

# **TOWARDS A UNIVERSAL INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE**

**Peter Palese**

**Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
New York**

# ISIRV - Options IX for the Control of Influenza

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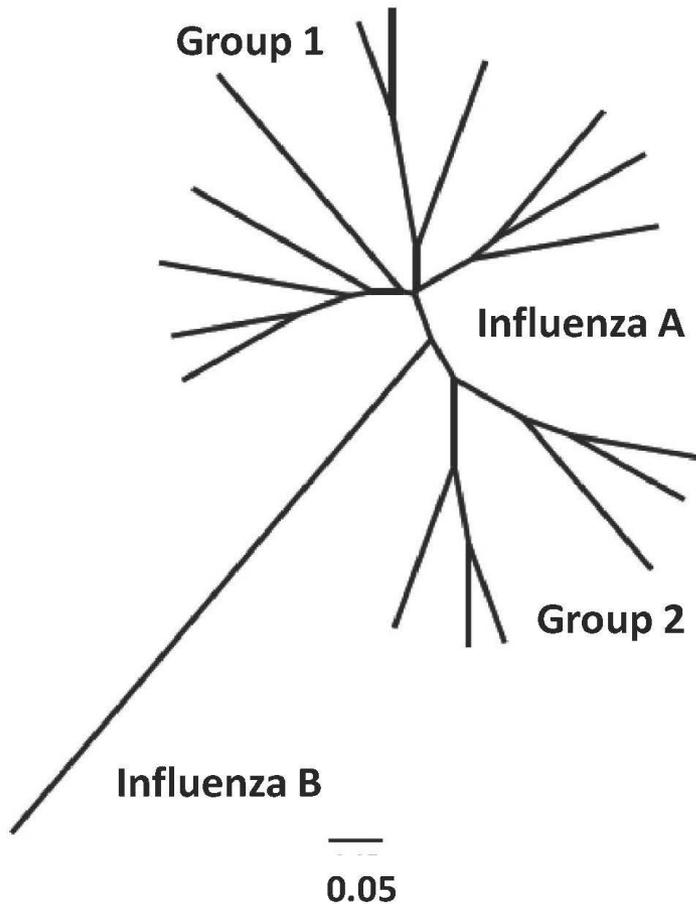
Mount Sinai has submitted patent applications for a  
universal influenza virus vaccine

Work has been supported by the NIH, The Bill & Melinda  
Gates Foundation, GSK

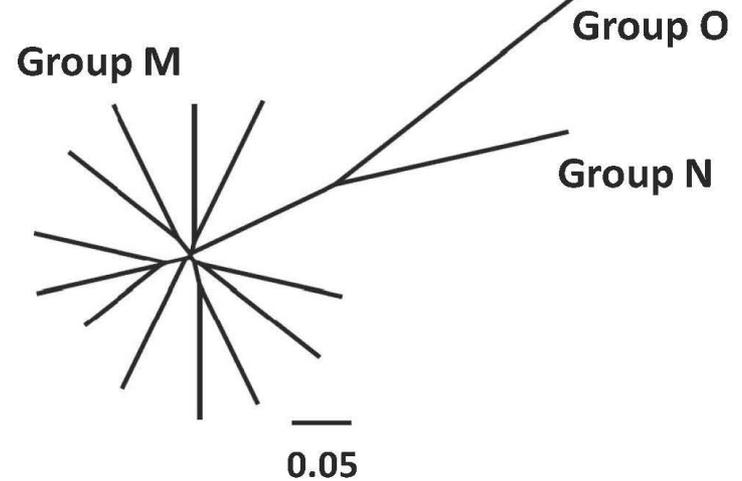
My presentation **does not** include discussion of off-label or investigational use.

# Surface glycoprotein diversity of different viruses

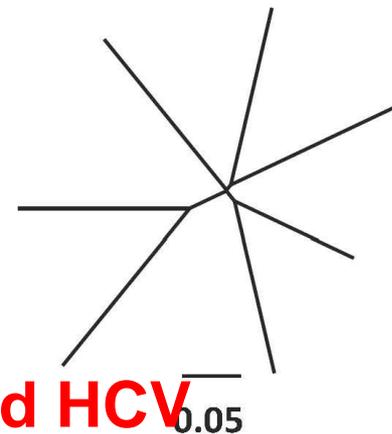
Influenza virus HA diversity



HIV-1 env diversity

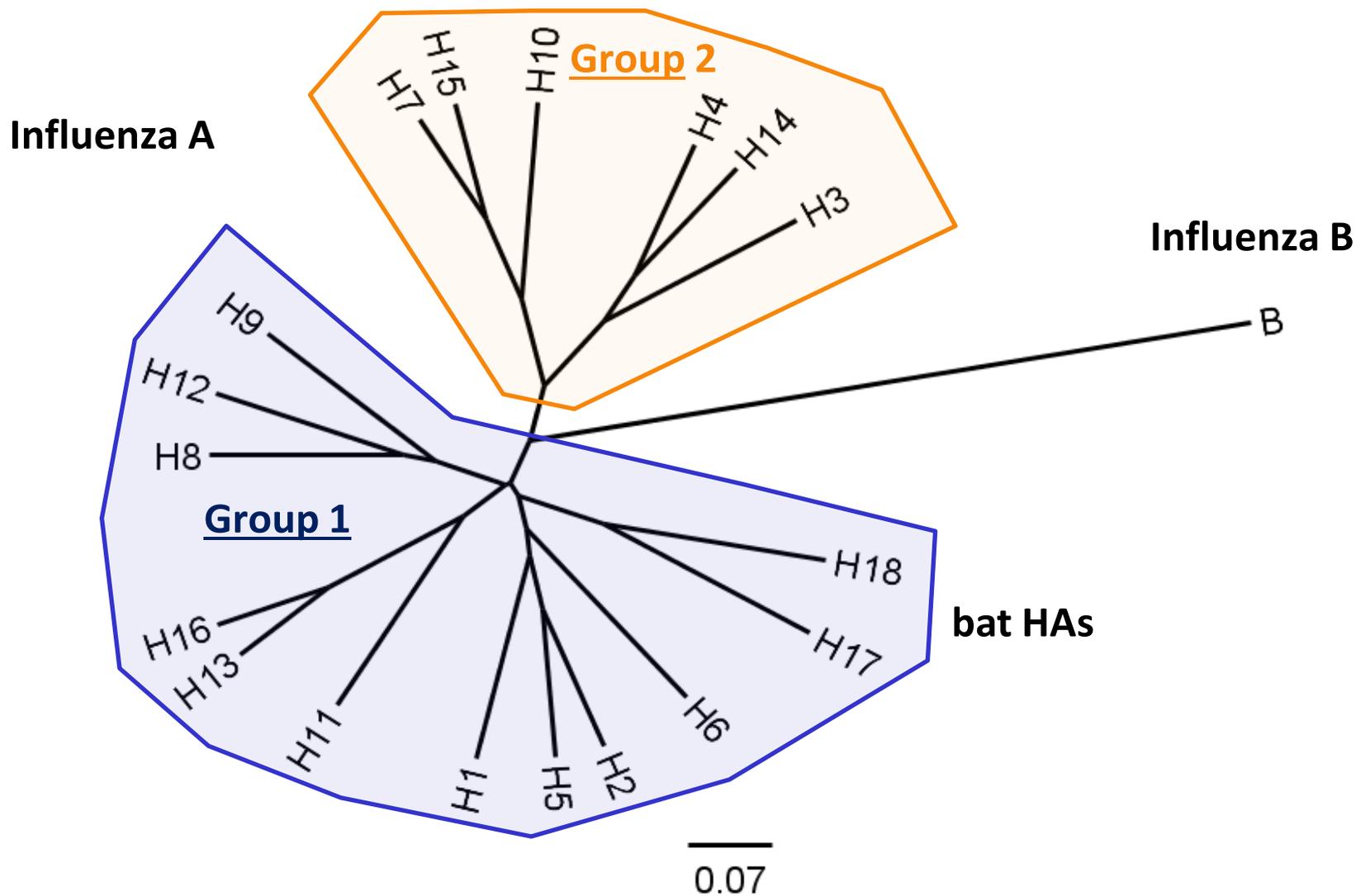


HCV E protein diversity



Similar variation for influenza, HIV and HCV

# EIGHTEEN SUBTYPES OF INFLUENZA A VIRUS HEMAGGLUTINININS

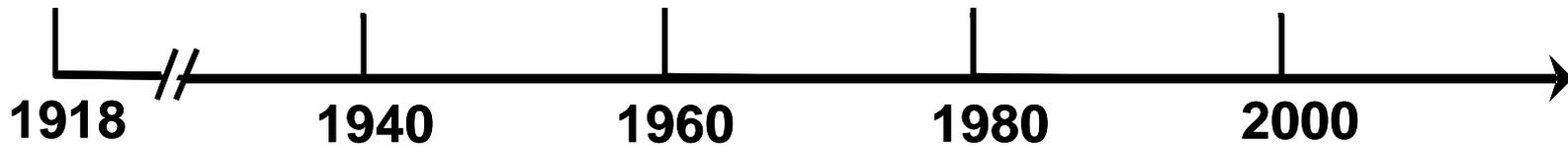
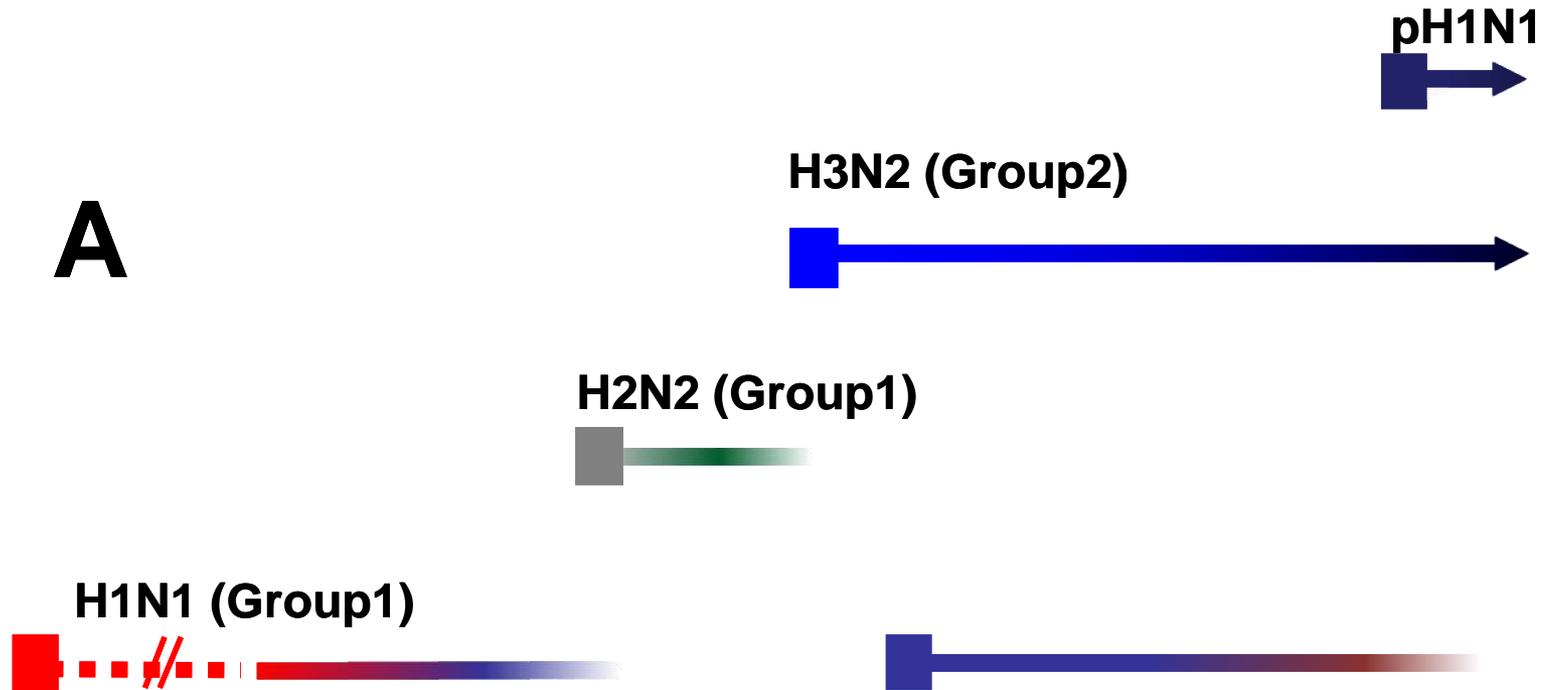


# Influenza viruses circulating in the human population

B



A



# AVIAN INFLUENZA VIRUSES INFECTING HUMANS

<b>H5N6</b>	China	2016
<b>H7N9</b>	China	2015, 2014, 2013
<b>H10N8</b>	China	2013
<b>H6N1</b>	Taiwan	2013
<b>H10N7</b>	Australia, Egypt	2010, 2004
<b>H7N3</b>	Mexico, UK, Canada, Italy	2012, 2006, 04, 03
<b>H7N2</b>	UK, USA	2007, 2003
<b>H9N2</b>	Hong Kong	1999
<b>H5N1</b>	Asia, Europe, Africa, Hong Kong	2015-2003 , 1997
<b>H7N7</b>	Netherlands, UK, USA, Austr., USA	2003, 96, 80, 77, 59

# **INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINES**

**INACTIVATED**

**LIVE ATTENUATED**

**RECOMBINANT**

# **INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE STRAINS 2016-2017**

**A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09  
A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)**

**B/Phuket/3073/2013  
B/Brisbane/60/2008**

- **INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINES ARE UNIQUE.**
- **THEY HAVE TO BE GIVEN ANNUALLY, BECAUSE NOVEL VACCINE FORMULATIONS HAVE TO BE PREPARED REFLECTING THE RAPID ANTIGENIC CHANGE OF THE VIRUS.**

# **Antigenic diversity: analysis of the flexible influenza A virus and rigid measles virus glycoproteins**

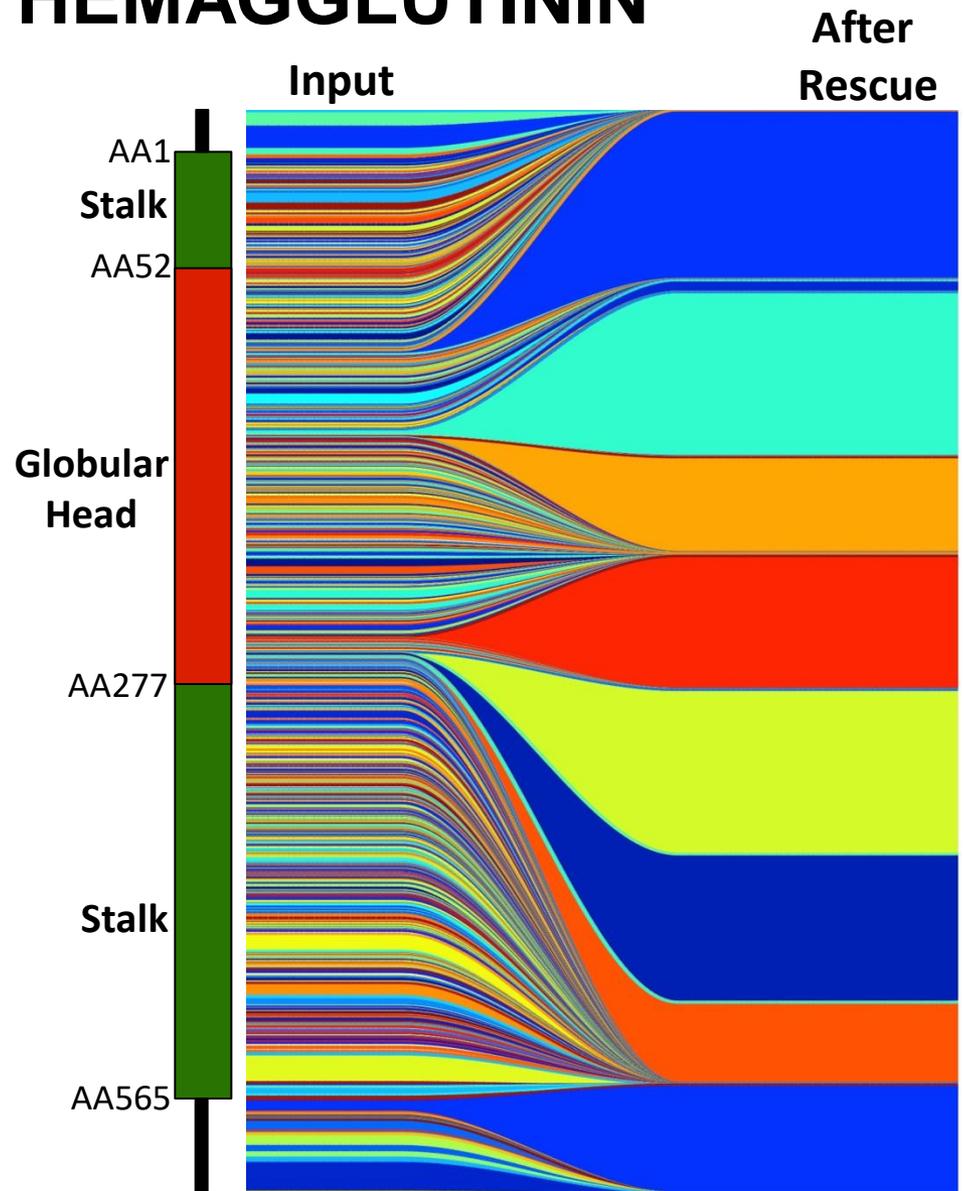
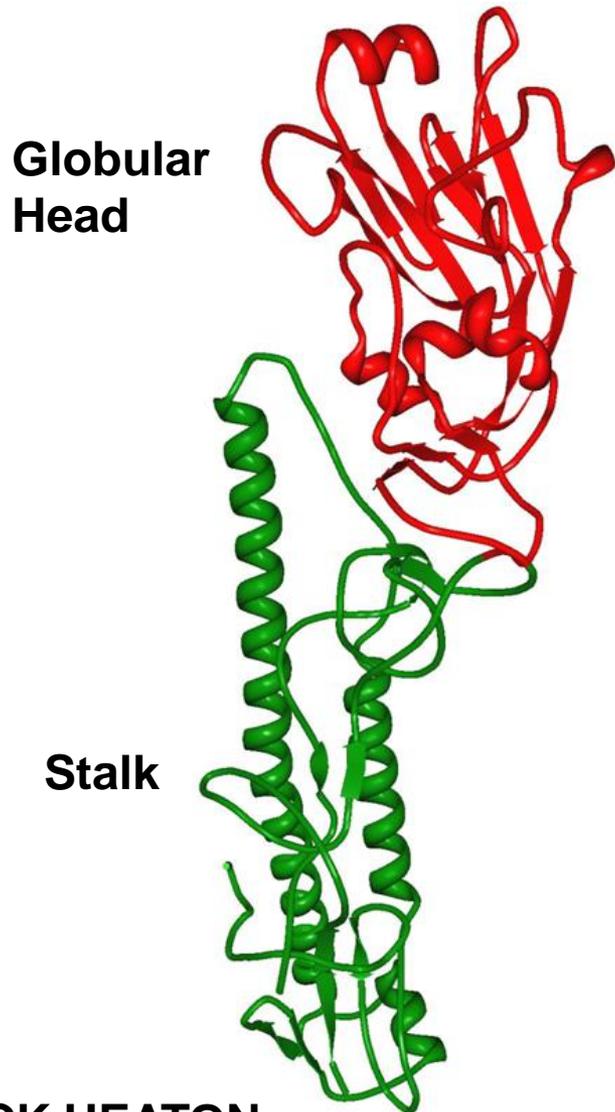
**Nicholas Heaton, PhD**

**Ben Fulton**

**Palese Lab**

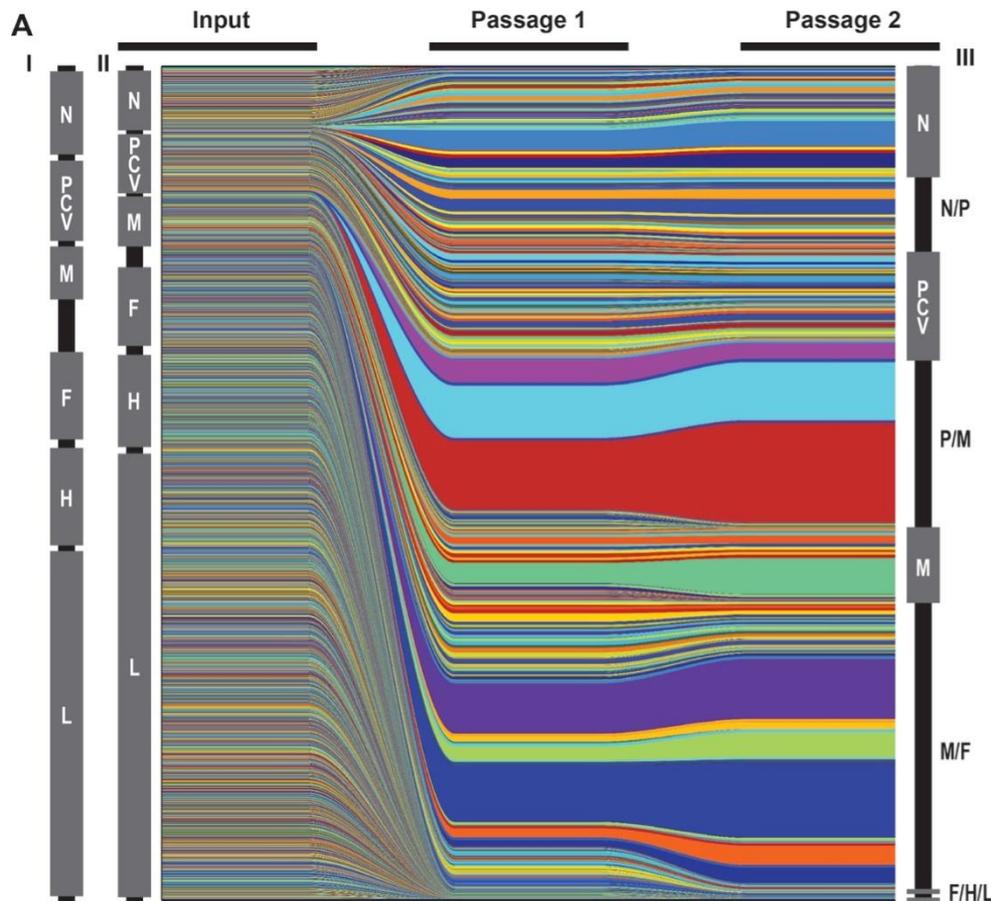
**Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

# INSERTION MUTATIONS ARE TOLERATED IN THE HEAD OF THE HEMAGGLUTININ



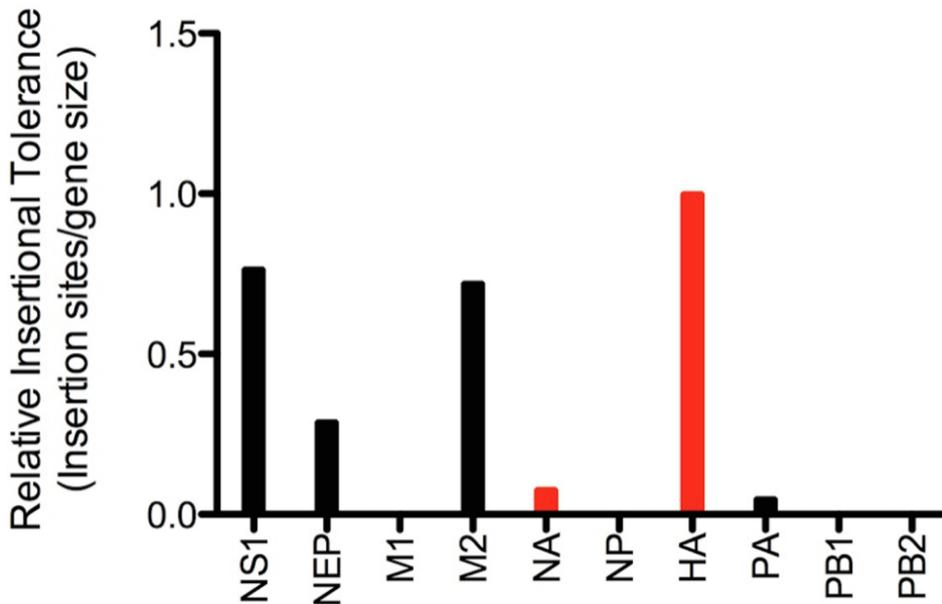
Rescue in Eggs

# The measles virus glycoproteins (and the polymerase) are resistant to insertions

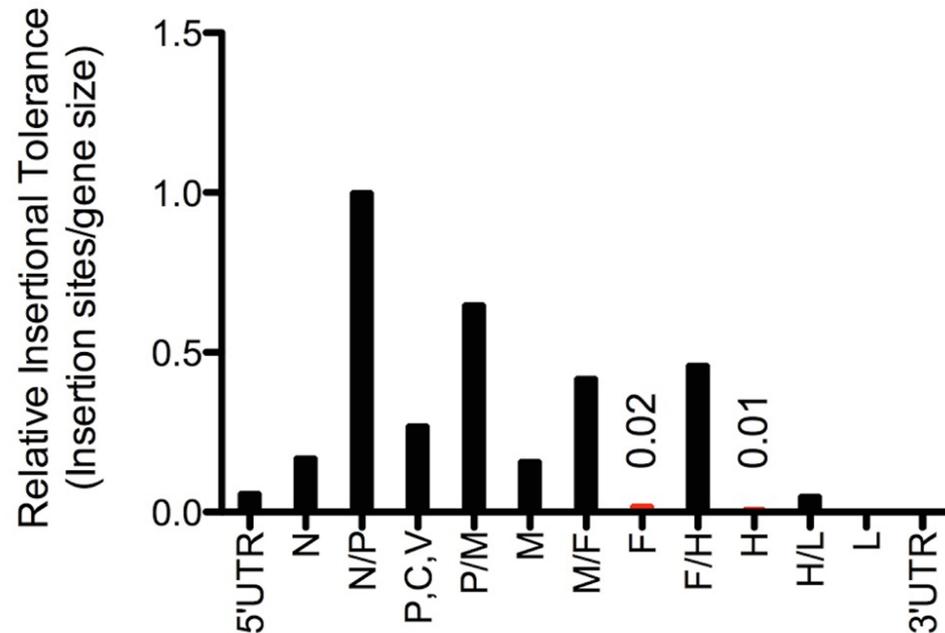


# TOLERANCE OF THE INFLUENZA A VIRUS AND OF MEASLES VIRUS GENOMES

Influenza A Virus



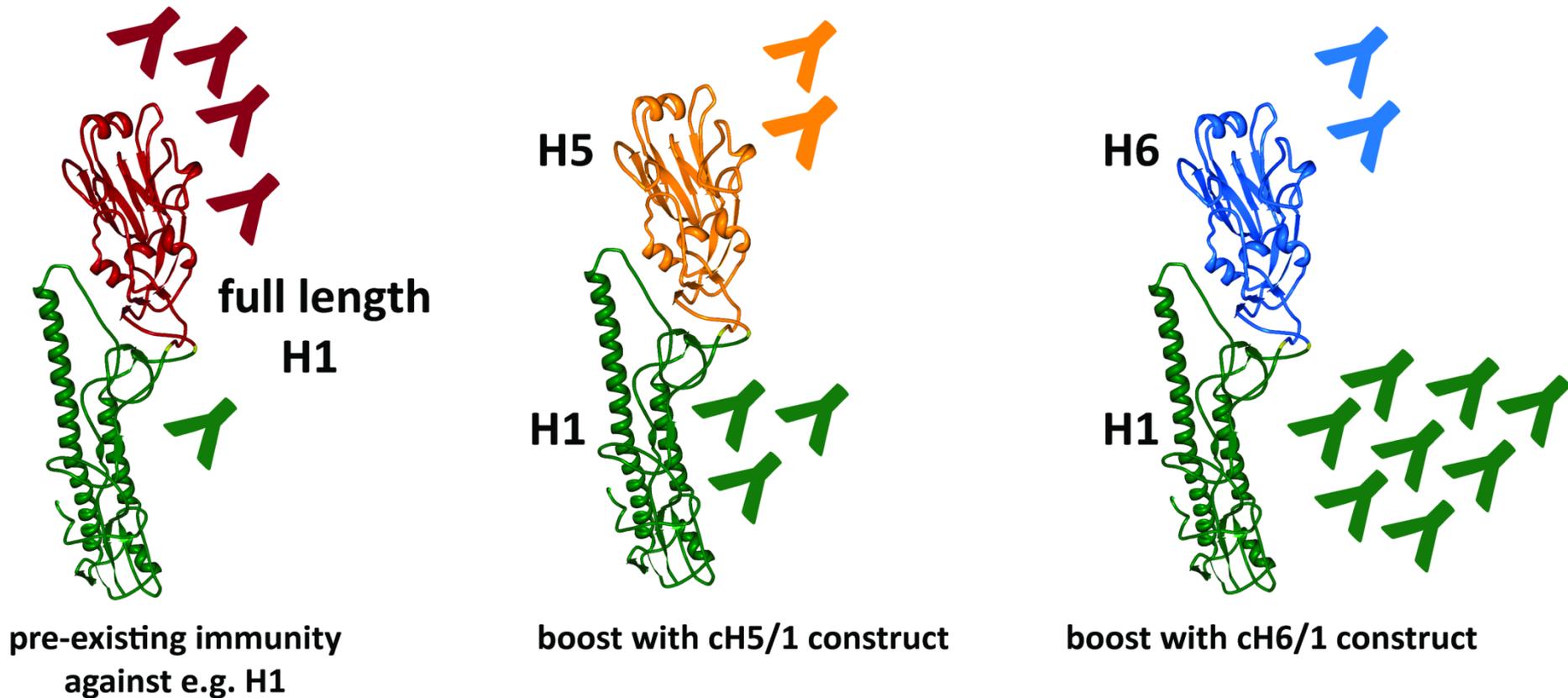
Measles Virus



**HOW CAN WE DO BETTER?**

**UNIVERSAL INFLUENZA VIRUS  
VACCINES**

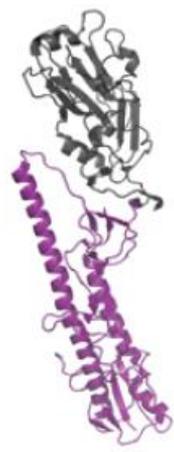
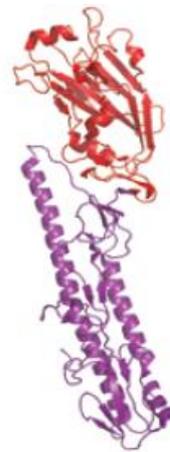
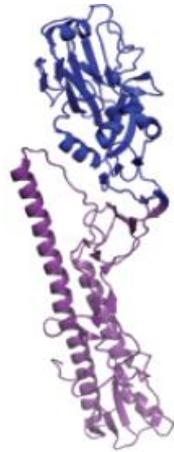
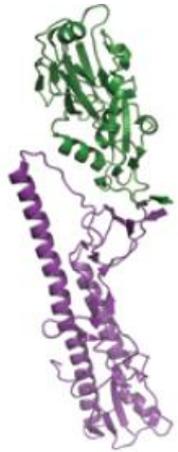
# Vision for a human universal influenza virus vaccine



# APPROACHES

- **ADJUVANTS**
- **MVA-VECTORED**
- **M2e-BASED**
- **EPITOPES/PEPTIDES**
- **NEURAMINIDASE**
- **COBRA (computationally optimized broadly reactive antigens)**
- **STALK ONLY, HEADLESS HEMAGGLUTININ**
- **CHIMERIC HEMAGGLUTININ**

# Induction of protective levels of stalk-reactive antibodies using chimeric HA constructs in mice



cH9/1 DNA

**PRIME**

cH6/1 protein

**BOOST**

cH5/1 protein

**BOOST**

**PR8 H1N1<sub>(1934)</sub>**

**FM1 H1N1<sub>(1947)</sub>**

**pH1N1<sub>(2009)</sub>**

**H5N1**

**H6N1**

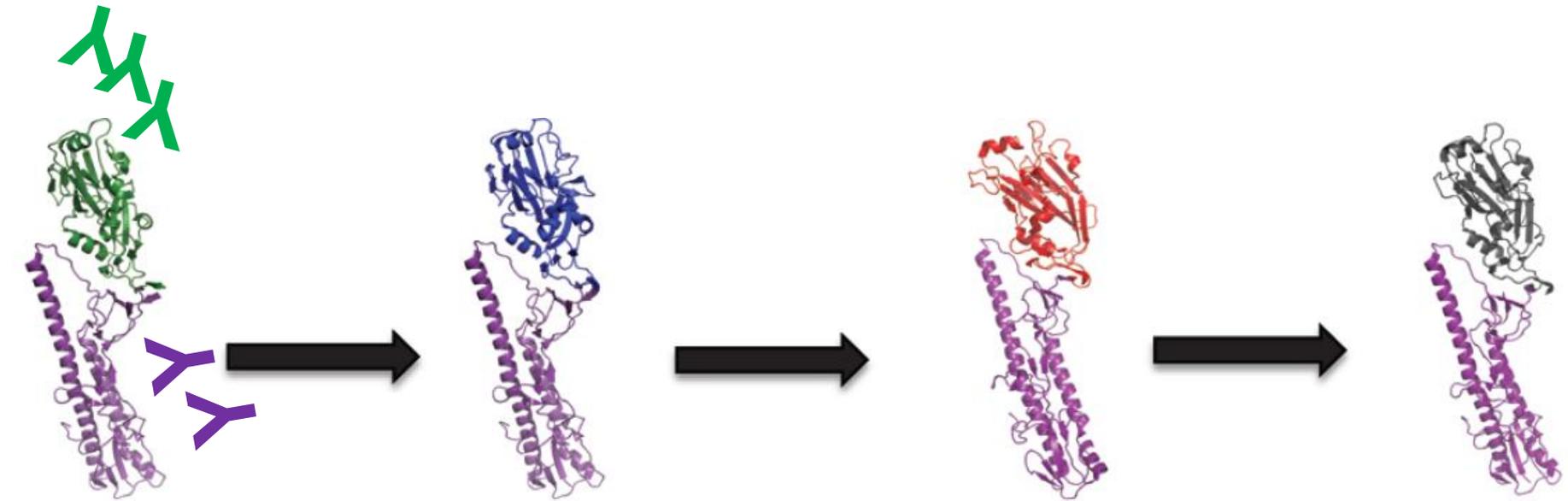
**CHALLENGE**

Control groups:

cH9/1 DNA + BSA + BSA

matched vaccine (pos. contr.)

# Induction of protective levels of stalk-reactive antibodies using chimeric HA constructs in mice



cH9/1 DNA

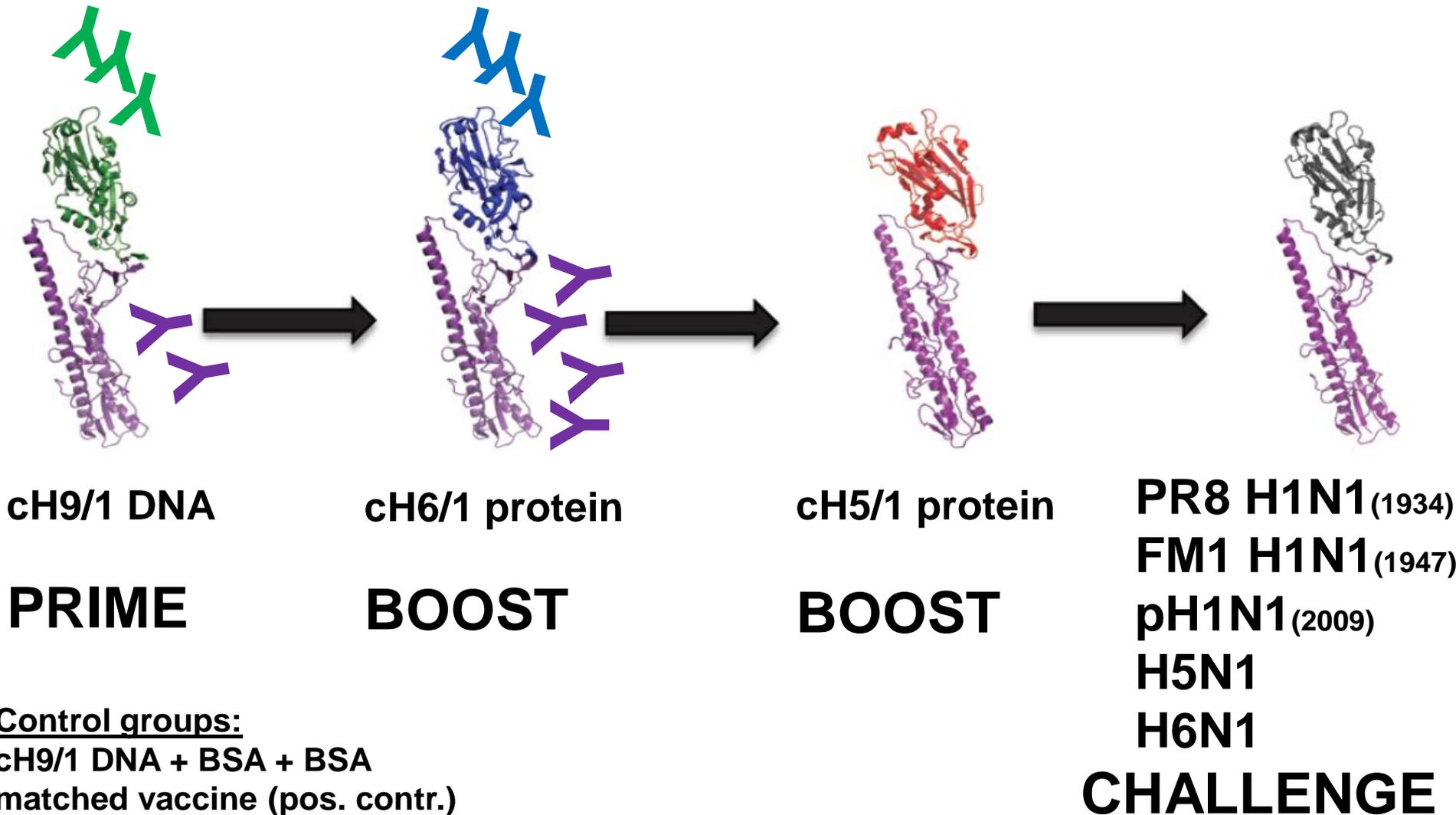
cH6/1 protein

cH5/1 protein

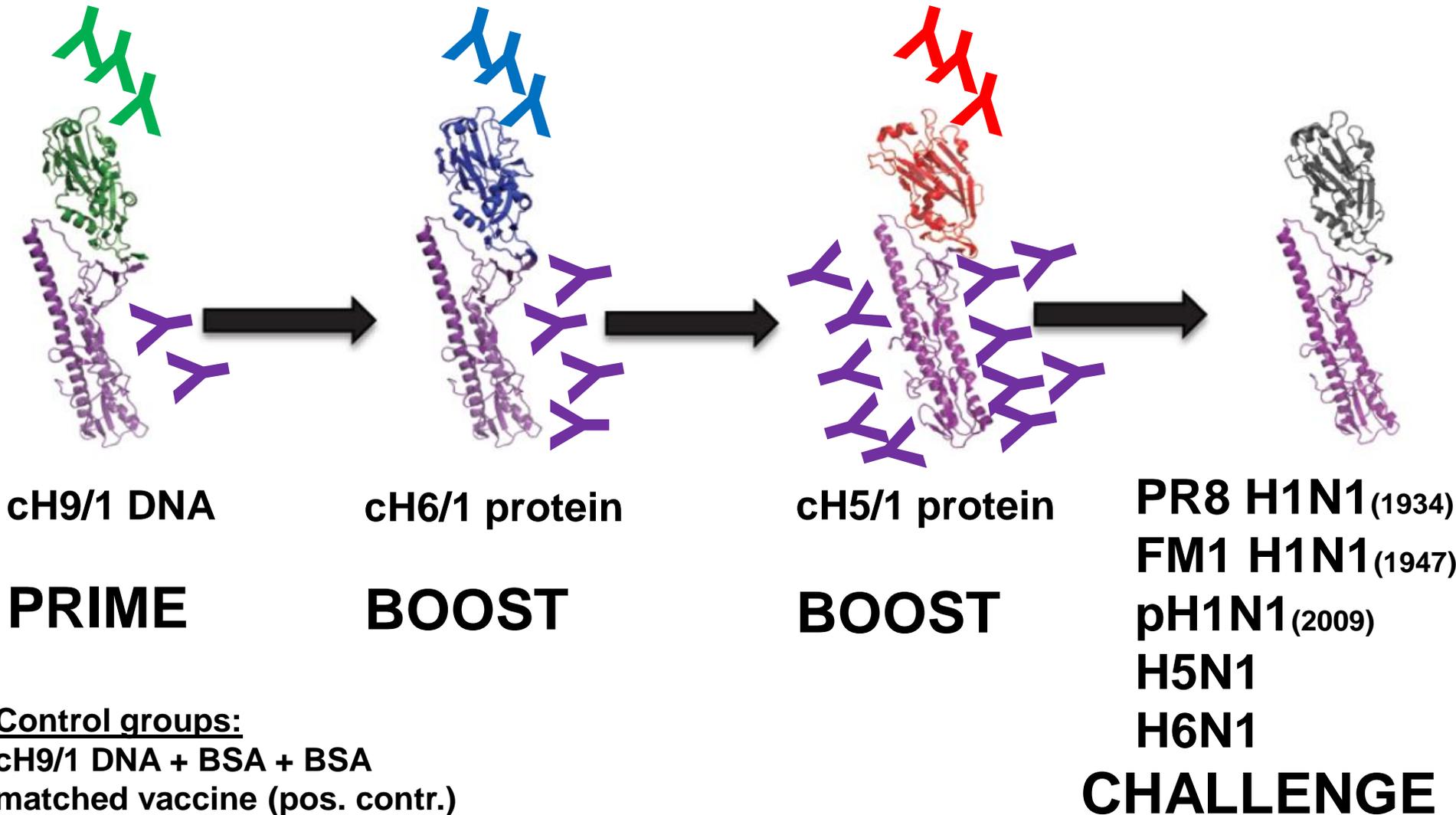
PR8 H1N1  
FM1 H1N1  
pH1N1  
H5N1  
H6N1  
challenge

Control groups:  
cH9/1 DNA + BSA + BSA  
matched vaccine (pos.)

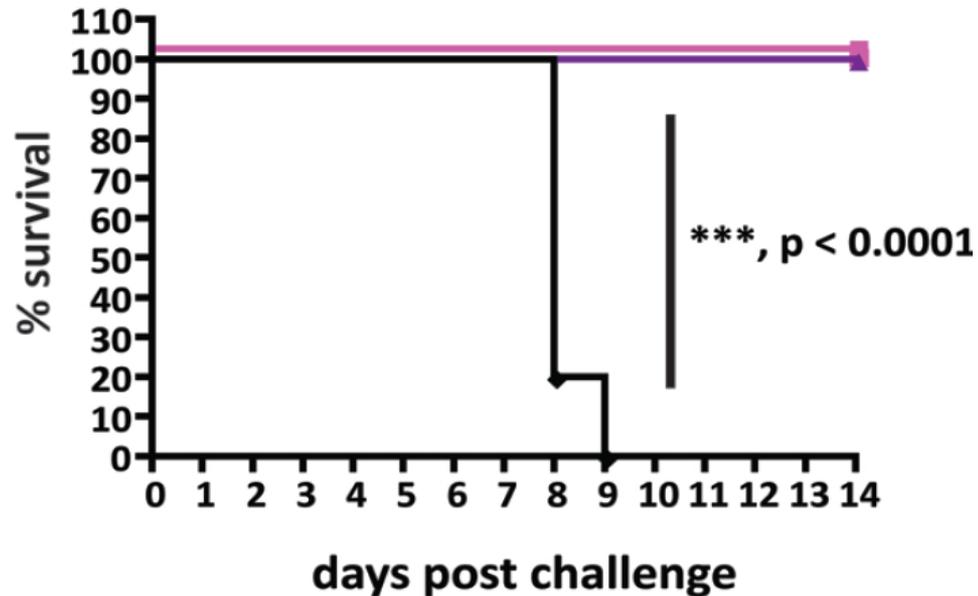
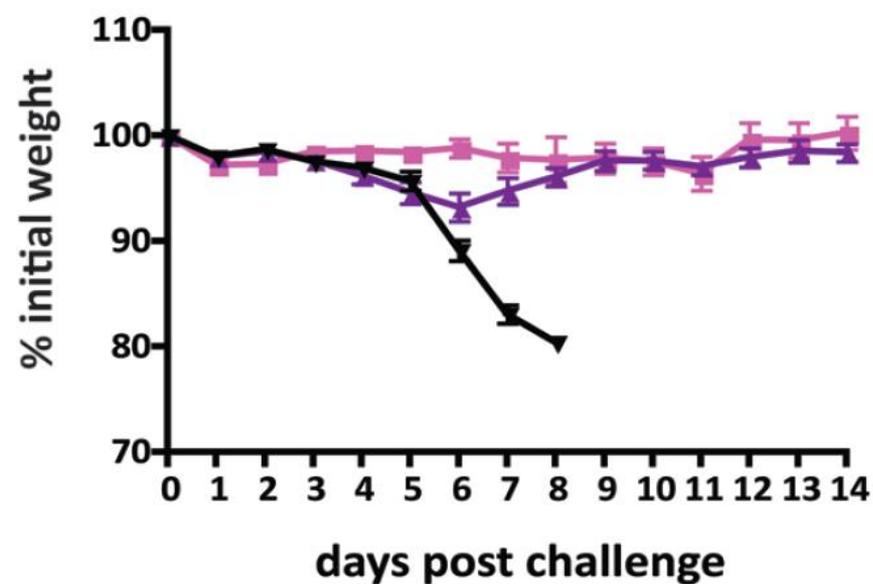
# Induction of protective levels of stalk-reactive antibodies using chimeric HA constructs in mice



# Induction of protective levels of stalk-reactive antibodies using chimeric HA constructs in mice



# Vaccination with cHA constructs protects from pH1N1 (A/Netherlands/602/09) challenge



- positive control (matched inactivated)
- ▲ cH9/1 DNA + cH6/1 protein + cH5/1 protein
- ▼ cH9/1 DNA + BSA + BSA

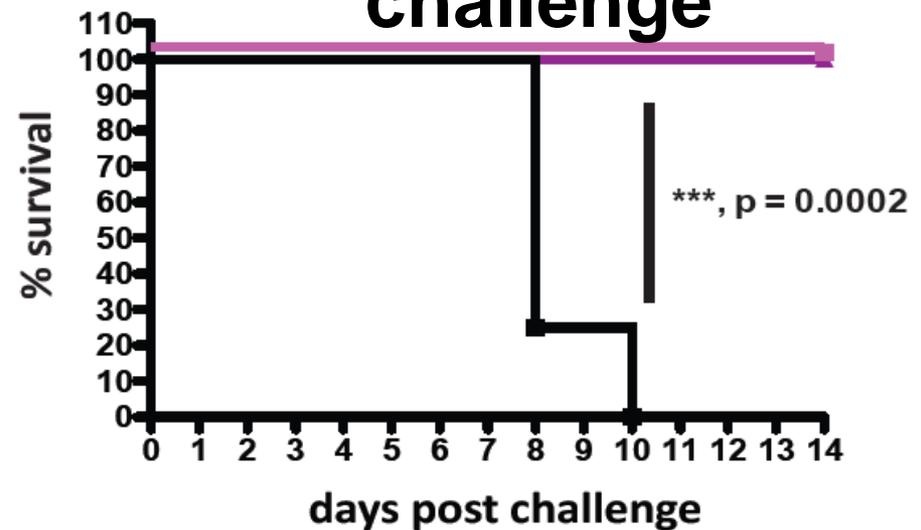
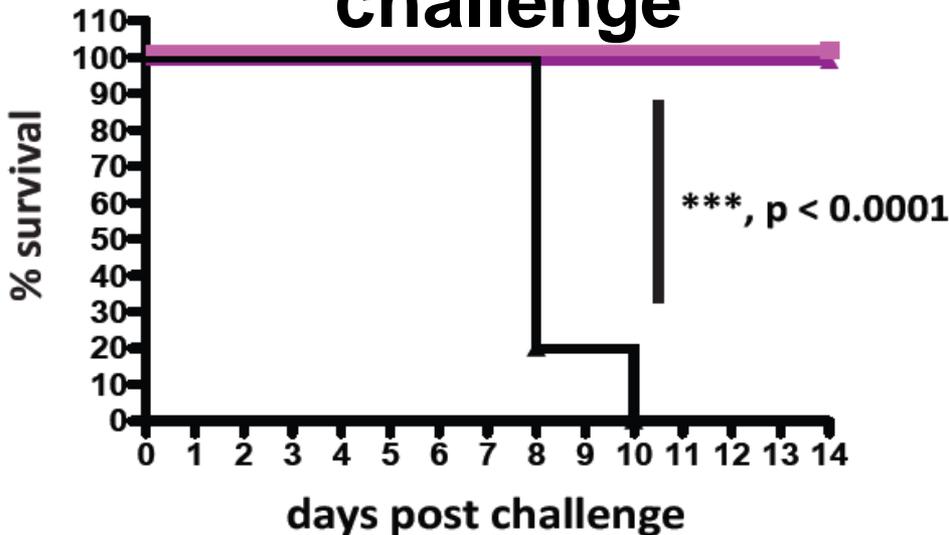
Similar results for A/PR/8/34 H1N1 and A/FM/1/47 challenges

Krammer et al.  
JVI, 87, 6542, 2013

# cHA constructs protect mice from heterosubtypic challenge

## H5N1 challenge

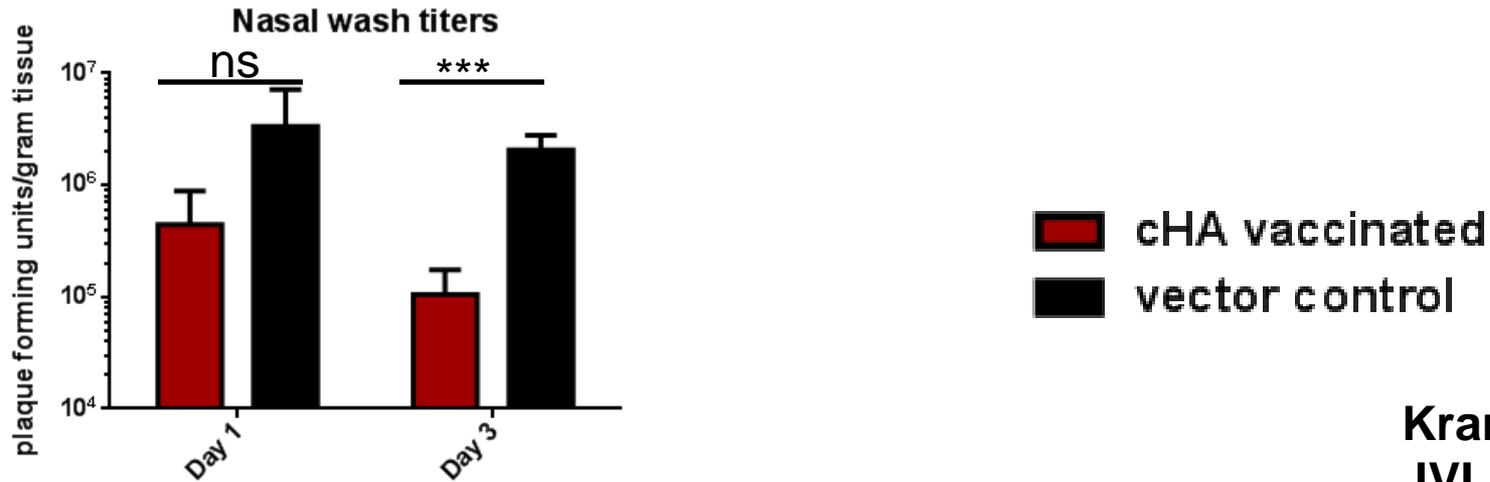
## H6N1 challenge



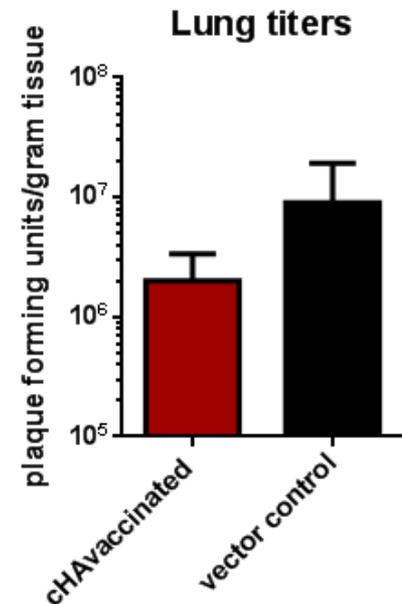
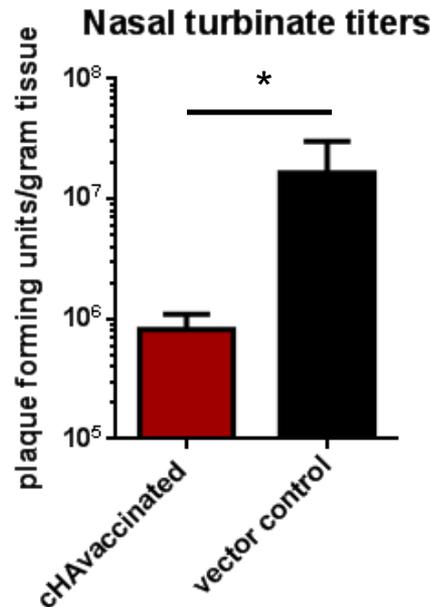
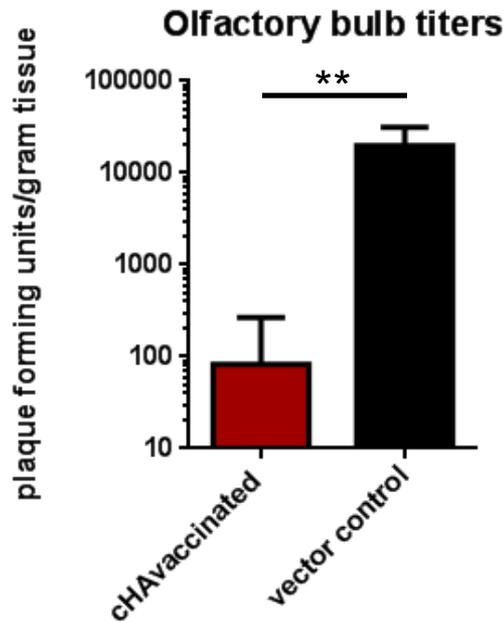
- positive control (matched inactivated)
- ▲ cH9/1 DNA + H1 protein/cH6/1 protein + cH5/1 protein/H1
- ▼ protein
- cH9/1 DNA + BSA + BSA

cH5/1 (H5 challenge) or cH6/1 (H6 challenge) protein was replaced by full length H1 protein to exclude head-based protection

# cHA constructs protect ferrets from pH1N1 challenge



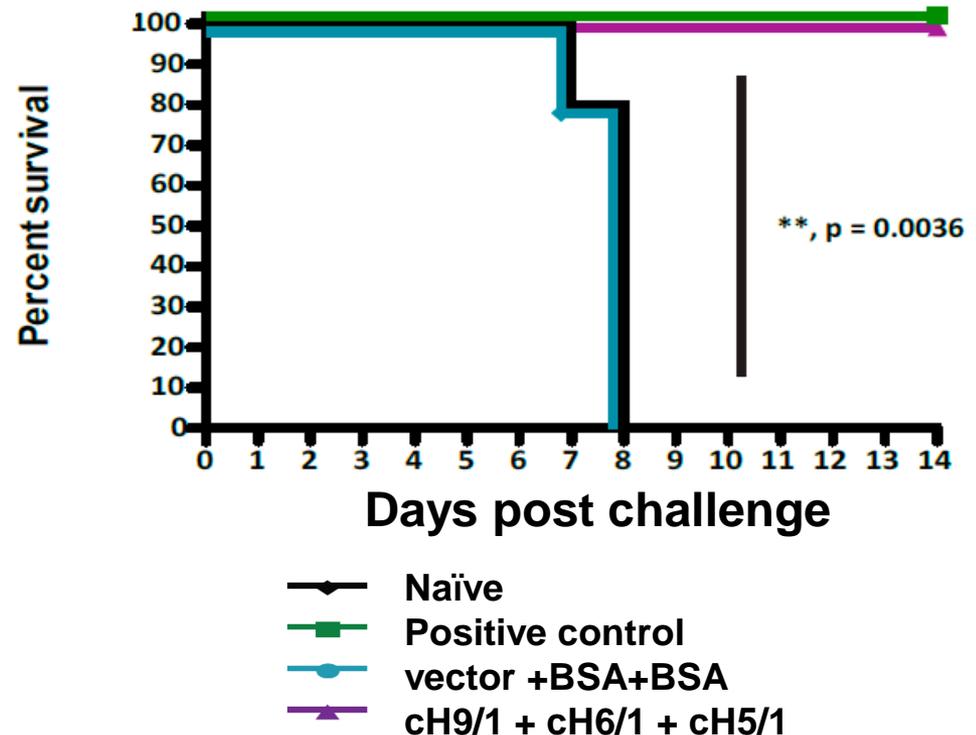
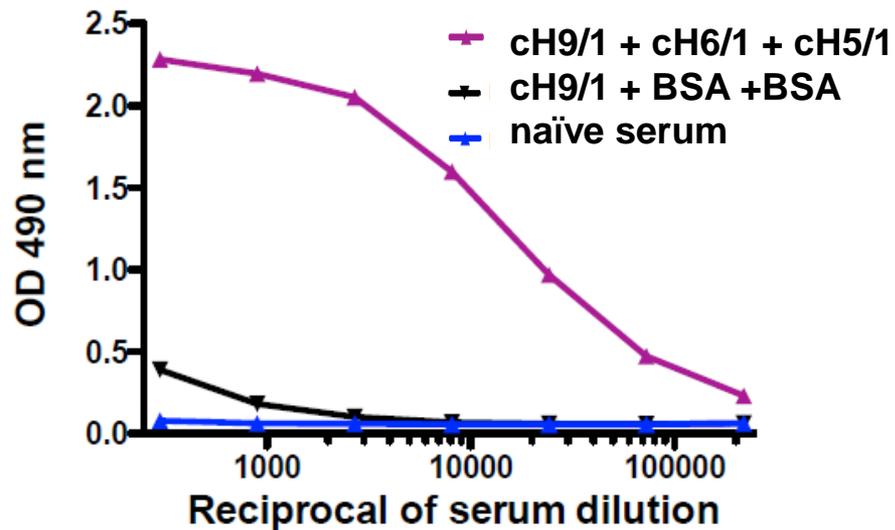
Krammer et al.,  
JVI Jan. 8, 2014



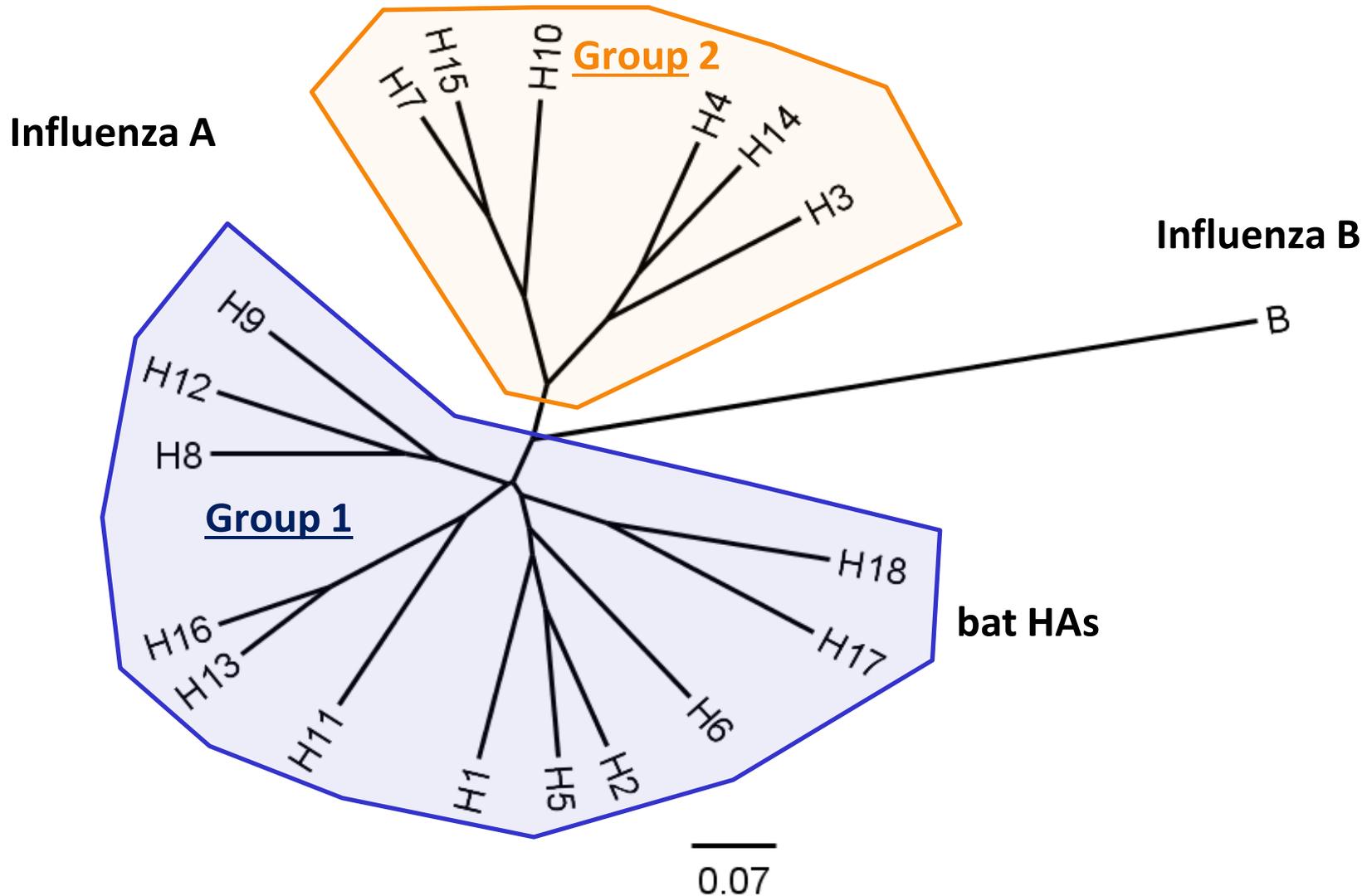
# Protection is antibody mediated

ELISA reactivity to Cal09  
(pH1N1) protein

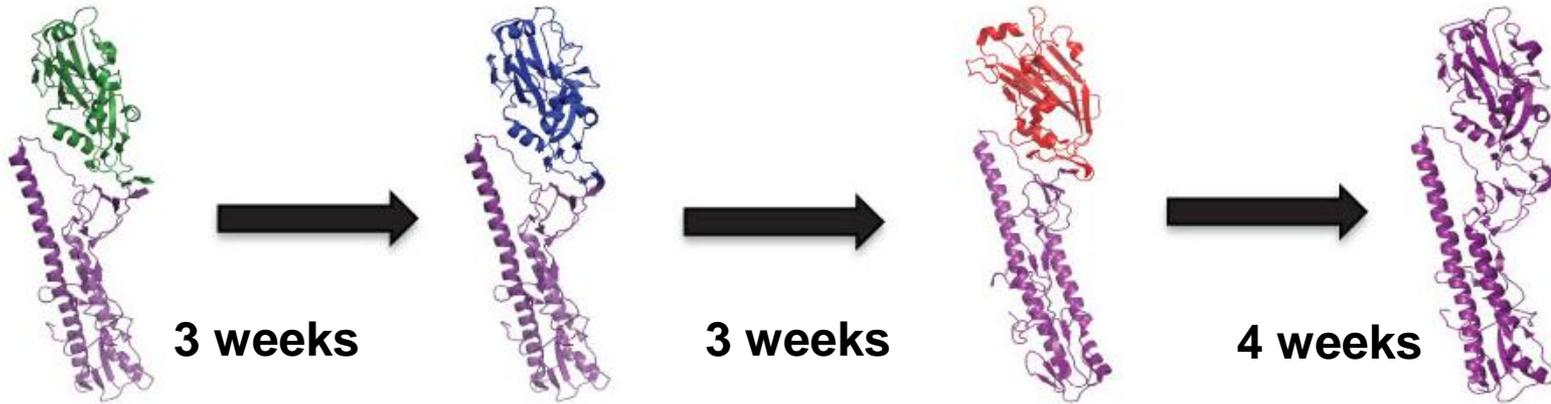
Passive transfer of serum  
protects from viral challenge



# Targeting group 2 HA viruses



# Protection against group 2 HA expressing viruses in the mouse model



cH4/3 DNA

cH5/3 protein

cH7/3 protein

Phil/82 (H3N2)

X/31 (H3N2) 1968

Rhea (H7N1)

**PRIME**

**BOOST**

**BOOST**

**CHALLENGE**

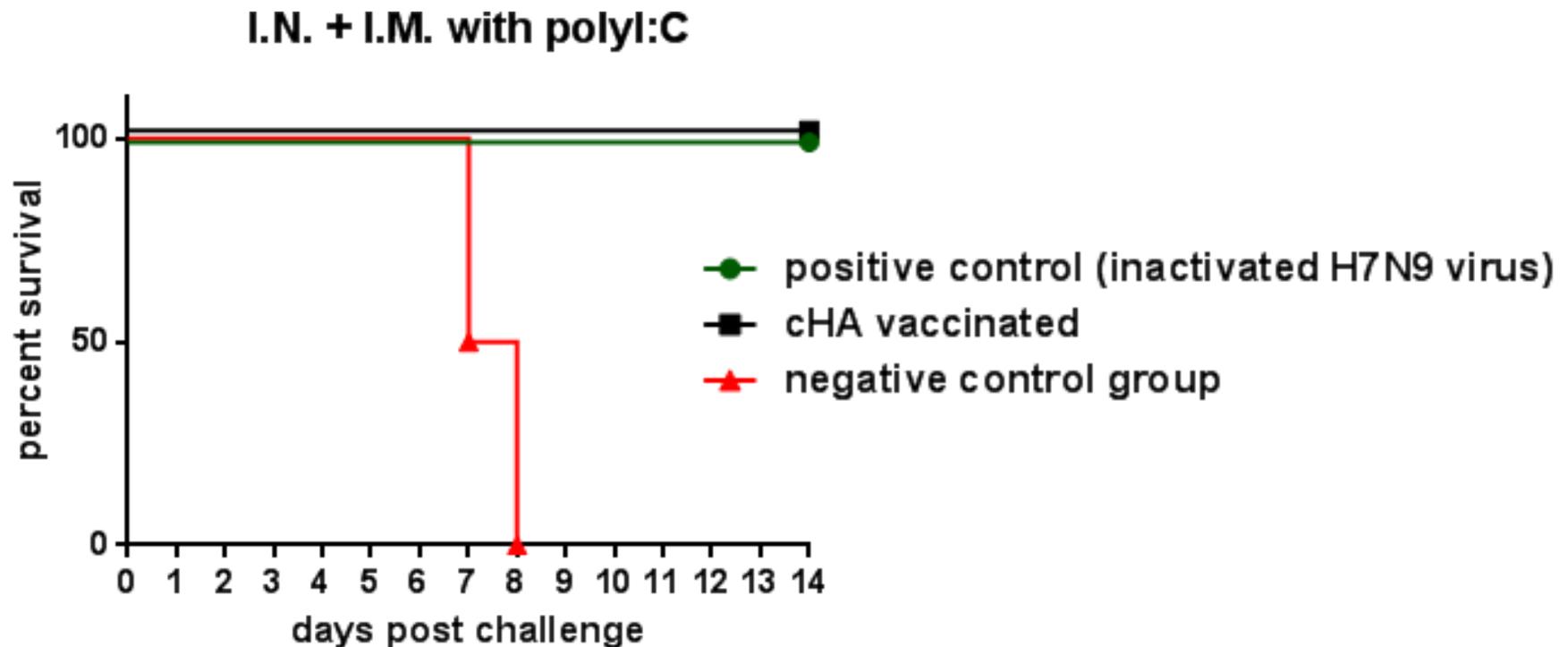
Control groups:

cH4/3 DNA + BSA + BSA

naïve (neg. contr.)

matched vaccine (pos. contr.)

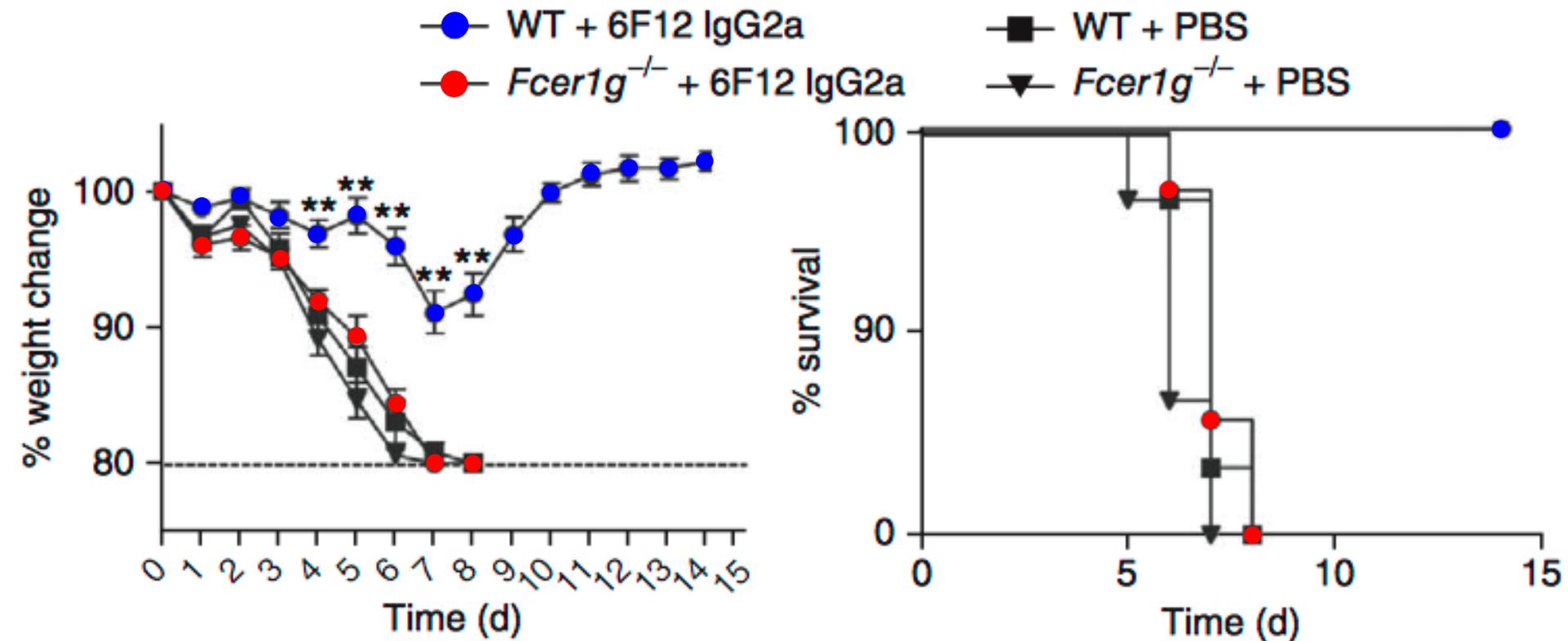
# Group 2 cHA vaccine protects against challenge with novel H7N9\* virus



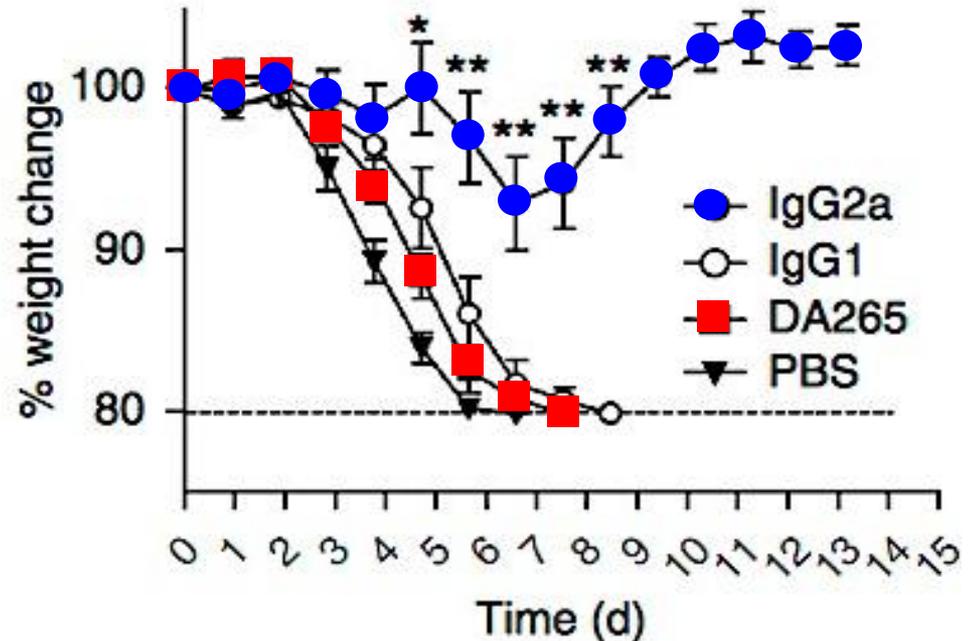
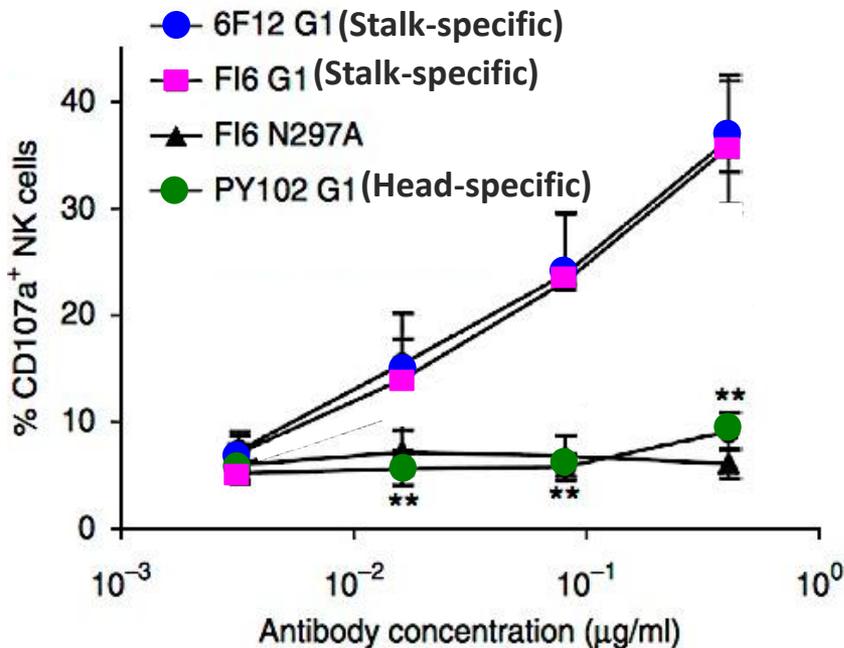
\*cH7/3 protein was replaced by full length H3 protein for the H7N1 challenge group

**WHAT IS THE MECHANISM BY  
WHICH THESE BROADLY  
PROTECTIVE STALK-SPECIFIC  
ANTIBODIES MEDIATE THEIR  
ANTIVIRAL ACTIVITY?**

# Broadly neutralizing hemagglutinin stalk-specific antibodies require FcγR interactions for protection against influenza virus *in vivo*



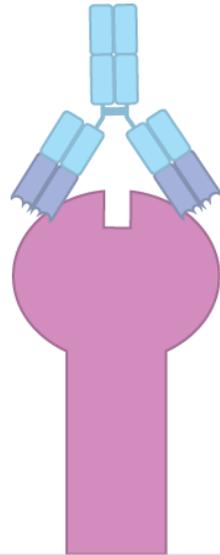
# Broadly neutralizing hemagglutinin stalk-specific antibodies require FcγR interactions for protection against influenza virus *in vivo*



**Antibody-dependent Cell-mediated Cytotoxicity (ADCC) can be induced by stalk-specific, but not head-specific antibodies.**

# Antibody-Dependent Cell-Mediated Cytotoxicity (ADCC)

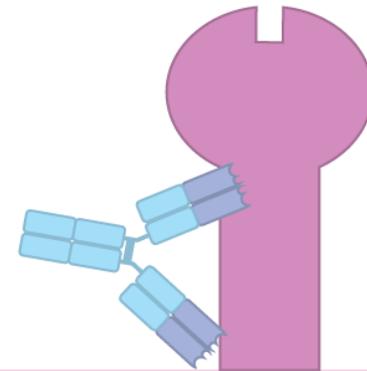
**NO**



**A**

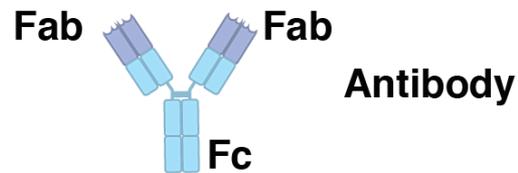
Infected cell

**YES**



**B**

Infected cell

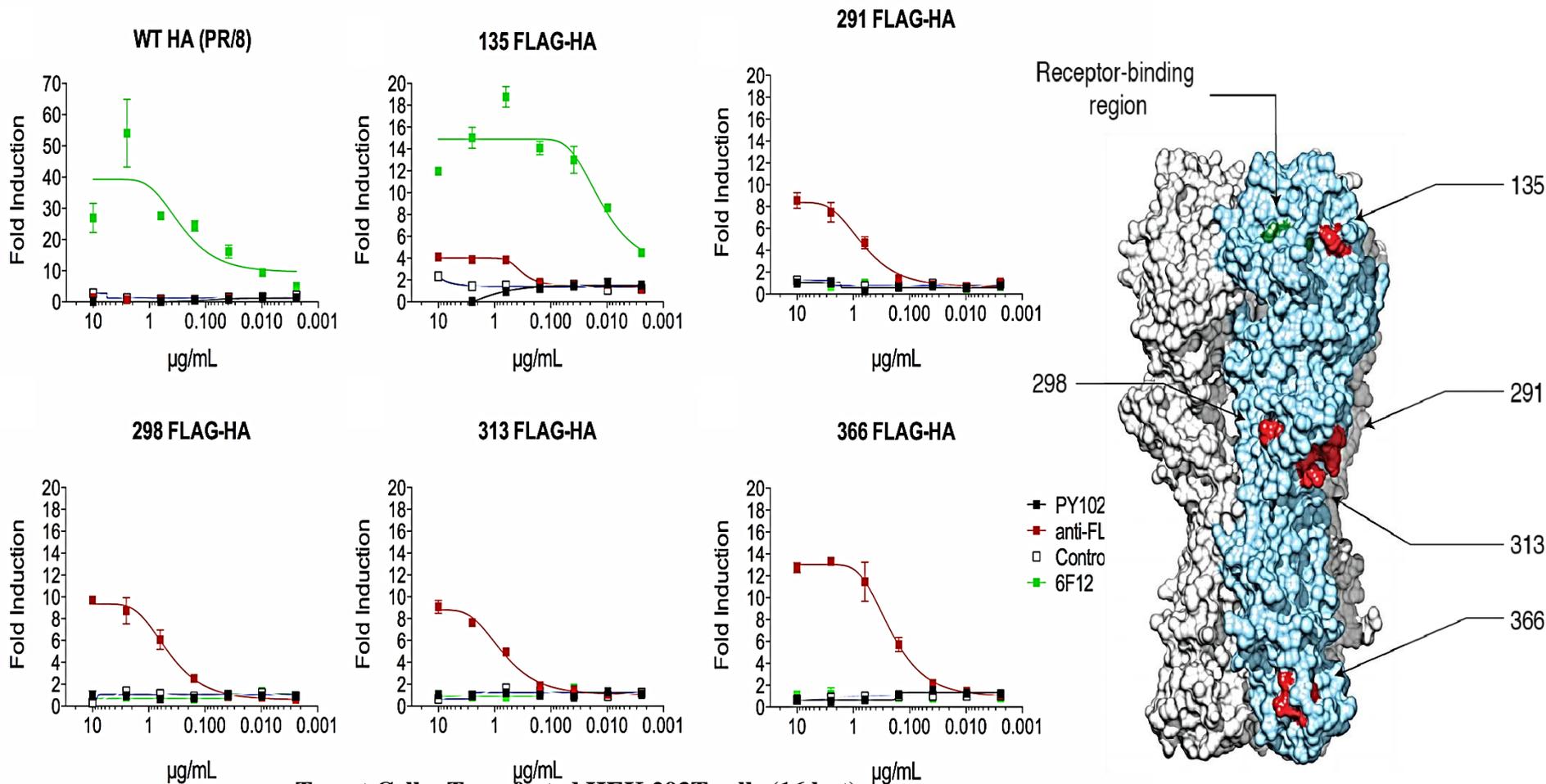


**Can we elucidate the role epitope location plays in the induction of ADCC by broadly cross-reactive hemagglutinin antibodies?**

**Yes, by introducing FLAG epitopes into different locations in the viral hemagglutinin**

**Paul Leon, Wenqian He, Caitlin Mullarkey, Mark Bailey, Matt Miller, Florian Krammer, Gene Tan**

# A stalk-based FLAG epitope can induce FcγR-mediated effector function



Target Cell – Transfected HEK 293T cells (16 hpt)  
 Effector Cells – Jurkat cells expressing murine FcγRIV  

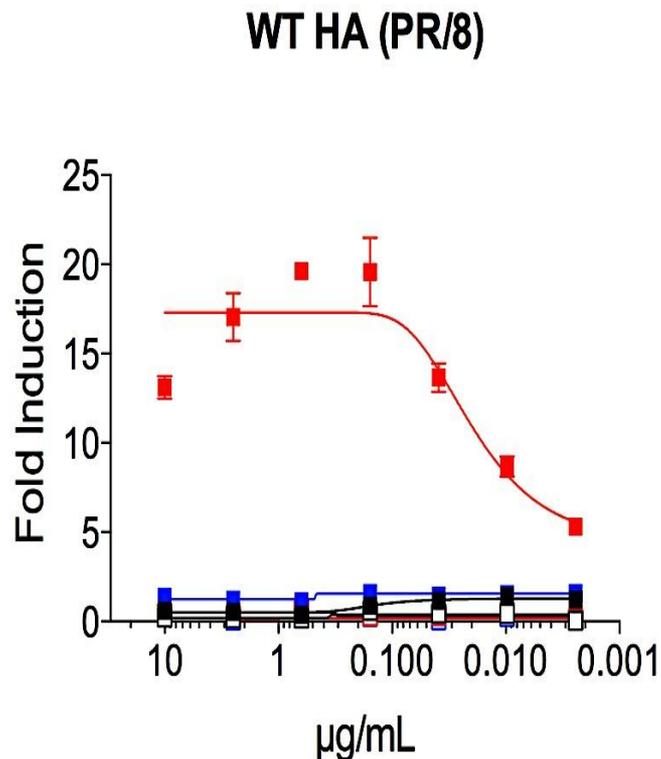
$$\text{Fold Induction} = \frac{(\text{RLU}_{\text{Induced}} - \text{RLU}_{\text{Background}})}{(\text{RLU}_{\text{No mAb}} - \text{RLU}_{\text{Background}})}$$

**Why do antibodies targeting the hemagglutinin head domain lack the ability to optimally induce ADCC activity?**

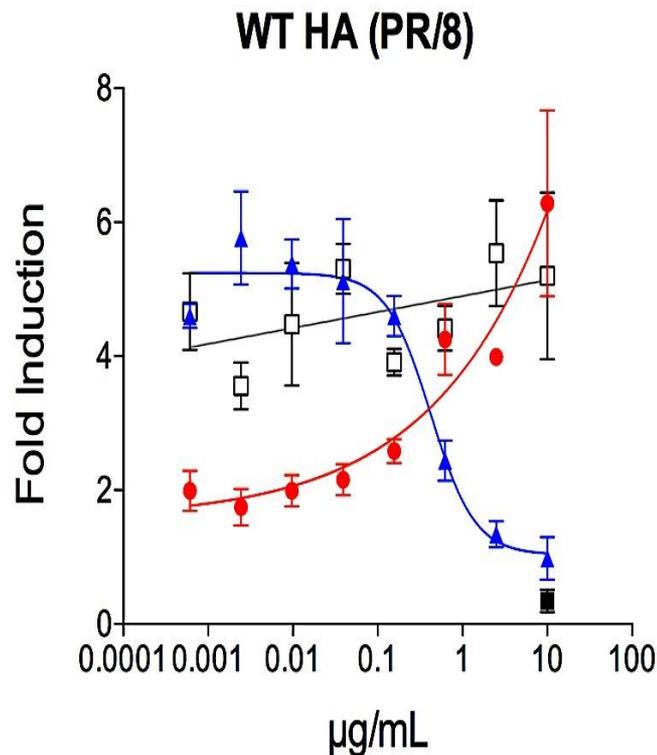
# Disruption of sialic acid engagement

- **Blocking with Head-specific F(ab)<sub>2</sub>**
- **Blocking with 6' Sialyllactose**
- **Mutating Y108F in Receptor Binding Site**

# Head-specific F(ab)<sub>2</sub> prevents ADCCC induction of stalk-specific 6F12 mAb



- PY102
- 6F12
- Control IgG
- PY102 + PY102 F(ab)<sub>2</sub>
- 6F12 + PY102 F(ab)<sub>2</sub>
- Control IgG + PY102 F(ab)<sub>2</sub>



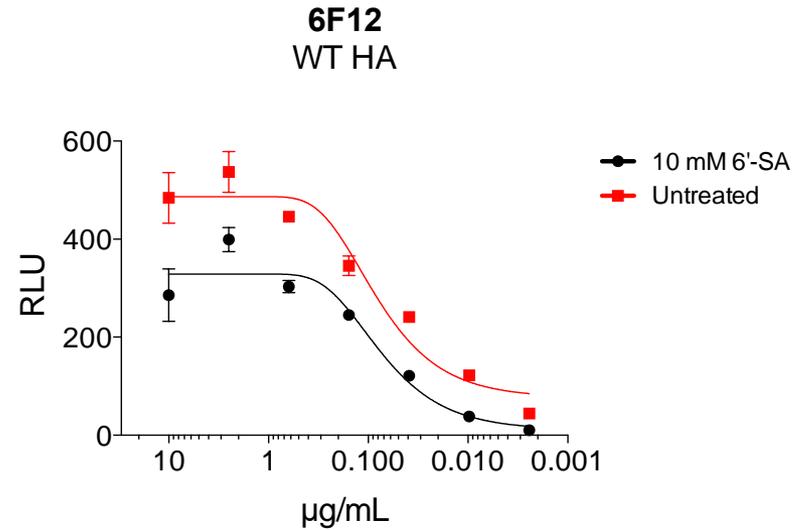
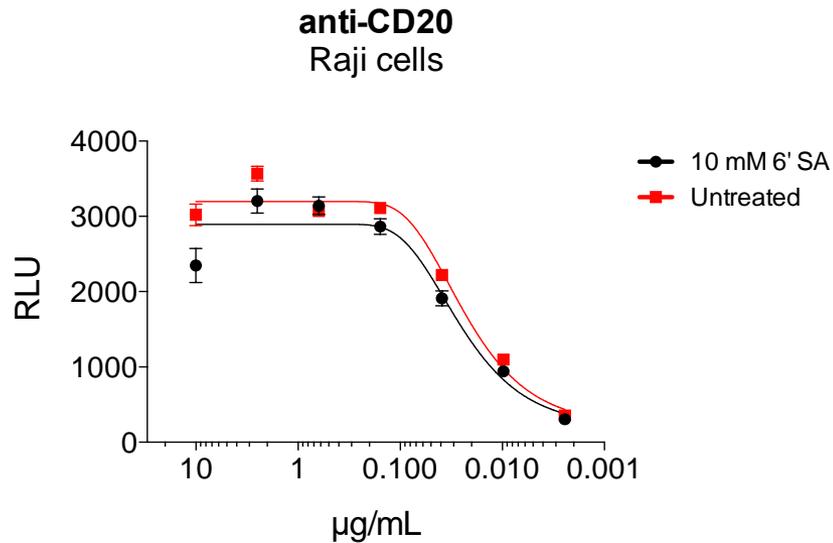
- 6F12
- PY102 F(ab)<sub>2</sub>
- ▲ PY102 F(ab)<sub>2</sub>+6F12(10ug/ml)
- Control F(ab)<sub>2</sub>+6F12(10ug/ml)

**PY102 (Head-specific)**  
**6F12 (Stalk-specific)**

# Disruption of sialic acid engagement

- **Blocking with Head-specific F(ab)<sub>2</sub>**
- **Blocking with 6'-sialyllactose**
- **Mutating Y108F in Receptor Binding Site**

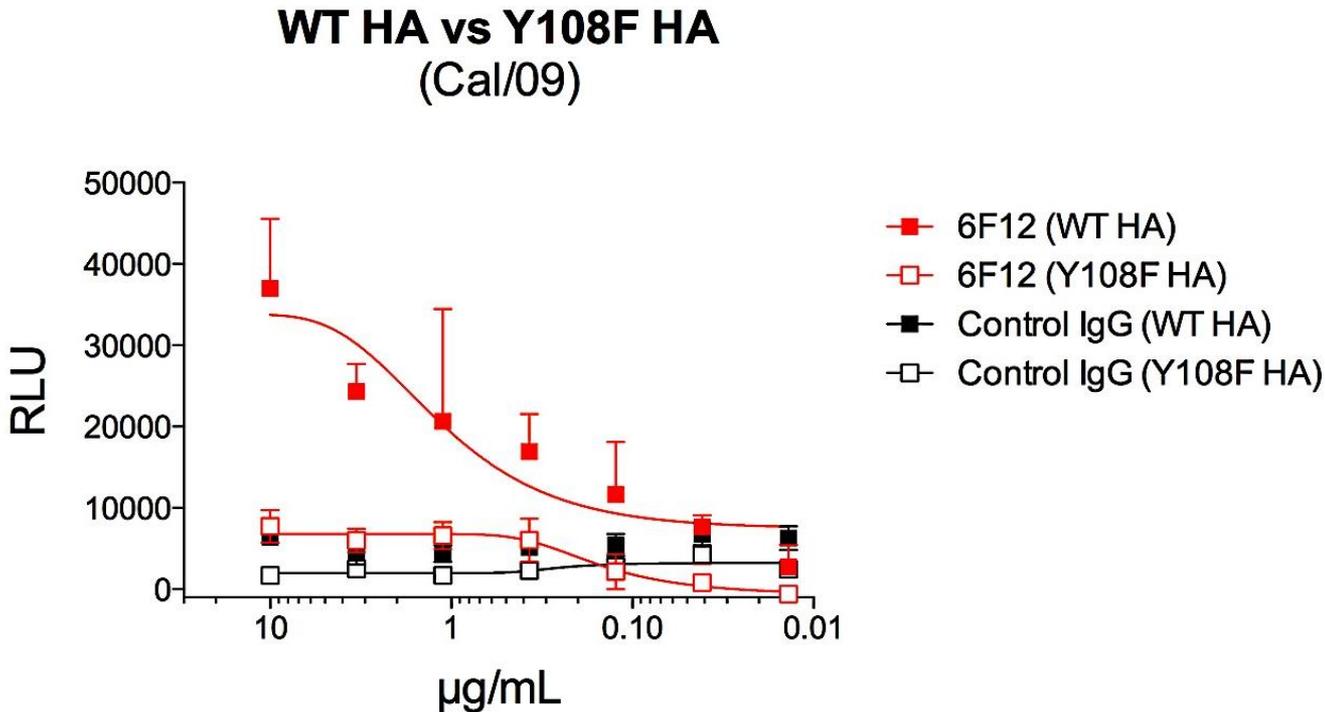
# 10 mM of 6'-sialyllactose decreases ADCC induction of stalk-specific antibodies



# Disruption of sialic acid engagement

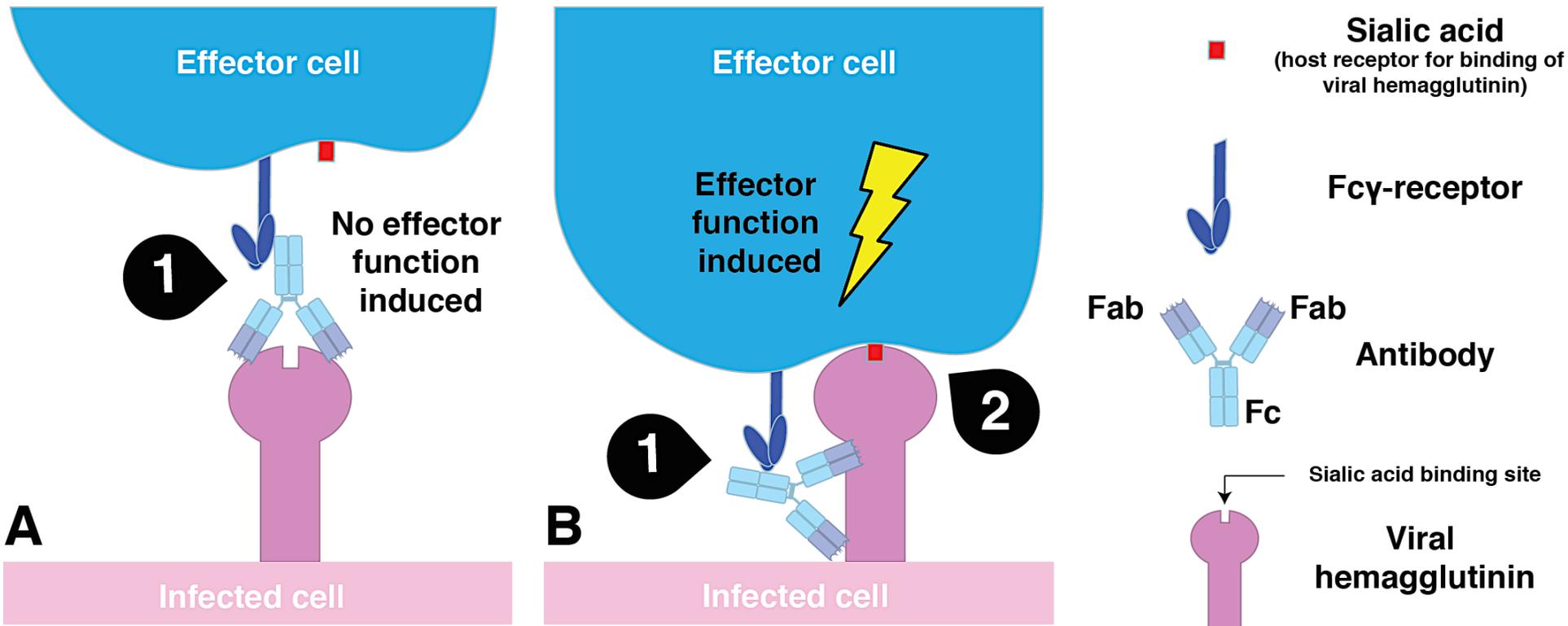
- **Blocking with Head-specific F(ab)<sub>2</sub>**
- **Blocking with 6' Sialyllactose**
- **Mutating Y108F in Receptor Binding Site**

# Y108F mutation lowers RLU values when compared to WT Cal09



**Y108F plasmid was generated and provided by Madhu**

# Two-contacts model for optimal induction of ADCC by influenza virus-specific mAbs



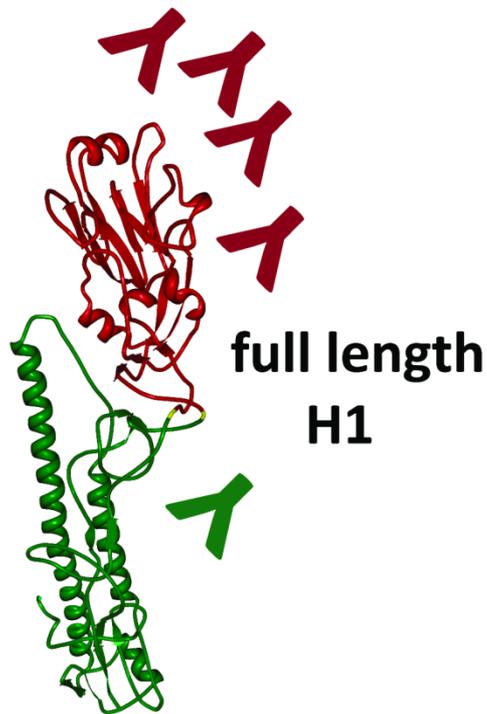




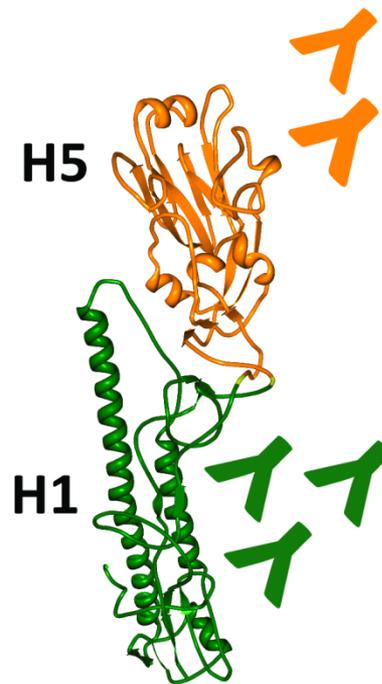
# **SUMMARY**

**Towards a universal influenza virus vaccine by reducing the immunodominance of the hemagglutinin head and thereby increasing the immunogenicity of the hemagglutinin stalk and of the neuraminidase**

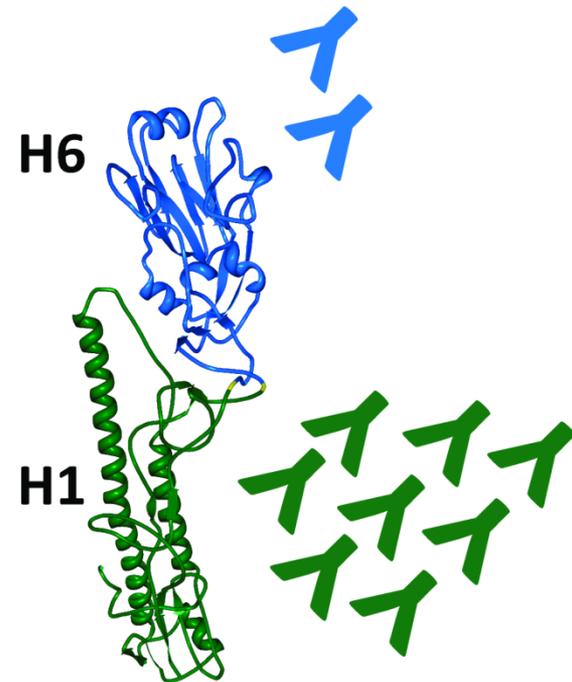
# Vision for a human universal influenza virus vaccine



pre-existing immunity  
against e.g. H1



boost with cH5/1 construct



boost with cH6/1 construct

Trivalent vaccine with group 1, group 2 and influenza B stalk component necessary

# **SUMMARY (cont.)**

## **MECHANISM OF ADCC INDUCTION (TWO-CONTACTS MODEL)**

- The location of a FLAG-Tag epitope plays a critical role in determining the level of Antibody-Dependent Cell-Mediated Cytotoxicity (ADCC) induction**
- The ability of the hemagglutinin to bind to effector cells via its sialic acid receptor is required for optimal ADCC induction**
- By blocking/mutating the sialic acid receptor binding site with F(ab)<sub>2</sub>, 6'-sialyllactose or a Y108F mutation, ADCC induction can be lowered substantially**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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JOHN STEEL    DIRK EGGINK    IRINA MARGINE  
RANDY ALBRECHT    ANICE LOWEN    GENE TAN  
TEDDY WOHLBOLD    CAITLIN MULLARKEY    NICK HEATON  
RONG HAI                      VICTOR LEYVA-GRADO  
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CHRIS SEIBERT    CHI-JENE CHEN                      PETER GOFF  
MEGAN ERMLER

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