

Antibody therapy explored by Pitt, other researchers to combat bird flu

ROBERTA BURKHART
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

While the risk of contracting and dying from the H5N1 avian flu remains low for humans, researchers continue to hunt for vaccines and treatments in case the virus mutates to spread more easily between animals and humans — or among humans themselves.

A team that includes researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and the National Institutes of Health Vaccine Research Center say they have found that an antibody therapy lessened the severity and prevented death in monkeys that contacted the bird flu.

The journal Science in late January published the team's findings, which explore the preventive effects of administering a neutralizing antibody before infection to minimize severe disease caused by H5N1 avian flu.

Douglas Reed, associate professor of immunology at Pitt's School of Medicine and a faculty member of its Center for Vaccine Research, said this type of therapy differs from a traditional vaccine but the basic principle of using antibody therapy to prevent and treat disease has been around for more than 100 years.

"Vaccines help the body make its own antibodies. In contrast, inoculation with a broadly neutralizing antibody offers more direct protection by binding to and neutralizing H5N1 virus particles," said Mr. Reed, who is the study's co-corresponding author.

The NIH's National Cancer Institute describes a neutralizing antibody as one that "binds to a virus and interferes with its ability to infect a cell."

In the study, monkeys were inoculated with a neutralizing antibody called MEDI8852, which was developed by biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca, before being infected with bird flu three days later.

"We chose this specific antibody because it targets a part of the influenza virus called the stalk region of the hemagglutinin protein, which stays the same across different flu strains. Focusing on this stable part of the virus makes it harder for the virus to mutate and avoid the antibody," Mr. Reed said.

Stalk-targeting antibodies, like the one used in the study, have been found to protect against a wider variety of flu viruses than those that target less conserved parts, Mr. Reed explained.

"That said, antibody inoculation is not intended to protect against an infection, but can make the disease symptoms less severe and protect against death."

Whether the virus will mutate beyond animal to human transmission is difficult to know, and experts continue to warn that a mutation like that could lead to a pandemic on the scale of COVID-19 — or larger.

"H5N1 is showing all signs that it could be as severe if not more severe than [COVID-19] when it entered the population. It's hard to predict. We already know that hundreds have died [from avian flu infection] over the past 20 years," Andrew Pekosz told the Post-Gazette in January. He is professor and vice chair of the molecular microbiology and immunology department at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore.

"There is a big potential for this virus to cause a lot of suffering in the human population should it acquire the ability to transmit from person to person," he said.

For the monkeys in the study, "the antibody protected against disease and death," Mr. Reed said, though researchers "did see disease breakthrough at lower doses." That information was used to establish a "threshold protection."

Researchers also noted that the protective serum levels "remained stable for eight to 12 weeks, which suggests to us that this prophylactic treatment could be useful for protecting first responders during the early stages of a H5N1 outbreak," he said.

More studies are needed to be able to use the treatment in humans, he said, but "this antibody already has been in clinical trials for seasonal influenza and was shown to be safe."

Because the neutralizing antibody "targets a region that is relatively conserved in all influenza viruses, it could provide universal protection against different types of influenza, including seasonal flu, but more testing is still needed. We see this immunization approach as one of many in the arsenal of infection prevention tools for controlling infection outbreaks."

Since 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed one U.S. death and 70 human infections from the bird flu; since January 2022, also per the CDC, nearly 170 million wild and domestic birds have been affected by the highly pathogenic avian influenza. The sick birds have been reported in all U.S. states.

As of Friday, more than 1,000 cattle herds across 17 states had been infected with H5N1 since March 2024, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. No infections have been reported in Pennsylvania.

Czechs lead talks on ammunition supplies for Ukraine into 2026

KRYSTOF CHAMONIKOLAS AND OLESIA SAFRONOVA

Bloomberg News

Czechs are leading talks on continuing deliveries of heavy ammunition for Ukraine stretching into 2026, said President Petr Pavel.

The Czech leader, speaking after meeting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Prague on Sunday, said the so-called Czech ammunition initiative financed by 11 countries was on track to deliver 1.8 million shells to Kyiv this year.

"This is a very strong decision," Zelenskyy said of the initiative, which he

added was "working brilliantly."

The push to keep ammunition and weaponry flowing to Ukraine comes as the U.S. and other allies make halting efforts to reach a ceasefire in the war, now well into its fourth year.

Pavel warned that any weakening of the military aid could encourage Russia to revive its original goal of occupying all of Ukraine and prolong the conflict.

"We are simultaneously negotiating about ammunition supplies for next year, because we obviously can't assume that peace will be achieved this year," he said.

A staunch ally of Kyiv

within the European Union and NATO, the Czech Republic has been coordinating international supplies of ammunition and also hosts one of the biggest group of Ukrainian refugees.

Upon his arrival on Sunday, Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky called Zelenskyy "the leader of the free world." Zelenskyy, along with his wife Olena Zelenska, will stay in Prague through Monday, when the president will meet other top officials.

The Czech approach to Ukraine is in stark contrast to that adopted by neighboring Slovakia, whose Prime Minister Robert Fico plans to be

the only EU leader to attend the May 9 celebrations in Moscow marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Fico criticized a recent comment by Zelenskyy that Ukraine couldn't guarantee the safety of foreign officials during an anniversary parade in Moscow.

"Let's not confuse the present with the past," Fico told reporters in Bratislava, the Slovak capital, on Sunday. "If Mr. Zelenskyy believes that foreign delegations will now be discouraged from attending, he's seriously mistaken. This is unacceptable and has no place in modern diplomacy."

5.4-magnitude quake, aftershocks rattle West Texas, seismologists say

DON SWEENEY
The Charlotte Observer

A 5.4-magnitude earthquake shook the West Texas area just south of the New Mexico border, the U.S. Geological Survey reported.

The nearly 5-mile-deep quake hit west of Pecos, about 35 miles south of Whites City, New Mexico, at 7:47 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, according to the USGS.

More than 1,600 people from as far away as Hemet, California, and Dallas reported feeling the tremor to the agency.

Two aftershocks measuring 2.9 magnitude each followed.

"El Paso felt the ripples of an earthquake of preliminary magnitude of 4.8 that hit in same area as in February near Pecos, Texas," read one post on X, formerly known as Twitter.

"Earthquakes are messing with Texas," read another post.

What to know about earthquakes

Magnitude measures the energy released at the source of the earthquake, the U.S. Geological Survey says. It replaces the old Richter scale.

Quakes between 2.5 and 5.4 magnitude are often felt but rarely cause much damage, according to Michigan Tech. Quakes below 2.5 magnitude are seldom felt by most people.

Earthquakes' sudden, rapid shaking can cause fires, tsunamis, landslides or avalanches. They can happen anywhere, but they're most common in Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Puerto Rico and Washington, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

If an earthquake strikes, it's best to protect yourself right away. Here are tips from experts:

—If you're in a car: Pull over and stop. Set

your parking brake.

—If you're in bed: Turn face-down and cover your head with a pillow.

—If you're outdoors: Stay away from buildings. Don't go inside.

—If you're inside: Stay and don't run outdoors. Stay away from doorways.

The best way to protect yourself during an earthquake is to drop, cover and hold on, officials say.

"Wherever you are, drop down to your hands and knees and hold onto something sturdy," officials say. "If you're using a wheelchair or walker with a seat, make sure your wheels are locked and remain seated until

the shaking stops."

Be sure to cover your head and neck with your arms, and crawl under a sturdy table if possible. If no shelter is available, crawl to an interior wall away from windows.

Once under a table, officials say you should hold on with one hand and be ready to move with it.

"There can be serious hazards after an earthquake, such as damage to the building, leaking gas and water lines, or downed power lines," officials say. "Expect aftershocks to follow the main shock of an earthquake. Be ready to Drop, Cover, and Hold On if you feel an aftershock."

my time is now.

Live Life the Way You Want!
Call and learn how we can help you have the freedom of better hearing.

918.213.0329 AdvHearingCare.com



ADVANCED
HearingCare

HearingLoss.com
CERTIFIED

Classifieds

The Coffeyville Journal

620-251-3300

716 S. Maple
Coffeyville, KS 67337

Deadlines for Classified Ads

Line Ads:
11:00 am Monday
for Wednesday's Edition
11:00 am Thursday
for Saturday's Edition

Display Ads:
11:00 am Friday
for Wednesday's Edition
11:00 am Thursday
for Saturday's Edition

coffeyvillejournal3@gmail.com



The Coffeyville Journal does not guarantee the financial responsibility of any firm or individual in connection with as appearing under the "Business Opportunities" or other classifications and requiring a cash investment. Readers are urged to make personal investigations of all such acts.

CLASSIFICATION INDEX	
Topic	Number
ANNOUNCEMENTS (100)	
Food Specials	101
Business Opportunities.....	102
Coming Attractions	103
Notices	104
Lost & Found	105
Lodge Notices	106
EMPLOYMENT (120)	
Help Wanted.....	121
Jobs Wanted.....	122
MERCHANDISE (130)	
Auctions.....	131
Rummage Sales	132
Farm Equip. & Supplies.....	133
Livestock & Equip.....	134
Pets & Supplies	135
Indoor Goods.....	136
Outdoor Goods	137
Merchandise for Rent.....	138
Free	139
Merchandise Wanted.....	140
SERVICE (150)	
Services.....	151
Auctioneers.....	152
VEHICLES, ACCESSORIES (160)	
Autos	161
Trucks	162
Motorcycles	163
Recreational Vehicles	164
Vehicle Accessories	165
Vehicles Wanted	166
PROPERTY (180)	
Real Estate for Sale	181
Property for Rent	182
Mobile Homes.....	183
Property Wanted	184
Auctions.....	185
PUBLIC NOTICES	200

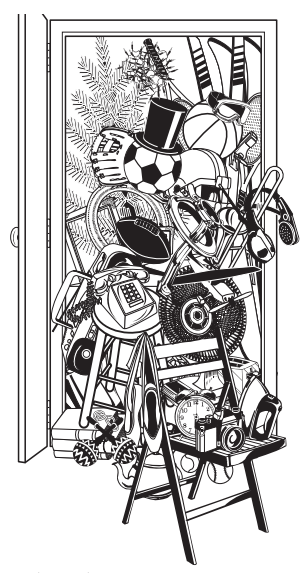
151 Services



New, Used and Antique Furniture
2 Miles East of Dearing, Kansas or West of Coffeyville on Woodland Ave.

Open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Monday - Saturday

620-948-3400



Life feel a bit too cluttered?
Why not have a sale?
Call us to place your ad!
620-251-3300

200 Public Notice

(First published in The Coffeyville Journal on May 7, 2025)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Coffeyville, Kansas will receive and accept bids through QuestCDN.com via their electronic VirtuaBid™ online bid service. A virtual bid opening will be held May 21, 2025, at 3:00 p.m., utilizing a web conferencing application.

The project is briefly described as follows:

- ☐ Coffeyville XFMR Replacement

Currently, two transformers are providing power to the Messer and CVR manufacturing plants. These transformers are inadequate to meet the facilities' power demands, necessitating a transformer upgrade. The upgrade will involve the following:

- Expanding and reconfiguring the substation yard
- Replacing existing transformers with two 125 MVA transformers (longest lead item, arriving Q4 2027)
- Installing a MaxiAmp trench system
- Installing new strain and rigid bus systems
- Erecting multiple steel structures
- Installing 15kV Circuit Breakers, 15kV GOABs, and 138kV GOABs
- Constructing a new control house
- Installing a new ground grid, conduit, control cable, power cable, and communication cable
- Performing a 138kV line termination
- Installing additional components to complete construction

The above items include shipping and handling to site, and other items incidental work indicated on the plans and specifications.

The project will be constructed in two phases. Phase One is planned to occur in Q4 2025, while Phase Two is planned for 2027/2028. Some of the construction for this project will be limited to planned outage windows in December of 2025 and December 2028.

The Proposal consist of furnishing and delivery of the specified equipment (referred to as Goods) to the point of destination, including performance of special services at the site in conjunction with installation of the Goods by others as part of the Buyer's construction program, all in accordance with the Proposal Documents.

Each successful bidder shall supply a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond executed by a corporate surety licensed in the State of Kansas in an amount equal to 100 percent of the contract price as part of this contract.

A certified check or bidder's bond in an amount of not less than five percent of the amount bid. The check(s) or bond(s) shall be made payable to City of Coffeyville, KS, as security that the bidder(s) to whom the award(s) are made will enter into contract to build the improvements bid upon and furnish the required bonds and insurance. The check or draft may be cashed by the City as liquidated damages in the event the successful bidder fails to enter into a contract within the 15 days after Notice of Award and post bond satisfactory to the City ensuring the faithful fulfillment of the contract.

A complete set of electronic plans, contracts, documents, and proposal form may be obtained from www.questcdn.com for a fee of \$22.00 (non-refundable). If submitting a bid, a fee of \$42 (non-refundable) will be required. Once logged into the site, insert eBIDdoc project number 9670432 (City of Coffeyville, KS: XFMR Replacement).

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is Olsson, 7301 W 133rd Street, Suite 200, Overland Park, Kansas 66213. Questions should be directed to Adriel Paradise, Project Manager, 501-416-3308 or email, aparadise@olsson.com.

No proposal may be withdrawn within a period of 60 days after the date fixed for proposal opening. The City of Coffeyville, Kansas reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive informalities in proposals submitted.

Owner: The City of Coffeyville, Kansas
By: Christopher Weiner, Executive Director of Electric Services
May 7, 2025



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/TheCoffeyvilleJournal

THE COFFEYVILLE JOURNAL

620-251-3300

Hiring for ALL SHIFTS!

Forté Products

Please apply online at **forteproducts.com** or in person at our Administrative building located at:

727 N. Liberty St.
Cherryvale, KS 67335