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2010 : May - New Hot Papers : Dan H. Barouch on an Improved HIV Vaccine

## New Hot Papers - 2010

May 2010



Dan H. Barouch talks with *ScienceWatch.com* and answers a few questions about this month's New Hot Paper in the field of Microbiology.



**Article Title:** Immune control of an SIV challenge by a T-cell-based vaccine in rhesus monkeys

**Authors:** Liu, JY, *et al.*

**Journal:** NATURE. Volume: 457, Issue: 7225, Page: 87-9, Year: JAN 1, 2009

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### SW: Why do you think your paper is highly cited?

This paper showed that heterologous rAd26/rAd5 and rAd35/rAd5 vaccine regimens expressing SIV Gag afforded a greater degree of protective efficacy against a high-dose SIV challenge than did the homologous rAd5/rAd5 vaccine regimen expressing SIV Gag.

With the failure of the Merck rAd5 vaccine for HIV in the phase 2b STEP study in humans, our data suggest that T-cell-based vaccines that induce immune responses of increased magnitude and breadth may perform far better.

### SW: Does it describe a new discovery, methodology, or synthesis of knowledge?

This paper describes improved vaccine protection in the SIV/macaque model and leads to improved HIV vaccine concepts for clinical trials.

### SW: Would you summarize the significance of your paper in layman's terms?

The data indicate that the failure of the Merck rAd5 vaccine for HIV is not the end of the road in terms of T-cell-based vaccines, and that next-generation vaccine strategies should be further evaluated in both preclinical and clinical studies.

### SW: How did you become involved in this research, and were there any problems along the way?

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We have been involved in HIV vaccine research and developing novel vaccine strategies for the past 10 years. This paper reflects a three-year study, and its importance increased after the STEP study results were announced.

**SW: Where do you see your research leading in the future?**

Our research program involves interactive preclinical and clinical studies with these and other vaccine concepts.

**SW: Do you foresee any social or political implications for your research?**

A safe and effective HIV vaccine would have tremendous social, medical, and political implications.

**Dan H. Barouch, M.D., Ph.D.**

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KEYWORDS: IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS SIVMAC239; SIMIAN-IMMUNODEFICIENCY; ADENOVIRUS VECTORS; REPLICATION; INFECTION; MEMORY; IMMUNOGENICITY; RESPONSES; HIV; MAMU-A01.

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