



# A NOVEL SINGLE-DOSE, LIVE ATTENUATED, MINIMALLY REPLICATIVE MPOX VACCINE

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**WVC**  
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# TALK OVERVIEW

## 1) Background

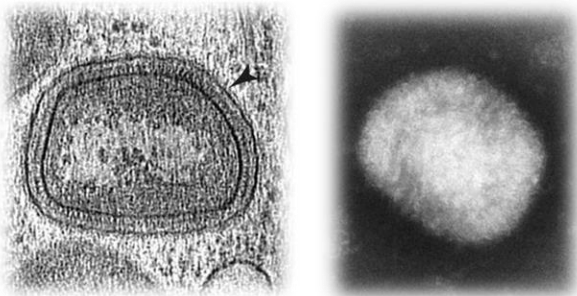
## 2) TNX-801 attenuation *in vitro* and *in vivo*

## 3) TNX-801 immunogenicity and efficacy in animal models

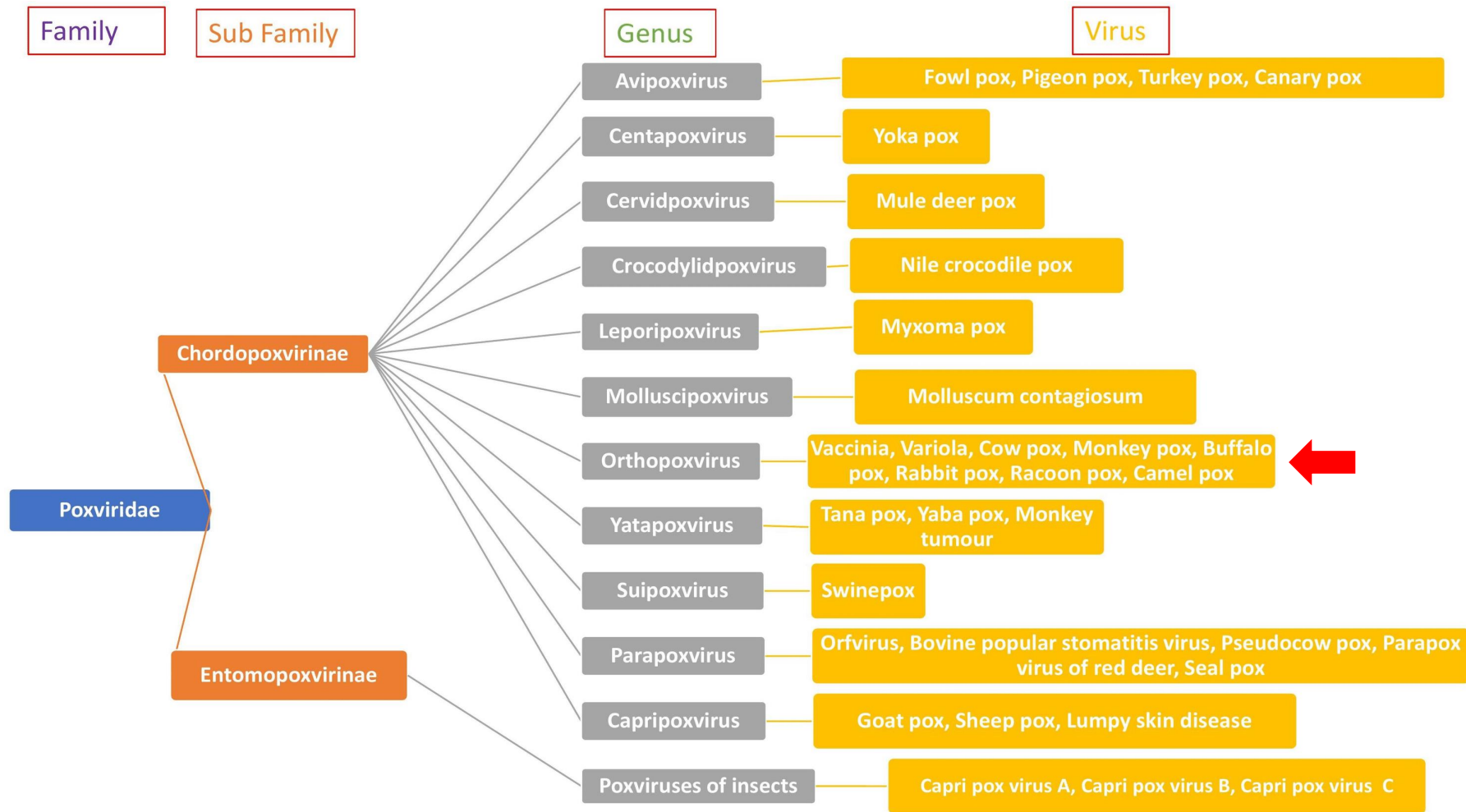
\*TNX-801 is in the pre-IND stage of development and has not been approved for any indication.

# POXVIRUSES

- Double stranded DNA, ~128-456 kb size
- Virions: enveloped, brick-shaped
- Size: ~220 to 450 nm long × 140 to 260 nm wide × 140 to 260 nm thick
- Infect vertebrate or invertebrate hosts
- Genus *Orthopoxvirus*:
  - Human Pathogens:
    - VARV: Case fatality rate ~30 to 50%
    - MPXV: Case fatality rate ~ 0.1 to 11%
  - Vaccines:
    - Vaccinia, Cowpox, Horsepox
    - Horsepox virus: TNX-801

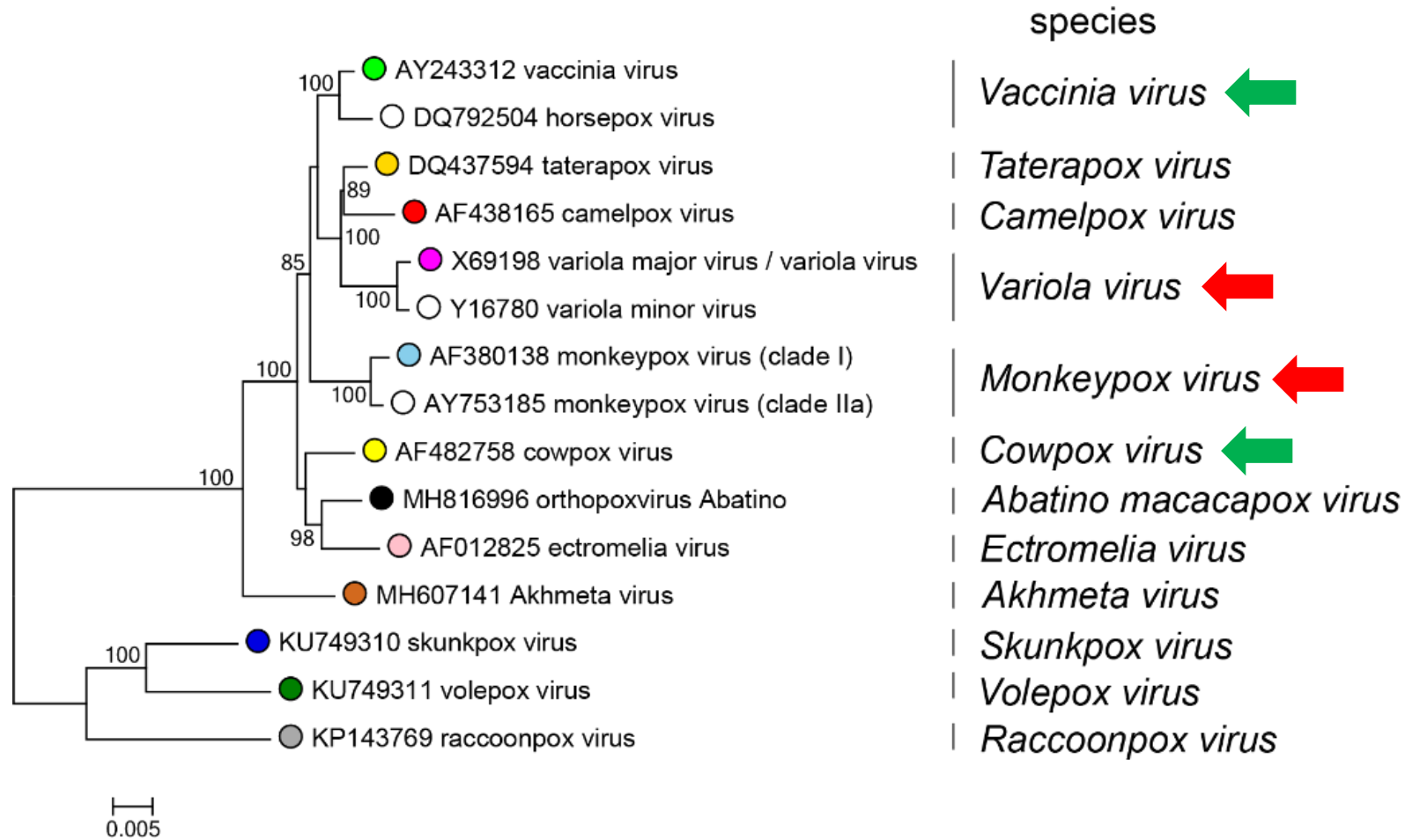


# POXVIRUSES: UBIQUITOUS IN THE ENVIRONMENT





# GENUS *ORTHOPOXVIRUS*



# MONKEYPOX VIRUS (MPOX)

## ➤ Endemic in Central and West Africa

## ➤ Two Clades:

- 1) Clade I (DRC)
- 2) Clade IIa (West Africa) and IIb (Nigeria)

## ➤ Human Case Fatality Rate:

- Clade I – ~11%
- Clade IIa – ~3%
- Clade IIb – ~<0.1%

## ➤ Clade IIb – 2022 Outbreak

- 122 Countries
- ~100,000 Confirmed Cases

# VARIOLA VIRUS (SMALLPOX)

- **Oldest written record – ~3,500 years**
- **Oldest sequences – ~1,400 years**
- **Human Case Fatality Rate: ~30%**
- **20<sup>th</sup> century – ~250 to 500 million deaths**
- **Eradication: 1980**



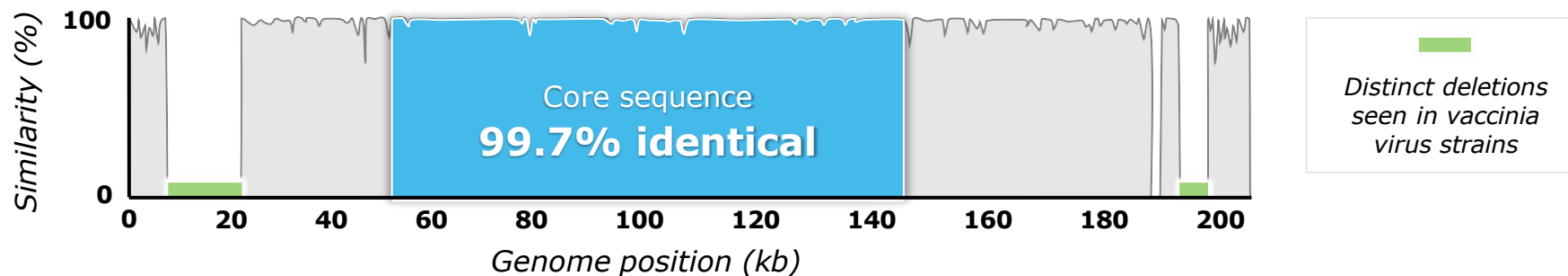
# EDWARD JENNER- SMALLPOX VACCINE (1796)

- Jenner observed milkmaids were protected from smallpox, reasoned that infection with an illness similar to smallpox but less deadly could protect one against smallpox
  - “Cowpox” was the name of a disease in cows that could transfer to humans and cause sores
  - Jenner “vaccinated” (from *vacca*, Latin for “cow”) a patient with pustule matter from “cowpox” sores on a milkmaid’s hands; that patient remained healthy when challenged with smallpox virus
- Jenner suspected that the agent causing cowpox, which he called **vaccinia** originated in horses and had been transferred from horses to cows’ udders by dirty hands



# EQUINATION- SMALLPOX VACCINES FROM HORSES

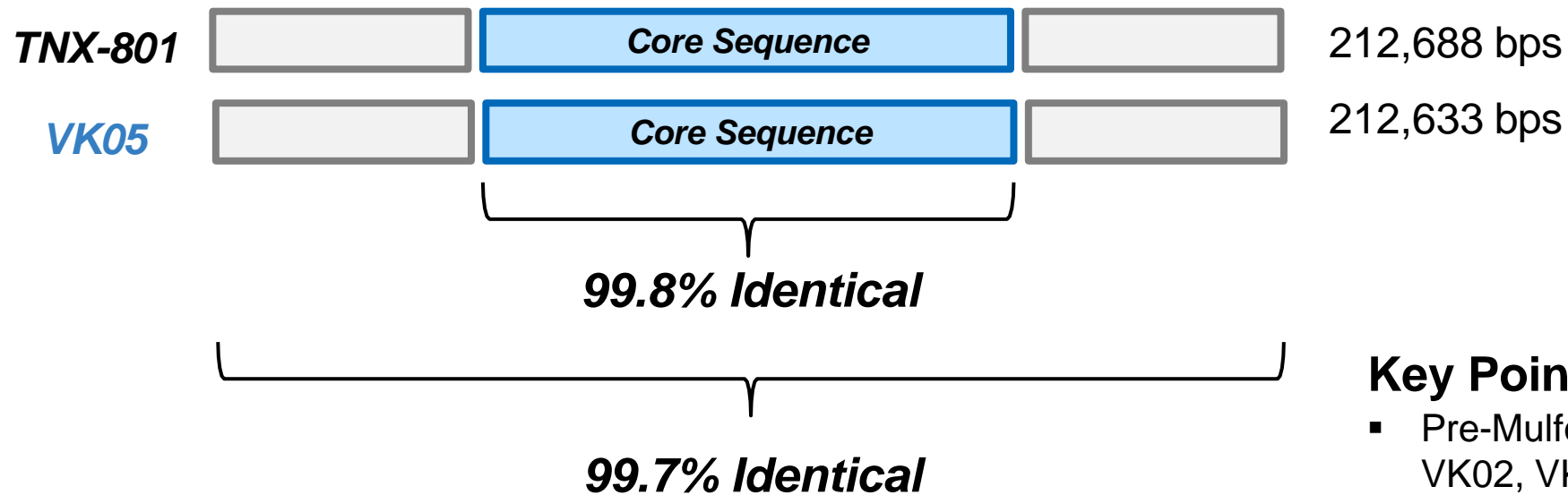
- **Equination, the use of vaccines from horses (*equus* in Latin), was successfully used in parallel with vaccination in Europe<sup>1</sup>**
- **Vaccine producers may have propagated stocks by periodically supplementing or refreshing them with horsepox<sup>2</sup>**
  - A 1902 smallpox vaccine (**Mulford**) – 99.7% identical to core viral sequence
  - **Sequence Identity for the 1902 Mulford Vaccine Compared to HPVX<sup>3</sup>**



1. Esparza J, et al. *Vaccine*. 2017;35(52):7222-7230.  
2. Esparza J, et al. *Vaccine*. 2020;38(30):4773-4779.  
3. Schrick L, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2017;377(15):1491-1492.

# HPXV WAS USED AS CIVIL WAR-ERA VACCINE

**VK05** has the highest identity to HPXV across the whole genome and represents a true HSPV strain



## Key Points

- Pre-Mulford vaccines: VK05, VK12, VK02, VK08, and VK01
- **VK05** and **TNX-801** (HPXV) have colinear structural identity across their whole genome

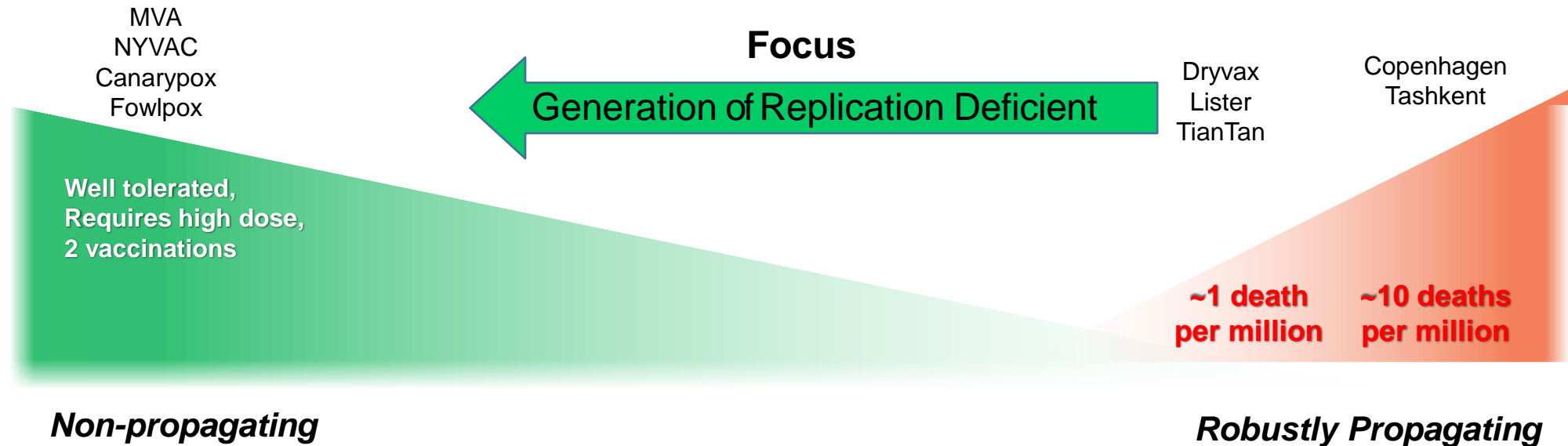
Brinkmann A, et al. *Genome Biol.* 2020;21(1):286.

# SMALLPOX VACCINES

- **Vaccine: Cowpox origin**
- **Serial passaging: Humans, cows, and horses (143 years)**
- **Vaccine: Vaccinia Virus (1939) closely related to cowpox but serologically distinct<sup>1</sup>**
- **Multiple Vaccinia virus-based vaccines developed**
- **Smallpox eradication**

<sup>1</sup>Downie AW. 1939. *Br J Exp Pathol* 20:158–176.

# BALANCE OF TOLERABILITY AND REACTOGENICITY FOR POX-BASED VACCINES



# BALANCE OF TOLERABILITY AND REACTOGENICITY FOR POX-BASED VACCINES

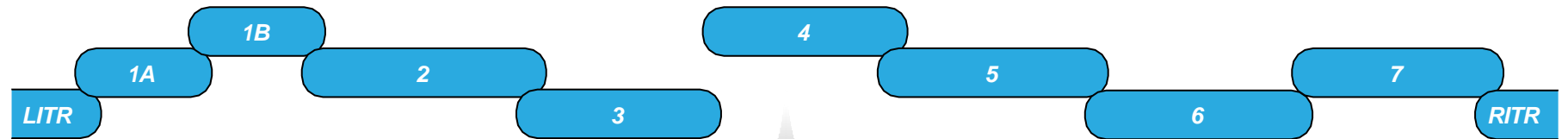


# BALANCE OF TOLERABILITY AND REACTOGENICITY FOR POX-BASED VACCINES

**MNR-76 genome** (212,633 bp) *Genbank accession DQ792504*



**MNR-76 genome fragments**

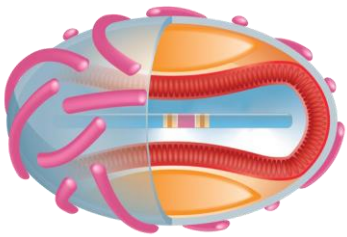


Ten overlapping genome fragments were assembled based on sequence homology to generate the TNX-801 genome<sup>1,2</sup>

**TNX-801 genome** (212,811 bp) *Genbank accession KY349117*



The core genome of TNX-801 is identical to MNR-76<sup>1</sup>



**TNX-801**  
scHPXV (Horsepox)  
212,811 bp

1. Noyce RS, et al. *PLoS One*. 2018;13(1):e0188453.
2. Schrick L, et al. *N Eng J Med*. 2017;377(15):1491-1492.



# **4 PRONG APPROACH TO MPOX/SMALLPOX VACCINE (TNX-801)**

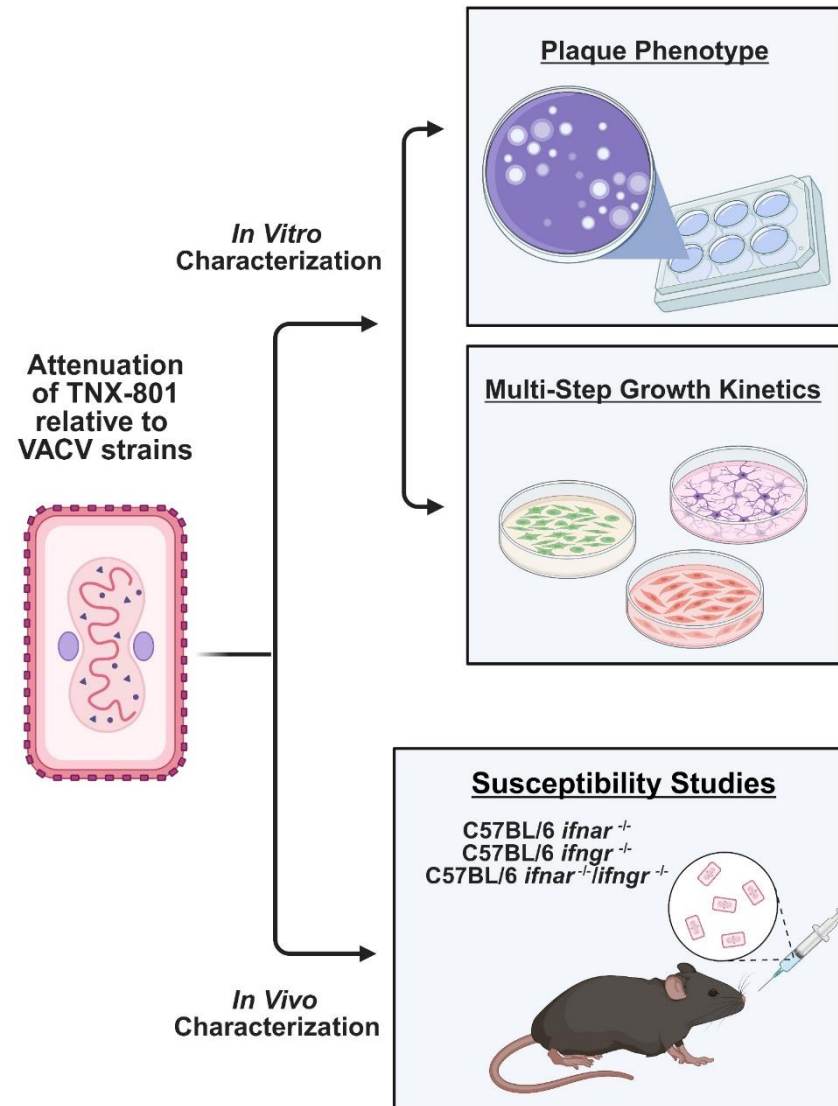
**1) Well-tolerated**

**2) Single dose**

**3) Durable**

**4) Protection against mpox disease (lesions)**

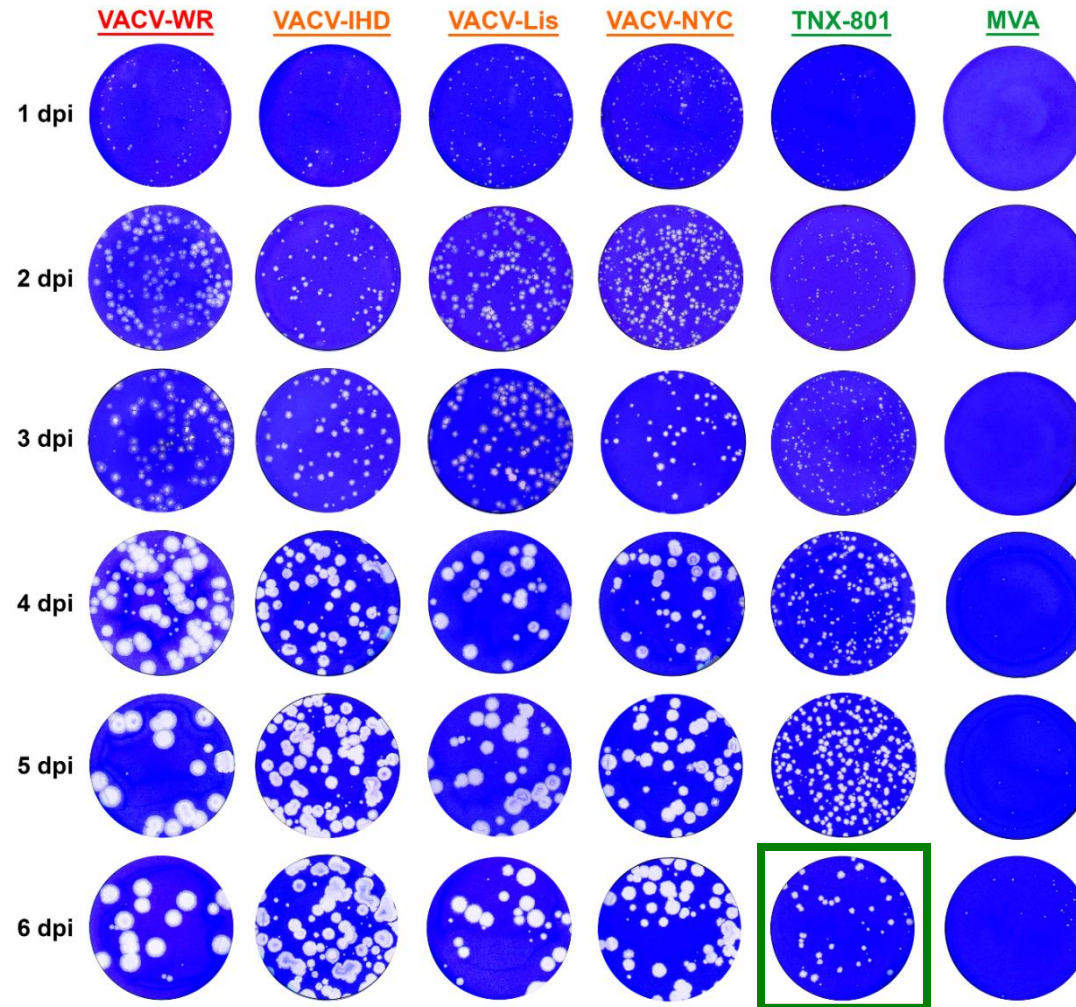
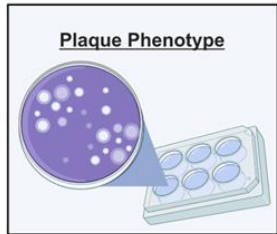
# TNX-801 ATTENUATION *IN VITRO* AND *IN VIVO*



# IN VITRO ATTENUATION OF TNX-801

- **Investigate attenuation of TNX-801 *in vitro* relative to VACV strains**
  - Positive Control: VACV-Western Reserve (WR), VACV-International Health Department (IHD)
  - Older vaccines used in smallpox eradication:
    - 1) VACV-Lister (Lis)
    - 2) VACV-New York City Board of Health (NYCBH)
  - New Vaccine: TNX-801
  - Non-replicating control: MVA
- ***In vitro* Assays:**
  - 1) **Plaque phenotype – BSC-40 and Vero-E6**
  - 2) **Replication Kinetics**
    - Immortalized non-human primate cell lines
    - Human primary cells from two main route of poxvirus transmission
      - Dermal and respiratory tracts

# TNX-801 DISPLAYS SMALL PLAQUE PHENOTYPE VACCINA VIRUSES



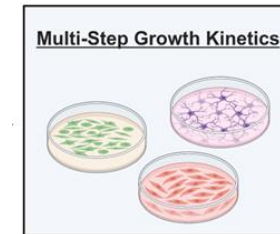
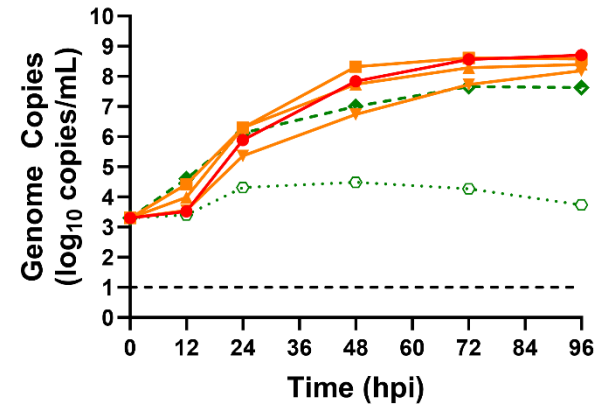
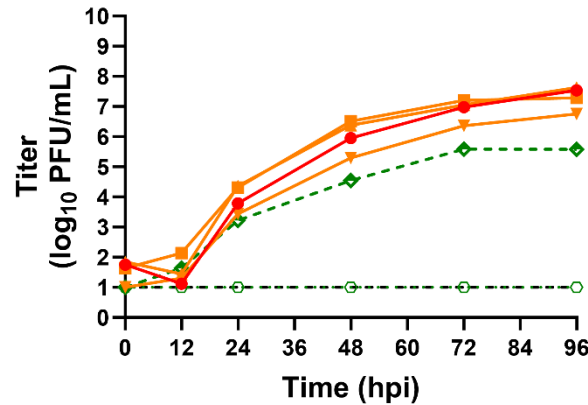
VACV-Western Reserve (WR)  
VACV-International Health Department (IHD)  
VACV-Lister (Lis)  
VACV-New York City Board of Health (NYCBH)  
TNX-801  
MVA

# TNX-801: REPLICATION IN PRIMARY HUMAN CELLS (DERMAL TRACT)

## Plaque Assay

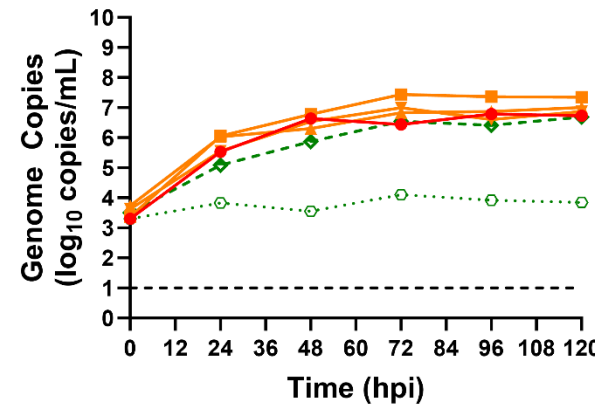
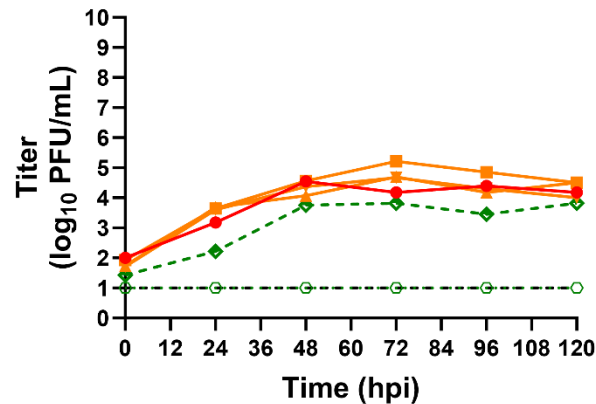
## qPCR

### Dermal Fibroblasts



VACV-Western Reserve (WR)  
VACV-International Health Department (IHD)  
VACV-Lister (Lis)  
VACV-New York City Board of Health (NYCBH)  
TNX-801  
MVA

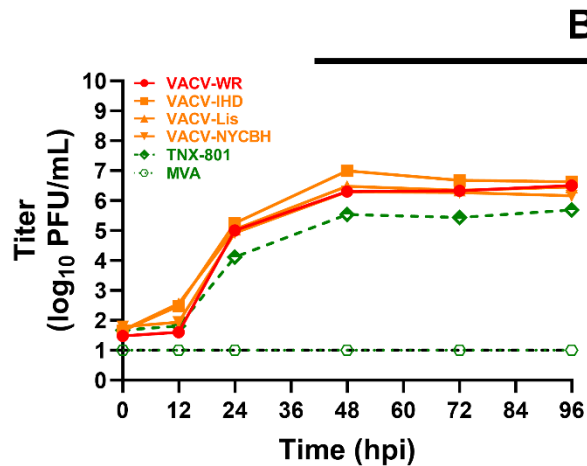
### Keratinocytes



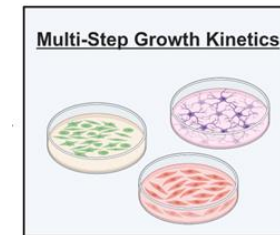
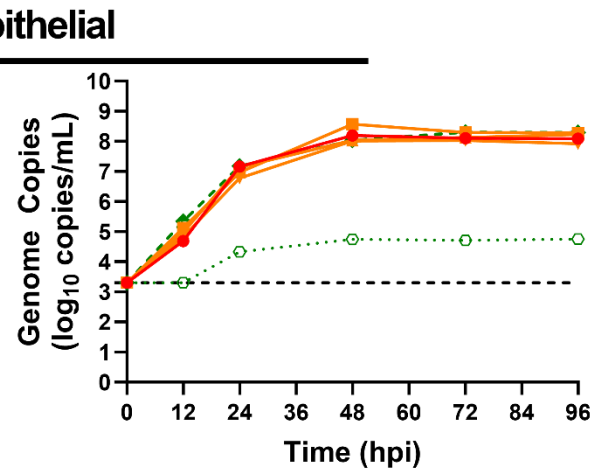
**TNX-801: ~27- to 119-fold more attenuated than VACV based vaccines**

# TNX-801: REPLICATION IN PRIMARY HUMAN CELLS (RESPIRATORY TRACT)

## Plaque Assay

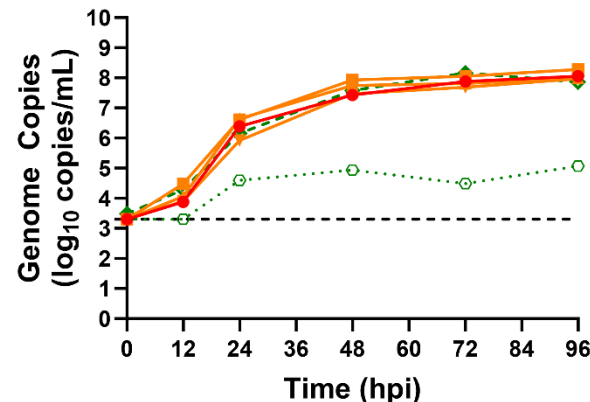
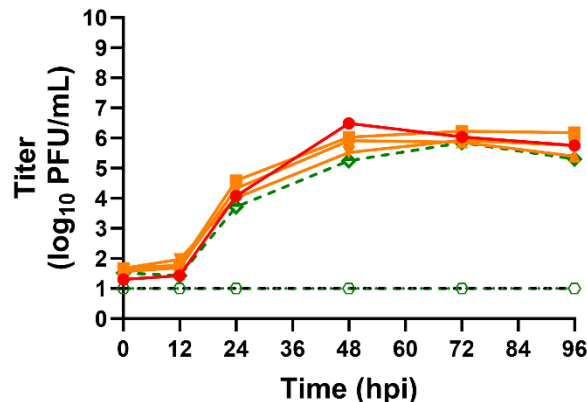


## qPCR



VACV-Western Reserve (WR)  
VACV-International Health Department (IHD)  
VACV-Lister (Lis)  
VACV-New York City Board of Health (NYCBH)  
TNX-801  
MVA

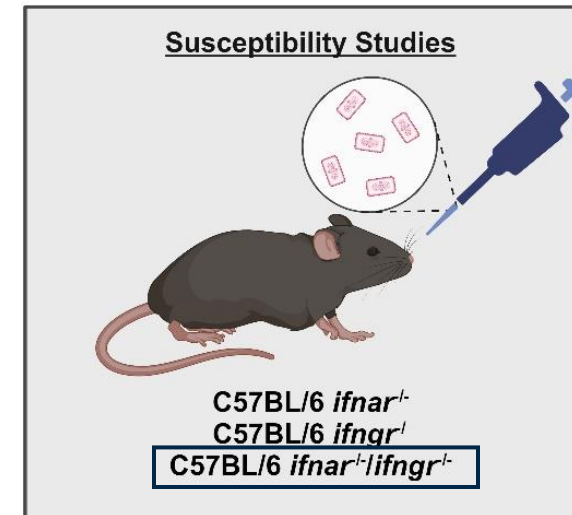
## Small Airway Epithelial



**TNX-801: ~20- to 30-fold more attenuated than VACV based vaccines**

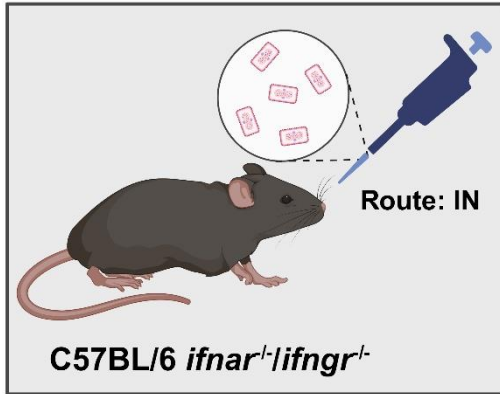
# IN VIVO ATTENUATION OF TNX-801

- Investigate attenuation of TNX-801 *in vivo* relative to VACV based vaccines
  - Immunocompromised Mice (C57BL/6 *ifnar*<sup>-/-</sup>, C57BL/6 *ifngr*<sup>-/-</sup>, C57BL/6 *ifnar*<sup>-/-</sup>/*ifngr*<sup>-/-</sup>)
    - Interferon receptor knockout model
    - Sensitive to virus infection
  - Positive Control: VACV-WR, VACV-IHD
  - Older vaccines: VACV-Lis, VACV-NYCBH
  - TNX-801
  - Route: Intranasal
- Parameters measured:
  - 1) Disease Score
  - 2) Temperature
  - 3) **Weight loss**
  - 4) **Survival**

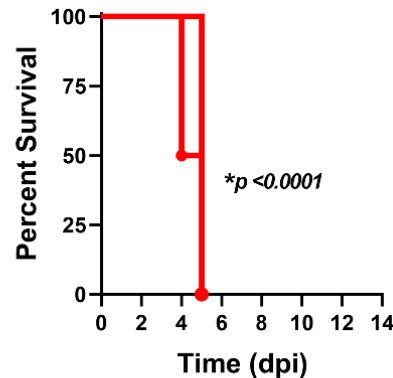
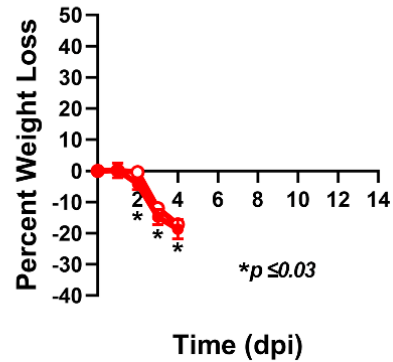




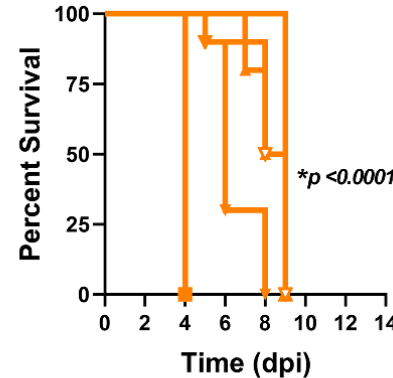
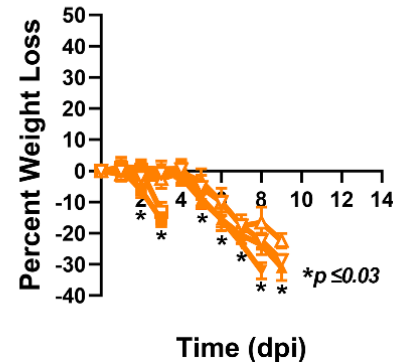
# TNX-801 LACKS LETHALITY ASSOCIATED WITH OLDER SMALLPOX VACCINE STRAINS (LIS, NYCBH)



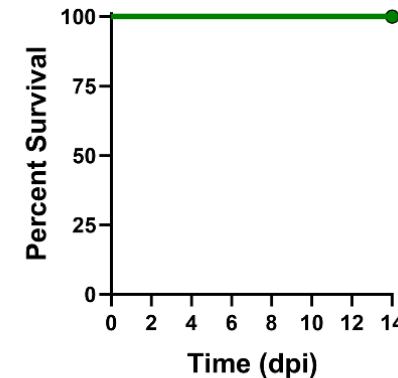
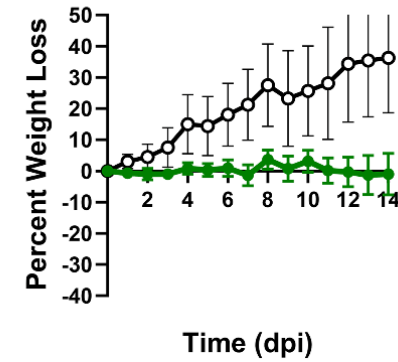
VACV-WR  
~10<sup>6</sup> and 10<sup>5</sup> PFU



VACV-IHD, Lis, NYCBH  
~10<sup>6</sup> and 10<sup>5</sup> PFU

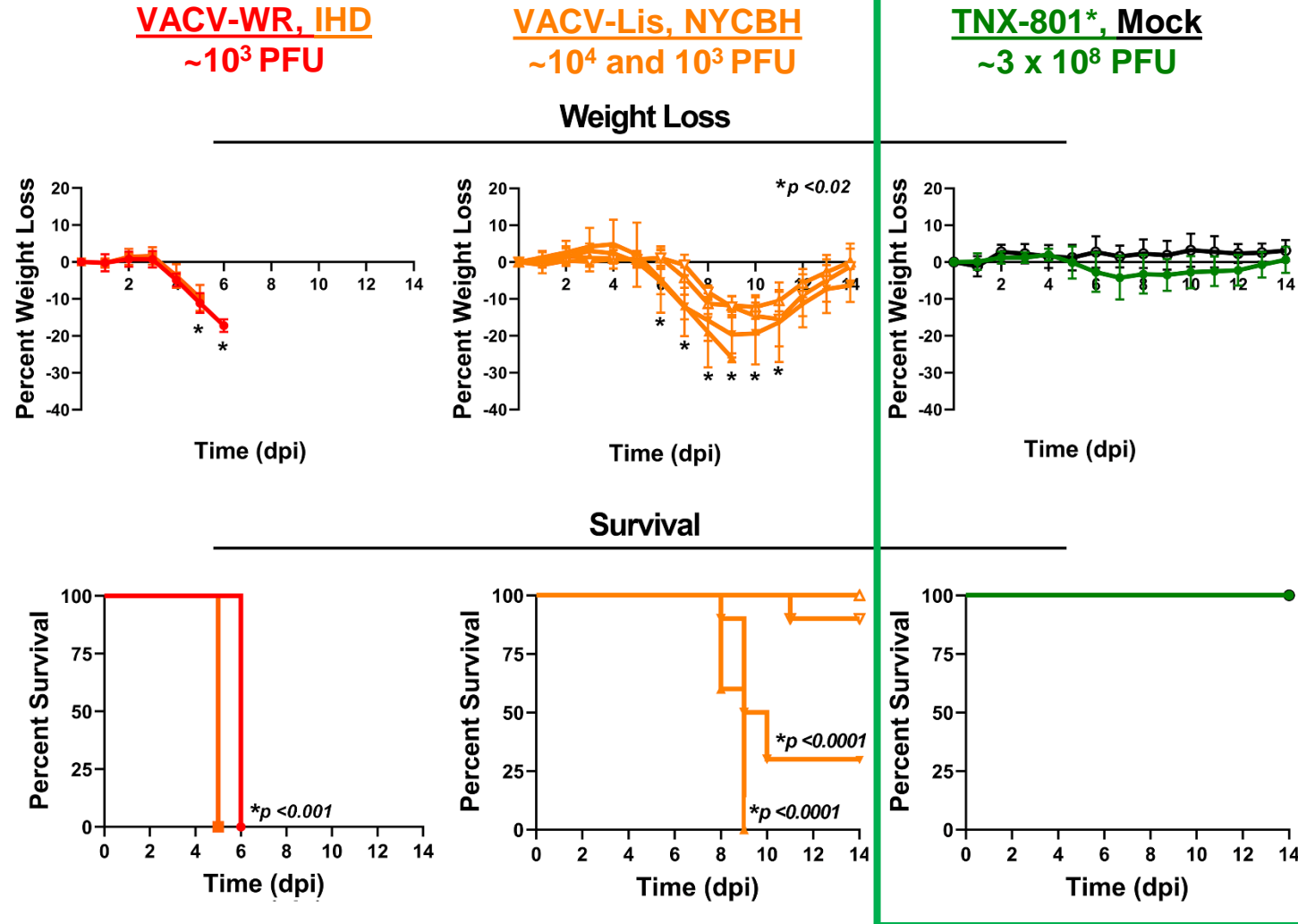
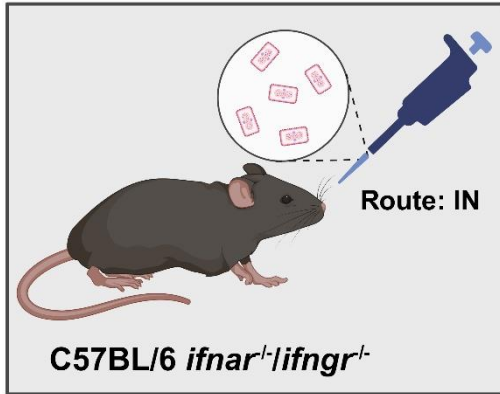


TNX-801\*, Mock  
~10<sup>8</sup> PFU



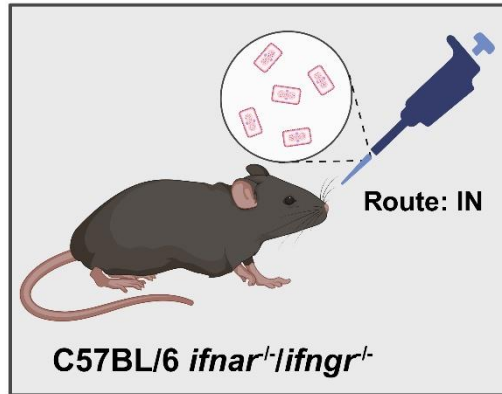
**TNX-801 is 1,000-fold more attenuated**

# TNX-801 LACKS LETHALITY ASSOCIATED WITH OLDER SMALLPOX VACCINE STRAINS (LIS, NYCBH)



**TNX-801 is up to 100,000-fold more attenuated**

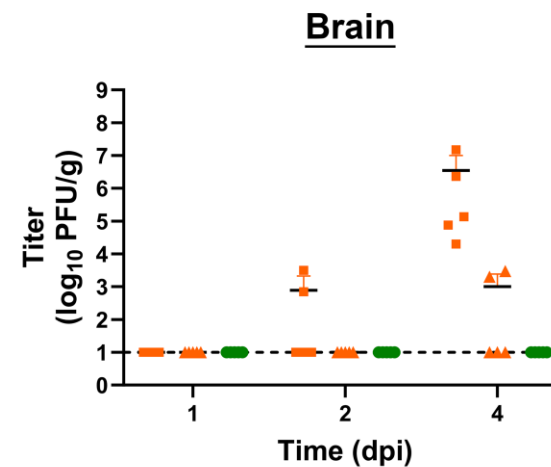
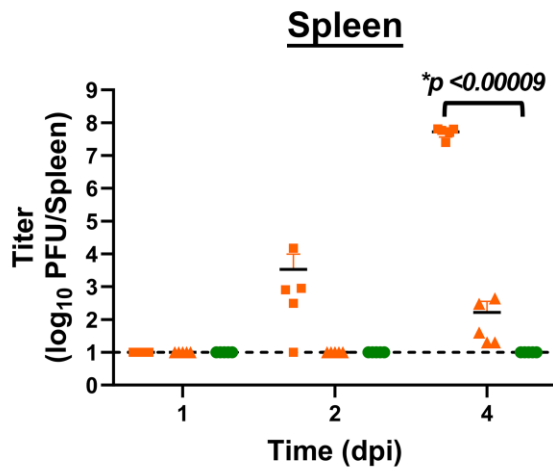
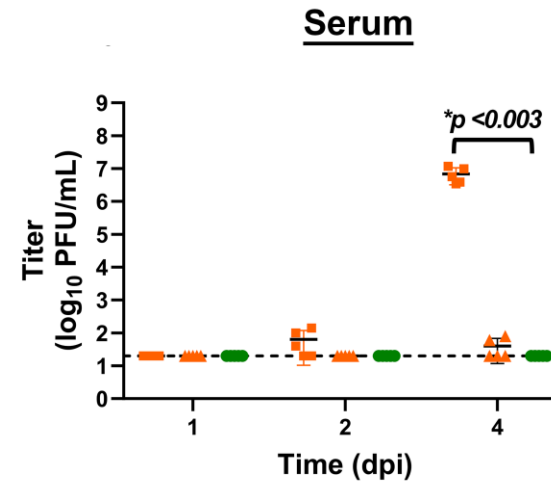
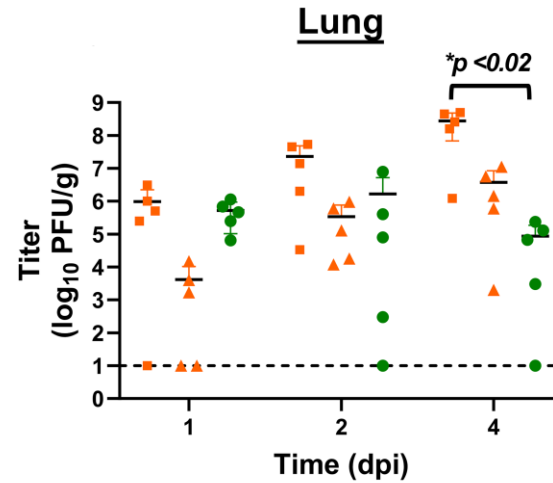
# TNX-801 INFECTION DISPLAYS LIMITED REPLICATION



VACV-IHD  $\sim 10^6$  PFU (■)

VACV-NYCBH  $\sim 10^6$  PFU (▲)

TNX-801  $\sim 10^8$  PFU (●)



# TNX-801 IS HIGHLY ATTENUATED WITH IMPROVED SAFETY PROFILES COMPARED TO OTHER VACCINA-BASED VACCINES

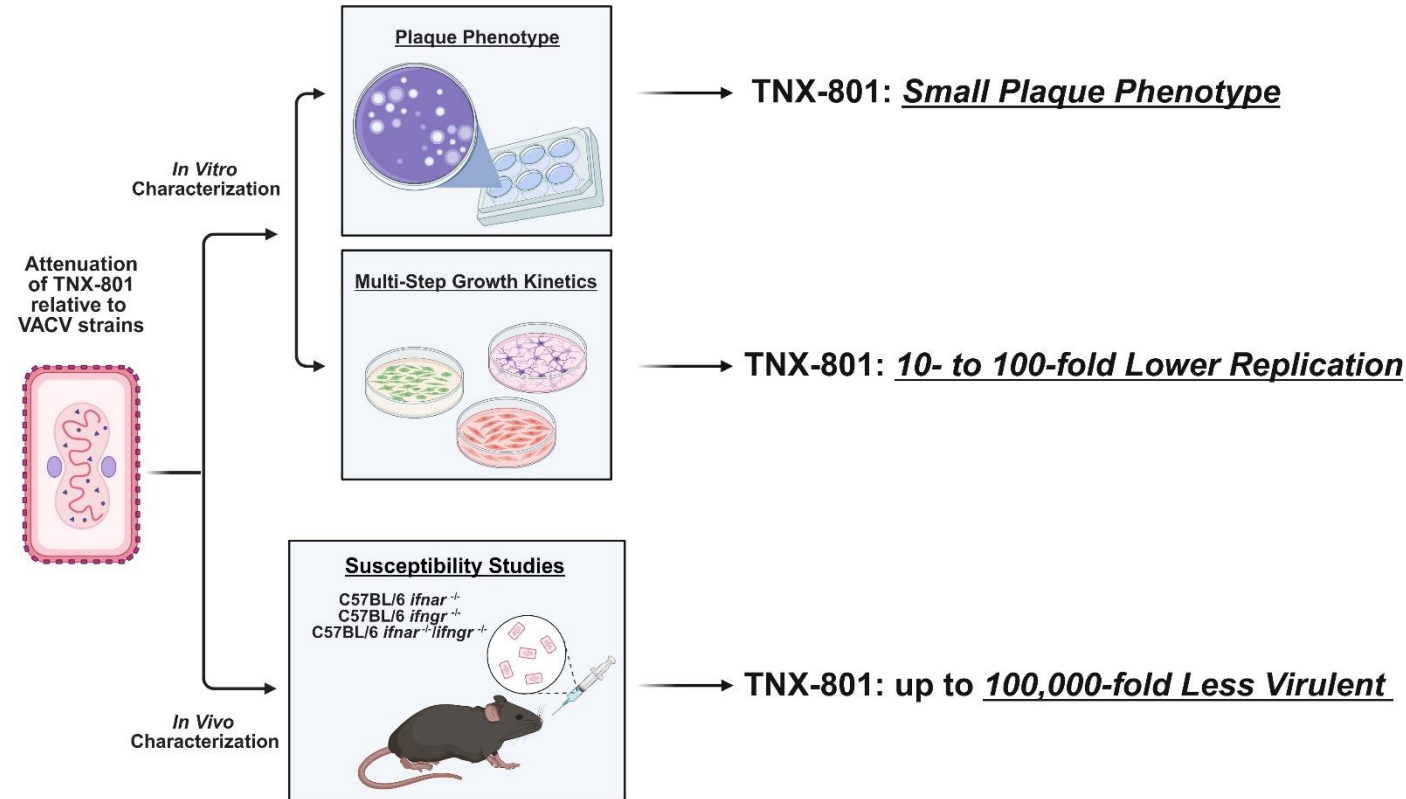


Editor's Pick | Biotechnology | Research Article

## Recombinant chimeric Horsepox virus (TNX-801) is attenuated relative to Vaccinia virus strains in both *in vitro* and *in vivo* models

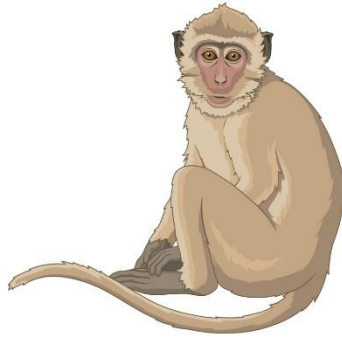
Stephanie V. Trefry,<sup>1</sup> Mayanka Awasthi,<sup>1</sup> Christy N. Raney,<sup>1</sup> Amy L. Cregger,<sup>1</sup> Chase A. Gonzales,<sup>1</sup> Brittney L. Layton,<sup>1</sup> Robert N. Enamorado,<sup>1</sup> Nelson A. Martinez,<sup>1</sup> Deborah S. Gohegan,<sup>1</sup> Masoudeh Masoud-Bahnamiri,<sup>1</sup> Jennifer Y. Cho,<sup>1</sup> Dawn M. Myscowski,<sup>1</sup> Tinoush Moulalei,<sup>1</sup> Natasza E. Ziolkowska,<sup>1</sup> Scott J. Goebel,<sup>1</sup> Seth Lederman,<sup>1</sup> Sina Bavari,<sup>1</sup> Farooq Nasar<sup>1</sup>

**AUTHOR AFFILIATION** See affiliation list on p. 23.



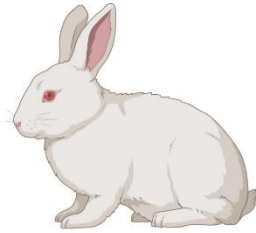
# TNX-801 IMMUNOGENICITY AND EFFICACY IN ANIMAL MODELS

1)



**MPXV Clade Ia**

2)



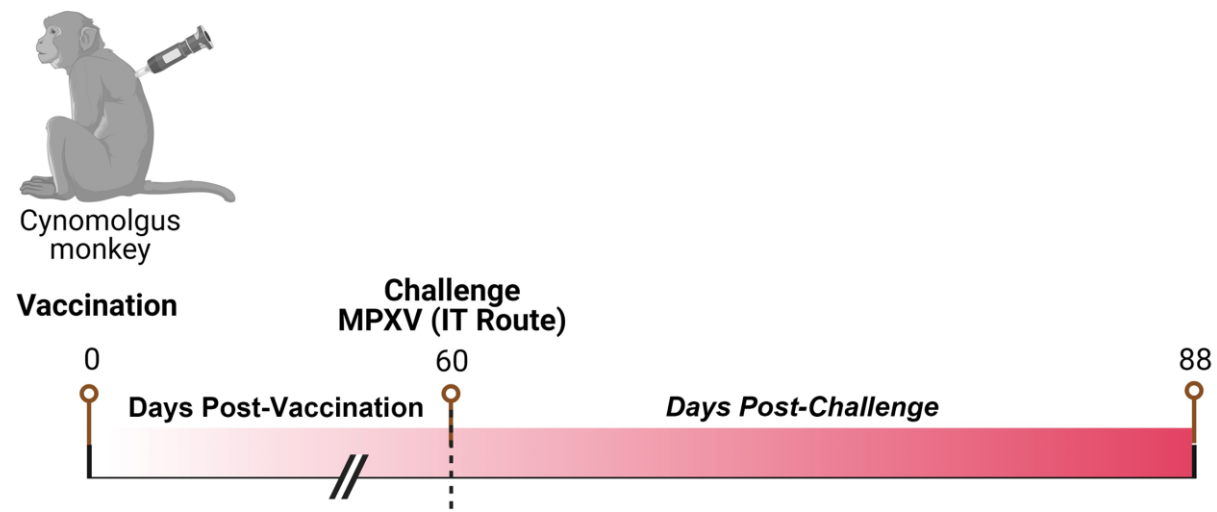
**RPXV**

3)



**MPXV Clade IIa**

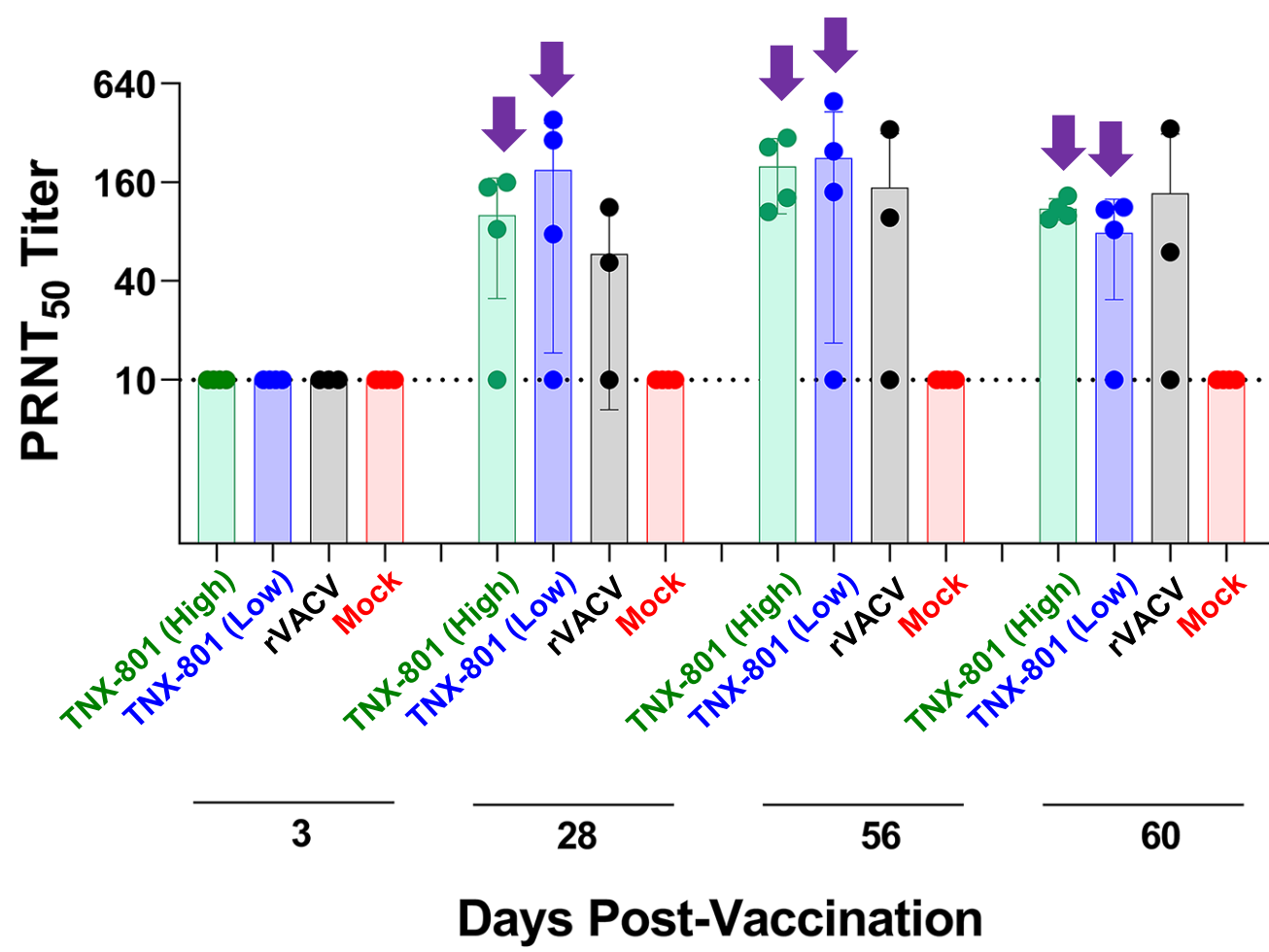
# NHP IMMUNOGENICITY AND EFFICACY STUDY DESIGN



Vaccination					Challenge		
Group	Treatment	n	Dose (PFU)	Route	Virus	Dose (PFU)	Route
1	TNX-801 (High)	4	$4 \times 10^6$	PERCUT	MPXV (Zaire)	$10^5$	IT
2	TNX-801 (Low)	4	$5 \times 10^5$	PERCUT	MPXV (Zaire)	$10^5$	IT
3	rVACV	4	$1 \times 10^5$	PERCUT	MPXV (Zaire)	$10^5$	IT
4	Mock	4	-	PERCUT	MPXV (Zaire)	$10^5$	IT

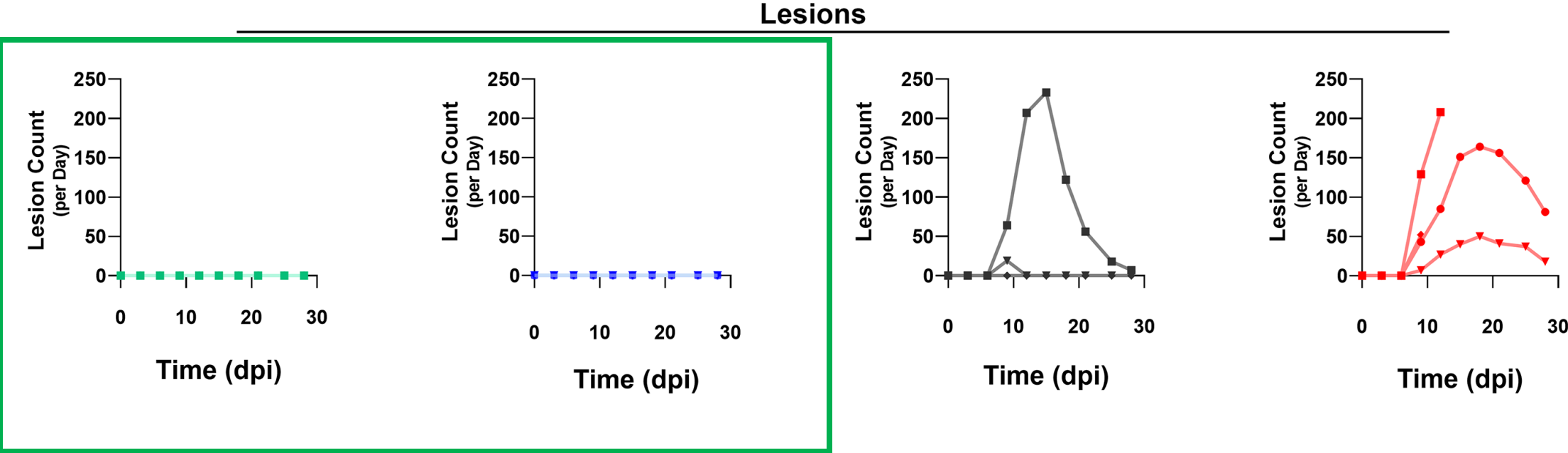
rVACV = synthesized vaccinia similar to ACAM2000 (Approved Vaccine)

# NHP IMMUNOGENICITY: NEUTRALIZING ANTIBODY RESPONSE



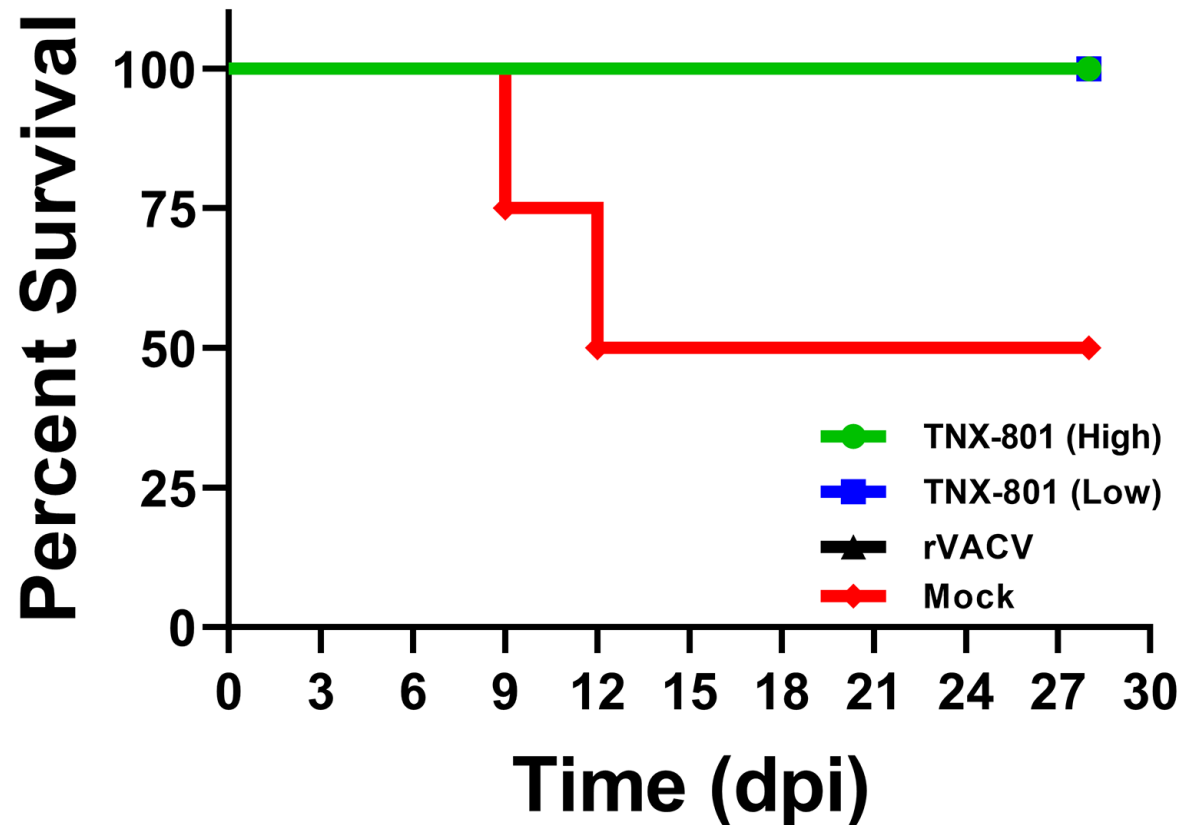


# TNX-801 PROVIDES PROTECTION AGAINST MPOX DISEASE



**NO LESIONS in TNX-801 vaccinated groups**

# TNX-801 PROVIDES PROTECTION AGAINST LETHAL MONKEYPOX CLADE I CHALLENGE

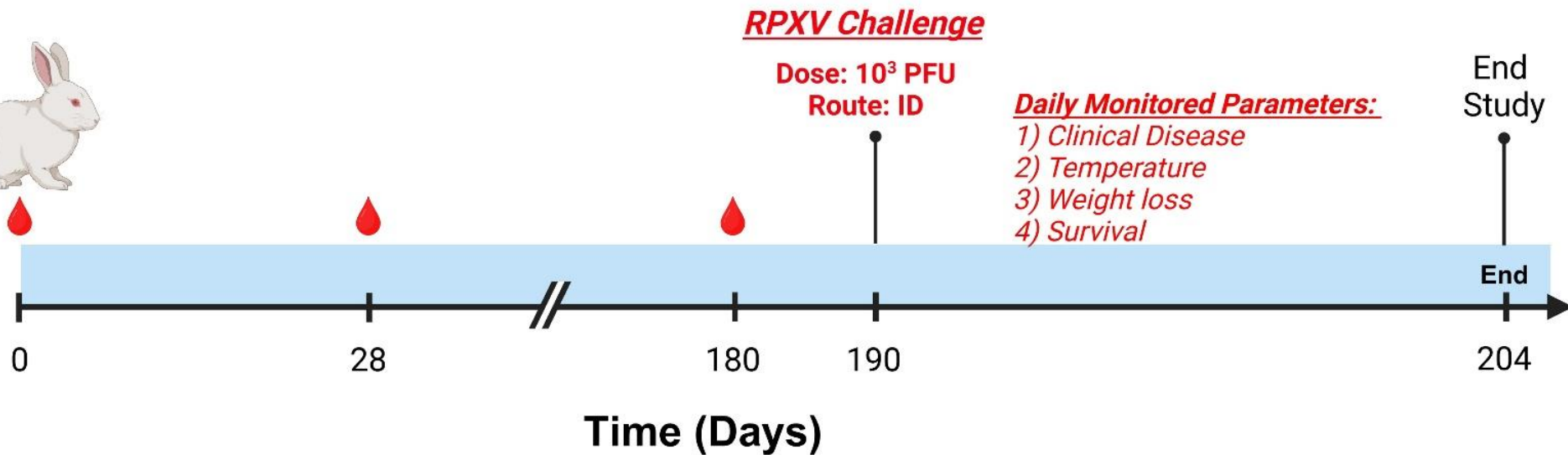


**NO LETHALITY in TNX-801 vaccinated groups**

# TNX-801 PROVIDES DURABLE PROTECTION AGAINST LETHAL RABBITPOX CHALLENGE: 6 MONTHS

## Vaccination

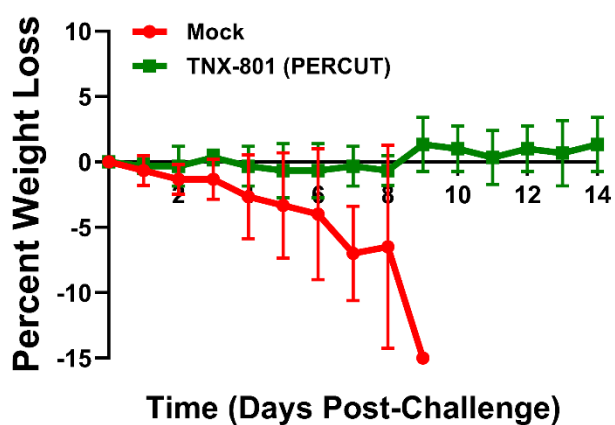
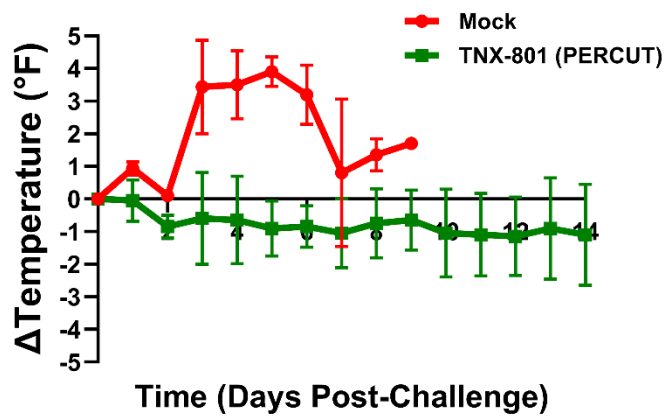
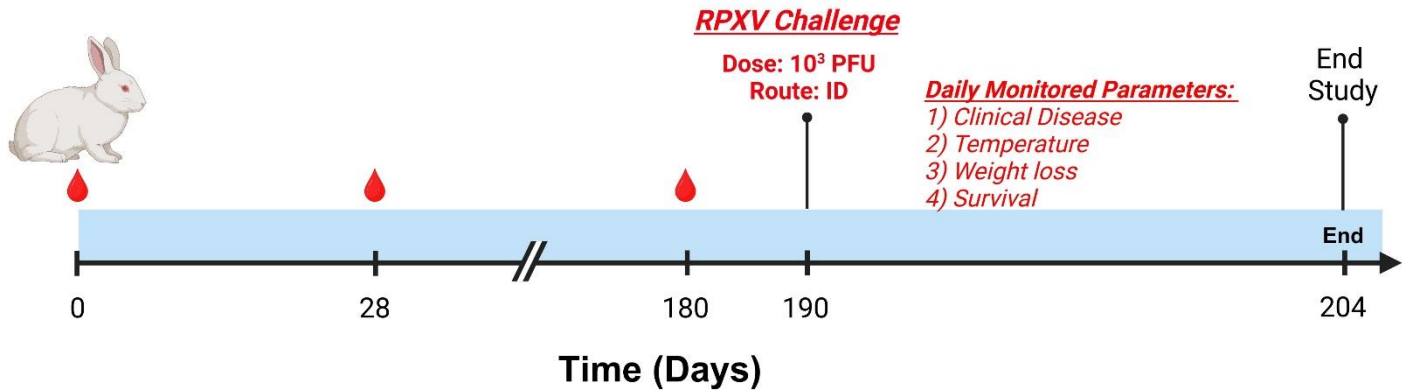
- 1) TNX-801  $10^6$  PFU (Percutaneous)
- 2) Mock



# TNX-801 PROVIDES DURABLE PROTECTION AGAINST LETHAL RABBITPOX CHALLENGE: 6 MONTHS

## Vaccination

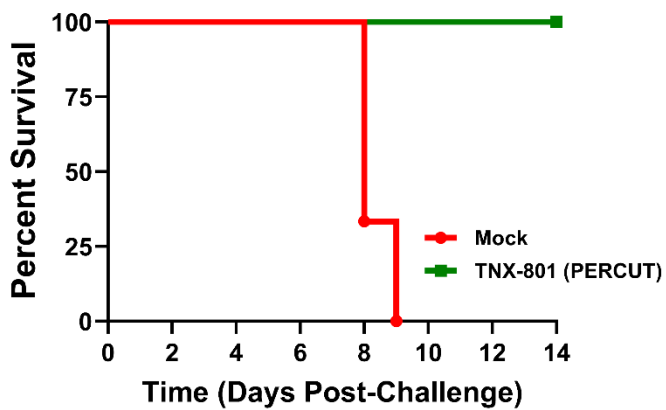
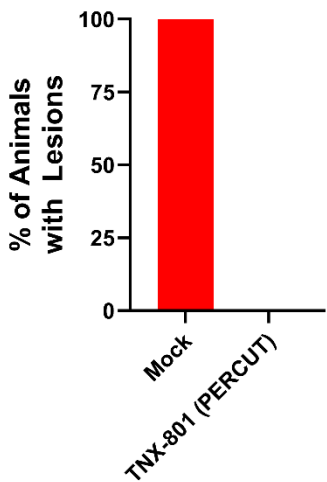
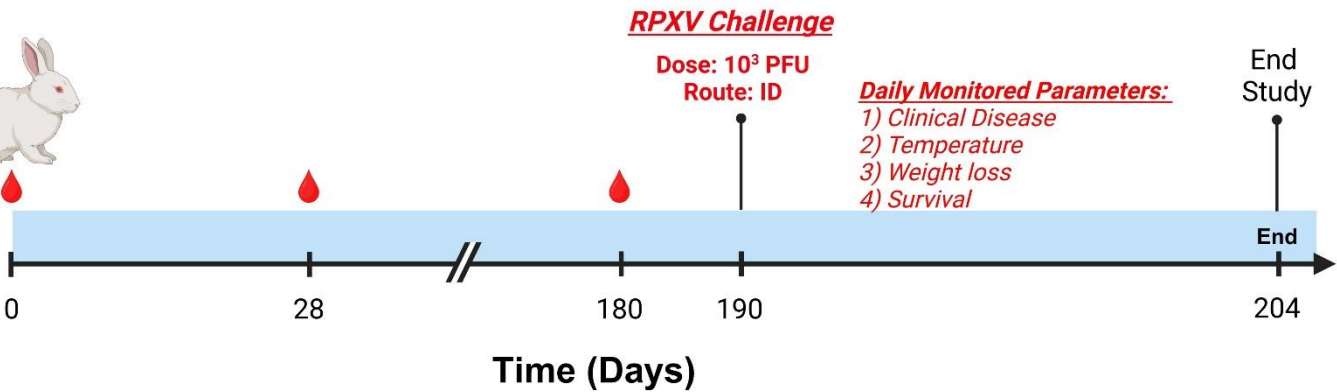
- 1) TNX-801 10<sup>6</sup> PFU (Percutaneous)
- 2) Mock



# TNX-801 PROVIDES DURABLE PROTECTION AGAINST LETHAL RABBITPOX CHALLENGE: 6 MONTHS

## Vaccination

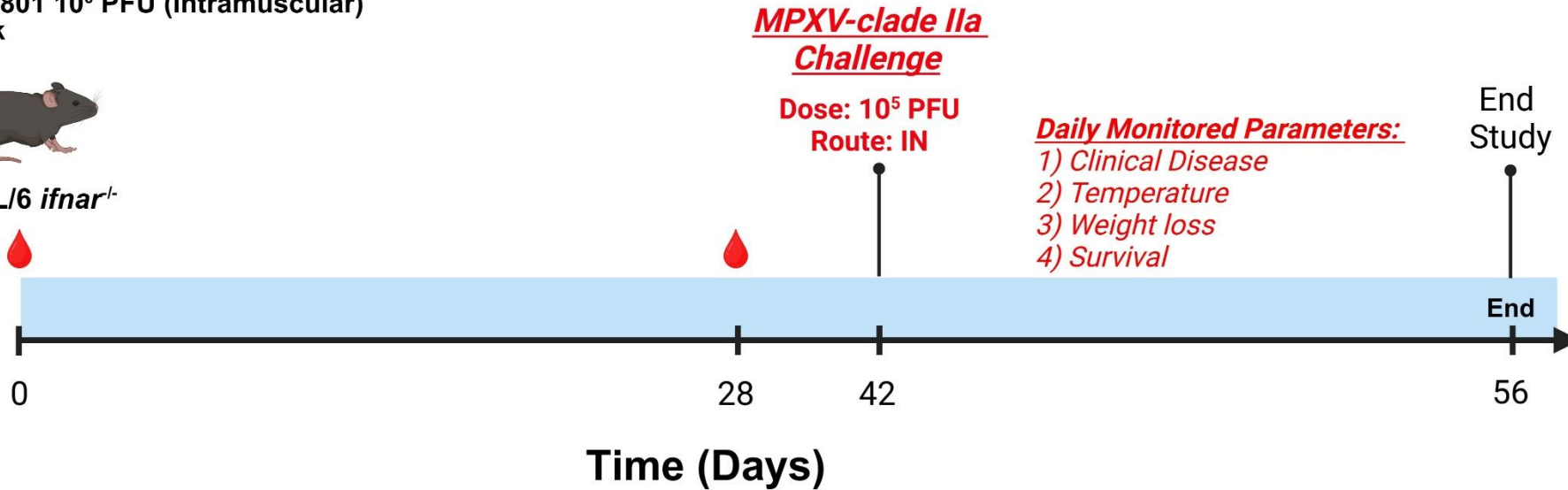
- 1) TNX-801 10<sup>6</sup> PFU (Percutaneous)
- 2) Mock



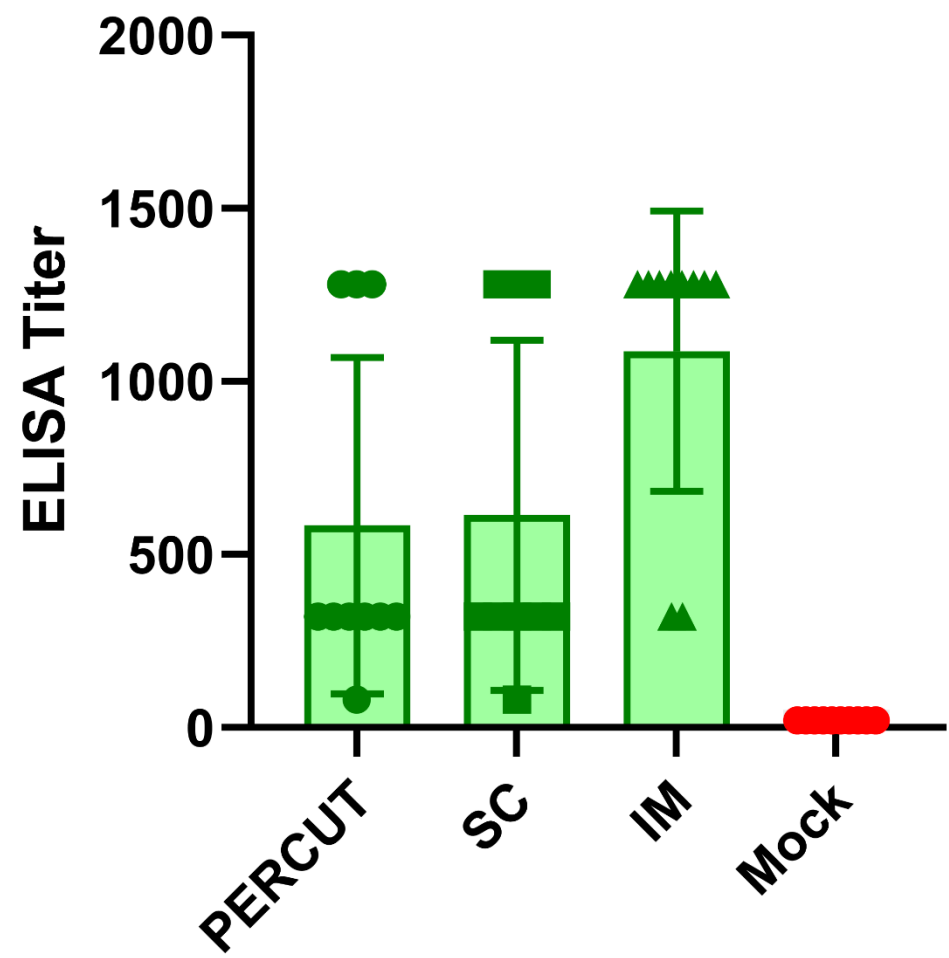
# TNX-801 PROVIDES PROTECTION AGAINST LETHAL MONKEYPOX CLADE IIA CHALLENGE: ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

## Vaccination

- 1) TNX-801  $10^6$  PFU (Percutaneous)
- 2) TNX-801  $10^6$  PFU (Subcutaneous)
- 3) TNX-801  $10^6$  PFU (Intramuscular)
- 4) Mock

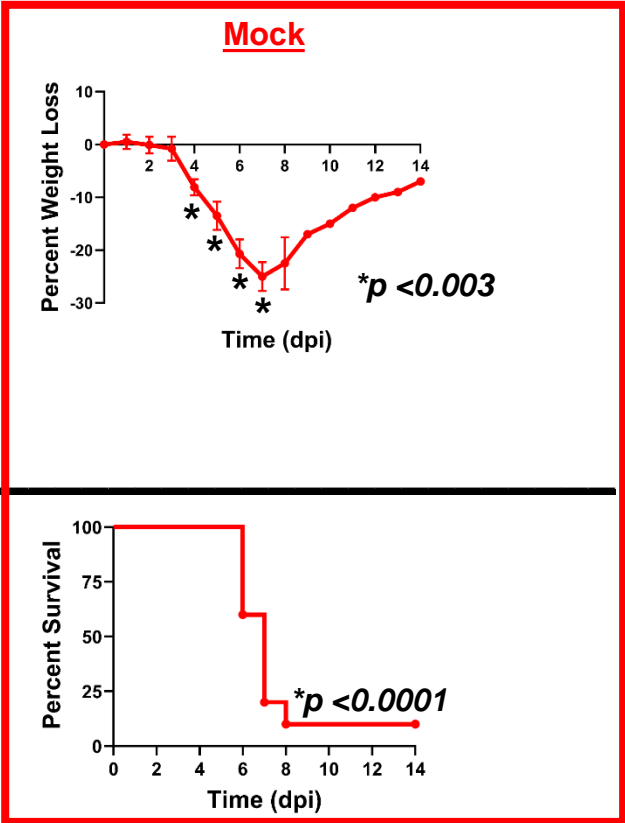
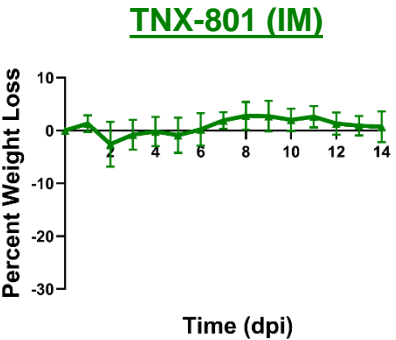
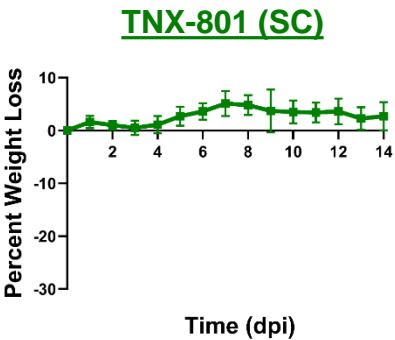
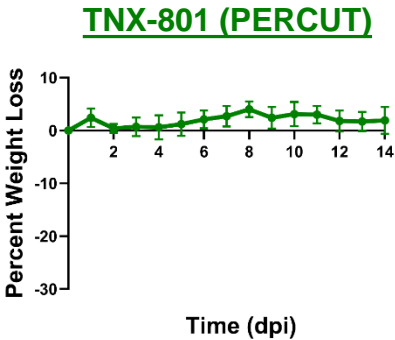


# TNX-801 ELICITS HUMORAL IMMUNE RESPONSES: ANTI-VACV IGG TITERS (28 DAYS POST-VACCINATION)

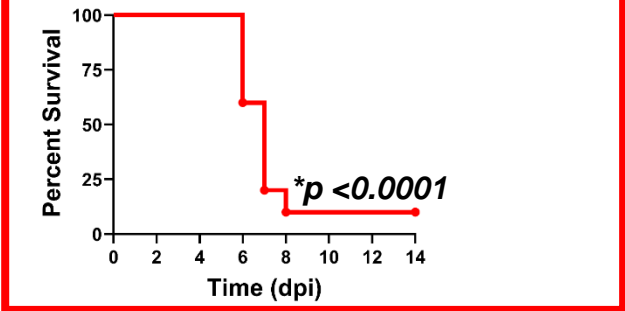
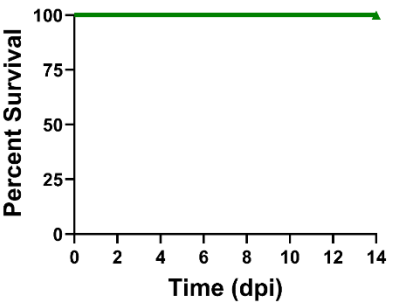
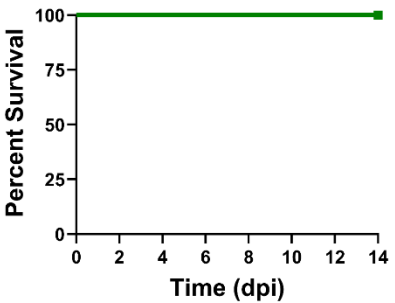
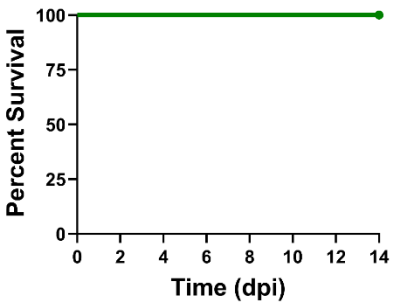


# TNX-801 PROVIDES PROTECTION AGAINST LETHAL MONKEYPOX CLADE IIA CHALLENGE: ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

## Weight Loss



## Survival





# TNX-801 SAFETY

## ➤ ***In vitro:***

- **Small plaque phenotype**
- **Up to 100-fold lower replication than VACV strains**
- **Primary cells from dermal and respiratory tracts**

## ➤ ***In vivo:***

- **Well tolerated in mice, rabbits, hamsters, and NHPs**
- **Minimal or no disease in immunocompromised murine models**
- **up to 100,000-fold more attenuated than VACV-based vaccines**
- **Minimally replicates at site of delivery**

# TNX-801 IMMUNOGENICITY AND EFFICACY (SINGLE DOSE)

- **Evaluated in multiple animal models**
  - **Mouse, Rabbits, and NHPs**
- **Elicits IgG and/or neutralizing responses**
  - **Various route percutaneous, subcutaneous, intramuscular**
  - **Microneedle delivery**
- **Provides 100% protection against lesions**
  - **Rabbit and NHP models**
- **Provides 100% protection against lethal challenge**
  - **Models: Mouse, Rabbit, and NHP**
  - **Viruses: VACV, RPXV, MPXV clade Ia and IIa**

# **4 PRONG APPROACH TO MPOX/SMALLPOX VACCINE (TNX-801)**

**1) Well-tolerated**

**2) Single dose**

**3) Durable**

**4) Protection against mpox disease (lesions)**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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