

Batavia Biosciences unite with IAVI to develop Lassa fever vaccine

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Batavia Biosciences has announced that the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and Batavia Biosciences will work together under a grant to advance the development of a Lassa fever vaccine.

With this grant, Batavia Biosciences will leverage its novel, highly intensified manufacturing technology to develop a low-cost, easy-to-implement manufacturing process.

This process can facilitate rapid clinical development and establishment of a stockpile of an innovative new Lassa fever vaccine, which is based on the Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) vector system.

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Lassa fever, also known as Lassa hemorrhagic fever, is endemic in West Africa and can spread from person to person via contact with bodily fluids. The Lassa virus is transmitted to humans mainly through handling rats, food or household items contaminated by rats' urine.

It causes a range of symptoms including vomiting, fever and bleeding. An estimated 100,000 to 300,000 Lassa fever cases are diagnosed annually, resulting in approximately 5,000 deaths. Despite this high morbidity and mortality, no vaccine for Lassa fever is currently available.

Lassa fever devastates lives and has far-reaching economic consequences. Vaccines are a vital part of the fight against them but their development is costly, complex and challenging.