



Inspired Life Science Technology

## Going Viral

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### Seeking Your Feedback - A Survey from InDevR

**The** InDevR Virus Quantification Methods and Challenges Survey was promoted in the first three issues of *Going Viral*. Here's a peek at the initial results of this survey:

#### 1. What is your primary method for virus quantification?

- 35 percent of respondents utilize plaque assay.
- 29 percent of respondents utilize TCID50.
- 29 percent of respondents utilize qPCR.
- 7 percent of respondents utilize a variation of the infectivity assay.

#### 2. What is the biggest drawback to your current method?

- Long turn around time - 65 percent.
- Lack of reproducible data - 21 percent.
- High cost - 14 percent.

#### 3. What viruses are you working with?

- Influenza - 36 percent.
- Lentiviruses - 21 percent.
- Adenovirus - 14 percent.
- Dengue - 8 percent.
- Adeno associated virus - 7 percent.
- VLPs - 7 percent.
- Baculovirus - 7 percent.

Thank you to the *Going Viral* readers who participated in this survey. Your feedback gives us tremendous insight. Stay tuned for a new set of questions in our next issue!

News in Life Science Technology

## US on track for most measles cases in a decade

Through May 1st, 89 measles cases have been reported in the US, placing the country on track to have more measles cases this year than have been reported in a decade. An average of 50 measles cases are typically reported in the US each year. Almost all of the 2011 cases have been linked to other countries and 79 of the 89 cases were among people who were unvaccinated against the measles.

There have been no measles related deaths reported in the US since 2003. However, due to the high occurrence rate seen in 2011, international health officials are urging all travelers to get the two recommended doses of measles vaccine before flying overseas. In Europe specifically, more than 6,500 cases of measles have been reported in 33 nations this year. Officials believe this is due to not all children being vaccinated against the virus in European countries.

Two doses of a measles-mumps-rubella vaccine are routinely recommended for all children. One dose of the vaccine is considered 95 percent effective.

[Read more](#)

## New vaccine shows promise in stopping HIV

US researchers have released a report indicating that a new vaccine protects macaques from SIV (the monkey equivalent of HIV). This particular study was conducted on 24 monkeys. Thirteen of them were protected from the virus by the vaccine, which was still effective 12 months later in 12 of the 13 monkeys. The new SIV vaccine stimulates the production of blood cells known as effective memory T-cells that remain active in the body even when an infection decreases in severity.

While the results of this study are considered unprecedented, there are significant issues that need to be addressed before this vaccine can be tested in humans. Because the vaccine uses genetically modified rhesus cytomegalovirus, there is a concern that it could cause a number of diseases in humans. Future studies will focus on creating effective memory T-cells from the vaccine that do not cause harm to vulnerable people.

[Read more](#)

## The HIV hideout

For more recent HIV research news, download this TWiV podcast, where virology professor Vincent Racaniello, Ph.D., goes in-depth with researcher Kathleen Collins, M.D., Ph.D., on the cellular reservoir of HIV-1.

[Download podcast](#)

*Virus of the Month: Influenza*



**The** May 4th issue of *Going Viral* presented a comprehensive overview of one of the most commonly known viruses - influenza. For many, the start of the flu season means increased concern over the availability of the flu vaccine and potential missed days of work or school. For scientists and researchers, the flu season presents continued opportunity to detect and distinguish between seasonal and non-seasonal influenza A viruses. InDevR's FluChip™ low-density microarray is an innovative research tool that can help with this work by rapidly identifying a variety of influenza viruses.

The FluChip assay is based on multiplexed reverse transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (rtPCR) amplification with detection on a low-density microarray. Using a simple but powerful pattern of spots, the FluChip can distinguish between, but not limited to, B viruses, human-origin H1N1, H3N2, swine origin H1N1 and avian H5N1. Because it is inexpensive, easy-to-use and field portable, the FluChip assay coupled with InDevR's ampliPHOX™ Colorimetric Detection Technology is an excellent choice for laboratories without the resources to perform expensive fluorescence-based real-time PCR or microarray experiments.

### FluChip Highlights

- Targets stable matrix gene segment to detect and distinguish influenza viruses.
- Traditional rtPCR amplification followed by downstream microarray detection.
- Optimized for use with InDevR's ampliPHOX Colorimetric Detection Technology.
- Compatible with traditional fluorescence detection.
- Provides same-day results.
- Reliable, easy to follow protocol.
- Cost-effective instrumentation and assay.

[Click here](#) to learn more about InDevR's FluChip microarray technology.

### *InDevR In Brief*



Dr. Kathy Rowlen

### **InDevR CEO participates in national startup roundtable**

On Monday, May 9th, InDevR's CEO, Kathy Rowlen, served as a key participant in the Obama administration's Startup America: Reducing Barriers roundtable. This roundtable, hosted by the city of Boulder and one of eight taking place nationwide, brought 150 business leaders to the table to brainstorm ways the federal government could increase the success of America's entrepreneurs and startup companies. The development of new technologies is critical to the long-term growth of the US economy. Following each Startup America conference, senior administrative officials plan to create a report highlighting "action-oriented" items that might be applied to federal policies and regulations in order to reduce unnecessary barriers to innovation.

[Click here](#) for an overview of the Startup America roundtable.

### *Green Ideas*



**Springtime** is a great time to examine how your business and personal habits fit in with the worldwide "green-movement". For those companies that are interested in making a few changes to their daily practice, check out these five tips from Katie Morell, a contributor to the American Express Open Forum blog:

1. Research best practices before trying to green your business.
2. Inspect office products.
3. Consider telecommuting.
4. Get audited - an energy audit, that is.
5. Hire local. This ensures that products don't have to travel far and you're helping your local economy grow.

[Click here](#) to learn more about these five tips.

What are you currently doing to improve the environmental efficiency of your business? Feel free to send any tips or solutions to [info@indevr.com](mailto:info@indevr.com). They may be featured in an upcoming issue of *Going Viral!*