



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus Research

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Influenza A Viruses

- **15 HA and 9 NA subtypes – all found in aquatic birds of the world.**
- **In their natural reservoir species all subtypes of influenza are non-pathogenic and in evolutionary stasis.**
- **After transfer to other hosts they evolve rapidly.**
- **H5 and H7 influenza viruses became highly pathogenic**

Avian Influenza Viruses with Pathogenic Potential



H1

H2

H3

H4

H5

H6

H7

H8

H9

H10

H11

H12

H13

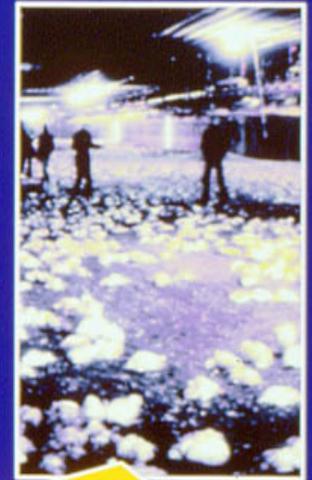
H14

H15



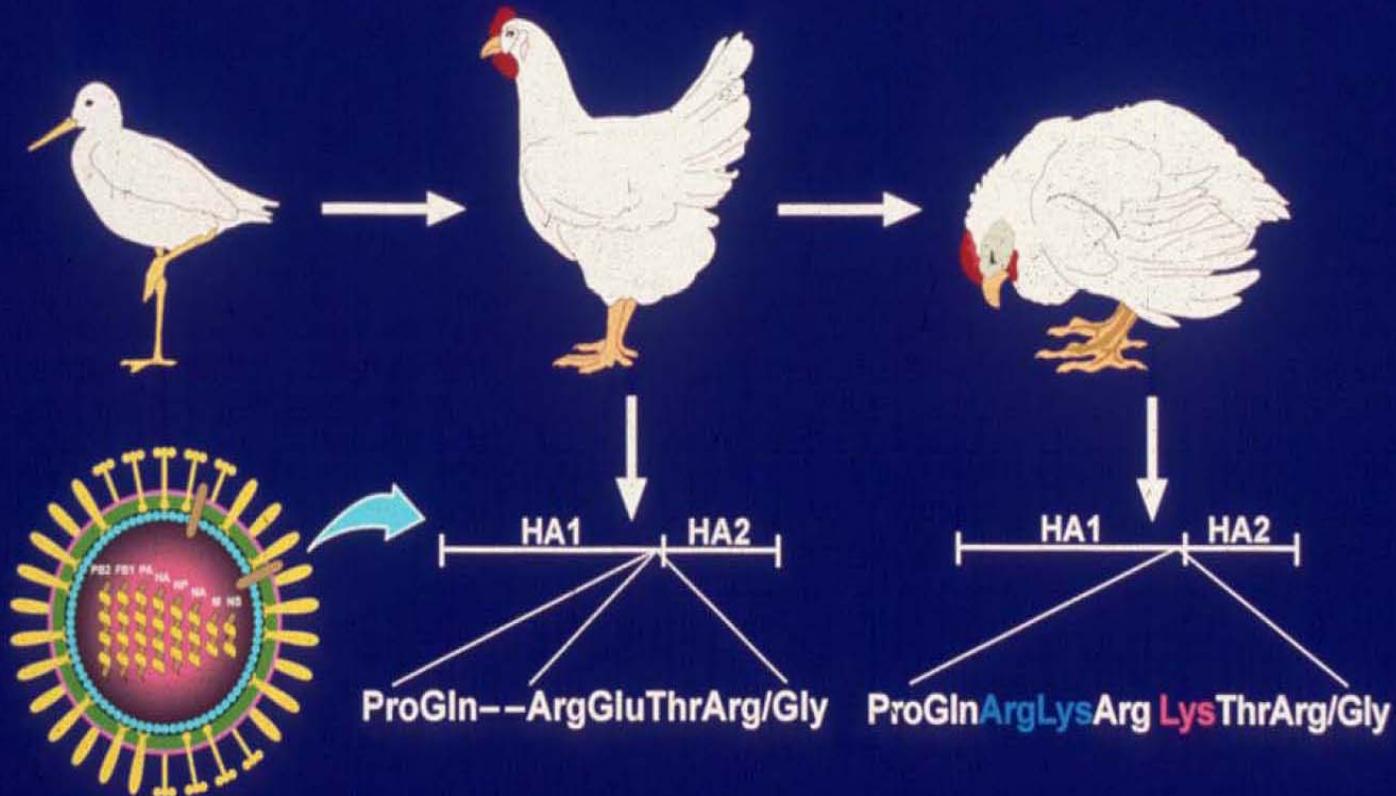
The Ecology of Influenza Viruses

- Influenza viruses in their natural reservoirs are in evolutionary stasis



- Rapid evolution occurs after transfer to new hosts

Emergence of Highly Pathogenic Avian H5N2 Influenza in Mexico in 1995



Recent Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreaks

			Humans (Death/Total)	Poultry
H5N1	Hong Kong	1997	6 / 18	Culled
	Hong Kong	2003	1 / 2	_____
	Vietnam	2004	20 / 27	Culling
	Thailand	2004	8 / 12	Culling
	Japan, Korea, Laos, Cambodia	2004	_____	Culling
	China, Indonesia, Malaysia	2004	_____	Culling
H5N2	Texas	2004	_____	Culling
H7N7	Holland	2003	1 / 84	Culled
H7N3	Canada	2004	0 / 2	Culled

Conjunctivitis Caused by A/seal/Mass/1/80 (H7N7)



Spread of H5N1 Influenza in Asia



**100s of millions of
birds culled**

Human Cases: 39

Human Deaths: 28

**Vietnam:
20 deaths**

**Thailand:
8 deaths**

The Spread of H5N1 in Asia

**An unprecedented
event in the history
of influenza!!**

Genesis Of H5N1 Influenza In Asia

1996 Goose/Guangdong/1/96 (H5N1)

1997 Emergence of H5N1 Bird Flu

A reassortant

Goose	X	Quail	X	Duck
H5N1		H9N2		H6N1

6 of 18 infected persons died

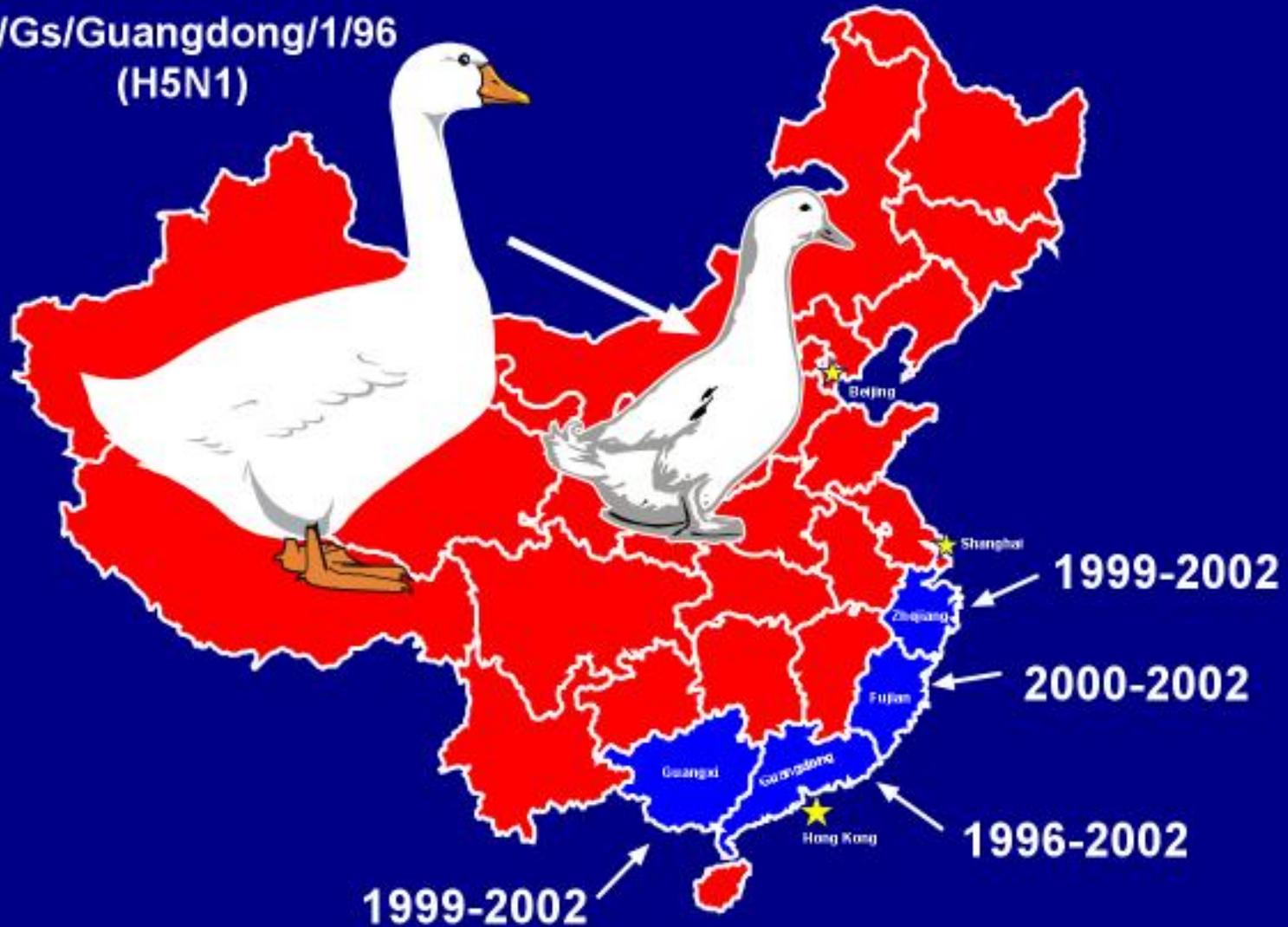
1997-2002	Goose	x	Multiple mating partners
	H5N1		



- ▶ Antigenically conserved
- ▶ Multiple genotypes
- ▶ Pathogenic in chickens NOT in ducks

H5N1 influenza viruses from ducks in China

A/Gs/Guangdong/1/96
(H5N1)



Chen et al 2004

Genesis of H5N1 Influenza Virus

Nov 2002 Goose x Mating Partner Z Genes

- ▶ Isolated from wild migrating birds
- ▶ Antigenic drift in HA
- ▶ Pathogenic for aquatic birds



Feb 2003

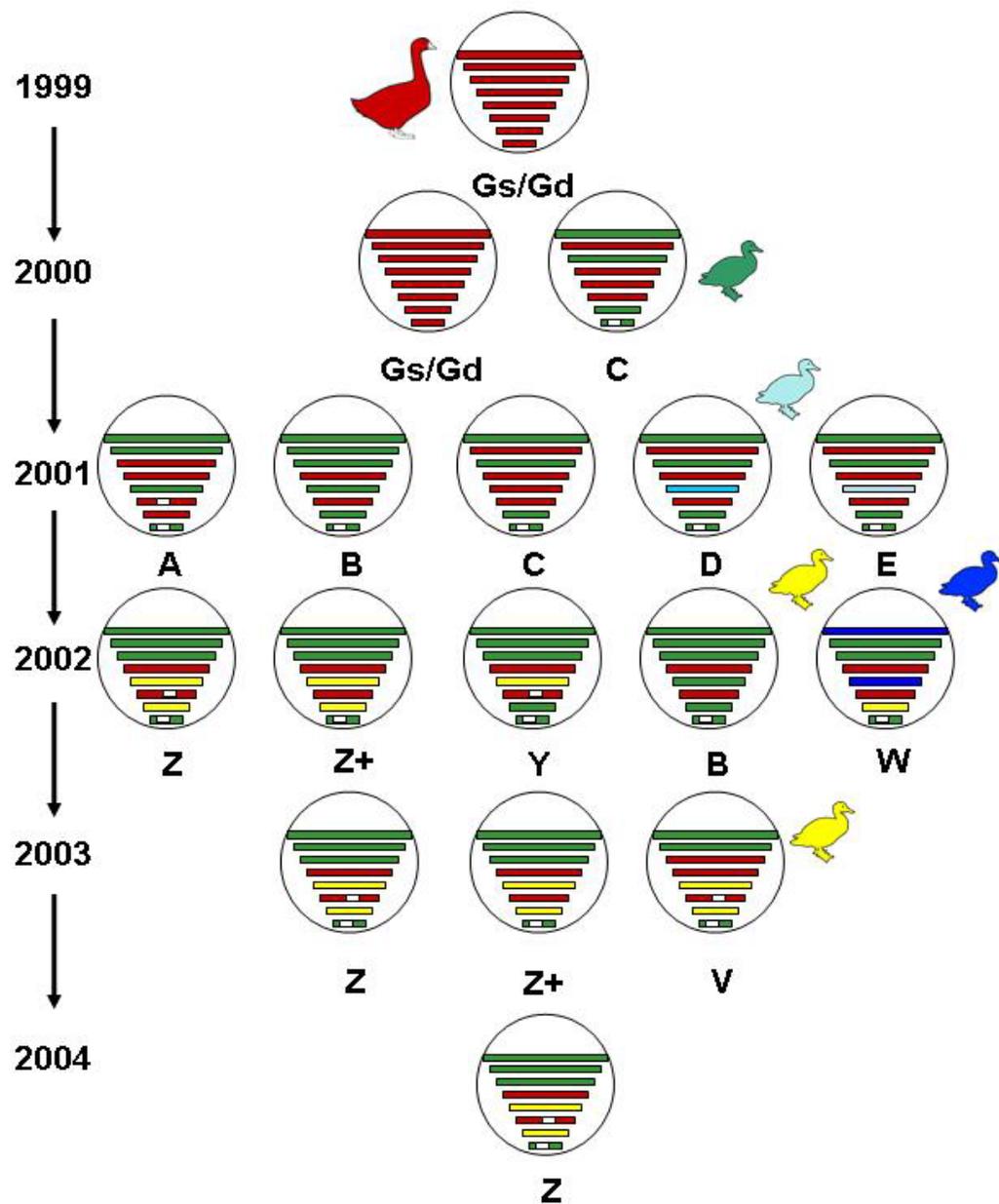
Family visiting Fujian, China

Daughter died

Father and son infected

(Father died)

Emergence of a Dominant H5N1 Genotype



How Pathogenic Is This Virus?

A/Vietnam/1203/04 (H5N1)

- **Kills chickens in less than one day**
- **Kills ducks in 1-2 days**
- **High risk of death in humans (~14 years)**
 - Diarrhea
 - Respiratory symptoms
- **High Risk of death in ferrets**
 - Respiratory symptoms
 - Diarrhea
 - Hind Leg paralysis

Bird flu in Vietnam

February 2004



10 cases – mean age 13.7 years

No pre-existing medical conditions

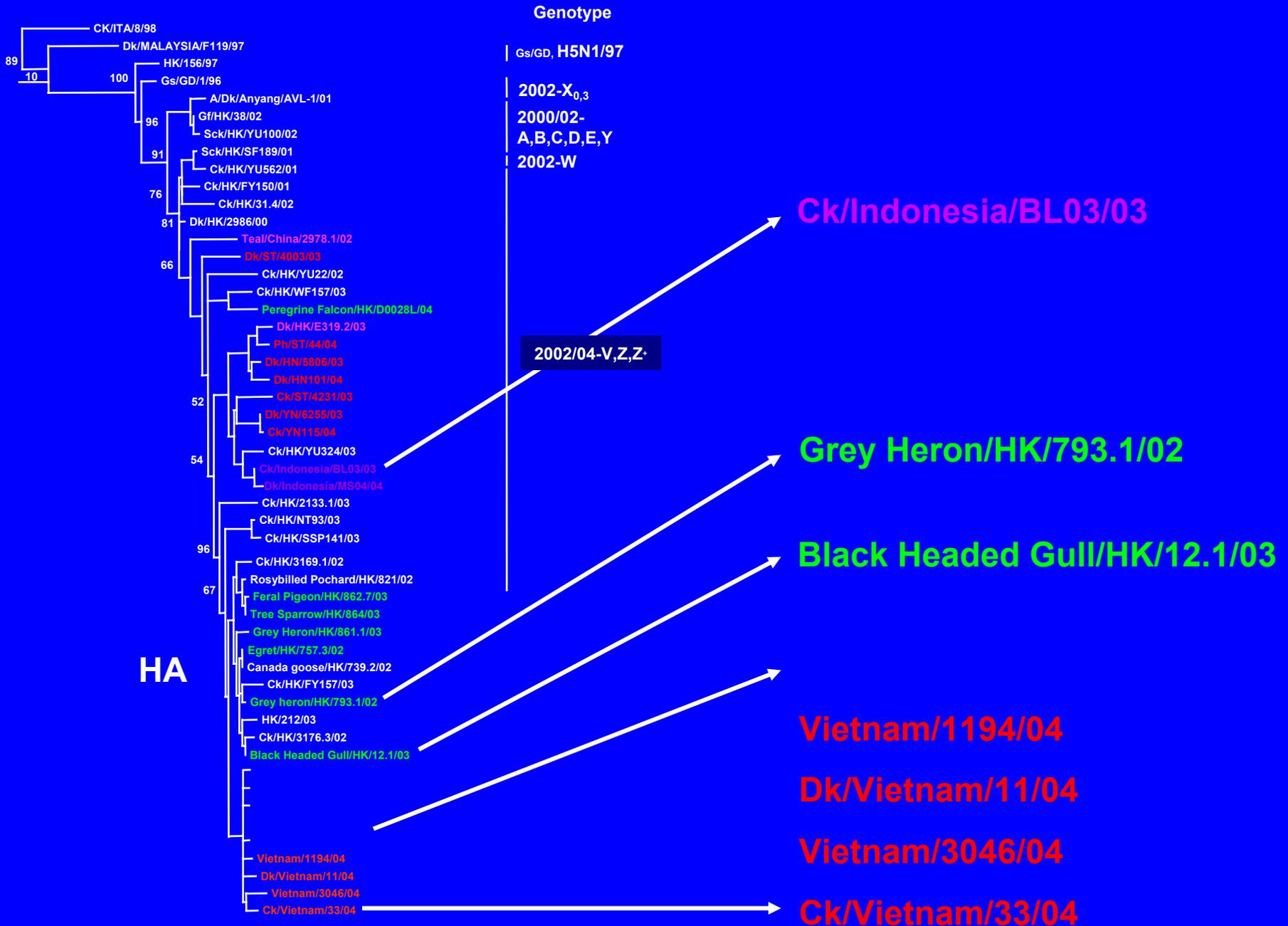
Fever 38.5-40°C

Lymphopenia

7/10 diarrhea

7/10 died

Hien, TT et al. New
Eng Med J 2004



Have Pigs Been Infected With H5N1?

- One isolate reported from pigs in Hanoi
- Serology 1/439 positive
- China – two reports virus isolation



Does H5N1/04 Replicate and Transmit in Pigs?

Infected Contact

Vietnam/1203/04	—	0
Ck/Vietnam/C-58/04	—	0
DK/TH/D4AT/04	—	0
GS/TH/G7CS/04	—	0



Expanding Host Range for Influenza



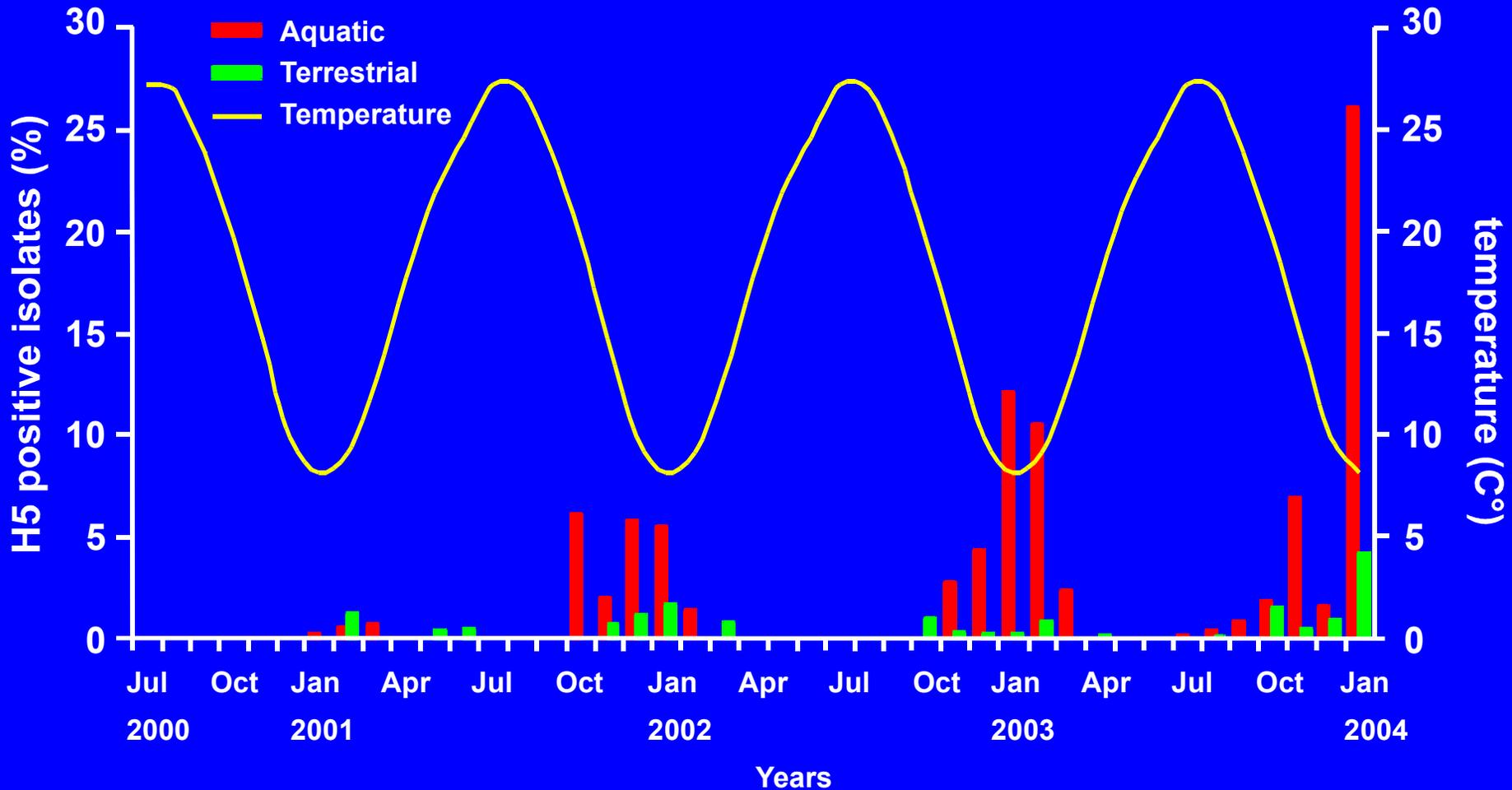
H5N1 in Thailand



**Experimental transmission in
domestic cats**

Kuiken et al, Science 2004

Seasonality of H5N1 influenza in China



Were Migrating Birds The Spreaders?

- Isolation of virus from wild birds in Hong Kong
 - Black headed gulls
 - Feral pigeon
 - Little Egret

 - Grey Herons
 - Peregrine Falcon

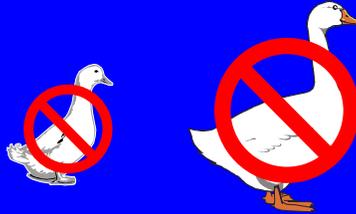
Prevention

and

Control

Changes in poultry marketing in Hong Kong

1998



2000

One clean day per month

2001



2002

- Inactivated vaccine used to ring vaccinate H5N1 infected farms
- Additional clean day per month

2003

- Inactivated vaccine used on all farms
- increased biosecurity
 - sentinel unvaccinated poultry

2004

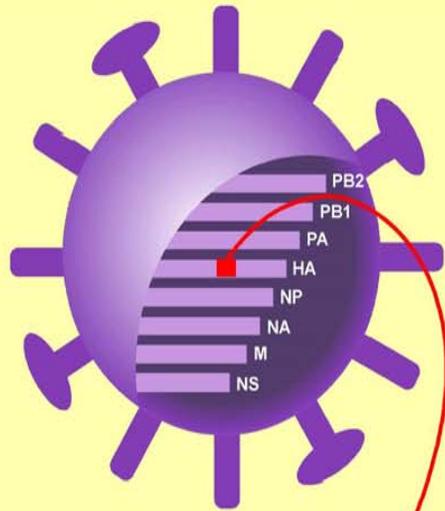
No H5N1



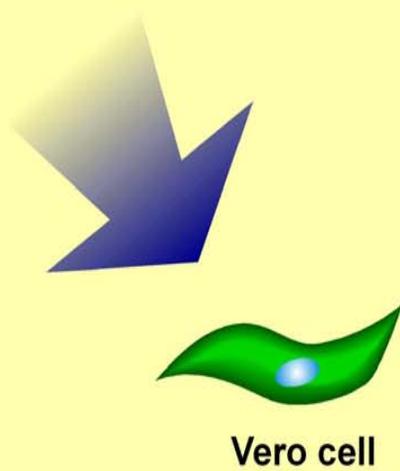
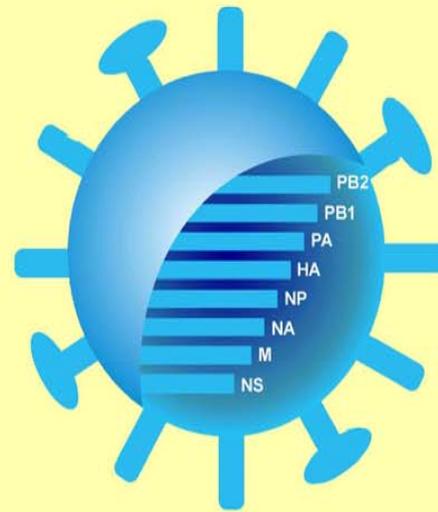
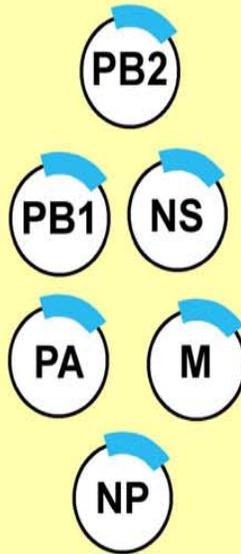
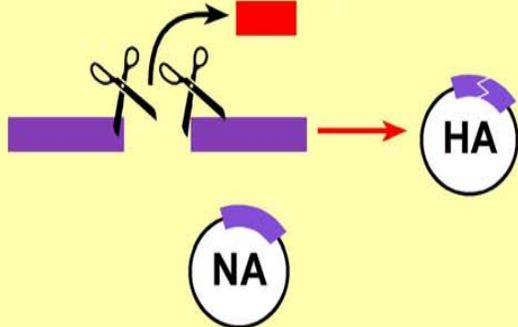
Vaccine

A/Vietnam/1203/04 (H5N1)

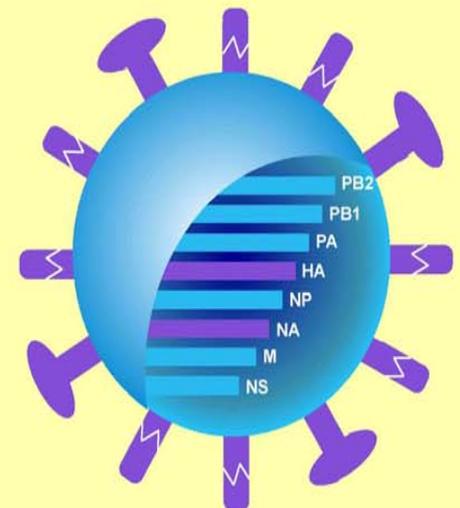
A/Puerto Rico/8/34 (H1N1)



removal of connecting peptide



Vero cell



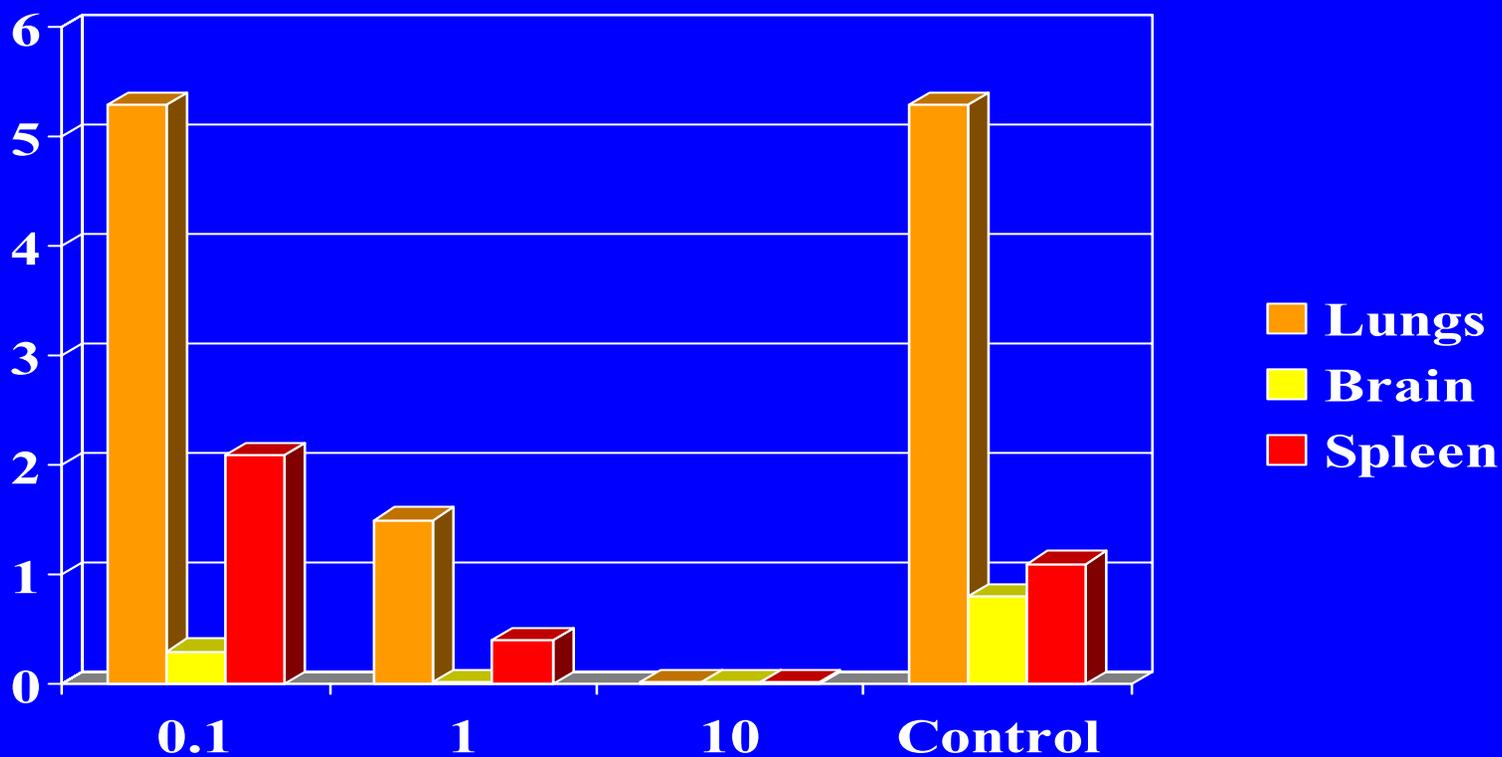
Vaccine – Reverse Genetics

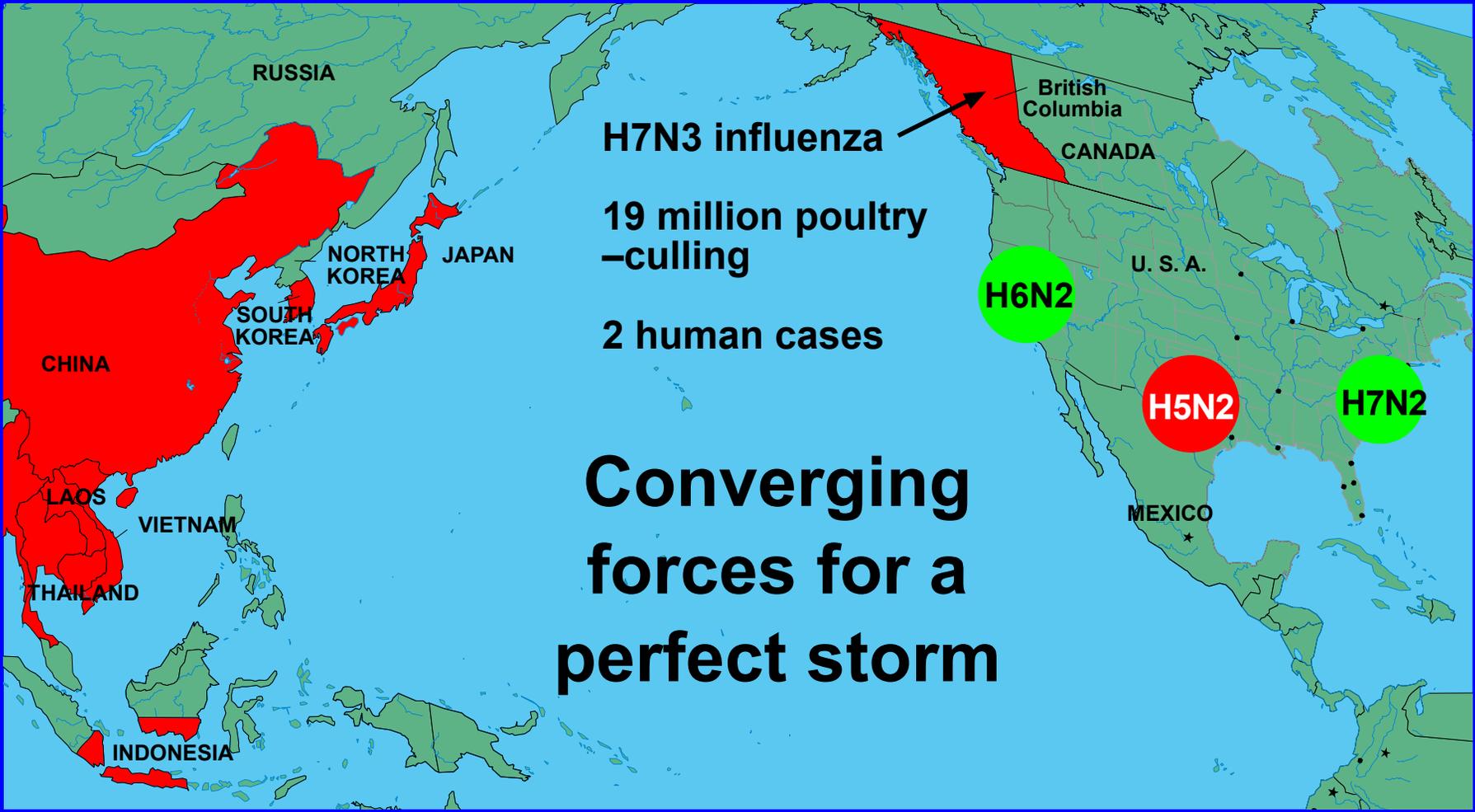
Antivirals

Sensitivity of Human H5N1 Influenza Viruses to Amantadine

Year	Virus	Sensitivity	Amino acid change on M2 protein
1997	A/HK/156/97	Yes	Ser31
2003	A/HK/213/03	No	Ser31→Asn
	A/Vietnam/1203/04	No	Ser31→Asn
2004	A/Vietnam/1194/04	No	Ser31→Asn

Reduction of A/Vietnam/1203/04 (H5N1) Virus Replication after Prophylactic Treatment of Mice with Oseltamivir





H7N3 influenza

**19 million poultry
-culling**

2 human cases

**Converging
forces for a
perfect storm**

H6N2

H5N2

H7N2

Facilities

Non-pathogenic avian

BL2

Pathogenic avian

BL3

**Pathogenic avian with
human transmissions**

BL3

**-- Augmented with PAPR
-- With isolators**

**Pathogenic avian with
gene exchange or gene
modification**

BL3

**-- Augmented with PAPR
-- With isolators**



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