length of the NS1 linker region determines pathogenicity of a highly pathogenic H5N1 influenza A virus**

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The non structural protein 1 (NS1) of influenza A viruses (IAV) is a major viral pathogenicity factor. It is a multifunctional protein that blocks host cell mRNA maturation, splicing, activates PI3K signaling and interferes with RIG-I dependent recognition of viral RNA by the cytosolic RNA sensor RIG-I. NS1 is composed of a N-terminal RNA-binding domain (RBD), a central effector domain (ED) and a C-terminal unstructured tail domain. RBD and ED are connected by a flexible linker region, which presumably allows the two domains to arrange in different 3D conformations, depending on the cellular context and cellular or viral encoded interacting proteins /RNA. Interestingly, in some H5N1 influenza A NS1s from human cases this linker region is lacking 5aa. We were curious to see if this deletion is a species specific adaptation and tested the viral replication and pathogenicity in mammalian and avian host model systems. We show that reintroduction of these deleted amino acids can indeed impact pathogenicity of influenza A/Viet Nam/1203.



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The tetraspanin proteins, CD81 and CD9, promote efficient influenza A virus budding through interactions with HA and NA

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Tetraspanins are members of a transmembrane glycoprotein superfamily and most are broadly expressed in human cells. They play a general role in organizing membrane protein complexes and CD81 and CD9 in particular are well known regulators of membrane fusion events. Tetraspanin proteins have been described to be involved at different stages of the life cycle for several viruses e.g. HIV-1, HCV. For influenza virus we have shown that CD9 and CD81 are incorporated into influenza virions and that CD81 is required during the viral entry process. To further characterize the role of these host proteins in the influenza viral replication cycle, we examined influenza A and B virus replication in cells depleted of CD9, CD63 and CD81 using RNAi knockdown or Nin CD81 over-expressing HepG2 cells. We find that CD9 and CD81, but not CD63, are required for optimal influenza A virus growth in tissue culture. In contrast, optimal influenza B virus growth does not require these host factors. We also examined influenza virus-like particles (VLPs) released from cells either over-expressing CD9, CD63 and CD81 or depleted of these tetraspanins. We find that overexpression of tetraspanins CD9 and CD81 (but not CD63) in producer cells enhances VLP generation, whereas RNAi knockdown of these two proteins reduces VLP budding. The positive regulatory effect of CD81 is observed with several influenza A virus subtypes. With co-immunoprecipitation, we find that CD81 interacts with influenza A virus HA (H1, H2, H3 and H5) and NA (N1, N2) but not influenza B virus HA, NA. Overall our data suggest that certain tetraspanins play an important role during the influenza A virus life cycle, and particularly at the budding step where interactions with the viral glycoproteins promotes production of virus particles.

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Importance of the P2 and P3 residues of fusion proteins of respiratory viruses for their proteolytic activation by TMPRSS2Maino Tahara¹, Masako Abe¹, Kouji Sakai¹, Kazuya Shirato¹, Kazuhiko Kanou¹, Shutoku Matsuyama¹, Hideo Fukuhara², Katsumi Maenaka², Yasushi Ami¹, Mariko Esumi³, Atsushi Kato¹, Makoto Takeda¹*1National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Tokyo, Japan,**2Hokkaido University, Hokkaido, Japan**3Nihon University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan*

We have previously demonstrated that the type II transmembrane serine protease, TMPRSS2, proteolytically activates membrane fusion proteins of human metapneumovirus, human parainfluenza viruses, Sendai virus (SeV), influenza virus, and coronaviruses. In the present study, molecular basis for activation by TMPRSS2 was further analyzed. SeV and influenza virus hardly propagated in Huh7 cells in the absence of trypsin, while they efficiently underwent multicycle infection in TMPRSS2-expressing Huh7 cells. They also failed to undergo multicycle replication in Huh7 cells expressing an enzymatically inactive form of TMPRSS2. Membrane fusion proteins of various respiratory viruses, including SeV, possessed glutamine, serine, and arginine residues (QSR) at positions, P3, P2 and P1, respectively. The QSR residues were identical to those of the self-cleavage site of TMPRSS2. SeVs possessing a mutation at P2 or P3 position (Q114A, Q114S, Q114V, S115R and S115V) were generated, and replication capacity was then analyzed in the null- or TMPRSS2-expressing Huh7 cells. All mutant SeVs underwent multicycle replication using TMPRSS2, but their replication capacity was significantly compromised by mutations, suggesting that SeV F protein possesses residues optimal for proteolytic activation by TMPRSS2. Influenza virus H1, H2, and H3 subtypes possess the same (QSR) or similar (QTR and ESR) motif at the cleavage site. Mutations at P2 and P3 residues of influenza virus HA protein also affect the replication capacity in human respiratory epithelial cells endogenously expressing TMPRSS2. The P2 and P3 residues of viral membrane fusion proteins may play an important role in determining pathology of respiratory viruses.



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Influenza A virus NS1 and PI3K: strain and isotype specificity of a complex virus-host interaction

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The NS1 protein of influenza A viruses is a multifunctional virulence factor with a broad array of interactors within the infected cell. Amongst them, NS1 is known to bind and activate the host class IA phosphoinositide-3-kinase (PI3K), a critical regulatory node in multiple cell signaling networks that influences cell physiology at various stages including cell growth, survival, trafficking and immune function. The biological purpose of the activation of PI3K by NS1 remains, however, unclear. Here, we show how this activation contributes to the virus replication and virulence in vivo and how this relevance is viral strain specific despite all the NS1 tested being equally able to activate PI3K. Furthermore, we have found that there is an additional layer of specificity within the host factor itself: class I PI3K are obligate heterodimeric enzymes composed of a regulatory, inhibitory subunit (mainly p85 α or p85 β) and a catalytic subunit, p110, with three isotypes designated α , β and δ . NS1 is known to specifically bind and repress the inhibition caused by p85 β . Here, we show that NS1 differentially redistributes and activates heterotypic PI3K complexes depending on their catalytic subunit isotype. We postulate that different NS1 strains induce heterotypic PI3K complexes to signal from distinctive platforms and through different pathways, thus affecting overall viral fitness in varying degrees. Our findings suggest that activation of PI3K by influenza A virus NS1 has been diversely shaped through evolution in distinct viral strains to take advantage of the variability within PI3K signaling, providing a challenging example of a complex and multi-variant virus-host interaction.

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Modulatory effect of heat shock protein 70 (Hsp70) on influenza A virus polymerase activityRashid Manzoor(1), Kazumichi Kuroda(2), Reiko Yoshida(1), Yoshimi Tsuda(1), Daisuke Fujikura(3), Hiroko Miyamoto(1), Masahiro Kajihara(1), Hiroshi Kida(4), Ayato Takada(1, 5) *Division of Global Epidemiology, Research Center for Zoonosis Control, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, 001-0020, Japan (1); Division of Microbiology, Department of Pathology and Microbiology, Nihon University School of Medicine, Tokyo, 173-8610, Japan (2); Division of Infection and Immunity, Research Center for Zoonosis Control, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, 001-0020, Japan (3); Laboratory of Microbiology, Department of Disease Control, Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, 060-0818, Japan (4), School of Veterinary Medicine, the University of Zambia, P.O. Box 32379, Lusaka, Zambia (5)*

The role of heat shock protein 70 (Hsp70) in virus replication has been discussed for many viruses. Previous studies have shown that Hsp70 suppresses the influenza virus replication. However, these studies were conducted in cell lines varying in their basal levels of Hsp70. In this study, we determined the role of Hsp70 in influenza virus replication in HeLa and HEK293T cells, which express Hsp70 constitutively and are commonly employed in influenza research. Hsp70 was coprecipitated with PB2, PB1 monomers and PB2-PB1 dimers but not with PA monomers or PB2-PB1-PA trimers. Immunofluorescence microscopy revealed that Hsp70, mainly present in the cytosol, co-localized with PB2 in nuclei of the cells. Knocking down Hsp70 resulted in reduced virus transcription and replication activities. Significantly higher levels of viral polymerase-encoded cRNA and vRNAs were observed during the heat shock phase than recovery phase; suggesting that Hsp70 acted as chaperone for influenza virus polymerase proteins resulting in increased replication activity during heat shock phase when Hsp70 localized in the nucleus where influenza virus replication takes place, but not in the recovery phase when Hsp70 relocated into the cytoplasm. Our data, for the first time, suggest that Hsp70 modulates the influenza virus replication and its previously reported suppressive role could be a sequel of involvement of different cellular pathways.



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The importin- α 7 gene is a determinant of influenza virus cell tropism in the murine lung
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Differential use of importin- α isoforms governs host adaptation and pathogenesis of influenza viruses in the mammalian host. While growth of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses depends on importin- α 3, growth of mammalian viruses depends on importin- α 7 expression in human lung cell cultures. Here, we have compared viral replication efficiency and cell tropism in the lungs of wildtype (WT) and importin- α 7-knockout (α 7 $^{-/-}$) mice using a recombinant H1N1 influenza virus which carries a GFP reporter gene. We observed that upon GFP-virus infection, 80% of the WT mice succumbed to infection while all α 7 $^{-/-}$ mice survived. Lungs of WT animals were severely destructed and bronchial and alveolar epithelium was preferentially infected. In contrast, lungs of α 7 $^{-/-}$ animals were mostly intact with bronchial but not alveolar epithelium infection. Histological studies displayed virus-RNA positive macrophages in the lungs of infected WT but not α 7 $^{-/-}$ mice. In contrast, no significant differences were detected in virus clearance by primary WT or α 7 $^{-/-}$ macrophages *in vitro*. The quantification of the cellular immune response in the lungs of infected WT and α 7 $^{-/-}$ mice by flow cytometry revealed no major differences suggesting that the importin- α 7 gene does not modulate cellular immune response pathways. However, higher levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines were detected in the lungs of WT than α 7 $^{-/-}$ mice potentially contributing to the severe lung pathology observed in WT mice. In summary, our findings show that the importin- α 7 gene plays a crucial role in virus replication in the alveolar epithelium and the expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines in the mammalian airway.

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Characterization of influenza virus receptors in the respiratory tract of ferrets

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Influenza viruses cause acute viral disease of the respiratory tract in a wide range of species. The influenza virus hemagglutinin mediates cell entry by binding to sialic acid (SA)-receptors on the host cell-surface. A wide variety of SA-receptors exist in nature, which are species and tissue specific. Human influenza viruses bind to α 2,6-Gal terminated SA-receptors, whereas avian influenza viruses prefer those terminating in SA- α 2,3-Gal. These gross differences in receptor-binding properties are important determinants of virus host range. However, using glycan array technologies, it has been demonstrated that influenza virus receptor specificity also involves structural modifications of the SA and overall glycan, such as fucosylation, acetylation, and sulphation. Thus to fully understand influenza virus host range and tropism, it is important to understand SA-receptor expression in host tissues. Ferrets are widely used as an animal model for influenza virus pathogenesis. Therefore, the objective of this study was to characterize the glycan composition of the ferret respiratory tract. N-glycans were isolated from nasal turbinates, trachea, bronchus and lungs of ferrets. The N-glycans were released, separated, quantified, and subjected analysis by MALDI-TOF MS(/MS). Digestion with sialidases indicated the presence of both α 2,3- and α 2,6-linked SA. Only one type of SA, N-acetylneuraminic acid, was detected. This spectrum of glycans can now be compared to those of the human respiratory tract and to glycans present on glycan arrays. Understanding which SA-receptors are present in relevant hosts and tissues will aid the analyses of glycan array data and the identification of determinants of virus host range.



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Novel host factors that promote influenza A virus uncoating

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Influenza A virus (IAV) is an enveloped animal virus of the Orthomyxoviridae family with a segmented, negative-sense RNA genome. Once the virus is endocytosed, fusion is mediated by the hemagglutinin (HA) glycoprotein in the acidic environment of late endosomes (LEs) or endolysosomes. This is followed by uncoating of the viral core, and the vRNPs are imported into the nucleus by importin α/β using the classical nuclear import pathway. Here we show that the beta karyopherins TNPO1 and 2 promote efficient IAV uncoating post-fusion and prior to import of vRNPs. RNAi-mediated depletion of TNPO1/2 in A549 cells decreased influenza A/Aichi/68 X31 infection by 95% compared to the control. In cells overexpressing wild-type or dominant-negative TNPO1, infection increased by 30% or decreased by 50%, respectively. We first identified a block in IAV uptake by 75% and a retarded recycling of transferrin. The effect was not totally abolished when the virus was allowed to fuse at the plasma membrane indicating a post-fusion defect. Following acid-bypass at the plasma membrane in TNPO1/2-depleted cells, uncoating of M1 and vRNPs was reduced by 50% and 30%, respectively, compared to the control. Fusion occurred normally. Depletion of importin β , on the other hand, had no effect on M1 or vRNP uncoating but blocked vRNP nuclear import almost completely. These findings suggest that TNPO1/2 promotes IAV uncoating at a post-fusion step before importin β comes into play. Our findings suggest that IAV uncoating is a multi-step process that is initiated by fusion and completed by cytosolic host factors.

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Identification of host factors interacting Borna disease virus ribonucleoprotein in the nucleusTomoyuki Honda, Akiko Makino, Kan Fujino, Kozue Sofuku, Shoko Nakamura, Keizo Tomonaga *Department of Viral Oncology, Institute for Virus Research, Kyoto University*

Borna disease virus (BDV), a nonsegmented, negative-strand RNA virus, is characterized highly neurotropic and noncytopathic infection. BDV has several unique features. The most striking feature of BDV is that it establishes a long-lasting persistent infection in the cell nucleus without overt cytopathic effects. This characteristic makes BDV the only animal RNA virus capable of intranuclear parasitism. Therefore, the study of BDV allows us to uncover previously unknown interactions between RNA virus and host factors. Recently, we demonstrated that BDV ribonucleoprotein (RNP) interacts directly with a host chromatin-binding protein, high mobility group box protein 1 (HMGB1), which influences BDV replication and persistent infection. To further investigate the role of HMGB1 in BDV persistence, we isolated HMGB1-binding proteins (HBPs) from the nucleus of BDV-infected cells. We identified that HBP-1, one of HBPs, associated with both HMGB1 and BDV RNP in the nucleus. Knockdown of HBP-1 enhanced BDV replication, suggesting that HBP-1 represses BDV replication. Furthermore, we demonstrated that knockdown of HBP-1 decreased the formation of BDV RNP speckles in the cytosol. These results suggest that HBP-1 might translocate BDV RNP into the cytosol, resulting in the repression of BDV replication. Our data may provide a novel mechanism for regulation of RNA virus replication in the nucleus.

**Analysis of cell entry of a novel arenavirus, Lujo virus, using pseudotype VSV**

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Arenaviruses are a major cause of hemorrhagic fevers endemic to Africa and South America, and thus a major public health and medical concern. Because these viruses are categorized as biosafety level 4 pathogens, which are restricted to their use, biological studies including therapeutic drug or vaccine development have been impeded. Here, we have developed pseudotype VSV bearing envelope protein of various species of arenaviruses (AREpv), including recently identified Lujo virus (LUJpv). LUJpv generated in 293T cells exhibited high infectivity in various mammalian cell lines except for mouse derived cell lines. A pH-dependent endocytosis of LUJpv was confirmed by the use of lysosomotropic agents. The infections of New World and Old World AREpv were mediated by human TfR1 and α DG, respectively, while that of LUJpv was not mediated by human TfR1 nor α DG. A pH-dependent endocytosis of AREpv including LUJpv was confirmed by the use of lysosomotropic agents. Cell fusion was induced when the cells expressing envelope proteins of arenavirus, except for Lujo virus, were transiently exposed at low pH. Exposure of LUJpv as well as other AREpv to low pH diminished the infectivity. These results indicate that Lujo virus uses as-yet-unknown receptors for the infection and envelope protein of Lujo virus changes its conformation at low pH in the entry process.

**Role of cholesterol transporter proteins NPC1 and NPC1L1 in Lujo virus entry and replication.**

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Lujo virus (LUJV) is a recently identified rodent-borne arenavirus that causes fatal viral hemorrhagic fevers in humans. No specific drugs exist to treat LUJV-caused hemorrhagic fevers. The virus–endosome membrane fusion triggered by the glycoprotein of LUJV is an important step in virus entry, hence potential target for antiviral interventions. The G1 glycoprotein of LUJV is highly diverse and distinct from both Old and New Worlds arenaviruses lineage. Niemann Pick C1 (NPC1), a mammalian endosomal cholesterol transporter protein was recently identified as a critical entry factor for filoviruses, though it had no effect on an Old World arenavirus Lassa virus entry. Here we report that NPC1 is required for the cellular entry and replication of infectious LUJV. Using immunofluorescence microscopy we demonstrated that infectious LUJV did not infect NPC1-null primary human fibroblasts derived from Niemann-Pick type C1 disease patients. Furthermore, replication and release of infectious LUJV was significantly decreased in NPC1-null fibroblast in comparison to cells from healthy individuals. Interestingly, we also found that Niemann-Pick C1-like1 protein (NPC1L1), a closely NPC1 related cholesterol transporter protein known to contribute to entry of hepatitis C virus, is also required for the entry of LUJV. Specifically, pre-treating Vero-E6 cells with NPC1L1 inhibitor significantly reduced LUJV replication as seen by immunofluorescence. In contrast, replication of infectious Zaire ebolavirus was not affected by this inhibitor. Our results indicate that both NPC1 and NPC1L1 are host factors required for LUJV entry and may be potential target for therapeutic intervention.

Lujo virus (LUJV) is a recently identified rodent-borne arenavirus that causes fatal viral hemorrhagic fevers in humans. No specific drugs exist to treat LUJV-caused hemorrhagic fevers. The virus–endosome membrane fusion triggered by the glycoprotein of LUJV is an important step in virus entry, hence potential target for antiviral interventions. The G1 glycoprotein of LUJV is highly diverse and distinct from both Old and New Worlds arenaviruses lineage. Niemann Pick C1 (NPC1), a mammalian endosomal cholesterol transporter protein was recently identified as a critical entry factor for filoviruses, though it had no effect on an Old World arenavirus Lassa virus entry. Here we report that NPC1 is required for the cellular entry and replication of infectious LUJV. Using immunofluorescence microscopy we demonstrated that infectious LUJV did not infect NPC1-null primary human fibroblasts derived from NPC1 disease patients. Furthermore, replication and release of infectious LUJV was significantly decreased in NPC1-null fibroblast in comparison to cells from healthy individuals. Interestingly, we also found that NPC1-like1 protein (NPC1-L1), a closely NPC1 related cholesterol transporter protein known to contribute to entry of hepatitis C virus, is also required for the entry of LUJV. Specifically, pre-treating Vero-E6 cells with NPC1L1 inhibitor significantly reduced LUJV replication as seen by immunofluorescence. In contrast, replication of infectious Zaire ebolavirus was not affected by this inhibitor. Our results indicate that both NPC1 and NPC1-L1 are host factors required for LUJV entry and may be potential target for therapeutic intervention.



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Cellular adaptation for establishment of measles virus persistent infection in culture

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Measles virus (MV) usually causes cytolytic infection. However, MV also causes persistent infection in specific conditions so that subacute sclerosing panencephalitis is known to develop after the long period persistent infection. To investigate the mechanisms of persistent infection in cultured cells, we previously established a numbers of persistently infected cell lines of MVs. Analysis of features and genome sequence of persistent MVs, we found various mutations on their genome, which are implicated in loss of cytolytic infection. In this study, we focused on the cell features during establishment of MV persistent infection. Virus infection induces cell death associated with syncytium formation until 5 days. After the period, syncytium was not formed and we found that SLAM on the infected cell surface was downregulated. From 5 days to 4 weeks, cell number was hardly increased that was probably caused by plenty of single cell death. Then, cells started to grow normally as parental cells, while viral growth rate was also increased over time during establishment of persistent infection. Sequence analysis of the persistently infected MV genome showed no alteration comparing with parental one. These results suggest that MV persistent infection in culture is also achieved by cellular adaptation without selection of MV subtypes. Cell death caused by MV infection is induced by at least two different mechanisms, syncytium dependent and independent way. Our findings provide a good model to investigate cellular factors involved in interaction between virus and host cells in acute and persistent phase of infection.

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DDX1 and DDX3 as potential host factors affecting influenza virus replication in Swine Respiratory Epithelial cells (SRECs)

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The NS1 protein of influenza is an important virulence factor and is also multi-functional in nature. This is made possible by its interaction with host and viral proteins in the infected cell. Therefore, it is important to study and understand the physiological role of these interactions. As a platform to study these interactions, we rescued a recombinant swine influenza virus, which could express a strep-tag fused NS1 protein upon infection. The rescued recombinant virus has growth properties and NS1 localization pattern similar to that of the wild type in MDCK cells and the strep-tag NS1 protein is able to bind specifically with high affinity to the strep-tactin resin, thereby facilitating isolation of intact NS1-protein complexes. One of the primary sites of influenza infection in pigs and many other hosts are the tracheal epithelial cells. Hence, studying virus infection in the primary SRECs' would closely resemble that of natural infection. So, we isolated epithelial cells from the trachea of pigs and infected them with the recombinant virus. The strep-tag NS1 protein along with the interacting protein complex was then purified from the infected lysate using the strep-tactin system. The host proteins present in the complex were then identified by mass spectrometry. Several RNA helicases like DDX3, DDX1 and DDX17 were identified along with many other proteins present in the complex. Since, influenza is an RNA virus, we hypothesized that these proteins might be involved in the viral life cycle.



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Influenza A virus protein PB1-F2 reduces viral pathogenesis in chicken

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Since 1997, H5N1 avian influenza viruses (AIV) have caused numerous outbreaks in poultry. Waterfowl and shorebirds constitute the natural host of H5N1 AIV, in which infection is usually asymptomatic or results in limited disease. Nevertheless, when the virus is transmitted to poultry, mortality rate can reach 100%. Among the viral effectors that modulate virulence in these species, the PB1-F2 protein was shown to contribute to viral pathogenesis but its function in avian host is not well understood. In this work, we compared the effect of a wild-type (wt) highly virulent H5N1 AIV strain with its mutant unable to express PB1-F2 (Δ F2) during chicken infection. Unexpectedly, we first observed that wt-infected chickens had a higher survival rate than the Δ F2-infected chickens, suggesting that the expression of PB1-F2 during AIV infection could be beneficial for the avian host. Remarkably, the biodistribution analysis of the two viruses revealed a higher viral titer of the wt virus within intestine, indicating that PB1-F2 has an impact on the spreading of the virus. Finally, we compared the host response of the chickens to the two viruses within lungs and in blood cells. In the lung, PB1-F2 expression results in a potent down-regulation of the immune response. In blood cells, a gene signature associated to mitochondrial dysfunction was observed. Collectively, our data suggest that PB1-F2 expression deeply affect the immune host response in chickens in a way that attenuates pathogenicity, a feature that contrast with what was previously observed in mammal species.

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Characterization of the role of human cathepsin W in the entry process of influenza A virus

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For the entry process of influenza A virus (IAV) a broad range of host factors is required. This is due to the fact that IAV has only a small coding capacity with its (-)ssRNA genome and for the entry and following replication it is dependent on a repertoire of host cell proteins. By performing genome wide siRNA screens several of these host factors were identified. We have tested a number of the identified factors in a VLP-based entry assay and found several host proteins that are required for entry. One of the hits is the lysosomal peptidase, human cathepsin W (CtsW). The VLP-based entry assay in siCtsW treated cells showed a reduction for influenza VLP entry but not for VLPs harbouring viral glycoproteins of other viral species. Furthermore siCtsW treatment of A549 lung epithelial cells and subsequent infection resulted in a reduced viral titer for influenza A virus A/WSN/33. By applying confocal microscopy we observed a reduction in incoming vRNPs in the nuclei of siCtsW treated cells and vRNPs are accumulating in the cytoplasm after three hours of infection, instead of entering the nucleus. When we stained for the early endosomal marker EEA1, we found equal co-localization levels of EEA1 and NP in siCtsW treated cells and control cells. This leads to the assumption that a late step of the entry process is affected. We are currently using several cell-biological and molecular methods to get a more detailed understanding of how this host factor is involved in the viral entry process.



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Primary airway epithelial cells from swine provide a model system to study proteolytic activation of influenza viruses

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Influenza A viruses cause an acute respiratory disease that affects millions of people during seasonal epidemics and occasional pandemics. Due to their natural susceptibility to avian and human influenza viruses, swine may serve as intermediate hosts and play an important role in the epidemiology of influenza A viruses. As in humans, respiratory epithelial cells are the primary target cells for influenza viruses in swine. Cleavage of the viral surface glycoprotein hemagglutinin (HA) by host cell proteases is essential for viral infectivity. Hence, it can be assumed that the very same HA-activating mechanism is accomplished by porcine proteases homologous or similar to human HA-processing proteases. We analysed proteolytic activation of influenza virus HA in primary swine airway epithelial cells. Seasonal and pandemic influenza A viruses replicated efficiently in the epithelial cells in the absence of exogenous HA-activating proteases. Interestingly, swine proteases swTMPRSS2 and swAT, homologues to human HA-activating proteases TMPRSS2 and HAT, were found to be expressed in several sections of the porcine respiratory tract. We cloned swTMPRSS2 and swAT from primary bronchial epithelial cells and demonstrated that both are able to cleave HA and support proteolytic activation of influenza A viruses. Consistent with the human homologues, expression of swTMPRSS2 and swAT and, most likely, HA cleavage differ in subcellular localisation. In conclusion, swTMPRSS2 and swAT are promising candidates for proteolytic activation of influenza virus HA in the respiratory tract of pigs and, moreover, primary swine airway epithelial cells constitute a suitable *in vitro* model system for influenza A virus infections.

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The regulation and functional significance of GALNT3 expression during influenza A virus infection

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Viral infections affecting the upper or lower respiratory tract induce the production of mucus in the epithelial surfaces of the respiratory cells. The mucus is largely formed by mucins, which are complex O-linked glycosylated proteins. Recent studies revealed that the expression of mucins dramatically increases in the respiratory epithelial cells after some virus infections. However, a little is known about how mucins are produced on the surfaces of respiratory epithelial cells and involved in viral infections. Influenza A virus (IAV) causes the acute upper respiratory infection. In this study, we identified that two miRNAs, which could regulate the expression of GalNAc transferase 3 (GALNT3), rapidly increase at the early phase of IAV infection and may be involved in the process of mucin production. At first, to understand the regulatory mechanism of GALNT3 expression by identified miRNAs, we analyzed the binding of miRNAs to the 3' UTR of GALNT3 mRNA. Furthermore, we investigated the relationship between GALNT3 expression and IAV strain A/Puerto Rico/8/34 (PR8) replication in the upper respiratory epithelial cells. As a result of luciferase reporter assay analysis, two miRNAs actually interacted with 3' UTR of GALNT3 mRNA and regulated GALNT3 expression. Analysis using siRNA against GALNT3 revealed that upregulation of GALNT3 during IAV infection may be associated with IAV gene transcription and replication. We are currently investigating in detail whether the expression of GALNT3 directly associates with IAV replication and how O-glycosylation of mucins and other substrates of GALNT3 act against IAV infection in infected cells.



149 **Nairobi sheep disease virus causes translocation of ER chaperones in infected cells**

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Nairobi sheep disease virus (NSDV) of the genus Nairovirus causes a haemorrhagic gastroenteritis in sheep and goats with mortality up to 90%. The virus is closely related to the human pathogen Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus (CCHFV). Replication of NSDV takes place in the cytoplasm and the new virus particles bud into the Golgi apparatus; however, the effect of replication on cellular compartments has not been studied extensively. Protein disulphide isomerase (PDI) is a chaperone, present in lumen of endoplasmic reticulum (ER), which assists during protein folding. Using confocal microscopy, we observed that NSDV infection led to the loss of PDI from the ER. However, the structure of the ER, as judged by the distribution of the ER membrane protein calnexin, was not affected. Further investigation showed that NSDV-infected cells have high levels of PDI at their surface, and the protein is also secreted into the culture medium above infected cells. Another chaperone from the PDI family, ERp57, was found to be similarly affected. Expression of individual viral glycoproteins showed that expression of Gn led to similar loss of PDI from the ER. PDI can be secreted from and detected at the surface of activated platelets and endothelial cells, and it has been suggested that this PDI can activate tissue factor and integrins, involved in coagulation and inflammation respectively. The discovery of enhanced PDI secretion from NSDV-infected cells may be a crucial finding for understanding the mechanisms underlying the pathogenicity of nairoviruses.

150 **Junin virus NP but not Tacaribe virus NP serves a decoy-function to prevent apoptosis induction during infection**

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The regulation of apoptosis during infection is an important factor for host survival and, in some cases, also for the virus life cycle. It is, therefore, interesting to understand how viruses interfere with the cellular apoptosis machinery. However, the role of apoptosis during arenavirus infection is enigmatic. Junin virus (JUNV) is the causative agent of Argentine hemorrhagic fever and belongs, like its apathogenic relative Tacaribe virus (TCRV), to the New World arenaviruses. Our study was initiated by the finding that during JUNV infection, as well as recombinant expression, the JUNV nucleoprotein (NP) is cleaved into discrete products. TCRV NP, however, does not show a comparable specific degradation pattern. Examination of the JUNV NP sequence revealed several putative caspase cleavage motifs. Point mutations of these motifs led to alterations in the observed degradation pattern and were consistent with loss of certain cleavage events. Since caspase activity also influenced NP cleavage in transfected cells, we propose JUNV NP as a substrate of caspases. We further could show that expression of JUNV NP alone, but not of TCRV NP, suppresses the induction of apoptosis in cells treated with an apoptosis activator and that this anti-apoptotic effect depends on cleavage of JUNV NP. Taken together, our data reveal that JUNV NP, in contrast to TCRV NP, serves as a target for caspase cleavage and is, therefore, able to prevent the induction of apoptosis in JUNV infected cells, possibly as by serving as a decoy substrate.



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Prolidase (PEPD) is a required human factor for influenza A virus entry

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Influenza A virus causes an acute respiratory illness and is a constant threat to public health. The identification of human factors that favor viral propagation may promote the development of novel antiviral drugs against influenza A virus (IAV). Recently, five genome-wide siRNA screens have been performed to determine host factors of IAV infection but surprisingly, there was little overlap between primary hits of those screens. We revisited the primary hits of these screens to determine and characterize novel host factors that are associated with the entry process of IAV. We focused on 44 primary hits lacking experimental validation, which are common of two or more screens. Using a VLP-based entry assay we identified 23 potential candidates to be involved in IAV entry. One of the well-performing candidates is prolidase (PEPD), a ubiquitously expressed cytosolic enzyme that hydrolyzes dipeptides with proline or hydroxyproline at the C-terminus. Further validation experiments revealed that siRNA-mediated knockdown of PEPD reduces wild-type IAV single- as well as multi-cycle growth. This effect was observed not only for the lab-adapted strain A/WSN/33 but also for the two seasonal IAV strains A/HK/68 (H3N2) and A/Texas/36/91 (H1N1). In addition, we monitored IAV entry by confocal microscopy in siRNA-treated cells. Control cells showed robust viral protein expression in the nucleus 3 hours post-infection. In PEPD knockdown cells however, nuclear staining of viral proteins was largely absent indicating a defect early in the viral life cycle. Overall, our studies establish PEPD as a human host factor required for efficient IAV entry.

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Host-dependence of the thermosensitivity of measles virus vaccine strains and critical function of HSP90 in viral replication

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Attenuation of measles virus (MeV) that gave rise to a well-tolerated vaccine was ultimately reached after adaptation to grow into chicken embryonic fibroblasts (CEF). Moraten and Schwarz vaccines have been selected for their ability to grow in CEF at 32°C but not at 37°C. This thermosensitivity is not intrinsic to the viruses as they displayed a normal growth at 37 °C in human or simian cells. A correlation between the temperature-restriction of viral growth and a decreased expression of HSP90 in CEF lead us to investigate the role of HSP90 in MeV replication cycle. In these cells, HSP90 appears to be a limiting factor since overexpression of HSP90 in CEF enhanced MeV growth. Furthermore, inhibition of HSP90 either by siRNA or by addition of a chemical inhibitor decreased or abrogated the viral RNA synthesis and viral production not only in CEF but also in other cell types such as Vero cells. Kinetics experiments and reversibility of the inhibition upon drug retrieval pointed to the polymerase complex as a likely target of HSP90 activity. Upon blocking HSP90, the amount of MeV L protein detectable by western blot was strongly decreased, while P expression remained unaffected. Treatment of the cells with a proteasome inhibitor did not prevent the decrease induced by the HSP90 inhibitor. HSP90 was detected in viral particles suggesting a direct interaction between L and HSP90 and ongoing experiments aim at investigating this interaction.



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Novel insights into the divergent mechanisms of paramyxovirus immune evasion

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The Paramyxovirus family includes a number of viruses that pose significant global health threats to humans and livestock, including measles virus (>150,000 human deaths/annum) and zoonotic bat-borne viruses of the henipavirus genus (Nipah and Hendra) that have invaded human populations with case-fatality rates as high as 70%. Their capacity to evade interferon (IFN)-mediated innate immune responses is a major determinant of pathogenicity and host specificity, and is dependent on products of the viral P-gene, including the V-protein. V-protein antagonism of IFN-signalling through mechanisms including proteasomal degradation has represented an archetype in viral immune evasion. However, it is becoming increasingly clear that immune evasion mechanisms are highly diverse and only partially understood among the >30 paramyxoviruses, with many paramyxoviruses entirely uncharacterised in this respect. Using an approach combining functional genomic analysis of infected cells, live-cell imaging, and IFN-signalling assays, we have examined the expression/functions of P-gene-encoded proteins from a panel of emerging zoonotic paramyxoviruses, including members of the lethal henipavirus genus. We found that although almost all paramyxovirus V-proteins bind the immune signalling factors STAT1/2 and MDA5, members of a potential new genus isolated from rodent/bat hosts show significant divergence in this regard. We also characterised unique interactions of specific P-gene-encoded proteins with the cellular cytoskeleton and components of the nuclear transport machinery, suggesting they may be involved in novel immune evasion strategies. Furthermore, recent results suggest pharmacological inhibition of these interactions can reduce infection by henipaviruses, and our current research is focused on validating these interactions as new therapeutic targets.

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Paramyxovirus V proteins disrupt the fold of the innate immune sensor MDA5 to inhibit antiviral interferon response

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RIG-I like receptors (RLR: RIG-I, MDA5 and LGP2) of the innate immune system sense cytoplasmic viral RNA and trigger signaling cascades that lead to an antiviral state of the cell. However, viruses employ different strategies to counteract RLR signaling and dampen the host interferon response. While we begin to understand how RLRs mechanistically sense viral RNA, molecular mechanisms of viral interference with RLRs remain unclear. Paramyxoviruses inactivate MDA5 with their V protein. We report the crystal structure of a complex between parainfluenza virus 5 (PIV5) V protein and MDA5's ATP hydrolysis domain that explains how V proteins inhibit MDA5. Remarkably, V protein unfolds MDA5's ATPase domain via a β -hairpin motif and recognizes a structural motif of MDA5 that is normally buried in the conserved helicase fold. The β -hairpin of V replaces two β -strands of the MDA5 structural core, disrupts MDA5's ATP-hydrolysis site and prevents formation of nucleic acid bound MDA5 filaments. V protein exposes the β -hairpin like a spring blade, whereby the remainder of V protein forms a cocoon that prior to MDA5 binding shields the β -hairpin by mimicking the MDA5 target site. Our data explain how V proteins inactivate MDA5 and LGP2, but not RIG-I. Mutating only two amino acids in RIG-I induces robust V protein binding, validating our results by gain of function. The structure of a viral inhibitor bound to an innate immune receptor uncovers an intriguing mechanism of inhibition of RLR signalosome formation by double unfolding of both receptor and inhibitor.



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Paramyxovirus V proteins interact with the TRIM25/RIG-I regulatory complex and inhibit RIG-I signaling

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Like other paramyxovirus V proteins, the Nipah virus (NiV) V protein is a known antagonist of the RIG-I like receptor (RLR)-mediated interferon (IFN) induction pathway, acting through and interacting with the RLR MDA5. It is also known to interact with the RLR LGP2, though the physiological results of this interaction are unclear. We report an interaction between the NiV V protein and the third known RLR, RIG-I. We have also observed interactions between RIG-I and the measles virus and Sendai virus V proteins, but not with the PIV5 V protein. We have determined that for the NiV V protein, interaction with RIG-I depends on the presence of the conserved paramyxovirus V C-terminal region. Furthermore, we have determined that this interaction facilitates the participation of the NiV V protein in the RIG-I/TRIM25 regulatory complex, which results in dysregulation of RIG-I ubiquitination by TRIM25 and disrupts RIG-I signaling. This is a novel mechanism for innate immune inhibition by NiV V, distinct from both STAT1 and MDA5 interaction activities.

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Molecular basis of RIG-I activation

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RIG-I, a cytosolic protein of the RIG-I like receptors family, is known to be activated by diverse positive and negative strand RNA viruses. Some of the molecular means allowing RIG-I to differentiate between cellular and viral RNA have been identified in previous studies: double-stranded RNA with a blunt-end and 5'triphosphate referred to as pathogen-associated molecular patterns ("PAMPs"). The binding of RNA PAMP (on the C-terminal domain of RIG-I) induces conformational changes allowing ATP binding and CARD domains release required to initiate downstream signalling (*i.e.* interferon- β induction). However, the manner in which RIG-I is activated remains unclear. For this purpose, we designed various RNA molecules: single-strand (ssRNA) or double-strand (dsRNA), with a 5' triphosphate (5'ppp) or hydroxyl group (5'OH), as well as chimeric 3' strand hybrids with both ribo- and deoxyribo-nucleotides. These molecules were tested using 3 different experimental approaches: RNA pull-down assays, *in vitro* ATPase and *in vivo* IFN β induction. Our results suggest that RIG-I is in contact with both strands and interacts with different elements to switch on an activated state: i) For stable binding to RIG-I, a blunt 5'ppp double-strand structure is required. ii) For ATP binding and ATPase activity, further features are involved: contact with ribonucleotides 2 and 5 on the 3' strand. iii) For full RIG-I activation, *i.e.* IFN β induction, additional ribonucleotides are necessary on the 3' strand (between 10 to 20). Altogether, these results highlight the importance of structural features for RIG-I activation and allow us to define a new model of this molecular mechanism.



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Unanchored Lysine48-linked polyubiquitin chains positively regulate the type I IFN-mediated antiviral response

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Type-I interferons (IFN-I) are essential antiviral cytokines produced upon microbial infection. IFN-I elicits this activity through the upregulation of hundreds of IFN-I stimulated genes (ISGs), many of which have known antiviral activity. The full breadth of ISG induction requires activation of a number of cellular factors including the IκB kinase epsilon (IKKε). However, the mechanism of IKKε activation upon viral infection or IFN receptor signaling remains elusive. Here we show that TRIM6, a member of the E3-ubiquitin ligase tripartite motif (TRIM) family of proteins, interacts with IKKε and promotes induction of IKKε-dependent ISGs. Some studies have suggested a role for unanchored K63-linked polyubiquitin chains, which are not conjugated to any protein, in regulation of kinase activity. However, no role has yet been established for unanchored K48-linked polyubiquitin chains in kinase activation. We show that TRIM6 and the E2-ubiquitin conjugase Ube2K cooperate in the synthesis of unanchored K48-linked polyubiquitin chains, which activate IKKε for subsequent STAT1 phosphorylation. Mechanistically, these unanchored ubiquitin chains promote IKKε oligomerization and autophosphorylation, required for downstream signaling. Our work defines a previously unrecognized activating role of K48-linked unanchored polyubiquitin chains in kinase activation and identifies the Ube2K-TRIM6-ubiquitin axis as critical for IFN signaling and antiviral response.

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STAT2 deficiency and susceptibility to (NSV) viral illness in humans

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Severe infectious disease in children may be a manifestation of primary immunodeficiency. These genetic disorders represent important experiments of nature with the capacity to elucidate nonredundant mechanisms of human immunity. We hypothesized that a novel primary defect of innate antiviral immunity was responsible for unusually severe viral illness in two siblings; the proband developed disseminated vaccine strain measles following routine immunization, while an infant brother died after a two-day febrile illness from an unknown viral infection. Patient fibroblasts were indeed abnormally permissive for viral replication *in vitro*, associated with profound failure of type I interferon signaling and absence of STAT2 protein. Sequencing of genomic DNA and RNA revealed a homozygous mutation in intron 4 of STAT2 that prevented correct splicing in patient cells. Subsequently, other family members were identified with the same genetic lesion. Despite documented infection by known viral pathogens (including influenza viruses, paramyxoviruses and herpesviruses) some of which have been more severe than normal, surviving STAT2-deficient individuals have remained generally healthy, with no obvious defects in their adaptive immunity or developmental abnormalities. These findings imply that type I IFN signaling (through ISGF3) is surprisingly not essential for host defense against the majority of common childhood viral infections. The implications of these findings in terms of our understanding of the importance of type I IFN signaling in controlling negative sense RNA virus infections will be discussed.



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Differences in interferon β inhibition between the C proteins of measles virus vaccine and wildtype strains

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Effective vaccination relies on the rapid and efficient recognition of a virus by the human innate immune system. Measles virus (MV, Genus Morbillivirus), a member of the paramyxovirus family, is known to induce lifelong immunity against reinfection. However, the acute infection is associated with a dramatic immunosuppression, accompanied by secondary infections, which can eventually kill a host. The pathogenesis of established MV vaccine strains is less severe and the typical immunosuppression is not observed to the same extent, while life-long protection against MV is induced as well, indicating efficient stimulation of the immune system. Infection of cells is sensed predominantly by RIG-I recognizing viral 5'-triphosphate RNAs, and MDA5. We have identified the 186 amino acid MV C protein, which shuttles between the nucleus and cytoplasm, as a major viral inhibitor of IFN- β transcription in human cells. Notably, C proteins of wildtype MV isolates, being poor IFN- β inducers, were found to comprise a canonical nuclear localization signal (NLS), whereas the respective sequence of all vaccine strains, irrespective of their origin, was mutated. Site-directed mutagenesis of the C proteins from a MV wildtype isolate and from a vaccine virus confirmed a correlation of nuclear localization and inhibition of IFN- β transcription. A functional NLS and efficient nuclear accumulation is therefore critical for MV C to retain its potential to downregulate IFN- β induction. Therefore we suggest that a defect in efficient nuclear import of C protein contributes to the attenuation of MV vaccine strains and indicates an important difference between vaccine and wildtype strains.

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The matrix protein of rabies virus binds to RelAp43 to suppress NF- κ -B dependent gene expression related to innate immunity

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The activation of expression of genes involved in innate immune response is controlled by the activity of transcription factors such as the proteins of the NF- κ B family. Recently, we identified a sixth member of this family, RelAp43, which is involved in the activation of INF- β transcription during viral infection (Luco et al., PLoS Pathog 2012). The matrix (M) protein of wild isolates of rabies virus such as Tha (M-Tha) is able to interact with RelAp43 and to efficiently suppress NF- κ B dependent reporter gene expression, in response to activation by tumor necrosis factor (TNF), in contrast with the vaccine strain SAD. We then studied the capacity of various truncated and site mutated mutants of M to interact with RelAp43 by co-IP experiments and to activate the NF- κ B pathway and identified the region of M and the residues involved in these functions. Moreover, we selected a subset of genes involved in antiviral response and we identified four genes as particularly down regulated by M-Tha compared to M-SAD: CYCLD, NFKB1, STAT1 and TRIM25. Finally, we used an approach that relies on small interfering RNA and overexpression of RelAp43 to study the modulation of genes involved in innate immunity and in NF- κ B signaling. Thus, RABV-M protein appears as a potent viral immune-modulatory factor that prevents NF- κ B dependent gene expression by fixation of RelAp43.



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Sequestration of RNA-regulating proteins in Ebola virus inclusions

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Ebola virus (EBOV) infection causes a severe hemorrhagic fever in humans with case fatality rates up to 90%. EBOV nucleocapsid (NC) proteins form cytoplasmic inclusions, which are sites of viral replication. An important antiviral defense mechanism is stress-induced translational arrest, accompanied by the formation of cytoplasmic stress granules (SGs). These SGs contain stalled translation pre-initiation complexes and RNA-binding proteins, known to stabilize or destabilize sequestered mRNAs. In this study, we analyzed the cellular stress response to EBOV infection. SG formation was not observed in EBOV-infected cells. However, various SG RNA-binding proteins accumulated within the viral inclusions. The host proteins sequestered in the inclusions did not relocate upon induction of SGs using different stress inducers. While ectopic expression of the NC proteins was not sufficient to recruit SG proteins into the inclusions, SG proteins were sequestered in viral inclusions containing active polymerase complexes, indicating that the presence of viral RNA is a prerequisite for SG protein sequestration. In addition, we observed that cellular RNA-binding proteins are involved in the regulation of viral mRNA stability. To further understand how EBOV interacts with SG components, EBOV NC proteins were individually examined for their ability to interact with SGs. Interestingly, the polymerase cofactor VP35, which antagonizes important host antiviral pathways, colocalizes with SGs and inhibits SG formation when expressed at high levels. Our results suggest that the sequestration of SG RNA-binding proteins within the inclusions plays an important role in the viral replication cycle and prevents the formation of SGs in EBOV-infected cells.

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Ebola Virus Secreted Glycoprotein Alters the Host Antibody Response via “Antigenic Subversion”

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In addition to its surface glycoprotein (GP_{1,2}), Ebola virus (EBOV) directs the production of large quantities of a nonstructural secreted glycoprotein (sGP) whose function has been widely debated. The secretion of viral antigens has been studied in several viruses as a mechanism of host immune evasion via competition for virus-specific antibodies. However, such activity has not been conclusively demonstrated for EBOV sGP. Here, we immunized mice with DNA constructs expressing GP_{1,2} and/or sGP, and demonstrate that sGP can efficiently compete for anti-GP_{1,2} antibodies from mice immunized against sGP, or both sGP + GP_{1,2}. However, sGP cannot compete for anti-GP_{1,2} antibodies from mice immunized solely against GP_{1,2}. Furthermore, exposure to sGP can induce a previously GP_{1,2}-immunized mouse to adopt cross-reactivity with sGP. We term this phenomenon “antigenic subversion,” and propose a model whereby sGP induces the host immune response to focus on epitopes shared between sGP and GP_{1,2}, thereby allowing sGP to bind and compete for anti-GP_{1,2} antibodies. This is distinct from previously proposed “decoy” mechanisms in which secreted antigens passively absorb virus-specific antibodies, since subversion requires exposure to sGP during generation of the anti-GP immune response. While EBOV likely originally evolved this strategy to survive within its chronically infected natural reservoir, antigenic subversion may also represent an important obstacle to EBOV vaccinology. Our findings underscore the importance of rapidly clearing an EBOV infection before antigenic subversion can occur, and further suggest that it may be desirable to design vaccines which lack sGP-reactive epitopes in order to avoid subversion.



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Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) NS1 protein inhibits host cell apoptosis mediated by the interferon induced transmembrane protein

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RSV is the leading viral cause of severe pediatric respiratory infections worldwide. The RSV nonstructural proteins NS1 and NS2 block type I interferon (IFN) induction and signaling and also suppress apoptosis of infected cells, with NS1 having the greater effect in both activities. The mechanism by which apoptosis is inhibited and whether it is related to IFN antagonism remains unclear. Using a yeast-two-hybrid screen, we identified IFITM2 and 3 as NS1-interacting factors. Using cDNA expression and viral infection, we found that: (1) IFITM2 and 3 are RSV restriction factors and significantly reduce RSV replication, (2) IFITM2 and 3 cause cell death that occurs by apoptosis in case of IFITM3, (3) overexpression of NS1 countered IFITM-induced apoptosis, (4) knockdown of IFITM expression in RSV-infected cells reduced apoptosis and increased RSV gene expression, and (5) NS1 binds to the IFITMs during RSV infection and likely inhibits apoptosis by sequestering them. These data suggest that IFITMs play a role in the increased apoptosis observed during infection with RSV lacking NS1. IFITM2 and 3 are expressed constitutively and also are strongly induced by IFN treatment as well as by RSV infection. However, the accumulation of IFITM proteins decreased sharply during RSV infection, and this was found to be due to protein degradation by the 26S proteasome and was independent of NS1. These data suggest that RSV blocks IFITM activity (1) by physically binding and sequestering IFITM by expression of NS1, and (2) by stimulating their degradation in an unknown fashion.

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Utilization of host ubiquitin ligases by Rift Valley fever virus virulence factor NSs

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Rift Valley fever virus (RVFV, *Phlebovirus* / *Bunyaviridae*) is an arbovirus causing large epizootics and epidemics in Africa and on the Arabian Peninsula. In animals, the disease is characterized by high rates of abortions and death of young animals. In humans, symptoms vary from mild self-limiting disease to haemorrhagic fever and death. The main virulence factor of RVFV is the non-structural protein of the small genome segment (NSs). Work by our group and others has shown that NSs is able to limit the cell antiviral response by downregulating host transcription while rescuing translation. These effects are achieved by targeting two host factors, p62 and PKR, for proteasomal degradation (Kalveram et al., J. Virol. 2011, Ikegami et al., PLoS Pathog. 2009, Habjan et al., J. Virol. 2009). p62 is a component of the general transcription factor TFIID. PKR is an RNA-activated protein kinase which inhibits virus multiplication by downregulating protein translation. Our group is interested in defining how NSs targets these factors. We have identified a host cell E3 ubiquitin ligase that interacts with NSs. This factor is specifically required for degradation of p62 by NSs, but not for the degradation of PKR. When the ligase is knocked down, p62 is preserved and localizes in the nuclear filaments characteristically formed by NSs. Partial rescue of the antiviral type I interferon response is detected in these cells, showing that the ligase is relevant regarding the virulence mechanism of NSs. We are currently screening for factors required for the NSs induced PKR degradation.



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Interferon-inducible Mx1 protein inhibits influenza virus by interfering with viral ribonucleoprotein complex assembly

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Mx proteins are large GTPases that are induced by type I and type III IFNs. These proteins are present in most vertebrates and inhibit a wide range of viruses, including many negative stranded RNA viruses. Mouse Mx1 was discovered based on its strong resistance against influenza A virus infection. Later, it was shown that Mx1 inhibits influenza virus infection by blocking viral transcription and replication, but the molecular details of this inhibition remain elusive. Polymerase basic protein 2 (PB2) and nucleoprotein (NP) were suggested to be the possible target of Mx1, but a direct interaction between Mx1 and any of the viral proteins had not been reported. We demonstrated, for the first time, that Mx1 interacts with influenza NP and PB2 and that these interactions are associated with a strongly decreased interaction of NP with the viral polymerase complex. Inhibition of the NP–PB2 interaction is an active process requiring enzymatically active Mx1. Furthermore, we confirmed the importance of NP as determinant for Mx1 sensitivity. In a minireplicon system, avian-like NP was more sensitive to inhibition by murine Mx1 than NP from human influenza A virus isolates. Likewise, Mx1 displaced avian NP from the viral ribonucleoprotein complex more easily than human NP. The stronger resistance of the A/H1N1 pandemic 2009 virus against Mx1 also correlated with a reduced inhibition of the PB2–NP interaction. Our findings support a model in which Mx1 interacts with the influenza ribonucleoprotein complexes and interferes with its assembly by disturbing the PB2–NP interaction.

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Pandemic influenza A viruses escape from restriction by human MxA through adaptive mutations in the nucleoprotein

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Influenza A viruses of avian or swine origin sporadically enter into the human population but do not transmit between individuals. In rare cases, however, they establish a new virus lineage in humans thereby causing devastating pandemics. The mechanisms by which invading viruses overcome the species barrier are not well understood, but multiple adaptations to the new host are required. In this study, we identified adaptive mutations in the nucleoprotein (NP) of pandemic strains A/Brevig Mission/1/1918 (1918) and A/Hamburg/4/2009 (pH1N1) that confer resistance to the interferon-induced dynamin-like MxA GTPase. These resistance-associated amino acids in NP differ between the two strains but form a similar discrete surface-exposed cluster in the body domain of NP, indicating that MxA resistance evolved independently. The 1918 cluster was conserved in all descendent strains of seasonal influenza viruses and is virtually absent in strains of avian origin. Introduction of this cluster into the NP of the MxA-sensitive influenza virus A/Thailand/1(KAN-1)/04 (H5N1) resulted in a gain of MxA resistance coupled with a decrease in viral replication fitness. Conversely, introduction of MxA-sensitive amino acids into pH1N1 NP enhanced viral growth in MxA-negative cells. Phylogenetic analysis revealed a positive selection of MxA resistance-enhancing NP mutations in the human host. We conclude that human MxA represents a barrier against zoonotic introduction of avian influenza viruses and that adaptive mutations in the viral NP should be carefully monitored.



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Chicken MDA5 senses short double-stranded RNA and is involved in interferon induction against influenza virus infection

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Melanoma differentiation-associated gene-5 (MDA5) and retinoic acid inducible gene-I (RIG-I) sense double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) from various RNA viruses to induce anti-viral response in infected host cells. It has been indicated that chickens lack RIG-I that senses short dsRNA and is involved in interferon (IFN) response against influenza virus infection. Lack of RIG-I is suggested to attribute to sensitivity of chickens against highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses (HPAIVs). In this study, we examined whether chicken MDA5 (chMDA5) senses short dsRNA and induces IFN response upon AIV infection. chMDA5 gene was cloned and was transiently expressed in chicken cell lines. Chicken IFN β (chIFN β) mRNA was measured by real-time PCR after stimulation by short and long poly(I:C) as well as by infection with influenza viruses. siRNA designed against chMDA5 (siMDA5) was used to knock-down chMDA5 expression. Induction of chIFN β mRNA in DF-1 cells by short poly(I:C) was almost completely abolished by siMDA5 whereas residual activity remained after stimulation by long poly(I:C). Short poly(I:C) induced chIFN β mRNA in DF-1 cells transiently expressing chMDA5 to a greater extent than long poly(I:C). Transient expressed chMDA5 enhanced chIFN β expression when infected with an AIV in DF-1 cells and with both an AIV and an HPAIV in LMH cells although suppression of virus replication was not observed in both cell lines. We demonstrated that chMDA5 preferentially senses short dsRNA and is involved in IFN response against AI viruses in chicken cell lines. This illustrates that chMDA5, in part, compensates functions of RIG-I in chickens.

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Humoral response at immunization with live and inactivated EBOV

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The heterologous immunoglobulins are known to be among the possible means of specific prophylaxis and treatment of viral infections. The choice of antigen for immunization in order to obtain the full-blooded immunoglobulins is very actual. It is obvious that the use of inactivated antigen simplifies the immunoglobulin obtaining but their quality must be evaluated. The investigation of properties of the sera received by immunization of equal quantities of live and inactivated Ebola virus (EV) which was preliminary concentrated by ultrafiltration and purified in sacharose gradient was performed. The sera obtained by immunization with live EV possessed the high neutralizing properties but showed the low titers in IEA. The sera obtained by immunization with inactivated EV possessed the low neutralizing properties but demonstrated the high titers in IEA. The western-blot analysis showed that the sera received by live EV immunization interacted mainly with surface glycoprotein and then in succession of decrease of molecular weight of EV proteins. The amounts of antibodies against separate EV proteins in sera received by inactivated EboV immunization were correlated with their proportions in virion.



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Degradation of RIG-I and inhibition of IFN-beta induction by Toscana Virus NSs protein.

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Toscana Virus (TOSV) is a Phlebovirus, belonging to the *Bunyaviridae* family, responsible for central nervous system (CNS) injury in humans. Recent studies have shown that many members of the *Bunyaviridae* family possess the NSs protein with a role in the escape to the antiviral system. TOSV, conversely to the other bunyaviruses, showed an IFN- β inducing activity, although having a non-structural protein NSs which is an IFN- β antagonist. Recent findings highlighted a significant decrease of RIG-I protein in cells over-expressing TOSV NSs, leading to a significant decrease of RIG-I-mediated IFN- β promoter activation. TOSV NSs was able to bind the N-terminal CARD domains of RIG-I, and appeared to mediate RIG-I degradation. It is not known whether it was due to a direct effect of NSs on RIG-I or to a proteasomal degradation. We show that the proteasome inhibitor MG-132 was able to partially restore RIG-I cellular levels and IFN- β promoter activation in cells expressing NSs, demonstrating the existence of an evasion mechanism based on inhibition of the RIG-I sensor. In order to detect the NSs domain(s) involved in this activity, the protein was modified by deletion of a C-terminal sequence (?NSs); this did not seem to affect the RIG-I level or interfere with RIG-I mediated IFN- β promoter activation. Further studies are in progress to understand NSs activity and its role in the innate immunity which may contribute to identify a novel mechanism for bunyaviruses by which TOSV NSs counteracts the early IFN response.

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Cytokine profil in Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic fever

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Background: Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is a viral disease with fatality 5-30%. Humans are infected through tick bite or by direct contact with blood or tissues of viremic patients or animals. The current knowledge about the immune response and pathogenesis of the disease is limited. In the present study we estimated the serum levels of various cytokines, chemokines and growth factors in acute CCHF human cases and correlate them with the disease severity and outcome.

Materials and Methods: Serum levels of 27 cytokines (IL-1 β , IL-1ra, IL-2, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-9, IL-10, IL-12, IL-13, IL-15, IL-17, basic FGF, eotaxin, G-CSF, GM-CSF, IFN- γ , IP-10, MCP-1, MIP-1 α , MIP-1 β , PDGF-BB, RANTES, TNF- α , and VEGF) were measured simultaneously in 33 CCHF patients (11 male) aged 4-67 years (median 43) from Turkey, Albania and Greece. Two cases were fatal. The Bioplex suspension array system was used, and the statistical analysis was performed by SPSS.

Results: A strong immune response was observed, since the level of 21 cytokines were affected. IP-10 and RANTES were elevated in almost all cases, with significantly higher concentrations in the fatal and severe cases, together with MCP-1, IL-6, IL-8 and IL-10. Cytokines levels differ according to the day of illness, with increased VEGF, GM-CSF and MIP-1b in the third week of illness in the severe cases.

Conclusions: Many cytokines play a catalytic role in the course and outcome of CCHF. Understanding the host immune response to CCHFV will enable future therapeutic approaches for CCHF and viral hemorrhagic fevers in general.



A Comprehensive Proteomic View of the Suppression of Host Cell Antiviral Responses by Respiratory Syncytial Virus

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Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is the most serious viral cause of lower respiratory tract infections in infants, young children and immunocompromised individuals. It is increasingly being recognised as a serious respiratory pathogen in the elderly. A hallmark of RSV is the lack of solid protection against re-infection, resulting in multiple infections throughout life. There are no vaccines or efficacious therapeutics for RSV. A variety of studies have been conducted in order to identify novel approaches for vaccine and antiviral design by gaining a better understanding of the interaction of RSV with host cells. We have conducted comprehensive proteomic analyses of RSV infected A549 cells to gain a better picture of the host cell response. Our studies have quantified 4,900 protein groups in wild-type RSV- and mock-infected A549 cells. Sixty-two of these protein groups were differentially regulated by infection using a false discovery rate cut-off of 1% for statistically significant regulation. Many of the regulated proteins are involved in interferon responses. One surprising finding was that RSV induces a variant of the interferon-induced MxA with a modified C-terminus which may be analogous to the production of a proviral form of this protein induced by herpes simplex virus-1. RSV encodes two small proteins which suppress antiviral responses of the host cell, including interferon induction and signalling. These proteins are termed non-structural proteins (NS1 and NS2) because they appear not to be packaged with virions. One of these proteins, NS1, appears to be the major culprit in terms of host cell response suppression, which it achieves through post-translational mechanisms. For instance it is proposed that NS1 acts as an E3 ligase. NS1 would appear to be a potential target for development of therapeutics for RSV. Accordingly, we have adopted a proteomic approach in conjunction with reverse viral genetics for identification of molecular targets for NS1 and to define its mechanism of action. Of interest is that NS1 appears to diminish the production of a proapoptotic proteome within the infected cell by promoting the survival of antiapoptotic proteins in order to suppress apoptosis on one hand whilst suppressing interferon responses on the other hand. Our studies also indicate that NS1 appears to suppress type II, in addition to types I and III, interferon signalling, suggesting that STAT1 may be a target of NS1. Processes used to achieve this novel marriage of reverse viral genetics and high-performance proteomic technologies will be presented in addition to the data supporting the observations cited above.



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Influenza virus infection induced Ebp1 modification

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Influenza virus infection influences the gene expression of the cell, and after virus infection a big amount of viral genes express in the cell. We supposed that these changing in the cell may induce physical and chemical changing of cell, and these changing may induce the activation of cellular metabolism and consumption of energy. Whereas a big amount of energy will produce. Under this idea, the tool for measuring the temperature was developed polystyrene bead with Rhodamine and measured the temperature of influenza virus infected and uninfected cells. Interestingly the temperature of influenza virus infected cell was risen about 4 K compared, however we could not detected any temperature rising on influenza virus uninfected cell. We also assayed the Pyruvate kinase expression in influenza virus infected cells. At 4 hpi the expression of pyruvate kinase was induced and consumption of ATP observed at 0hpi. We would like to discuss this result.

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Intrinsic and innate immune properties of PMLIV during VSV infectionFaten El Asmi^{1,2}, Mohamed Ali Maroui^{1,2}, Nathalie Roders^{1,2}, Danielle Blondel³, Sébastien Nisole^{2,4}, and Mounira K. Chelbi-Alix^{1,2}*1CNRS FRE3235, Paris, France, 2Université Paris Descartes, Paris, France, 3CNRS UPR 3296, Gif sur Yvette, France, 4INSERM UMR-S 747, Paris, France.*

Promyelocytic Leukemia (PML) protein, the organizer of small nuclear-matrix structures named nuclear bodies, has been implicated in the antiviral response toward diverse cytoplasmic replicating RNA viruses through different mechanisms. PML is covalently conjugated to the small ubiquitin-like modifier (SUMO). Splice variants transcribed from the *PML* gene yield several PML isoforms (PMLI to PMLVII) that share the same N-terminal region but differ in their C-termini, thus conferring the specific functions of each. *PML* knock out mice are more sensitive to vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV). These *in vivo* observations corroborate with our previous findings that PMLIII confers resistance to VSV. The comparative study performed with cells stably expressing each of PML isoform revealed that only PMLIII and PMLIV confer resistance to VSV, whereas other nuclear (PMLI, II, V and VI) and cytoplasmic (PMLVII) PML isoforms fail to do so. The antiviral activity of PMLIV is higher than that of PMLIII and is not saturable by an excess of virus. Unlike PMLIII which anti-VSV activity is strictly IFN-independent, PMLIV can act at two stages of VSV infection: it inhibits viral mRNA and protein synthesis early after cell infection and also triggers innate immunity, leading, *via* IRF3 activation, to IFN- β synthesis, which can protect other cells from viral infection. The SUMOylation of PMLIV is required for both its direct antiviral activity and the activation of IFN response. Our results show for the first time that PMLIV is implicated in both anti-VSV intrinsic and innate immunity



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Antigen editing by monocyte-derived dendritic cells in the lung shapes the quality of anti-influenza T cell immunity

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Circulating monocytes infiltrate peripheral tissues after injury or infection where they show enormous plasticity to differentiate into macrophages and monocyte-derived dendritic cells (moDCs). However, the contribution of moDCs to the initiation of immunity to viruses is poorly understood with only a few reports indicating their influence on immunopathology. In this study, we have investigated the role of moDCs on the immune response to pulmonary influenza virus infection. After infection, blood-borne monocytes infiltrated the lung where they became fully differentiated DCs. Interestingly, moDCs did not follow the classic DCs paradigm of peripheral DCs, which acquire antigens and then migrate into lymphoid tissues to initiate adaptive immunity. Conversely, moDCs captured most of the viral antigen in the lung, but only antigen-loaded CD103⁺DCs, migrated to the lung-draining mediastinal lymph nodes. To investigate putative antigenic transfer between moDCs and CD103⁺DCs we utilized bone marrow chimeras to follow the fate of MHC-peptide complexes in the lung during infection. We demonstrated exchange of preformed MHC-I-peptide complexes between lung DCs on influenza-infected animals, which strongly suggested that MHC-peptide transfer served to edit the antigenic peptide repertoire to be transported by migratory DCs to the lymphoid tissues. Further pointing out to this direction, specific depletion of moDCs *in vivo* reduced the clonal expansion of influenza-specific CD8 T cells. Taken together, our findings suggest a role of moDCs as lung antigenic depots, providing migratory DCs with a source of processed MHC-peptide complexes thereby enriching the viral peptide repertoire presented to naive T cells at the sites of priming.

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Both the C and V proteins of canine distemper virus play essential roles for the virus replication in human epithelial cells

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Canine distemper virus (CDV) has recently expanded its host ranges to non-human primates. The replication potential of CDV in humans is unclear. Our study revealed that CDV possesses an ability to use human nectin4 as a receptor. However, the Ac96I and 007Lm CDV strains, which were isolated using canine SLAM-expressing Vero cells, failed to replicate in nectin4⁺ human epithelial H358 cells. After eight passages in H358 cells, they have adapted to replicate well in H358 cells. Deep sequencing analyses suggested that the original Ac96I and 007Lm strains (Ac96I-VDS and 007Lm-VDS, respectively) had defects in the C and V proteins, respectively, and subpopulations with the repaired C and V proteins (Ac96I-p8 and 007Lm-p8) were selected during the 8 passages in H358 cells. The functions of the CDV V proteins of 007Lm-VDS and 007Lm-p8 (VDS-V and p8-V, respectively) were analyzed using H358 cells that were engineered to constitutively express the VDS-V and p8-V proteins (H358/VDS-V and H358/p8-V cells, respectively). Upon infection with 007Lm-VDS, nuclear translocation of IRF3 was observed in both H358/VDS-V and H358/p8-V cells. On the other hand, the IFN-mediated transcription of ISG15, OAS1 and ISG56 was completely blocked in H358/p8-V cells, but fully stimulated in H358/VDS-V cells. These data revealed that both the C and V proteins of CDV are functional to counteract the human IFN system and critical for CDV replication in human epithelial cells.



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Responses to Pneumococcus in Human Influenza Infection Directly Alters Innate IL-23 and IL-12p70 and Subsequent IL-17A and IFN-

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It is well accepted that influenza A virus predisposes individuals to often more severe superinfections with streptococcus pneumoniae. However the mechanisms that lead to this synergy are not clearly understood. Recent data suggests that competent TH17 immunity is crucial to clearance and protection from invasive pneumococcal disease of the lung. This study therefore aims to identify the modulation by influenza of key human innate and adaptive immune responses to pneumococcus. Human monocytes were obtained from buffy coats of healthy donors and exposed to influenza (IAV), or Influenza haemagglutinin (HA), or pneumococcus alone or in combination. Allogeneic-T cells from different donors were added to the infected or treated monocytes and incubated at 37°C for 3-days. Human cytokine levels in supernatants were quantified by ELISA. In allogeneic mixed lymphocyte cultures. We demonstrate that early IAV infection significantly reduced levels of pneumococcus driven IL-12p70, IL-23 and IL-17 in human monocytes with significant impairment of pneumococcus induction of IL-17A and IFN- γ . We also provide evidence to suggest that the HA component of the virus is at least partially responsible for this downward pressure on IL-17 responses but surprisingly this suppression by HA occurs despite robust IL-23 levels in HA treated monocyte cultures. This study improves our understanding of influenza-pneumococcal co-pathogenesis in adults and may explain the enhanced colonization with *S. pneumoniae* in children associated with early influenza infection

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Prevalence and predictors for heterosubtypic antibodies against influenza A in Humans

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Originally, the subtypes of influenza A have been defined as serotypes, indicating that there are no or only very few shared antibody epitopes. Indeed, the most immunogenic areas of influenza hemagglutinin were later found to co-localize with the most variable areas of the protein. It is therefore not surprising that antibody responses to hemagglutinin only recognize the eliciting or closely related strains. However, since the early 90ies, several heterosubtypic antibodies, i.e. antibodies that neutralize more than one subtype of influenza, have been isolated. Most of these bind to a conserved epitope in the stem of the influenza hemagglutinin. In an epidemiological study, we have analyzed the presence of binding and neutralizing heterosubtypic antibodies in the serum from 273 random donors. We have found that most individuals possess heterosubtypic antibodies, and that those increase with age. Moreover, we could show that concomitantly high binding titers to H1 and H3 were predictive for high titers against heterotypic isolates. Univariate analysis also demonstrated that repetitive vaccination favors the development of heterosubtypic antibody titers. These findings indicate that any novel vaccination strategy targeting the conserved epitopes of influenza hemagglutinin could profit from pre-existing antigen-experienced B cells.



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Inhibition of Borna disease virus replication by an endogenous bornavirus element in ground squirrel genome

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Animal genomes contain endogenous viral sequences, such as endogenous retroviruses. Recently, we and others discovered that non-retroviral viruses (NRV) have also been endogenized in many vertebrate genomes. Bornavirus belongs to the Mononegavirales and have left endogenous elements, called EBLN (endogenous bornavirus-like nucleoprotein), in the genomes of many mammals, including us. The striking features of EBLN are that they hold relatively long open reading frame and show high sequence homology to the nucleoprotein (N) of current bornaviruses. Furthermore, it has been known that some EBLNs are transcribed as mRNA. These features of EBLNs provide us to speculate that the EBLNs might have functions in the cells as adopted genes. The EBLN in the thirteen-lined ground squirrel (*Ictidomys tridecemlineatus*) genome, itEBLN, is the one of the most intriguing EBLNs, because itEBLN exhibits 77% sequence identity to bornavirus N and is considered to be generated by a very recent integration event. In this study, to analyze the possible function of itEBLN, we revived itEBLN from the ground squirrel genomes and investigated the roles of the revived protein in Borna disease virus (BDV) replication. Interestingly, itEBLN, but not human EBLNs, co-localized with the viral factory of BDV in nucleus. In addition, itEBLN appeared to affect BDV polymerase activity by being incorporated into the viral ribonucleoprotein. Moreover, cell lines stably expressing itEBLN showed the resistance to BDV infection. Our study suggested that, as with some endogenous retroviruses, the endogenous RNA viral elements may also have potential to inhibit the infection of related exogenous viruses.

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Systematic Identification and Characterization of Interferon-Induced Antiviral Factors

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Innate immunity is the host's first line of defense against pathogen invasion. Type I interferons including IFN α , IFN β and IFN ω are key players in the innate immune responses against viral infection. In the recent years, pathways leading to the induction of type I IFNs have been extensively studied, and it is known that hundreds of genes are activated as a result of IFN signaling. These genes, collectively called Interferon-Stimulated Genes (ISGs), act in concert to establish an antiviral state in the cell. However, except for a handful of examples such as Mx1, ISG20, PKR, Tetherin, and the IFITM family, the functions of the vast majority of ISGs remain largely uncharacterized. We have performed a microarray analysis to identify ISGs that are specifically up-regulated by type I IFNs in murine bone marrow-derived macrophages. Adopting an overexpression screening approach, we have systematically evaluated the potential roles of these individual ISGs in inhibiting different viruses including vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV), murine herpesvirus 68 (MHV-68), and influenza virus. To prioritize the most biologically relevant candidates, we have integrated data from our protein-protein interaction screens using viral proteins as bait as well as previous genome-wide siRNA screens and genome-wide genetic association studies in the literature. Subsequently, the exact antiviral mechanisms of the prioritized candidates are further dissected using assays that focus on specific steps of the viral life cycle such as viral entry, transcription, replication, and budding. Here, we will present our characterization of selected candidates.



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Interferon (IFN) induces an antiviral state in cells that results in alterations of the patterns

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Interferon (IFN) induces an antiviral state in cells that results in alterations of the patterns and levels of parainfluenza virus type 5 (PIV5) transcripts and proteins. This study reports that IFN-stimulated gene 56/IFN-induced protein with tetratricopeptide repeats 1 (ISG56/IFIT1) is primarily responsible for these effects of IFN. It was shown that treating cells with IFN after infection resulted in an increase in virus transcription but an overall decrease in virus protein synthesis. As there was no obvious decrease in the overall levels of cellular protein synthesis in infected cells treated with IFN, these results suggested that ISG56/IFIT1 selectively inhibits the translation of viral mRNAs. This conclusion was supported by in vitro translation studies. Previous work has shown that ISG56/IFIT1 can restrict the replication of viruses lacking a 2'-O-methyltransferase activity, an enzyme that methylates the 2'-hydroxyl group of ribose sugars in the 5'-cap structures of mRNA. However, the data in the current study strongly suggested that PIV5 mRNAs are methylated at the 2'-hydroxyl group and thus that ISG56/IFIT1 selectively inhibits the translation of PIV5 mRNA by some as yet unrecognized mechanism. It was also shown that ISG56/IFIT1 is primarily responsible for the IFN-induced inhibition of PIV5.

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Interactions between Natural Killer cells and antigen presenting cells during the infection by Lassa virus

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Lassa virus (LASV) is an Arenavirus that can be responsible for a hemorrhagic fever in West Africa. The immune responses and the pathogenesis associated with this disease are unknown. LASV displays tropism for antigen presenting cells (APC) such as dendritic cells (DC) and macrophages. Natural Killer (NK) cells are involved in the clearance of infected cells and promote optimal immune responses by interacting with APC. We used an in vitro model of human NK and autologous APC coculture to study the role of NK cells and to characterize their interactions with APC during LASV infection. In addition, NK cell responses developed after LASV infection were compared with those induced by Mopeia virus infection (MOPV), closely related to LASV but not pathogenic for humans. Cell activation, cytokine production, proliferation and NK cell-mediated killing were analyzed. We have shown that NK cells are activated, proliferate and have increased cytotoxic capacity in the presence of LASV- or MOPV-infected macrophages, but not DC. This process involves cell contacts and type I IFN. However, these cells are neither able to kill the infected cells nor produce IFN- γ . The importance of type I IFN response has also been further analyzed using recombinant LASV holding mutations into the nucleoprotein that abolish its ability to inhibit type I IFN production. These results bring substantial advances in the understanding of innate immunity during Lassa fever.



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Variation in the interferon response induced by influenza A virus strains.Konrad Bradley, Lorian Hartgroves, Ruth Elderfield, Holly Shelton and Wendy Barclay. *Imperial College London*

Like many human pathogens, seasonal influenza A viruses modulate the innate immune response to facilitate viral replication in the host. However, not all strains of influenza virus equally control innate immune responses, as avian H5N1 viruses isolated from human patients can cause an increased cytokine response, frequently referred to as a “cytokine storm.” Previously, we showed that an early viral isolate from the 2009 H1N1 pandemic induced a greater cytokine response than a representative seasonal H3N2 isolate and this was partly accounted for by differences in the ability of the NS1 proteins to control interferon promoter activation. In this research, we aimed to understand differences in the epithelial cytokine response driven by influenza A virus strains including H5N1. We created a set of viruses that shared the same HA and NA genes but had polymerase complex and NS genes from seasonal H3N2, pandemic H1N1 or avian H5N1 influenza strains, so that any differences in interferon induction would be determined by intracellular events and not by differences in receptor use or kinetics of virus entry. These viruses showed profound differences in the extent and timing of activation of the interferon promoter and also in the outcome of infection in mice with the H5N1 RG virus inducing the most rapid response. This research aims to reveal valuable insights into viral genetic variations responsible for the high induction of cytokines, and whether mutations in the immune modulating proteins might overcome such a defect to promote a more human adapted virus.

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Deep sequencing analysis of defective genomes of parainfluenza virus 5 and their role in interferon induction.

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Parainfluenza virus 5 (PIV5) preparations generated by high multiplicity passage are potent activators of the interferon (IFN) induction cascade due to the accumulation of defective interfering (DI) viruses. Nucleocapsid RNA from these virus preparations was analysed by deep sequencing to examine the range of DIs present, and to approximately quantify the ratio of defective to non-defective genomes. Genome sequence coverage of IFN-inducing PIV5 wildtype (wt) and PIV5-V Δ C (which lacks a functional V protein) was enriched in the trailer region, consistent with an accumulation of trailer copyback (TrCB) genomes. We used bioinformatics to identify the join points associated with the different TrCB species present and to determine their relative frequencies. We also identified potential leader copyback, internal deletion and internal duplication genomes, however these species did not contribute significantly to IFN induction. DI-rich PIV5 wt preparations strongly activate the IFN induction cascade despite encoding the V protein, an efficient inhibitor of the IFN response. We demonstrate that non-defective PIV5 wt cannot prevent activation of the IFN response by co-infecting TrCBs due to the interfering effects of TrCBs on non-defective virus protein expression. Consequently, TrCBs rapidly activate the IFN induction cascade prior to the expression of detectable levels of V by co-infecting non-defective virus.



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RVFV growth in human macrophages is severely restricted by knockout of a PSL motif in the virus NSs virulence factor

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Rift Valley Fever virus (RVFV) is a mosquito borne pathogen of animals and humans; its major virulence factor is the NSs protein. NSs mediates host-cell transcription shut-off and interferon antagonism. NSs abrogates interferon and cytokine induction in human macrophages leading to rapid virus growth in these critical immune cells. An alignment of the RVFV NSs with other interferon antagonists revealed a conserved Proline-Serine-Leucine (PSL) motif. In this study, we sought to determine if this PSL motif contributed to pathogenesis in macrophages. Recombinant RVFV containing a mutation of the NSs PSL motif to Alanine-Alanine-Alanine (AAA) or deletion of the entire NSs ORF (Del NSs) were generated using reverse genetics. Surprisingly, the AAA virus was more attenuated in macrophages than a virus lacking the entire NSs protein. In contrast, AAA grew equivalent to wild-type (WT) in several commonly used laboratory cell lines. The attenuation of AAA in macrophages compared to Del NSs was not mediated by enhanced IFN induction, as significantly more IFN was produced in cells infected with Del NSs. Further investigation of the AAA phenotype revealed that the block to AAA virus growth was at the level of viral replication. To determine the mechanism responsible for this replication block, we defined the protein/protein interactions that occur with the AAA NSs protein. We constructed recombinant tagged AAA and WT NSs proteins and identified 29 proteins that specifically interact with the AAA NSs. These proteins are components of several different cellular processes including the innate anti-viral response and the ubiquitination/degradation pathway.

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Interferon-inducible antiviral protein Tetherin/BST-2 inhibits Hazara virus ReplicationYohei Kurosaki^{1,2}, Akiko Nishimura², Shuzo Urata¹ and Jiro Yasuda^{1,2}.¹*Department of Emerging Infectious Diseases, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University*²*First Department of Forensic Science, National Research Institute of Police Science.*

Hazara virus (HAZV) is a member of the genus *Nairovirus* of the family *Bunyaviridae*. HAZV is closely related to Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) virus and these viruses share the same serogroup. HAZV is nonpathogenic for human and can be handled in low containment level-2 facilities. Therefore, HAZV has been employed as a model to study CCHF virus. Tetherin, also known as BST-2, is an interferon (IFN)-inducible type II membrane protein that can act as a restriction factor against a number of enveloped viruses. Here we investigated the antiviral activities of Tetherin against HAZV. We first examined the effects of human Tetherin expression on HAZV replication. The stable expression of Tetherin in SW13 (human adrenocarcinoma) cells resulted in significant reduction of both viral RNA and titer in the culture supernatants at 48h post-infection. This result suggested that Tetherin had an inhibitory effect for the production of HAZV. It was also shown that IFN α inhibited the growth of HAZV in SW13 cells. The specific depletion of Tetherin using siRNA partially rescued the inhibition of HAZV production by IFN α , suggesting that Tetherin may play any role in inhibiting HAZV replication by IFN α as an antiviral interferon stimulating gene. HAZV did not affect the expression level of Tetherin in the infected cells, indicating that HAZV did not encode any antagonist against Tetherin. These results suggest that Tetherin may be useful for the establishment of a novel antiviral strategy against Nairoviruses.



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Interaction between human parainfluenza virus type 2 V protein and tetherin, an antiviral host factor

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Tetherin, also known as BST-2/CD317/HM1.24, is a cellular membrane protein that restricts budding of a number of enveloped viruses, including HIV-1/2, SIV and Ebola virus. These viruses have evolved specific countermeasures to overcome restriction by tetherin, via their envelope glycoproteins. The accessory V protein of human parainfluenza virus type 2 (hPIV-2, another enveloped virus, of the *Paramyxoviridae*) is a multifunctional protein that induces STAT protein degradation and the blockage of TLR7/9-dependent signalling, but little is known about the relationship between hPIV-2 and tetherin. Recently, using immunoprecipitation, we found that V interacts with tetherin, suggesting that V is a tetherin antagonist even though it is not an envelope protein. The hPIV-2 P protein, whose N-terminal domain is common with that of V, did not bind tetherin, indicating that the C-terminal V-specific region of V interacts with tetherin. Tetherin is a type II transmembrane protein containing of an N-terminal cytoplasmic tail, an extracellular domain, and a C-terminal glycosyl phosphatidylinositol membrane anchor (GPI). The deletion of its GPI disrupted its interaction with V, suggesting that the GPI is critical for V binding. V apparently binds directly to the GPI of tetherin, and hPIV-2 appears to antagonize tetherin by a different mechanism from other enveloped viruses.

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Inhibition of NF- κ B activation by peptide derived from nucleoprotein of Borna disease virus

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Borna disease virus (BDV), which has broad host range in vertebrates, causes persistent infection in nucleus that can lead to neural disorder in horses and sheep. Constitutive activation of NF- κ B suppresses the BDV growth, however, NF- κ B pathway is not activated in the acute infection of BDV (Bourteele, 2005). Here, to elucidate mechanism for the inhibition of NF- κ B activation by BDV infection, we evaluated cross-talk between BDV infection and NF- κ B pathway.

In THP1-CD14 cells, which has SEAP gene as a NF- κ B reporter, BDV infection did not increase SEAP activity from 12 hour to 2 weeks post infection, compared with TLR ligand stimulation. This result is consistent with previous report and suggests BDV has gene(s) that inhibits the activation of NF- κ B. To discover common motifs between the amino acid sequences of BDV genes and NF- κ B family, we performed Multiple EN for Motif Elicitation analysis and found that nucleoprotein of BDV (BDV-N) and NF- κ B1 possess a common ankyrin-like motif. In THP1-CD14 cells, pre-treatment with the ankyrin-like peptide of BDV-N suppressed the SEAP activation by the stimulation with TLR ligands, while control peptide had no effect on it. NF- κ B1 is phosphorylated by signal transduction and its C-terminal region containing ankyrin repeat undergoes selective degradation by proteasome pathway. Immunoprecipitation assay showed BDV-N was co-precipitated with NF- κ B1, suggesting the possibility this interaction might inhibit NF- κ B1 degradation. These results indicate BDV inhibits NF- κ B activation via BDV-N, resulting in its benefit for BDV persistent infection.



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The never-ending battle between the Innate Immune System and the viruses: Influenza A NS1 protein

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Following infection with a virus, the body mounts an innate and adaptive immune response. IFN β is one of the first molecules produced to fight against viruses once specific receptors, like RIG-I like receptors (RLRs) detect them. When the IFN system works correctly, is able to counteract almost 99% of viral infections. However, it rarely works rightly because, in order to successfully spread among their hosts, viruses developed different strategies to counteract at different levels the innate immune system (1). Influenza A NS1 protein has been described as the anti-innate immune viral factor responsible for the block in IFN β production upon infection. Its interaction with the E3 ligase TRIM25 blocks RIG-I K63 polyubiquitination shutting down the IFN β system. Despite this knowledge, the reason why NS1 needs to bind RNA to function is still unclear. Therefore we aim with this work to elucidate the contribution of the dsRNA binding ability of NS1 vs the protein-protein interaction to its mechanism of action. We confirmed the ability of the protein to down-regulate RIG-I signaling pathway and the importance of its RNA binding domain and effector domain for its full activity. The crucial role of both domains in the binding to 5'ppp dsRNA suggests that NS1 does more than simply sequestering the RNA from detection in the cytoplasm. Moreover preliminary data show an interaction between NS1 and RIG-I, which is still under investigation to clarify if it is TRIM25 mediated and for the first time what is the role of the RNA in this scenario. 1. Type 1 Interferons and the Virus-Host Relationship: A lesson in Détente. *Science* 312, 879 (2006)

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Mononegavirales leader RNA as agonist of RIG-I

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Host defence against viruses depends on the rapid triggering of innate immunity through the induction of type I interferon (IFN) response. To this end, dedicated receptors are able to detect microbe-associated molecular patterns. RIG-I can sense viral RNA into the cytoplasm and then induce the production of IFN. Studies performed with in vitro synthesized RNA indicate that RIG-I responds to double strand RNA (dsRNA) with a free triphosphorylated 5'-end (5'ppp). However, the identity of viral RNA(s) recognized by RIG-I during an infection remains unclear. We show that synthetic leader RNA of a filoviridae (Ebola virus), a rhabdoviridae (Rabies virus) and a paramyxoviridae (Measles virus) can bind RIG-I in vitro. In Huh7.5 cells that express an inactive RIG-I mutant, the transfection of the three synthetic leader RNAs activates the IFN-beta promoter only when an active RIG-I is expressed. Binding of synthetic leader RNA of Ebola, Rabies and Measles viruses by RIG-I was detected in cellula. Indeed, synthetic leader RNAs were selectively immunoprecipitated with RIG-I. Furthermore, during activation of RIG-I by a synthetic 5'ppp-dsRNA or by polyinosinic:polycytidylic acid, a dsRNA analogue, no oligomerization of RIG-I could be observed by co-immunoprecipitation. These results suggest that leader RNA of Mononegavirales can be good RIG-I agonists without evidence of intracellular oligomerization of RIG-I.



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Different production of a viral RNA species between Sendai virus strains causes their remarkable difference in IFN inducibility

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Sendai virus (SeV), a prototype of paramyxoviruses, is one of the viruses that have been initially-revealed its antagonistic action against host innate immunity in which virus-derived RNA species are recognized by RIG-I-like receptors (RLRs), such as RIG-I and MDA5, followed by induction of interferon (IFN) -beta and a number of antiviral proteins. SeV accessory proteins C and V produced as P gene products have been shown to play key roles in the antagonism in multiple ways. In contrast, SeV has been used as “an IFN-inducing agent” in a number of studies. No reasonable explanation for this discrepancy has been provided yet. Only an obvious difference between the viruses with opposing characters is strains; one of the SeV strains mostly used as an IFN-antagonizing virus is Z, and that used as an IFN-inducing virus is Cantell. Here, we compared their abilities to antagonize the innate immune system and to induce IFN-beta production followed by establishment of antiviral state. Indeed, a remarkable difference in IFN-beta induction was there between the cDNA-derived Z and commercially supplied Cantell strains propagated once in eggs. Further studies using cloned viruses by a three-step limiting dilution revealed that a virus-derived RNA species but not loss of the antagonistic function of C and V proteins against the innate immune system primarily causes the marked IFN-beta inducibility of Cantell. Such difference in production of the RNA species between the strains might imply existence of a viral function to suppress certain viral RNA species for hiding from recognition by RLRs.

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Measles Virus Neutralization: Genotype-dependent neutralization epitopes in the Hemagglutinin protein which are immunogenic in natural infection and vaccination and elicit a long-term B cell memory.

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At present Measles virus (MV), despite the availability of an attenuated vaccine, still causes over one hundred thousand deaths yearly. Although MV is serologically monotypic, 24 genotypes have been recognized so far which have shown different geographical and temporal distribution. We have previously observed genotype-dependent MV neutralization epitopes defined by murine anti-MV-H MoAbs. To know whether these epitopes were immunogenic in natural infection or vaccination, we have developed a competition binding radio-immunoassay on MV-H protein in its native context. For this purpose we established MV steady-state persistent infection by MV primary isolates belonging to the main circulating genotypes which express on its surface native oligomeric complexes of MV-H and MV-F glycoproteins. On these cells we measured binding of a number of (I125)-labeled anti-MV-H MoAbs and concentration-dependent competition by human sera from individuals with past infection by MV strains, isolated, sequenced and genotyped years before in our laboratory. We have identified some epitopes in MV-H that selectively bind to immunoglobulins from individuals with past infection by MV belonging to the same genotype. These epitopes were mapped after obtaining neutralization escape mutants and structural characterization. Thus, these genotype-dependent neutralization epitopes are immunogenic in natural infection and may elicit a long-term B cell memory. This procedure may allow, by using serum-libraries and a set of labeled anti-MV-H MoAbs, to find out retrospectively whether one MV genotype circulated in a geographic area at a given time. This information would be relevant to design improved measles vaccines, and therapeutic broad-neutralizing anti-MV antibodies.



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PPRV, The role of its accessory proteins in the inhibition of the induction of IFN β Beatriz Sanz Bernardo¹, Stephen Goodbourn², Michael D Baron¹¹ *The Pirbright Institute, Surrey, UK*² *St George's Hospital Medical School, University of London, UK*

Peste des petits ruminants virus (PPRV) is a morbillivirus that causes clinical disease in sheep and goats. It produces pneumoenteritis, gastritis and immunosuppression, and has a major, and growing, economic impact on families in underdeveloped countries. We are studying how PPRV interferes with the induction of IFN β , an immediate cell response to virus infection. Infection with PPRV itself does not induce the activation of the IFN β promoter in Vero cells during the first 24 hours. This appears to be only in part due to active suppression of IFN induction; while the induction of IFN β was lower in PPRV-infected cells, whether this induction was through the MDA-5 pathway (transfection with poly(I:C)) or the RIG-I pathway (infection with DI-containing Sendai virus), the effect of prior PPRV infection was minor. The effect of PPRV was greater in goat fibroblasts, suggesting a species specificity. The inhibition of poly(I:C)-induced IFN β induction can be reproduced when the viral accessory V protein is expressed in transfected cells, and immunoprecipitation assays showed that V directly binds to MDA-5, as shown for the V proteins of other paramyxoviruses. The mechanism by which PPRV affects the RIG-I pathway is unclear: neither of the viral accessory proteins appear to bind RIG-I but each protein, like the virus, has a small effect on the induction of IFN β through RIG-I. These data suggest that PPRV evades the cell response to infection as it doesn't induce IFN β in infected cells and this may be partly linked to activity of its V protein.

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Respiratory syncytial virus induces but antagonises innate antiviral responses in well-differentiated paediatric primary bronchiRémi Villenave¹, Lindsay Broadbent¹, Isobel Douglas², Jeremy D. Lyons², Peter V. Coyle³, Michael N. Teng⁴, Ralph A. Tripp⁵, Liam G. Heaney¹, Michael D. Shields^{1,2}, Ultan F. Power¹¹ *Centre for Infection & Immunity, School of Medicine, Dentistry & Biomedical Sciences, Queens University Belfast*; ² *The Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, Northern Ireland*; ³ *The Regional Virus Laboratory, Belfast Trust, Belfast, Northern Ireland*; ⁴ *Morsani College of Medicine, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33647, USA*; ⁵ *Department of Infectious Diseases, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, USA*.

RSV is the principal cause of severe lung disease in young infants. However, RSV pathogenesis is poorly understood. We recently reported an RSV infection model based on well-differentiated primary paediatric bronchial epithelial cells (WD-PBECs), which reproduced several hallmarks of RSV infection (Villenave et al, PNAS 109:5040-5, 2012). We therefore exploited this model to study components of innate immune responses to RSV. RSV infection virtually abrogated super-infection with Sendai virus and reduced super-infection with a different RSV strain. This was mediated, in part, by secreted factors. However, our data indicated type I IFNs were not implicated. Alternatively, IL-29 was, as it was detected in BALs and basolateral medium from RSV-infected infants and WD-PBECs, respectively, and IL-29 pre-treatment reduced SeV growth in WD-PBECs in a dose-dependent manner. In contrast, neither secreted factors nor IL-29, at doses found in basolateral medium from RSV-infected WD-PBECs, prevented RSV replication in pre-treated WD-PBECs. Using an RSV Δ NS1/NS2 deletion mutant, we demonstrated that RSV NS1/2 proteins are essential for RSV replication in WD-PBECs and implicated in antagonising IL-29-induced antiviral responses in Vero cells. Intriguingly, RSV-infected cells in WD-PBECs demonstrated massive reductions in Mx1 expression. Therefore, RSV induces but effectively antagonises antiviral innate immune responses in WD-PBECs.

**An UNBIASED GENETIC SCREEN REVEALS the POLYGENIC NATURE of the INFLUENZA VIRUS ANTI-INTERFERON RESPONSE**

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The influenza A viruses counteract the cell innate immune response at several steps. Most of the influenza virus modulation of the IFN response is provided by the multifunctional NS1 protein. In an attempt to determine whether other viral genes are also important in the interplay between the virus and the host IFN response we have undertaken a non-biased genetic approach. We carried out serial passage of wt virus in IFN non-responsive cells and selected for viruses that were able to induce IFN. We reasoned that, by replication in the absence of the IFN selection pressure the virus could mutate at positions normally restricted and could find new optimal sequence solutions. Deep sequencing of selected virus populations and individual virus mutants indicated that non-synonymous mutations occurred at many phylogenetically conserved positions in all virus segments. Several of these mutations are recurrent in independently evolved virus populations and also in individual mutants. Of the 6 individual virus mutants studied, only one contained a mutation in NS1, although all of them induced IFN and ISGs and were unable to counteract added IFN. Several virus mutants accumulated large amounts of defective-interfering (DI) particles but nonetheless replicated to high titres and showed mutations in the M1/M2 proteins. This result suggests that these viruses can override the NS1-mediated IFN modulation by overproduction of IFN inducers. Altogether, the results presented suggest that influenza viruses replicating in normal cells have tuned their complete genomes to survive the cellular innate immune system and serial replication in IFN non-responsive cells has allowed the virus to find new genome consensus sequences within its sequence space.

Characterizing the antiviral response of the Pteropus vampyrus bat, an important ecological reservoir of henipaviruses

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Increasingly, bats are being discovered to be important reservoirs for many viruses including, henipaviruses, SARS coronaviruses, ebola virus, and lyssaviruses. Despite being infected with a wide variety of viruses, most infections are reported to be asymptomatic in bats. Little is known about the bat antiviral response; therefore, we set out to characterize the innate immune response of the *P. vampyrus* bat. These bats are one of the reservoirs of Nipah virus (NiV) and Hendra virus (HeV), two paramyxoviruses that can infect humans with a high mortality rate. We obtained kidney tissue from a *P. vampyrus* bat, from which we prepared primary and immortalized *P. vampyrus* kidney (PVK) cells, and which we show support replication of NiV and HeV. We characterized the activation of the innate immune response in these cells upon infection with Newcastle disease virus (NDV), an avian paramyxovirus known to elicit a strong innate immune response in mammalian cells. We show that these cells induce interferon (IFN) in response to virus, but that this cytokine response has species-specific antiviral activity. Using mRNAseq technology we determined the transcriptome of mock- and NDV-infected PVK cells and identified host genes that are preferentially expressed in response to virus infection. In addition to known IFN-stimulated genes we detected some novel genes not previously associated with the innate immune response in other mammals. We confirmed a subset of these genes by RT-PCR and determined the induction kinetics of the antiviral response in PVK cells to NDV, NiV and HeV infection.



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Rabies virus P-protein interaction with STAT proteins is critical to lethal rabies Disease

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Lyssaviruses, including rabies virus, are a globally distributed genus of zoonotic viruses that cause rabies disease with a remarkable case-fatality rate of 100% in humans, resulting in >55,000 deaths/year worldwide. We and others have shown that lyssavirus P-proteins interact with transcription factors STAT1 and STAT2, which is thought to effect viral evasion of interferon (IFN)-mediated host innate immunity as a major factor in the development of disease. However, the genuine significance of this interaction during infection *in vivo* is unknown. Using an approach including multiple sequence alignments, site-directed mutagenesis, single cell imaging, immune signalling assays, protein-protein interaction analysis, viral reverse genetics, and an *in vivo* disease model we have identified the site mediating P-protein-STAT1/2 interaction for the first time, and have thus developed mutations that can specifically impair P-protein's function in inhibiting IFN/STAT responses. Importantly, the mutations do not affect genome replication enabling us to generate the first viable "STAT-blind" mutant lyssavirus. Growth in IFN-deficient cells is indistinguishable from parental wild-type virus, but is highly sensitive to IFN-treatment. Intracerebral inoculation of mice showed that the STAT-blind virus is profoundly attenuated *in vivo*, causing no neurological symptoms or fatalities, in stark contrast to the invariably lethal parental strain. This data provides the first direct evidence that P-protein-STAT1/2 interactions are critical to the development of lethal rabies, with clear significance to efforts to generate live attenuated vaccine strains and/or novel antiviral therapeutics to combat this incurable disease.

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Determinants for dsRNA-binding and PKR inhibition in the NS1 protein of influenza A virus as revealed by reverse genetics

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The non-structural protein 1 (NS1) of influenza viruses functions in inhibiting the type I IFN-mediated antiviral state in infected cells. While NS1 proteins of influenza A and B viruses (A/NS1 and B/NS1) have only 20% sequence identity, they have a conserved N-terminal dsRNA-binding domain (RBD) and share functions as inhibition of the antiviral kinase PKR. We have previously shown that distinct basic amino acids in the RBD of B/NS1 are required for dsRNA-binding and inhibition of PKR. In contrast, A/NS1 has been suggested to silence PKR by a physical interaction involving a region outside the RBD. To evaluate whether the two influenza virus types in fact inhibit PKR by different means, we conducted a systematic analysis of the RBD of A/NS1 using reverse genetics. Among a panel of constructed mutants we identified 3 NS1 proteins with single basic amino acid exchanges eliminating dsRNA-binding. Two of the corresponding mutant viruses showed a 10-fold reduction in viral replication, possibly due to strong IFN β induction. The third mutant virus was severely attenuated for replication by 4 logs, which was paralleled by strong activation of PKR, but very low IFN β secretion. Significantly, replication of this mutant virus was largely rescued on PKR knock-down cells illustrating the strong impact of PKR on viral propagation. Thus, this study highlights a crucial role of the RBD of A/NS1 for PKR inhibition and viral replication. Moreover, we suggest that PKR has a major role in restricting influenza virus propagation among the more than 400 known type I IFN-stimulated factors.



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ISG15 and its role in the restriction of influenza A virus host range

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Influenza A virus (IAV) infection provokes an antiviral immune response including activation of IFN and IFN-stimulated proteins. One of these proteins is ISG15, which is a ubiquitin-like polypeptide that can be covalently attached to target proteins. The aim of this study was to elucidate the impact of ISG15 on the propagation of avian and human IAV in human cells. Our initial findings revealed strong induction of ISG15 in A549 cell cultures upon infection with seasonal IAV. We observed on single cell level that this induction occurred predominantly in uninfected cells, whereas little ISG15 was detected in the initially infected cells. A significantly increased number of both infected and ISG15-positive cells was observed after infection with a Δ NS1 mutant virus indicating a role for NS1 in suppressing ISG15 expression in the infected cells. Similarly, the number of double-positive cells was also increased upon infections with low-pathogenic avian IAV. Transfection-based experiments demonstrated that NS1 proteins of seasonal IAV significantly reduced subsequent IFN-stimulated ISG15-induction whereas this was not seen for NS1 proteins of low-pathogenic avian IAV. Interestingly, knockdown of ISG15 resulted in enhanced replication of low-pathogenic IAV in human cells, but did not affect propagation of seasonal IAV. In conclusion, our study reveals on single cell level the suppression of ISG15-induction by seasonal but not by low-pathogenic avian IAV and identifies NS1 as key player in this suppression. Thus, we hypothesize that ISG15 plays a vital role in IAV host range restriction and that seasonal IAV are able to counteract this antiviral response.

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IMPACT OF BORNA DISEASE VIRUS PERSISTENCE ON NEURONAL HOMEOSTASIS

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Borna disease virus (BDV) persistence in neurons causes central nervous disturbances characterized by behavioral and cognitive impairment. The exquisite BDV tropism for neurons is accompanied by selective interference with signaling pathways that are instrumental for the proper regulation of neuronal functioning. Although we and others have previously described some of the molecular pathways that are targeted by BDV, much remains to be learned on the precise mechanisms and consequences on neuronal activity and behavior. Recently, we have chosen two novel approaches to further investigate these aspects. In a first series of experiments, we have pursued our initial demonstration that BDV phosphoprotein (P) serves as a protein kinase C (PKC) decoy substrate when expressed in neurons, resulting in impaired neuronal activity. We have analyzed the impact of isolated expression of the P protein in vivo, in selected brain areas. This analysis revealed both PKC-dependent and independent effects of P on behavior. Incidentally, this analysis also revealed other consequences of the isolated expression of BDV components on neuronal survival and/or activity, such as our recent demonstration of the neuroprotective promise of BDV X protein. Finally, we have performed a detailed analysis of BDV impact on neuronal epigenetics. Indeed, epigenetic modifications are emerging as one of the key regulators of neuronal functioning. We will present our recent data demonstrating selective targeting of histone acetylation pathways resulting from BDV infection, as well as investigating the underlying molecular mechanisms and impact on neuronal function.



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Cedar virus: A novel henipavirus isolated from Australian bats

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The henipaviruses, Hendra virus (HeV) and Nipah virus (NiV) causes serious and commonly lethal infection of people as well as various species of domestic animals. Pteropid bats have been shown to act as the main natural reservoir for both of these viruses. In a recent study, investigating HeV prevalence in bat colonies, we isolated a new paramyxovirus, Cedar virus (CedPV), which shares significant features with the known henipaviruses. The genome size (18,162 nt) and organization of CedPV is very similar to that of HeV and NiV; its nucleocapsid protein displays antigenic cross-reactivity with henipaviruses; and it uses the same receptor molecule (ephrin- B2) for entry during infection. Preliminary challenge studies with CedPV in ferrets and guinea pigs, both susceptible to infection and disease with known henipaviruses, demonstrated virus replication in the absence of clinical disease. Sequence comparisons demonstrated that the major genetic difference between CedPV and HeV or NiV lies within the coding strategy of the P gene, which is known to play an important role in evading the host innate immune system. Unlike HeV, NiV, and almost all known paramyxoviruses, the CedPV P gene lacks both RNA editing and also the coding capacity for the highly conserved V protein. Preliminary study indicated that CedPV infection of human cells induces a more robust IFN- β response than HeV. The discovery of a non-pathogenic henipavirus will provide a powerful tool for us to better understand the pathogenesis of HeV and NiV, which may lead to novel approaches for development of therapeutics.

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Soluble Proteins Of Ebola Virus Activate Dendritic Cells And Macrophages Causing Release Of Pro- And Anti-Inflammatory CytokinesBeatriz Escudero Pérez, Philip Lawrence and Viktor Volchkov *CIRI, Inserm U1111, Lyon, France*

Ebola virus (EBOV) is a member of Filoviridae family and causes hemorrhagic fever with high fatality rates. Through RNA editing the EBOV GP gene codes for both the highly glycosylated surface protein (GP) and the secreted glycoprotein sGP. Surface GP is responsible for virus attachment and membrane fusion, but is also released from cells in a soluble form (shed GP) due to cleavage by cellular metalloprotease TACE.

Both dendritic cells (DCs) and macrophages serve as early targets of EBOV and play a prominent role during infection. No cellular target has yet been identified for EBOV soluble proteins. Here, for the first time we demonstrate that EBOV soluble proteins bind to human monocyte-derived DCs and macrophages. Importantly, we demonstrate that binding of shed GP but not sGP causes an activation of CD40, CD80 and CD86 expression and an increase in levels of mRNA encoding TNF α , IL6, IL10 and IL12p40. Treatment of DCs and macrophages with shed GP resulted in release of both pro- and anti-inflammatory cytokines, as demonstrated by multiplex ELISA. We have also revealed that the glycosylation pattern of shed GP is crucial in mediating this activation. Overall, this study suggests that shed GP but not sGP is responsible for the early stimulation of human DCs and macrophages and thus may play a role in the dysregulation of host immune responses that, combined with massive virus replication and virus-induced cell damage, leads to a septic shock-like syndrome and high mortality.



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Human Metapneumovirus SH and G glycoproteins Inhibit Macropinocytosis-Mediated Entry Into Dendritic Cells and Reduce CD4+ T Cell

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Human metapneumovirus (HMPV) is a major etiologic agent of respiratory disease worldwide. HMPV reinfections are common in healthy adults and children, suggesting that the protective immune response to HMPV is incomplete and short-lived. Deletion of the attachment G and small hydrophobic SH glycoproteins (Δ SHG) increased infectivity of primary human monocyte-derived dendritic cells (MDDC) *in vitro* but had little effect on MDDC maturation. However, MDDC stimulated with Δ SHG induced increased proliferation of autologous Th1-polarized CD4+ T cells. This effect was independent of viral replication. This increased T cell proliferation was strictly dependent on contact between the virus-stimulated MDDC and the CD4+ T cells, and MDDC stimulated with UV-inactivated Δ SHG established more immunological synapses with memory CD4+ T cells compared to UV-inactivated WT HMPV. Using time course experiments and a panel of inhibitors we found that uptake of HMPV by MDDC was mediated primarily by macropinocytosis. Uptake of WT virus was delayed and reduced compared to Δ SHG, indicative of inhibition by the glycoproteins. In addition, DC-SIGN-mediated endocytosis provided a minor alternative pathway that depended on SH and/or G and thus operated only for WT HMPV. Altogether our results show that SH and G glycoproteins reduce the ability of HMPV to be internalized by MDDC, resulting in a reduced ability of the HMPV-exposed MDDC to activate CD4+ T cells. This study describes a previously unknown mechanism of virus immune evasion.

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Wild Type Measles Virus Infection Up-Regulates PVRL4 and Causes Apoptosis in Brain Endothelial Cells by Induction of TRAIL

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In the long term measles virus (MV) complications subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE) and measles inclusion body encephalitis brain endothelial cell (BEC) infection is likely to play a major role in virus spread into surrounding brain tissue facilitated by damage to the blood brain barrier. We previously found in SSPE brain that BEC in some blood vessels are infected but the entry receptor used is unknown. WT viruses do not use CD46 and BEC are SLAM negative. It is not known if these cells express the MV epithelial receptor PVRL4 (Nectin 4). We infected human (H) and murine (M) BEC and mice with WT, vaccine and rodent adapted MV strains to elucidate events in the cerebral endothelium. While uninfected HBEC were negative for PVRL4, this molecule was expressed in areas of virus infection. Although efficient WT MV production occurred in MBEC, infected cells were PVRL4 negative. Extensive monolayer destruction associated with activated caspase 3 staining was observed in both HBEC and MBEC, most markedly with WT MV. Tumour necrosis factor related apoptosis inducing ligand (TRAIL), but not FAS ligand, was induced by MV infection. Treatment of virally induced supernatants with anti-TRAIL antibody successfully blocked caspase 3 expression and monolayer destruction. TRAIL was expressed primarily in the endothelium and in other cell types in infected murine brain. This is the first demonstration that WT MV infection of BEC induces TRAIL *in vitro* and *in vivo* with subsequent apoptosis. We also report the novel finding that infection of HBEC up-regulates expression of PVRL4.



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Furin cleavage and in vivo imaging of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus secreted non-structural glycoproteins

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Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus (CCHFV) is a tick-borne RNA virus (family Bunyaviridae, genus Nairovirus) that causes lethal hemorrhagic fever in humans. Cloning difficulties of the unusually long L segment (~12 kb) and need for biosafety level 4 containment have hampered the recovery of recombinant CCHFV (rCCHFV). We have produced rCCHFV entirely from DNA for the first time. Viral glycoprotein Gn is derived from cleaving a long Gn precursor (PreGn) comprised of a mucin-like domain (MLD), a GP38, and a Gn domain. The Golgi resident site-1 protease cleaves PreGn between GP38 and Gn, leading to incorporation of Gn into nascent virions and secretion of non-structural glycoproteins (NSGs). NSG cleavage by furin detaches MLD from GP38 into the trans-Golgi network. To measure the role of furin in NSG processing during replication, we obtained rCCHFV resistant to furin cleavage (Δ fur). Using Δ fur, we demonstrate that furin enhances CCHFV replication by cleaving the canonical RSKR motif located between MLD and GP38. In addition, furin cleavage of unknown host substrate(s) or of other sites within viral glycoproteins are required for efficient viral propagation. To visualize CCHFV infection and explore the possible functions of NSGs, we fused mCherry to MLD or GP38 to obtain rCCHFV producing red fluorescence in vitro and in mice. Viral growth kinetics and disease progression of mCherry-CCHFV were comparable to wild type. In contrast to rCCHFV, mCherry-CCHFV-infected mice recovered from infection. Novel rescue system and mCherry-CCHFV are valuable tools to study the immune response, test therapeutics, and characterize NSGs role in pathogenesis.

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Contribution of the NSm proteins of Rift Valley Fever virus to virus propagation and virulence in mammalian and arthropod hosts

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Rift valley fever is a zoonotic disease in Africa primarily affecting livestock and humans. Rift valley fever virus (RVFV) is an enveloped segmented RNA virus. The viral genome is divided into three segments, L, M and S, in negative or ambisense polarity. The M segment encodes the two major structural glycoproteins, GN and GC, and at least two accessory proteins, P78/NSm-GN and P14/NSm, through the alternate use of 5 different in-frame AUG codons. We analyzed the impact of the different NSm-related proteins on RVFV propagation in vitro and in vivo. Specific AUG translation initiation sites were modified and RVFV mutants expressing different sets of the NSm-related proteins were reconstituted in vitro using a reverse genetic system. Infectivity of the different mutant viruses was compared to a rescued wt virus in a mouse model of intraperitoneal infection or in blood-fed mosquitoes. None of the NSm-related proteins deleted individually had any significant effect in the mouse model. Only the combined knock-out of P14/NSm and P13/NSm, a N-terminally truncated form of P14/NSm, led to a drastic reduction in virulence. Interestingly, P78/NSm-GN appeared as a major determinant of virus dissemination in the infected mosquitoes. This study points to different contributions of the NSm-related proteins to virus propagation in the mammalian and arthropod hosts, the NSm/NSm' proteins being essential for viral virulence in mice and the P78/NSm-GN glycoprotein conditioning virus spread in the mosquito vector. The role of the NSm-related proteins in the RVFV life cycle will be further discussed in the context of the different in vitro and in vivo models.



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Hantavirus infection confers resistance to NK cell-mediated killing and hantavirus N protein inhibits granzyme B and caspase 3Shawon Gupta^{1,2}, Monika Braun³, Nicole Tischler⁴, Malin Stoltz², Karin Sundström^{1,2}, Niklas Björkström^{3,5}, Hans-Gustaf Ljunggren³ and Jonas Klingström^{1,2,3}¹ Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology, Karolinska Institutet, 171 77 Stockholm, Sweden² Department of Preparedness, Swedish Institute for Communicable Disease Control, 171 82 Solna, Sweden³ Center for Infectious Medicine, Department of Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Karolinska University Hospital Huddinge, 141 86 Stockholm, Sweden⁴ Fundación Ciencia & Vida, 778 0272 Santiago, Chile⁵ Liver Immunology Laboratory, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Department of Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Karolinska University Hospital Huddinge, 141 86 Stockholm, Sweden

Hantaviruses cause hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS) and hantavirus cardio-pulmonary syndrome (HCPS), two human diseases with high case fatality rates. Endothelial cells are the main targets for hantaviruses and vascular permeability is a hallmark of HFRS/HCPS. An intriguing observation in patients with HFRS/HCPS is that the virus infection leads to strong activation of cytotoxic lymphocytes, CD8 T cells and Natural Killer cells, but no obvious destruction of infected endothelial cells. Here, we provide a possible explanation for this dichotomy by showing that hantavirus-infected endothelial cells are protected from cytotoxic lymphocyte-mediated killing. Hantaviruses were also able to inhibit chemically induced apoptosis in both endothelial and epithelial cells. When dissecting potential mechanisms behind this phenomenon, we discovered that the hantavirus nucleocapsid (N) protein contains multiple granzyme B sites and at least one caspase 3 site and that the N-protein inhibits the enzymatic activity of both granzyme B and caspase 3. Transfection experiments showed that the N-protein by itself was able to inhibit apoptosis. In a closer evaluation of the inhibitory caspase 3 site in the N-protein we could conclude that the site is DLID285. Alanin replacements of DLID285 to DLIA285 rendered N-protein transfected cells susceptible to apoptotic stimuli. Our findings provide a tentative explanation for the hantavirus-mediated block of cytotoxic granule-mediated killing, and hence the protection of infected cells from cytotoxic lymphocytes. These findings may explain why infected endothelial cells in hantavirus-infected patients are not destroyed by the strong cytotoxic lymphocyte response.

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The hemagglutinin, nucleoprotein and neuraminidase gene segments contribute to virulence in a chimeric H4/H5 avian influenza virus

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Avian influenza viruses (AIV) possess segmented, negative-sense RNA genomes and belong to the family Orthomyxoviridae. Due to their virulence AIV are classified as low pathogenic (LP), exhibiting hemagglutinins (HA) of all known subtypes (H1-H16), or highly pathogenic (HP). HPAIV are restricted to the subtypes H5 and H7 with the main virulence determinant of a polybasic cleavage site (PCS) within the HA, which enables a proteolytic activation by ubiquitous proteases and in contrast to LPAIV are therefore capable to cause severe systemic disease in poultry. To investigate if this feature is sufficient to shift an LP to an HP phenotype in a non-H5/H7 background, we cloned A/mallard/Germany/1240/1/07 (H4N6) by reverse genetics with an artificial PCS (H4N6hp). However, the introduction of a PCS caused only a slight increase of virulence in infected chickens. Therefore, to investigate additional virulence determinants beside the PCS, we generated chimeric AIV of H4N6hp with all eight single gene segments of a H5N1 HPAIV. Reassortants exhibiting the H5N1 segments HA, neuraminidase (NA) and nucleoprotein (NP) showed increased virulence in chickens in the potency of HA, NP and NA. In concordance, reassortants with all possible combinations of these three segments in H4N6hp increased the virulence further on with lethal outcome. Therefore, besides the hemagglutinin and neuraminidase the nucleoprotein of H5N1 reveals a potent virulence determinant, at least in the given H4 background.



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Mitochondrial Targeting Sequence Mutations In PB1-F2 Protein Enhance The Virulence of Pandemic H1N1 Influenza A Virus

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Influenza A virus (IAV) PB1-F2 protein, is considered to play an important role in virulence. The 2009 H1N1 pandemic (pdm) IAV was highly transmissible but was mild clinically. The lack of expression of PB1-F2 was speculated, but when PB1-F2 expression was reconstituted, it had minimal impact on virulence to mice and pigs. The mitochondrial-targeting sequence (MTS) of PB1-F2 dictates its pro-apoptotic and pro-inflammatory functions. The presence of serine at position 66 of the MTS (66S), previously shown to enhance virulence in mice, increased only in vitro virus replication of pdm IAV. Other genetic mutations as seen in past pandemic viruses could occur in nature or derived through reassortment in pdm IAV. We have addressed this by creating 66S and 66S+2, 66S+3, 66S+5 mutations in reconstituted PB1-F2 protein of pdm IAV. All MTS mutant viruses grew to higher titers and produced larger plaques than knock-in (KI) or wild type (wt) viruses in vitro. In Balb/c mice, MTS mutants except 66S+5 induced severe clinical disease and significant morbidity and mortality compared to KI and wt viruses. An increased influx of macrophages and neutrophils and altered protein levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines were noticed in the lungs of mice infected with 66S+2 and 66S+3 mutants. Microscopically, enhanced bronchointerstitial pneumonia and lymphocytic infiltration were observed as early as 3 days post infection in sick mice. In summary, our study shows that specific amino acids in the MTS region of PB1-F2, in addition to 66S, determine the virulence of 2009 H1N1 pdm IAV.

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NEWLY IDENTIFIED MOTIFS OF INFLUENZA A PROTEIN PB1-F2 THAT PRIME VIRAL AND SECONDARY BACTERIAL PNEUMONIA

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The influenza A protein PB1-F2 possesses two functionally distinct motifs capable of promoting viral and secondary bacterial pneumonia. The L62, R75, R79, and L82 motifs of A/Hong Kong/1/68 PB1-F2 facilitated inflammatory activity. The I68, L69, and V70 motifs of A/Puerto Rico/1/34 PB1-F2 induced permeabilization of mitochondrial membranes and death in 70% cells. In the mouse model, the presence of either domain in PB1-F2 enhanced virus replication, increased acute lung injury and levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines compared to infection with mutant viruses lacking proper motif. In the mouse secondary Streptococcus pneumoniae model, the presence of either domain in the influenza A PB1-F2 increased viral and bacterial lung titers (at days 1, 2, and 3 after bacterial challenge), and mortality (up to 70%). The associated loss of alveolar epithelium integrity significantly contributed to the extensive lung damage caused by PB1-F2 "cell death" motif in the secondary bacterial infection model. These data suggest that newly identified sequences of influenza A protein PB1-F2 contribute to the pathogenesis of both primary viral and secondary bacterial infections. The inflammatory motif was found in all three of the 20th century pandemic strains as well as representatives of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses of the H5N1 subtype and many currently circulating swine viruses. The "cell death" domain is present in the PB1-F2 proteins of seasonal H1N1 and H3N2 influenza A viruses. These specific residues of PB1-F2 could be utilized in pandemic planning as molecular signatures of the predicted severity of primary viral and secondary bacterial infections.



A Systems Biology Approach Reveals Novel Host Response Genes that Differentially Regulate Influenza Virus Pathogenicity

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Influenza viruses can cause severe disease in humans, and while the mechanisms are incompletely understood, host response dysregulation is thought to contribute. To uncover novel host factors that regulate influenza virus pathogenicity, we used a systems biology approach comprising virus infections in mice, global transcriptome analysis of infected lung tissues at multiple time points after infection, and application of a computational algorithm (weighted gene correlation network analysis, 'WGCNA'). WGCNA identifies transcripts exhibiting highly connected (i.e., 'hub-like') expression behavior, which suggests a regulatory influence over the host transcriptional response. To assess the role of hub-like transcripts in influenza virus pathogenesis, we compared virus-induced disease in wild-type mice and knockout (KO) mice lacking expression of specific hub-like genes (Ripk3 and Saa1) following infection with influenza A/California/04/2009 (H1N1), a 2009 pandemic virus. Ripk3 KO mice exhibited less severe disease, significantly reduced weight loss and faster recovery compared to wild-type mice, implying that Ripk3 activity is detrimental for the outcome of infection. In contrast, Saa1/Saa2 double knockout mice exhibited more severe disease, increased weight loss and reduced survival, suggesting a protective role. These results illuminate novel host genes that differentially regulate influenza virus pathogenicity, and lay the foundation for future studies aimed at clarifying the mechanisms of influenza virus-induced disease and the discovery of new treatment strategies. This project was funded in whole or in part with federal funds from the NIAID, NIH and DHHS under contract #HHSN272200800060C.



211 **Efficient induction of viral encephalitis after aerosol exposure to Rift Valley Fever Virus**

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Rift Valley Fever virus (RVFV) is an arbovirus that causes significant morbidity and mortality in both humans and livestock. Humans infected with Rift Valley Fever virus can develop severe complications including acute hepatitis, fatal hemorrhagic fever, ocular disease, and delayed-onset encephalitis. Inbred rat strains differ in their susceptibility and disease course after parenteral or aerosol infection with RVFV. ACI rats develop encephalitis after either s.c. inoculation or inhalation of RVFV. In contrast, Lewis rats are highly resistant to RVFV by s.c. inoculation but develop fatal encephalitis after inhaling small doses of RVFV. In both strains, lethality is increased and the time to death is shortened with aerosol infection compared to s.c. inoculation. Serial sacrifice studies show that after aerosol exposure, ACI and Lewis rats have low levels of virus replication in tissues outside the lung until the last 2 days when high levels of virus are found in the brain. The mechanism behind the increased incidence of neurological disease after aerosol exposure to RVFV is under investigation. In both rat strains, a pronounced leukocytosis was seen in the blood over the course of the infection, the bulk of which was neutrophils and other granulocytes (>10-fold increase in total granulocyte counts for both ACI and Lewis rats). Pathological evaluation found evidence of meningoencephalitis in the brains of both ACI and Lewis rats. These data suggest that both strains of rat can serve as appropriate tools to understand the pathogenesis of neurological disease resulting from infection with Rift Valley Fever virus. ** This is a U.S. Department of Defense's Joint Program Executive Office-Chemical Biological Defense (JPEO-CBD) program supported by the Joint Project Manager Transformational Medical Technologies (JPM-TMT) program through the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) contract HDTRA1-10-C-1066.

212 **Heterologous exchanges of non-virion protein and glycoprotein in Novirhabdoviruses: effects on pathogenicity and host specificity**

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Infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus (IHNV) and viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSV) are rhabdovirus species belonging to the Novirhabdovirus genus. IHNV has a narrow host range restricted to trout and salmon species, and it does not infect yellow perch. In contrast, the VHSV genotype IVb that invaded the Great Lakes in United States has a broad host range, with high virulence in yellow perch, but not in trout. By using reverse-genetic systems of IHNV and VHSV, we generated six IHNV:VHSV chimeric viruses in which the glycoprotein (G), non-virion-protein (NV), or both G and NV genes of IHNV-M genotype were replaced with the analogous genes from the VHSV-IVb, and vice versa. Viable viruses were recovered in all cases and used to challenge groups of rainbow trout and yellow perch. The parental recombinants rIHNV-M and rVHSV-IVb were virulent in trout and yellow perch, respectively. In yellow perch, chimeric IHNV viruses with substitutions of the G, NV and G +NV of VHSV were not virulent, whereas in trout, virus with the NV substitution was avirulent; virus with the G substitution was virulent, and virus with G+NV substitutions was partially virulent. In reciprocal swaps, chimeric VHSV-IVb viruses with the G, NV and G +NV substitutions of IHNV were avirulent in trout, whereas in yellow perch, only the chimeric virus with NV substitution was virulent. These results suggest that the G and/or NV genes are not, by themselves or in combination, sufficient to determine host-specific virulence.



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Experimental infection of rhesus and cynomolgus macaques with a wild water bird-derived highly pathogenic avian influenza virus

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Highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (HPAIV) continues to threaten human health. Non-human primate infection models of human influenza are desired. However, there have only been a few studies of HPAIV infection in rhesus macaques. To establish an animal infection model with more natural transmission and to determine HPAIV pathogenicity in primates, we investigated whether droplet exposure of macaques to a Japanese isolate of HPAIV (A/whooper swan/Hokkaido/1/2008, H5N1 clade 2.3.2.1) could induce influenza symptoms using two different macaque species, rhesus and cynomolgus monkeys, with the aim of understanding the virulence of this strain in non-human primates, the efficacy of droplet exposure for infection, and common or different properties of macaque species in terms of HPAIV pathogenicity. We administered this HPAIV to rhesus and cynomolgus monkeys via multiple routes including the intratracheal and nasal routes with droplet exposure. Infection was observed in the lower and upper respiratory tracts of macaques. Viral distribution in the respiratory tract was broader and viral shedding was more obvious in cynomolgus monkeys than in rhesus macaques. Inoculation with higher doses of the isolate resulted in stronger clinical symptoms of influenza. Our results demonstrate that HPAIV isolated from a water bird in Japan is pathogenic in monkeys by experimental inoculation, and a new method for HPAIV infection of non-human primate hosts, a good animal model for investigation of HPAIV pathogenicity for development of vaccines and therapeutics.

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Symptomatic highly pathogenic avian influenza virus restores pathogenicity in chicken by serial egg passages

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Existence of multiple basic amino acids at the cleavage site of hemagglutinin (HA) of H5 and H7 subtypes influenza viruses is attributed to pathogenicity of highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (HPAIV) in chickens. To explore other genetic signatures contributing to the pathogenicity in chickens, several recombinant influenza viruses were generated by reverse genetics and infected to chickens. These viruses possessed HA and neuraminidase (NA) segments from an H5N1 HPAIV and internal gene segments from two low pathogenic AIVs. One of the recombinant viruses, designated as LP (W/PA), did not kill chickens at all by intranasal and intravenous infection although retaining multiple basic amino acids at the cleavage site. LP (W/PA) was passaged 16 times in 14-day-old embryonated eggs and viruses passaged once and 16 times were designated as LP (W/PA) E1 and LP (W/PA) E16, respectively. Each of 107EID₅₀ virus was intravenously inoculated to chickens and intravenous pathogenicity index (IVPI) was determined. The LP (W/PA) E16 killed all of chickens within 6 days post inoculation (dpi) whereas none of chickens infected with LP (W/PA) E1 died during 10 days of observation period. LP (W/PA) E16 was determined as HPAIV as IVPI was greater than 1.2 based on the OIE manual. Amino acid substitutions of LP (W/PA) E16, compared to LP (W/PA) E1, were found in HA and PA segments. No substitution was observed in the cleavage site. Contribution of those substitutions to the pathogenicity in chicken requires further scrutiny.



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The incubation period is longer than the latent period in chickens and turkeys experimentally infected with Highly Pathogenic AvJames Seekings, Chad Fuller, Caroline Warren, June Mynn, Ross Cooper, Elizabeth Aldous, Richard M. Irvine and Ian H. Brown *AHVLA – Weybridge*

In the European Union, and many other countries world-wide, control measures for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) are imposed by legislation and involve stamping out policies with defined restriction zones and severe trade implications. Early detection of outbreaks can minimise losses and cost through reducing potential spread. This work generated experimental data of first clinical signs in chickens and turkey's infected with HPAI and the relationship between the incubation period and latent period. Ten 3-week-old chickens and turkeys were infected with either H7N1 or H5N1 HPAI, using a dose 0.5 log₁₀ above the previously determined MLD₅₀, via the intraocular and intra nasal route. All of the birds were inspected regularly and clinical signs observed and scored. Buccal and cloacal swabs were taken up to three times a day and tested using real time RT-PCR. Indices were calculated for clinical signs as well as buccal and cloacal virus shedding to allow comparison of the latency and incubation periods. For both H7 and H5 in chickens and turkeys the latent period was shorter than the incubation period indicating a period of subclinical infection of approximately 12 hours. The high risk period between infection and the onset of observed clinical signs was less than 28 hours with 100% mortality by 48 hours.

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Pathogenesis of infection of pregnant gilts with H1N2 swine influenza virusIwona Markowska-Daniel, Krzysztof Kwit, Małgorzata Pomorska-Mól
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Objectives In the course of influenza in pregnant females, respiratory or systemic infection is sometimes accompanied with abortion. The aim of the project was to study the pathogenesis of infection of pregnant gilts with swine influenza virus (SIV). **Materials and methods**), acute phase proteins (CRP, Hp) in serum and reproduction parameters were evaluated. Pregnant gilts were infected intranasally or intratracheally with H1N2 SIV. Clinical signs, presence of viral RNA in nasal swabs, placenta and lungs of piglets, HI titer, T-cell specific immunity, hematological parameters, concentration of selected interleukin (IL-10, IFN Results However no fever or any other clinical signs typical for SI were found in all infected gilts, the experimental infection was successful because specific antibodies against SIV were confirmed in all infected gilts from 14 dpi, antigen-specific proliferation from 6 dpi and the presence of SIV RNA in nasal swabs was detected from 1 to 4 dpi. Any of the infected gilts do not have any signs of pregnancy pathology. No significant differences were found between infected and control gilts with regard to hematological parameters, concentrations of APP and cytokines tested. No SIV RNA were found in samples taken from newborn piglets and placenta. **Conclusion** The results of this study indicate a lack of intrauterine transmission of SIV, H1N2 subtype, from mother to fetal. They tend to support the hypothesis that high fever and inflammation play a main role in the pathogenesis of abortion and other reproduction disorders in the course of the swine influenza.



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Novel paramyxovirus causes severe illness in a wildlife biologist working in South Sudan and Uganda

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Paramyxoviruses comprise a large group of viruses, including severe human pathogens. In recent years, over 100 new paramyxoviruses were identified in bats and rodents worldwide. Among those, very few are known to cause human disease, possibly because of the usually limited host range and rare crossover events. Here, we describe a novel paramyxovirus that caused very severe disease in a wildlife biologist who participated in a 6-week field expedition to South Sudan and Uganda. During this expedition, she was exposed to more than 20 different bat and rodent species. She wore different levels of personal protective equipment during these encounters. Shortly after returning to the United States, she developed fever, malaise, headache, generalized myalgia and arthralgia, neck stiffness, and a sore throat. After admission to the hospital, she developed a maculopapular rash that became confluent over time. Laboratory tests demonstrated thrombocytopenia and profound leukopenia, as well as elevated serum levels of liver aminotransferases. Molecular diagnostic testing was negative for filoviruses and selected bunya-, arenavirus and flaviviruses. Next-generation sequencing revealed the presence of a novel paramyxovirus. The complete sequence was obtained by standard RT-PCR and Sanger sequencing. Phylogenetic analysis of the genome indicated that the virus was most closely related to a rubula-like virus, Tuhoko virus 3, recently detected in *Rousettus leschenaultii* fruit bats in southern China. Pairwise comparison of the novel virus genome showed 66.2% identity to Tuhoko virus 3, while protein sequences were 54–84% identical.

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Type II pneumocytes are the major target cells for seasonal and highly pathogenic influenza A viruses in the human lung

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Differences in the cellular tropism of closely related viruses may strongly affect their virulence. In case of highly pathogenic avian H5N1 influenza viruses it had been hypothesized that preferential infection of alveolar type II pneumocytes contributes to their high pathogenicity in humans thereby inhibiting repair processes in the lung and triggering dysregulated immune responses. Whether this is a valid possibility was uncertain as the primary target cells of seasonal and animal influenza viruses in human lung had not been systematically studied. Here, we employed a human lung organ culture model in which the complexity and spatial arrangement of cell types is preserved to study the replication, tropism and cytokine induction by human, avian and porcine influenza A viruses. The primary tissue supported efficient growth of highly-pathogenic H5N1 and human-adapted H1N1 and H3N2 viruses, whereas classical swine and low pathogenic avian viruses replicated only poorly. Nevertheless, all viruses examined were detected almost exclusively in type II pneumocytes with a minor involvement of alveolar macrophages. Infection with low and high pathogenic avian viruses provoked a pronounced induction of IP-10, MIP-1 β , IFN- β and IL-1 β , while human and pandemic H1N1-2009 viruses triggered a weak cytokine response. These findings show that differences in the pathogenic potential of influenza A viruses are unlikely to be determined by a distinct cell tropism in the human lung. Rather, high or low viral pathogenicity appears to be associated with a strain-specific capacity to replicate productively in type II pneumocytes and to cope with the induced cytokine response.



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Subacute Sclerosing Panencephalitis: Where does Measles Virus persist inside the host? Some facts and one hypothesisRafael Fernandez-Muñoz¹, Juan Carabaña*, Monserrat Caballero*, Miguel A. Muñoz-Alía^{1,3}, and María L. Celma¹*1. Unidad de Virología, Hospital Ramón y Cajal, Madrid, Spain***. Present address: Duke University Medical School, NC, U.S.A.**3. Centro Nacional de Biotecnología, C.S.I.C., Campus de Cantoblanco, Madrid, Spain.*

The study of measles virus (MV) genotypes circulating consecutively in Madrid from 1960s to 1990s and MV genomes from Subacute Sclerosing Panencephalitis (SSPE) brain autopsies along that period previously allowed us to confirm the hypothesis that MV causing SSPE correspond with the one causing the acute infection. It remains unclear, however, where MV may persist after the acute infection. We sequenced the complete MV genome present in the brain from three SSPE patients who died after short (4 months), intermediate (4 years) and long disease course (18 years). The genome length, was preserved in the 3 cases (15894; 15894, and 15893/15894 nucleotides). Selective RT-PCR amplification for MV copy-back MV RNA was negative in 2 cases and slightly positive in the third. On the other hand for the 3 patients brain nucleocapsid RNA hybridization with (P32) probes complementary to different regions along MV genome showed not significant presence of defective viral genomes. In addition, from 2 of SSPE patients we obtained thoracic and abdominal lymph nodes at autopsy. In both cases we amplified genomic MV RNA corresponding to N, M, and F genes from different lymph nodes. The MV in lymph nodes belongs to the same genotype found in the correspondent brain, but show several differential point mutations including M gene higher degree of biased U to C hypermutation. From these data and our observation that primary MV isolates in PBMC from acute measles may persist in, human lymphoblastoid cells we would discuss a possible mechanism for initiation of MV persistence infection.

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Fatal encephalitis in African green monkeys and common marmosets after aerosol infection with Rift Valley Fever virus.Douglas Reed, Diana Powell, Laura Bethel, Amy Caroline, Anita Trichel, Timothy Oury, and Amy Hartman *University of Pittsburgh*

Rift Valley Fever virus (RVFV) outbreaks occur in eastern Africa and the Middle East, with epidemics of severe disease in livestock and human populations. In humans, RVFV causes a self-limiting febrile illness, but a small percentage of people develop severe complications including hepatitis, retinitis, hemorrhagic fever, and encephalitis. RVFV is infectious by many routes including inhalation. In an effort to develop a nonhuman primate model of aerosol exposure to RVFV, African green monkeys (AGM) and common marmosets were exposed to small particle aerosols containing RVFV. In both species, a biphasic fever response was seen which corresponded with a decline in activity levels. Three of four AGM and four of eight marmosets developed neurological signs (drooling, unsteady gait, seizures), became moribund and were promptly euthanized. Gross pathological findings of both species included damage to the liver and kidneys and vasculitis in the brain; evidence of hemorrhage was found in the lungs of 2 AGM. AGMs and marmosets both had elevations in alkaline phosphatase, blood urea nitrogen, and white blood cells at time of necropsy. The elevation in white blood cell counts was predominantly granulocytes. Glucose levels were elevated in the three AGM and two of the three had thrombocytopenia. Virological and pathological findings confirmed viral encephalitis in both AGMs and marmosets. Both AGM and marmosets appear to be good models of the encephalitis caused by RVFV. Additional clinical findings in AGM (thrombocytopenia, hemorrhaging in the lung) suggest that AGM might be a good model for exploring other aspects of RVFV disease.



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Avian Influenza Virus Hemagglutinins H2, H4, H8, and H14 support a highly pathogenic phenotype

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Highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses (HPAIV) evolve from low-pathogenic precursors with hemagglutinin (HA) serotypes H5 or H7 by acquisition of a polybasic HA cleavage site (HACS). Since the reason of this serotype restriction is still unclear, we aimed to distinguish between compatibility of a polybasic HACS with H5/H7 HA only and unique predisposition of H5/H7 for insertion mutations. Engineered polybasic HACS mutants from several low-pathogenic avian strains (LPAIV) of serotypes H5N1, H3N8, H9N2, and H4N6 did not exhibit high virulence in chicken. Therefore, we generated HA reassortants by introducing a polybasic HACS into the HA of several LPAIV with serotypes H1, H2, H3, H4, H6, H8, H10, H11, H14 or H15, and co-transfection with either H9N2 LPAIV or H5N1 HPAIV genes. Reassortants containing the engineered H2, H4, H8 or H14 in the HPAIV background were lethal and exhibited intravenous pathogenicity indices of 2.79, 2.37, 2.85, and 2.61 respectively, equivalent to natural HPAIV. Thus, in case of a polybasic HACS, nonH5/H7 HA can enable high virulence in the HPAIV background. Then, we further mapped those HPAIV virulence determinants by generating several reassortants from a H5N1 LPAIV and a HPAIV strain and found that the HPAIV HA and NA alone enable 100% lethality and efficient transmission to contact chickens. Thus, beside an HA with polybasic HACS, the NA is a second essential virulence determinant of H5N1 HPAIV in chicken. Overall, the restriction of natural HPAIV to H5 and H7 is likely due to a unique predisposition for acquisition of a polybasic HACS.

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Establishment and characterization of a highly efficient reverse genetics system for Henipavirus rescue

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We established a highly efficient reverse genetic system that enabled rescue of recombinant henipaviruses (rNiV/rHeV) entirely from cloned cDNAs without the need for vaccinia-driven T7-RNA polymerase (RNAP) or the use of BSR-T7 cells. Our rescue system uses codon-optimized T7-RNAP co-transfected with modified full-length cDNA clones and supporting plasmids encoding the nucleoprotein, phosphoprotein and polymerase genes. Engineering a self-cleaving hammerhead ribozyme between the T7 promoter and the 3' leader of the rNiV or rHeV genome increased rescue efficiency ≥ 3 logs: (1) 3'Rbz-mediated autocatalytic cleavage resulted in the exact 3' termini required for efficient antigenome-genome transcription/replication, and (2) allowed the inclusion of the transcript-initiating 3Gs in the full T7 promoter that is required for high efficiency T7-RNAP-mediated transcription. High efficiency rescue allowed us to rescue 15 rNiV/HeV expressing various fluorescent (eGFP/mCherry) and/or bioluminescent (firefly/Gaussia luciferase [f-luc/G-luc]) reporter genes, including dual-combination (fluorescent and bioluminescent) reporters. Many reporter rNiVs (or rHeV) reflected the replication and tropism of parental henipaviruses in primary endothelial and neuronal cells, and exhibited similar pathogenicity in the hamster model. rNiV-[f-luc] and rNiV-[G-luc] allowed for live animal imaging of NiV under BSL-4 conditions to monitor the progression of viral replication; determination of G-luc activity in serum enabled quantitative determination of rNiV-[G-luc] replication without the use of qPCR. Finally, HeV-F, HeV-G, or HeV-M, singly, or in all possible combinations, were able to complement their NiV counterparts and allowed for efficient rescue of rNiV-[mCherry]. Our system represents a powerful tool for more refined and sophisticated analyses of henipavirus pathogenicity and evolution.



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Characterization of virulence mechanisms of hemorrhagic fever-causing arenavirusesYuying Liang, Hinh Ly *University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Several pathogenic arenaviruses, including Lassa virus, cause hemorrhagic fever (HF) infections that can result in significant morbidity and mortality in humans with limited preventative and treatment modalities. A hallmark of severe HF is the high levels of viremia coupled with generalized immune suppression of the hosts, the mechanisms for which are unknown. Recent studies in our laboratory using viral reverse genetic system, cell-based and biochemical assays and a small animal model for Lassa fever have revealed several potential mechanisms that arenaviruses use to cause virulent infection in the hosts (McLay, et al., 2013, *JVI*, 2012, *Antiviral Res*; Jiang, et al., 2013, *JBC*; Kumar, et al., 2012, *Virology*; Wang, et al., 2012, *JVI*; Qi, et al., 2010, *Nature*; Liang, et al., 2009, *Ann NY Acad Sci*; Lan, et al., 2009, *JVI*; Lan, et al., 2008, *Arch Virol*). Specifically, each of the four viral gene products (GPC glycoprotein, L polymerase, NP nucleoprotein, and Z matrix protein) play important roles in mediating efficient pathogenic arenaviral entry, enhanced viral genome replication, and inhibition of cellular apoptosis, translation, and interferon beta (IFN β) production. I will present some published data as well as novel results from our recent studies that aim at elucidating the roles of each of these viral proteins in mediating HF disease pathogenesis. Novel insights learned from these studies can be exploited for the development of novel therapeutics and vaccines against deadly HF infections (McLay, et al., 2012, *Antiviral Research*, invited review).

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Immunopathogenesis of Henipavirus infection: role of Interferon type I signalingKevin Dhondt, Cyrille Mathieu, Marie Chalons, and Branka Horvat *INSERM U758, Human Virology, F-69365 France; Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, Lyon, France; University of Lyon 1; 21 Avenue Tony Garnier, 69365 Lyon Cedex 07, France*

Hendra virus (HeV) and Nipah virus (NiV) are closely related, recently-emerged paramyxoviruses, belonging to the Henipavirus genus and capable of causing considerable morbidity and mortality in a number of mammalian species, including humans. However, in contrast to many other species, mice are resistant to henipavirus infection, although they do express functional virus entry receptors. We have characterized a new animal model of henipavirus infection in mice deleted in Interferon-Type I Receptor (IFNAR KO). We showed that in contrast to wild type (wt) mice, these mice are highly susceptible to NiV infection by different routes of infection and develop fatal encephalitis with pathology and immunohistochemical features similar to what was found in humans. Sublethally infected mice developed virus-specific neutralizing antibodies. Surprisingly, the resistance to NiV was completely preserved in mice deleted for sensors of the innate immune system, including TLR3, suggesting the importance of constitutive, rather than virus-induced IFN-I signaling in the control of NiV infection. Furthermore, while infection seems to be stopped at very early stages in intraperitoneally injected wt mice, the intracranial NiV infection leads in these mice to systemic spread of the virus with lethal outcome. These data suggested that particular IFN-I producing cells may play the important role in the early control of NiV infection. Altogether, these results reveal IFNAR-KO mice as a new small animal model to study HeV and NiV pathogenesis, prophylaxis and treatment and suggest the critical role of IFN-I signaling in viral immunopathogenesis, opening thus new perspectives to control this highly lethal infection.



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Rabies virus-induced expression of chemokines/cytokines enhances the blood-brain-barrier (BBB) permeability in miceQing Q. Chai^{1,2}, Wen Q. He², Zhen F. Fu^{1,2}*1State-key Laboratory of Agricultural Microbiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan, 430070, China**2Department of Pathology, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602*

Enhancement of blood-brain-barrier (BBB) permeability has been found to be an important factor in clearing rabies virus (RABV) from the central nervous system (CNS). However, the mechanism by which RABV infection enhances the BBB permeability is not understood. In the present study, two RABV strains were used to study the mechanisms by which RABV infection results in the enhancement of BBB permeability. Mice were infected with either a lab-adapted or a wild-type RABV and the BBB permeability as well as the expression of tight junction proteins was measured in the mice after infection. It was found that only lab-adapted RABV induced the enhancement of BBB permeability in infected mice and it is accompanied by induction of inflammatory responses. The level of tight-junction proteins (ZO-1, Claudin-5, Occludin) was significantly reduced in the brain of mice infected only with lab-adapted RABV, suggesting that the enhancement of BBB permeability is associated with reduction in the expression of tight-junction proteins. To investigate what modulate the expression of tight-junction proteins, human and mouse Brain Microvascular Endothelial Cells (H/MBMECs) were infected with each of the viruses and it was found that RABV neither infected the brain endothelial cells nor modulated expression of the tight-junction proteins. However, brain extract prepared from mice infected with lab-adapted, but not with wild-type RABV reduced the expression of tight-junction proteins. Luminex assay revealed that the extract from lab-adapted RABV-infected brain has higher levels of cytokine/chemokines than that from wild-type RABV-infected brain. These studies thus indicate that the enhancement of BBB permeability and the reductions of tight junction proteins are not due to RABV infection per se but most likely due to the virus-induced inflammatory cytokines/chemokines.

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A 3D organotypic lung tissue model to study hantavirus pulmonary syndromeKarin B. Sundström^{1,2}, Anh Thu Nguyen Hoang³, Puran Cheng³, Shawon Gupta^{1,2}, Clas Ahlm⁴, Mattias Svensson³ and Jonas Klingström^{1,2,3}*1 Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology, Karolinska Institutet, SE-171 77 Stockholm, Sweden**2 Department of Preparedness, Swedish Institute for Communicable Diseases Control, SE-171 82 Solna, Sweden**3 Center for Infectious Medicine, Department of Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Karolinska University Hospital Huddinge, SE-141 86 Stockholm, Sweden**4 Department of Clinical Microbiology, Division of Infectious Diseases, Umeå University, SE-901 85 Umeå, Sweden*

Andes virus (ANDV) is a rodent-borne hantavirus that causes hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) with case fatality rate around 40%. It is not well known why hantaviruses cause disease in humans. In particular, very little is known regarding the effect hantaviruses may have at the initial site of infection during the incubation period, and why infection change from asymptomatic to a life-threatening disease in humans. Here, we used a 3-dimensional organotypic model of human lung tissue to investigate early and long-term effects of ANDV-infection. Sudden increase in progeny virus production was observed approximately 10-15 days after infection, coinciding with induction of a short lived-type I and type III interferon response. Furthermore, the peak in viral production was followed by increased levels of extracellular IP-10, IL-6, IL-8 and VEGF-A, and decreased levels of RANTES in infected models. Caspase 3 was not activated by infection, suggesting that ANDV does not induce apoptosis in this model. Late after infection lower levels of extracellular cytokeratin 18, a marker for epithelial cell death, were observed in infected models indicating that ANDV might impact epithelial cell survival. This indicates that direct ANDV-induced pro-inflammatory cytokine responses and VEGF-A production in the lungs might be involved in HPS-pathogenesis. We also observed that addition of dendritic cells in the model had an antiviral effect on ANDV-infection.



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The incubation period is longer than the latent period in chickens and turkeys experimentally infected with Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza viruses

James Seekings, Chad Fuller, Caroline Warren, June Mynn, Ross Cooper, Elizabeth Aldous, Richard M. Irvine and Ian H. Brown AHVLA –

In the European Union, and many other countries world-wide, control measures for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) are imposed by legislation and involve stamping out policies with defined restriction zones and severe trade implications. Early detection of outbreaks can minimise losses and cost through reducing potential spread. This work generated experimental data of first clinical signs in chickens and turkeys infected with HPAI and the relationship between the incubation period and latent period. Ten 3-week-old chickens and turkeys were infected with either H7N1 or H5N1 HPAI, using a dose 0.5 log₁₀ above the previously determined MLD₅₀, via the intraocular and intra nasal route. All of the birds were inspected regularly and clinical signs observed and scored. Buccal and cloacal swabs were taken up to three times a day and tested using real time RT-PCR. Indices were calculated for clinical signs as well as buccal and cloacal virus shedding to allow comparison of the latency and incubation periods. For both H7 and H5 in chickens and turkeys the latent period was shorter than the incubation period indicating a period of subclinical infection of approximately 12 hours. The high risk period between infection and the onset of observed clinical signs was less than 28 hours with 100% mortality by 48 hours.

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Elements in the Canine Distemper Virus M 3' UTR Contribute to Control of Replication Efficiency and Virulence

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Canine distemper virus (CDV) is a negative-sense, single-stranded RNA virus within the genus *Morbillivirus* and the family *Paramyxoviridae*. The *Morbillivirus* genome is composed of six transcriptional units that are separated by untranslated regions (UTRs), which are relatively uniform in length, with the exception of the UTR between the matrix (M) and fusion (F) genes. This UTR is at least three times longer and in the case of CDV also highly variable. Exchange of the M-F region between different CDV strains did not affect virulence or disease phenotype, demonstrating that this region is functionally interchangeable. Deletions in the M 3' UTR resulted in gradual reduction of virulence, while replacement of the deletion with a random sequence led to complete attenuation, suggesting that overall length as well as partially redundant sequence motifs distributed throughout the region contribute to virulence.



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Pathogenicity of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza virus in wild ducks and Herons

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Widespread outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) caused by H5N1 viruses occurred in wild birds in Japan from 2010-11. To estimate the risk of wild birds as a source of virus infection in the environment, we examined the pathogenicity of a causal H5N1 HPAI virus to *Anatidae* (mallards, wigeons, pintails, tufted ducks and mandarin ducks) and *Ardeidae* (grey herons, intermediate egrets, little egrets and black-crowned night herons). A tufted duck (1/2 : indicates 1 out of 2 birds), a mandarin duck (1/3), grey herons (2/4), little egrets (2/2) and a black-crowned night heron (1/3) showed clinical signs such as depression and neurologic symptoms after intranasal inoculation with 106 EID₅₀ of A/mandarin duck/Miyazaki/22M807-1/2011 (H5N1), which belonged to clade 2.3.2.1 and are mainly circulating in East Asia. All the birds presenting disease signs terminated in death except one tufted duck and one grey heron. Viruses were mainly recovered from the laryngopharyngeal swabs of mallards, tufted ducks, mandarin ducks and *Ardeidae* until 5-7 days post inoculation. On the other hand, viruses were rarely recovered from the swabs of wigeons and pintails. Further study revealed that the H5N1 HPAI viruses were transmitted between *Anatidae* or grey heron populations. Together, these results showed that pathogenicity of the H5N1 HPAI viruses differed by bird species. The viruses were lethal to some birds, indicating that they have the potential to disseminate the virus to other bird species and environment. Therefore, wild birds should be kept out of poultry farms to prevent HPAI outbreaks in the future.

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Interferon type I and T cells determine susceptibility of mice to various Old World Arenaviruses

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Several members of the Old World arenaviruses are endemic in Sub-Saharan Africa. Lassa virus, Mopeia virus, and Morogoro virus share the same rodent host (*Mastomys natalensis*), while Mobala virus is carried by *Praomys* rodents. However, only Lassa virus (LASV) is pathogenic to humans; it causes Lassa fever in humans, a haemorrhagic disease endemic in West Africa. The related Mopeia, Morogoro, and Mobala viruses are not associated with disease in humans. As non-transgenic mice are not susceptible to these African arenaviruses, we tested whether mice with deficiency in the type I interferon receptor (IFNAR-KO) can be productively infected and may serve as an animal model for these viruses. Various strains of Lassa virus replicated to high titres in IFNAR-KO mice, while Mopeia, Morogoro, and Mobala virus replicated hardly or not at all. Lassa virus-infected IFNAR-KO mice also showed biochemical and histopathological signs of disease. Thus, the virulence of the viruses in humans is reflected in IFNAR-KO mice, which may serve as a useful model to study viral determinants of Lassa fever. The data also demonstrate that the main hurdle to productive infection of mice by Lassa virus is the interferon response. Additional depletion of CD4⁺ and CD8⁺ T cell in IFNAR-KO mice facilitated high-level replication also of the apathogenic viruses, indicating that the T cell response plays a major role in host restriction to these viruses.



231 **Ebola virus targets Nrf2-dependent antioxidative stress response via its structural protein VP24.**

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Molecular basis of high pathogenicity of viral infections, INSERM CIRI U1111, Lyon France

Ebola virus (EBOV) causes severe hemorrhagic fever in human and non-human primates and is characterized by dysregulated inflammatory responses. In this study we demonstrate that replication of EBOV is associated with the inhibition of Nrf2 (Nuclear factor erythroid-related factor-2)-dependent cellular pathway. This pathway determines maintenance of intracellular redox balance, playing an important role in cell protection against different environmental insults and is also involved in regulation of cellular response to inflammation. The data obtained indicate that structural protein VP24 is responsible for inhibition of the Nrf2 function and this activity is independent of its interferon signalling antagonism. We speculate that novel VP24 function contributes to high pathogenicity of EBOV infection.

232 **Length of the NS1 linker region determines pathogenicity of a highly pathogenic H5N1 influenza A virus**

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The non structural protein 1 (NS1) of influenza A viruses (IAV) is a major viral pathogenicity factor. It is a multifunctional protein that blocks host cell mRNA maturation, splicing, activates PI3K signaling and interferes with RIG-I dependent recognition of viral RNA by the cytosolic RNA sensor RIG-I. NS1 is composed of a N-terminal RNA-binding domain (RBD), a central effector domain (ED) and a C-terminal unstructured tail domain. RBD and ED are connected by a flexible linker region, which presumably allows the two domains to arrange in different 3D conformations, depending on the cellular context and cellular or viral encoded interacting proteins/RNA. Interestingly, in some H5N1 influenza A NS1s from human cases this linker region is lacking 5aa. We were curious to see if this deletion is a species specific adaptation and tested the viral replication and pathogenicity in mammalian and avian host model systems. We show that reintroduction of these deleted amino acids can indeed impact pathogenicity of influenza A/Viet Nam/1203.



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Substitutions T200A and E227A in the hemagglutinin of pandemic 2009 influenza A virus increase lethality but decrease transmissi

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We describe that swine influenza virus-like substitutions T200A and E227A in the hemagglutinin of the 2009 pandemic influenza virus alter its pathogenesis and transmission. Viral replication is increased in mammalian cells. Infected mice show increased disease as measured by weight loss and lethality. Transmission in ferrets is decreased in the presence of both substitutions, suggesting that 200T and 227E HA amino acids are adaptive changes in the HA of swine-origin influenza viruses associated with increased transmission and decreased pathogenesis.

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Pathogenicity of a pH1N1 influenza virus isolated from a fatal case. Role of host genetics in the outcome of the infection

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The differences in the severity of the disease among individuals infected by influenza viruses could be due to pre-existing health conditions, to genetic factors, to differences in the virulence of the circulating viruses or a combination of these elements. As a model for influenza virus virulence, we have studied the infection with A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses. The biological properties of viruses isolated from a patient showing mild disease (M) or from a fatal case (F), both without known co-morbid conditions were compared in vitro and in vivo. The F virus presented faster growth kinetics and stronger induction of cytokines than M virus in human alveolar lung epithelial cells. In the murine model in vivo, the F virus showed a stronger morbidity and mortality than M virus. Remarkably, a higher proportion of mice presenting infectious virus in the hearts, was found in F virus-infected animals. Genetic characterization of M and F viruses showed difference in 29 nucleotides distributed over all the genome, which produce 9 amino acids changes. Residues HA-127L, PB2-221T and PA-529N were only detected in F virus and appeared as particularly interesting. With regard to knowledge of the host characteristics, a deleted form of chemokine receptor 5 (CCR5), CCR5 Δ 32, affect the patient's response to the infections. Thereby, examination of CCR5 genotype of M and F virus-infected patients was performed. F virus-infected patient was homozygous for CCR5 Δ 32. Additionally, a population study revealed an increased presence of CCR5 Δ 32 allele in fatal cases among Spanish patients with confirmed diagnosis of infection with A(H1N1)pdm09 virus.



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Influenza HA subtypes demonstrate divergent phenotypes for cleavage activation and pH of fusion: implications for host range and

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The IAV HA protein must be activated by host cell proteases in order to prime the molecule for fusion. Consequently, the availability of activating proteases and the susceptibility of HA to protease activity represents key factors in facilitating virus infection. As such, understanding the intricacies of HA cleavage by various proteases is necessary to derive insights into the emergence of pandemic viruses. To examine these properties, we generated a panel of HAs representative of the 16 subtypes that circulate in aquatic birds, as well as those that have infected humans. We examined the susceptibility of the panel of HA proteins to various proteases, as well as the pH at which these HAs mediated membrane fusion, as this property is related to the stability of the HA molecule and influences the capacity of influenza viruses to remain infectious in natural environments. Our results show that cleavage efficiency of HA can vary significantly and some HA subtypes display stringent selectivity for specific proteases. Additionally, we found that the pH of fusion varies by 0.7 pH units among the subtypes, and notably, we observed that the pH of fusion for HAs from human isolates was as much as 0.5 pH units lower than that observed from avian isolates of the same subtype. Overall, these data provide the first broad-spectrum analysis of cleavage-activation and membrane fusion characteristics for all of the IAV HA subtypes, and also show that there are substantial differences between the subtypes that may influence transmission and establishment in new species.

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Modeling the Nipah virus transmission cycle

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Since 2001, outbreaks of Nipah virus (NiV) have occurred almost yearly in Bangladesh with case-fatality rates up to 90%. Epidemiological data suggest that in Bangladesh, NiV is transmitted from fruit bats to humans via consumption of raw date palm sap contaminated by bats during collection, with subsequent human-to-human transmission. To model this transmission cycle of NiV, we determined the viability of NiV in artificial date palm sap. Virus titers remained stable for >3 days, thus potentially allowing food-borne transmission. Next, we modeled food-borne NiV infection by supplying Syrian hamsters with artificial date palm sap containing NiV. Hamsters were monitored for signs of disease; sequential necropsies were performed to analyze virus distribution in 17 tissues and swabs were collected daily to analyze virus shedding. Depending on the dose, drinking of NiV resulted in neurological disease in up to 63% of hamsters, indicating that food-borne infection with NiV can indeed occur. Virus shedding was observed in all hamsters on several days after drinking. To model human-to-human transmission, we first determined that transmission of NiV occurs through direct contact in 25% of hamsters upon intranasal inoculation. Contact transmission of NiV upon drinking of contaminated date palm sap occurred in 8% of animals. Understanding the NiV transmission cycle is essential for mitigating NiV outbreaks. The limited potential for medical intervention in resource-poor outbreak areas highlights the need for preemptive strategies, like educational outreach, focused at preventing transmission. This research was supported by the Intramural Research Program of the NIH, NIAID.

**PATHOGENICITY FUNCTIONS OF LYSSAVIRUS GLYCOPROTEINS**

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Of the twelve Lyssavirus species, only rabies virus (RABV) circulates in carnivore populations. Other lyssaviruses are restricted to bat hosts. Rabies disease in non-chiropteran mammals caused by bat-associated lyssaviruses is occasionally observed. However, such spill-over infections are considered as dead-end infections without further spread in the non-bat host population. Although host restriction of lyssaviruses is obvious, the molecular mechanisms involved are unknown. As the viral glycoprotein G is a major pathogenicity determinant and contributes to host tropism, we investigated the impact of different lyssavirus G proteins on virus replication, virulence and pathogenicity. Chimeric viruses were generated in which the ectodomain of G proteins from several RABV isolates and bat-associated lyssaviruses were inserted into an attenuated RABV genetic background. Most of the chimeras grew to reasonable titers in cell culture and intracranial infections of Balb/c mice verified *in vivo* replication and disease induction. Notably, in contrast to the original, attenuated RABV, only a portion of the chimeras expressing G sequences from virulent RABV or bat virus isolates exhibited increased pathogenicity after peripheral inoculation of the gluteal muscle. Thus, replacement of the G ectodomain can be sufficient to increase the pathogenic potential of an attenuated RABV in mice, but not necessarily leads to an increased virulence, even when adopted from virulent isolates. The identification of “virulent” and “non-virulent” G sequences now allows the targeted dissection of G sequences crucial for neuroinvasion, pathogenicity and host adaptation in the mouse model.

Analysis of the Immune Response to Sin Nombre Hantavirus in the Rhesus Macaque Model of Hantavirus Cardiopulmonary Syndrome

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Pathogenic New World hantaviruses cause a disease termed hantavirus cardiopulmonary syndrome (HCPS). The primary agent of HCPS in North America is Sin Nombre virus. Humans that succumb to infection have high amounts of pro-inflammatory cytokines in the lungs, and although hantaviruses primarily infect endothelial cells, infection is non-cytopathic. Therefore, it is thought that HCPS has an immunopathogenic component. In an effort to develop animal models for HCPS caused by SNV, we inoculated Rhesus macaques and monitored signs of disease. Six of 8 animals developed severe disease strikingly similar to HCPS and were euthanized 16-22 days post-inoculation. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) were isolated throughout the course of infection for flow cytometric analysis. CD8⁺ T-cells increased dramatically during late stages of disease. These cells showed an effector memory phenotype. There was also a large increase in the proportion of CD8⁺ T-cells expressing proliferation and activation markers, and in cell percentages expressing granzyme B. Neutrophilia is often observed in HCPS. Analysis of whole blood and PBMCs showed an increase in neutrophils and granulocytes only in macaques that developed disease. Lymphocytes from infected animals that were stimulated with antigen *ex vivo* showed robust production of cytokines. Macaques that developed disease expressed high levels of cytokines in the lungs immunohistochemically, primarily originating from alveolar macrophages. The kinetics of immune activation suggests that a robust response is elicited, coinciding with disease onset, and this response might contribute to disease via an immunopathogenic mechanism. This model provides an insight into the immunological events leading to HCPS.



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Role of Neutrophils in the Induction of Pulmonary Edema during Hantavirus Infection in C.B-17Scid MiceJiro Arikawa¹, Takaaki Koma¹, Kumiko Yoshimatsu¹, Noriyo Nagata², Yuko Sato², Kenta Shimizu¹, Takako Amada¹, Sanae Nishio¹, and Hideki Hasegawa²¹ Department of Microbiology, Graduate School of Medicine, Hokkaido University, Kita-ku, Kita-15, Nishi-7, Sapporo 060-8638, Japan² Department of Pathology, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, 4-7-1 Gakuen Musashi-Murayama, Tokyo 208-0011, Japan

Increased vascular permeability, pulmonary edema and neutrophilia are considered as common phenomenon relate to pathogenesis of hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS) and hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS). Here, we examined the role of neutrophils in the induction of pulmonary edema in hantavirus infection by using mouse model.C.B-17/Icr-scid/scidJcl (SCID) mice (8-week-old female Nihon Clea, Tokyo, Japan) were inoculated with Hantaan virus cl-1 (HTNV, 4000 FFU) by intraperitoneal injection. The degree of pulmonary edema was assessed by calculation of the ratio of alveoli with exudate. Neutrophil depletion was performed by administration of the anti-Gr-1 antibody. Pulmonary vascular permeability was analyzed by the Evans blue extravasation method. Progressive weight loss, slowing of activity and ruffled fur were appeared after 21 days post-inoculation (dpi). Marked histopathological change was observed in the lung. Cellular proliferation was observed in the lung. Adhesion of neutrophils, degenerated and multilayered endothelial cells were seen in the middle size vein. Pulmonary edema began to be observed from 28 dpi and peaked at 35 dpi then decreased in accorded with the increased pulmonary permeability detected by Evans blue extravasation. Increases in neutrophils in the lung and blood were observed when pulmonary edema began to be observed. The occurrence of pulmonary edema was inhibited by neutrophil depletion. Moreover, the pulmonary vascular permeability was also significantly suppressed by neutrophil depletion in the infected mice. Thus, these results indicate that neutrophils play an important role in the appearance of pulmonary vascular hyperpermeability and the occurrence of pulmonary edema after hantavirus infection in SCID mice.

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Antigenic and chicken embryonic phenotype differences between Korean-like and G1 lineage H9N2 avian influenza virusesBethany Nash, Alejandro Núñez, Daniel Hicks, Sharon M. Brookes, Ian H. Brown
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H9N2 is endemic in poultry in mainland China and Hong Kong with evidence that pigs and humans are susceptible to infection suggesting pandemic potential. Antigenic characterisation of H9N2 viruses circulating in avian populations demonstrated clustering consistent with geographic distribution and phylogeny with evidence of low cross-protection between clusters as demonstrated by cross-Heamagglutination Inhibition (HI). The Korean-like lineage, shows no cross reaction with the G1 or Beijing clusters. We investigated H9N2 virus distribution in tropism of H9N2s within chicken embryos as a model of pathogenicity for poultry. A/quail/Hong Kong/G1/1997 (quHK97), G1 lineage reference strain or A/mallard/England/7798-6499/2006 (malEng06), Korean lineage, were innoculated into 14-day-old embryonic chicken eggs via the allantoic route at 102 or 105 EID₅₀. Duplicate whole embryos were fixed in buffered formalin at 24, 48 and 72 hpi. Virus localisation was determined by immunohistochemistry against influenza A nucleoprotein. Both viruses showed similar distribution at 24 and 48 hpi with virus restricted to the allontoic epithelium. However, at 72hpi quHK97 also had consistent infection of the embryonic respiratory and digestive epithelium and skin, whereas malEng06 tropism was limited to a small number of allantoic epithelial cells in most embryos. These data suggest that malEng06, representing the Korean-like lineage, is antigenically and phenotypically distinct from the G1 and Beijing lineage viruses, which has implications for pandemic-preparedness vaccine strain selection.



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Genetic Determinants of Junin Virus Attenuation

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The New World arenavirus Junin (JUNV) is the causative agent of Argentine hemorrhagic fever (AHF) that is associated with high morbidity and significant mortality. A highly attenuated vaccine strain (Candid #1) was generated and used to vaccinate human population at risk. The identification of genetic determinants associated with Candid #1 attenuation would contribute to the development of better vaccines and therapeutics. We used a reverse genetics approach to rescue from cloned cDNAs the pathogenic Romero (rRomero) and the attenuated Candid #1 (rCandid) strains of JUNV. Using our cDNA-based reverse genetics system, we generated a set of rJUNVs: intersegment chimeric viruses rRomL/CamS and rCanL/RomS containing one genomic RNA segment originated from Romero and the other from Candid #1, rRomero viruses rRom/CanGPC and rRom/CanNP where ORF for either GPC or NP gene, respectively, was substituted with ORF for the corresponding gene of Candid #1, and rRom/G2/F427I virus that contains F427I substitution in the transmembrane region of G2 glycoprotein that has recently been demonstrated to significantly attenuate JUNV in a mouse model after intracranial inoculation. rRomL/CamS virus produced small plaques on Vero cells similar in size and morphological appearance to rCandid virus plaques. In contrast, the large plaques produced by rCanL/RomS and rRom/G2/F427I viruses were similar to the ones produced by rRomero. rRom/CanGPC and rRom/CanNP produced plaques of medium size. In one-step growth assays carried out at an MOI of 5 all chimeric viruses exhibited similar growth properties in Vero and A549 cells to the parental rRomero and rCandid viruses.

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Role of different regions of Newcastle disease virus fusion protein for its Pathogenicity

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Newcastle disease virus (NDV), the causative agent of a notifiable disease of poultry, exhibits different levels of pathogenicity, dependent on the virus strain. However, the molecular determinants of NDV virulence are not fully understood. The efficiency of proteolytic cleavage of the fusion protein (F) which is determined by presence or absence of a polybasic cleavage site, has long been considered a major determinant of NDV virulence. However, especially pigeon type paramyxovirus-1 (PPMV-1) isolates can exhibit low pathogenicity despite presence of a polybasic F cleavage site. Substitution of the genes encoding surface glycoproteins F and hemagglutinin-neuraminidase (HN) of a lentogenic (low virulence) NDV Clone 30 by those of a mesogenic (intermediate virulence) PPMV-1 (isolate R75/98) resulted in a recombinant NDV which possesses a polybasic F cleavage site (112RRKKR*F117), but low pathogenicity, demonstrated by an intracerebral pathogenicity index (ICPI) of 0.1. Substitution of only the Clone 30 F gene by that of PPMV-1 resulted also in a lentogenic recombinant NDV with an ICPI of 0.6, whereas the substitution of only the NDV Clone 30 sequence motif at the F cleavage site 112GRQGR*L117 by that of PPMV-1 R75/98 112RRKKR*F117 resulted in a recombinant NDV with an ICPI of 1.36, indicating a mesogenic virus. The stepwise substitution of selected sequence regions of the F gene of NDV Clone 30 by those of PPMV-1 R75/98 and the characterization of the respective recombinant viruses demonstrated that the cytoplasmic tail of the F protein plays an important role in NDV pathogenicity in this context.



Molecular diagnostics for Lassa fever at Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital, Nigeria

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Lassa fever is a viral hemorrhagic fever endemic in West Africa. However, none of the hospitals in the endemic areas of Nigeria has the capacity to perform Lassa virus diagnostics. Case identification solely relies on non-specific clinical criteria. The Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital (ISTH) struggled with this challenge for many years. A laboratory for molecular diagnosis of Lassa fever, complying with basic standards of diagnostic PCR facilities, was established at ISTH in 2008. During 2009 through 2010, samples of 1,650 suspected cases were processed; 198 (12%) tested positive by Lassa virus RT-PCR. No remarkable demographic differences were observed between PCR-positive and negative patients. The case fatality rate for Lassa fever was 31%. Nearly two thirds of confirmed cases attended the emergency departments of ISTH. The time window for therapeutic intervention was extremely short, as 50% of the fatal cases died within 2 days of hospitalization--often before ribavirin treatment could be commenced. Fatal Lassa fever cases were older ($p = 0.005$), had lower body temperature ($p < 0.0001$), and had higher creatinine ($p < 0.0001$) and blood urea levels ($p < 0.0001$) than survivors. Lassa fever incidence in the hospital followed a seasonal pattern with a peak between November and March. Lassa fever case management was improved at a tertiary health institution in Nigeria through establishment of a laboratory for routine diagnostics of Lassa virus. Data collected in two years of operation demonstrate that Lassa fever is a serious public health problem in Edo State and reveal new insights into the disease in hospitalized patients.



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Rabies virus phosphoprotein gene functions to facilitate viral neuroinvasion by viral replication in muscle.Satoko Yamaoka¹⁾, Naoto Ito¹⁾²⁾, Keisuke Nakagawa¹⁾, Kazuma Okada¹⁾, Kota Okadera¹⁾, Makoto Sugiyama¹⁾²⁾*1)The United Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences, Gifu University**2)Laboratory of Zoonotic Diseases, Faculty of Applied Biological Sciences, Gifu University*

Rabies virus (RABV) is a highly neurotropic pathogen that causes severe neurological symptoms and death in humans and animals. RABV is usually transmitted via a bite wound caused by a rabid animal and then infects peripheral nerves before spreading to the central nervous system. Despite the importance of the infection process at a peripheral site in the pathogenesis of rabies, little is known about the mechanism of peripheral infection of RABV. In this study, to obtain insights into the mechanism, we compared the peripheral infections of two fixed RABV strains, Nishigahara and the derivative Ni-CE, which cause lethal and asymptomatic infections, respectively, in mice after intramuscular inoculation. Examination of a series of chimeric viruses harboring respective genes from Nishigahara in the genetic background of Ni-CE revealed that Nishigahara phosphoprotein (P) gene plays a major role in peripheral infection by enhancing viral neuroinvasiveness. Results of both in vivo and in vitro experiments strongly suggested that Nishigahara P gene, but not Ni-CE P gene, functions to support stable replication of the virus in muscle cells. Further investigation based on the finding that RABV phosphoprotein counteracts the host interferon (IFN) system demonstrated that Nishigahara P gene, but not Ni-CE P gene, functions to suppress expressions of the *Ifn-β* gene and IFN-stimulated genes such as *Mx1* and *Oas1*. In conclusion, we provide the first data strongly suggesting that RABV phosphoprotein supports stable viral replication in muscle cells by counteracting the host IFN system and, consequently, facilitates viral invasion into peripheral nerves.

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Measles virus inclusion bodies may be implicated in development of myopathyHyun-Jeong Kwon¹, Tomoyuki Honda¹, Aya Nambu², Tetsuro Arai¹, Atsushi Miyakawa¹, Hiroki Sato¹, Susumu Nakae², Misako Yoneda¹, Chieko Kai¹*1 Laboratory Animal Research Center, Institute of Medical Science, The University of Tokyo.**2 Laboratory of Systems Biology, Institute of Medical Science, The University of Tokyo.*

Measles virus (MV) forms inclusion bodies in infected tissues regardless of the existence of infectious virion. Main component of the inclusion body is the nucleocapsid protein of MV (MV-N), the most abundant viral protein in infected cells. Although MV inclusion bodies are frequently observed in various tissues histopathologically after severe infection of MV, the function of them is still unknown. We generated transgenic mice expressing MV-N (MV-N mice) ubiquitously to assess pathogenic functions of MV-induced inclusion body. Initial growth of all F0 MV-N mice was normal, but two out of four F0 MV-N mice began to show weight loss and wasting at ~8 weeks of age and died at 15~17 weeks of age. Degeneration of muscle tissues was histopathologically observed in symptomatic MV-N mice but not in non-symptomatic MV-N mice and wild-type mice. Histochemically, accumulation of MV-N in muscle tissues was also well observed. The degenerations seen in the transgenic mice had similar characteristics to hereditary inclusion body myopathy (h-IBM). For investigating the influence of MV-N in regulation of muscle cell differentiation, C2C12 cells were either transfected with MV-N or infected with MV. Myogenic differentiation of the C2C12 cells either expressing MV-N or infected with MV were suppressed. Degenerations of muscle tissues seen in the MV-N expressing transgenic mice and inhibition of myogenic differentiation in C2C12 cells by MV-N indicate the relevance of MV-N to myopathy. These in vivo and in vitro models should be useful tools to study the pathogenic mechanism of h-IBM.



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Single Mutations in PB2 and NP Mediate Enhanced Pathogenicity of 2009 Pandemic H1N1 Influenza A Viruses in Mice

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Determinants of 2009 H1N1 influenza A virus pathogenicity are distinct from those known from studies with H5N1 or H7N7 highly pathogenic avian influenza A viruses (HPAIV). In order to determine novel molecular hallmarks of 2009 pandemic H1N1 pathogenicity, we have compared the virulence of two clinical isolates (designated as HH05 and HH15) representing early and late pandemic phase strains in mice. We found that HH15 is more virulent (log_{MLD50}: 3.5 p.f.u.) than HH05 (log_{MLD50}: >5 p.f.u.) in C57BL/6J mice. HH05 differs from HH15 by 12 amino acid substitutions in the PB2, PA, NP, HA, NA and NS1 genes. In order to address the molecular basis responsible for enhanced 2009 pandemic H1N1 virulence in mice, we have generated several recombinant influenza viruses by reverse genetics. Here, we have identified single mutations in the viral nucleoprotein (NP) and in the hemagglutinin (HA) which mediate enhanced pathogenicity in mice. Interestingly, these HH15-specific positions in HA, NA, NP and NS1 were less prevalent in the early pandemic periods while their prevalence increased during the late stages of the pandemic. Taken together, our findings reveal novel determinants of 2009 pandemic H1N1 pathogenicity distinct from those described for HPAIV isolated from humans. Furthermore, high prevalence of these positions in currently circulating strains suggests that these sites were replaced during later phases of the pandemic reflecting their selective advantage in the human population.

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Protection from RVFV neurologic disease is dependent on a functional CD4+ T cell Response

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Rift Valley fever virus (RVFV) is an important public health pathogen that causes serious human disease, and in some cases, progresses to fatal hepatitis, a hemorrhagic syndrome or delayed onset-encephalitis. Little is known about the individual host characteristics and immune responses that predispose development of severe clinical disease. Here, we evaluated the role of T cells in primary RVFV infection using an established C57BL/6 mouse model. Due to the rapidly fatal disease course of wild-type RVFV in this model, we used attenuated Δ NSs RVFV for infection, which had the added benefit of permitting the adaptive responses to be evaluated in the context of an active innate response. Targeted T cell depletions demonstrated that CD4+ T cells, but not CD8+ T cells, were critical for controlling RVFV infection and preventing subsequent RVFV neurologic disease. CD4-depleted mice failed to clear Δ NSs virus from infected tissues and a third of these mice went on to develop delayed-onset encephalitis. We show that CD4+ T cells were required for the robust IgG and neutralizing antibody responses that correlated with clearance of RVFV from peripheral tissues in mock-depleted mice. Further, CD4-depleted mice demonstrated strong pro-inflammatory responses in the draining lymph node following Δ NSs infection, suggesting CD4+ T cells regulate the immune response in RVFV infection. These results indicate CD4+ T cells play a critical role in preventing RVFV pathogenesis and the development of clinical disease.



Given the high mortality rates and lack of therapeutic treatments associated with the infections they cause, filoviruses are classified as BSL-4 agents.

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Given the high mortality rates and lack of therapeutic treatments associated with the infections they cause, filoviruses are classified as BSL-4 agents. This designation requires the highest level of laboratory biocontainment, which hampers research efforts with authentic filoviruses given the limited number of high biocontainment laboratories, experienced scientists, and specialized equipment for such tasks. Therefore, we established a biologically contained Ebola virus, Ebola Δ VP30 virus. This virus lacks the essential viral VP30 gene and can only be maintained in cells that stably express this gene. Ebola Δ VP30 virus is a BSL-3 agent that grows with similar kinetics and titers to those of authentic Ebola virus. A variant of the Ebola Δ VP30 virus contains the reporter gene renilla luciferase (ren-luc), making it a useful and efficient tool for high-throughput screens. Suppression of ren-luc expression in the presence of inhibitor compounds is a reliable and robust read-out for high-throughput screens of small molecule compound libraries. This system can thus be used to efficiently identify inhibitors of any step in the virus life cycle, a clear advantage over single-step assays.

A replication-incompetent influenza virus possessing PspA gene protects mice from influenza virus and *S. pneumoniae* infection.

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Streptococcus pneumoniae is a major causative pathogen in community-acquired pneumonia; together with influenza virus, it represents an important public health burden. Although vaccination is the most effective prophylaxis against these infectious agents, no vaccine simultaneously provides protective immunity against both *S. pneumoniae* and influenza virus. Here, to develop a bivalent vaccine that confers simultaneous protective immunity against both influenza virus and *S. pneumoniae*, we generated a replication-incompetent hemagglutinin-knockout (HA-KO) influenza virus possessing the sequence for the antigenic region of the pneumococcal surface protein A (PspA). Although this virus (HA-KO PspA virus) could replicate only in an HA-expressing cell line, it could infect individual wild-type cells (non-HA expressing cells) and express both viral proteins and PspA. PspA- and influenza virus-specific antibodies were elicited in nasal wash, bronchoalveolar lavage, and serum from mice intranasally inoculated with HA-KO PspA virus, and mice inoculated with HA-KO PspA virus were completely protected from lethal challenge with either *S. pneumoniae* or influenza virus. Further, bacterial colonization of the nasopharynx was prevented in mice inoculated with HA-KO PspA virus. These results indicate that HA-KO PspA virus is a promising bivalent vaccine candidate, and that this strategy can be a platform for the development of bivalent vaccine, based on replication-incompetent influenza virus, against other pathogens that cause respiratory infectious diseases.



Recombinant influenza virus expressing the F protein of respiratory syncytial virus as a bivalent vaccine

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Influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) disease rank high among human respiratory diseases worldwide. In contrast to influenza, effective vaccine against RSV infection is not available: although formalin-inactivated RSV had been used in the 1960s, the vaccination enhanced, rather than reduced, the respiratory disorder. Previously, we developed a replication-incompetent influenza virus by replacing the coding sequence of the PB2 gene (viral RNA polymerase subunits) with that of a reporter gene. We also demonstrated the vaccine efficacy of this PB2-knockout (PB2-KO) virus against Influenza virus infection in a mouse model: the recombinant virus had even elicited the reporter protein-specific antibody. Here, we generated a PB2-KO recombinant influenza virus expressing the F protein of RSV (PB2-RSVF virus) and tested its potential as a bivalent vaccine against influenza virus and RSV infections. The PB2-RSVF virus stably expressed the RSV F protein in vitro, although its replication was restricted in PB2 protein-expressing cells. In mice intranasally immunized with the PB2-RSVF virus, efficient production of antibodies against influenza virus, but not RSV, were detected. We also demonstrated that PB2-RSVF virus-immunized mice were protected from a lethal challenge with influenza viruses. By contrast, RSV challenge of PB2-RSVF virus-immunized mice resulted in severe body weight loss, indicating that PB2-RSVF vaccination enhanced RSV-associated disease. The severity of the enhanced respiratory disease was not correlated with the level of the elicited RSV-specific antibody or RSV replication in lungs. These results indicate that the PB2-KO influenza virus-based vaccine is efficacious for influenza virus, but not for RSV infection.



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A protective and safe intranasal RSV vaccine based on a recombinant prefusion form of the F protein bound to a bacterium-like particle

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Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is an important cause of respiratory tract disease in infants and the elderly. Currently, no licensed vaccine against RSV is available. Here we describe the development of a safe and effective intranasal subunit vaccine that is based on recombinant fusion (F) protein bound to the surface of immunostimulatory bacterium-like particles (BLPs) derived from the food-grade bacterium *Lactococcus lactis*. Different variants of F were analyzed with respect to their conformation using neutralizing monoclonal antibodies, assuming that F proteins mimicking the metastable prefusion form of F expose a more extensive and relevant epitope repertoire than F proteins corresponding to the postfusion structure. Both addition of a trimerization motif and mutation of the furin cleavage sites increased the reactivity of F with the prefusion specific D25, with the highest reactivity being observed for F proteins in which both these features were combined. Intranasal vaccination of mice or cotton rats with BLPs loaded with this latter recombinant protein that mimics a prefusion form of F (BLP-F), resulted in the potent induction of F-specific immunoglobulins and in significantly decreased virus titers in the lungs upon RSV challenge. Moreover, and in contrast to animals vaccinated with formalin-inactivated RSV, animals that received BLP-F exhibited high levels of F-specific secretory IgA in the nose and RSV-neutralizing antibodies in sera, but did not show symptoms of enhanced disease after challenge with RSV.

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Guiding the immune response against influenza hemagglutinin towards the conserved stalk domain by altering glycosylation

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In general, the immune response against influenza vaccines focuses on the head domain of influenza hemagglutinin (HA) and neutralization is mostly caused by inhibition of receptor binding. However, the high variability in the head domain makes this immune response strain specific and antibodies show little to no cross-reactivity to drifted variants or strains from different subtypes. Recently, several antibodies have been described that target the stalk domain of HA and show broad reactivity within HA subtypes or even neutralize HAs of different subtypes. However, fewer of these broad reactive antibodies directed against the stalk domain are elicited upon vaccination. We try to focus the immune response towards the stalk domain and lower the immune response to the head domain, by introducing N-linked glycosylation sites in the head domain, covering the immuno dominant antigenic sites with glycans. At the same time we remove glycans of the stalk domain, thereby making it better accessible to the immune system. We are able to show that one can introduce up to eight additional glycosylation sites into the A/Puerto Rico/8/34 (PR8) head domain, resulting in the loss of binding of PR8 antiserum while keeping the ability to bind stalk directed antibodies. In parallel, two glycosylation sites in the stalk domain were removed, which did not affect protein expression and binding of several stalk directed antibodies, confirming proper folding of the stalk. These constructs are currently tested for their potential to elicit stalk directed neutralizing antibodies and provide broad protection in mice.



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Heterosubtypic antiviral activity of influenza virus hemagglutinin-specific antibodies

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Influenza A viruses of 16 hemagglutinin (HA; H1-H16) and 9 neuraminidase subtypes are maintained in aquatic birds. Of these, viruses of H1, H2, and H3 HA subtypes caused pandemics in humans in the last century, whereas direct avian-to-human transmission of avian influenza viruses which are antigenically different from these subtypes has been frequently reported with a public health concern. Influenza virus HA subtypes are principally defined as serotypes determined by the absence of cross-neutralization or -hemagglutination inhibition with polyclonal antisera to the respective HA subtypes. Thus, it is generally believed that neutralizing antibodies are not broadly cross-reactive among HA subtypes. We generated a novel monoclonal antibody (MAb) specific to HA, designated MAb S139/1, which showed heterosubtypic neutralizing and hemagglutination-inhibition activities against viruses of H1, H2, H3, and H13 subtypes. This MAb bound to a conformational epitope adjacent to the HA receptor-binding domain. On the other hand, we found that intranasal immunization of mice induced local and systemic IgA and IgG antibody responses to multiple HAs of different subtypes, while the induced antibodies showed no heterosubtypic neutralizing activity in a standard neutralization test in which viruses were mixed with antibodies prior to inoculation into cultured cells. Interestingly, however, a remarkable reduction of plaque formation and extracellular release of the heterologous virus was observed when infected cells were subsequently cultured in the presence of HA-specific cross-reactive IgA but not IgG antibodies. These data support the notion that antibodies play an important role in heterosubtypic immunity against influenza virus infection.

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M2e-immunity provides heterosubtypic protection and allows the induction of robust cross-protective T cell responsesMichael Schotsaert^{1,2}, Tine Ysenbaert^{1,2}, Katrijn Neyt^{1,3}, Lorena I. Ibañez^{1,2}, Pieter Bogaert^{1,2}, Bert Schepens^{1,2}, Bart Lambrecht^{1,3}, Walter Fiers^{1,2} & Xavier Saelens^{1,2}*¹Department for Molecular Biomedical Research, VIB, 9000 Ghent, Belgium**²Department of Biomedical Molecular Biology, Ghent University, 9000 Ghent, Belgium**³Department of Respiratory Diseases, University Hospital Ghent, 9000 Ghent, Belgium*

Licensed influenza vaccines induce strain-specific virus-neutralizing antibodies but hamper the induction of possibly cross-protective T-cell responses upon subsequent infection. In contrast immunity induced by the universal influenza A vaccine candidate M2e (extracellular domain of matrix protein 2) is non-neutralizing and broadly protective. We compared protection induced by M2e-displaying recombinant virus-like particles with that of a conventional whole inactivated virus (WIV) vaccine using single as well as consecutive homo- and heterosubtypic challenges. Both vaccines protected against a primary challenge with a virus strain that matched the WIV vaccine. Functional T-cell responses were induced after primary challenge of M2e-immune mice but were absent in WIV-vaccinated mice. M2e-immune mice displayed limited inducible bronchus-associated lymphoid tissue (iBALT) which was absent in WIV-immune animals. Importantly, M2e- but not WIV-immune mice were protected from a primary as well as a secondary, severe heterosubtypic challenge, including challenge with pandemic H1N1 2009 virus. The combined immune response induced by M2e-vaccine and by clinically controlled influenza virus replication resulted in strong and broad protection against pandemic influenza. Our findings have important implications for influenza vaccination practices that focus on immunologically naive individuals, such as young children. We conclude that challenge of the M2e-immune host induces strong and broadly reactive immunity against influenza virus infection.



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What do we know about the 2009 H1N1 pandemic influenza virus and vaccine?Z. Chen, C. Cotter, AL Suguitan, X. Cheng, W. Wang, Q. Xu, J. Lu, S. Jacobson, S. Gee, R. Broome and H. Jin *MedImmune*

The 2009 H1N1 pandemic presented great challenges for rapid delivery of the H1N1pdm influenza vaccine. The issues included low vaccine yield, resistance to bromelain cleavage for HA antigen production and lower vaccine thermal stability. We have since solved these problems. We identified several key amino acids (119, 125, 127, 186) in the HA and one residue in the NA (369) that could improve vaccine virus yield without affecting antigenicity. We found that the E374 (HA2 #47) residue in the stalk region rendered the HA insensitive to the bromelain cleavage and also contributed to a higher pH (5.4) fusion threshold compared to the viruses with K374. We proved that the inter-monomer polar interaction between the highly conserved E21 and K374 residues lowered pH (5.0) fusion threshold and conferred higher structural and thermal stability. Next, we evaluated the contribution of H1N1pdm-specific antibodies from natural infection or acquired maternally in preventing subsequent virus infection and on vaccine mediated immune responses in ferrets. In addition, using newly developed ferret cellular immune reagents and assays, we showed that the live attenuated influenza vaccine containing the H1N1pdm vaccine component not only elicited stronger influenza-specific serum antibody responses but also T cell responses than the inactivated vaccine, in both naïve and influenza-seropositive animals. The H1N1pdm vaccine also offered significant protection against a heterologous seasonal H1N1 virus challenge infection in the upper respiratory tract of ferrets.

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Pseudotyped Newcastle Disease Virus with Paramyxovirus 8 Surface Glycoproteins and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus HAConstanze Steglich¹; Christian Grund²; Kristina Ramp¹; Angele Breithaupt³; Jutta Veits¹; Dirk Höper²; Günter Keil¹; Mario Ziller ; Harald Granzow⁴; Thomas C. Mettenleiter¹ and Angela Römer-Oberdörfer¹¶*¹Institute of Molecular Biology; ²Institute of Diagnostic Virology; ³Department of Experimental Animal Facilities and Biorisk Management, ⁴Institute of Infectology, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, Südufer 10, D-17493 Greifswald-Insel Riems, Germany*

The capability of Newcastle disease virus (NDV) as a vaccine vector virus which conveys protection against highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (HPAIV) has already been shown. However, pre-existing NDV antibodies may impair vector virus replication, resulting in a lower immune response also against the foreign protein additionally expressed, like HPAIV hemagglutinin. The development of a pseudotyped NDV which possesses functional surface glycoproteins different from NDV could overcome this problem. Here, we describe the construction of a pseudotyped vector NDV (pNDV-FHNPMV8H5) which carries the fusion protein (F) as well as the hemagglutinin-neuraminidase protein (HN) of avian paramyxovirus type 8 (APMV-8) instead of the corresponding NDV proteins. Additionally, the HPAIV H5 gene was inserted between the APMV-8 F- and HN-genes in a NDV backbone derived from the lentogenic NDV strain Clone 30 as already described for other NDV/AIV recombinants. After successful virus rescue, the resulting pNDVFHNPMV8H5 was further characterized. The expression of all three foreign genes was verified by Western blot analyses and indirect immunofluorescence. Furthermore, it could be shown that pNDVFHNPMV8H5 replicates comparably to the parental viruses, resulting in high titers in vitro and in vivo after 96 hours. Animal experiments were carried out to study the protection from a lethal HPAIV infection of SPF chicken without (MDA-) and with maternally derived NDV antibodies (MDA+) after immunization with pNDVFHNPMV8H5. MDA- as well as MDA+ chicken were protected from the lethal infection and virus shedding was significantly reduced.



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Live-attenuated respiratory syncytial virus vaccine candidates for clinical studies: Improved genetic stability and multiple mec

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Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is the leading cause of viral lower respiratory tract disease in infants and children worldwide. We previously developed a temperature-sensitive (ts) cDNA-derived virus named rA2cp248/404/1030 Δ SH, in reference to its set of attenuating mutations, that is a promising vaccine candidate. In young infants, this virus was well-tolerated and immunogenic, but exhibited genetic instability in about one-third of post-vaccination nasal wash isolates, mostly due to reversion at the mis-sense mutation "1030". This "1030" mutation is a single-nucleotide tyrosine-to-asparagine substitution at position 1321 of the L protein. We identified a reversion-resistant attenuating codon at position 1321 by inserting each of the 20 possible amino acids at position 1321 of wt rRSV. We confirmed the genetic stability of the alternative 1321 codon in in-vitro stress tests, but identified a second-site compensatory mutation at position 1313. By stabilizing the 1313 site as well, we generated a stable "1030" mutation. rA2cp248/404/1030 Δ SH with stable "1030" mutation was attenuated in seronegative chimpanzees, and is being tested in a pediatric phase I study. Surprisingly, deletion of the 1313 codon yielded a viable virus with ts/attenuated phenotype. Combination with the previously tested NS2 gene deletion yielded a genetically stable virus with attenuation in chimpanzees comparable to rA2cp248/404/1030 Δ SH, identifying this virus, designated as RSV Δ NS2 Δ 1313 I1314L, as a second candidate for pediatric phase I studies. Thus, together with RSV Δ M2-2 that is being tested in a phase I study, three genetically stable pediatric RSV vaccine candidates, each based on a different mode of attenuation, will be in clinical studies in 2013.

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Efficacy of a nonspreading Rift Valley fever virus expressing the Gn glycoprotein from the small genome segment

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Rift Valley fever virus (RVFV) is a mosquito-borne zoonotic bunyavirus of the genus Phlebovirus and a serious human and veterinary pathogen. The virus has a negative strand RNA, comprised of three segments, large (L), medium (M) and small (S). The proteins essential for genome replication are encoded by the L and S segments, whereas the M segment codes for the viral structural glycoproteins Gn and Gc. Recently we developed non-spreading RVFV particles (NSR) containing only the L and S segments. These particles are able to infect cells, replicate their genome and produce viral proteins, but are incapable of autonomous spread, therefore are called non-spreading RVFV (NSR). NSR was tested as a vaccine against RVFV in mice and sheep and showed promising efficacy. Here we report the expression of Gn, the major immunogenic protein of the virus, from the NSR small genome segment. The immunogenicity of the newly created particles, NSR-Gn, were compared with NSR in mice. NSR-Gn vaccination elicited superior CD8-restricted memory responses and higher virus neutralization titers. The vaccine was further characterized in lambs in a dose titration study. The highest vaccine dose, 106.3 TCID₅₀/ml, protected all lambs from clinical signs and detectable viremia. The vaccinated lambs developed neutralizing antibodies within three weeks after vaccination and no boosts in the titers were observed upon challenge. These data suggest that sterilizing immunity was achieved by a single vaccination and shows that NSR-Gn optimally combines the efficacy of live vaccines with the safety of inactivated RVFV vaccines.



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Vesicular stomatitis virus-based vaccines protect Syrian hamsters from lethal Nipah virus challengeBlair L. DeBuysscher¹, Joseph Prescott, Heinz Feldmann*1 Laboratory of Virology, DIR, NIAID, NIH, Hamilton, MT. 2 Division of Biological Sciences, University of Montana, Missoula, MT.*

Nipah virus (NiV) is an emerging highly pathogenic zoonotic paramyxovirus with a broad species tropism. Outbreaks in humans have been occurring on an almost annual basis since 1998 in Malaysia, India or Bangladesh. Case fatality rates have been as high as 100% during outbreaks with clinical manifestations including acute encephalitis and/or respiratory distress. Currently, there are no approved vaccines or treatments for NiV infection. We have developed recombinant replication-competent vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV)-based vaccines, which lack the VSV glycoprotein, but instead encode an Ebolavirus glycoprotein for entry, as well as a NiV antigen. We have created three vaccine vectors that express either the fusion protein (F), glycoprotein (G), or nucleoprotein (N). These vaccines were tested in Syrian hamsters, which are the only small rodent model that closely mimics both the respiratory as well as encephalitic aspects of human disease. Animals were administered 10⁵ plaque forming units of either vaccine and challenged 28 days later. At the time of challenge, all vaccinated animals had a measurable antibody response against NiV. In organs sampled, vaccinated animals euthanized five days post-challenge had drastically reduced levels of viral RNA compared to controls. Animals vaccinated with either glycoprotein were completely protected from disease. Hamsters vaccinated with the nucleoprotein showed increased survival and a delayed time to death compared to unvaccinated controls. Vaccination with VSV-NiV-based vaccines elicited a CD4⁺ and CD8⁺ T cell response. This study is the first to demonstrate that replication-competent VSV-NiV-based vaccines protected against NiV disease.

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Respiratory vaccination with live-attenuated measles virus: studies towards identification of the optimal site of delivery

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The standard route of measles virus (MV) vaccination is subcutaneous injection, which is far from the natural route of entry. Programs evaluating alternative vaccination routes have been hampered by a lack of knowledge about the primary cells that should be targeted. The aim of our study was to determine whether MV vaccination via the respiratory route should target the upper or lower respiratory tract. We generated a recombinant (r) virus based on the Edmonston-Zagreb (EZ) strain, expressing enhanced green fluorescent protein (EGFP) from an additional transcription unit in position 3 of the genome. The virus was grown in MRC-5 cells and formulated with the same stabilizers and excipients used by the Serum Institute of India MVEZ vaccine. Four groups of twelve macaques were immunized with a dose of 10⁴ TCID₅₀ of rMVEZEGFP(3) via different routes of administration: injection, intra-tracheal inoculation, intra-nasal instillation or aerosol inhalation. In each group six animals were euthanized at early time points, whereas the other six were followed up to assess immunogenicity. Infected cells were detected in the muscle, nose and lungs, but systemic MV replication was virtually absent. Macrophages and dendritic cells appeared to be the predominant target cells in all cases. Animals vaccinated via the respiratory route had the highest specific serum antibody when the virus was delivered to the LRT. This study sheds new light on the tropism of live-attenuated MV vaccine, and identifies the lower respiratory tract as the optimal target when MV vaccine is delivered to the respiratory tract.



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Exploring host targets for broad-spectrum antivirals against respiratory viruses

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To identify host targets for a new generation of influenza antiviral therapy, several RNA interference (RNAi) screens have been performed to uncover required host factors. In total these screens have implicated over 1000 human proteins but there is minimal overlap between the screens and greater evidence for the vital role of a particular host factor is required to support its selection as a drug target. To this end we have employed an integrated “OMIC” approach to prioritize host factors with the most support for a role during influenza virus infection. Moreover, we have incorporated data on respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Although these two viruses have distinct genetic structures, they encounter a similar host factor repertoire in the human respiratory tract and therefore they likely share dependency on many cellular functions. We have conducted RNA-seq experiments in parallel with influenza A virus and RSV to compare the profile of regulated host genes and then integrated these data with publicly-available datasets for virus-host (and host-host) protein interactions, influenza virus and RSV microarray data, and the influenza RNAi studies. Using two complementary bioinformatic strategies the data were filtered to reveal a subset of 53 host factors that are predicted to participate in the virus-host networks for both influenza virus and RSV. Inclusion of published data on quantitative protein expression in influenza virus or RSV infected cells reduces this further to 14 factors. We believe that this strategy greatly facilitates the identification of host factors to explore as targets for broad-spectrum antiviral drugs.

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MAP kinases and influenza virus infection - Inhibition of p38 MAP kinase protects mice from lethal H5N1 infection

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MAP kinases are major signal transducers in the cell. All four so far known MAP kinases (ERKs, JNKs, p38 MAPKs, ERK5) are activated by influenza A virus (IAV) infection. While the JNK MAPK pathway promotes the antiviral cytokine response, we have shown previously that the MEK/ERK MAPK pathway is exploited by IAV to support viral RNP export. Accordingly, we have demonstrated that inhibition of this signaling cascade blocks virus replication *in vitro* and in the animal model, representing a suitable target for a novel antiviral strategy. We now have investigated the role of p38 MAPK in the antiviral response against IAV in cells and animals. Global gene expression profiling of HPAIV infected cells in the presence of the p38 inhibitor SB202190 revealed, that inhibition of p38 leads to reduced expression of type I interferons (IFN) and other cytokines after H5N1 and H7N7 infection. More than 90% of all virus-induced genes were either partially or fully dependent on p38. This could be attributed to the fact that p38 inhibition not only affects primary gene expression responses to infection but also impairs the secondary gene expression response by interference with the JAK/STAT pathway. *In vivo* inhibition of p38 leads to a nearly complete shutdown of virus induced cytokine expression concomitant with reduced viral titers, thereby protecting mice from lethal H5N1 IAV infection. These observations show, that p38 acts on two levels of the antiviral IFN response: Initially the kinase regulates IFN induction and later p38 controls IFN signaling by STAT phosphorylation and thereby promotes expression of IFN-stimulated genes. Thus, inhibition of p38 maybe an antiviral strategy that protects mice from lethal influenza via suppression of overshooting cytokine expression.



Hemagglutinin activating host cell proteases provide promising drug targets for the treatment of influenza virus infections

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Influenza is a highly contagious acute infection of the respiratory tract that affects millions of people each year. Current measures for the control of influenza are vaccination and antiviral medications, which target the viral neuraminidase (NA) or the M2 protein. The development of drug resistance for both M2 and NA inhibitors, however, highlights the need for novel drug targets. Cleavage of the surface glycoprotein hemagglutinin (HA) by host cell proteases is crucial for virus infectivity and, hence, relevant proteases provide potential drug targets. Human influenza viruses are activated at a monobasic HA cleavage site and we identified HAT (human airway trypsin-like protease) and TMPRSS2 as relevant HA-activating proteases in the airways. Here, we investigated the efficacy of two structurally different serine protease inhibitors to prevent influenza virus multicycle replication by inhibition of HA cleavage. Benzylsulfonyl-d-arginine-proline-4-amidinobenzylamide (BAPA) is a potent inhibitor of HAT and TMPRSS2, whereas the 3-amidinophenylalanine derivative MI-432 only inhibits TMPRSS2. Both inhibitors efficiently suppressed virus propagation in TMPRSS2-expressing human airway epithelial cells. Inhibitor treatment reduced virus titres of different influenza A and B viruses more than 1000fold and delayed virus propagation by 24-48 hours at non-cytotoxic concentrations. Interestingly, the combination of BAPA or MI-432 with the NA inhibitor oseltamivir carboxylate was highly synergistic and blocked influenza virus propagation in airway epithelial cells at remarkably lower inhibitor concentrations than treatment with either inhibitor alone. Treatment of experimentally infected mice is currently under investigation. Our studies show that protease inhibition provides a promising approach that should be considered for influenza treatment.



A cell-based screening system for influenza A viral RNA transcription/replication Inhibitors

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Although two classes of antivirals, NA inhibitors and M2 ion channel blockers, are licensed for influenza treatment, dual resistant mutants, including highly pathogenic H5N1 viruses, have appeared. Alternative treatment options are, therefore, needed. Influenza A viral RNA (vRNA) transcription/replication is a promising target for antiviral development, since it is essential for virus replication. Accordingly, an efficient and reliable method to identify vRNA transcription/replication inhibitors is desirable. Here, we developed a cell-based screening system by establishing a cell line that stably expresses influenza viral ribonucleoprotein complex (vRNP). Compound library screening using this cell line allowed us to identify a compound that inhibits vRNA transcription/replication by using reporter protein expression from virus-like RNA as a readout and virus replication *in vitro*. vRNP-expressing cells have potential as a simple and convenient high-throughput screening (HTS) system, and, thus, are promising to identify vRNA transcription/replication inhibitors for various RNA viruses, especially for primary screens.



Mechanism-Based Covalent Inhibitors of Influenza Virus Neuraminidases show broad spectrum antiviral efficacy *in vitro* and *in vivo*

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While influenza vaccines play an important role in the prevention of disease, due to continual evolution of the viruses the strains in the seasonal vaccine may not match those circulating by the winter, nor do they provide 100% protection. Furthermore in the event of a new pandemic strain, it still takes months to prepare the new vaccines. Hence antivirals can play an important role in modulating severity of the influenza infection when vaccines are not available. Both Tamiflu and Relenza are licensed globally for the treatment and prevention of influenza, however we are now seeing resistance to Tamiflu, and some of these mutations are causing cross-resistance to Relenza. We describe here a new class of potent, specific mechanism-based inhibitors of the influenza neuraminidase. They are based on difluorosialic acid (DFSA) and function by the transient formation of a covalent intermediate species, forming a link to Tyr406 in the enzyme active site, demonstrated enzymatically and by structural analysis. We have demonstrated efficacy in enzyme inhibition assays *in vitro* and in cell-based plaque reduction assays, with IC₅₀s in the low nM range. Importantly we have demonstrated broad spectrum efficacy against viruses resistant to Tamiflu and Relenza, thus indicating a different resistance profile. The DFSAs were also effective in protecting mice against a lethal infection with influenza at drug concentrations comparable to Relenza. Based on the similarity of their structure to that of the natural substrate and their mechanism-based design we predict resistance is less likely to arise.



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A cell-based screening system to evaluate the susceptibility of influenza viruses to T-705 (favipiravir)

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In Japan, four neuraminidase (NA) inhibitors, oseltamivir, peramivir, zanamivir and laninamivir, are approved for chemotherapy against influenza and are prescribed with the highest frequency in the world. Therefore, Japan could be at high risk for the emergence and spread of antiviral-resistant viruses and a nationwide monitoring of resistant viruses is desired. To date a new drug application has been submitted in Japan for a novel antiviral compound T-705 (favipiravir), which targets the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase and inhibits the viral replication of influenza viruses. Here, we developed a cell-based screening system to evaluate the susceptibility of influenza viruses to T-705 for antiviral-resistance monitoring. Antiviral activity of T-705 was determined by inhibition of virus-induced cytopathic effect and the susceptibility of the viruses was expressed as 50% effective concentration (EC50). Using our system, we found that T-705 has antiviral activity against NA inhibitor-resistant A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3N2) and B viruses, which possess an H275Y, E119V or D197E substitution in the NA protein, respectively. Next, we examined clinical isolates obtained from clinical trials of T-705. Pairs of A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3N2) and B viruses isolated before and during administration of T-705 were analyzed and there was no virus with reduced susceptibility to T-705 during administration. We found that two of 20 paired A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses and one of 20 paired B viruses possessed a substitution in PB1, PB2 or PA protein during administration, but the susceptibility of the viruses to T-705 was not affected. This study was a collaboration with Dr Yousuke Furuta (Toyama Chemical Co., Ltd., Japan).

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New generation of fusion inhibitors against paramyxoviruses

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Enveloped viruses begin their life cycle with entry into their host target cells. For paramyxoviruses like human parainfluenza virus type 3 (HPIV3) or Nipah virus (NiV), the surface receptor-binding (HN or G) and fusion (F) glycoproteins mediate virion attachment to cells and fusion of the viral and cellular membranes. The HN/G receptor interaction activates the fusion protein via a series of conformational changes leading to the insertion of the fusion peptide into the target membrane. The class I fusion proteins share two heptad-repeat regions in each ectodomain which refold to form an antiparallel six-helix bundle structure allowing the membrane fusion. Peptides derived from the C-terminal repeat (HRC) can interfere with the formation of this six-helix bundle by binding to the transiently exposed N-terminal repeat, and thus block the fusion. The fusion inhibitors discussed here possess three functional groups: a peptide, a linker and a lipid moiety. This design improves penetration into the CNS. Here we show modifications in the amino acid sequence and the linker that considerably improve the efficacy of the fusion inhibitors against NiV and HPIV3 both in vitro and in vivo. The in vivo efficacy of this new generation of lipid-tagged peptides suggests that they are promising candidates for preventing or treating infection by lethal paramyxoviruses.



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Development of a Robust RSV Replicon Assay for High-Throughput Screening

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Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) antiviral discovery has been hindered by the lack of lack of a robust and convenient assay for high-throughput screening (HTS) of large compound libraries. In this paper, we present the development and optimization of a 384-well RSV replicon assay that enabled HTS for RSV replication inhibitors with minimal biocontainment. 0.6 across 200 assay plates and a signal to background ratio of 0.6. Through the use of cryopreserved and enriched replicon cells, assay-ready compound plates, and other optimized assay conditions, the assay was successfully automated with significant improvement in assay signal, reproducibility, and throughput, with calculated Z' >40. A validation screen was performed with 7,000 compounds in duplicate and demonstrated high assay reproducibility. The dose response replicon assay was further validated with different classes of RSV replication inhibitors. The fully optimized RSV replicon assay has enabled multiple HTS campaigns for RSV replication inhibitors and demonstrated high hit confirmation rates. We further combined the RSV replicon and cytotoxicity assays into a novel multiplex assay that delivers RSV replicon and cytotoxicity readouts simultaneously. By taking advantage of the renilla luciferase reporter in RSV replicon which allows live-cell readout prior to measuring cytotoxicity, these two assays were successfully combined as a single assay. This provides a high-quality and cost-saving option to support the lead optimization following the HTS. This multiplex assay format is also translatable to streamline other antiviral assays. In summary, we have developed a robust RSV replicon assay which could help expedite the discovery of novel RSV therapeutics.

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Non-invasive real-time monitoring of Junín virus infection

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Arenavirus Junín (JUNV) is an enveloped virus with a bisegmented negative-stranded RNA genome. JUNV causes Argentine hemorrhagic fever (AHF), a severe illness with hemorrhagic and neurological manifestations and a case fatality rate of up to 15-30%. In addition to its impact on public health, JUNV possesses features that make it suitable as a potential biological weapon. We have recently developed a cDNA-based reverse genetics system for a pathogenic Romero strain of JUNV (rRomero). Based on this system, we have generated plasmid constructs for the rescue of recombinant three-segmented Junin Romero viruses expressing either a luciferase reporter (Luc) (r3Romero-Luc) or green fluorescent protein (GFP) (r3Romero-GFP). Both three-segmented viruses exhibited a delayed growth in Vero cells. r3Romero-Luc and r3Romero-GFP viruses reached high titers; however, their growth was delayed by 24 and ~36 hours, respectively, compared to the parental bi-segmented rRomero virus. To characterize in vivo properties of the three-segmented JUNV we utilized our recently established alpha/beta and gamma interferon receptors deficient mouse model. These mice develop disseminated infection and a severe uniformly lethal disease after infection with JUNV Romero. In contrast, r3Romero-Luc exhibited an attenuated phenotype and we did not observe any disease symptoms in these animals. Replication of this virus was primarily restricted to the spleen and liver as detected by in-vivo imaging system (IVIS) and persisted for at least 14 days p.i. Thus, three-segmented JUNVs that we generated could be potentially used for pathogenesis studies, screening of antiviral compounds that directly target virus replication, and development of live-attenuated vaccines.



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Recombinant adenovirus-based DIVA vaccine protects against virulent peste des petits ruminants virus

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Peste des petits ruminants virus (PPRV) is a morbillivirus that can cause severe disease, characterised by pyrexia, pneumoenteritis, and gastritis in sheep and goats. The socio-economic burden of the disease is increasing in underdeveloped countries, with poor livestock keepers being affected the most. Current vaccines consist of cell-culture attenuated strains of PPRV, which induce similar antibody profiles to that induced by natural infection. Generation of a vaccine which enables differentiation of infected and vaccinated animals (DIVA) would be of huge benefit for eradication programmes. In an effort to create a vaccine that would enable infected animals to be distinguished from vaccinated ones (DIVA vaccine), we have evaluated the immunogenicity of recombinant fowlpox (rFPV) and recombinant human adenovirus (rAd5), expressing PPRV F and H proteins, in goats. The rAd5 constructs induced higher levels of virus-specific and neutralising antibodies, and primed greater numbers of CD8⁺ T cells than the rFPV-vec-tored vaccines in goats. A prolonged antibody response was observed in when the vaccine included rAd5 expressing ovine GM-CSF and IL-2. A single dose of rAd5-H, with or without the addition of the cytokine-expressing constructs, protected animals from challenge with virulent PPRV, 12 weeks after vaccination. These constructs offer the promise of DIVA vaccine capability coupled with greater thermotolerance than the existing vaccines.

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A Microparticle Vaccine Containing the CS3C motif of the RSV G Protein Induces Protection Against RSV Infection in Mice

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Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is the most important cause of serious lower respiratory tract illness in infants and the elderly worldwide. Currently, no safe and efficacious RSV vaccine exists. Progress in our understanding of RSV infection has shown that RSV G protein contains a CX3C chemokine motif that modifies the activity of fractalkine (CX3CL1) affecting immunity and disease pathogenesis. Previous work in our lab has shown that immunization of mice with the central conserved region of the RSV G protein generates antibodies that inhibit G protein CX3C-CX3CR1 interaction and reduce disease pathogenesis. In this study, BALB/c mice were vaccinated with microparticle vaccines produced by layer-by-layer assembly of RSV G protein polypeptides containing the CX3C motif (GA2-MP). The findings show that mice immunized with GA2-MP produced neutralizing antibody responses and strong T cell responses associated with reduced pulmonary virus replication following RSV challenge. Analysis of bronchioalveolar lavages demonstrated that upon RSV challenge mice vaccinated with GA2-MP develop a balance Th1/Th2 response and have increased levels of RSV M2-specific CD8⁺ T cells in the lungs compared to the FI-RSV vaccinated group. Importantly, vaccination was not associated with increased pulmonary eosinophilia following RSV challenge showing that vaccination with the RSV G microparticle vaccines is robust, safe and effective.



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Prime-boost vaccination against highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 using a Newcastle disease virus vector in day-old chicksHelena Lage Ferreira¹, Fabienne Rauw², Jean François Pirlot², Frédéric Reynard³, Thierry van den Berg², Michel Bublot³, Bénédicte Lambrecht²¹ FZEA-USP, Av. Duque de Caxias Norte, 225, Pirassununga – SP, CEP 13635-900, Brazil² CODA-CERVA-VAR, Groeselenberg 99, B-1180 Uccle, Brussels, Belgium³ MERIAL S.A.S., 254 rue Marcel Merieux, 69007 Lyon, France

Avian influenza (AI) vaccines should be used as part of a whole comprehensive AI control program. Vectored vaccines based on Newcastle disease virus (NDV) are very promising but are licensed in a few countries so far. In the present study, the immunogenicity and protection against a highly pathogenic (HP) H5N1 influenza challenge were evaluated after vaccination with an enterotropic NDV vector expressing an H5 hemagglutinin (rNDV-H5) in day-old SPF chickens inoculated once, twice or once followed by a heterologous boost with an inactivated H5N9 vaccine (iH5N9). The heterologous prime-boost rNDV-H5/iH5N9 combination afforded the best level of protection against the H5N1 challenge performed at 6 weeks of age and induced a broader detectable immunity including systemic, mucosal and cellular AI-specific responses. Two rNDV-H5 administrations conferred a good level of protection after challenge, although only a cellular H5-specific response could be detected. Interestingly, a single administration of rNDV-H5 gave the same level of protection as the double administration without any detectable H5-specific immune response detection. In contrast to AI immunity, humoral, mucosal and cellular NDV-specific immunity could be detected after 2, 2 and 4 weeks post vaccination, respectively. Both AI and NDV specific cellular immune responses were slightly higher after the double rNDV-H5 vaccination when compared to the single inoculation. Our results indicate that this enterotropic NDV vector vaccine could be suitable as a bivalent AI and ND vaccine administered in poultry at the hatchery.

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Tyrosine-Kinase Inhibitor (Vandetanib) reduces virus replication and increase survival in a Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome modelBrian H. Bird¹, Punya Shirvastava-Ranjan¹, Bobbie Rae Erickson¹, Kimberley A. Dodd^{1,2}, Christina F. Spiropoulou¹¹ Viral Special Pathogens Branch, Division of High Consequence Pathogens and Pathology, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA 30333² University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, Davis, CA 95616

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) is a severe disease associated with hantavirus infection. High level virus replication occurs in microvascular endothelial cells without pronounced virus-induced cytopathic effects. However, virus infection leads to pronounced microvascular leakage, accompanied by pulmonary and pleural edema and high case fatality. Previously, we demonstrated that infection with Andes virus (ANDV) caused upregulation of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) and concomitant downregulation of the cellular adhesion molecule VE-cadherin leading to increased vascular permeability. Analyses of severe human HPS-patient sera further demonstrated increased circulating VEGF. To further investigate the role of VEGF on HPS pathogenesis, initial in vitro experiments using a VEGF-antagonist tyrosine-kinase inhibitor (vandetanib-VAN) in HMVEC-Lung cells were completed. Potent downregulation of both VEGF where is this coming from? In vivo? and VEGFR-2 receptor phosphorylation following ANDV infection was found. In vivo, VAN treatment in a hamster model of HPS significantly improved survival (VAN 12/40; sham 0/10; $p=0.005$) and reduced mean pleural effusion volumes (VAN 1.1mL; sham 5.1mL). Serial euthanasia studies revealed an unexpected reduction in virus replication and IP-10 chemokine production among VAN treated animals at days 3 and 6 post-infection. Subsequent in vitro studies confirmed VAN reduction of ANDV G2 expression and virus growth and reduced cellular levels of the receptor protein ($\alpha\beta 3$ -Integrin). Thus limiting virus entry and spread via cellular mediated endocytosis. Taken together, these studies demonstrate that tyrosine-kinase inhibitors such as vandetanib can have pluripotent effects on both virus entry via receptor downregulation, and specific antagonism of a known pathogenesis mediator (VEGF) leading to modest but significant gains in survivability.



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Screening and optimization of Respiratory Syncytial Virus fusion inhibitorsVanessa Gaillard¹, Julien Héritier¹, Dominique Garcin², Jean-Manuel Segura¹, Elodie Baechler³, MarcMathieu¹ and Origène Nyanguile¹*1HES-SO Valais, Route du Rawyl 47, 1950 Sion, Switzerland**2University of Geneva, School of Medicine, 1 rue Michel Servet, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland**3Bio-Rad Laboratories, Diamed GmbH, Pra Rond 23, 1785 Cressier FR, Switzerland*

Respiratory syncytial virus infections are one of the leading causes of mortality in infants worldwide and cause a significant hospitalization burden both in the US and in Europe. There is currently only one treatment available, a prophylactic antibody (Synagis/Palivizumab) that is administered only to at risk premature infants because of its highly prohibitive cost. Peptides derived from the heptad repeat (HR) region of the fusion protein F can inhibit virus cell entry into host cell. However, little effort has been devoted to develop such antivirals because of the relatively weak inhibitory activity of the native RSV peptides. This may be due to a poor intrinsic helical content of these peptides and perhaps also because of the kinetics of fusion, which has been showed to considerably differ among paramyxoviruses. Here, we wish to investigate if helix stabilization can increase the inhibitory activity of RSV derived HR peptides. We use the all-hydrocarbon stapled peptide technology with the aim to stabilize the alpha helical configuration of these peptides and improve their pharmacological properties. We have shortened the F HRB domain into three subdomains which are scanned for various stapling combinations. We will present the activity of the resulting peptides in a biochemical fluorescence polarization assay and in a cellular infection assay, as well as a preliminary investigation of the peptide helical content by circular dichroism.

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DNA vaccine provides solid protection in ducks against heterologous H5N1 Avian Influenza Virus challenge

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Ducks play an important role in maintenance of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza viruses (AIV) in nature, and successful control of AIVs in ducks has important implications for eradication of the disease in poultry and its prevention in humans. DNA Vaccine pCAGGoptiHA, which expressing a codon-optimized hemagglutinin (HA) gene of H5N1 virus A/goose/Guangdong/1/1996 (GS/GD/96), induces strong immune response and protective efficacy in chickens and quail. In this study, we evaluated the immunogenicity and protective efficacy of pCAGGoptiHA in ducks. Ten 3-week-old specific pathogen free (SPF) ducks were inoculated with two doses of 30 µg pCAGGoptiHA and their sera were collected weekly for checking the hemagglutinin inhibition (HI) antibody duration. The HI titer reached to 6.8log₂ one week after the second dose of inoculation and then maintained at an average of 4log₂-6.3log₂ during the next 27 weeks. For the challenge study, groups of eight 3-week-old SPF ducks were intramuscularly inoculated two times at 3-week intervals with 30 µg of the plasmid pCAGGoptiHA or PBS as control. The HI antibodies were monitored weekly. Two weeks after the second inoculation, the ducks were challenged with 105EID₅₀ of heterologous highly pathogenic avian influenza virus A/duck/Hubei/49/2005(DK/HB/49) (clade 2.3.4), A/duck/Liaoning/51/2005 (DK/LN/51) (clade 2.2) and A/duck/Guangdong/322/2010 (DK/GD/322) (clade 2.3.2), respectively, by intranasally inoculation. Oropharyngeal and cloacal swabs were collected on days 3, 5 and 7 after inoculation, and ducks were observed daily for disease signs and deaths for two weeks. The HI antibody to the GS/GD/96 virus was detected in all vaccinated ducks after the first vaccination, and increased sharply after the second dose of inoculation. All of the vaccinated ducks were completely protected from the challenge of the DK/HB/49 and DK/LN/51, virus shedding, disease signs, and death were not detected from any birds. In the DK/GD/322 challenged group, one duck shed virus and died at 11 days post challenge. The PBS inoculated ducks died within 7 days after challenge with the H5N1 viruses. These results indicate that the plasmid pCAGGoptiHA can be a candidate vaccine for preventing AIV infection in ducks.



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intranasal Vaccination with Integrase-Defective Lentiviral Vectors encoding Influenza Nucleoprotein Induce Protective ImmunityJ. Fontana¹, Z. Michellini², D. Negri², A. Cara², M. Salvatore¹*1Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, US, 2Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Rome, ITALY*

Vaccines based on highly conserved antigens can provide protection against different influenza A strains and subtypes. Influenza nucleoprotein (NP) is a prominent CD8⁺ and CD4⁺ T cell target of and is >90% conserved among influenza A isolates, so is of interest as vaccine candidates. In this study, we show that integrase-defective lentiviral vectors (ID-LV) express sustained levels of NP capable of inducing robust immune responses that can be exploited for vaccine development. Lentiviral vectors are good inducers of cellular and humoral immunity, but they carry the potential risk of integration into the host genome. Instead, ID-LV have a mutation in the integrase gene that prevents genomic integration. Therefore they are stably retained in the nucleus as episomal circular DNA that expresses functional proteins in the context of a non-replicating and non-integrating virus. ID-LV expressing NP (ID-LV-NP) were made by three plasmids co-transfection into 293T cells. NP expression in vitro was confirmed by flow cytometry and Western blot. Administration of ID-LV-NP induced persistent NP-specific CTL and serum antibody responses in mice, as measured by IFN- γ ELISPOT and ELISA assays. Mice receiving two intranasal doses of ID-LV-NP were fully protected against homologous and heterologous challenge with influenza A virus (10 LD₅₀) and showed no sign of disease. Partial protection was seen after intramuscular immunization with ID-LV-NP following prime with NP-expressing DNA or ID-LV-NP, but mice exhibited marked weight loss. This study supports the potential use of ID-LV-based vaccines for protection against influenza virus infection, possibly due to induction of mucosal immunity.

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Development of Recombinant Canine Distemper Virus (rCDV) Vectors for SIV/HIV Vaccine Delivery

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Live-attenuated viral vaccines have controlled infectious viral diseases like smallpox, yellow fever, polio, and measles. However, developing a live HIV vaccine is not practical due to the highly mutable nature of the virus. We aim to harness safe and efficacious live-attenuated morbilliviruses to develop vectored HIV vaccines. Replicating rCDV was chosen to utilize its lymphotropism to promote vaccine delivery to lymphoid tissues, and to minimize potential effects of pre-existing measles virus immunity. To use the SIV model, we have rescued rCDV vectors expressing soluble or membrane-anchored Envelope (Env) or Gag with and without its myristoylation signal. Ferrets or macaques vaccinated with the rCDV vectors experienced no adverse effects after intranasal instillation of 1×10^7 PFU. Vector replication and anti-SIV immune responses were observed in both species. In a small study, 2 macaques were primed intranasally with rCDV vectors encoding soluble Env and myristoylation-positive Gag after which they were boosted intramuscularly with Ad5-SIV vaccines. Following rCDV immunization, Env antibody titers were observed in serum, which were boosted by Ad5-Env immunization. Gag responses were relatively low. The animals were challenged with SIVmac239, and an approximate 2-log lower set-point plasma virus load was observed in the 2 macaques vaccinated with rCDV vectors and Ad5-SIV when compared to an animal that was vaccinated only with Ad5-SIV. These results demonstrated that intranasal rCDV vaccination was safe for macaques, the vectors were immunogenic, and immunization provided increased control over SIV replication; therefore, a larger study has commenced to evaluate protective immunity induced by rCDV vectors.



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280 Vaccination with recombinant PIV5 expressing influenza antigens provides diverse immunity and protection against homologous and

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Vaccination is considered the most effective measure for controlling influenza virus, however current vaccination methods are inadequate. Virus-vectored vaccines offer an appealing alternative. Parainfluenza virus 5 (PIV5), a non-segmented, negative-stranded RNA virus in the family Paramyxoviridae is an attractive vector candidate as it has a stable genome without a DNA phase in its lifecycle, is readily grown to high titers in approved vaccine cell lines, and infects many mammals without causing disease. Influenza vaccines expressing variety of proteins from influenza, including hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA) surface glycoproteins, and nucleoprotein (NP), a highly conserved internal protein have been shown to variably protect against influenza virus infection. Here we demonstrate the utility and efficacy of PIV5-vectored vaccines expressing different influenza antigens. We show that a single immunization with PIV5 expressing the HA from H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) induces potent neutralizing antibody responses and protects against a lethal homologous virus challenge. Similarly, immunization with PIV5 expressing the NA antigen from H1N1 or H5N1 influenza induces neuraminidase-inhibiting antibodies and T cell responses, which protect against lethal challenge with homologous and heterosubtypic influenza virus. Finally, we demonstrate that immunization with PIV5 expressing influenza NP induces potent T cell responses and protects against homologous (H5N1) and heterosubtypic (H1N1) influenza virus challenge. Thus, PIV5-vectored vaccines offer diverse and effective means for inducing potent and broadly reactive immune responses to protect against seasonal and pandemic influenza infections. Details on mechanism of action, options for administration, and applications for agricultural and human health are discussed..

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Virus-like Particles as Vaccines for Paramyxoviruses

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Human use vaccines are available for only two of the many highly pathogenic paramyxoviruses, namely for measles and mumps. For several others, such as RSV, hMPV and hPIV3, and the highly lethal zoonotic Nipah virus (NiV), vaccines are much needed. We have made NiV-like particles (NiV-VLPs) composed of the two surface glycoproteins, and the matrix protein, all three retaining their native properties. We have reported the vaccine potential of these particles by showing that they had many virus-like features such as their dense, ordered and repetitive surface structure; their syncytiogenic property with potential implications for vaccine potency; and their ability to induce neutralizing antibody response. We are now taking this work to the next stage by undertaking protective efficacy studies. In further work, we have produced other NiV-VLP vaccine candidates that include additional viral components such as the N protein. The rationale for these latter compositions is the fact that in some closely related paramyxoviruses like measles virus, these internal components are known to modulate host innate immunity which may impact on type and duration of adaptive immunity and protection conferred by a VLP vaccine. The significance and added value of this research is that the knowledge gained through these studies will refine and direct the development of VLP vaccines for other paramyxoviruses such as RSV. To this end, we have made RSV VLPs and tested them in vitro, and in the cotton rat model of RSV disease for adaptive immunity and protection from challenge.



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The human respiratory syncytial virus (hRSV) is an ubiquitous pathogen that causes severe lower respiratory tract infection worldwide

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The human respiratory syncytial virus (hRSV) is an ubiquitous pathogen that causes severe lower respiratory tract infection worldwide in young infants as well as in elderly or immunosuppressed adults. The lack of knowledge of its replication mechanisms is a limit for the development of specific antiviral drugs. We have set up a reverse genetic system for hRSV based on coexpression of L, P, N and M2-1 proteins and a complete hRSV antigenome of RSV long strain in BSRT7 cells. Different restriction sites were inserted at intergenic regions allowing easy modification of hRSV genome. We successfully rescued a wild type hRSV recombinant virus and recombinant hRSV expressing mCherry or firefly luciferase. These viruses were shown to be stable and to grow almost as well as the parental virus. Expression of mCherry is correlated to infection rate, allows the monitoring of RSV multiplication in cell culture and can be measured in 96 wells cell culture plate using a fluorimeter. Such in vitro fluorescent assay will be useful to screen antiviral molecules or to study seroneutralization. Luciferase expressing RSV is under characterization but may be even more sensitive for these applications. Mice were challenged with recombinant hRSV and hRSV-mCherry. Pulmonary viral loads, measured by q-RT-PCR, were not significantly different whether mice were infected by recombinant wild type hRSV or hRSV-mCherry. Replication of luciferase virus in mice is under evaluation. These recombinant viruses may be useful to detect infected cells in vivo and to monitor the efficiency of antiviral strategies in mouse model.

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An eight segments swine influenza virus harbouring H1 and H3 hemagglutinins as a LAIV candidate for pigs

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Swine influenza virus (SIV) infections cause significant economic loss in the pork industry and poses public health concern. Currently used SIV vaccines for pigs are killed and their protection efficiency in the field is limited. Considering a pandemic potential of a novel influenza viruses resulting from gene reassortment in pigs, the importance of a vaccination is highlighted as the most effective countermeasure. Live attenuated influenza vaccines (LAIV) provide strong, long-lived, cell mediated and humoral immunity against different influenza subtypes without need for perfect antigen matching. Here we report a generation of new potential LAIV, an eight segment SIV harbouring two different SIV hemagglutinins (H1 and H3) by fusing the H3 HA ectodomain with the cytoplasmic tail, transmembrane domain and stalk region of NA of H1N1 SIV. This H1H3 chimeric SIV showed similar kinetics and growth properties to parental wild type virus in vitro when exogenous neuraminidase is provided. However the H1H3 chimeric SIV was highly attenuated in pigs, demonstrating the great potential to serve as LAIV with broad protection.



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Analysis of Complete Genome Sequences of Bovine Parainfluenza Virus Type 3 BN-1 and Vaccine Strain BN-CE for Reverse Genetics

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In recent years, advanced in reverse genetics technology have enable a number of negative-strand RNA viruses to be genetically modified so that they can utilize as vaccine vectors expressing foreign antigens. Bovine parainfluenza virus type 3 (BPIV3) is enveloped, nonsegmented negative-strand RNA virus of the genus *Respirovirus* in the family *Paramyxoviridae*. The viral RNA genome of BPIV3 is an approximately 15 kbp in length and encodes N, P, M, F, HN and L proteins. The BPIV3 strain, BN-1, isolated from cattle in Japan and attenuated by serial cell culture passages in chicken embryo fibroblast, resulting in the BN-CE strain. The attenuated BN-CE strain has been used as safety live-vaccine for cattle in Japan. To develop a novel recombinant BPIV3 by reverse genetics, which stably expresses various antigens derived from the pathogens of cattle (e.g. envelope proteins of bovine viral diarrhea virus), we initially determined the complete genome sequence of the BN-1 and BN-CE strains. The complete genome of the BN-1 and BN-CE were each 15,480 bp. Phylogenetic analysis classified both strains into genotype A. When the complete genome sequence of the BN-CE strain was compared with that of the parental BN-1 strain, six nucleotide mutations were detected in the BN-CE genome and amino acid changes were also identified, including a leucine-to-isoleucine change at position 287 in F gene and a cysteine-to-serine change at position 387 in L gene. Based on the complete genome sequences of BPIV3, our current study works on the recovery of an infectious BPIV3 from cDNA.

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2'-Fluoro-2'-deoxypurineriboside ProTides: a step forward towards developing influenza virus polymerase inhibitors

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The potential use of nucleoside analogues as inhibitors of influenza virus is hardly explored. We here determined the inhibitory effect of various base- or ribose-modified GTP derivatives on influenza virus polymerase, using an RNA elongation assay with virion-derived viral ribonucleoproteins (vRNP). The most potent inhibitors of [8-³H]-GTP incorporation were 7-deaza-GTP (IC₅₀: 4.1 μM) and 2'-fluoro-2'-deoxy-GTP (IC₅₀: 3.7 μM). 7-Deaza-GTP proved to be an efficient alternative substrate, while 2'-fluoro-2'-deoxy-GTP acted as chain terminator. This explains the anti-influenza virus activity of 2'-fluoro-2'-deoxyguanosine (FdG) in vitro and in vivo, as reported by others. To improve its intracellular disposition and activation, we applied the double prodrug approach, combining a ProTide motif for direct delivery of the nucleoside 5'-monophosphate and a 6-O-modified guanine to increase lipophilicity and cellular uptake. Several 6-O-Me, 6-O-Et or 6-Cl-modified FdG ProTides displayed activity in a PCR-based virus yield assay (EC₉₉: ~12 μM). Similar data were obtained in the vRNP reconstitution assay, a cell-based viral polymerase inhibition test. The parent nucleoside analogues were inactive at 100-200 μM. Metabolism experiments with carboxypeptidase Y or whole cell lysates showed that the FdG ProTides are readily cleaved to release the 6-O-modified FdG-5'-monophosphate. Efficient removal of the 6-O-substituent on the guanine part was suggested by enzymatic studies with adenosine deaminase, and by molecular docking into a model of ADAL1. Our results set the stage for developing novel ProTide inhibitors of influenza virus, using any of the successful substitutions examined here (i.e. 2'-fluoro; 7-deazaguanine or a 6-O-modified guanine) as a relevant starting point. [Meneghesso, ChemMedChem., 2013]



NICLOSAMIDE AND CURCUMIN ARE POTENT INHIBITORS OF ARENAVIRUS INFECTION

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Viral hemorrhagic fevers by arenaviruses are devastating emerging human diseases. The lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV) is the prototypic member of the arenavirus family. Currently, no FDA approved vaccine or drugs are available against arenaviruses, with the exception of Ribavirin, with limited efficacy. Small molecules with already known mechanisms of action against pathogens are attractive candidates against arenavirus infections. Curcumin is a small compound isolated from the spice turmeric. It has a variety of beneficial properties, including antiinflammatory and chemotherapeutic activities. Curcumin is also known as anti-viral via different mechanisms of action. Other small organic compounds extracted from plants (e.g. green tea catechins) have antiviral properties. Niclosamide is a FDA approved drug against helminthes with antiviral activity due to its ability to deplete endosomal proton gradients. Here, we show that curcumin and niclosamide are potent inhibitors of LCMV. Curcumin shows virucidal activity against LCMV with micromolar range IC50. It blocks LCMV primary infections and reduces virus cell-to-cell propagation. Similarly, niclosamide potently blocks LCMV infection by interference with the entry step of the virus life cycle. The mechanism of action relies on the ability to negatively tune the pH of late endosomes where LCMV fusion takes place. Low cost drugs such as curcumin and niclosamide that can be delivered orally and stored at room temperature in tropical climates may represent promising antiarenavirus candidates.

Generation and evaluation of recombinant, live-attenuated Edmonston-Zagreb measles viruses which express EGFP

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We generated a reverse genetics system for the live-attenuated measles virus (MV) strain Edmonston-Zagreb (EZ) allowing recovery of recombinant (r)MVEZ. MVEZ is widely used as a vaccine and is currently being evaluated by WHO for aerosol measles vaccination. Introduction of the open reading frame encoding EGFP within an additional transcriptional unit (ATU) at the promoter-proximal position of rMVEZ, or between the phospho- and matrix protein encoding genes allowed the generation of rMVEZEGFP(1) and rMVEZEGFP(3), respectively. Intratracheal inoculation of macaques (n=3 per virus) with 104 TCID50 showed that serum antibody responses in animals vaccinated with rMVEZEGFP(1) were lower and delayed compared to those in animals vaccinated with rMVEZEGFP(3). This led to the question of whether rMVEZEGFP(3) was the optimal virus for vaccination studies, or if a virus expressing EGFP from a more promoter-distal position in the genome would be even better. A third virus, rMVEZEGFP(6), containing an identical ATU between the hemagglutinin and large protein encoding genes was generated. Macaques (n=3 for rMVEZEGFP(3) and n=6 rMVEZEGFP(6)) were infected with 104 TCID50 of each virus by intratracheal inoculation. MV was isolated from broncho-alveolar lavage samples from all animals inoculated with rMVEZEGFP(3), but only four of the animals inoculated with rMVEZEGFP(6). Although all animals seroconverted by day 24 post-vaccination, three of the animals inoculated with rMVEZEGFP(6) did not develop neutralizing antibodies. All animals inoculated with rMVEZEGFP(3) developed neutralizing antibodies and serum responses were comparable to animals vaccinated with non recombinant MVEZ indicating that rMVEZEGFP(3) is the optimal virus for vaccination studies.



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Evaluation of avian paramyxovirus serotype 2-10 as vaccine vectors for chickens pre-immunized against Newcastle disease virus

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Newcastle disease virus (NDV), also known as avian paramyxovirus (APMV) serotype 1, is used as a vector for avian influenza (AI) vaccines. However, NDV vector cannot be used for an emergency vaccination against AI in chickens because commercial chickens often possess pre-existing immunity against NDV induced by a routine vaccination. Therefore, a novel vector should be developed for an emergency vaccination against AI in chickens to control severe AI outbreaks. We hypothesize that APMV serotype 2-10 can be candidates for such vectors because it is likely that they are, like NDV, suitable for mass vaccination through spray or drinking water and induce immune responses in mucosal tissues where AI viruses primarily replicate. Here, we evaluated the immunogenicity and replication of APMVs in chickens under pre-existing immunity against NDV. Results showed that, among APMV serotype 2-10, viruses of serotype 2, 6, and 10 were less cross-reactive to antibodies against NDV in hemagglutination inhibition and virus neutralization tests. Virus replication in mucosal tissues as well as antibody response after oculonasal inoculation was observed when two-week-old chicks were challenged with APMVs of serotype 2, 6, and 10. They also replicated in mucosal tissues and induced antibody responses in chickens that were vaccinated twice with NDV prior to the challenge. These results warrants further study to develop vaccine vectors based on APMV serotype 2, 6, 10 for emergency vaccination against AI in chickens.

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A novel antiviral compound displays potential broad-spectrum activity through a dual mechanism of action.

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Influenza viruses continue to pose a major public health threat worldwide and options for antiviral therapy are limited by the emergence of drug-resistant virus strains. Additionally, the repertoire of drugs currently licensed for treatment of influenza act through a limited range of mechanisms. Namely: inhibition of the neuraminidase enzyme, by oseltamivir and zanamivir; or blocking of the M2 ion channel, by the adamantanes. Combination therapies, as exemplified by antiretroviral therapy, are likely to become the paradigm for treating a range of viral infections, including influenza. Targeting virus replication via multiple mechanisms will help limit the emergence of resistant viruses and subsequently extend the lifespan of drugs. For this purpose novel compounds with a more diverse range of antiviral mechanisms are needed. A cell-based, single-cycle assay was used to identify potential inhibitors of influenza virus replication. We describe a novel compound, M7, which inhibits the replication of influenza A and B viruses, as well as non-segmented negative sense RNA viruses. Further to its broad-spectrum properties M7 acts on two independent stages of the virus life cycle. In pseudotyped-particle entry assays M7 demonstrates activity as an entry inhibitor, while efficacy in minigenome assays indicates an ability to inhibit viral polymerase activity. This suggests that M7 inhibits the replication of a diverse range of viruses through two mechanisms, most likely by targeting a cellular function involved in both stages. A drug with broad-spectrum properties and a dual mechanism of action could prove invaluable in the combination therapy approach to treating virus infection.



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Two new broadly neutralizing human antibodies binding to the highly conserved stem-epitope of Influenza A hemagglutinin

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Influenza A viruses can rapidly mutate their antigenic structures as strategy to escape pre-existing immunity. Vaccines to influenza therefore only protect against the immunizing or closely related strains, and have to be annually reformulated. A universal vaccine that induces broad immunity against multiple subtypes of influenza A viruses, including newly emerging strains, is a long-sought goal in medical research. To date, different human monoclonal heterosubtypic antibodies (mhAb) recognizing more than one hemagglutinin (HA) subtype have been isolated. Crystal structures revealed that these mhAbs mainly interact with the stem region of HA. Most mhAbs only neutralized either group 1 or group 2 viruses. However, two clones with neutralizing activity against viruses from both phylogenetic groups have been recently described. To extend the knowledge about universal HA epitopes, a phage display Fab library was prepared from the immune repertoire of a single donor. Using a proprietary selection procedure, we obtained a set of Fab clones displaying distinct HA cross-reactivity patterns. The two most promising candidates neutralized viruses from group 1 (mhAb 3.1) or both group 1 and group 2 (mhAb 1.12) subtypes, with mhAb 1.12 being broad neutralizing all tested subtypes (H1 to H15). Crystal structure, kinetic properties and mode of action were analyzed for both clones, defining the recognized epitope as the highly conserved HA2 stem region. At present, a novel generation of immunogens capable of eliciting protective heterosubtypic antibodies to a broad spectrum of Influenza A viruses is in development. This work was financed by Swiss National Science Foundation grant PP00P3_123429

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Antiviral susceptibilities of A(H3N2)v, A(H1N1)v, A(H1N2)v influenza viruses isolated from humans in the United States in 2011-2Katrina Sleeman, Vasilij P. Mishin, Zhu Guo, Rebecca J. Garten, Amanda Balish, Julie Villanueva, James Stevens, and Larisa V. Gubareva *Virus Surveillance and Diagnosis Branch, Influenza Division, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA*

Since 2011, outbreaks caused by variant influenza A viruses with evidence of limited human-to-human transmission have become a public health concern. Except for a single A(H1N2)v virus, all variant viruses tested shared the A(H1N1)pdm09 M gene containing the marker of M2 blocker resistance, S31N. To assess susceptibilities to FDA-approved (oseltamivir and zanamivir) and other (peramivir, laninamivir, and A-315675) neuraminidase (NA) inhibitors (NAIs), viruses were tested in the fluorescent NA inhibition (NI) assay. All recovered A(H3N2)v viruses (n=156), with the exception of a single virus, A/Ohio/88/2012, isolated from an untreated patient, as well as all A(H1N2)v and A(H1N1)v viruses were susceptible to the NAIs tested. The A/Ohio/88/2012 A(H3N2)v virus showed 35-, 65-, and 7-fold reduced inhibition by oseltamivir, zanamivir, and laninamivir, respectively, when compared to the other A(H3N2)v viruses. Two rare substitutions were identified in the NA of A/Ohio/88/2012, S245N and S247P. Recombinant NA proteins containing these substitutions, alone or in combination, were tested. The presence of S247P alone and in combination with S245N was accompanied by ~60% reduction in NA activity and elevated IC50s to oseltamivir, zanamivir, and laninamivir. Using cell culture based assays the antiviral agents, favipiravir (T-705) and DAS181, were shown to inhibit replication of variant influenza viruses, including A/Ohio/88/2012. The findings reported here demonstrate the necessity of continued surveillance for the identification of newly emergent influenza variants and the monitoring of their susceptibility to antiviral medications.



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Rapid strategy for screening by pyrosequencing of influenza reassortants for

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Center for Disease Control and Prevention Rapid strategy for screening by pyrosequencing of influenza reassortants for generation of live attenuated Vaccines Virus Surveillance and Diagnosis Branch, Influenza Division, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Live attenuated influenza vaccine viruses (LAIVs) can be generated by classical reassortment of gene segments between a cold-adapted (ca), temperature-sensitive (ts) and attenuated (att) master donor virus (MDV) and a seasonal wild type (wt) virus. The vaccine candidates contain six viral genes from the MDV strain, and hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA) genes derived from the circulating wt virus (6:2 genomic composition). Fast and effective selection of viruses with the 6:2 genomic compositions from the large number of genetic variations generated during reassortment is essential for the annual production schedule of vaccine seed viruses. This study describes a new pyrosequencing-based approach for genotypic analysis LAIV reassortant clones. We created LAIV candidate viruses A/Ohio/02/2012(H3N2)-CDC-LV3A and B/Texas/06/2011-CDC-LV2B by classical reassortment of A/Ohio/02/2012 (H3N2) with MDV A/Leningrad/134/17/57 (H2N2), and B/Texas/06/2011(Yamagata lineage) with MDV B/USSR/60/69. Using strain-specific pyrosequencing assays designed for viral genes, we were able to detect a mixed virus genotypes in the allantoic fluid during the cloning process, which allowed semi-quantitative assessment of the relative abundances of segment variants in mixed populations. This approach was used in selecting specific clones for subsequent cloning procedures. The present study demonstrates that pyrosequencing analysis is a useful technique for rapid and reliable genotyping of reassortants and intermediate clones during the preparation of LAIV candidates, and can expedite the generation of vaccines.

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A 900,000 small molecule screen reveals potent anti-influenza and broad-spectrum antiviral compounds.

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Increasing resistance of seasonal and pandemic influenza A viruses to current antiviral drugs licensed for clinical use has emphasized the need for development of new anti-influenza compounds. Therefore, an ultra-high throughput screen was performed to identify novel small molecule inhibitors of influenza virus replication. The screen assay employed a recombinant influenza A/WSN/33 virus containing the Renilla luciferase gene in place of the influenza HA gene and utilized a MDCK cell line stably expressing the influenza HA protein to support multi-cycle viral replication. The screen yielded a hit-rate of 0.5%, of which the vast majority show little cytotoxicity at the inhibitory concentration. The top 5 compounds from this screen have demonstrated impressive anti-influenza activity, each having an IC₅₀ in the nanomolar range. Further, two of our top leads appear to have broad-spectrum potential with each inhibiting disparate viruses such as those with negative-strand RNA or double-stranded DNA genomes. Finally, we have begun to elucidate the mechanism of action of the top 5 compounds, with two of the influenza-specific compounds inhibiting the function of the influenza virus NP protein via differing mechanisms and another inhibiting HA-mediated membrane fusion. Of the broad-spectrum leads, we have found one to inhibit the de novo pyrimidine synthesis pathway while the other clearly acts through another mechanism and presents a very interesting pattern of viral specificity. This high-throughput screen has yielded many promising new lead compounds, which we hope will shed light on the molecular mechanisms of viral infection and potentially be developed for future clinical use.

**Antibody-mediated inhibition of Marburg virus budding**

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The envelope glycoprotein (GP) of Marburg virus is responsible for virus entry into host cells and known as the only target of neutralizing antibodies. In general, it is believed that neutralizing antibodies inhibit GP-mediated entry of MARV into host cells. Here, we report that MARV GP-specific monoclonal antibodies AGP127-8 and MGP72-17, which do not show neutralizing activity, drastically reduced the budding and release of progeny viruses from infected cells. These antibodies similarly inhibited the formation of virus-like particles (VLPs), whereas the Fab fragment of AGP127-8 showed no inhibitory effect. Morphological analyses revealed that filamentous VLPs were bunched on the surface of VLP-producing cells cultured in the presence of the antibodies. In order to identify the antibody epitopes, we selected escape mutants of chimeric vesicular stomatitis virus expressing MARV GP by using AGP127-8 and MGP72-17. Sequence analyses determining mutations introduced in variant GPs indicated that the epitopes of AGP127-8 and MGP72-17 were located in amino acid positions 411-430, near the furin cleavage site at the C-terminus of GP1 subunit of MARV GP. The present study demonstrates a novel mechanism of the antibody-mediated inhibition of MARV infection, in which antibodies arrest unreleased virus particles on the cell surface. Our data lead to the idea that budding inhibition antibodies contribute to protective immunity against MARV and that the “classical” neutralizing activity is not the only indicator of a protective antibody that may be available for prophylactic and therapeutic use.



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In Vitro and In Vivo Evaluation of DHODH as a Host Target for Antiviral Drug Development

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Several phenotypic antiviral screens were performed to identify chemical starting points for drug discovery targeting multiple respiratory viruses. Among the hits were a subset of compounds that lost activity when uridine was added to the test media suggesting that pyrimidine biosynthesis pathway was part of their antiviral mechanism. These compounds belonged to the quinoline (QNL) and the tetrahydroindazole (THI) chemical classes with structural similarities to brequinar (BRE) and leflunomide (LEF), two known/marketed inhibitors of dihydroorotate dehydrogenase (DHODH), a key enzyme in this pathway. These compounds showed potent antiviral activity against Flu A and B, RSV and PIV and inhibited DHODH in enzymatic assays. However, they also inhibited cell growth resulting in a narrow therapeutic index. Antiviral activity of BRE, LEF and our lead QNL compound was evaluated in an influenza A mouse model. BRE and LEF were administered at doses previously shown to be active in mouse models of other diseases. None of the three compounds showed any signs of antiviral activity *in vivo*. However, there were signs of toxic effects in mice confirming that the compounds had reached pharmacologically active levels. DHODH inhibitors are readily identified in phenotypic screens. However, approved DHODH inhibitors are not commonly used as antivirals. We evaluated DHODH inhibitors identified in antiviral screens and confirmed their *in vitro* antiviral activity. However, the established immunomodulatory effects of DHODH inhibitors, their poor cytotoxicity profile, their loss of antiviral efficacy in presence of biologically-relevant uridine levels and lack of *in vivo* activity indicates that their development as potential antiviral drugs is limited.

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In ovo administration of chimeric recombinant Newcastle disease virus expressing VP2 protein of infectious bursal disease virus

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The protection of poultry from the highly virulent infectious bursal disease virus (IBDV) and Newcastle disease virus (NDV) can be achieved through vaccination. We generated a chimeric virus with the L gene of Clone-30 and a recombinant chimeric virus expressing the VP2 protein of IBDV. The safety and efficacy of the recombinant chimeric viruses were evaluated. No significant changes in the hatchability and global survival rate were observed after vaccination with the rLaC30L-VP2 vaccines at doses of 104.5 mean embryo infectious doses (EID₅₀) compared to phosphate-buffered saline (PBS)-inoculated embryos. The rLaC30L-VP2 construct induced the production of anti-IBDV and anti-NDV in specific pathogen-free (SPF) birds at one week post hatch. At 22 days post hatch, administration of rLaC30L-VP2 provided 100% protection against highly stringent lethal challenge by NDV and 83.3% protection against very virulent IBDV (vvIBDV) in SPF chickens, with 100% protection of broilers. The rLaC30L-VP2 construct was the most safe and effective vaccine against NDV and IBDV among three vaccines in this study. We propose that this vaccine has potential as an *in ovo*, attenuated, bivalent live vaccine against infectious bursal disease and Newcastle disease viruses.



NIAID RESOURCES FOR THE GLOBAL RESEARCH COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF NEW VACCINES AND ANTIVIRALS FOR SEVERE VIRAL INFECTIONS

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The U.S. Government supports R&D programs to develop new diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics to improve options for the control of severe human and animal infections caused by negative-strand RNA viruses (NSV). NIAID issues solicitations for proposals to fund product development projects for areas of unmet medical needs through grant and contract awards. NIAID has also implemented pre-clinical services (PCS) programs designed to support qualified researchers in academics, non-profits, and industry who are engaged in discovery, early translational development, and evaluation of new vaccine and antiviral candidates. These PCS programs support the development of new approaches and technologies for diagnostics, universal vaccines, and broad-based therapeutics, as well as the traditional one-bug, one-vaccine, one-drug approaches for detection, prevention, and treatment of viral infections. Support services range from proof-of-concept studies in vitro and in animal models of infection to human safety and efficacy testing of the most promising vaccine and therapeutics candidates. These support services are part of a larger NIAID effort to build a comprehensive set of research resources and services to facilitate global efforts to develop the next generation of diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics to control emerging infectious diseases and biodefense agents. Investigators interested in more information should review the information provided at <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/labsandresources/resources/dmid/Pages/default.aspx> and contact us.

Real-time monitoring of RSV viral replication in BALB/c mice through detection of luciferase expression using the IVIS® Spectrum

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The murine model is widely used for efficacy testing of RSV vaccine candidates. In the classical application of this model, RSV titer is assessed by culture of virus from lung tissue at the time points of interest. A key limitation of this approach is the large number of animals required as well as time and labor needed for the associated assays, particularly if the goal is to monitor replication kinetics over time. To address this limitation, we have generated a recombinant RSV expressing firefly luciferase (RSV/luc), which has allowed us to monitor RSV-mediated luciferase expression using the IVIS® Spectrum in vivo imaging system as a surrogate for viral replication without the need for animal sacrifice. Following infection of mice with 10⁶ PFU, RSV/luc demonstrated similar growth kinetics to the wild type virus based on standard culture techniques, with peak replication on days 4 - 5 post-infection and clearance by day 7. Luciferase expression mirrored culturable RSV/luc virus titer in the lung; however, luciferase expression was a more sensitive measure of virus replication. Luciferase expression was detected as early as day 1 post infection and as late as day 7 post-infection, whereas both the wild type virus and RSV/luc were only detectable until day 6 using standard culture methods. Taking into account the wild type-like replication of RSV/luc in mice, the sensitivity of luciferase detection, and the substantial reduction in mouse number and labor, the use of RSV/luc in combination with the IVIS® Spectrum in vivo imager is an attractive alternative to classical methods for RSV vaccine efficacy testing in the murine model.



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Protective Efficacy of Neutralizing Monoclonal Antibodies in a Nonhuman Primate Model of Ebola Hemorrhagic FeverReiko Yoshida¹, Andrea Marzi², Yasuhiko Suzuki¹, Manabu Igarashi¹, Friederike Feldmann³, Douglas Brining⁴, Heinz Feldmann², and Ayato Takada¹

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Ebola virus (EBOV) is the causative agent of severe hemorrhagic fever in primates, with human case fatality rates up to 90%. Today, there is neither a licensed vaccine nor a treatment available for Ebola hemorrhagic fever. We previously reported that passive immunization with monoclonal antibodies (MAbs) specific to EBOV glycoprotein protected mice and guinea pigs from a lethal EBOV challenge. In this study, we genetically modified two clones of neutralizing MAbs to create human-mouse chimeric MAbs ch133 and ch226 and evaluated their protective potential in a rhesus macaque model of lethal EBOV infection. Reduced viral loads and partial protection were observed in animals given MAbs ch133 and ch226 combined intravenously at 24 hours before and 24 and 72 hours after challenge. MAbs circulated in the blood of a surviving animal until virus-induced IgG responses were detected. In contrast, serum MAb concentrations decreased to undetectable levels at terminal stages of disease in animals that succumbed to infection, indicating substantial consumption of these antibodies due to virus replication. Accordingly, the rapid decrease of serum MAbs was clearly associated with increased viremia in non-survivors. Our results indicate that EBOV neutralizing antibodies may be beneficial in reducing viral loads and prolonging disease progression during Ebola hemorrhagic fever.

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A replication-incompetent influenza virus bearing the HN glycoprotein of human parainfluenza virus as a bivalent vaccineHirofumi Kobayashi¹, Kiyoko Iwatsuki-Horimoto¹, Maki Kiso¹, Ryuta Uraki¹, Yurie Ichiko¹, Toru Takimoto², Yoshihiro Kawaoka^{1,3,4,5}

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Influenza virus and human parainfluenza virus (HPIV) are major causes of acute respiratory illness in young children. Inactivated and live attenuated influenza vaccines are approved in several countries, but no vaccine is licensed for HPIV. We previously showed that a replication-incompetent PB2-knockout (PB2-KO) virus that possesses a reporter gene in the coding region of the PB2 segment can serve as a platform for a bivalent vaccine. To develop a bivalent vaccine against influenza and parainfluenza virus, here, we generated a PB2-KO virus possessing the hemagglutinin-neuraminidase (HN) glycoprotein of HPIV type 3 (HPIV3), a major surface antigen of HPIV, in its PB2 segment. We confirmed that this virus replicated only in PB2-expressing cells and expressed HN. We then examined the efficacy of this virus as a bivalent vaccine in a hamster model. High levels of virus-specific IgG antibodies in sera and IgA, IgG, and IgM antibodies in bronchoalveolar lavage fluids against both influenza virus and HPIV3 were detected from hamsters immunized with this virus. The neutralizing capability of the serum antibodies was also confirmed. Moreover, the immunized hamsters were completely protected from virus challenge with influenza virus or HPIV3. These results indicate that PB2-KO virus expressing the HN of HPIV3 has the potential to be a novel bivalent vaccine against influenza and human parainfluenza viruses.



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Mutational analysis of the binding pockets of the diketo acid inhibitor L-742,001 in the influenza virus PA endonuclease

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The influenza virus PA endonuclease, which cleaves capped host pre-mRNAs to initiate synthesis of viral mRNA, is a prime target for antiviral therapy. The diketo acid compound L-742,001 was previously identified as a potent inhibitor of the influenza virus endonuclease reaction, but information on its precise binding mode to PA or its potential resistance profile is limited. Computer-assisted docking of L-742,001 into the crystal structure of inhibitor-free N-terminal PA (PA-Nter) indicated a binding orientation distinct from that seen in a recent crystallographic study with L-742,001-bound PA-Nter. A comprehensive mutational analysis was performed to determine which amino acid changes within the catalytic center of PA or its surrounding hydrophobic pockets, alter the antiviral sensitivity to L-742,001 in cell culture. Marked (up to 20-fold) resistance to L-742,001 was observed for the H41A, I120T and G81F/V/T mutant forms of PA. Two- to threefold resistance was seen for the T20A, L42T and V122T mutants, and the R124Q and Y130A mutants were threefold more sensitive to L-742,001. Several mutations situated at non-catalytic sites in PA had no or only marginal impact on the enzymatic functionality of viral ribonucleoprotein complexes reconstituted in cell culture, consistent with the less conserved nature of these PA residues. Our data provide relevant insight into the binding mode of L-742,001 in the PA endonuclease active site. In addition, we predict some potential resistance sites to be taken into account during optimization of PA endonuclease inhibitors towards tight binding in any of the hydrophobic pockets surrounding the catalytic center of the enzyme.

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Investigating the functionality and antigenicity of chimeric lyssavirus glycoproteins and their neutralisation profiles

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Rabies, the archetypal lyssavirus, is one of the most feared viruses known to man and globally, is the cause of more than 50,000 deaths per year. Alongside rabies virus, numerous related lyssaviruses exist that are also capable of causing fatal clinical disease consistent with that seen following infection with rabies virus. Whilst the human burden of these viruses remains unknown, fatalities have been reported. The lyssavirus glycoprotein is the sole target for virus neutralising antibodies and several amino acid epitopes have been linked to virus neutralisation. Lyssaviruses are genetically and antigenically categorised into phylogroups that indicate the level of protection afforded by current vaccines. It is generally accepted that an antibody response to the currently available rabies vaccines affords protection against all viruses that are categorised into phylogroup I. However, this antibody response does not protect against lyssavirus species within phylogroups II and III. Indeed, experimental data has shown that the antibody repertoire induced by rabies virus vaccines is completely unable to neutralise viruses in these phylogroups. In this study we have generated lentivirus pseudotypes containing chimeric lyssavirus glycoproteins that have had their antigenic sites swapped between phylogroup I and II viruses. Using these, we show alteration in both G protein functionality alongside altered neutralisation profiles using a variety of hyperimmune sera. Here we overview results using these chimeric glycoproteins and suggest areas of the G protein responsible for the development of phylogroup specific neutralising responses.



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Protection is attributed to both humoral and cellular responses that are reactive against conserved, internal influenza proteins

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Constant re-emergence of influenza viruses that escape humoral immune repertoires and that only healthy, 2-49 year olds are recommended for the live-attenuated influenza vaccine demonstrate the need for new vaccines that safely protect against this upper respiratory pathogen. Single-cycle infectious virus vaccines have been shown to be safe and immunogenic vectors in the context of flavivirus, rabies virus, SIV, and HSV. We used plasmid-based reverse genetics techniques to develop a single-cycle infectious Influenza Virus (sciIV) from the pandemic 2009 H1N1 influenza A virus, and here, evaluate its potential as a vaccine. In our sciIV approach, the fourth viral segment, which encodes for the receptor-binding and fusion protein hemagglutinin (HA), has been removed. Upon infection of normal (non-HA expressing) cells, although no infectious progeny are produced, the expression of viral proteins occurs. We found that sciIV vaccination is safe, immunogenic, and protects mice against influenza homologous and heterologous viral challenges. Furthermore, priming with sciIV is dose- and replication-dependent, and protection is attributed to both humoral and cellular responses. Our data indicate that lung-resident CD8 T cells are specific against conserved, internal influenza proteins, and provide a significant impact in limiting challenge virus lung replication. Safety, immunogenicity and protection conferred by sciIV vaccination were also demonstrated in ferrets, where immunization additionally blocked direct and aerosol transmission events. Generating safe vaccines reactive against the internal proteins of influenza that can additionally block transmission of virus are an ideal alternative to current strategies, as they can provide more durable cross-protection against future infection.

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Generation of recombinant arenavirus in FDA-approved cell lines: implications for vaccine developmentBenson Y. H. Cheng¹, Emilio Ortiz-Riaño¹, Juan C. de la Torre², Luis Martínez-Sobrido¹*Department of Microbiology and Immunology*¹, *University of Rochester, 601 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14642*; *Department of Immunology and Microbial Science*², *The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, California 92037*

Arenaviridae is a family of enveloped viruses with a bi-segmented negative strand RNA genome. Several arenaviruses, chiefly Lassa (LASV) and Junín (JUNV) viruses in West Africa and Argentina, respectively, cause hemorrhagic fever (HF) disease in humans that is associated with high morbidity and significant mortality. Notably, increased travel to and from endemic areas has resulted in cases of Lassa fever in non-endemic metropolitan areas. In addition, arenaviruses also pose a biodefense threat. There are no Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved arenavirus vaccines and current antiviral therapy is limited to an off-label use of ribavirin. Existing plasmid-based reverse genetic approaches for the generation of recombinant arenavirus have been of great value for virus research, however, they have been limited to the use of murine cells, and therefore non-suitable for human vaccine production. To develop arenavirus reverse genetics in human (293T) and FDA-approved (Vero) cells, we cloned both vRNA segments into plasmids under the control of the human-specific RNA polymerase-I promoter. Using this approach, we have generated recombinant, both bi- and tri-segmented LCMV and the live-attenuated Candid1 strain of JUNV from both 293T and Vero cells. Moreover, we have developed an arenavirus reverse genetics system where the number of plasmids required for the rescue of recombinant arenavirus was reduced in half. These advances in arenavirus reverse genetics have opened new avenues for the development of arenavirus vaccines.



A PB2-KO influenza virus-based bivalent vaccine protects mice against pandemic H1N1 and highly pathogenic H5N1 virus challenge.

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Vaccination is currently the first line of defense against influenza virus infection. Although inactivated and live-attenuated vaccines are available, each has disadvantages (e.g., immunogenicity and safety). Therefore, novel influenza vaccines that overcome the problems of the currently licensed vaccines are needed. We previously developed a replication-incompetent PB2-knockout (PB2-KO) influenza virus that replicates only in PB2 protein-expressing cells. Here, we generated two PB2-KO viruses whose PB2-coding regions were replaced with the HA genes of either A/California/04/2009 (H1N1pdm09) or A/Vietnam/1203/2004 (H5N1). The resultant viruses induced virus-specific antibodies in the serum, nasal wash, and bronchoalveolar lavage fluid of mice at levels that were comparable to, or in some cases greater than those, induced by a conventional formalin-inactivated vaccine. Furthermore, mice immunized with these PB2-KO viruses were protected from lethal challenges with not only the backbone virus strain, but also strains from which their foreign HAs originated, indicating that PB2-KO viruses with antigenically different HAs could serve as bivalent influenza vaccines. Our replication-incompetent influenza viruses could also be candidate bivalent vaccines for other respiratory infectious diseases.



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SHe's a novel target for RSV vaccination

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RIII)-/- BALB/c mice, indicated that the protection mediated by SHe-specific antibodies strongly depends on Fc Receptors. Moreover, using a conditional cell depletion protocol we could demonstrate that alveolar macrophages play a crucial role in SHe immune serum mediated antiviral activity. Taken together, these data suggest that SHe-specific antibodies reduce RSV replication by macrophage-dependent elimination of RSV infected cells. gRI, Fcg Despite decades of research, there is still no vaccine available against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). We developed a novel RSV vaccine candidate, based on the extracellular domain of the viral Small Hydrophobic protein (SHe). Using a peptide-ELISA we could not detect SHe-specific IgG in reference sera containing varying levels of RSV neutralizing antibodies. We have produced and characterized both genetic and chemical fusions of SHe with a diverse set of antigen-presenting carriers. These carriers included recombinant virus-like particles and pentameric leucine-zippers. Immunization of BALB/c mice and cotton rats with these SHe-based fusion proteins resulted in significant SHe-specific serum IgG titers and reduced lung virus titers following challenge with RSV, as compared to control vaccinated animals. Next to vaccination also passive transfer of SHe-specific antibodies resulted in significant reduction of pulmonary RSV-A replication and associated morbidity. As the SH protein is rare on RSV virions it was not surprising that serum of mice and cotton rats vaccinated with SHe-fusion constructs did not neutralize RSV *in vitro*. However, in contrast to virions, the surface of RSV infected cells can be efficiently bound by SHe-specific IgG antibodies. Passive immunization experiments using wild type and (Fc

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FcγRIII Is Dispensable for Protection against Influenza by Matrix Protein 2 Ectodomain-Specific IgG2a

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The ectodomain of matrix protein 2 (M2e) of influenza A virus is a universal influenza A vaccine candidate. M2e is highly conserved across influenza virus subtypes, and humoral anti-M2e immunity protects against influenza virus challenge in animal models. We recently reported that protection by M2e immune serum requires activating Fcγ Receptors and alveolar macrophages and that an IgG2a-containing serum fraction protected mice in the absence of a functional FcγRIII. In this work, we compared *in vivo* protection by two monoclonal (mAb) antibodies directed against M2e: mAb 37 (IgG1) and mAb 65 (IgG2a). We first demonstrated that these two mAbs recognize the same epitope in M2e, as deduced from an Ala-scan analysis. In addition, Surface Plasmon Resonance measurements showed that the affinity of these two mAbs for the M2e-target antigen is very similar. Passive transfer of mAb 37 or -65 protected BALB/c mice against challenge with an H3N2 virus that was lethal to negative control, isotype-matching mAb recipient animals. MAb 65 also protected mice that were deficient in FcγRIII whereas mAb 37 failed to protect these mice. We also observed significant protection by passive transfer of mAb 65 in (FcγRI, FcγRIII)-/- mice, suggesting that FcγRIV possibly also contributed to protection. We conclude that M2e-specific IgG1 requires FcγRIII for protection in the mouse model. M2e-specific IgG2a isotype antibodies are also protective in the absence of FcγRI or FcγRIII. This finding is important for the clinical development of M2e-based vaccines and may help determine the choice of adjuvant.



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Hemagglutinin-Neuraminidase from HPIV3 mediates human NK regulation of T cell proliferation via NKp44 and NKp46.

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HPIV3 is a major respiratory virus in humans, which primarily affects neonates and infants. However, this virus is associated with poor immunological memory, and reinfection throughout life is common. Our group has previously reported the inability of human mixed lymphocytes to respond proliferatively to HPIV3 infected antigen-presenting cells. This is due to NK cell mediated T cell cycle arrest, which was associated with low IL-2 production during infection. In this study, we demonstrate that the HPIV3 surface glycoprotein Hemagglutinin-Neuraminidase (HN) induces this regulatory mechanism during infection. Of additional interest, while HN induces NK regulation of conventional T cell proliferation and T regulatory population is actually enhanced in humans. Furthermore, the already established interaction between HN and the Natural Cytotoxicity receptors NKp44 and NKp46 is responsible for activation of this NK cell mediated T cell cycle arrest. We suggest that this is a plausible mechanism for failed immunological memory in humans which may also explain the successive failures of vaccines that have involved use of this component. We would further suggest that the success of future vaccines against this important pathogen will require the generation of modified HN versions that retain immunogenicity but do not bind/interact with human NKp44 and NKp46.

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Antiviral compounds that prematurely activate and disable the paramyxovirus fusion Protein

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The human parainfluenza viruses (HPIVs) enter host cells by fusion of the viral and target cell membranes. This fusion results from the concerted action of the two viral envelope glycoproteins, the receptor binding protein (hemagglutinin-neuraminidase; HN) and the fusion protein (F). The first step is recognition and binding of cell surface sialic acid receptors by HN. HN-receptor interaction leads to activation of the F protein, via a series of conformational changes in F that render it fusion-competent. To promote fusion successfully, the triggering of F must occur when HN is in contact with its receptor and the F protein is proximal to the target cell membrane. We have shown that this timing of activation represents a potential target for intervention, suggesting a new antiviral strategy. The small molecule N-[4-hydroxy-3-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-3-ylmethyl)phenyl] thiophene-2-sulfonamide (CSC11) is an HPIV3 receptor mimic. Interaction of CSC11 with HN results in F-activation prior to receptor binding; the fusion machinery is prematurely activated and disabled, preventing fusion of the viral membrane with target cells and precluding viral entry. While CSC11 provides a proof of concept for this new antiviral strategy, in itself it is effective only at mM concentrations, making it unfeasible in vivo. Here we discuss the identification of more effective compounds based on modifications to CSC11. Preliminary data suggest that these compounds are active in the uM range and merit in vivo investigation.



312 **Development of a live attenuated peste des petits ruminants DIVA vaccine using reverse genetics techniques**

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Across the developing world peste des petits ruminants virus (PPRV) places a huge disease burden on agriculture, primarily affecting small ruminant production. PPRV is a non-segmented negative strand RNA virus and alongside rinderpest, canine distemper and measles virus belongs to the family *Paramyxoviridae*, genus *Morbillivirus*. The disease is mainly controlled by vaccinating sheep and goats with live attenuated vaccines that provide lifelong immunity. However, as experienced during the global rinderpest eradication campaign, the current PPR vaccines and companion serological tests do not enable serological differentiation between naturally infected and vaccinated animals—the so-called DIVA concept. This feature of current vaccines precludes meaningful assessment of vaccine coverage and epidemiological surveillance based on serology in areas where the virus is circulating, which in turn reduces the efficiency of control programmes. By manipulating the genome of PPRV using reverse genetics we have developed both a positively and negatively marked PPRV vaccine. To positively tag the virus we have added eGFP as a novel transcription unit. The current recommended ELISA test for PPRV depends on competition between a PPR specific monoclonal antibody (C77) and antibodies in the test sera. To negatively tag the virus we have mapped the region of the viral H protein that is critical for C77 binding and have mutated residues to generate an H protein that cannot be detected using C77 by immunofluorescence. These two approaches to vaccine development will enable the development of a novel recombinant vaccine that is able to fulfil the DIVA concept.

313 **Coordinated viral replication and TLR-3 activation enhances T cell immunity generated by live attenuated influenza vaccines**

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Mucosal administration of live-attenuated influenza vaccines (LAIVs) have the potential to generate memory T cells directed against broadly conserved influenza epitopes. Vaccine adjuvants are commonly used to enhance the inflammatory response against inert or poorly immunogenic epitopes. However, the use of adjuvants to enhance or polarize the immune response induced by LAIVs remains unexplored. In this study we have investigated the effect of polyI:C (pIC) a toll-like receptor (TLR)-3 ligand on the maintenance of CD8⁺ memory T cells in the context of mucosal influenza vaccination. Consistent with its ability to induce type I interferons (IFNs), when administered intranasally together with LAIV, pIC induced an antiviral state and abolished vaccine replication resulting in loss of vaccine protection. However, administration of pIC post-vaccination allowed proper vaccine replication and increased the migration of antigen-loaded lung dendritic cells (DCs) to the lung-draining lymph nodes in a TLR3-dependent manner. This optimal arrival of antigen-presenting cells enhanced the generation of central memory T cells (TCM) that improved viral clearance and survival after lethal influenza challenge. Our results indicate that timely administration of TLR3 ligands may serve as a therapeutic strategy to enhance T cell immunity induced by LAIVs. Our strategy may contribute to provide means not only to reduce the amount of vaccine stock necessary to protect individuals at risk but also to guarantee higher prophylactic perspectives to face future influenza pandemics.



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Investigating mechanisms of influenza polymerase host adaptationAnna Cauldwell, Jason Long, Hongbo Zhou, Olivier Moncorge, and Wendy Barclay.
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Typical avian influenza A viruses do not replicate efficiently in mammals. Many host adaptive mutations map to the polymerase complex (PB1, PB2 and PA) however the mechanism/s of host adaptation are unknown. Polymerase activity is often measured using a cell-based assay in which the active enzyme is reconstituted from its constituent parts expressed from plasmids. Using this approach we suggest that different PB2 humanising mutations do not enhance polymerase activity by a universal mechanism and furthermore are not all host specific as some enhance activity in avian as well as mammalian cells. We wished to address why certain mutations which enhanced activity in the reconstituted polymerase assay are not selected for in nature and to explore whether the polymerase assay truly reflects viral fitness. To investigate this we used reverse genetics to create a series of viral variants carrying mutations in the PB2 gene that enhanced polymerase activity in the *in vitro* assay. We carried out virological assays as well as measures of transcription and replication in the context of replicating virus and also analysed the effects of the mutations *in vivo*. Some mutations that increased *in vitro* polymerase activity lead to attenuated virus replication that resulted from an increase in interferon activation. One traditional avian influenza virus did not tolerate the famous E627K mammalian-adapting change in PB2 due to RNA incompatibility with other segments in the virus genetic constellation. Taken together these data help risk assess the likelihood of different avian influenza viruses crossing the host range barrier.

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Evolution of the hemagglutinin of pandemic H1N1 (2009): maintaining optimal receptor binding by compensatory substitutionsErik de Vries¹, Robert P. de Vries^{1,2}, Carles Martínez-Romero³, Ryan McBride², Peter J.M. Rottier¹, Adolfo García-Sastre³, James C. Paulson², Cornelis A.M. de Haan¹
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A pandemic influenza A virus (pdmH1N1) was introduced in April 2009. In three years it has spread in large parts of the population and genetic changes that counteract adaptive immunity are expected to occur. However no major antigenic differences have been reported yet. Recent publications demonstrated that changes in virus binding avidity could provide the first step in counteracting immune-pressure and are likely to precede antigenic changes. We therefore examined the effect of the most frequently occurring amino substitutions in the hemagglutinin (HA) of pdmH1N1 (in NCBI flu database before 1-10-2012) on the receptor-binding properties of recombinant soluble HA trimers. Only two changes (S186P and S188T) increased binding avidity whereas two other substitutions (A137T and A200T) decreased binding avidity (hemagglutination and solid phase ELISA). Construction and analysis of an HA protein tree reveals the worldwide emergence of several HA variants in the latest seasons. The consecutive substitutions that formed these variants were reconstructed stepwise in the recombinant soluble HA trimers. The two major variants both harbored combinations of substitutions (S186P/A137T and S188T/A200T respectively) with opposite individual effects on binding. Strikingly, the combination of these substitutions restores binding avidity and binding specificity (glycan array analysis) to the same level and specificity as observed for the original virus. The results strongly suggest that the HA of pdmH1N1 was already optimally adapted to the human host upon its emergence in April 2009. Moreover, as predicted, transient increases in binding avidity might be one of the first adaptations involved in counteracting antibody neutralization.



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HEMAGGLUTININ (HA) ACID STABILITY REGULATES H5N1 INFLUENZA VIRUS REPLICATION, VIRULENCE, TRANSMISSION & INTERSPECIES ADAPTATION

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The prefusion form of the HA surface glycoprotein is trapped in a metastable conformation and triggered by low pH to undergo irreversible structural changes that cause membrane fusion in the endosome. Our surveillance studies reveal that HA proteins from human seasonal influenza viruses are activated at pH 5.1-5.4 while those from highly pathogenic avian H5N1 influenza viruses are activated at pH 5.5-6.0. Using sequence analysis, x-ray crystallography, and biochemistry, we have identified numerous mutations that alter the HA activation pH of H5N1 influenza viruses. Using reverse genetics, we have generated recombinant H5N1 influenza viruses that vary in HA activation pH but not in other properties such as HA protein expression, cleavage, or receptor binding. We have found that the optimal HA activation pH for high H5N1 virus growth, virulence, and transmission in avian species (including chickens and ducks) is ~5.6-6.0. An HA2-K58I mutation that decreases the H5N1 HA activation pH from 5.9 to 5.4 was found (a) to attenuate virus growth and eliminate virulence and transmission in ducks, and (b) enhance virus growth in the upper respiratory tracts of mice and ferrets. Overall, HA acid stability is identified as a novel molecular marker for H5N1 adaptation to mammals and constitutes an important risk factor for pandemic potential. Just as changes in the activation energy of the HA protein influence the pathogenicity and interspecies adaptation of emerging H5N1 influenza viruses, other enveloped viruses may also regulate their biological properties by introducing stabilizing or destabilizing mutations in their fusion glycoproteins.

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Evolution-guided analysis of primate MxA proteins: the flexible loop L4 is a major determinant for its antiviral specificity

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Human MxA is an interferon-induced antiviral effector protein that has an exceptionally broad spectrum of antiviral activity against diverging families of RNA viruses (e.g. orthomyxo- or bunyaviruses). MxA specifically recognizes viral ribonucleoproteins (vRNPs) of influenza virus, but it is still unclear how inhibition of virus replication is mediated and how such a diverse set of viruses can be blocked. By an evolution-guided analysis of human and non-human primate MxA sequences, we identified a limited set of amino acids under strong positive selection, an indication for host-pathogen interfaces. MxA consists of an N-terminal globular G domain, a bundle signalling element and a C-terminal stalk domain with effector functions, from which an unstructured loop L4 protrudes that contains most of the fast evolving residues. By detailed analysis of this flexible and surface-exposed loop L4, we were able to characterize the minimal sequence required for vRNP recognition and antiviral action against orthomyxoviruses. However, these sites are not critical for the inhibition of bunyavirus replication, indicating that diverse structural elements in loop L4 are responsible for the recognition of different viral components. We thus hypothesize that loop L4 is a flexible and modular structure that evolved as recognition interface for a broad range of viral pathogens.



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Modulating paramyxovirus polymerase function rationally and randomly: towards tunable attenuation

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Normally epitope tags and enhanced green fluorescent protein (EGFP) are fused to the amino or the carboxyl terminus of a protein to aid purification and/or visualization in vitro and in vivo. Bioinformatics can help to identify internal, flexible hinges which oftentimes separate conserved regions (CR) in proteins and these can be probed for their ability to be lengthened or modified using well-characterized epitope tags. We have previously used this approach to perform single step attenuation of morbilliviruses by targeting a variable hinge in the large (L) protein. This hinge is located prior to CRVI which functions as a methyltransferase. We have developed wild-type reverse genetics systems for a number of paramyxoviruses and have shown that these bioinformatics-based approaches are transferable to measles, mumps and human respiratory syncytial viruses. From these studies it is clear that a bioinformatics-based approach can only take us so far as insertion of foreign sequences often completely abrogates polymerase function. To overcome this we developed a random insertional mutagenesis library-based approach to identify novel regions of the polymerase which can tolerate insertions. Polymerase function was assessed using bicistronic minigenome replication/transcription assays and a panel of L proteins with differential activities was identified. Tagging the L protein with EGFP permits us to detect the polymerase in living cells and we have used a disease-relevant primary normal human bronchial epithelial cell model to study the polymerase location. Modulating polymerase function rationally to down tune pathogenesis may allow the development of vaccines which are optimally attenuated and safe.

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Evidence for Henipavirus spillover into human populations in Africa.

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Zoonotic transmission of henipaviruses (HNV) from their natural fruit bat reservoirs to humans can result in mortality rates in excess of 90%. A recent global study discovered at least 23 distinct viral clades within the henipavirus genus; the known Nipah and Hendra viruses in SE Asia and Australia represents only two of those clades with greatest phylogenetic diversity of henipaviruses present in Africa. To determine the potential for Henipavirus outbreaks or spillovers among humans in Africa, we examined well-curated sets of bat (*Eidolon helvum*) and human serum samples from southern Cameroon using a highly sensitive (98%) and specific (100%) VSV-based pseudotype seroneutralization assay, and detected NiV-Env cross-neutralizing antibodies in 55% (25/45) and 3% (7/227) of the bat and human sera, respectively. Human sera samples were from individuals at high risk for zoonotic exposure. A detailed analysis of 21 parameters showed that butchering bush (bat) meat was the highest risk factor associated with HNV-seropositivity. Moreover, most of these seropositive samples were collected from the same area – 75% of them in the same village – between 2001 and 2003. Interestingly, this area contains environmental features known to be involved in previous HNV outbreaks in SE Asia, and could be considered a hot spot for viral emergence as it was for the origin of the recently characterized PTLV. In the various taxonomic schemes proposed for the transitional dynamics of zoonotic pathogens, all these features justifiably place henipavirus at or close to the penultimate stage for sustained transmission in human outbreaks.



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High potential of canine distemper virus in the ability to use macaca and human Receptors

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Recently outbreaks of canine distemper virus (CDV) occurred in China. In Japan, a CDV outbreak also occurred in monkeys imported from China. Phylogenetic analysis revealed continuing chains of CDV transmission in monkeys. Thus, CDV is now a real threat for monkeys, and may be a potential risk for humans. In this study, the ability of CDV to utilize dog, macaca, and human immune and epithelial cell receptors (SLAM and nectin4, respectively) was analyzed. The standard Vero cells and 6 Vero cell lines expressing human, dog, and macaca SLAM and nectin4 were used. A CDV strain (CYN07-dV) isolated from a moribund monkey and 5 CDV strains isolated from distemper dogs were used. In addition, The human SLAM-adapted CDV CYN07-hV strain was used. Using these materials (1) virus growth assay, (2) plasmid-based cell-to-cell fusion assay, and (3) VSV-pseudotyped virus entry assay were performed.

All CDV strains used macaca receptors (both SLAM and nectin4) as efficiently as dog receptors. All CDV strains used human nectin4 as well as dog and macaca nectin4, while only CYN07-hV used human SLAM. Our data revealed that CYN07-hV acquired the ability to use human SLAM via P541S mutation without compromising its intrinsic ability to use other receptors. Thus, the incompatibility of hSLAM is easily resolvable for CDV to cross the species barrier to humans. In addition, our another study suggested that CDV has the potential to counteract the human interferon system and replicate in human cells. Accordingly, CDV should be seriously considered as a potential threat for humans.

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Cell entry pathway of an extinct virus.

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Endogenous retroviruses (ERVs) and retroviral elements make up 8% of the human genome. While there are no individual fully replication-competent human ERV (HERV) proviruses, several HERV loci encode intact open reading frames and some functional genes. Those include several envelope glycoproteins that are actively expressed and fusogenically functional, including some that are coopted to play an active role in human development. In humans, the most recently endogenized ERV is HERV-K(HML2), which is present at variable copy number.

Expression of the Env gene specifically is associated with human diseases, including several cancers and viral infections. Using a recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus, we replaced the glycoprotein with the envelope protein of HERVK(HML2). The virus, rVSV-HERVK(HML2) is fully replication-competent and efficiently incorporates HERV-K Env into the virions. Characterization of this virus has revealed that unlike most retroviruses, HERV-K Env utilizes a dynamin-independent endocytic entry pathway that requires low-pH. Cell fusion experiments confirm that HERV-K Env requires acidic pH to mediate membrane fusion. Our data identify a novel entry pathway for an extinct virus - a human endogenous retrovirus - and provide tools for further study of endogenization of the virus and investigation of a potential role of this retroviral envelope in human disease.



Measles virus entry pathway governs efficacy of mantle cell lymphoma radio-virotherapy

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Virotherapy is an experimental treatment modality that uses replication-competent viruses to treat cancer patients who failed to respond to other therapies. Measles (MV) is a lymphotropic virus currently used in clinical trials of ovarian cancer, glioma, myeloma, and mesothelioma. Mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) is an aggressive B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma incurable using current first line therapies but radiosensitive. To develop a new MCL therapy we armed a vaccine-identical MV vector with the human thyroïdal sodium-iodide symporter (NIS), a protein that concentrates iodide within cells and enables non-invasive imaging and combination radio-virotherapy. We used high-resolution single photon emission computer tomography to document vector spread over two weeks in SCID or nude mice. Image resolution was sufficient to discern NIS-expression in the thyroid from that in the proximal salivary glands, and to define the volume of infected tumors and metastases. Infection seeded homogeneously in these, but spread only in well-perfused areas, peaking around day nine in primary Granta-519 MCL xenografts and earlier in metastases. Radio-virotherapy combining our NIS-expressing vector with systemic ¹³¹I resulted in more rapid xenograft regression than either therapy alone. We then asked whether cell entry through the primary MV receptor signaling lymphocytic activation molecule (SLAM), or through the vaccine strain receptor CD46, governs oncolysis. Strikingly, only SLAM-dependent entry produced efficient viral spread, tumor regression, extended survival, and sometimes sustained complete remissions. High-resolution, non-invasive imaging technology developed here can facilitate mechanistic studies of virotherapy with different vectors, and of the crucial but elusive early phases of viral replication in the host.

**New World bats are reservoirs of diverse influenza A viruses**

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Aquatic birds harbor diverse influenza A viruses and are a major viral reservoir in nature. Recent discovery of a subtype H17N10 influenza viruses in Central American fruit bats suggests that other New World species may carry divergent influenza viruses. Using consensus degenerate RT-PCR, we identified a novel influenza A virus designated as H18N11 in a flat-faced fruit bat (*Artibeus planirostris*) from Peru. Serologic studies with the recombinant H18 protein indicated that several Peruvian bat species were infected by this virus. Phylogenetic analyses demonstrate that New World bats maintain as much influenza virus genetic diversity as all other mammalian and avian species combined, indicative of an ancient host-virus association. Structural and functional analyses of the hemagglutinin and neuraminidase indicate that sialic acid is not a ligand for virus attachment nor a substrate for release, suggesting a novel mechanism of influenza A virus attachment and activation of membrane fusion for entry into host cells. Taken together, these findings indicate that bats constitute a new, likely ancient, and potentially important reservoir for a diverse pool of influenza viruses.



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Sever fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome in Japan

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Sever fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome (SFTS) is characterized by sudden onset of fever, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, and gastrointestinal tract symptoms and approximately 12% of patients die from disseminated intravascular coagulation and/or multiple organ failures. Agent of the disease is a novel bunyavirus SFTS virus, and is transmitted by bite of a possible vector tick, *Haemaphysalis longicornis*, and through direct contact with virus-containing patient body fluids, or through unknown routes. SFTS case reports have been limited in China, and more than two thousand cases were reported in 2011 and 2012. In late 2012, a woman living in Yamaguchi prefecture in Japan showed symptoms reminiscent of those of SFTS and died 6 days after the onset of symptoms. Virus was isolated from her acute serum in Vero cells and a next generation-sequencing identified it as SFTS virus. SFTS viral genome and proteins were detected in the patient's serum. Based on the first demonstration of SFTS in Japan, a retrospective study started. Until March of 2013, totally 8 patients were diagnosed as having SFTS and the most early case was in 2005. Phylogenetic analysis of virus sequences revealed that Japanese isolates form an independent branch distinct from Chinese isolates, indicating that SFTS has been present not only in China but also in Japan.

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Recent Emergence and Spread of a Phylogenetic Lineage of Rabies Virus in Nepal

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Rabies is a zoonotic disease that is endemic in many parts of the developing world, especially in Africa and in Asia. However its epidemiology remains largely unappreciated in much of these regions, such as in Nepal, where limited information is available about the spatiotemporal dynamics of the main etiological agent, the rabies virus (RABV). In this study, we describe for the first time the phylogenetic diversity and evolution of RABV circulating in Nepal, as well as their geographical relationships within the broader region. A total of 24 new isolates obtained from Nepal and collected from 2003 to 2011 were full-length sequenced for both the nucleoprotein and the glycoprotein genes, and analysed using neighbour-joining and maximum-likelihood phylogenetic methods with representative viruses from all over the world, including new related RABV strains from neighbouring or more distant countries (Afghanistan, Greenland, Iran, Russia and USA). Despite Nepal's limited land surface and its particular geographical position within the Indian subcontinent, our study revealed the presence of a surprising wide genetic diversity of RABV, with the co-existence of three different phylogenetic groups: an Indian subcontinent clade and two different Arctic-like sub-clades within the Arctic-related clade. This observation suggests at least two independent episodes of rabies introduction from neighbouring countries. In addition, specific phylogenetic and temporal evolution analysis of viruses within the Arctic-related clade has identified a new recently emerged RABV lineage we named as the Arctic-like 3 (AL-3) sub-clade that is already widely spread in Nepal.



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Investigations of Marburgvirus Spillover from Natural Populations of *Rousettus Aegyptiacus*Jonathan S. Towner¹, Brian R. Amman¹, Serena A. Carroll¹, Tara K. Sealy¹, Stuart T. Nicholl¹, Pierre E. Rollin¹ and the Filovirus Bat Ecology Team²⁻⁹

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Marburg hemorrhagic fever (MHF) causes high fatality disease in humans. During 2007 and 2008, four separate episodes of MHF occurred at Kitaka mine and Python cave in southwestern Uganda resulting in two deaths. The common link between these outbreaks was exposure to the Egyptian fruit bat (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*) which has been subsequently shown to be a reservoir host of Marburg virus and Ravn virus (genus Marburgvirus), based upon RT-PCR, virus isolation, and immunohistochemical data. Python Cave resides within the confines of a protected and readily accessible National Park and provided an ideal opportunity to conduct a multi-year ecological investigation of natural marburgvirus circulation within the bat colony. The data from this study show diverse marburgvirus lineages constantly circulating among *R. aegyptiacus* bats throughout the year. Further, the data show predictable seasonal fluctuations in the percentage of PCR+ bats within specific age cohorts that appear to forecast times of greater public health risk when compared to the dates of previous marburgvirus spillover events. Interestingly, in late 2012, a fifth MHF outbreak occurred in villages not far from Kitaka mine that may have begun during a predicted season of increased risk. Finally, in an effort to better understand the mechanisms of virus replication, transmission and control in a marburgvirus natural reservoir host, a captive breeding colony of *R. aegyptiacus* bats was established at CDC. Animals from this colony are being used for experimental infection studies under controlled conditions.

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Influenza virus reassortment is highly efficient in the absence of segment mismatchNicolle Marshall^{1,2}, Lalita Priyamvada^{1,2}, Ende^{3,4}, John Steel¹, Anice Lowen¹

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Reassortment is fundamental to the evolution of influenza viruses and plays a key role in the generation of novel epidemic and pandemic strains. Previous studies indicate that reassortment is restricted by segment mismatch, arising from functional incompatibilities among the components of two viruses. Additional factors that dictate reassortment efficiency remain poorly characterized. To examine these additional factors, we developed a system for studying reassortment in the absence of segment mismatch. Silent mutations were introduced into A/Panama/2007/99 virus such that high-resolution melt analysis could be used to differentiate all eight segments of the wild-type and the silently mutated variant virus. The use of phenotypically identical parent viruses ensured that all progeny were equally fit, allowing measurement of reassortment without selection bias. Using this system, we found that reassortment occurred efficiently (88.4%) following high multiplicity infection, suggesting that the process is not appreciably limited by intracellular compartmentalization. That co-infection is the major determinant of reassortment efficiency in the absence of segment mismatch was confirmed by an exponential relationship between the frequency of reassortant viruses and that of co-infected cells. The number of reassortant progeny shed from co-infected guinea pigs was likewise dependent on dose: with 10³ and 10⁶ PFU inocula, respectively, 30% and 59% of isolates were reassortants. The introduction of a delay between infections allowed definition of time windows during which super-infection led to reassortment in culture and in vivo. Overall, our results indicate that reassortment between two like influenza viruses is efficient but also strongly dependent on dose and timing.



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Investigating the Dynamics of Filovirus Evolution in Cell Culture

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Filoviruses are highly lethal RNA viruses that cause hemorrhagic fever with fatality rates of up to 90%. No approved vaccines or therapies exist for filovirus infections and the viruses must be handled in maximum containment. Evidence suggests that fruit bats may be the natural reservoir for filoviruses but they can infect multiple species. Typically, RNA viruses have high spontaneous mutation rates due to error prone RNA-dependent RNA polymerases. A consequence of high spontaneous mutation and replication rates is populations composed of heterogeneous swarms of related variant sequences, referred to as quasispecies. These swarms have important biological consequences as they allow viruses to evolve rapidly in response to selection pressures. Our preliminary data suggested that filoviruses have mutation rates similar to other RNA viruses. However, the dynamics of filovirus evolution are poorly understood and little is known about the quasispecies present in filovirus populations. We have employed deep sequencing to assess the genetic changes associated with filovirus passage in cell culture. These studies were performed using cultured cells derived from different host species and relatively diverse filoviruses. We have observed interesting changes in the consensus sequence and the quasispecies populations. It is likely that the observed genomic changes can be correlated to phenotype and function. Our data suggest that filoviruses exhibit high genome plasticity and are able to rapidly evolve to different environments. This could have major implications for future filovirus research on emergence, virulence, drug-resistance, and vaccine-development.

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Evolution of parainfluenza virus 5

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The genome sequences of 11 parainfluenza virus 5 (PIV5) isolates were determined by deep sequencing. In a maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree, 4 canine isolates and a porcine isolate grouped into one clade, and a simian isolate and 5 human isolates fell into a second clade, which had the previously sequenced "cryptovirus" as an outlier. No two isolates differed in sequence by more than 3%, and transitions outnumbered transversions by 6:1. Host-specific mutations were identified, but selection pressures determined from pairwise comparisons of dN/dS ratios were weak or absent. No consistent signal for recombination was detected. The most divergent regions are those encoding the C-terminus of the N protein, the M-F intergenic region and the SH gene? Two canine isolates and the porcine isolate had mutations in the SH coding region and did not express SH. Deep sequencing of the quasispecies in multiple passages of one isolate demonstrated that variants appeared or disappeared on passage, and also allowed the identification and quantification of defective interfering RNA molecules. Despite remarkable conservation among PIV5 isolates from different hosts, the ability of PIV5 to mutate was demonstrated from the high levels of reversion of stop codon-introducing mutations in recombinant viruses lacking expression of the cysteine-rich C-terminal part of V. Thus, in common with other members of the subfamily Paramyxovirinae, PIV5 displays remarkable genome conservation despite having a wide host range and being able to mutate when placed under selection pressure. This study manifests the unexplained constraints on PIV5 genome variation, which will be discussed.



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Importin- α 3 Restricts Influenza Virus Replication in the Mammalian Respiratory Tract

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Components of the nuclear import machinery, the importin- α proteins, play a crucial role in influenza virus host adaptation and pathogenicity. It has been shown that a switch from importin- α 3 (inhibitor of viral polymerase activity) to importin- α 7 (activator of viral polymerase activity) usage takes place upon avian-mammalian adaptation. To understand the selective pressure which drives the switch from importin- α 3 to importin- α 7 dependency upon avian-mammalian adaptation, we have determined the mRNA expression levels of individual importin- α isoforms throughout the mammalian lung. Here, we show that importin- α 3 is the most abundantly expressed isoform with up to 4-times higher levels than importin- α 1, - α 4, - α 5 or - α 7 in the murine and human respiratory tract. Studies in mice revealed that importin- α 3 is up-regulated upon infection with avian-like (PB2 701D, NP 319N) and down-regulated with mammalian-like (PB2 701N, NP 319K) influenza viruses. Furthermore, up-regulation of importin- α 3 in the mammalian lung correlated with restricted virus growth while down-regulation of importin- α 3 correlated with systemic spread and pathogenicity in mice. Thus, selective down-regulation of the inhibitor of viral polymerase activity (importin- α 3) and the adaptation to the activator of polymerase activity (importin- α 7) is needed to acquire efficient virus replication in the mammalian respiratory tract. In summary, our data suggest that importin- α levels in the mammalian respiratory tract provide a host selective pressure which drives the evolution of influenza viruses during adaptation to the mammalian host.

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Evolutionary analysis of Peste-des-petits ruminants virusPow Murali Muniraju¹, Muhammad Munir², Ashley Banyard³, Jingyue Bao⁴, Aravindh Babu¹, Mana Mahapatra¹, Geneviève Libeau⁵, Carrie Batten¹, Satya Parida^{1*}¹. *The Pirbright Institute, UK*². *Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala*³. *Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratory Agency, UK*⁴. *China Animal Health and Epidemiology Centre, China*⁵. *CIRAD, France*

Peste-des-petits ruminants virus (PPRV) (Family Paramyxoviridae, Genus morbillivirus) causes an economically significant disease in sheep and goats. Phylogenetically, isolates of PPRV group into 4 distinct lineages whilst serologically the response to infection/vaccination is monotypic. Currently, the molecular epidemiology of PPRV is based on sequence data derived from short amplicons from the F and N genes. To date, full genome data are available for several different isolates including: one from lineage I; two from lineage II; and five isolates belonging to lineage IV. Recently we have generated full genome sequence data for two more isolates from lineage IV, circulating in North and East Africa, and three isolates from lineage III from infected animals in the Middle East and East Africa. These latter sequences constitute the first lineage III sequences available. From this novel, and pre-existing data we have performed a full BEAST analysis. Phylogenetically, analysis of full genome data corresponded with analyses using partial sequence data and all isolates grouped according to established lineages. We further investigated evolutionary viral substitution rates and predicted the time to most recent common ancestry (TMRCA) using both relaxed and random clock Bayesian phylogenetics. Our findings predict that PPRV has an evolutionary rate of 7.11 to 7.53 \times 10⁻⁴ nucleotide substitutions/site/year. For the first time we have shown that lineage III PPRV is the virus from which the other lineages evolved. Using these computational analyses we conclude that the TMRCA for lineage III PPRV is the mid-19th century, decades before its established detection in 1942 in Nigeria.



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Viral factors affecting the transmission of H1N1 influenza virusPatricia J. Campbell, Shamika Danzy, Anice C. Lowen, and John Steel
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The 2009 pandemic virus (pH1N1) spread efficiently among humans, with an estimated 60 million cases of infection occurring between April 2009 and April 2010 in the US. The virus emerged from the swine influenza reservoir, following reassortment of strains from two distinct lineages (N. American TRIG lineage, which donated 6 gene segments to the pandemic strain, and Eurasian “avian-like” swine lineage, which donated the M and NA segments). Interestingly, viruses derived from either lineage are poorly transmissible between humans, raising the question of which viral factors rendered the pH1N1 strain so highly transmissible. To address this question we generated a panel of recombinant viruses in which M, NA, or M and NA segments from pH1N1 or avian-like Eurasian swine strains were introduced into the laboratory-adapted strain A/PR/8/34 (PR8), and tested their fitness in vitro and in vivo. Viruses possessing the NL602 M segment had higher peak growth than those possessing the Eurasian lineage M, in vivo (guinea pig). Furthermore, the virus possessing the NL602 M segment readily transmitted between guinea pigs by contact, while the Eurasian M segment -possessing virus was characterized by slower and less efficient transmission. Analysis of the viruses further indicated that both morphology and neuraminidase activity were altered upon substitution of the M segment. Understanding the role of the viral factors contributing to influenza virus transmission in human hosts will increase our basic understanding of influenza virus biology, and be of value in the identification of influenza strains with pandemic potential.

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Genomic analysis of filoviruses associated with 4 hemorrhagic fever outbreaks in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo inCesar Albariño, Trevor Shoemaker, Marina Khristova, Stephen Balinandi, Alex Tumusiime, Shelley Campbell, Deborah Cannon, Aridith Gibbons, Eric Bergeron, Brian Bird, Kimberly Dodd, Christina Spiropoulou, Bobbie Erickson, Lisa Guerrero, Barbara Knust, Stuart Nichol, Pierre Rollin, Ute Ströher
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In 2012, an unprecedented number of 4 distinct, partially overlapping filovirus-associated hemorrhagic fever outbreaks were detected in eastern Africa. Analysis of virus complete genome sequences confirmed the reemergence of Sudan virus and Marburg virus in Uganda, and the first emergence of Bundibugyo virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



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Inpatient Variation of the Respiratory Syncytial Virus Attachment Protein Gene in patients through timeMariana Viegas^{1,2}, Ana Julia Velez Rueda^{1,3}, Alicia S. Mistchenko^{1,3}

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The human respiratory syncytial virus (HRSV) is the leading cause of acute lower respiratory infections (LRI) in children under five years worldwide and reinfections occur throughout lifetime. The most diverse antigenic and genetic differences between strains are located in the attachment G protein. We analyzed the genetic variation and evolutionary dynamics of the G gene ectodomain in nasopharyngeal aspirates taken from hospitalized patients with LRI during 2011-2012 outbreaks. Three of them suffered prolonged LRI or reinfections and presented two samples which were separated by at most 135 days and were analyzed at inpatient variation level. Calculation of mean genetic distances (MGD) and Bayesian phylogenetic analyses were performed to analyze the viral population dynamics within samples and to determine relationships between local and global HRSV strains. Patient 1 presented a strong immunosuppression, and as consequence viral variants within the first and the second sample (50 days apart) clustered together with their direct sequences and with each other in a closely related genetic clade, with a maximum MGD of 0.6% (SE 0.1%), thus suggesting a prolonged shedding. Patient 2 harbored in his first sample only viral variants associated with the HRSV strain with a 72-nt duplication that emerged in 2011, but in his second sample (50 days apart) there were at least four types of viral variants associated with the first sample and with local circulating strains and with a maximum MGD of 6.4% (SE 0.6%), suggesting a reinfection and a prolonged shedding. And patient 3 suffered his first LRI in the 2011-outbreak and the second in the 2012-outbreak, and the viral variants found between them were completely different, thus suggesting a reinfection. Important conclusions about how the virus encounters and surmounts different immune environments are derived from this study, showing that these patients, in different natural conditions of infection, might act as genetic reservoirs that could provide in turn molecular plasticity to HRSV.

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Mapping the steps required for the adaptation of animal morbilliviruses to human Cells

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Fundamental studies which dissect the molecular mechanisms governing zoonotic transmission of viruses are vital given the continual bombardment of the human population by animal pathogens. Morbilliviruses provide a safe model system to study cross-species infections as although they are highly infectious respiratory pathogens, they are similar enough for the measles virus (MV) vaccine to provide cross-protective immunity against animal morbilliviruses such as canine distemper virus (CDV). With the public health community currently considering global eradication of measles, it prudent to assume that this may result in significant drops in measles vaccine uptake resulting in a possible risk of zoonotic morbillivirus infections. We developed an *in vitro* model system to study CDV adaptation to human (h) CD150, the canine (c) version of which serves as the primary *in vivo* cellular receptor. A fluorescent recombinant (r) wild-type strain of CDV (rCDVR252EGFP) was used to monitor infection in human B-cells (B LCL) cultures for >150 days. A number of unique mutations were detected in the CD150 binding region of the hemagglutinin (H) glycoprotein with differences observed in the constellation of mutations acquired by hCD150-adapted viruses in six independent replicates and the ability of the resulting virus to use cCD150. These experiments show that morbilliviruses can follow multiple routes to adapt to hCD150 usage and more broadly that gain of function can concomitantly lead to a modulation in the ability of the virus to use its original cellular receptor. This has important implications for our understanding of cross-species viral infections.



Characterization of Influenza A(H3N2)v at County and State Agricultural Fairs in the U.S.

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The animal-human interface plays a pivotal role in influenza virus genome reassortment and host-switching of viruses with pandemic potential. Infection in humans with swine-origin viruses (termed variant viruses) has been increasingly detected over the last decade. Between July and September 2012, 308 confirmed human cases of influenza A(H3N2)v virus, possessing the M gene from (H1N1) pdm09, were detected in the United States. The vast majority of cases reported direct contact with pigs exhibited at county or state agricultural fairs. Only five cases had no known exposure to pigs, indicating limited human-to-human transmission. In this study, full/partial genomes of H3N2v viruses collected from humans at four state fairs and 35 county fairs were compared to swine viruses collected from the same fairs or through the USDA National Influenza A Virus in Swine Surveillance Program. Genetic analysis revealed nearly identical sequences of viruses sampled from humans and pigs from the same fair and/or state. Additionally, all but three human viruses had hemagglutinin (HA) genes that fell into a single genetic clade, while the HA genes of viruses from pigs were distributed throughout several H3 clades. Among the H3N2v viruses analyzed, the neuramidase gene showed the most genetic diversity due to multiple introductions of N2 into the North American swine population. Hemagglutination inhibition assays using post-infection ferret antisera found all viruses to be antigenically similar to pre-pandemic vaccine candidate A/Minnesota/11/2010. This study highlights the necessity for surveillance and collaboration between animal and human health agencies to better understand influenza transmission between swine and humans.



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Detection of antibodies to pH1N1 Influenza virus in marine mammals from California in 2009-2012

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Marine mammals are in contact with important reservoirs of influenza virus, including aquatic birds and humans. After its emergence in humans in 2009, pandemic H1N1 (pH1N1) influenza virus was isolated from 2 Northern elephant seals (NES, *Mirounga angustirostris*) on the coast of central California in the spring of 2010 (Goldstein et al. 2013, PLOS One, in press). To better understand the extent of pH1N1 infection we have used haemagglutination inhibition assay to analyze serum samples from the three most common marine mammals in California: NES (222 samples), California sea lions (CSL, *Zalophus californianus*, 183 samples) and harbor seals (HS, *Phoca vitulina*, 140 samples). Samples from 2009 through 2012 were obtained from free-ranging individuals as well as stranded animals hospitalized at The Marine Mammal Center (Sausalito, CA). Our results show that pH1N1 spread very rapidly in NES populations, with seroprevalence rising from nearly 0% in the spring of 2010 to almost 50% in 2011. Pups from seropositive mothers had pH1N1 specific antibodies, with titers often higher than those of their mothers, but a few 16 month old juveniles sampled in 2012 were seronegative, suggesting that the epizootic had a limited duration and the virus might not be circulating in NES anymore. Contrary to NES, CSL and HS had low prevalence (less than 10%) of pH1N1 specific antibodies. This could be explained by differences in susceptibility to influenza infection, by specific adaptive mutations acquired in the NES virus strains and/or by more efficient intra-species transmission related to animal behavior.

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RNA polymerase II-dependent single infectious RABV cDNAs.

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The classic rabies virus (RABV) reverse genetics system requires intracellular co-expression of a set of three viral “helper” proteins (N, P, and L) and of correctly (end-) processed T7 RNA polymerase-derived viral RNAs. In order to evaluate the possibility of genetically encoded RABVs, in a first step single infectious RABV cDNAs were generated by the incorporation of picornaviral IRES elements upstream of the N-, P-, and L-ORF of the full-length cDNA. This allowed the direct translation of these “helper”-proteins from the T7 RNA-transcribed antigenome-like RNA and to rescue RABV from a single plasmid. In order to allow T7 RNA polymerase-independent rescue, the suitability of polymerase II promoters was evaluated. Initial approaches, however, failed, due to poor helper protein expression. The correct processing of the 5'- and 3'- termini, while being crucial in regard to rescue efficiency, was observed to interfere with RNA polymerase II-dependent protein expression. This problem was solved by the application of less efficient ribozymatic processing of viral RNA termini on one hand and less attenuated IRES-comprising RABV variants on the other hand. The fast and efficient RNA polymerase II-dependent rescue of RABV from single plasmids may open the way to the development of animal models in which RABV is genetically encoded and an infectious cycle is induced in specific cell types. Especially for neurotracing, but also pathogenicity studies, such systems might contribute to a gain of specificity and accessibility in regard to target cells. They could benefit from the virtual infinite number of genetic mouse models available.



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Molecular epidemiology of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever in Iran

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Background: Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) caused by CCHF virus, belongs to Nairovirus genus and Bunyaviridae family. The route of transmission is through the bite of infected ticks, handling of infected blood or organs of livestock and nosocomially. The virus has a negative and three segments (S, M and L) RNA genome. The initial phylogeny study on CCHFV in Iran showed that isolated Iranian strain (ArTeh193-3) was similar to Senegalese strain. **Methods:** The viral RNA was extracted from human sera (2004 and 2012) and ticks in (2008). The virus genome was examined by RT-PCR. PCR products were sequenced and sequences were analyzed by Mega software.

Results: Our earlier phylogenetic analysis of partial S-segment nucleotide sequences in Iran, in 2004, illustrated that the CCHFV isolates were clustered with strains from Pakistan. These data also demonstrated that the Iranian examined isolates and the previously published CCHFV strain ArTeh193-3 clustered into different genetic groups, indicating that at least two genetic lineages of CCHFV could be co-circulating in Iran. Further investigations on ticks in Isfahan province in Central Iran, in 2008, revealed that the CCHFV genome was detected in 9% of ticks resident in livestock. Phylogenetic analysis demonstrated that a variant isolate was clustered with the Iraq strain. A recent phylogenetic study on the CCHFV genome sequence from the North of Iran in 2012 showed 50% similarity between isolated strain and Russian strains. **Conclusion:** In our previous studies, CCHF genome S-segment sequences were genetically characterized and results illustrated a close relation with Matin strain (Pakistani Strain). Whereas, our study in 2008 reveals the existence of another strain of CCHF in Iran (Iraqi strain). To date, according to all previous phylogenetic studies, it can be claimed that Senegalese, Pakistani, Iraqi and Russian strains of CCHFV are known to be circulating in Iran.

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A formula on the number of amino acid substitutions on the hemagglutinin molecules of H3N2 seasonal influenza viruses

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Human influenza A viruses undergo antigenic changes with gradual accumulation of amino acid substitutions on the hemagglutinin (HA) molecule. A strong antigenic mismatch between vaccine and epidemic strains often requires the replacement of influenza vaccines worldwide. To establish a practical model enabling us to predict the future direction of the influenza virus evolution, relative distances of amino acid sequences among past epidemic strains were analyzed by multidimensional scaling (MDS). We found that human influenza viruses have evolved along a gnarled evolutionary pathway with an approximately constant curvature in the MDS-constructed 3D space. The gnarled pathway indicated that evolution on the trunk favored multiple substitutions at the same amino acid positions on HA. The constant curvature was reasonably explained by assuming that the rate of amino acid substitutions varied from one position to another according to a gamma distribution. Furthermore, we utilized the estimated parameters of the gamma distribution to predict the amino acid substitutions on HA in subsequent years. Retrospective prediction tests showed that about 70% of actual amino acid substitutions were correctly predicted. Although it remains unsolved how to predict the exact timing of antigenic changes, the present results suggest that our model may have the potential to recognize emerging epidemic strains.



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Status of immunity against Seoul virus among wild rats (*Rattus norvegicus*): implications for persistence of Seoul virusKenta Shimizu¹, Shumpei P. Yasuda¹, Kumiko Yoshimatsu¹, Takaaki Koma¹, Nguyen Thuy Hoa², Le Thi Quynh Mai², Futoshi Hasebe³, Tetsu Yamashiro³, Jiro Arikawa¹¹Department of Microbiology, Graduate School of Medicine, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan²National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Hanoi, Vietnam³Nagasaki University, Nagasaki, Japan

Seoul virus (SEOV), one of the serotype of the genus Hantavirus, family Bunyaviridae, is a causative agent of hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome. SEOV has been maintained within a population of wild rats (*Rattus norvegicus*). However, the mechanism of persistence of SEOV in nature remains unclear. In this study, to examine the relationship between immune response and persistence of SEOV in wild rats, status of host immunity and viral load were investigated. A total of 200 rats were captured in Hanoi and Haiphong, Vietnam in 2009, 2011 and 2012. 44 out of 200 (22.0%) rats were found to be SEOV IgG antibody (Ab) positive, and 37 (84.1%) of which possessed virus genome in lung, suggesting that SEOV had not been cleared efficiently after infection. 26 (59.1%) of IgG Ab positive rats possessed IgM Ab, which was unusually high proportion. In female, negative relationship between IgG avidity and the amount of virus genome in lung was observed. In contrast, there was no relationship between them in male. SEOV specific CTL activity was not detected in SEOV positive rats. These results suggest that impairment of humoral and cell-mediated immunities against SEOV drive persistent infection in natural host.

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Characterization of the evolutionary relationships among African orthobunyavirusesAllison Groseth, Carla Weisend, Eric Dahlstrom, Sarah L. Anzick, Stephen F. Porcella, Hideki Ebihara ¹Laboratory of Virology, Division of Intramural Research, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, 903 South 4th Street, Hamilton, MT 59840, USA ²RML Genomics Unit, Research Technology Branch, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, 903 South 4th Street, Hamilton, MT 59840, USA

Bunyaviruses represent one of the most frequent, but underappreciated, causes of arthropod-borne disease in Africa where they cause febrile illness and in some cases also meningitis/encephalitis or even hemorrhagic complications. However, from a genetic standpoint the family has been only poorly characterized with most virus identification still based on serological testing combined with limited sequencing data, which almost exclusively focuses on the S-segment. As a result the exact identity of many bunyaviruses remains unclear. In order to improve our understanding of the evolutionary relationships between bunyaviruses causing human disease, we have undertaken the complete genome sequencing of various human pathogenic orthobunyaviruses and their close relatives, focusing on African members of the Bunyamwera, Nyando and Bwamba serogroups. These data represent a wealth of molecular information for a variety of viruses for which complete genome sequencing data was previously unavailable, and analysis of this data has identified several viruses whose taxonomic classification needs to be revisited. This includes the identification of viruses that appear to be previously unrecognized reassortants, as well as viruses that have been assigned to a distinct species but would be more appropriately classified as strains of a single species, and viruses that are currently regarded as a single species but for which genetic divergence would support classification as distinct species. These data not only significantly increase the genetic resources available for research pursuits, but will increase our ability to conduct effective surveillance for existing viruses, and to identify and predict the impact of the emergence of novel bunyaviruses.



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A simple method for the detection of tick-borne phleboviruses by one-step RT-PCR - a perfect tool for virus hunting

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The public health importance of tick-borne phleboviruses (TBPVs) is increasing, in particular, because two novel TBPVs that are pathogenic for humans have recently emerged: Severe Fever with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome virus (SFTSV) in China and Japan and Heartland virus (HRTV) in the US. These TBPVs comprise a related group within the genus Phlebovirus along with Bhanja viruses (BHAVs), another group of TBPVs pathogenic to humans, and Uukuniemi viruses (UUKVs). Due to strong antigenic and genetic diversity, surveillance and diagnosis of TBPVs has been difficult. We have established a simple and fast detection method for multiple TBPVs using one-step RT-PCR with a single pair of degenerate primers based on conserved regions of the virus genome. Our RT-PCR could amplify multiple TBPVs, including SFTSV, HRTV, BHAVs, and UUKVs. The system could also amplify Lone Star virus and Kisamayo virus and found that they are distantly related to the BHAVs. Also we revealed that two uncharacterized bunyaviruses, Silverwater virus and Lanjan virus compose a novel species distantly related to the UUKV group. Furthermore, we found a completely novel species of TBPV in ticks collected in Mali, tentatively designated Kati virus. In conclusion, our simple RT-PCR system is of sufficient sensitivity and broad-reactivity to detect a wide range of TBPVs, including heretofore undiscovered viruses divergent from known TBPVs. This assay system can help field studies in detection of a wide variety of known and novel TBPVs, and can also be applied to the identification of uncharacterized febrile illnesses associated with tick bites.

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Identification of a single point mutation in the 220 loop of equine influenza virus H3 that may play a role in adaptation to dogs

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2-3 linkages 2-6 linkages. Equine influenza viruses (EIV) bind receptors with 2-3 or Influenza viruses from both horses (H3N8) and birds (H3N2) have crossed the species barrier to infect dogs. One barrier to such transmission events is poor binding to host cell receptors. The viral haemagglutinin (HA) is responsible for binding to specific sialic acid residues on cell surfaces and these vary between animal species. Influenza viruses from different hosts therefore have different receptor preferences, such as specificity for and terminal Neu5Gc rather than Neu5Ac. The receptor preferences of canine influenza viruses (CIV) have yet to be resolved. Specific amino acid changes within the 220 loop of HA alter receptor binding specificity and/or affinity. We compared H3 viruses from birds, horses and dogs and found that CIV of H3N8 and H3N2 subtypes have a specific change within this region. A clinical isolate of equine influenza, which grew better on canine cells than in eggs, identified a different substitution at the same location. Passage of EIV on canine tracheal explants also resulted in this change. Viruses containing the 220 loop mutations were rescued by reverse genetics and their growth characteristics compared with wild type EIV in canine cells and tracheal explants cultures. A mutant with a canine-like 220 loop mutation caused more extensive cell lysis in MDCK cells than the wild-type equine virus and replicated more efficiently in canine tracheal explant cultures. A single mutation in the 220 loop of H3 viruses may therefore be important for adaptation to canine cells.



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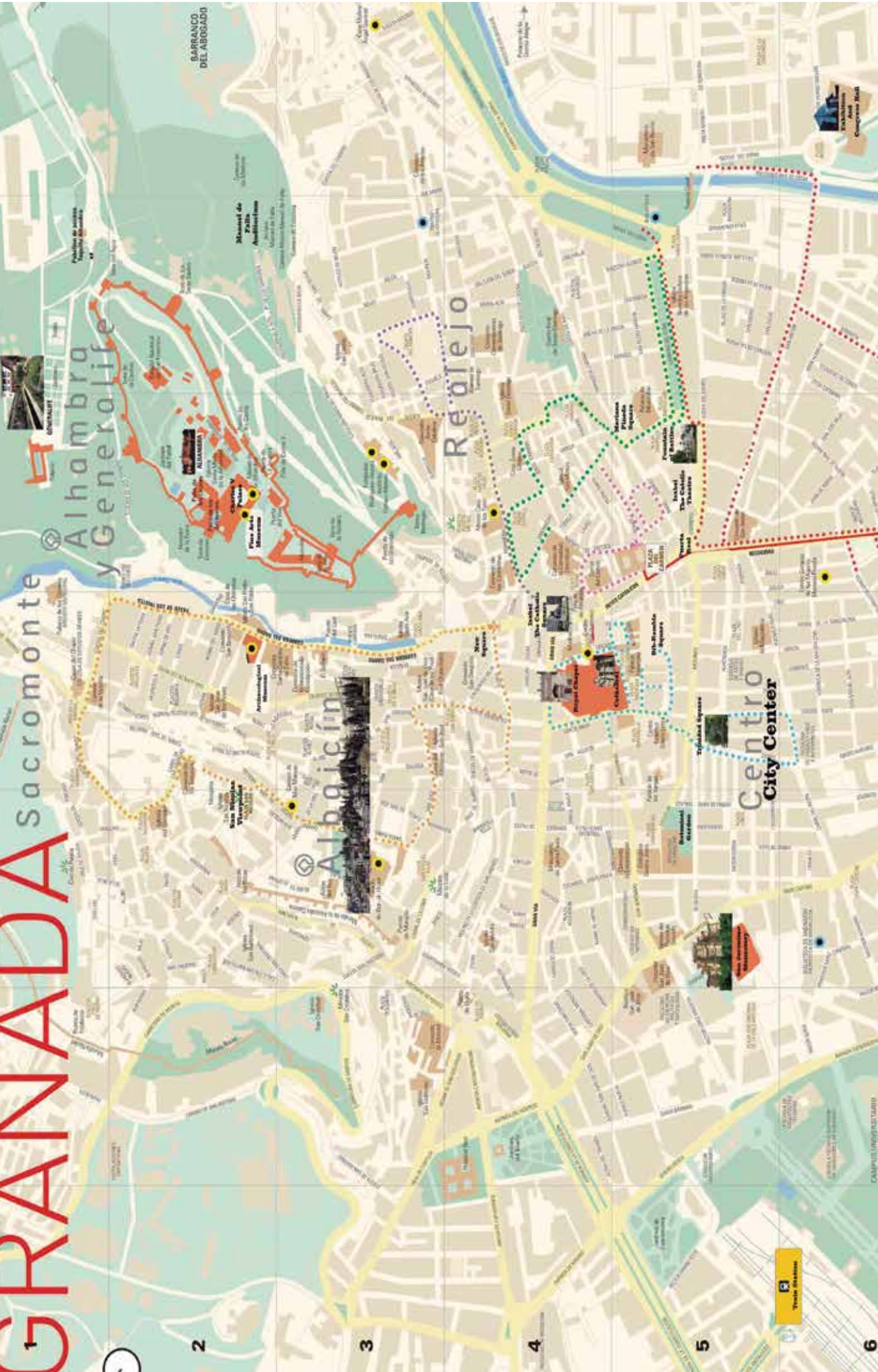


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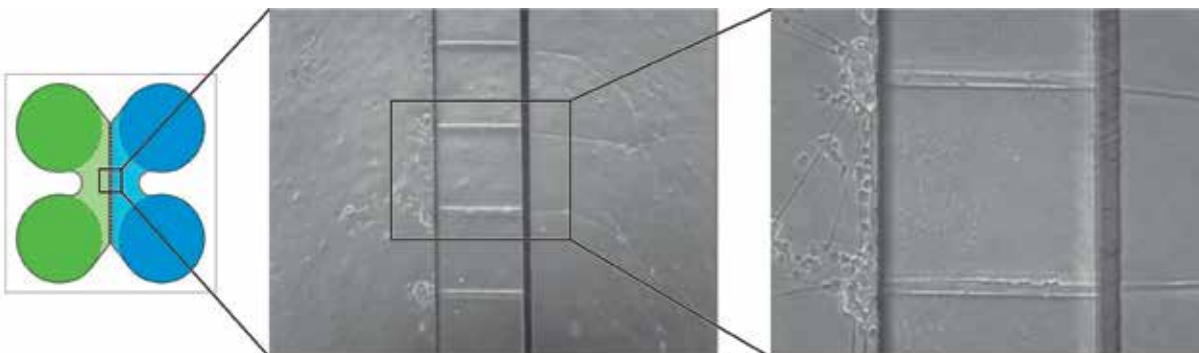


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