

EVALUATING THE PANDEMIC POTENTIAL OF INFLUENZA A VIRUSES IN PRIMARY AIRWAY MODELS

By

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(Under the Direction of Mark Tompkins)

ABSTRACT

Influenza A viruses (IAVs) are single stranded negative sense RNA viruses containing eight gene segments. IAVs have two genetic traits: (a) drift, resulting from mutations, usually in gene segments expressing the surface glycoproteins hemagglutinin and neuraminidase and (b) shift, or reassortment, which occurs when two viruses co-infect the same host cell and exchange gene segments. Migratory waterfowl are reservoirs of IAVs, while susceptible species include poultry, horses, humans, swine, and other mammals. IAVs are among the most important viral pathogens for animal health, causing outbreaks of respiratory disease in swine and poultry and occasional zoonotic transmission to humans. Swine are proposed as a “mixing” vessel since they are susceptible to avian and human IAVs and due to the distribution of avian- and human-like sialic acid receptors within their respiratory tract. H1N1 viruses have been circulating in pigs for over a century and, in the past decade, the predominant matrix gene has become the pdmM gene. The pdmM gene has been implicated as a determinant of improved respiratory transmission, which suggests that it might play an important role in the ability of these pdm viruses to spread in humans. Experiments performed in this dissertation will evaluate the pandemic potential and tropism of swine and avian influenza viruses as well as the effects of the matrix gene.

INDEX WORDS: swine influenza, pandemic potential, primary cells, matrix gene

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CHAPTER 1

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction to Influenza A Viruses

Influenza viruses belong to the family *Orthomyxoviridae* and are divided into 4 genera, A, B, C, and D. Influenza A and B viruses are single stranded negative sense RNA viruses containing eight gene segments (PB2, PB1, PA, HA, NP, NA, M, and NS). Influenza C and D viruses are single stranded negative sense RNA viruses that only contain seven gene segments since the hemagglutinin-esterase fusion protein vRNA replaces the HA and NA. Influenza B and C have sporadically been isolated from other mammals, but are largely restricted to humans. Influenza D viruses have been identified in cattle and swine. The focus of this dissertation will be pandemic influenza A viruses (IAVs) as they pose the greatest risk to human health (1-6).

IAVs have two genetic traits: (a) drift, resulting from mutations, usually in gene segments expressing the surface glycoproteins hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA), and (b) shift, or reassortment, which occurs when two viruses co-infect the same host cell and exchange gene segments (7). Migratory waterfowl are reservoirs of IAVs, while susceptible species include poultry, horses, humans, swine, and other mammals (7-10). IAVs are subtyped based on their surface antigens HA and NA, which mediate viral entry and release. To date there are a total of 18 HAs and 11 NAs that have been identified. H1-H16 and N1-N9 have been found in aquatic birds, while H17N10 and H18N11 have been identified in bats (8, 11-14). Swine IAVs are among the most important viral pathogens for animal health, causing outbreaks of respiratory disease in swine and occasional zoonotic transmission to humans.

The Porcine Respiratory Disease Complex and Swine Influenza Across the Globe

Swine are susceptible to multiple viral and bacterial respiratory pathogens. These pathogens are commonly found in co-infections that result in respiratory disease, referred to as the Porcine Respiratory Disease Complex (PRDC). Pathogens that cause PRDC include but are not limited to, swine influenza virus (swIAV), porcine circovirus type 2 (PCV2), porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV), *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*, and *Bordetella bronchiseptica* (15-20). These viral and bacterial pathogens of swine are known to infect the respiratory epithelium. Respiratory diseases in swine are an important health concern for swine producers, since they cause tremendous economic loss due to poor growth performance, increased morbidity and mortality, and increased expenditures in control measures, thus greatly affecting the farmer's bottom line (15-20).

The first significant outbreak of IAV in swine occurred in 1918 in the U.S., around the time of the 1918 pandemics in humans, caused by an H1N1 virus that was later shown to be similar to the virus causing the outbreak in humans. This virus, termed classical H1N1, remained genetically stable for almost 80 years. In 1979, an avian H1N1 virus jumped from wild ducks to pigs in Germany and Belgium. During the mid-1980s, H3N2 strains that were a descendant of the 1968 Hong Kong pandemic became prevalent in Europe. In the 1990s the H3N2 viruses that were circulating at the time, mixed with the seasonal H1N1 virus in circulation and created the H1N2 lineage (21-26). Then in 2009 the swine influenza pandemic occurred. In North America, a triple reassortant (TRIG) H3N2 virus was introduced in the late 1990s, which contained classical H1N1 NP, M, and NS, human seasonal H3N2 PB1, HA, and NA, and avian PB2 and PA genes (46-50). This virus reassorted with the H1N1 viruses that were circulating in pigs since 1918, resulting in the circulation of reassortant H1N1, H1N2, and H3N2 viruses. In the early 2000's, novel human-origin H1 viruses were detected

in pigs. Following the introduction of the 2009 pandemic H1N1 virus in humans, the virus was quickly reintroduced to pigs and became endemic. In the 2010-2011 season, a novel H3 virus lineage of human-origin was detected in swine in North America, which was genetically and antigenically distinct from viruses circulating at the time (27, 28). In Brazil, Chile, and Argentina, most of the H1N1, H1N2, and H3N2 viruses that have been detected contain the internal genes of the 2009 pandemic lineage (29-33). In China and in Southeast Asia, H1N1 viruses were endemic until the 1990s when the H1N1 and H3N2 triple reassortant viruses were introduced into the population (34, 35).

History of Past Pandemics of Avian and Swine Origin

The past four influenza pandemics were caused by viruses containing gene segments of either avian- or swine-origin. The 1918 pandemic was caused by an H1N1 virus with genes of avian origin. It was first identified in US military personnel in spring 1918. 500 million people, approximately 33% of the world's population, became infected. There was a total of 50 million deaths worldwide (36, 37). Next was the Asian pandemic in 1957. This virus was comprised of three different genes from an H2N2 virus, including the HA, NA and PB1, that originated from an avian influenza A virus. This pandemic led to 1.2 million deaths worldwide and 116,000 deaths in the United States (36-42). In 1968 the Hong Kong pandemic occurred, which was comprised of two genes from an avian influenza A virus, including the H3 and PB1, in addition to the N2 from 1957 pandemic. This pandemic led to 1 million deaths worldwide and 100,000 deaths in the United States. Finally, we had the pandemic in 2009 (43-45). This pandemic virus was originated from the reassortment between two endemic swine viruses, the triple reassortment virus (PB2, PB1, PA, HA, NP, M, NS) and the M and NA genes derived from the Eurasian H1N1 virus, which then spread rapidly in both swine and human populations (51-55). During the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, it is

estimated that within the United States there were 60.8 million cases, 274,304 hospitalizations, and 12,469 deaths and an estimated range of 151,700-575,400 deaths worldwide (56).

Matrix Gene as a Determinate for Transmission

The matrix gene segment of influenza, consisting of 1027 base pairs, encodes two viral proteins, M1 (nucleotide position 26 to 784) and M2 (nucleotide position 26-51 and 740-1007). The M1 protein evolves slowly in human, avian, and swine IAV lineages. The M2 protein however has seen significant evolution in human and swine, but not as much in avian viruses. M1 forms a bridge between the inner core components of the virion and the membrane proteins. M1 promotes the formation of the RNP complex and causes it to dissociate from the nuclear matrix. M1 also plays a vital role in recruiting viral components and in the budding process (57-71). The M2 protein comprises 97 amino acids and its extracellular domain is recognized by the host's immune system. The M2 transmembrane domain forms an ion channel that participates in the uncoating of the virion once it is in the host cell (72-82).

H1N1 viruses have been circulating in pigs for over a century but, since the introduction of the H1N1pdm virus in pigs, the pdmM gene has become the predominant matrix gene in swine populations (46, 48, 50). During the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, the pdmM gene was implicated as a key determinant of increased respiratory transmission. This suggests that it might play an important role in the ability of viruses to be spread in humans (51-55). Swine-origin H3N2 viruses containing the pdmM gene from the 2009 pandemic have been isolated from the human population since 2011 and are referred to as “variant” viruses (83). Although the matrix gene has been implicated in the increased ability of swine influenza to transmit to humans, other genes may play a role. The viral polymerase, comprised of the PB1,

PB2, and PA gene segments has been shown to be a major host determinant. A single residue of the PB2 gene, E627K, has been correlated with increased viral replication and transmission in mammals. Other studies have also shown that other residues, A271 and D701N, are able to compensate for the absence of the E627K amino acid change (79, 84-90). The influenza viral NP gene segment has been shown to play a key role in MX sensitivity allowing for evasion of the host cell's Type-1 interferon response (91-95). Specifically, Y52, I100, P283, and Y313 have been shown to be essential to reduced MX sensitivity in cell culture and *in vivo* (96-98). Lastly the HA gene segment, which is essential for viral attachment as well as entry, also plays a role in host specificity. It has been found that viruses which contain a leucine at position 226 in the HA have a higher affinity for α 2,6-sialic acid, and hence, have a preference to bind human-like sialic acid receptors (99, 100).

Swine as a “Mixing Vessel” and Primary Cell Culture

Pigs, proposed as a “mixing vessel” of IAVs, are linked to the generation of novel IAVs that may infect humans. Pigs are susceptible to swine, avian, and human influenza. This is thought to be linked to the distribution of sialic acids within their respiratory tract. The HA protein of IAVs binds to glycans on epithelial cells that have a terminal sialic acid (SA), triggering endocytosis of the viral particle. These sialic acids are either α 2,3-linked or α 2,6-linked. Avian IAVs preferentially infect cells expressing α 2,3-SA, while mammalian IAVs prefer cells expressing the α 2-6 SA, therefore avian IAV replication is restricted in humans, which contain a majority of α 2-6 SA in the upper respiratory tract (101). Waterfowl, particularly ducks and geese, express mainly α 2,3-SA in the respiratory tract, while white leghorn chickens express more α 2,6-SA in their respiratory tract. Pheasants, turkeys, guinea fowl, and quail express both α 2,3-SA and α 2,6-SA in their respiratory tract (102, 103). The

upper respiratory tract of swine predominately contains cells expressing $\alpha 2,6$ -SA, while cells expressing $\alpha 2,3$ -SA dominate in the lower airways (104-106). The swine airway epithelium also has less sialylated glycans than humans and swine have a greater proportion of $\alpha 2,6$ -SA than the human respiratory tract (107). In human bronchial and tracheal cells, it has been reported that $\alpha 2,3$ -SA are expressed in ciliated cells, while $\alpha 2,6$ SA are primarily expressed in non-ciliated cells (108-110).

Multiple different types of human and animal cultures have been developed for studying influenza (111-116). Previous work concerning the role of the swine epithelium during influenza infection has been performed in ex vivo models using swine bronchial and tracheal explants (104-108, 117-119). These models allow the determination of binding of influenza to the respiratory epithelium. In these types of respiratory explant models, it is incredibly difficult to evaluate the innate immune response. Furthermore, in many models that try and re-create the swine respiratory epithelium from harvesting from pig donors, the cells remain in submerged culture and never fully differentiate (120-122). Often these cells are transformed as well to make an immortal cell line. These cell lines can differentiate and are easily passaged, but viral replication can be affected (122-124). Few studies have developed air liquid interface (ALI) primary swine cell systems, but they are limited to the tracheal and bronchial epithelium (124-128). Therefore, the aims of this dissertation are as follows:

Aim 1: Establish primary porcine nasal (PNE), tracheal (PTE), and bronchial epithelial (PBE) cells for the study of swine respiratory viruses in multiple donors

Aim 2: Determine if primary porcine nasal (PNE), tracheal (PTE), and bronchial epithelial (PBE) cells are a feasible model for influenza pandemic risk assessment

Aim 3: Determine if the origin of the matrix gene influences the tropism, replication kinetics,

and pandemic potential of swine H1N1 and H1N2 influenza viruses

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CHAPTER 2

ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIMARY PORCINE NASAL (PNE), TRACHEAL (PTE), AND BRONCHIAL (PBE) CELLS FOR THE STUDY OF SWINE RESPIRATORY VIRUSES¹

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KEY WORDS swine epithelium, differentiation, sialic acid, respiratory viruses

ABSTRACT

In this study we have established primary porcine nasal (PNE), tracheal (PTE), and bronchial (PBE) epithelial cells that recapitulate the physical and functional properties of the respiratory tract and have the ability to fully differentiate. This is indicated functionally by increasing TEERs and histologically by the presence of tight junctions. Primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells developed within our lab are fully differentiated indicated by the presence of cilia and mucus secretion and also express sialic acid receptors, which are necessary receptors for influenza. Swine are susceptible to multiple viral and bacterial pathogens that affect the respiratory tract. This is commonly referred to as the Porcine Respiratory Disease Complex (PRDC). Swine are also proposed as a “mixing vessel” of influenza A viruses (IAVs) since they are susceptible to viruses of avian and human origin based on the distribution of sialic acid receptors within their respiratory tract, with the potential to generate novel IAVs that may infect humans. Adding primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells to surveillance studies can help assess the pandemic potential of emerging influenza viruses for humans as well as help understand the dynamics of polymicrobial infections in swine.

INTRODUCTION

Swine are susceptible to multiple viral and bacterial pathogens. These viral and bacterial pathogens, commonly referred to as the Porcine Respiratory Disease Complex (PRDC), primarily effect the respiratory tract of swine. These viral and bacterial pathogens are known to infect alveolar macrophages as well as the respiratory epithelium. Some of these viral and bacterial infections include, but are not limited to, swine influenza virus (swIAV), porcine circovirus 2 (PCV2), porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV), *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*, and *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. The PRDC is an important health concern for swine producers, since it causes tremendous economic loss to the industry (1, 2). Previous literature concerning the role of the swine epithelium during influenza infection has come from ex vivo models using swine bronchial and tracheal explants (3-10). These models allow the determination of binding of influenza to the respiratory epithelium, but these models don't last long in culture outside the host and it is incredibly difficult to evaluate the innate immune responses occurring within these explants. Also, in many other models that try and re-create the swine respiratory epithelium from harvesting from pig donors, the cells remain in submerged culture and never fully differentiate (11-13) or they are transformed to make an immortal cell line that fully differentiates, but can affect viral replication (13-15). Few studies have developed an air liquid interface (ALI) primary swine cells system that fully differentiates and retains most characteristics of the swine respiratory tract, but they are limited to the tracheal and bronchial epithelium (15-19). The goal of this study was to generate reliable harvest and culture methods for the creation of primary porcine nasal (PNE), tracheal (PTE), and bronchial (PBE) epithelial cells that will fully differentiate and allow us to evaluate the pandemic potential, viral tropism, and the immune response against influenza on the

different regions of the airway.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Porcine Primary Nasal Epithelial Cells (PNE) Isolation and Propagation

Swine 4-6 weeks of age from the University of Georgia swine farm negative for influenza were humanely euthanized. A total of 3 donor pigs were used to culture and propagate porcine primary nasal epithelial (PNE) cells. Individual donors were kept separate. Transport media (DMEM F-12 (Corning 10-090-CV) + GA-1000 (Corning CC-4083, final concentration 30mg/mL Gentamicin and 15 ng/mL Amphotericin) + Penicillin/streptomycin, Pen/Strep, (Gibco 15140-148, final concentration 100mg/mL) was prepared and aliquoted in 15 milliliter conical tubes containing 12 milliliters of transport media. The snout of the pig was sprayed down with 70% ethanol and a Kim-wipe was used to remove excess feed and dirt from the inside of the nares. A sterile nylon bristle cytology brush (Medical Packaging 987406) was used to enter the nostril and swirled within the nasal cavity to obtain epithelial cells. Individual cytology swabs from the left and right nostril from each pig were kept separate to decrease chances of contamination. Two cytology swabs per nostril were obtained, which equals 4 cytology swabs total per donor pig. The cytology brushes were then swirled and scraped together to remove epithelial cells within the transport media. Primary PNE cells were brought back to the lab and spun down in a centrifuge at 300g for 5 minutes. The supernatant was then removed and primary PNE cells were resuspended in 5 milliliters of ACK lysis buffer (ThermoFisher A1049201), in order to remove red blood cells, and allowed to sit at room temperature for 2 minutes. 5 milliliters of DMEM F-12 media supplemented with 5% fetal bovine serum, FBS (Atlanta Biologicals), GA-1000, and Pen/Strep was added to the 5 milliliters of ACK lysis buffer for a total volume of 10 milliliters. Primary PNE cells

were spun down again at 300g for 5 minutes. The supernatant was removed and primary PNE cells were re-suspended in 12 milliliters of TEC Plus Media and added to collagen-coated T-75 flasks. TEC Plus Media formulation and final concentrations are as follows: DMEM F-12 (Corning 10-090-CV), Pen/Strep (Gibco 15140-148, final concentration 100mg/mL), GA-1000 (Corning CC-4083, final concentration 30mg/mL Gentamicin and 15 ng/mL Amphotericin), bovine insulin (Sigma, final concentration 10 mg/mL), human transferrin (Sigma T8158, final concentration 5 mg/mL), cholera toxin (Sigma C8052, final concentration 100ng/mL), human epidermal growth factor (ThermoFisher, final concentration 25ng/mL), bovine pituitary extract, BPE, (Corning 355100, final concentration 30 mg/mL), 5% FBS (Atlanta Biologicals), and retinoic acid (Sigma C8052, final concentration 1×10^{-10} M). To coat flasks with collagen, diluted rat-tail collagen (Corning 354236) to a final concentration of 50 mg/mL in 0.02 N acetic acid. The flask was gently shaken to ensure the entire surface is covered. Leave flasks in laminar flow hood for one hour. After incubation period, remove excess collagen suspension and rinse the apical surface with Hank's Balanced Salt Solution, HBSS (Gibco 14025092). TEC Plus media was changed every 1-2 days depending on confluency. Once primary PNE cells reached 85-95% confluency, cells were washed with HBSS and Trypsin-EDTA Solution 1X 0.05% (Sigma 59417C) was added to release primary PNE cells from the collagen coated flasks. Cells began to release within 7-10 minutes after the addition of trypsin. Trypsin was neutralized using FBS for a final concentration of 10% FBS (v/v). Primary PNE cells were centrifuged again at 300g for 5 minutes. The supernatant was removed and primary PNE cells were re-suspended and counted on a hemacytometer. Cells were then re-suspended to contain 1.5-2 million cells per aliquot in a 50:50 ratio of TEC Plus Media and 2X Hyclone HyCryo Cryopreservation Media (FisherScientific SR3000102) and placed in liquid nitrogen.

Porcine Primary Trachea (PTE) and Bronchial Epithelial (PBE) Cells Isolation and Propagation

The same pigs used to harvest the porcine primary nasal cells were used for harvesting primary trachea and bronchial epithelial cells. Donors were kept separate. Gallon zip-lock bags were used to collect the lungs and bronchi. Suture was used to tie off the upper part of the trachea by the larynx. The respiratory apparatus (trachea, bronchi, and lungs) was removed intact from the body cavity. The heart and the aorta were removed from the respiratory organs. Respiratory organs, having been tied off below the larynx, were brought back to the lab and placed in Pyrex dishes for further dissection. The outside of the lungs, trachea, and bronchi were sprayed down with 70% ethanol. The upper trachea was separated from the larynx and the lower portion of the trachea was cut before the bifurcation of the carina, where the primary bronchi enter into the lungs. As much connective tissue as possible was removed from the trachea and the whole intact trachea was placed in a 50-milliliter conical tube containing 25-30 milliliters of digestion buffer. Digestion buffer formulation are as follows: DMEM F-12 supplemented with GA-1000, 1X Pen/Strep, and 1.4mg/mL of Pronase (Sigma 10165921001). Connective tissue was removed from the primary bronchi and the lobes of the lungs were dissected away to reveal secondary and tertiary bronchi. The intact bronchi were placed in a 50-milliliter conical tube containing 25-30 milliliters of digestion buffer. The trachea and bronchi were allowed to digest overnight. Following the overnight digestion, both the trachea and bronchi samples along with the digestion buffer was poured into a petri dish. The trachea and bronchi were flushed with digestion buffer within the petri dish 8-10 times. The trachea and bronchi were cut longitudinally with a scalpel and the inside of the trachea and the larger bronchi were gently scraped. Leaving the digestion buffer within the petri dish, 10 milliliters of collection media was added (DMEM F-12 supplemented with 5% FBS, GA-1000, and 1X

Pen/Strep) to empty 50 milliliter conical tube and the digested trachea and bronchi were added to the collection media. The tubes containing the digested trachea or bronchi were inverted 20 times to collect any extra epithelial cells. 25-30 milliliters of digestion buffer were added back to the 50 milliliter conical tube which contained 10 milliliters of collection media. Each 50-milliliter conical tube contained a volume of 35-40 milliliters. Primary PTE and PBE cells were centrifuged at 300g for 5 minutes. At this point you can leave the primary PTE and PBE cells in 50 milliliter conical tubes or transfer them to a new set of 15 milliliter conical tubes. The supernatant was removed and primary PTE and PBE cells were re-suspended in 2 milliliters of ACK lysis buffer to remove red blood cells and were incubated at room temperature for 2 minutes. 10 milliliters of collection media was added to primary PTE and PBE tubes, for a total volume of 12 milliliters. Primary PTE and PBE cells were centrifuged again at 300xg for 5 minutes. The supernatant was removed and primary PTE and PBE cells were re-suspended in 2 milliliters of DNASE solution. DNASE solution formulation was as follows: DMEM F-12 supplemented with GA-1000, 1X Pen/Strep, and 100mg/mL of DNASE (Sigma 10104159001). Primary PTE and PBE cells were incubated at room temperature for 10 minutes. After the incubation period, 5 milliliters of collection media were added to primary PTE and PBE cells were centrifuged at 300g for 5 minutes. The supernatant was removed and primary PTE and PBE cells were re-suspended in 10 milliliters of TEC Plus Media and incubated in petri dishes at 37°C and 5% CO₂ for two hours to allow for fibroblasts to attach. Non-adherent primary PTE and PBE cells were collected in a 15-milliliter conical tube and the petri dish was washed with 2 milliliters of TEC Plus Media twice, for a total volume of 12 milliliters. Primary PTE and PBE cells were added to collagen coated T-75 flasks. Two T-75 flasks per donor were used to decrease chances of contamination. To coat flasks with collagen, the same protocol for collagen coating in primary PNE was followed.

TEC Plus media was changed every 1-2 days depending on confluency. Once primary PTE and PBE cells reached 85-95% confluency, cells were washed with HBSS and Trypsin-EDTA Solution 1X 0.05% was added to release primary PTE and PBE cells from the collagen coated flasks. Cells began to release within 10-12 minutes after the addition of trypsin. Trypsin was neutralized using FBS for a final concentration of 10% FBS (w/v). Primary PTE and PBE cells were spun down again at 300g for 5 minutes. The supernatant was removed and primary PTE and PBE cells were re-suspended and counted on a hemocytometer. Cells were then re-suspended to contain 1.5-2 million cells per aliquot in a 50:50 ratio of TEC Plus Media and 2X Hyclone HyCryo Cryopreservation Media (FisherScientific SR3000102) and placed in liquid nitrogen.

Porcine Primary Nasal Epithelial Cells (PNE), Porcine Primary Trachea (PTE), and Bronchial Epithelial (PBE) Cell Air-liquid Interface Culture for Differentiation

Expanded primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells were seeded onto 24 well, 12 trans-wells, 0.32cm² collagen-coated trans-well inserts (Corning Costar 3470). Cultures were maintained in submerged culture, fed apically and basally, at 37° Celsius 5% CO₂. TEC Plus apical and basal media was changed every 48 hours until the cells were 100% confluent, approximately 6-8 days. Once the primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells reached confluency, cells were left in air-liquid interface, ALI, and cells were fed basolaterally with TEC ALI media (DMEM F-12 supplemented with 1X Pen/Strep, GA-1000, retinoic acid (1x10⁻¹⁰M final concentration), and 2% Nuserum (Corning 355100). Primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells were washed apically with HBSS and TEC ALI basal media was changed every 48 hours until ciliated cells and mucus were present, approximately 6-10 days in ALI.

Immunohistochemistry of primary PNE, PTE, and PBE Cells Cultured at Air-liquid Interface

Differentiated Primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells in trans-wells were fixed in 2% paraformaldehyde (Electron Microscopy Sciences 16% Paraformaldehyde Aqueous Solution, EM Grade, Fischer Scientific 50-980-487) at room temperature for 15 minutes. Primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells were permeabilized in 0.5% Triton X-100 (Sigma 9002-93-1) in phosphate buffered saline, PBS (Fischer Scientific MT21030CM) - PBST, for 30 minutes at room temperature. Primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells were then washed 3 times with 0.1% PBST. Primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells were blocked with 10% goat serum (Sigma G9023) for an hour at room temperature. Block was removed and primary antibodies for cilia (mouse IgG2b monoclonal anti-tubulin, acetylated antibody, Sigma T6793, final working concentration 4 mg/mL), mucus (Muc5AC monoclonal antibody (45M1)-Mouse IgG1, Thermo Fischer Scientific MA5-12178, final working concentration 2mg/mL), ZO-1 (Anti-ZO-1 tight junction protein antibody rabbit polyclonal, Abcam ab96587, final working concentration 1:1000), and Claudin 4 (Anti-Claudin 4 antibody rabbit polyclonal, Abcam ab53156, final working concentration 5mg/mL) were added along with directly conjugated lectins SNA-Cy3 (Glycomatrix 21761140-2, final working concentration of 30mg/mL) or MAL2-Cy5 (Glycomatrix 21511110-1, final working concentration of 30mg/mL). Primary antibodies and lectins were allowed to incubate overnight in the dark at 4 degrees Celsius on a plate rocker. Primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells were then washed 3 times with 0.1% PBST and incubated with secondary antibody, Alexa Fluor 488 goat anti-mouse (Invitrogen A-32723), Alexa Fluor 488 goat anti-rabbit (Invitrogen A-11008), or Alexa Fluor 546 goat anti-mouse (Invitrogen A-11003) at a 1:400 dilution for 30 minutes at room temperature in the dark. Primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells were washed 3 times again with 0.1% PBST and were incubated with Alexa Fluor 647 Phalloidin (ThermoFisher Scientific A22287) or Alexa Fluor 488 Phalloidin (ThermoFisher Scientific A12379) for 20 minutes at room temperature

in the dark. Primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells were washed one more time with 0.1% PBST and wet mounted on slides with SlowFade Gold Antifade Mountant with Dapi (ThermoFisher Scientific, S36938). Images of primary porcine nasal, tracheal, and bronchial cells were acquired using a Nikon confocal microscope via cross-sectional z-plane imaging with a 60X objective and 2X optical zoom. Files were saved in the Nikon Nd2 file format and image analysis on 20-30 mm tissue optical sections was conducted with the NIS-Elements viewer version 4.2. Images were then exported in JPEG format.

Transepithelial Electrical Resistance (TEERs) of primary PNE, PTE, and PBE Cells Cultured at Air-liquid Interface

HBSS was added to the apical compartment of differentiated PNE, PTE, and PBE cells. TEER was measured in Ohms using an EVOM epithelial voltmeter (World Precision Instruments). Three readings per well was used to get an average TEER of an individual well, and a total of 6 wells were used per time-point. The same set of wells were used for all time-points. After TEER measurements were taken, HBSS was removed from apical surface and TEC ALI media was added to the basal chamber.

RESULTS

Development of Primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells for the study of Swine Respiratory Diseases and Human Pandemic Risk Assessment

Primary PNE cells were collected via cytology bristle brush, refer back to materials and methods. Primary PTE and PBE cells were isolated from the respiratory system of 4–6-week-old pigs (Figure 2.1A). The pulmonary lung lobules were removed revealing an intact trachea and bronchi (Figure 2.1B). Swine tracheal and bronchial tissues were separated from each other and allowed to digest overnight, refer back to materials and methods for complete procedure (Figure 2.1C, 2.1D, 2.1E, and 2.1F). Primary PTE and Primary PBE

cells were placed on T-75 flasks and allowed to reach confluency (Figure 2.1G).

PNE, PTE, and PBE cells retain similar functional and physical properties as *in vivo*

Primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells all established tight junctions as seen by an increase in TEERs (Figure 2.2) and seen by IHC staining with Claudin 4, Zo-1, and F-actin (Figure 2.3). Primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells also fully differentiate as seen by staining of cilia and mucus granules (Figure 2.4 and 2.5). Furthermore, primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells possess 2,3 and 2,6 sialic acid receptors (Figure 2.4 and 2.5), which makes swine a potential mixing vessel for avian and human influenza viruses.

DISCUSSION

In this study we have established primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells that recapitulate the physical and functional properties of the respiratory tract, develop tight junctions and have TEERs (Figure 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4). Primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells also have the ability to fully differentiate, indicated by the presence of cilia and mucus (Figures 2.3 and 2.4). Adding primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells to surveillance studies can help assess the pandemic potential of emerging influenza viruses for humans as well as help understand the dynamics of polymicrobial infections in swine. Swine primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells developed through the methodology of this paper, revealed the presence of α 2,3-SA and α 2,6-SA indicated by positive lectin staining with MAL2 or SNA respectively (Figure 2.3 and 2.4). Pigs, susceptible to avian and human IAVs, are proposed as a “mixing vessel” linked to the generation of novel IAVs that may infect humans based on the distribution of sialic acid receptors within their respiratory tract. The hemagglutinin (HA) protein of IAVs bind to glycans on epithelial cells that have a terminal sialic acid (SA) in order to trigger endocytosis of the viral particle. These sialic acids are either α 2,3-linked or α 2,6-linked. It is currently thought that avian IAV replication is restricted in humans due to differing

distribution of cellular receptors and differing affinity for these receptors (20). Avian IAVs preferentially infect cells expressing α 2,3-SA, while mammalian IAVs prefer cells expressing the α 2-6 SA (20). Water fowl, particularly ducks and geese express mainly α 2,3-SA in the respiratory tract, while white leghorn chickens and Japanese quail express mainly α 2,6-SA in their respiratory tract. Pheasants, turkeys, guinea fowl, and quail have been found to express both α 2,3-SA and α 2,6-SA in their respiratory tract (21, 22). The upper respiratory tract of swine predominately contains cells expressing α 2,6-SA, while cells expressing α 2,3-SA dominate in the lower airways (5-7). The swine airway epithelium also has less sialylated glycans that humans and swine have a greater proportion of α 2,6-SA than the human respiratory tract (4). In human bronchial and tracheal cells, it has been reported that α 2,3-SA are expressed in ciliated cells, while α 2,6 SA are primarily expressed in non-ciliated cells (3, 23, 24). Future studies within our lab will evaluate the pandemic potential of swine influenza field virus isolates by kinetics studies and evaluating viral tropism by using multiple cellular substrates.

Figure 2.1: Harvesting and Culturing of Primary Porcine Bronchial and Tracheal

Epithelial Cells **A.** Pluck harvested from a 4-6 week old pig **B.** Dissected out trachea and bronchi intact **C.** Dissected trachea **D.** Dissected bronchi and bronchioles **E.** Post digestion trachea **F.** Post digestion bronchi and bronchioles **G.** Single cell suspension with multiple ciliated epithelial rafts 20X objective phase contrast on inverted microscope

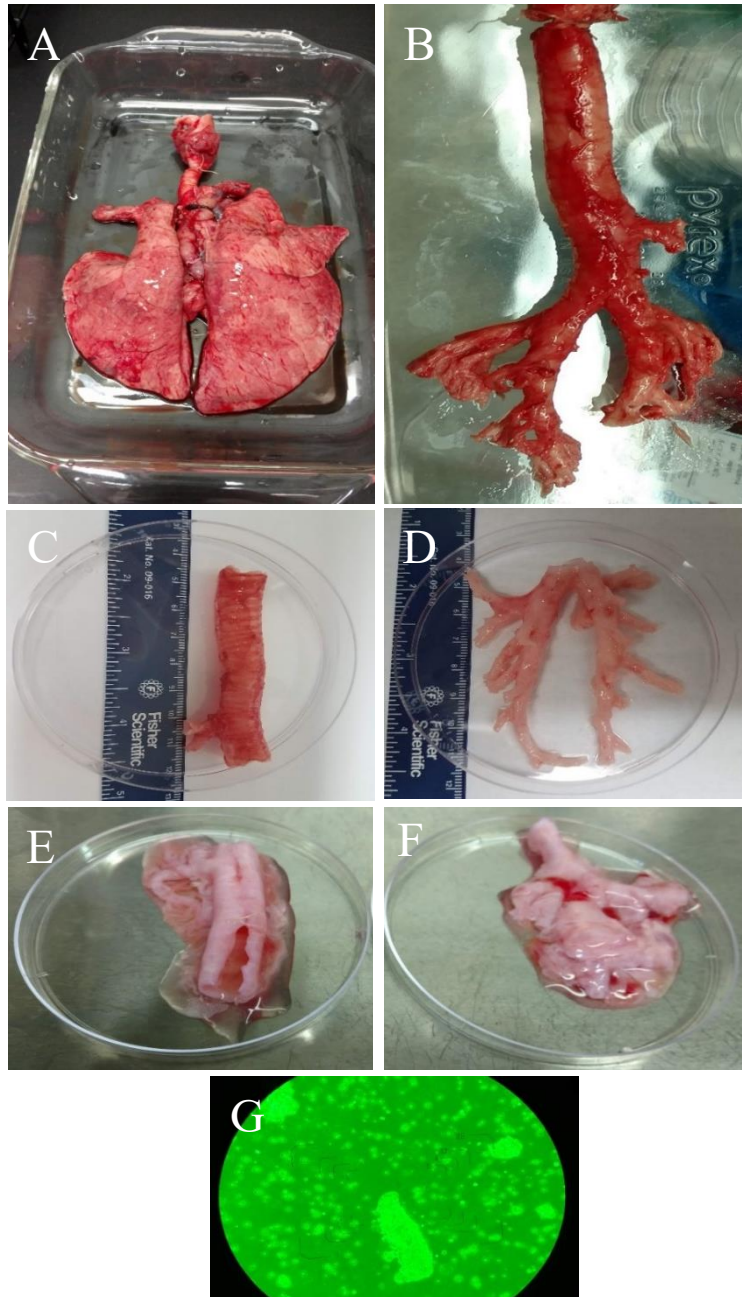
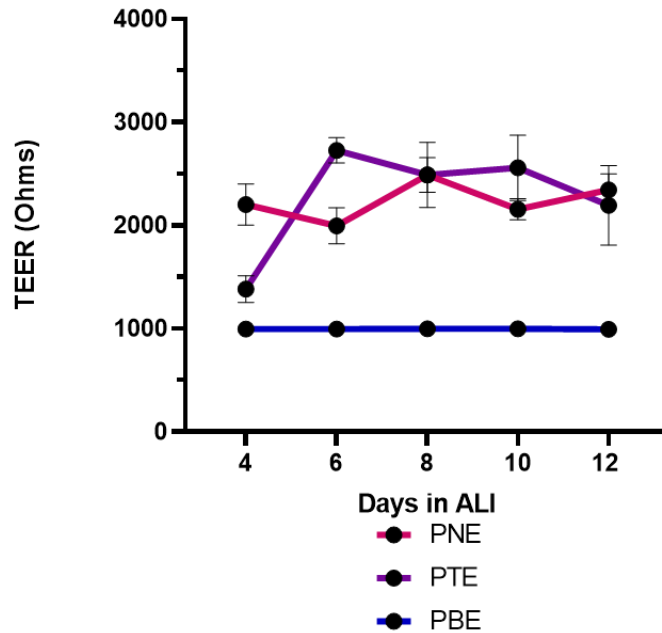


Figure 2.2: Primary PNE, PTE, and PBE Trans-epithelial Electrical Resistance. Trans-epithelial electrical resistance (TEERs) of differentiated swine cells cultured at air-liquid interface (ALI). Data represents one independent experiment. 3 measurements were taken from each well at each individual time point and averaged. n=6 wells per time-point +/- SEM.

A. Transepithelial Electrical Resistance Primary PNE, PTE, PBE Cells



B. Transepithelial Electrical Resistance Primary PBE Cells

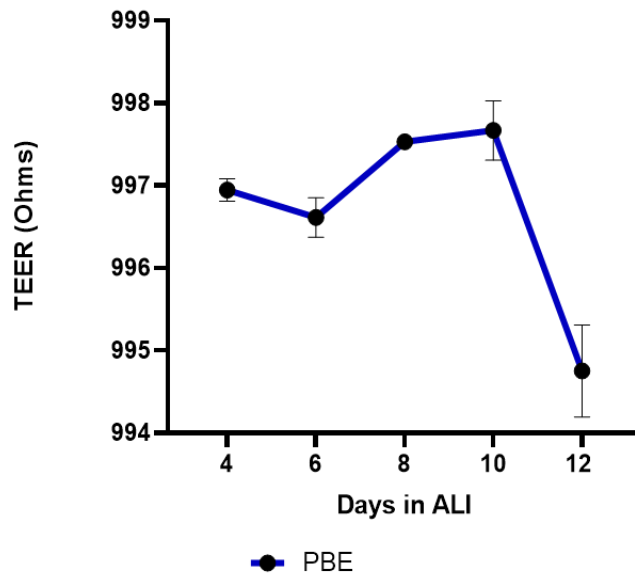


Figure 2.3: Primary PNE, PTE, and PBE Immunohistochemistry of Tight Junctions.

Claudin 4 and ZO-1 to detect presence of tight junctions on primary swine epithelial cells in air-liquid interface (ALI)=green, acetylated tubulin to detect the presence of cilia on primary swine epithelial cells in ALI=red, and Phalloidin to detect colocalization of Claudin 4 and ZO-1 with F-actin=purple, white bar indicates a measurement of 25 microns **A.** PNE-Claudin 4 and cilia (top view) **B.** PTE-Claudin 4 and cilia (top view) **C.** PBE-Claudin 4 and cilia (top view) **D.** PNE-ZO-1 and cilia (lateral view) **E.** PTE-ZO-1 and cilia (lateral view), and **F.** PBE-ZO-1 and cilia (lateral view). Figures D-F green represents ZO-1 creating tight junctions on apical surface colocalizing with F-actin. Yellow represents colocalization indicating tight junction formation of F-actin, ZO-1, and cilia basal bodies, which is indicated by the white arrow.

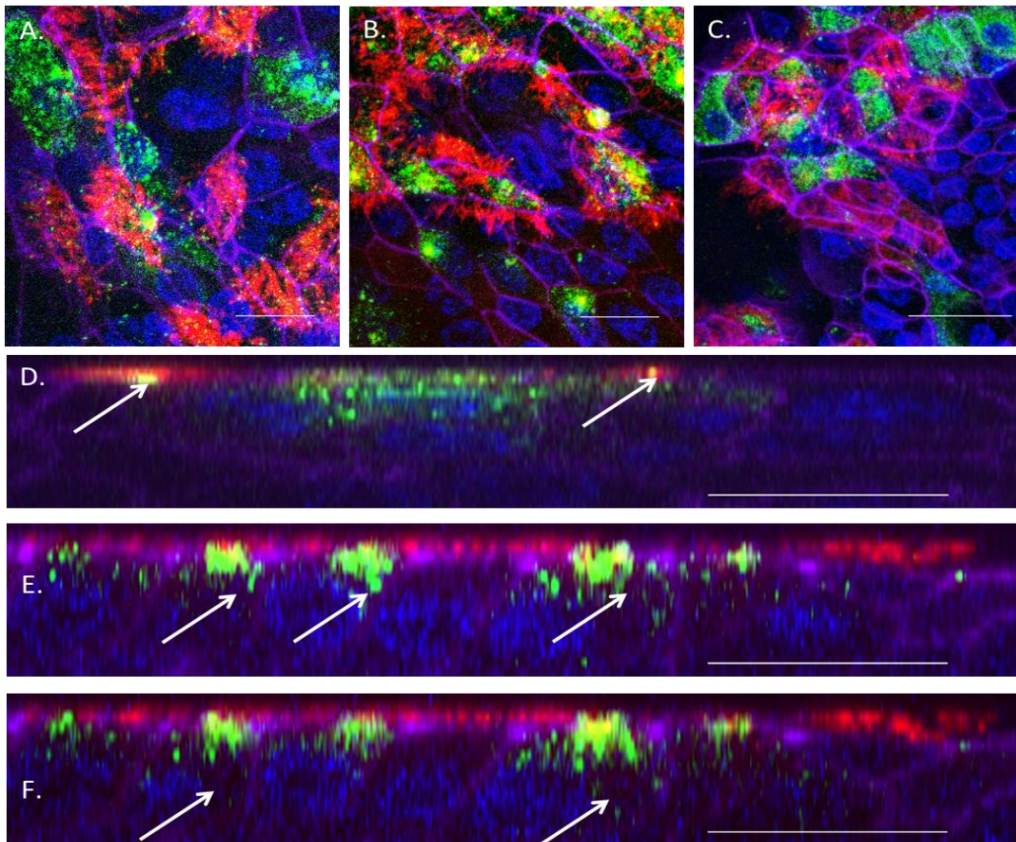


Figure 2.4: 2,6-Sialic Acid Lectin Immunohistochemistry of PNE, PTE, and PBE Cells.

SNA lectin to detect presence of 2,6- sialic acid receptors on primary swine epithelial cells in air-liquid interface (ALI)=red, beta and acetylated tubulin to detect the presence of cilia on primary swine epithelial cells in ALI=green (A,B,C), Muc5AC to detect the presence of mucus and mucin granules in goblet cells in primary swine epithelial cells in ALI=green (D, E, F), dapi, nuclear stain=blue, and Phalloidin to detect the presence of tight junctions, F-actin=purple, white bar indicates a measurement of 25 microns **A.** PNE-SNA and cilia **B.** PTE-SNA and cilia **C.** PBE-SNA and cilia **D.** PNE-SNA and mucus **E.** PTE-SNA and mucus, and **F.** PBE SNA and mucus.

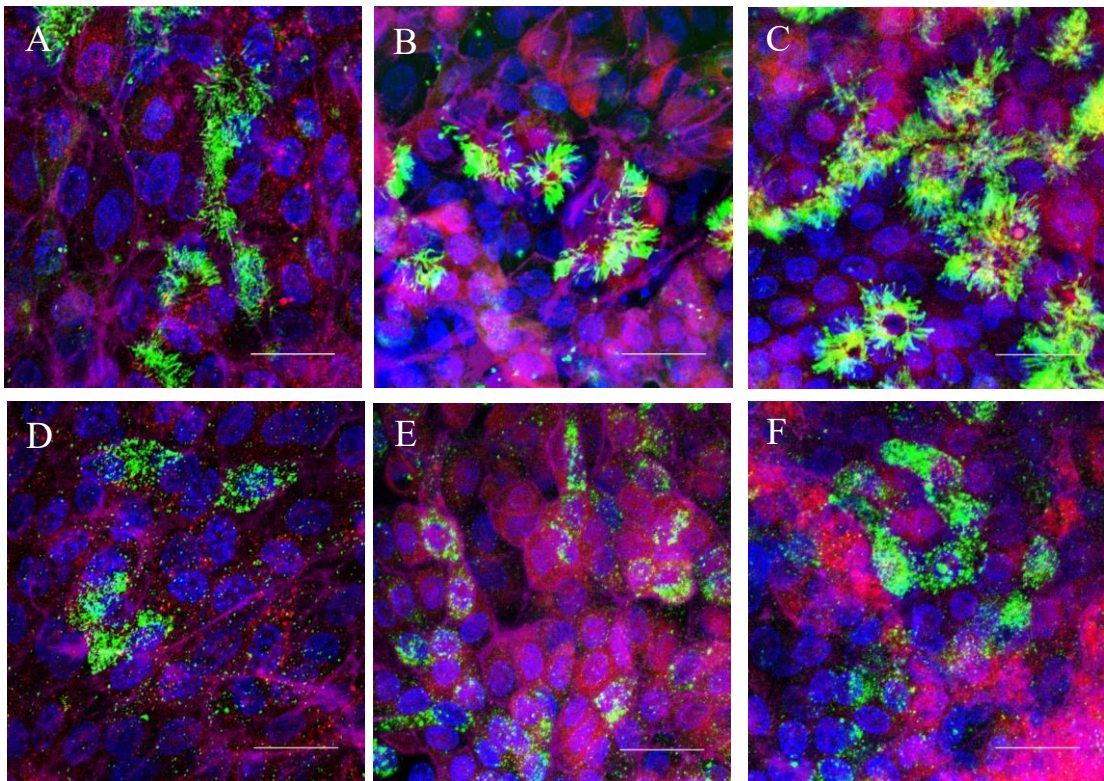
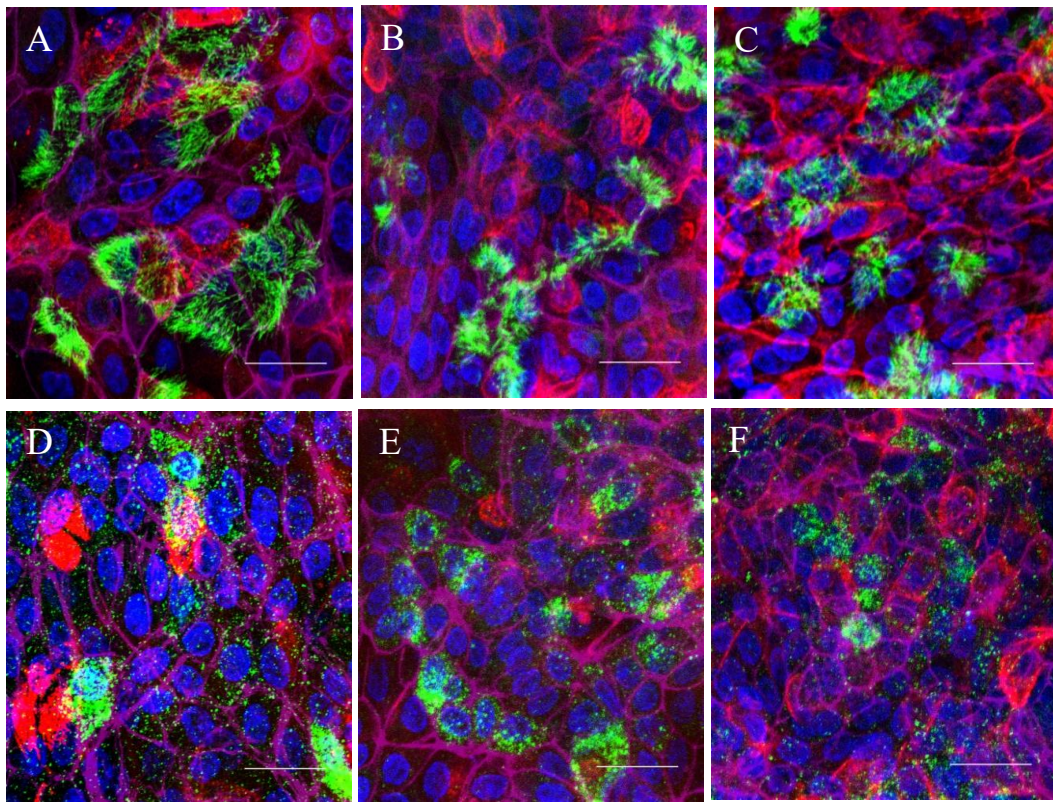


Figure 2.5: 2,3-Sialic Acid Lectin Immunohistochemistry of PNE, PTE, and PBE Cells.

MAL-2 lectin to detect presence of 2,3- sialic acid receptors on primary swine epithelial cells in air-liquid interface (ALI)=red, beta and acetylated tubulin to detect the presence of cilia on primary swine epithelial cells in ALI=green (A,B,C), Muc5AC to detect the presence of mucus and mucin granules in goblet cells in primary swine epithelial cells in ALI=green (D, E, F), dapi, nuclear stain=blue, and Phalloidin to detect the presence of tight junctions, F-actin=purple, white bar indicates a measurement of 25 microns **A.** PNE-MAL-2 and cilia **B.** PTE-MAL-2 and cilia **C.** PBE-MAL-2 and cilia **D.** PNE-MAL-2 and mucus **E.** PTE-MAL-2 and mucus, and **F.** PBE MAL-2 and mucus.



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CHAPTER 3

PRIMARY PORCINE NASAL (PNE), TRACHEAL (PTE), AND BRONCHIAL EPITHELIAL CELLS ARE A FEASIBLE MODEL FOR INFLUENZA PANDEMIC RISK ASSESSMENT¹

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KEY WORDS swine influenza, avian influenza, primary cells, pandemic assessment

ABSTRACT

Influenza A viruses (IAVs) are single stranded negative sense RNA viruses containing eight gene segments. IAVs have two genetic traits: (a) drift, resulting from mutations, usually in gene segments expressing the surface glycoproteins hemagglutinin and neuraminidase and (b) shift, reassortment, which occurs when two viruses co-infect the same host cell and exchange gene segments. Migratory waterfowl are reservoirs of IAVs, while susceptible species include poultry, horses, humans, swine, and other mammals. IAVs are among the most important viral pathogens for animal health, causing outbreaks of respiratory disease in swine and poultry and occasional zoonotic transmission to humans. We have developed primary swine nasal, tracheal, and bronchial cells that have the ability to differentiate and can support influenza virus replication. Utilizing these substrates as a tool for pandemic assessment along with increased surveillance will help detect possible variants that may pose a threat to human health. These cell substrates can also be utilized as a tool for the isolation of difficult viruses and to learn more about innate responses of the airway epithelium to influenza.

INTRODUCTION

Swine and avian species are susceptible to multiple viral and bacterial respiratory pathogens. These pathogens are commonly found in co-infections referred to as the Porcine Respiratory Disease Complex (PRDC) and the Avian Respiratory Disease Complex (ARDC). Diseases of the PRDC include but are not limited to, swine influenza virus (swIAV), porcine circovirus type 2 (PCV2), porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV), *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*, and *Bordetella* (1-6). Diseases of the ARDC include, but are not limited to avian influenza virus (avIAV), Infectious Bronchitis Virus (IBV), Infectious Laryngotracheitis Virus (ILTV), Avian pneumovirus, Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV), *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *Escheria Coli*, and *Staphylococcus* (7-12). These viral and bacterial pathogens of swine and avian are known to infect the respiratory epithelium. Respiratory diseases in pigs and avian species are an important health concern for swine and poultry producers, since this causes tremendous economic loss to the industry. The pathogens associated with the PRDC cause poor growth performance, increased morbidity and mortality, and increased expenditures in control measures, thus greatly affecting the farmer's bottom line (1-6). Clinical signs associated with pathogens of the ARDC include sneezing, head swelling, conjunctivitis, nasal exudates, and rattling noises. Postmortem lesions include tracheitis, airsacculitis, and pericarditis. Morbidity can be as high as 30% and mortality as high as 10%, and much higher mortality rates associated with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) (7-12).

One of the most important pathogens in the PRDC and ARDC is influenza. SwIAVs and AvIAVs also pose a threat to human health. The past four influenza pandemics were caused by viruses containing gene segments originated in either avian or swine. The 1918

pandemic was caused by an H1N1 virus with genes of avian origin. It was first identified in US military personnel in spring 1918. 500 million people, approximately 33% of the world's population, became infected. There was a total of 50 million deaths worldwide (13, 14). The Asian pandemic occurred in 1957, caused by a virus containing three different genes from an H2N2 virus that originated from an avian influenza A virus, including the H2 hemagglutinin and the N2 neuraminidase genes. This pandemic led to 1.2 million deaths worldwide and 116,000 deaths in the United States (13-19). Next, in 1968 the Hong Kong pandemic occurred, caused by an influenza A H3N2 virus comprised of two genes from an avian influenza A virus, including the H3 hemagglutinin, and all other genes including the N2 from the 1957 pandemic virus. This pandemic led to 1 million deaths worldwide and 100,000 deaths in the United States. Lastly, the 2009 H1N1 pandemic (20-22) led to 60.8 million cases, 274,304 hospitalizations, and 12,469 deaths in the United States and an estimated range of 151,700-575,400 deaths worldwide (23). This pandemic virus originated from the reassortment between a swine H3N2 triple reassortment virus containing swine NP, M, and NS, human seasonal PB1, HA, and NA, and avian PB2 and PA genes (24-28) and the M and NA genes derived from the Eurasian avian-like H1N1. This virus spread rapidly in both swine and human populations (29-33).

Recently there has been a few human infections of low pathogenic avian influenza virus (LPAIV) H7 subtypes. AvIAVs can be divided into high and low pathogenic based on their pathogenicity in chickens. Furthermore, high pathogen avian influenza has multiple basic amino acids, either arginine or lysine, at the HA cleavage site. Only avian influenza of the H5 and H7 subtypes have been shown the ability to become highly pathogenic. Avian influenza H7 viruses are able to infect a broad range of species, including seals, pigs, horses, and humans. The ability of these H7 viruses to transmit between multiple species is

important in the evolution of H7 avian influenza viruses. Seasonal waves of LPAIV H7N9 infection in humans in China have been shown to be lethal but most cases were associated with contact with poultry and no humanto-human transmission has been reported (34-44). Therefore, the purpose of this study was to utilize the primary porcine nasal, tracheal, and bronchial epithelial cells that we developed in our lab to survey a panel of H3 and H1 swine viruses and H7 LPAI viruses. We also compared the replication kinetics of these viruses to replication kinetics in human cell substrates.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Culturing of Swine and Avian Isolates

Viral stocks of Sw/MN/A01125993/2012, Sw/NC/KH1552516/2016, Sw/MO/A01410819/2014, CA/07/09, Sw/NC/154076/2015, and Sw/MO/A01444664/2013 were propagated in MDCK Atlanta cells. Viral stocks of A/CK/NY/131/94, A/CK/NJ/150/02, and A/NY/16 were propagated in embryonated eggs.

Culturing of Calu-3s and MDCKs for Viral Kinetics and Plaque Assays

MDCK cells were brought out of liquid nitrogen storage and seeded into T75 flasks with DMEM supplemented with 5% FBS and 1X antibiotic. Once MDCK cells were confluent, cells were trypsinized and plated on 12-well tissue culture treated plates for plaque assays to determine viral titer. Plaque assays were incubated for 72 hours at 37° C in 5% CO₂ with a 1.2% Avicel MEM+1X antibiotics overlay with 4X N-tosyl-L-phenylalanine chloromethyl ketone (TPCK)-trypsin.

Calu-3 cells were brought out of liquid nitrogen storage and seeded into T75 flasks with DMEM F-12 supplemented with 10% FBS and 1X antibiotics. Once Calu-3 cells were confluent, cells were trypsinized and plated on 12-well tissue culture treated plates for viral infection (250 PFU/well). For Calu-3 kinetics, 1 milliliter of DMEM F-12 1X antibiotic and

2% Nuserum was used to maintain cultures during the course of the experiment. Media was removed and replaced at each time-point.

Culturing of Differentiated Porcine Primary Nasal (PNE), Porcine Primary Trachea (PTE), and Bronchial Epithelial (PBE) Cells Maintained in Air-liquid Interface (ALI)

Expanded primary nasal, tracheal, and bronchial cells were brought out of liquid nitrogen storage, thawed for 3 minutes in a 37° Celsius water bath, and re-suspended in 10 milliliters of TECplus media (DMEM F-12 (Corning 10-090-CV), Pen/Strep (Gibco 15140-148, final concentration 100mg/mL), GA-1000 (Corning CC-4083, final concentration 30mg/mL Gentamicin and 15 ng/mL Amphotericin), bovine insulin (Sigma, final concentration 10 mg/mL), human transferrin (Sigma T8158, final concentration 5 mg/mL), cholera toxin (Sigma C8052, final concentration 100ng/mL), human epidermal growth factor (ThermoFisher, final concentration 25ng/mL), bovine pituitary extract, BPE, (Corning 355100, final concentration 30 mg/mL), 5% FBS (Atlanta Biologicals), and retinoic acid (Sigma C8052, final concentration 1×10^{-10} M). Cells were washed and resuspended in TEC plus media and seeded onto 24 well, 12 trans-wells, 0.32cm² collagen-coated trans-well inserts (Corning Costar 3470). Cultures were maintained at 37° C in 5% CO₂ in submerged culture, until the cells were 100% confluent, 6-8 days. TEC Plus media was replaced every other day. Once the primary nasal, tracheal, and bronchial cells reached confluency, cells went to air-liquid interface, ALI, and maintained with TEC ALI media (DMEM F-12 supplemented with 1X Pen/Strep, GA-1000, retinoic acid (1×10^{-10} M final concentration), and 2% Nuserum (Corning 355100). Basal media was changed every 48 hours until ciliated cells and mucus were present, approximately 6-10 days ALI.

Culturing of Differentiated Normal Human Bronchial Epithelial Cells (NHBE) Maintained in Air-liquid Interface (ALI)

NHBE cells purchased from Lonza were brought out of liquid nitrogen storage, thawed for 3 minutes in a 37° Celsius water bath, and re-suspended in a 1:1 mixture of bronchial epithelial growth media (BEGM) (Clonetics): Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium with high glucose (BEGM: DMEM-H) containing supplements provided in Lonza growth media kit, with the exception of EGF (0.5ng/mL). NHBE cells were seeded onto 24 well, 12 trans-wells, 0.32cm² collagen-coated trans-well inserts (Corning Costar 3470). Cultures were maintained at 37° C in 5% CO₂ in submerged culture, until the cells were 100% confluent, 7-10 days. Media was replaced every other day. Once the NHBEs reached confluency, cells went to air-liquid interface, ALI, and were maintained with PneumaCult-ALI Medium (Stem Cell Technologies).

Inoculation of CALU-3, PNE, PTE, and PBE Cultures

Calu-3 cells after reaching confluency on 12-well tissue culture plates, were washed twice with PBS and inoculated with 250 PFU/well of virus diluted in PBS. Calu-3 cells were incubated at 37° C in 5% CO₂ for 2 hours. The inoculum was then removed, and cells were maintained with DMEM F-12, 1X antibiotic and 2% Nuserum. At the indicated time points, media was collected for plaque assays and replaced with fresh media.

PNE, PTE, PBE, and NHBE cells, after having fully differentiated on 24-well trans-well plates, were washed twice with HBSS. PNE, PTE, PBE, and NHBE cells were inoculated apically with 250 PFU/well of virus diluted in PBS and incubated at 37° C in 5% CO₂ for 2 hours. The inoculum was then removed, and cells were maintained in air-liquid interface with TEC ALI media or PneumaCult-ALI Medium. At the indicated time points the apical surface was washed with HBSS and basal media was collected for plaque assays. TEC ALI media or PneumaCult-ALI Medium was replaced with fresh media at 48 hours.

RESULTS

H3 and H1 SwIAVs were able to efficiently replicate in PNE, PTE, PBE, Calu-3, and NHBE cells (Figure 3.1 and Figure 3.2), but showed different growth profiles. H7N2 avian IAVs were able to efficiently replicate in multiple different epithelial cell substrates, including NHBEs (Figure 3.3). NY/94 H7N2 avian IAV was able to replicate in all epithelial cell substrates, Calu-3, PNE, PTE, and PBE cells, although only to very low titers in PTE cells (Figure 3.3). NJ/02 H7N2 avian IAV was able to replicate efficiently in Calu-3 and PBE cells, but only replicated to low titers in PTE and NHBE cells and was unable to replicate in PNE cells (Figure 3.3). Interestingly, NY/16 H7N2 avian-origin IAV was unable to replicate in any of the porcine respiratory cells and only replicated in the human Calu-3 cell substrate (Figure 3.3). The ability of the avian IAVs to replicate in NHBEs and Calu-3s suggests they might be able to infect humans and may have pandemic potential and risk to human health.

DISCUSSION

H1 and H3 viruses of swine all replicated efficiently in porcine cell substrates as expected. Interestingly, these H1N1 and H3N2 viruses were also able to replicate in human cell substrates, indicating their possibility for human infection (Figure 3.1 and Figure 3.2). In addition to the pandemic of 2009, there have been multiple cases of human infections after exposure to infected pigs, but spread of these variant viruses from human-to-human is rare. In the United States alone there has been 9 cases of H1N1, 25 cases of H1N2, and 430 cases of H3N2 variant viruses since 2009/2010 (45, 46).

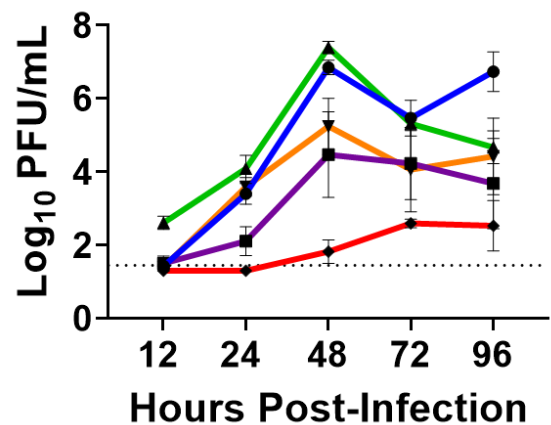
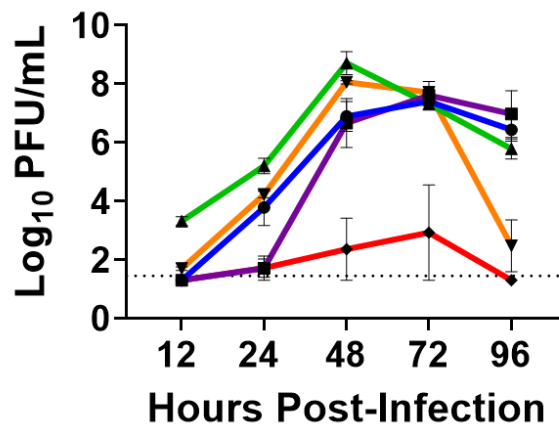
Avian H7N2 viruses, NY/94 and NJ/02, were able to replicate in at least one porcine substrate. However, all of the avian viruses were able to replicate in human substrates, indicating their potential to infect humans and possibility for pandemic potential (Figure 3.3). In addition to the pandemics of avian origin mentioned above, there have been

multiple reports of human infections with H7 LPAIV, such as seasonal waves of H7N9 in China since 2013 (34-44). There also have been reports of human infections with the H7N2 subtype, notably the A/NY/16 used in this study. Highly pathogenic H7 viruses have been known to emerge from ancestral low pathogenic avian influenza (47-49).

Pigs are proposed as a “mixing vessel” for the generation of variant viruses which may be able to infect and transmit amongst humans. This is partially due to the distribution of sialic acids within their respiratory tract. The upper respiratory tract of swine predominately contains cells expressing α 2,6-SA, while cells expressing α 2,3-SA dominate in the lower airways (50-52). Utilizing these porcine and human cell substrates as a tool for pandemic assessment along with increased surveillance will help detect possible variants that may pose a threat to human health. These cell substrates can also be utilized as a tool for the isolation of difficult viruses and to learn more about reassortment events and virus evolution. Furthermore, these cell substrates can be utilized to learn more about innate responses of the airway epithelium to influenza.

Figure 3.1: Replication Kinetics of H3N2, H3N1 Swine Isolates in PNE, PTE, PBE, Calu-3 and NHBE Cells. Calu-3 cells were grown in 12-well tissue culture plates. PNE, PTE, PBE, and NHBE cells were grown on trans-wells and allowed to fully differentiate in ALI. Once cilia and mucus secretion were present, cells were infected with **A.** Sw/MN/A01125993/2012 **B.** Sw/NC/KH1552516/2016, and **C.** Sw/MO/A01410819/2014 at 250 PFU/well. Data represents one independent experiment. For each virus the same set of wells was used for all subsequent time-points. Error bars represent +/- SEM.

A. Sw/MN/A01125993/2012 B. Sw/NC/KH1552516/2016



C. Sw/MO/A01410819/2014

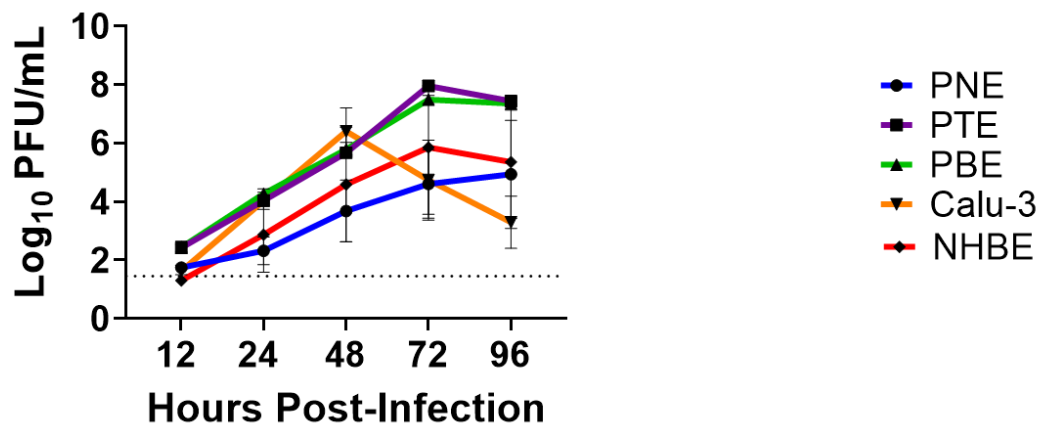


Figure 3.2: Replication Kinetics of H1N1, H1N2 Swine Isolates in PNE, PTE, PBE, Calu-3, and NHBE Cells. Calu-3 cells were grown in 12-well tissue culture plates. PNE, PTE, PBE, and NHBE cells were grown on trans-wells and allowed to fully differentiate in ALI. Once cilia and mucus secretion were present, cells were infected with **A.** CA/07/09 **B.** Sw/NC/154076/2015, and **C.** Sw/MO/A014444664/2013 at 250 PFU/well. Data represents one independent experiment. For each virus the same set of wells was used for all subsequent time-points. Error bars represent +/- SEM.

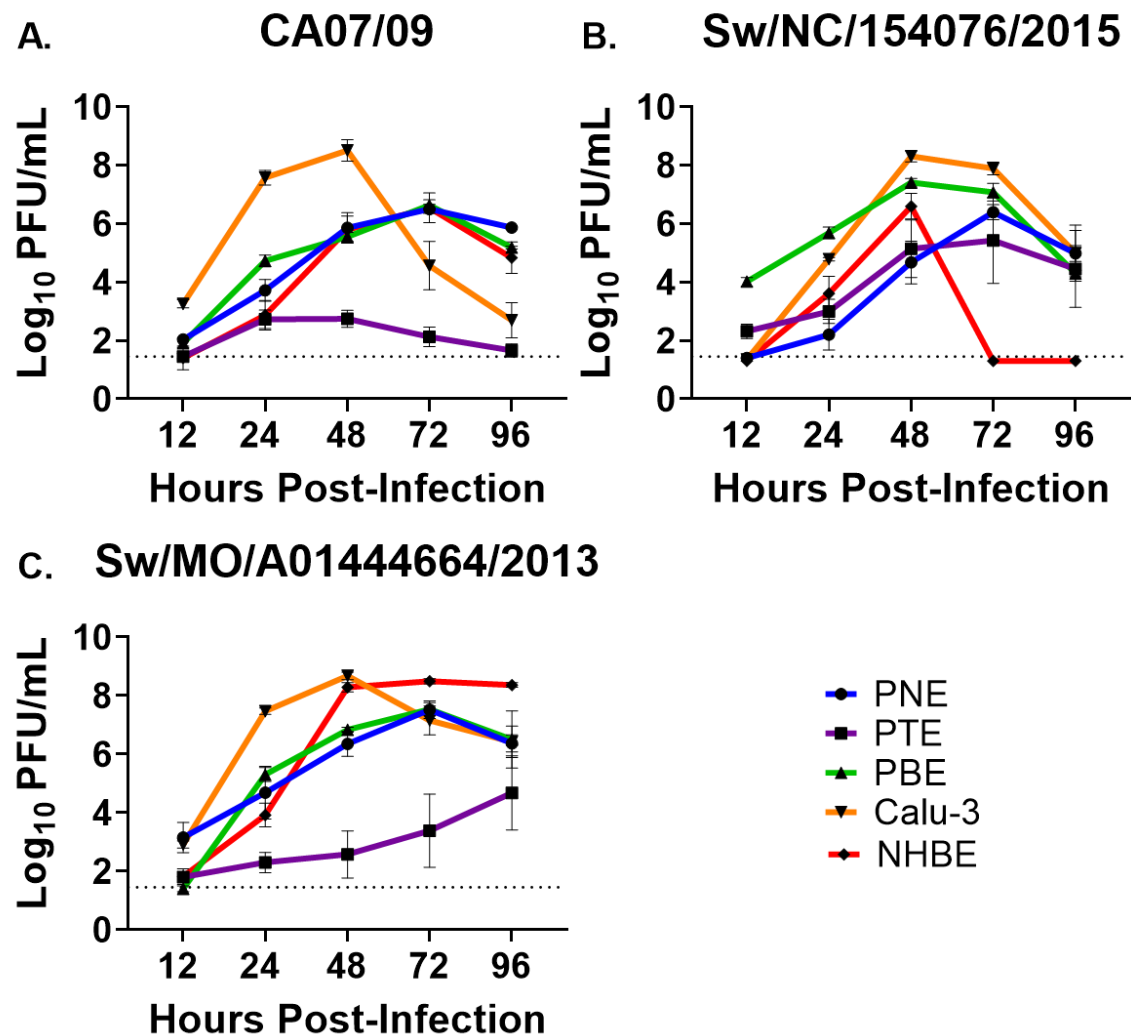
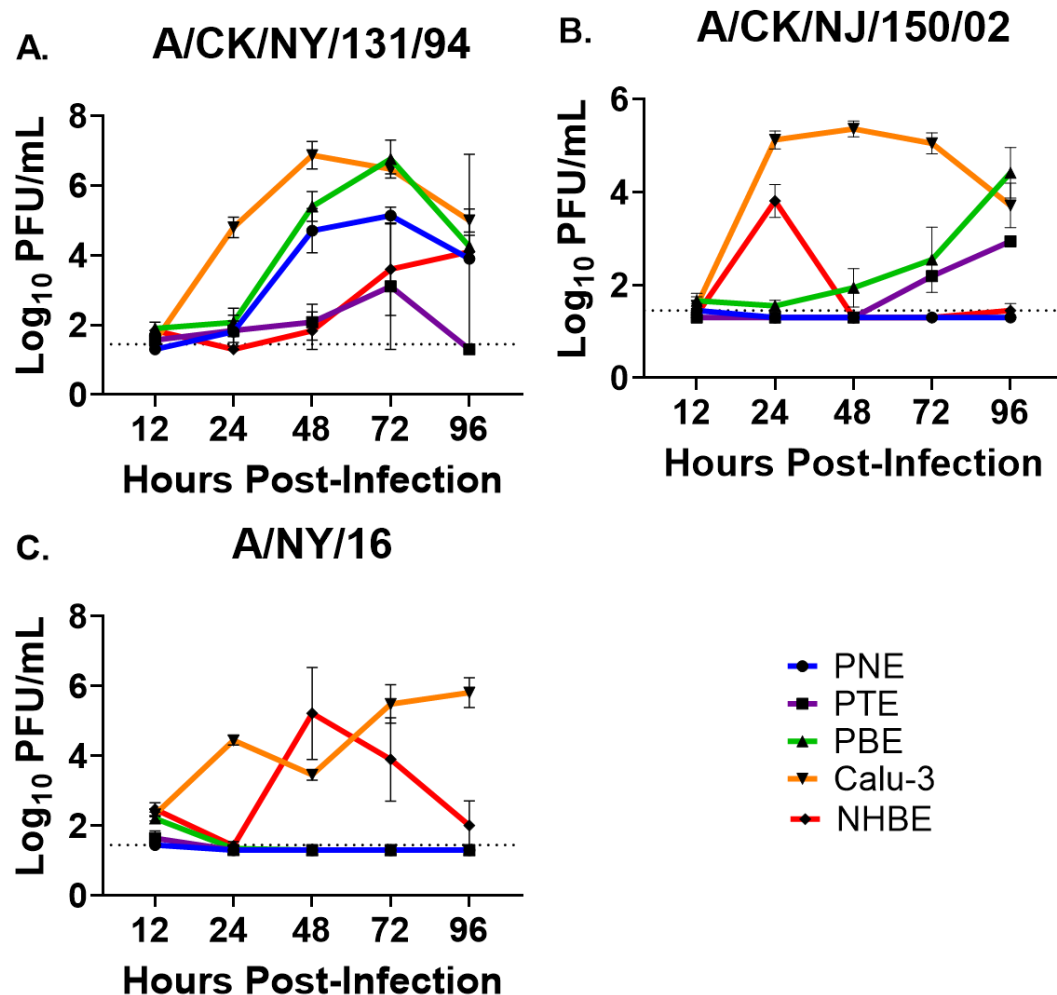


Figure 3.3: Replication Kinetics of H7 Avian Isolates in PNE, PTE, PBE, Calu-3, and NHBE Cells. Calu-3 cells were grown in 12-well tissue culture plates. PNE, PTE, PBE, and NHBE cells were grown on trans-wells and allowed to fully differentiate in ALI. Once cilia and mucus secretion were present, cells were infected with **A. CK/NY/131/94** **B. CK/NJ/150/02**, and **C. A/NY/16** at 250 PFU/well. Data represents one independent experiment. For each virus the same set of wells was used for all subsequent time-points. Error bars represent +/- SEM.



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CHAPTER 4

THE MATRIX GENE ORIGIN OF SWINE INFLUENZA H1N1 AND H1N2
ISOLATES AFFECTS VIRAL TISSUE TROPISM, REPLICATION KINETICS,
AND PANDEMIC POTENTIAL IN PRIMARY AIRWAY MODELS¹

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KEY WORDS influenza, swine, pandemic potential

ABSTRACT

Pigs are proposed as a “mixing vessel” linked to the generation of novel reassortant IAVs that may infect humans since they are susceptible to infection with both avian and human IAVs. To investigate the zoonotic capacity of swIAVs, we compared the replication properties of human and swine H1N1 and H1N2 viruses in swine primary nasal, tracheal, and bronchial epithelial cells, Calu-3, and normal human bronchoepithelial (NHBE) cells. SwIAVs were sequenced to identify differences within the internal genes, and viruses were classified based upon the presence of a matrix gene of classical swIAV origin (swM) or pdmH1N1 origin (pdmM), which was established in swine populations after the 2009 H1N1 pandemic and is now the predominant M gene found in swIAVs. Notably, swIAVs containing the pdmM gene replicated more efficiently in Calu-3 and NHBE cells than swIAVs containing the swM gene, suggesting a greater pandemic potential. Interestingly, swIAVs that contained the swM gene replicated more efficiently in PTE and PBE cells. Interestingly, swIAVs which contained the pdmM gene replicated more efficiently in primary nasal swine cells than those containing the swM gene. Furthermore, at later time-points of infection, swIAVs which contained the pdmM gene replicated more efficiently in primary nasal swine cells at 32° C than at 37° C.

INTRODUCTION

During the 2018-2019 influenza season in the United States, it is estimated that there were 36 million cases, 490,000 hospitalizations, and 34,000 deaths related to seasonal influenza. These numbers remain consistent with estimates of the 2019-2020 influenza season in the United States where it is estimated that there will be 38,000,000 cases, 400,000 hospitalizations, and 22,000 deaths related to seasonal flu (1). Furthermore, during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, it is estimated that there were 60.8 million cases, 274,304 hospitalizations, and 12,469 deaths in the United States and an estimated range of 151,700-575,400 deaths worldwide due to the pandemic (2). Influenza A viruses (IAVs) are single stranded negative sense RNA viruses containing eight gene segments. Pigs are susceptible to avian and human IAVs and are proposed as a “mixing vessel” capable of generating novel IAVs that may infect humans. This is thought to be partially attributed to the distribution of sialic acids found along the swine respiratory tract. The upper respiratory tract of swine predominately contains cells expressing $\alpha 2,6$ -SA, while cells expressing $\alpha 2,3$ -SA dominate in the lower airways (3-5). Swine IAVs (swIAVs) are among the most important viral pathogens for animal health, causing outbreaks of respiratory disease in pigs and occasional zoonotic transmission to humans (6-8). Zoonotic transmission of swine influenza is thought to be partially attributed to the distribution of sialic acids found distributed within the human respiratory tract. In the human airway it has been reported in tracheal and bronchial cells that $\alpha 2,3$ -SA are expressed in ciliated cells, while $\alpha 2,6$ SA are primarily expressed in non-ciliated cells (9-11).

Three subtypes of swIAVs currently circulate in swine in North America and contain gene segments from swine, avian, or human origin: H1N1, H3N2 and H1N2. H1N1

subtypes of the classical swine lineage circulated stably from 1918-1998. However, in 1998 the influenza H3N2 triple reassortment viruses appeared. This virus contained classical H1N1 NP, M, and NS, human seasonal H3N2 PB1, HA, and NA, and avian PB2 and PA genes (12-16). Then in 2009 a reassortant virus (H1N1 pandemic virus) emerged in Mexico that contained the M and NA genes derived from the Eurasian avian-like H1N1 subtype which spread rapidly in both swine and human populations. The pdmM gene has been implicated as a key determinate of increased respiratory transmission during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, which suggests that it might play an important role in the ability of viruses to be spread in humans (17-21). H1N1 viruses have been circulating in pigs for over a century. The predominant matrix gene in IAVs circulating in North American pigs has become the pdmM gene (12, 14, 16). Swine-origin viruses that contain the pdmM gene from the 2009 pandemic have been detected in the human population since 2011 and are referred to as “variant” viruses (22). Therefore, our hypothesis is that H1N1 and H1N2 swine field virus isolates that contain the pdmM gene will replicate more efficiently in MDCK ATL cells, NHBEs, Calu-3s, PBE, PTE, and PNE cell substrates than swine field virus isolates that contain the classical swine matrix gene. Furthermore, H1N1 and H1N2 swine field virus isolates that contain the pdmM gene will exhibit greater respiratory epithelial tissue tropism and greater pandemic potential.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Culturing and Sequencing of Swine Field Isolates

Viral stocks of CA/07/09, Sw/IL/A01395201/2013, Sw/NC/154076/2015, Sw/NC/152702/2015 N2, Sw/MO/A01444664/2013 N2, Sw/IN/A00968351/2011, and Sw/IL/A00857300/2011 were propagated in MDCK Atlanta cells. Viral stocks were sent to collaborators at UGA and St. Jude for NGS sequencing.

Culturing of Calu-3s and MDCKs for Viral Kinetics and Plaque Assays

MDCK cells were brought out of liquid nitrogen storage, thawed for 3 minutes in a 37° Celsius water bath, washed, and then re-suspended in DMEM supplemented with 5% FBS and 1X antibiotics and seeded into T75 flasks. Once MDCK cells were confluent, cells were trypsinized and plated on 12-well tissue culture treated plates for viral infection (250 PFU/well) or for plaque assays to determine viral titer. For MDCK kinetics, 1 milliliter of MEM+1X antibiotic was used to maintain cultures during the course of the experiment. Media was removed and replaced at each time-point. Plaque assays were incubated for 72 hours at 37° C in 5% CO₂ with a 1.2% Avicel MEM+1X antibiotics overlay with 4X TPCK trypsin.

Calu-3 cells were brought out of liquid nitrogen storage, thawed for 3 minutes in a 37° Celsius water bath, washed, and then re-suspended in DMEM F-12 supplemented with 10% FBS and 1X antibiotics and seeded into T75 flasks. Once Calu-3 cells were confluent, cells were trypsinized and plated on 12-well tissue culture treated plates for viral infection (250 PFU/well). For Calu-3 kinetics, 1 milliliter of DMEM F-12 1X antibiotic and 2% Nuserum was used to maintain cultures during the course of the experiment. Media was removed and replaced at each time-point.

Culturing of Differentiated Normal Human Bronchial Epithelial Cells (NHBE) Maintained in Air-liquid Interface (ALI)

Expanded NHBE cells were brought out of liquid nitrogen storage, thawed for 3 minutes in a 37° Celsius water bath, and re-suspended in a 1:1 mixture of bronchial epithelial growth media (BEGM) (Clonetics): Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium with high glucose (BEGM: DMEM-H) containing supplements provided in Lonza growth media kit, with the exception of EGF (0.5ng/mL). NHBE cells were seeded onto 24 well, 12 trans-wells, 0.32cm² collagen-coated trans-well inserts (Corning Costar 3470). Cultures were maintained at 37°

Celsius 5% CO₂ in submerged culture, until the cells were 100% confluent, 7-10 days. Media was replaced every other day. Once the NHBs reached confluency, cells went to air-liquid interface, ALI, and were maintained with PneumaCult-ALI Medium (Stem Cell Technologies).

Culturing of Differentiated Porcine Primary Nasal (PNE), Porcine Primary Trachea (PTE), and Bronchial Epithelial (PBE) Cells Maintained in Air-liquid Interface (ALI)

Expanded primary swine nasal, tracheal, and bronchial cells were brought out of liquid nitrogen storage, thawed for 3 minutes in a 37° C water bath, and re-suspended in 10 milliliters of TEC+ media (DMEM F-12 (Corning 10-090-CV), Pen/Strep (Gibco 15140-148, final concentration 100mg/mL), GA-1000 (Corning CC-4083, final concentration 30mg/mL Gentamicin and 15 ng/mL Amphotericin), bovine insulin (Sigma, final concentration 10 mg/mL), human transferrin (Sigma T8158, final concentration 5 mg/mL), cholera toxin (Sigma C8052, final concentration 100ng/mL), human epidermal growth factor (ThermoFisher, final concentration 25ng/mL), bovine pituitary extract, BPE, (Corning 355100, final concentration 30 mg/mL), 5% FBS (Atlanta Biologicals), and retinoic acid (Sigma C8052, final concentration 1×10^{-10} M). Cells were spun down at 300g for 5 minutes. Supernatant was removed and primary cells were re-suspended in TEC plus media and were seeded onto 24 well, 12 trans-wells, 0.32cm² collagen-coated trans-well inserts (Corning Costar 3470). Cultures were maintained at 37° C 5% CO₂ in submerged culture, until the cells were 100% confluent, 6-8 days. TEC Plus media was replaced every other day. Once the primary nasal, tracheal, and bronchial cells reached confluency, cells went to air-liquid interface, ALI, and maintained with TEC ALI media (DMEM F-12 supplemented with 1X Pen/Strep, GA-1000, retinoic acid (1×10^{-10} M final concentration), and 2% Nuserum (Corning 355100). Basal media was changed every 48 hours until ciliated cells and mucus were present,

approximately 6-10 days ALI.

Inoculation of MDCK, CALU-3, NHBE, PNE, PTE, and PBE Cultures

MDCK and Calu-3 cells after reaching confluency on 12-well tissue culture plates, were washed twice with PBS. MDCK cells were inoculated with 250 PFU/well of virus diluted in PBS with trypsin. Calu-3 cells were not trypsin treated. MDCK and Calu-3 cells were incubated at 37° Celsius 5% CO₂ for 2 hours. The inoculum was then removed, and cells were maintained with MEM with 1X antibiotics for MDCKs and DMEM F-12 1X antibiotic and 2% Nuserum for Calu-3s. At the indicated time points, media was collected for plaque assays and replaced with fresh media.

NHBE, PNE, PTE, and PBE cells after having fully differentiated on 24-well trans-well plates, were washed twice with HBSS. NHBE, PNE, PTE, and PBE cells were inoculated apically with 250 PFU/well of virus diluted in PBS and incubated at 37° Celsius 5% CO₂ for 2 hours. The inoculum was then removed, and cells were maintained in air-liquid interface with TEC ALI media. At the indicated time points the apical surface was washed with HBSS and basal media was collected for plaque assays. TEC ALI media was replaced with fresh media at 48 hours.

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis was done using GraphPad Prism v9. Multiple comparison analysis was conducted via 2-way ANOVA or mixed-effects analysis as indicated in supplemental figure description and legend. $P < 0.05$ was considered significant.

Immunohistochemistry of NHBE, PNE, PTE, and PBE Cells to Determine Viral Tropism and Pandemic Potential of H1N1 and H1N2 Viruses

Differentiated NHBEs and primary PNE, PTE, and PBE trans-wells were fixed in 2% paraformaldehyde (Electron Microscopy Sciences 16% Paraformaldehyde Aqueous Solution,

EM Grade, Fischer Scientific 50-980-487) at room temperature for 15 minutes. Differentiated NHBE and primary PNE, PTE, and PBE trans-wells were permeabilized in 0.5% Triton X-100 (Sigma 9002-93-1) in phosphate buffered saline, PBS (Fischer Scientific MT21030CM), for 30 minutes at room temperature on a plate rocker. NHBE, PNE, PTE, and PBE cells were then washed 3 times with 0.1% PBST and blocked with 10% goat serum (Sigma G9023) for an hour at room temperature on a plate rocker. Block was removed and primary antibodies for cilia (rabbit anti acetylated tubulin, Cell Signaling D20G3, final working dilution 1:800 and rabbit anti beta tubulin, Cell Signaling D2NG5, final working dilution 1:200) and influenza viral np (mouse anti influenza A nucleoprotein, Genetex 14213, final working dilution 1:500) were added.

Primary antibodies were allowed to incubate overnight in the dark at 4° Celsius on a plate rocker. NHBE, PNE, PTE, and PBE cells were then washed 3 times with 0.1% PBST and incubated with secondary antibodies, Alexa Fluor 488 goat anti-rabbit (Invitrogen A-11008) and Alexa Fluor 546 goat anti-mouse (Invitrogen A-11003) at a 1:400 dilution for 30 minutes at room temperature in the dark. NHBE, PNE, PTE, and PBE cells were washed 3 times again with 0.1% PBST and were incubated with Alexa Fluor 647 Phalloidin (ThermoFisher Scientific A22287) for 20 minutes at room temperature in the dark. NHBE, PNE, PTE, and PBE cells were washed one more time with 0.1% PBST and wet mounted on slides with SlowFade Gold Antifade Mountant with dapi (ThermoFisher Scientific, S36938). Images of NHBE, PNE, PTE, and PBE cells were acquired using a Nikon confocal microscope via cross-sectional z-plane imaging with a 60X objective and 2X optical zoom. Files were saved in the Nikon Nd2 file format and image analysis on 20-30 mm tissue optical sections was conducted with the NIS-Elements viewer version 4.2. Images were then exported in JPEG format.

RESULTS

NGS Sequencing Alignments

Viral stocks were sequenced in order to determine the degree of genetic similarity among the swine field virus isolates. The greatest difference can be seen within the matrix gene, when comparing swine field virus isolates that contain the swM gene to those that contain the pdmM gene (Table 4.1).

The Matrix Gene Origin Affects Tissue Tropism, Replication Kinetics, and Pandemic Potential of H1N1 and H1N2 Swine Field Isolates across Multiple Cell Substrates

MDCKs are the most widely used cell line for influenza virus isolation and propagation. SwIAVs, regardless of whether they contained the swM or pdmM gene, were able to efficiently replicate in MDCK cells (Figure 4.1). However, at various time-points of infection, viruses that contained the pdmM gene replicated more efficiently than those that contained the swM gene (Figure 4.1, Supplemental Table 4.1).

Calu-3 cells, a human lung cancer cell line, which are commonly used in cancer research, drug development, and toxicity studies, have been adopted by the CDC as a tool to determine whether certain swine variants have pandemic potential. Although Calu-3 cells grow rapidly, can be passaged multiple times, can become polarized, and secrete mucus, they poorly represent the physiological properties of the respiratory tract. NHBEs better recapitulate the human respiratory tract by forming a pseudostratified columnar epithelium which has the ability to form tight junctions and fully differentiate indicated by the presence of cilia and mucus. SwIAVs, regardless of whether they contained the swM or pdmM gene, were able to efficiently gain entry into NHBE cells, indicated by positive NP staining (Figure 4.2), and were able to efficiently replicate in Calu-3 and NHBE cells (Figure 4.2 and Figure 4.3). However, at various time-points of infection, viruses that contained the pdmM gene

replicated more efficiently in Calu-3 than those that contained the swM gene (Figure 4.2, Figure 4.3, Supplemental Table 4.2, and Supplemental Table 4.3). The ability of some swIAVs that contain the pdmM gene to replicate more efficiently in human respiratory cell substrates increases their pandemic potential and therefore could be a concern for public health.

SwIAVs, regardless of whether they contained the swM or pdmM gene, were able to efficiently gain entry into PNE cells, indicated by positive NP staining (Figure 4.4.2). SwIAVs, regardless of whether they contained the swM or pdmM gene were able to efficiently replicate in PNE cells (Figure 4.4). However, at various time-points of infection, viruses which contained the pdmM gene replicated more efficiently than those that contained the swM gene (Figure 4.4, Supplemental Table 4.4).

SwIAVs, regardless of whether they contained the swM or pdmM gene, were able to efficiently gain entry into PTE and PBE cells, indicated by positive NP staining (Figure 4.5.2 and Figure 4.6.2). SwIAVs, regardless of whether they contained the swM or pdmM gene were able to efficiently replicate in PTE and PBE cells (Figure 4.5 and Figure 4.6). However, at various time-points of infection, viruses which contained the swM gene replicated more efficiently than those that contained the pdmM gene (Figure 4.5, Figure 4.6, Supplemental Table 4.5, and Supplemental Table 4.6).

Effects of Temperature on Replication Kinetics of H1N1 and H1N2 Swine Isolates in PNE Cells

SwIAVs, which contained the swM gene, replicated more efficiently in PNE cells at 37° Celsius than at 32° Celsius (Figure 4.7). Interestingly, swIAVs which contained the pdmM gene, replicated more efficiently in PNE cells at 32° Celsius than at 37° Celsius (Figure 4.7).

DISCUSSION

H1N1 viruses have been circulating in North American pigs for over a century but the pdmM matrix has become dominant in the past decade since its first introduction in 2009 (12, 14, 16). The pdmM gene has been implicated as a determinate of respiratory transmission in hosts, increasing the number of potential “variant” infections (17, 20-22). The data presented above shows that regardless of matrix origin, swine isolates are able to replicate in human respiratory cells, but those that contain the pdmM gene replicate more efficiently. As expected, all the swine isolates regardless of matrix origin were able to replicate in the swine respiratory cells. However, in the PTE, and PBE cells, viruses that contained the swM gene replicated more efficiently.

One question remains: how do swine viruses effectively transmit to humans. A clue to a possible answer may lie within the results of the kinetics at different temperatures. Within the PNE cells, viruses which contained the pdmM gene replicated more efficiently at both 37° and 32° C. It is known that temperature plays an important role in ability of viruses, specifically influenza, to replicate within the nasal epithelium and transmit. It is also been reported that differences in temperature modulates the innate immune response within the nasal epithelium (23-25). The temperature within the human nasal tract fluctuates between 30° C and 34° C, depending on inhalation or expiration (26, 27). Therefore, temperature may play a role in the ability of these swine viruses to transmit. Future studies aim to evaluate differences in innate immune responses to swine influenza due to temperature in both primary human nasal epithelial cells (HNECs) and PNEs.

Although the matrix gene has been implicated in the ability of swine influenza to transmit to humans, other genes may play a role. For example, the viral polymerase, which is comprised of the PB1, PB2, and PA gene segments has been shown to be a major host

determinant. Specifically in a single residue of the PB2 gene E627K which is correlated with increased viral replication and aerosol transmission in animals (28-35). Literature has also shown that other residues A271 and D701N are able to compensate for the absence of the E627K amino acid change. Therefore, for the following viruses the A271 amino acid change may have contributed to their increase in viral replication: CA/07/09, Sw/NC/702/15, Sw/MO/664/13, Sw/IN/351/11, and Sw/IL/300/11. Another gene that is known to play a key role in evading the host's Type-1 interferon response is the NP gene segment. The influenza viral NP gene segment has been shown to play a key role in MX sensitivity (36-40). Specifically, Y52, I100, P283, and Y313 have been shown to be essential to reduced MX sensitivity in cell culture and *in vivo* (41-43). None of the viruses used within this study contained these amino acid changes.

Lastly, the HA gene segment is essential for viral attachment as well as entry. The HA surface protein of influenza binds to sialic acid residues on host cells. As stated before, the upper respiratory tract of swine predominately contains cells expressing α 2,6-SA, while cells expressing α 2,3-SA dominate in the lower airways (3-5). It has been shown that H1 viruses that contain L190 and L225 have a higher affinity for α 2,6-sialic acid (44, 45). None of the viruses used within this study possessed this amino acid change. A recent study also surveyed swine field isolates from farms in the United States. Using glycan arrays, it was determined that swine field isolates A/sw/NC/154072/2015 and A/sw/NC/152701/2015 preferentially bind to α 2,6-sialic acid. We hypothesize that the viruses Sw/NC/076/15 and Sw/NC/702/15 since they were viruses isolated from the same farm, but different animals preferentially bind to α 2,6-sialic acid. Therefore, we attribute partially the increase in viral replication, tissue tropism, and increase pandemic potential of the swine isolates used within this study to the presence of the pdmM gene. Future studies within our lab will explore the

relationship of the matrix gene with other gene segments using reverse genetics in both *in vitro* and *in vivo* models. Future directions within the lab will also look at experimental infections in both mice and ferrets to determine susceptibility, transmissibility, and immune response.

Table 4.1.1: Genetic Similarity of CA/07/09 (pdmM), to various swine isolates:

Sw/IL/A01395201/2013 (pdmM), Sw/IL/201/13, Sw/NC/152702/2015 N2 (pdmM), Sw/NC/702/15 N2, Sw/NC/154076/2015 (pdmM), Sw/NC/076/15, Sw/MO/A01444664/2013 N2 (swM), Sw/MO/664/13 N2, Sw/IN/A00968351/2011 (swM), Sw/IN/351/11, and Sw/IL/A00857300/2011 (swM), Sw/IL/7300/11.

Influenza Strain	PB2	PB1	PA	HA	NP	NA	M	NS
CA/07/09 (pdmM)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM)	98.2%	98.7%	98.3%	96.7%	98.1%	97.2%	98.7%	99.0%
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM)	93.8%	93.8%	93.8%	76.6%	98.0%	50.3%	98.8%	93.6%
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	94.1%	93.7%	94.1%	91.7%	98.6%	80.5%	98.5%	93.9%
Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	94.4%	94.3%	93.8%	76.3%	94.8%	50.1%	87.7%	94.8%
Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	94.1%	94.1%	93.9%	93.3%	95.1%	79.9%	88.1%	94.7%
Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	94.4%	94.0%	94.1%	92.9%	95.0%	80.3%	87.5%	94.9%

Table 4.1.2: Genetic Similarity of Sw/IL/A01395201/2013 (pdmM), Sw/IL/201/13, to various swine isolates: Sw/NC/152702/2015 N2 (pdmM), Sw/NC/702/15 N2, Sw/NC/154076/2015 (pdmM), Sw/NC/076/15, Sw/MO/A01444664/2013 N2 (swM), Sw/MO/664/13 N2, Sw/IN/A00968351/2011 (swM), Sw/IN/351/11, and Sw/IL/A00857300/2011 (swM), Sw/IL/7300/11.

Influenza Strain	PB2	PB1	PA	HA	NP	NA	M	NS
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM)	92.4%	93.0%	92.6%	76.1%	96.9%	0%	97.8%	92.8%
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	92.8%	92.9%	93.0%	90%	97.4%	79.3%	97.4%	93.3%
Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	93.0%	93.5%	92.8%	76.3%	93.5%	50.0%	88.0%	94.0%
Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	92.7%	93.2%	92.8%	91.6%	93.9%	78.6%	88.2%	93.9%
Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	93.0%	93.1%	93.0%	91.1%	93.6%	79.2%	87.8%	94.2%

Table 4.1.3: Genetic Similarity of Sw/NC/152702/2015 N2 (pdmM), Sw/NC/702/15 N2, to various swine isolates: Sw/NC/154076/2015 (pdmM), Sw/NC/076/15, Sw/MO/A01444664/2013 N2 (swM), Sw/MO/664/13 N2, Sw/IN/A00968351/2011 (swM), Sw/IN/351/11, and Sw/IL/A00857300/2011 (swM), Sw/IL/7300/11.

Influenza Strain	PB2	PB1	PA	HA	NP	NA	M	NS
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	98.5%	99.7%	99.3%	77.3%	97.3%	49.7%	98.6%	95.3%
Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	98.1%	96.8%	98.2%	90.0%	93.2%	90.0%	88.0%	96.2%
Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	97.6%	98.9%	98.7%	76.9%	93.5%	54.5%	88.4%	96.1%
Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	98.3%	97.4%	98.5%	76.8%	93.5%	51.2%	88.1%	96.3%

Table 4.1.4: Genetic Similarity of Sw/NC/154076/2015 (pdmM), Sw/NC/076/15, to various swine isolates: Sw/MO/A01444664/2013 N2 (swM), Sw/MO/664/13 N2, Sw/IN/A00968351/2011 (swM), Sw/IN/351/11, and Sw/IL/A00857300/2011 (swM), Sw/IL/7300/11.

Influenza Strain	PB2	PB1	PA	HA	NP	NA	M	NS
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	98.3%	96.7%	98.4%	76.7%	94.1%	50.8%	87.6%	98.1%
Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	97.8%	98.9%	99.0%	97.2%	94.4%	96.7%	87.9%	98.1%
Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	98.3%	97.3%	98.7%	96.6%	94.2%	96.8%	87.7%	98.3%

Table 4.1.5: Genetic Similarity of Sw/MO/A01444664/2013 N2 (swM), Sw/MO/664/13 N2, to various swine isolates: Sw/IN/A00968351/2011 (swM), Sw/IN/351/11, and Sw/IL/A00857300/2011 (swM), Sw/IL/7300/11.

Influenza Strain	PB2	PB1	PA	HA	NP	NA	M	NS
Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	98.6%	97.4%	99.0%	76.2%	99.1%	50.9%	98.1%	99.1%
Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	99.1%	97.6%	99.1%	76.2%	99.0%	50.9%	96.6%	99.3%

Table 4.1.6: Genetic Similarity of Sw/IN/A00968351/2011 (swM), Sw/IN/351/11, to Sw/IL/A00857300/2011 (swM), Sw/IL/7300/11.

Influenza Strain	PB2	PB1	PA	HA	NP	NA	M	NS
Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	98.7%	98.1%	99.1%	98.6%	99.1%	98.3%	96.6%	99.3%

Figure 4.1: Replication Kinetics of H1N1 and H1N2 Swine Isolates in MDCK Cells.

MDCK cells were grown in 12-well tissue culture plates. Cells were infected with CA/07/09 (pdmM), Sw/IL/A01395201/2013 (pdmM), Sw/NC/154076/2015 (pdmM), Sw/NC/152702/2015 N2 (pdmM), Sw/MO/A01444664/2013 N2 (swM), Sw/IN/A00968351/2011 (swM) and Sw/IL/A00857300/2011 (swM) at 250 PFU/well. Data represents one independent experiment with n=6 wells at each time-point. For each virus the same set of wells was used for all subsequent time-points. Error bars represent +/- SEM. Dashed line represents limit of detection.

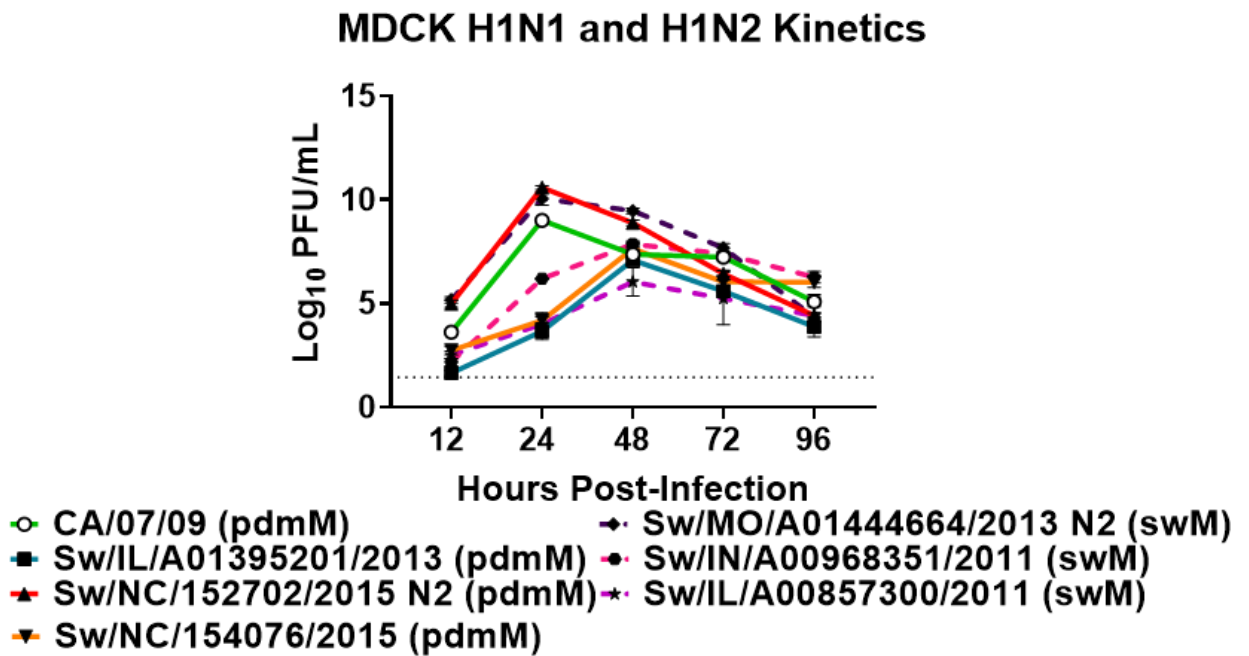


Figure 4.2: Replication Kinetics of H1N1 and H1N2 Swine Isolates in Calu-3 Cells.

MDCK cells were grown in 12-well tissue culture plates. Cells were infected with CA/07/09 (pdmM), Sw/IL/A01395201/2013 (pdmM), Sw/NC/154076/2015 (pdmM), Sw/NC/152702/2015 N2 (pdmM), Sw/MO/A01444664/2013 N2 (swM), Sw/IN/A00968351/2011 (swM) and Sw/IL/A00857300/2011 (swM) at 250 PFU/well. Data represents one independent experiment with n=6 wells at each time-point. For each virus the same set of wells was used for all subsequent time-points. Error bars represent +/- SEM. Dashed line represents limit of detection.

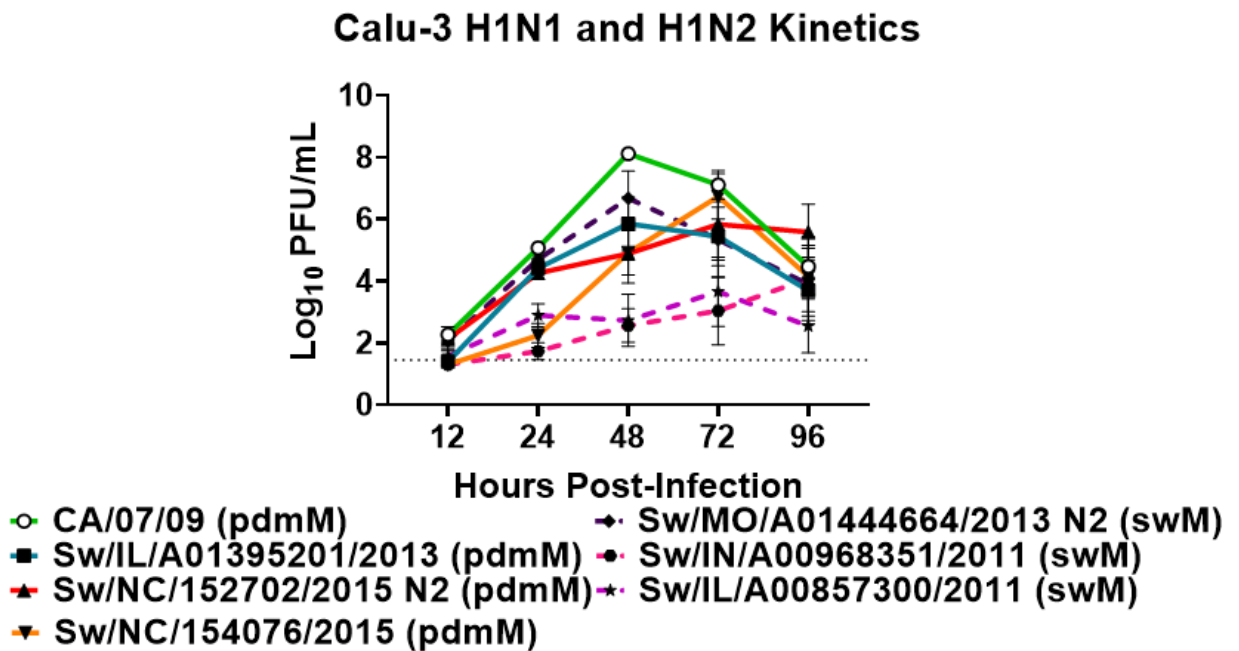


Figure 4.3.1: Replication Kinetics of H1N1 and H1N2 Swine Isolates in NHBE Cells.

NHBE cells were grown on trans-wells and allowed to fully differentiate in ALI. Once cilia and mucus secretion were present, cells were infected with CA/07/09 (pdmM), Sw/IL/A01395201/2013 (pdmM), Sw/NC/154076/2015 (pdmM), Sw/NC/152702/2015 N2 (pdmM), Sw/MO/A01444664/2013 N2 (swM), Sw/IN/A00968351/2011 (swM) and Sw/IL/A00857300/2011 (swM) at 250 PFU/well. Data represents one independent experiment with n=6 wells at 12 and 24 hours, n=5 wells at 48 hours, n=4 wells at 72 hours, and n=3 wells at 96 hours. At 24, 48, and 72 hours a well from each virus was taken for immunohistochemistry. For each virus the same set of wells was used for all subsequent time-points. Error bars represent +/- SEM. Dashed line represents limit of detection.

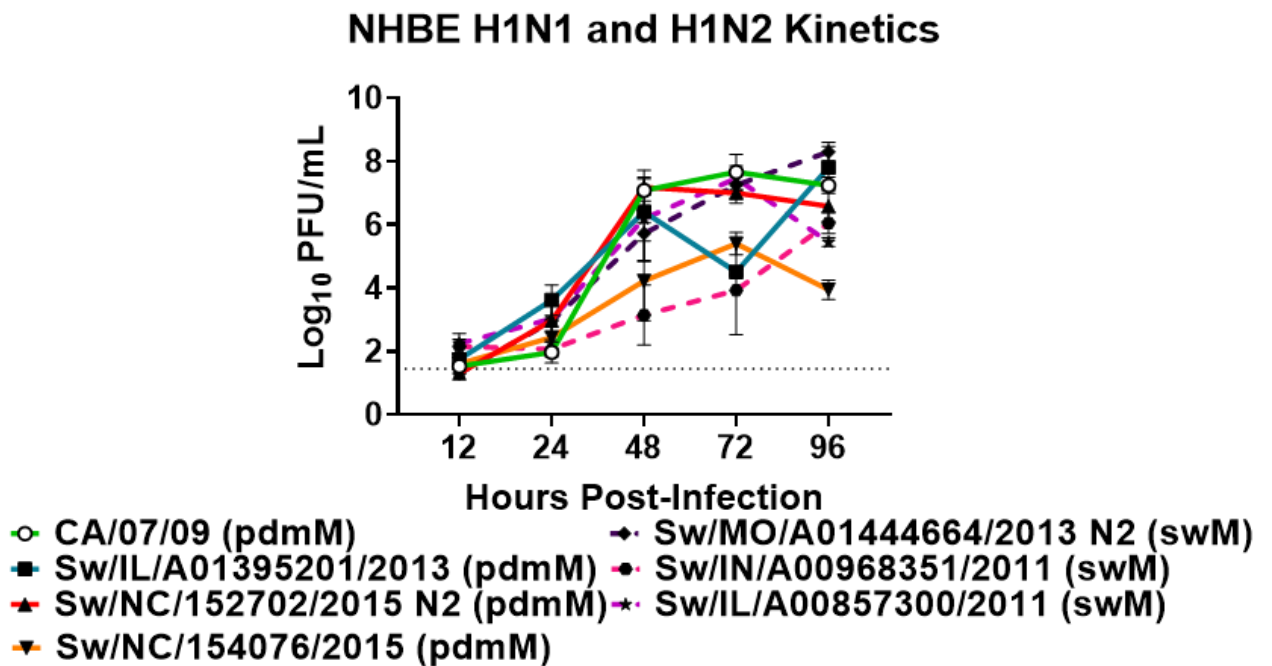


Figure 4.3.2: Immunohistochemistry of NHBE Cells. Influenza nucleoprotein to detect virus inside NHBE cells in air-liquid interface (ALI)=red, beta and acetylated tubulin to detect the presence of cilia on NHBE cells in ALI=green, dapi, nuclear stain=blue, and Phalloidin to detect the presence of tight junctions, F-actin=purple, white bar indicates a measurement of 25 microns **A.** CA/07/09 (pdmM) **B.** Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) **C.** Sw/NC/076 (pdmM), **D.** Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) **E.** Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM) **F.** Sw/IN/351/11 (swM). **G.** Sw/IL/300/11 (swM).

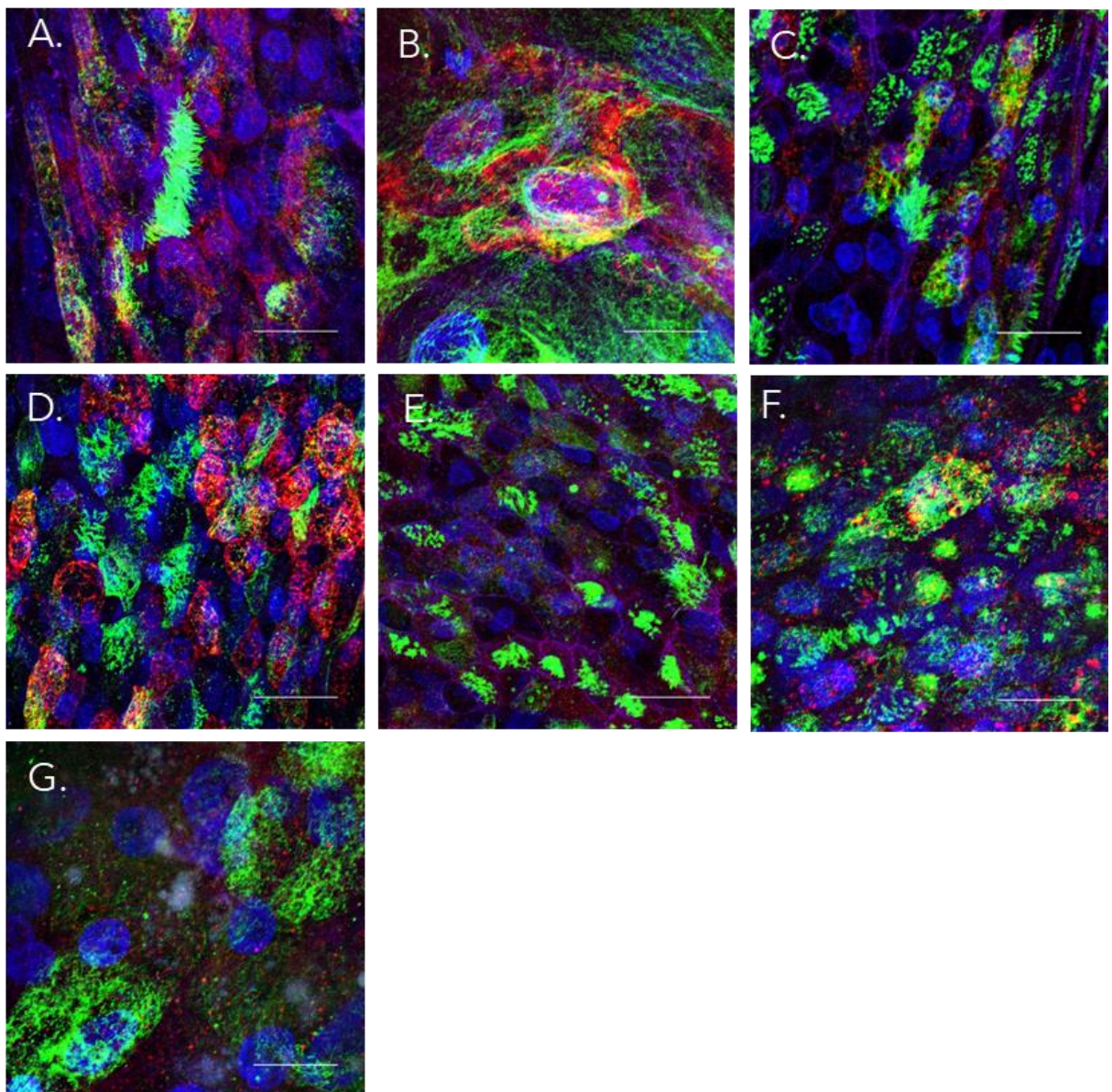


Figure 4.4.1: Replication Kinetics of H1N1 and H1N2 Swine Isolates in PNE Cells. PNE cells were grown on trans-wells and allowed to fully differentiate in ALI. Once cilia and mucus secretion were present, cells were infected with CA/07/09 (pdmM), Sw/IL/A01395201/2013 (pdmM), Sw/NC/154076/2015 (pdmM), Sw/NC/152702/2015 N2 (pdmM), Sw/MO/A01444664/2013 N2 (swM), Sw/IN/A00968351/2011 (swM) and Sw/IL/A00857300/2011 (swM) at 250 PFU/well. Data represents one independent experiment with n=6 wells at 12 and 24 hours, n=5 wells at 48 hours, n=4 wells at 72 hours, and n=3 wells at 96 hours. At 24, 48, and 72 hours a well from each virus was taken for immunohistochemistry. For each virus the same set of wells was used for all subsequent time-points. Error bars represent +/- SEM. Dashed line represents limit of detection.

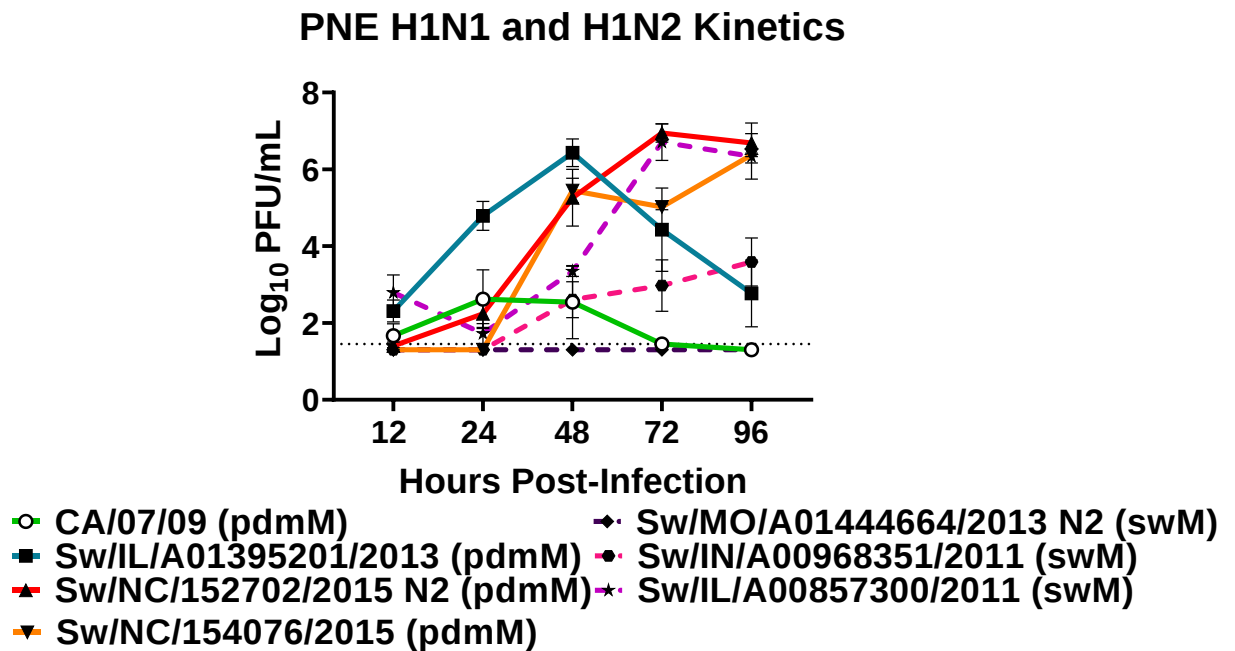


Figure 4.4.2: Immunohistochemistry of PNE Cells. Influenza nuclear protein to stain virus inside PNE cells in air-liquid interface (ALI)=red, beta and acetylated tubulin to detect the presence of cilia on PNE cells in ALI=green, dapi, nuclear stain=blue, and Phalloidin to detect the presence of tight junctions, F-actin=purple, white bar indicates a measurement of 25 microns **A.** CA/07/09 (pdmM) **B.** Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) **C.** Sw/NC/076 (pdmM), **D.** Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) **E.** Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM) **F.** Sw/IN/351/11 (swM). **G.** Sw/IL/300/11 (swM).

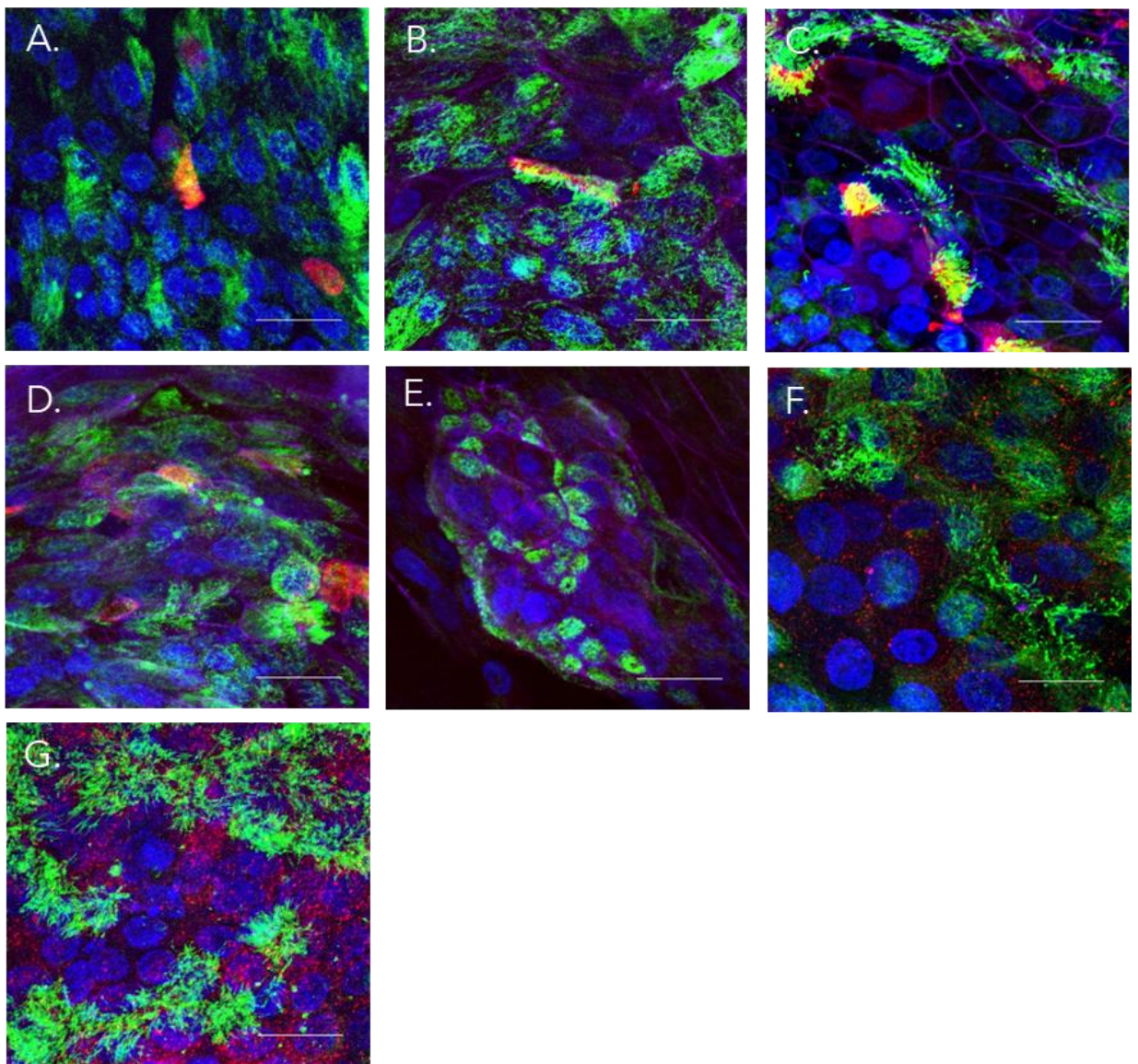


Figure 4.5.1: Replication Kinetics of H1N1 and H1N2 Swine Isolates in PTE Cells. PTE

cells were grown on trans-wells and allowed to fully differentiate in ALI. Once cilia and mucus secretion were present, cells were infected with CA/07/09 (pdmM),

Sw/IL/A01395201/2013 (pdmM), Sw/NC/154076/2015 (pdmM), Sw/NC/152702/2015 N2 (pdmM), Sw/MO/A01444664/2013 N2 (swM), Sw/IN/A00968351/2011 (swM) and

Sw/IL/A00857300/2011 (swM) at 250 PFU/well. Data represents one independent

experiment with n=6 wells at 12 and 24 hours, n=5 wells at 48 hours, n=4 wells at 72 hours,

and n=3 wells at 96 hours. At 24, 48, and 72 hours a well from each virus was taken for

immunohistochemistry. For each virus the same set of wells was used for all subsequent

time-points. Error bars represent +/- SEM. Dashed line represents limit of detection.

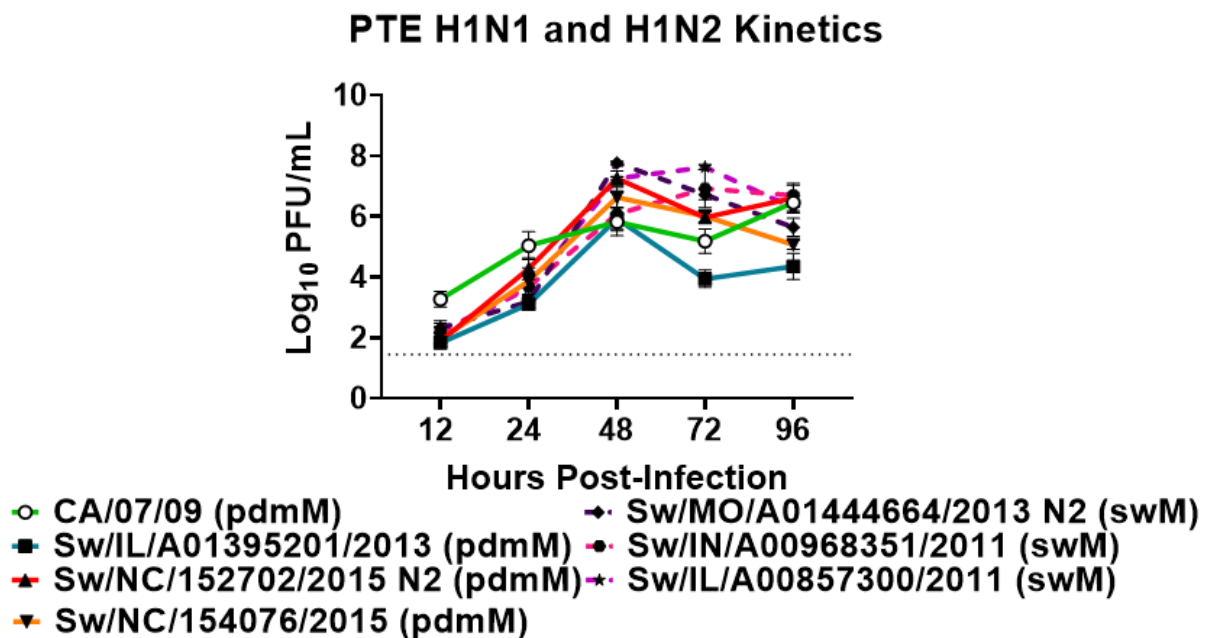


Figure 4.5.2: Immunohistochemistry of PTE Cells. Influenza nuclear protein to stain virus inside PTE cells in air-liquid interface (ALI)=red, beta and acetylated tubulin to detect the presence of cilia on PTE cells in ALI=green, dapi, nuclear stain=blue, and Phalloidin to detect the presence of tight junctions, F-actin=purple, white bar indicates a measurement of 25 microns **A.** CA/07/09 (pdmM) **B.** Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) **C.** Sw/NC/076 (pdmM), **D.** Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) **E.** Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM) **F.** Sw/IN/351/11 (swM). **G.** Sw/IL/300/11 (swM).

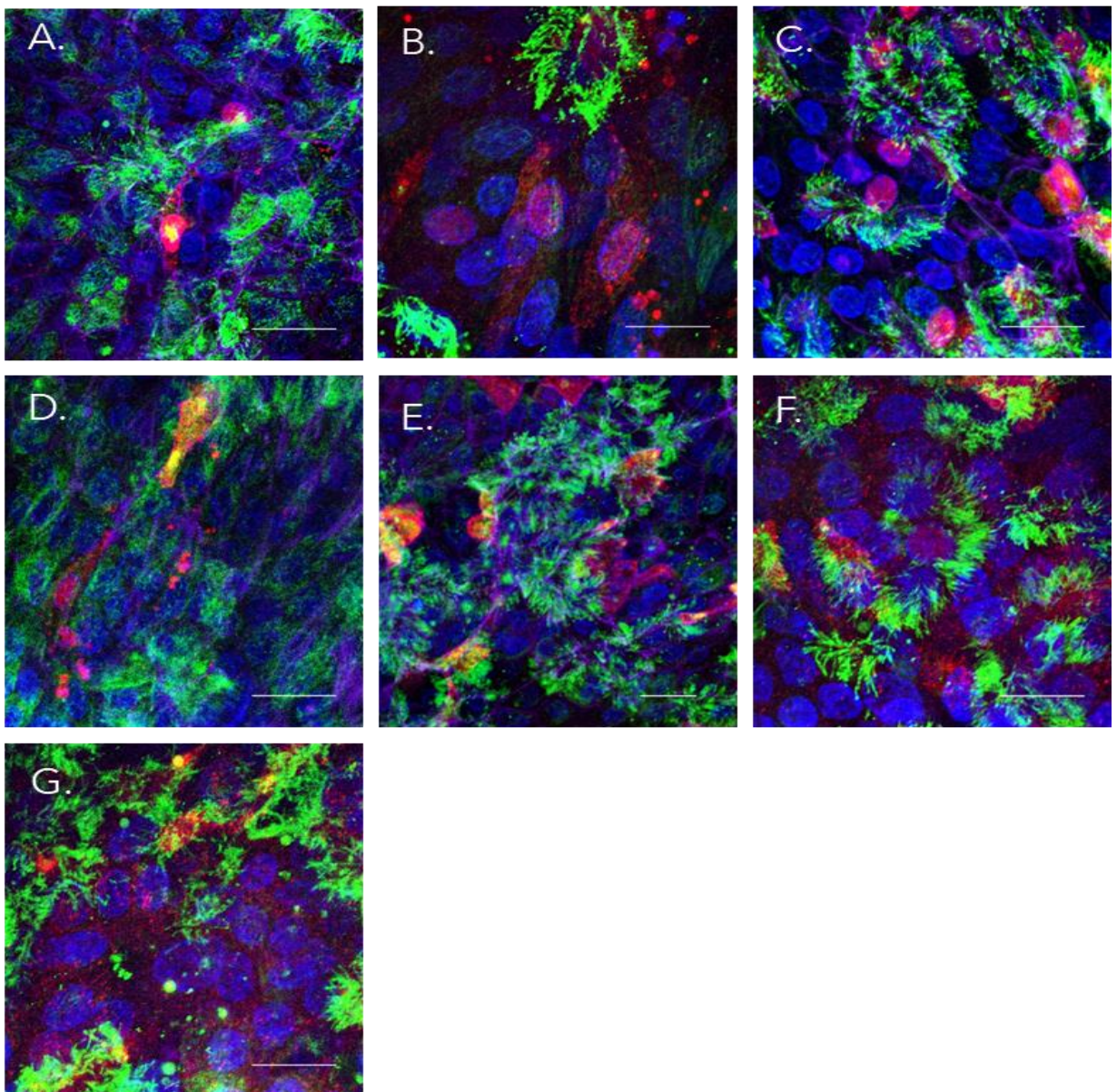


Figure 4.6.1: Replication Kinetics of H1N1 and H1N2 Swine Isolates in PBE Cells. PBE cells were grown on trans-wells and allowed to fully differentiate in ALI. Once cilia and mucus secretion were present, cells were infected with CA/07/09 (pdmM), Sw/IL/A01395201/2013 (pdmM), Sw/NC/154076/2015 (pdmM), Sw/NC/152702/2015 N2 (pdmM), Sw/MO/A01444664/2013 N2 (swM), Sw/IN/A00968351/2011 (swM) and Sw/IL/A00857300/2011 (swM) at 250 PFU/well. Data represents one independent experiment with n=6 wells at 12 and 24 hours, n=5 wells at 48 hours, n=4 wells at 72 hours, and n=3 wells at 96 hours. At 24, 48, and 72 hours a well from each virus was taken for immunohistochemistry. For each virus the same set of wells was used for all subsequent time-points. Error bars represent +/- SEM. Dashed line represents limit of detection.

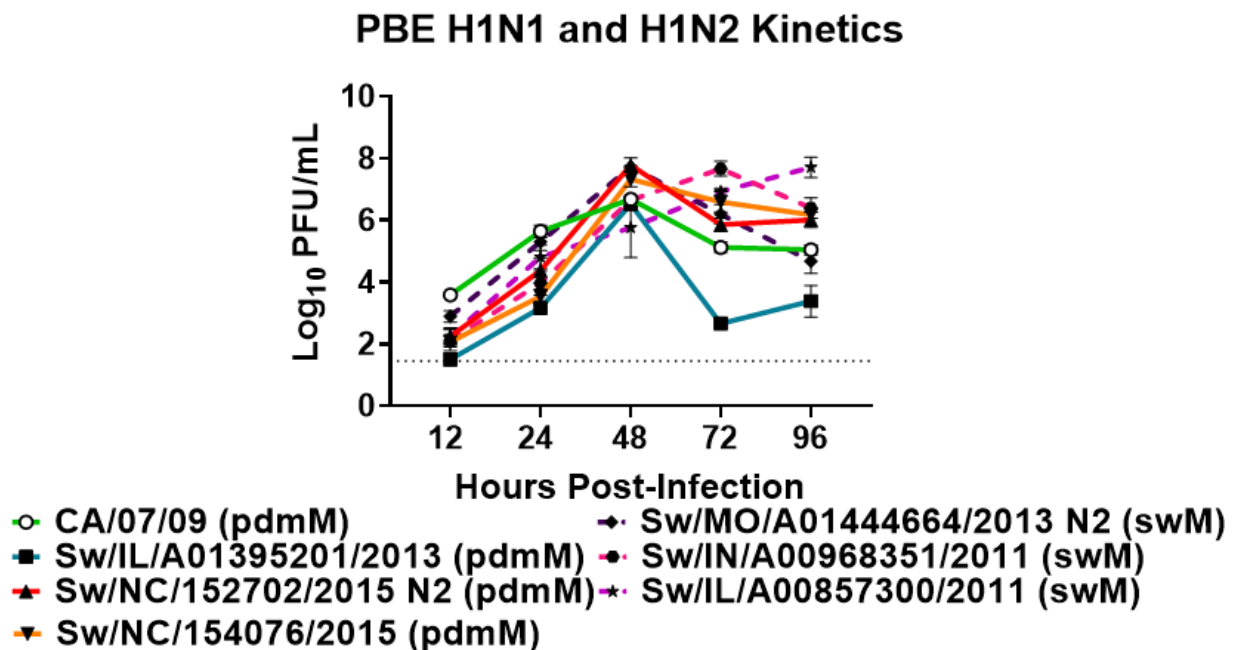


Figure 4.6.2: Immunohistochemistry of PBE Cells. Influenza nuclear protein to stain virus inside PBE cells in air-liquid interface (ALI)=red, beta and acetylated tubulin to detect the presence of cilia on PBE cells in ALI=green, dapi, nuclear stain=blue, and Phalloidin to detect the presence of tight junctions, F-actin=purple, white bar indicates a measurement of 25 microns **A.** CA/07/09 (pdmM) **B.** Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) **C.** Sw/NC/076 (pdmM), **D.** Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) **E.** Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM) **F.** Sw/IN/351/11 (swM). **G.** Sw/IL/300/11 (swM).

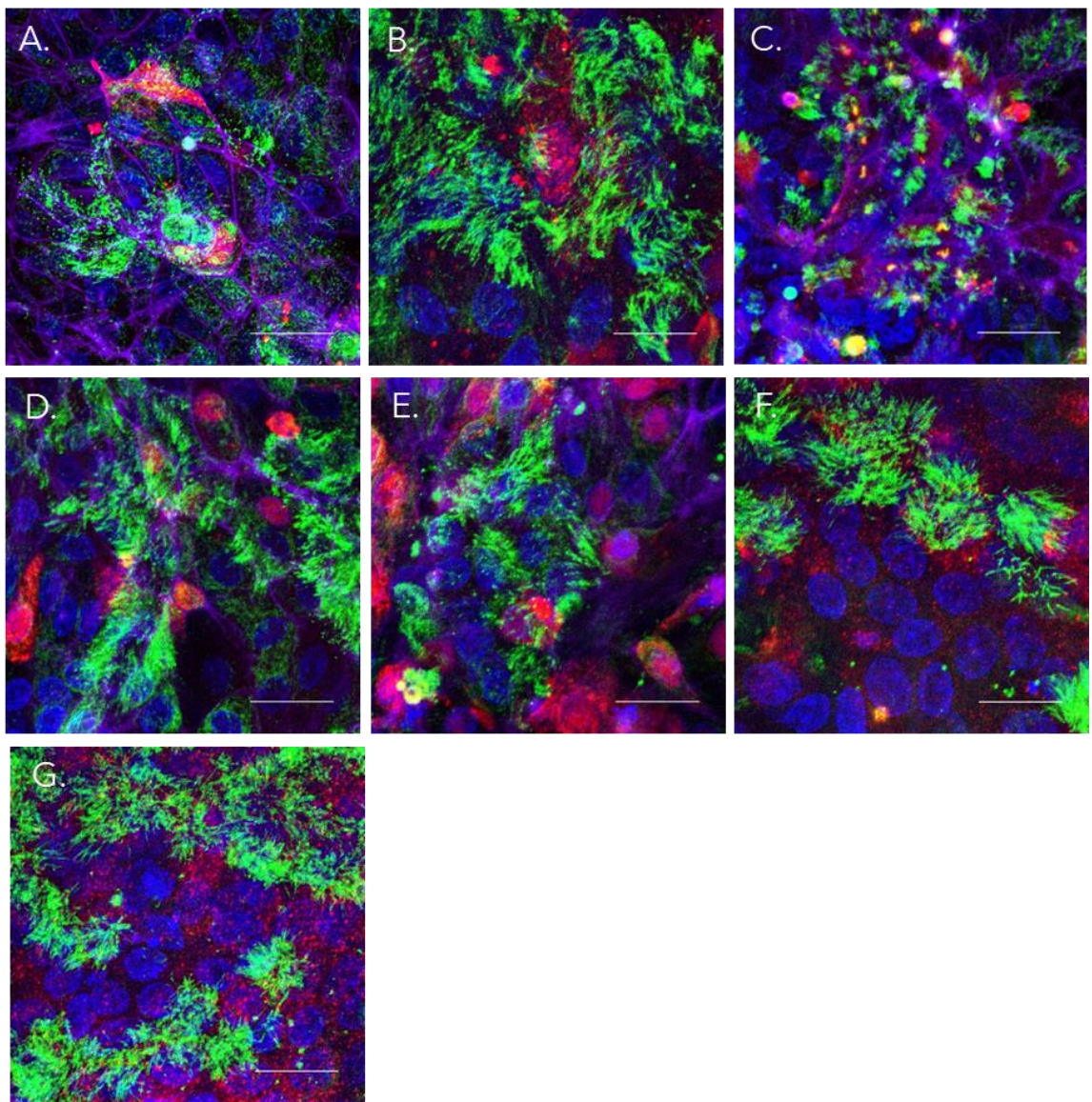
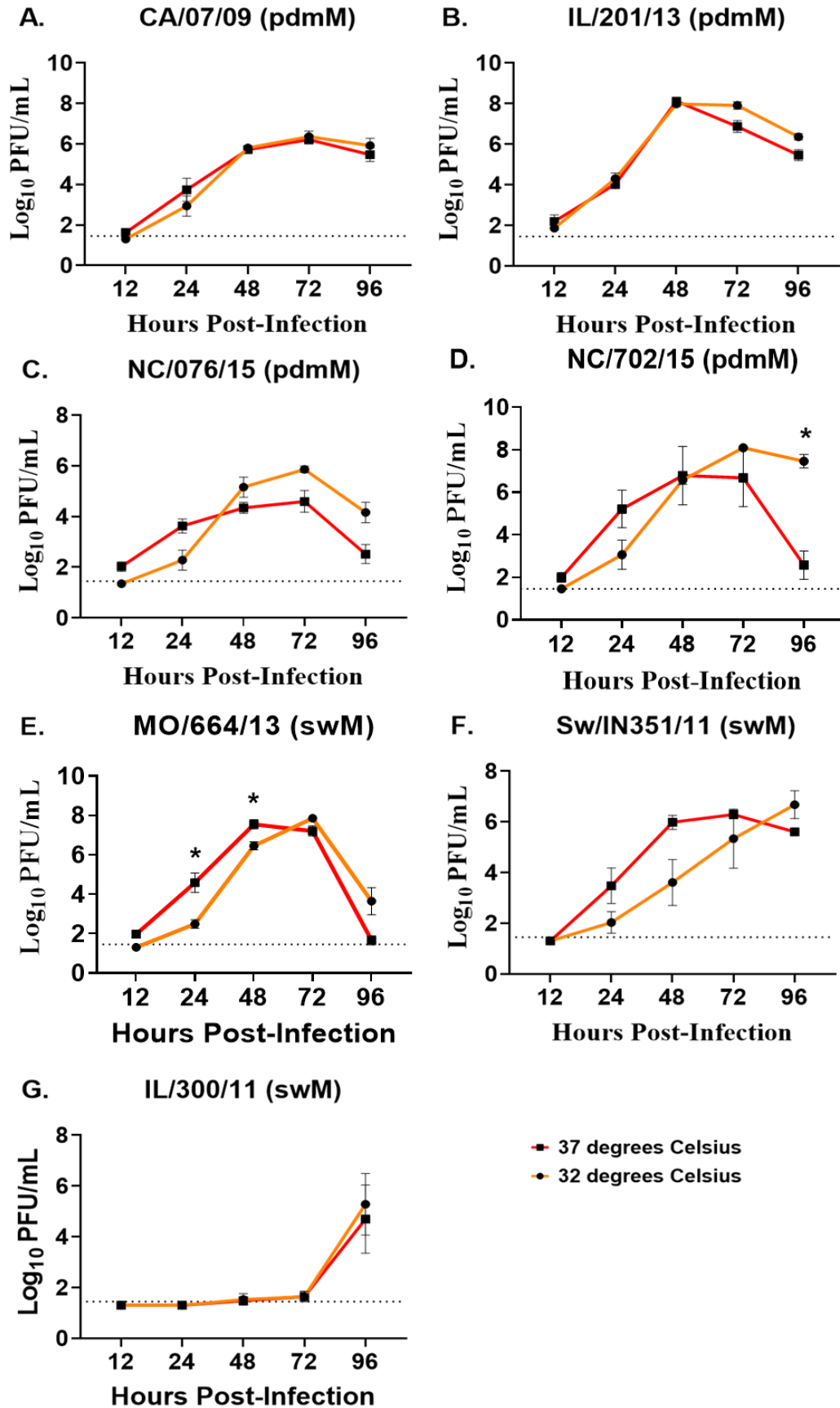


Figure 4.7: Temperature Replication Kinetics of H1N1 and H1N2 Swine Isolates in PNE Cells. PNE cells were grown on trans-wells and allowed to fully differentiate in ALI. Once cilia and mucus secretion were present, cells were infected with **A.** CA/07/09 (pdmM), **B.** Sw/IL/A01395201/2013 (pdmM), **C.** Sw/NC/154076/2015 (pdmM), **D.** Sw/NC/152702/2015 N2 (pdmM), **E.** Sw/MO/A01444664/2013 N2 (swM), **F.** Sw/IN/A00968351/2011 (swM) and **G.** Sw/IL/A00857300/2011 (swM) at 250 PFU/well. Replication kinetics for each virus were done side by side at both 32° Celsius and 37° Celsius. Data represents one independent experiment, in a different donor than above, with n=6 wells at 12 and 24 hours, n=5 wells at 48 hours, n=4 wells at 72 hours, and n=3 wells at 96 hours. At 24, 48, and 72 hours a well from each virus was taken for immunohistochemistry. For each virus the same set of wells was used for all subsequent time-points. Error bars represent +/- SEM. Dashed line represents limit of detection.

*P<0.05 by mixed effects analysis with repeated measures.



Supplemental Table 4.1. MDCK Kinetics 2-Way ANOVA Multiple Comparisons

A. CA/07/09 (pdmM) versus pandemic matrix (pdmM) or swine matrix (swM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM)	****, <0.0001	***, 0.0004	NS, 0.9618	**, 0.0055	NS, 0.0628
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM)	**, 0.0027	****, <0.0001	**, 0.0062	NS, 0.0614	NS, 0.3125
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	NS, 0.0964	****, <0.0001	NS, 0.9254	NS, 0.4720	NS, 0.2055
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	***, 0.0007	NS, 0.1487	***, 0.0007	NS, 0.6924	NS, 0.3352
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	**, 0.0023	****, <0.0001	NS, 0.6677	NS, 0.9822	NS, 0.0951
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	*, 0.0175	**, 0.0023	NS, 0.5634	NS, 0.7123	NS, 0.9920

B. Matrix (pdmM) versus swine matrix (swM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	****, <0.0001	****, <0.0001	****, <0.0001	**, 0.0012	NS, 0.7883
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.2847	*, 0.0127	NS, 0.1545	**, 0.0037	***, 0.0010
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	*, 0.0445	NS, 0.9983	NS, 0.7487	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.9975
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, 0.9756	NS, 0.6986	NS, 0.1194	*, 0.0106	NS, 0.9996
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	****, <0.0001	****, <0.0001	*, 0.0122	**, 0.0041	**, 0.0056
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	****, <0.0001	***, 0.0005	NS, 0.0622	NS, 0.9498	NS, >0.9999
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	****, <0.0001	****, <0.0001	****, <0.0001	NS, 0.2218	**, 0.0067
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.4796	***, 0.0006	NS, 0.9316	NS, 0.3450	NS, 0.9945
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.9824	NS, 0.9999	NS, 0.3699	NS, 0.9955	NS, 0.7216

C. Swine matrix (swM) versus swine matrix (swM) or pandemic matrix (pdmM) versus pandemic matrix (pdmM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	****, <0.0001	***, 0.0006	***, 0.0006	NS, 0.8784	**, 0.0038
Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	****, <0.0001	***, 0.0002	*, 0.0291	NS, 0.5506	NS, >0.9999
Sw/IN/351/11 (swM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.8466	NS, 0.0799	NS, 0.2798	NS, 0.6473	NS, 0.6152
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM)	****, <0.0001	****, <0.0001	***, 0.0006	NS, 0.1557	NS, 0.4688
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	*, 0.0251	NS, 0.8848	NS, 0.2928	NS, 0.9841	**, 0.0016
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	***, 0.0002	****, <0.0001	***, 0.0003	NS, 0.9881	**, 0.0081

Differences in replication kinetics of viruses analyzed using a 2-Way ANOVA with multiple comparisons. Values are expressed as not significant (NS) with corresponding p-value or values are expressed as significant (*) with corresponding p-value. #=statistics not calculated due to mean difference value of zero.

Supplemental Table 4.2. Calu-3 Kinetics 2-Way ANOVA Multiple Comparisons

A. CA/07/09 (pdmM) versus pandemic matrix (pdmM) or swine matrix (swM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM)	NS, 0.1463	** , 0.0041	NS, 0.2796	NS, 0.6924	NS, 0.9970
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM)	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.0544	NS, 0.1350	NS, 0.9328	NS, 0.9685
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	NS, 0.0984	** , 0.0054	* , 0.0495	NS, 0.9992	NS, >0.9999
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, 0.9939	NS, 0.2857	NS, 0.6760	NS, 0.8102	NS, 0.9995
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.0984	*** , 0.0003	** , 0.0012	NS, 0.1000	NS, >0.9999
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.4488	* , 0.0154	* , 0.0110	NS, 0.1941	NS, 0.7183

B. Matrix (pdmM) versus swine matrix (swM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, 0.1296	NS, 0.5706	NS, 0.9918	NS, >0.9999	NS, >0.9999
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.9338	*** , 0.0009	NS, 0.1020	NS, 0.6546	NS, >0.9999
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.9865	NS, 0.0703	NS, 0.2216	NS, 0.8732	NS, 0.9761
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.5103	NS, 0.8027	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.8983
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.4469	*** , 0.0005	NS, 0.4245	NS, 0.6038	NS, 0.9233
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.8553	NS, 0.1140	NS, 0.6332	NS, 0.8161	NS, 0.2797
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, 0.0724	** , 0.0087	NS, 0.7129	NS, 0.9466	NS, >0.9999
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	#	NS, 0.9215	NS, 0.2228	NS, 0.1808	NS, >0.9999
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.8501	NS, 0.8786	NS, 0.4804	NS, 0.3406	NS, 0.9318

C. Swine matrix (swM) versus swine matrix (swM) or pandemic matrix (pdmM) versus pandemic matrix (pdmM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.0724	*** , 0.0003	* , 0.0391	NS, 0.7909	NS, >0.9999
Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.6295	* , 0.0325	NS, 0.0888	NS, 0.9394	NS, 0.9586
Sw/IN/351/11 (swM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.8501	NS, 0.2637	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.9995	NS, 0.9097
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM)	NS, 0.5808	NS, 0.9844	NS, 0.9848	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.8194
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	NS, 0.9338	* , 0.0180	NS, 0.9739	NS, 0.9186	NS, >0.9999
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	NS, 0.4496	* , 0.0214	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.9922	NS, 0.9608

Differences in replication kinetics of viruses analyzed using a 2-Way ANOVA with multiple comparisons. Values are expressed as not significant (NS) with corresponding p-value or values are expressed as significant (*) with corresponding p-value. #=statistics not calculated due to mean difference value of zero.

Supplemental Table 4.3. NHBE Kinetics Mixed-effect Analysis Multiple Comparisons

A. CA/07/09 (pdmM) versus pandemic matrix (pdmM) or swine matrix (swM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM)	NS, 0.9496	NS, 0.1668	NS, 0.9527	NS, 0.0537	NS, 0.9714
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM)	NS, 0.7095	NS, 0.7625	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.9208	NS, 0.8576
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	NS, 0.9999	NS, 0.9867	NS, 0.4835	NS, 0.1242	** , 0.0095
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, 0.7905	NS, 0.7771	NS, 0.8536	NS, 0.9936	NS, 0.2937
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.3206	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.0912	NS, 0.3517	NS, 0.2687
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.4668	NS, 0.4923	NS, 0.9935	NS, 0.9999	* , 0.0439

B. Matrix (pdmM) versus swine matrix (swM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, 0.2509	NS, 0.9707	NS, 0.9843	* , 0.0301	NS, 0.9841
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.7394	NS, 0.1700	NS, 0.1542	NS, 0.9988	NS, 0.4355
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.7851	NS, 0.9603	NS, >0.9999	* , 0.0225	NS, 0.2619
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	#	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.6965	NS, 0.9980	NS, 0.2471
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.0862	NS, 0.7919	NS, 0.0772	NS, 0.4809	NS, 0.9518
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.2013	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.9812	NS, 0.9553	NS, 0.4814
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, 0.7108	NS, 0.9948	NS, 0.9463	NS, 0.1063	** , 0.0038
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.5607	NS, 0.9940	NS, 0.9897	NS, 0.9215	NS, 0.0645
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.6377	NS, 0.9766	NS, 0.4838	NS, 0.0664	NS, 0.1222

C. Swine matrix (swM) versus swine matrix (swM) or pandemic matrix (pdmM) versus pandemic matrix (pdmM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.0862	NS, 0.8065	NS, 0.4838	NS, 0.4275	* , 0.0496
Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.2013	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.9999	NS, 0.9995	* , 0.0213
Sw/IN/351/11 (swM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.4974	NS, 0.5427	NS, 0.3814	NS, 0.6736
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM)	NS, 0.2509	NS, 0.9745	NS, 0.5815	* , 0.0176	NS, 0.7549
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	NS, 0.9978	NS, 0.6956	NS, 0.6601	NS, 0.3732	NS, 0.0823
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	NS, 0.7108	NS, 0.9936	NS, 0.3999	NS, 0.1156	NS, 0.0840

Differences in replication kinetics of viruses analyzed using a Mixed-effect analysis with multiple comparisons. Values are expressed as not significant (NS) with corresponding p-value or values are expressed as significant (*) with corresponding p-value. #=statistics not calculated due to mean difference value of zero.

Supplemental Table 4.4. PNE Kinetics Mixed-effect Analysis Multiple Comparisons

A. CA/07/09 (pdmM) versus pandemic matrix (pdmM) or swine matrix (swM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM)	NS, 0.7289	NS, 0.2633	NS, 0.0861	NS, 0.3213	NS, 0.6761
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM)	NS, 0.9739	NS, 0.9989	NS, 0.3653	****, <0.0001	*, 0.0364
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	NS, 0.8762	NS, 0.6302	NS, 0.2184	***, 0.0001	****, <0.0001
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, 0.8762	NS, 0.6302	NS, 0.8234	NS, 0.9247	#
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.8762	NS, 0.6302	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.4527	NS, 0.2464
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.4641	NS, 0.9037	NS, 0.9669	**, 0.0051	NS, 0.0534

B. Matrix (pdmM) versus swine matrix (swM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, 0.1179	**, 0.0021	**, 0.0010	NS, 0.2915	NS, 0.6761
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.1179	**, 0.0021	**, 0.0061	NS, 0.8911	NS, 0.9763
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.9659	**, 0.0012	**, 0.0041	NS, 0.5472	NS, 0.1809
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, 0.9338	NS, 0.2783	*, 0.0393	**, 0.0012	*, 0.0364
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.9338	NS, 0.2783	NS, 0.1604	*, 0.0389	NS, 0.1217
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.1950	NS, 0.8871	NS, 0.3223	NS, 0.9986	NS, 0.9986
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	#	#	**, 0.0015	****, <0.0001	****, <0.0001
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	#	#	*, 0.0259	NS, 0.2576	NS, 0.1754
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.1559	NS, 0.6812	*, 0.0128	NS, 0.1841	NS, >0.9999

C. Swine matrix (swM) versus swine matrix (swM) or pandemic matrix (pdmM) versus pandemic matrix (pdmM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	#	#	NS, 0.3112	NS, 0.3798	NS, 0.2464
Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.1559	NS, 0.6812	*, 0.0168	**, 0.0081	NS, 0.0534
Sw/IN/351/11 (swM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.1559	NS, 0.6812	NS, 0.7352	*, 0.0408	NS, 0.1930
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM)	NS, 0.1708	**, 0.0076	NS, 0.7753	NS, 0.4378	NS, 0.1397
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	NS, 0.1179	**, 0.0021	NS, 0.4585	NS, 0.9948	NS, 0.1988
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	NS, 0.9338	NS, 0.2783	NS, >0.9999	*, 0.0149	NS, 0.9901

Differences in replication kinetics of viruses analyzed using a Mixed-effect analysis with multiple comparisons. Values are expressed as not significant (NS) with corresponding p-value or values are expressed as significant (*) with corresponding p-value. #=statistics not calculated due to mean difference value of zero.

Supplemental Table 4.5. PTE Kinetics Mixed-effect Analysis Multiple Comparisons

A. CA/07/09 (pdmM) versus pandemic matrix (pdmM) or swine matrix (swM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM)	*, 0.0127	NS, 0.0572	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.3062	NS, 0.1203
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM)	*, 0.0152	NS, 0.8311	*, 0.0473	NS, 0.6160	NS, 0.9999
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	*, 0.0293	NS, 0.5487	NS, 0.5455	NS, 0.5782	NS, 0.1827
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, 0.1055	NS, 0.0695	*, 0.0146	NS, 0.1451	NS, 0.6024
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.2917	NS, 0.3052	NS, 0.9998	NS, 0.3735	NS, 0.9983
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.0981	NS, 0.4738	NS, 0.0538	*, 0.0426	NS, 0.9974

B. Matrix (pdmM) versus swine matrix (swM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, 0.4022	NS, 0.9999	*, 0.0410	***, 0.0042	NS, 0.3664
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.9635	NS, 0.7584	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.0757	NS, 0.1018
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.9761	NS, 0.9453	NS, 0.1417	***, 0.0035	NS, 0.1529
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, 0.4739	NS, 0.2283	***, 0.0036	NS, 0.1831	NS, 0.5760
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.9816	NS, 0.8829	NS, 0.6654	NS, 0.7630	NS, >0.9999
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.9914	NS, 0.9467	NS, >0.9999	***, 0.0089	NS, 0.9761
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, 0.7828	NS, 0.7746	NS, 0.1506	NS, 0.2116	NS, 0.6483
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.9965	NS, 0.9998	NS, 0.9858	NS, 0.7864	NS, 0.1869
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.9998	NS, 0.9998	NS, 0.7255	***, 0.0094	*, 0.0284

C. Swine matrix (swM) versus swine matrix (swM) or pandemic matrix (pdmM) versus pandemic matrix (pdmM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.9998	NS, 0.8601	NS, 0.3803	NS, 0.9998	NS, 0.4789
Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.9856	NS, 0.9746	NS, 0.5165	*, 0.0424	NS, 0.5605
Sw/IN/351/11 (swM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, >0.9999	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.7032	NS, 0.8925	NS, 0.9282
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM)	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.1752	NS, 0.1211	*, 0.0152	NS, 0.1227
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	NS, 0.9990	NS, 0.6827	NS, 0.7556	*, 0.0141	NS, 0.7130
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.9884	NS, 0.5618	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.2335

Differences in replication kinetics of viruses analyzed using a Mixed-effect analysis with multiple comparisons. Values are expressed as not significant (NS) with corresponding p-value or values are expressed as significant (*) with corresponding p-value. #=statistics not calculated due to mean difference value of zero.

Supplemental Table 4.6. PBE Kinetics Mixed-effect Analysis Multiple Comparisons

A. CA/07/09 (pdmM) versus pandemic matrix (pdmM) or swine matrix (swM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM)	***, 0.0004	****, <0.0001	NS, 0.6928	***, 0.0005	NS, 0.2849
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM)	*, 0.0313	NS, 0.2042	NS, 0.0518	NS, 0.2473	NS, 0.1925
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	**, 0.0313	***, 0.0006	NS, 0.3114	NS, 0.0901	*, 0.0397
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, 0.0921	NS, 0.9456	***, 0.0001	NS, 0.1967	NS, 0.9524
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.0515	NS, 0.0743	NS, >0.9999	**, 0.0020	NS, 0.1774
CA/07/09 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	*, 0.0178	NS, 0.5136	NS, 0.9429	**, 0.0026	*, 0.0312

B. Matrix (pdmM) versus swine matrix (swM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	**, 0.0058	**, 0.0023	***, 0.0001	**, 0.0031	NS, 0.5198
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.6951	NS, 0.5454	NS, 0.9840	***, 0.0001	NS, 0.0655
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.3129	NS, 0.0523	NS, 0.9746	****, <0.0001	*, 0.0218
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, 0.4926	NS, 0.5510	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.9530	NS, 0.2736
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.9879	*, 0.0430	*, 0.0123	NS, 0.9407
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.9826	NS, 0.5005	NS, 0.0557	NS, 0.0983
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM)	NS, 0.0850	**, 0.0092	NS, 0.6609	NS, 0.9647	NS, 0.2189
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.9500	NS, 0.3294	NS, 0.2676	NS, 0.9862
Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.9958	NS, 0.1694	NS, 0.7091	NS, 0.9427	NS, 0.1419

C. Swine matrix (swM) versus swine matrix (swM) or pandemic matrix (pdmM) versus pandemic matrix (pdmM)					
Multiple Comparison Groups	Time-Points				
	12	24	48	72	96
Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM) vs. Sw/IN/351/11 (swM)	NS, 0.4692	NS, 0.2065	*, 0.0115	NS, 0.0823	NS, 0.1720
Sw/MO/664/13 N2 (swM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, 0.4132	NS, 0.9335	NS, 0.5064	NS, 0.4473	*, 0.0297
Sw/IN/351/11 (swM) vs. Sw/IL/300/11 (swM)	NS, >0.9999	NS, 0.7217	NS, 0.9539	NS, 0.2548	NS, 0.2619
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM)	NS, 0.3845	NS, 0.2198	*, 0.0301	***, 0.0004	NS, 0.1029
Sw/IL/201/13 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	NS, 0.3987	NS, 0.8044	NS, 0.1729	**, 0.0030	NS, 0.1119
Sw/NC/702/15 N2 (pdmM) vs. Sw/NC/076/15 (pdmM)	NS, 0.9972	NS, 0.5883	NS, 0.8039	NS, 0.5515	NS, 0.9893

Differences in replication kinetics of viruses analyzed using a Mixed-effect analysis with multiple comparisons. Values are expressed as not significant (NS) with corresponding p-value or values are expressed as significant (*) with corresponding p-value. #=statistics not calculated due to mean difference value of zero

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CHAPTER 5

DISCUSSION

Swine and avian species are susceptible to multiple viral and bacterial pathogens. These viral and bacterial pathogens are commonly referred to as the Porcine Respiratory Disease Complex (PRDC) and the Avian Respiratory Disease Complex (ARDC). Diseases of the PRDC include but are not limited to, swine influenza virus (swIAV), porcine circovirus type 2 (PCV2), porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV), *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*, and *Bordetella* (1-6). Diseases of the ARDC include, but are not limited to avian influenza virus (avIAV), Infectious Bronchitis Virus (IBV), Infectious Laryngotracheitis Virus (ILTV), Avian pneumovirus, Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV), *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *Escheria Coli*, and *Staphylococcus* (7-12). These viral and bacterial pathogens of swine and avian are known to infect the respiratory epithelium and are an important health concern for swine and poultry producers, since this causes tremendous economic loss to the industry.

In our first study we established primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells that recapitulate the physical and functional properties of the respiratory tract, develop tight junctions and have TEERs (Figure 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4). Primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells also have the ability to fully differentiate, indicated by the presence of cilia and mucus (Figures 2.3 and 2.4). Adding primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells to surveillance studies can help assess the pandemic potential of emerging influenza viruses for humans as well as help understand the dynamics of polymicrobial infections in swine. Swine primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells developed through the methodology of this dissertation, revealed the presence of α 2,3-SA and α 2,6-SA indicated by positive lectin staining with MAL2 or SNA respectively (Figure

23 and 24). Pigs, susceptible to avian and human IAVs, are proposed as a “mixing vessel” linked to the generation of novel IAVs that may infect humans based on the distribution of sialic acid receptors within their respiratory tract. The upper respiratory tract of swine predominately contains cells expressing $\alpha 2,6$ -SA, while cells expressing $\alpha 2,3$ -SA dominate in the lower airways (13-15). The swine airway epithelium also has less sialylated glycans than humans and swine have a greater proportion of $\alpha 2,6$ -SA than the human respiratory tract (16). In human bronchial and tracheal cells, it has been reported that $\alpha 2,3$ -SA are expressed in ciliated cells, while $\alpha 2,6$ SA are primarily expressed in non-ciliated cells (17-19).

In our second study, our lab proved that primary PNE, PTE, and PBE cells are a feasible model for risk assessment of swine and avian influenza viruses. The data presented in chapter 3 of this dissertation shows that H1N1 and H3N2 viruses of swine all replicated efficiently in porcine cell substrates as expected. Interestingly, these H1N1 and H3N2 viruses were also able to replicate in human cell substrates, indicating their possibility for pandemic potential (Figure 3.1 and Figure 3.2). In the United States alone there has been 9 cases of H1N1, 25 cases of H1N2, and 430 cases of H3N2 variant swine virus infections since 2009/2010 (20, 21).

Furthermore, H7N2 viruses of avian, NY/94 and NJ/02 were able to replicate in at least one porcine substrate. However, all of the avian viruses were able to replicate in human substrates, indicating their possibility for pandemic potential (Figure 3.3). In addition to the pandemics of avian origin mentioned above, there have been multiple reports of human infections with H7 low path avian influenza subtypes, such as seasonal waves of low path human H7N9 in China (22-32). There also has been reports of human infections with the H7N2 subtype, notably the A/NY/16 used in this study. Highly pathogenic H7

viruses have been known to emerge from ancestral low pathogenic avian influenza (33-35).

In the third study conducted as a component of this dissertation, our lab showed that the matrix gene origin of swine influenza H1N1 and H1N2 isolates affects the viral tropism, replication kinetics, and pandemic potential in primary airway models. Utilizing the primary porcine cell and human cell substrates developed within the first and second aim of this dissertation, viruses which contained the swM gene or pdmM gene were utilized to create a panel of H1N1 and H1N2 swine viruses for *in vitro* studies. H1N1 and H1N2 viruses have been circulating in pigs for over a century and the pdmM matrix has dominated (36-38). The pdmM gene has been implicated as a determinate of respiratory transmission in hosts, increasing the number of potential “variant” infections (20, 39-41). The data presented in the fourth chapter of this dissertation shows that regardless of matrix origin, swine isolates are able to replicate within the human respiratory tract, but those that contain the pdmM gene replicate more efficiently. All the swine isolates regardless of matrix origin were able to replicate with the swine respiratory tract, which is not surprising. However, in the PTE, and PBE cells viruses which contained the swM gene replicated more efficiently. This begs the question then how do swine viruses effectively transmit to humans (Chapter 4 Figures).

A clue to a possible answer may lie within the results of the PNE. Within the PNE cells, viruses which contained the pdmM gene replicated more efficiently at both 37° and 32° Celsius (Chapter 4 Figures). It is known that temperature plays an important role in ability of viruses, specifically influenza, to replicate within the nasal epithelium and transmit. It is also been reported that differences in temperature modulates the innate immune response within the nasal epithelium (42-44). The temperature within the human nasal tract fluctuates between 30° Celsius and 34° Celsius, depending on inhalation or

expiration (45, 46).

Although the matrix gene has been implicated in the ability of swine influenza to transmit to humans, other genes may play a role. For example, the viral polymerase, which is comprised of the PB1, PB2, and PA gene segment has been shown to be a major host determinant. Specifically in a single residue of the PB2 gene E627K which is correlated with increased viral replication and transmission in animals (47-54). Literature has also shown that other residues A271 and D701N are able to compensate for the absence of the E627K amino acid change. Therefore, for the following viruses the A271 amino acid change may have contributed to their increase in viral replication: CA/07/09, Sw/NC/702/15, Sw/MO/664/13, Sw/IN/351/11, and Sw/IL/300/11. Another gene that is known to play a key role in evading the host's Type-1 interferon response is the NP gene segment. The influenza viral NP gene segment has been shown to play a key role in MX sensitivity (55-59). Specifically, Y52, I100, P283, and Y313 have been shown to be essential to reduced MX sensitivity in cell culture and *in vivo* (60-62). None of the viruses used within this study contained these amino acid changes.

Lastly, the HA gene segment is essential for viral attachment as well as entry. The HA surface protein of influenza binds to sialic acid residues on host cells. As stated before, the upper respiratory tract of swine predominately contains cells expressing α 2,6-SA, while cells expressing α 2,3-SA dominate in the lower airways (13-15). It has been shown that viruses that contain L226 have a higher affinity for α 2,6-sialic acid (63, 64). None of the viruses used within this study possessed this amino acid change. A recent study also surveyed swine field isolates from farms in the United States. Using glycan arrays, it was determined that swine field isolates A/sw/NC/154072/2015 and A/sw/NC/152701/2015 preferentially bind to α 2,6-sialic acid. It is hypothesized that the viruses Sw/NC/076/15 and

Sw/NC/702/15 since they were viruses isolated from the same farm, but different animals preferentially bind to α 2,6-sialic acid (65). Therefore, we contribute the increase in viral replication, tissue tropism, and increase pandemic potential of the swine isolates used within this study to the presence of the pdmM gene.

Utilizing these porcine and human cell substrates as a tool for pandemic assessment along with increased surveillance will help detect possible variants that may pose a threat to human health. These cell substrates can also be utilized as a tool for the isolation of difficult viruses and to learn more about reassortment events and virus evolution. Furthermore, these cell substrates can be utilized to learn more about innate responses of the airway epithelium to influenza. Future studies aim to evaluate differences in innate immune responses to swine influenza due to temperature in both primary human nasal epithelial cells (HNECs) and PNEs. Future studies within our lab will also explore the relationship of the matrix gene with other gene segments using reverse genetics in both *in vitro* and *in vivo* models. Future directions within the lab will also look at experimental infections in both mice and ferrets to determine susceptibility, transmissibility, and immune response. These *in vivo* studies will allow us to explore the role of other innate and adaptive immune cell subtypes induced upon influenza viral infection and will allow us more freedom to target specific pathways using purposely bred knockout mice.

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