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Geovax Inc. AIDS Vaccine Human Trial Results Are Published in the Prestigious Scientific Journal: “**AIDS RESEARCH AND HUMAN RETROVIRUSES**” -

Abstract of Publication:

## **AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses**

### **Excellent Safety and Tolerability of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 pGA2/JS2 Plasmid DNA Priming Vector Vaccine in HIV Type 1 Uninfected Adults**

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M.J. Mulligan, N.D. Russell, C. Celum, J. Kahn, E. Noonan, D.C. Montefiori, G. Ferrari, K.J. Weinhold, J.M. Smith, R.R. Amara, H.L. Robinson

**A vaccine consisting of DNA priming followed by recombinant modified vaccinia Ankara (rMVA) boosting has achieved long-term control of a pathogenic challenge with a chimera of simian and human immunodeficiency viruses (SHIV-89.6P) in rhesus macaques. Based on these results, clade B HIV-1 DNA and rMVA immunogens have been developed for trials in humans. We conducted a first-time in humans phase I safety trial using the pGA2/JS2 (JS2) HIV-1 DNA priming vector expressing Gag, Pol, Env, Tat, Rev, and Vpu. Thirty HIV-uninfected adults were vaccinated with 0.3 or 3 mg of JS2 DNA, or a saline placebo, by intramuscular injection at months 0 and 2. Both doses of DNA were safe and well-tolerated with no differences between the control, 0.3 mg, or 3 mg groups ( $n = 6, 12, \text{ and } 12$ , respectively) through 12 months of postvaccination follow-up. A chromium-release assay using fresh peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and a validated IFN- $\gamma$  ELISpot assay with frozen PBMCs failed to detect CD4<sup>+</sup> or CD8<sup>+</sup> HIV-1-specific T cell responses. HIV-specific neutralizing antibodies were also not detected. The vaccine is being further developed as a priming vector for a combined DNA plus rMVA prime/boost HIV vaccination regimen.**