

1 **Title:** Functional cooperativity mediated by rationally selected combinations of human
2 monoclonal antibodies targeting the henipavirus receptor binding protein

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42

43 **Abstract**

44 Hendra virus (HeV) and Nipah virus (NiV), the prototypic members of the *Henipavirus* (HNV)
45 genus, are emerging, zoonotic paramyxoviruses known to cause severe disease across six
46 mammalian orders, including humans (Eaton et al., 2006). While several research groups have
47 made strides in developing candidate vaccines and therapeutics against henipaviruses, antivirals
48 have not been licensed for human use, and significant gaps in knowledge about the human
49 immune response to these viruses exist. To address these gaps, we isolated a large panel of
50 human monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) from the B cells of an individual with prior occupation-
51 related exposure to the equine HeV vaccine (Equivac® HeV). Competition-binding and
52 hydrogen-deuterium exchange mass spectrometry (HDX-MS) studies identified at least six
53 distinct antigenic sites on the HeV/NiV receptor binding protein (RBP) that are recognized by
54 human mAbs. Antibodies recognizing multiple antigenic sites potently neutralized NiV and/or
55 HeV isolates *in vitro*. The most potent class of cross-reactive antibodies achieved neutralization
56 by blocking viral attachment to the host cell receptors ephrin-B2 and ephrin-B3. Antibodies from
57 this class mimic receptor binding by inducing a receptor-bound conformation to the HeV-RBP
58 protein tetramer, exposing an epitope that appears to lie hidden in the interface between
59 protomers within the HeV-RBP tetramer. Antibodies that recognize this cryptic epitope potently
60 neutralized HeV and NiV. Flow cytometric studies using cell-surface-displayed HeV-RBP
61 protein showed that cross-reactive, neutralizing mAbs from each of these classes cooperate for
62 binding. In a highly stringent hamster model of NiV_B infection, antibodies from both classes
63 reduced morbidity and mortality and achieved synergistic protection in combination and
64 provided therapeutic benefit when combined into two bispecific platforms. These studies
65 identified multiple candidate mAbs that might be suitable for use in a cocktail therapeutic

66 approach to achieve synergistic antiviral potency and reduce the risk of virus escape during
67 treatment.

68

69 **KEYWORDS:** Hendra Virus; Nipah Virus; Henipavirus Infections; Antibodies, Viral; B-
70 Lymphocytes; Antigen-Antibody Reactions; Antibodies, Monoclonal; Therapy: Epitopes; B-
71 Lymphocyte.

72 **Introduction**

73 Hendra virus (HeV) and Nipah virus (NiV), the prototypic henipaviruses, are emerging zoonotic
74 paramyxoviruses known to cause severe disease in humans and diverse other mammalian orders.
75 Multiple species of of *Pteropid* bats (flying foxes) act as reservoir hosts for these negative-sense,
76 single-stranded RNA viruses in the *Paramyxoviridae* family with which they are understood to
77 have co-evolved (Chua et al., 2002; Halpin et al., 2011; Halpin et al., 2000; Vidgen et al., 2015).
78 HeV is transmitted from flying foxes to horses and from horses to in-contact humans causing
79 severe respiratory and/or encephalitic disease mediated by endothelial vasculitis in both
80 (Escaffre et al., 2013; Field, 2016; Murray et al., 1995a). HeV was identified in 1994, having
81 caused the death of 13 of 20 infected horses and one of two infected humans in Queensland,
82 Australia (Murray et al., 1995b; Selvey et al., 1995). Spillover has occurred sporadically with
83 some seasonal and climatic trend since, causing disease in 105 horses and seven humans, with
84 high case fatality rates. NiV, which was discovered four years after HeV when hundreds of pig
85 handlers fell ill with encephalitic disease (Chua et al., 1999), has continued to cause sporadic
86 outbreaks in Bangladesh and India (Arunkumar et al., 2019; Soman Pillai et al., 2020). More
87 direct routes of infection, including human-to-human transmission, and mortality rates
88 approaching 100%, have been observed during recent NiV outbreaks (Chadha et al., 2006;
89 Clayton et al., 2012; Gurley et al., 2007). Anthropogenic and climatic influences on flying foxes
90 are affecting their roosting, feeding and migration habits as well as their susceptibility to heat-
91 stress, disease and injury (Kessler et al., 2018; Plowright et al., 2015). These factors together
92 with their resultant increase in intermediate host contact (humans and domestic animals) are
93 associated with increasing geographic range and frequency of Henipavirus disease spillover
94 (Martin et al., 2018; Walsh et al., 2017). While HeV and NiV outbreaks historically have been

95 confined geographically to Australia and Southeast Asia, respectively, risk of pandemic spread
96 of these highly pathogenic agents related to regional and global population densities and
97 difficulty avoiding international transmission via infected travelers has been highlighted by
98 recent experience with SARS-CoV-2 (Morens and Fauci, 2020). Such consideration prompted
99 the World Health Organization (WHO) to designate henipavirus infections as priority diseases
100 requiring extensive and immediate research and development (Sweileh, 2017). The risk of global
101 health crisis associated with Henipaviruses is exacerbated by the lack of licensed antiviral drugs
102 or vaccines for HNV and a dearth of knowledge of the human immune response to these viruses
103 (Escaffre et al., 2013; Gomez Roman et al., 2020).

104

105 Passive immune transfer studies in both hamsters and ferrets have provided evidence that
106 neutralizing antibodies are a correlate of immunoprotection from henipaviruses (Bossart et al.,
107 2009; Guillaume et al., 2004; Guillaume et al., 2006). These data have been corroborated in
108 multiple studies by investigators using murine, rabbit, or human antibody discovery technologies
109 to isolate potentially neutralizing antibodies to HeV and/or NiV (Aguilar et al., 2009; Mire et al.,
110 2020; Zhu et al., 2006). One of these studies used phage display technology to isolate a human
111 monoclonal antibody (hmAb), designated m102.4 (Zhu et al., 2008). This mAb potentially
112 neutralizes both HeV and NiV *in vitro* and protects against infection and disease in experimental
113 henipavirus challenge models using ferrets or non-human primates (Bossart et al., 2011; Geisbert
114 et al., 2014; Mire et al., 2016). More recently, two human mAbs, HENV-26 and HENV-32, were
115 shown to neutralize HeV and NiV by distinct mechanisms and protect from NiV Bangladesh
116 (NiV_B) strain challenge in a ferret model (Dong et al., 2020). While these studies have laid a
117 foundation for our understanding of how to target henipaviruses therapeutically, many questions

118 remain regarding the antigenicity of the attachment glycoprotein, and whether escape mutations
119 from these mAbs can develop *in vivo*.

120

121 Here, we isolated hmAbs from circulating B cells of an individual with occupation-related
122 exposure to the equine HeV vaccine (Equivac[®] HeV). Members of this large panel of antibodies
123 target diverse antigenic sites, many of which are sites of vulnerability for neutralization for at
124 least one virus. In particular, two functional classes of antibodies that we have termed “receptor-
125 blocking” or “receptor-enhanced” neutralized HeV and NiV *in vitro* by distinct molecular
126 mechanisms and provided protection when used as monotherapy against lethal challenge in
127 hamsters with the highly virulent NiV_B strain. Antibodies recognizing these sites cooperate for
128 binding to the henipavirus RBP glycoprotein that mediates attachment (formerly designated the
129 G or glycosylated attachment protein, but recently renamed by the International Committee on
130 Taxonomy of Viruses) (Rima et al., 2019). These mAbs also synergize for neutralization of both
131 VSV-NiV_B, as well as two Cedar viruses chimerized to display the HeV or NiV_B RBP and F
132 surface glycoproteins. Cocktails of antibodies from these groups show superior therapeutic
133 efficacy in hamsters, while bispecific antibodies bearing antigen binding fragments from both
134 mAbs also show therapeutic benefit. In this model, “receptor-blocking” mAbs induce
135 conformational changes to the RBP that better expose the “receptor-enhanced” antigenic site.
136 These results suggest these mAbs could be used in a cocktail therapeutic approach to achieve
137 synergistic neutralizing potency against henipavirus infections.

138

139

140 **RESULTS**

141

142 **Cross-reactive, neutralizing antibodies target two distinct antigenic sites on HNV-RBP.**

143 Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) from an Australian veterinarian with occupation-
144 related exposure to HeV-RBP (Equivac® HeV) were tested for secretion of antibodies binding to
145 recombinant forms of the NiV attachment (RBP) glycoproteins for NiV_B, the NiV Malaysian
146 strain (NiV_M), or HeV. In total, we isolated 41 distinct new mAbs that bind henipavirus RBPs. In
147 order to group this large panel of mAbs rationally into those that recognized similar antigenic
148 sites, we used a surface plasmon resonance platform to bin antibodies based on the antigenic
149 sites they recognized on recombinant protein comprising the HeV-RBP head domain. This
150 method immobilizes a first antibody on the surface of a gold-coated sensor-chip that captures
151 soluble antigen, and then assesses the ability of a second antibody to bind to the captured
152 antigen. The resulting data showed that mAbs binding to HeV-RBP recognized at least 6 distinct
153 major antigenic sites, designated A-F (**Figure 1A, S1**).

154

155 In tandem, we used hydrogen-deuterium exchange mass spectrometry (HDX-MS) to map the
156 antigenic sites of representative antibodies from each group (**Figure 1B**), along with binding and
157 neutralization assays to determine cross-reactivity and functional activity (**Figure 1C, D**).

158 Antibodies belonging to groups A and C cross-reacted with HeV, NiV_M, and NiV_B-RBP, and
159 neutralized the corresponding viral strains. Group A, specifically, includes the control mAb
160 m102.4, which has been thoroughly characterized for its ability to viral attachment to the host
161 cell receptors ephrin-B2 and ephrin-B3, and potently neutralize both HeV and NiV. As expected,
162 a representative group A mAb HENV-98 caused a decrease in deuterium exchange in a region of

163 the HeV-RBP that corresponds to the receptor-binding site. All group A mAbs also neutralized
164 HeV, NiV_M, and NiV_B strains *in vitro*. Notably, HENV-117 displayed exceptional potency, with
165 half maximal inhibitory concentration (IC₅₀) values of 14, 8, or 15 ng/mL against HeV, NiV_M, or
166 NiV_B, respectively. To date, this is the most broad and potent neutralizing mAb targeting HeV
167 and NiV ever described, suggesting it may possess superior therapeutic activity.

168

169 Group D represents a second class of mAbs that cross-neutralize HeV NiV_M, and NiV_B, albeit
170 with roughly 10-fold less potency than group A. The group D representative mAb HENV-107
171 mapped to a distinct site on the HeV-RPB head domain spanning the β1 and β6 propeller blades.
172 This region of the head domain likely lies at the interface between protomers within the dimer-
173 of-dimers structure of the HeV-RBP tetramer, suggesting a semi-cryptic site of vulnerability on
174 RBP (Lee and Ataman, 2011). This region has been postulated to be important in fusion
175 triggering, as point mutations made to this region render F unable to complete its fusion cascade
176 (Aguilar et al., 2009; Liu et al., 2013).

177

178 While mAbs in group C display limited cross-neutralization of HeV and NiV, groups B and E
179 contain mAbs that only neutralize HeV with appreciable potency. Group F mAbs are weakly
180 neutralizing or non-neutralizing and appear to target an antigenic site that lies on the RBP face
181 opposite the receptor-binding domain. This epitope is likely in a site that is poorly accessible in
182 the membrane-bound form of RBP, lending to the poor neutralizing activity observed for these
183 mAbs. Overall, we discovered and mapped cross-reactive, neutralizing mAbs targeting two
184 distinct major antigenic sites that likely use distinct mechanisms to achieve virus neutralization.

185

186 **Neutralizing mAbs either compete with, or are enhanced by, ephrin-B2 binding to HeV-**
187 **RBP.** With the knowledge that group A mAbs map to the receptor-binding domain of HeV-RBP,
188 we sought to determine if these antibodies could block binding of soluble ephrin-B2 to cell
189 surface-displayed HeV-RBP. 293F cells were transiently transfected with a cDNA construct
190 encoding full-length HeV-RBP (head, stalk, transmembrane, and cytoplasmic domains) and
191 incubated for 72 hours. These cells then were incubated with saturating concentrations of
192 recombinant, soluble ephrin-B2, followed by addition of anti-RBP mAbs at a concentration of 2
193 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ to assess the ability of antibodies to bind RBP in its receptor-bound state. Cells were
194 analyzed by flow cytometry, comparing antibody binding in the presence or absence of ephrin-
195 B2 (**Figure 2A**). Antibodies in group A displayed a substantial decrease in binding in the
196 presence of ephrin-B2, supporting the hypothesis that mAbs from this group potentially neutralize
197 by blocking binding of virus to host cells. This receptor-blocking phenotype is reflected in the
198 activity of the control mAb m102.4, which also displayed decreased signal when associated to
199 receptor-bound RBP.

200

201 We also assessed antibodies from all other epitope binning groups for their ability to bind RBP in
202 the presence of ephrin-B2. Antibodies from group F did not bind to surface-displayed HeV-RBP,
203 further suggesting these antibodies cannot access this antigenic site when RBP is in its
204 tetrameric, membrane-bound form. Group B, C, and E mAbs bound to HeV-RBP with equal
205 signal in the presence or absence of ephrin-B2. Surprisingly, cross-reactive and neutralizing
206 antibodies in group E displayed a “receptor-enhanced” phenotype, in which binding was
207 increased in the presence of ephrin-B2. As HDX experiments suggested this antigenic site lies at
208 the putative interface between protomers within the HeV-RBP dimer, it is likely that receptor

209 binding alters the conformation of HeV-RBP, better exposing this epitope and increasing binding
210 by mAbs to this site. In summary, cross-reactive and neutralizing mAbs displayed either
211 “receptor-blocking” or “receptor-enhanced” phenotypes, suggesting distinct neutralization
212 mechanisms used by antibodies targeting distinct sites.

213

214 **Negative stain electron microscopy (nsEM) elucidates structural determinants of**
215 **recognition by receptor-blocking and receptor-enhanced mAbs.** To gain insight into the
216 structural determinants of recognition by “receptor-blocking” and “receptor-enhanced” mAbs,
217 we performed nsEM on HeV-RBP complexed with representative Fabs based on the sequence of
218 HENV-117 (blocking) or HENV-103 (enhanced). Initial studies with HeV-RBP ectodomain
219 (head and stalk domains) purified by size exclusion chromatography showed substantial
220 structural heterogeneity of both dimeric and tetrameric complexes (data not shown). In order to
221 generate more structurally homogeneous antigen suitable for 3D reconstruction, we purified
222 HeV-RBP by gradient fixation ultracentrifugation using a 10 to 30% glycerol gradient containing
223 a linear 0 to 0.1% glutaraldehyde gradient. This method achieved highly pure material,
224 appropriate separation of monomeric, dimeric, and tetrameric species, and structural
225 homogeneity induced by mild glutaraldehyde fixation. Dimeric HeV-RBP was complexed with a
226 molar excess of HENV-117 and HENV-103 and assessed using nsEM.

227

228 Both HENV-103 and HENV-117 bind simultaneously to the HeV-RBP, further confirming these
229 mAbs recognize distinct antigenic sites (**Figure 2B**). By docking the crystal model of the head
230 domain bound the ephrin-B2 receptor to the EM map, we observed that HENV-117 mimics the
231 binding position of the receptor, confirming the ability of 117 to block receptor attachment

232 **(Figure S3A)**. Conversely, HENV-103 approaches the HeV-RBP perpendicular to the receptor
233 binding domain at the putative interface between protomers within the RBP tetramer **(Figure**
234 **S3B)**. This antigenic site overlaps with previous published mAbs, including HENV-32.
235 Furthermore, modeling suggests that HENV-117 uses a long CDRH3 loop, binding to RBP in a
236 manner similar to the GH loop of ephrin-B2. In summary, HENV-103 and HENV-117 map to
237 distinct antigenic sites by negative stain EM, with HENV-117 mimicking ephrin-B2 binding,
238 while HENV-103 binds at the putative dimeric interface.

239

240 **Antibodies provide therapeutic protection in a highly stringent model of Nipah Bangladesh**
241 **virus challenge in Syrian golden hamsters.** Previous studies of murine and human mAbs
242 targeting HeV and/or NiV suggested passive immunization as a potential strategy for therapeutic
243 intervention. To assess therapeutic activity of antibodies in this large panel, we chose 5 candidate
244 mAbs representing groups A (receptor-blocking HENV-98, HENV-100, HENV-117) and D
245 (receptor-enhanced HENV-58, HENV-103) to test in a highly stringent NiV_B challenge model in
246 hamsters (Wong et al., 2003). Disease in this model follows a two-stage disease pattern with
247 differing sequelae: an acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)-like respiratory tract
248 component starting at day 3 to 4, and an encephalitic component beginning at days 8 to 12. On
249 day 0, Syrian golden hamsters were challenged intranasally with 5×10^6 PFU NiV_B. The
250 following day, hamsters were administered a 10 mg/kg dose of antibody by the IP route and
251 monitored for 28 days after challenge. While the hamster administered a vehicle control solution
252 succumbed at day 3, as much as 60% survival was achieved in animals administered either
253 “receptor-blocking” or “receptor-enhanced” mAbs. **(Figure 3A)**. The two most protective mAbs
254 from each class were HENV-117 and HENV-103, for which surviving animals in each treatment

255 group were able to maintain body weight throughout the study (**Figure 3B**). HENV-117 and
256 HENV-103 were also the two most potent mAbs from groups A and D, suggesting *in vitro*
257 potency by antibodies targeting these sites correlates with *in vivo* efficacy. In summary, receptor-
258 blocking and receptor-enhanced mAbs protect hamsters from NiV_B challenge, with HENV-117
259 and HENV-103 representing the most promising candidates targeting two distinct antigenic sites.

260

261 **HENV-117 and HENV-103 cooperate for binding to HNV-RBP, synergistically neutralize**
262 **rCedV-HeV.** RNA viruses, including HeV and NiV, use error-prone RNA-dependent RNA
263 polymerase (RdRP) complexes to achieve genome replication (Welch et al., 2020). While
264 generation of errors can lead to non-viable genomes in some cases, this process also affords
265 viruses the ability to escape from small and large molecule therapies by introducing amino acid
266 substitutions in the sites recognized by these molecules (Borisevich et al., 2016). This escape
267 pattern is of concern and has been observed in both *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies of diverse RNA
268 viruses, showing that antibody monotherapy approaches against viral pathogens may be
269 susceptible to failure. In order to combat escape, cocktails of antibodies targeting the same or
270 differing antigenic sites offer a higher threshold of protection, with escape becoming statistically
271 highly unlikely. Concurrently, studies of antibody cocktails against Ebola virus, HIV, and more
272 recently SARS-CoV-2, show the potential for synergistic activity by neutralizing antibodies, in
273 which one antibody potentiates the activity of another (Howell et al., 2017; Miglietta et al., 2014;
274 Zost et al., 2020a). With this goal in mind, we sought to determine whether “receptor-blocking”
275 and “receptor-enhanced” mAbs cooperatively bind to and neutralize henipaviruses. We
276 hypothesized that “receptor-blocking” mAbs would mimic the structural rearrangements in HeV-
277 RBP by ephrin-B2, better exposing the “receptor-enhanced” epitope, allowing for synergistic

278 neutralization by combinations of these antibodies. We chose the most potent and protective
279 candidates from each class, HENV-103 and HENV-117, for these studies.

280

281 We first tested the ability of HENV-117 to enhance the binding of HENV-103 to cell-surface
282 displayed RBP. Using the surface-display system, we incubated HeV-RBP-transfected cells in
283 saturating concentrations of mAbs that block ephrin-B2 binding. Without washing, we then
284 added serial dilutions of HENV-103 chemically labeled with an Alexa Fluor-647 tag. Cells then
285 were analyzed by flow cytometry to determine if HENV-103 showed increased binding signal
286 across a dilution series in the presence of “receptor-blocking” mAbs. When cells were incubated
287 with HENV-103 only, half maximal binding was achieved at 5,289 ng/mL. When cells were first
288 incubated with saturating concentrations of HENV-117, the EC₅₀ of HENV-103 shifted to 350
289 ng/mL, representing an increase in binding activity of approximately 15-fold (**Figure 4A**).

290 Notably, this cooperativity is unidirectional, as HENV-103 did not increase the binding of
291 HENV-117 (**Figure 4A**). This cooperative phenotype also depends on HENV-117, with
292 increasing HENV-117 concentrations showing increased binding by a constant concentration of
293 HENV-103 (**Figure 4B**). These data suggest that antibodies that bind the ephrin-B2 binding site
294 on HeV-RBP, such as HENV-117, mimic the conformational changes induced by ephrin-B2
295 binding, making a semi-cryptic epitope recognized by HENV-103 more accessible.

296

297 In order to show that this cooperative binding phenotype is recapitulated functionally, we
298 performed neutralization tests using solutions containing antibody pairs to determine synergistic
299 neutralization potential. In order to perform these assays in BSL-2 facilities, we used a non-
300 pathogenic henipavirus chimerized with HeV or NiV_B glycoproteins. In this system, recombinant

301 Cedar virus (rCedV) was engineered genetically to express RPB and F from HeV or NiV_B, as
302 well as a GFP reporter. The resulting chimeric viruses rescued were termed rCedV-NiV_B or
303 rCedV-HeV. We used a matrix approach to test antibody pairs for neutralization synergy, in
304 which serial dilutions of HENV-117 and HENV-103 were mixed together in a pairwise matrix,
305 followed by incubation with rCedV-HeV. Virus/mAb mixtures then were added to Vero E6 cell
306 monolayer cultures in 96-well plates. At approximately 22 hours after inoculating cells with
307 virus/antibody mixtures, plates were fixed and GFP+ foci counted to enumerate neutralization
308 values. To calculate synergy, neutralization matrix data were uploaded to the open source
309 program “SynergyFinder,” and synergy scores were calculated using the zero interactions
310 potency (ZIP) model (Ianevski et al., 2020). A score >10 suggests synergistic activity. We
311 observed that HENV-103 and HENV-117 gave an overall ZIP score of 13.1, with select
312 physiologically achievable cocktail concentrations achieving synergy scores >20 (**Figure 4C**).
313 This synergy was also observed when using rCedV-NiV_B, as well as a VSV pseudotyped with
314 NiV_B RBP and F, a platform described in detail previously (**Figure S4A,B**) (Mire et al., 2019).
315 These data together with binding studies show that antibodies from these classes cooperate for
316 binding to RBP and synergistically neutralize chimeric and pseudotyped viruses bearing RBP
317 and F proteins from HeV or NiV_B, suggesting they will likely function to synergistically
318 neutralize pathogenic henipaviruses.

319

320 **Antibody cocktails and derivative bispecific mAbs provide improved therapeutic activity in**
321 **hamsters.** Synergy observed *in vitro* by HENV-103 and HENV-117 against VSV-NiV_B and
322 rCedV-NiV_B suggested the potential for *in vivo* synergistic protection from NiV_B infection. To
323 assess this possibility, we took two separate approaches. In the first approach, we tested HENV-

324 103 and HENV-117 as a cocktail therapy in Syrian golden hamsters. Previously, animals were
325 treated with 10 mg/kg for each individual mAb. In this study, animals were treated with 5 mg/kg
326 HENV-103 and 5 mg/kg HENV-117 at 24 hours after intranasal inoculation with NiV_B. Using
327 monotherapy, we found that 3 of 5 animals treated with either HENV-103 or HENV-117
328 survived throughout the study. However, when given in combination, all animals survived and
329 maintained/gained weight for 28 days after infection (**Figure 5B**). These data show that HENV-
330 103 and HENV-117 provide synergistic protection in hamsters when administered together 24
331 hours after infection with NiV_B.

332
333 The second approach used two bispecific antibody platforms. The dual variable domain (DVD)
334 construct bears two heavy and light chain variable domains in each “arm,” with the domains
335 most Fc-distal corresponding to HENV-117 (Wu et al., 2007). A similar construct, termed
336 Bis4Ab, differs from DVD in that the Fc-distal HENV-117 component contains a full Fab
337 fragment, whereas the HENV-103 contains only heavy and light chain variable domains in a Fc-
338 proximal scFv format (Dimasi et al., 2019; Thanabalasuriar et al., 2017). We first tested these
339 constructs *in vitro* against VSV-NiV_B and found that both DVD and Bis4Ab constructs strongly
340 neutralized VSV-NiV_B with similar potency (**Figure 5A**). We again tested these in the Syrian
341 golden hamster model of NiV_B infection and found that in the DVD group, 4/5 hamster survived,
342 while protection in the Bis4Ab group mirrored that of monotherapy, with 3/5 hamsters surviving.
343 These data suggest that there may be added complexity to using bispecific antibody platforms
344 (whether or not both antigen binding fragments can engage antigen simultaneously, serum half-
345 life in rodents, etc.) and that combined administration of HENV-103 and HENV-117 provides

346 superior *in vivo* protection in comparison to monotherapy. This feature is complemented by the
347 added benefit of further protection from escape mutation.

348

349 **Discussion**

350 Recent epidemics or pandemics of Ebola, 2009 H1N1 influenza, and SARS-CoV-2 viruses
351 highlight the need for development of countermeasures against emerging viruses prior to
352 pandemics beginning. HeV and NiV are emerging and highly pathogenic viruses with confirmed
353 human-to-human transmission for which licensed treatments or vaccines for human use do not
354 exist. In this study, we isolated a panel of mAbs specific for the henipavirus RBP glycoprotein
355 from an individual with prior occupation-related exposure to equine HeV-RBP subunit vaccine.
356 Competition-binding and HDX-MS studies identified at least six distinct antigenic sites
357 recognized by these mAbs. Flow cytometric studies with surface-displayed HeV-RBP showed
358 that potently neutralizing, cross-reactive antibodies either a) blocked HeV-RBP binding to
359 ephrin-B2, or b) showed enhanced binding in the presence of ephrin-B2. Antibodies that block
360 receptor binding also induced the “receptor-enhanced” phenotype, showing that antibodies to
361 these two classes cooperate for binding to HNV-RBP. Concurrently, these mAbs also showed
362 synergy in neutralization of rCedV-HeV particles. As monotherapy, “receptor-blocking” and
363 “receptor-enhanced” antibodies provided modest protection in a highly lethal NiV_B challenge
364 model in Syrian golden hamsters. In combination, these antibodies provided complete
365 therapeutic protection in the same model of infection.

366

367 A significant concern when using antibodies as therapeutics against emerging infectious diseases
368 due to RNA viruses is the potential for viral ‘mutational escape’ within an infected host and

369 immune evasion by divergent variants. Escape from antibody-mediated neutralization has been
370 documented even with ultrapotent mAbs targeting conserved epitopes on viral glycoproteins
371 (Greaney et al., 2020). Using a cocktail of mAbs provides resistance against escape, with the
372 potential added benefit of synergistic antiviral potency, allowing for lower dosing. The potential
373 for spillover of divergent variants of bat-borne Paramyxoviruses (Henipaviruses and
374 Rubulaviruses) is consistent with the inherent propensity of RNA viruses for rapid evolution.
375 Furthermore, flying foxes serve as ideal reservoir hosts because of their dense community
376 roosting patterns and relative resistance to paramyxoviral disease (Baker et al., 2012; Barr et al.,
377 2015; Drexler et al., 2012; Luis et al., 2015; Peel et al., 2019; Sasaki et al., 2012; Vidgen et al.,
378 2015). The discovery of protective antibodies highlighted here, specifically HENV-103 and
379 HENV-117, offer the opportunity to construct a cocktail of antibodies with most-desired
380 protective properties including against mutation escape and spillover variant viruses.
381 Concurrently, a bispecific antibody with activity of both HENV-103 and HENV-117 is an
382 attractive therapeutic option that endows a single therapeutic molecule with the synergistic
383 potency of two individual mAbs. While we showed that two antibodies targeting RBP offer a
384 synergistic benefit, the possibility exists that having antibodies targeting both RBP and F may
385 provide also be of benefit. Recently, highly potent and protective anti-F antibodies have been
386 described and may offer an ideal partner to HENV-103, HENV-117, or both as a triple antibody
387 cocktail (Dang et al., 2019; Mire et al., 2020).

388

389 As with other paramyxoviruses, humans likely elicit highly functional antibodies against the
390 henipavirus F glycoprotein (Merz et al., 1980). This concept is highlighted by palivizumab, an
391 anti-F antibody used as a prophylaxis for premature infants to protect from infection by

392 respiratory syncytial virus (Meissner et al., 1999). Although, as highlighted above, protective
393 anti-F mAbs have been isolated, these have been uniformly of murine origin. The full antigenic
394 landscape of the henipavirus F protein may suggest new sites of vulnerability to neutralization by
395 monoclonal antibodies and could guide the rational design of henipavirus vaccines. This
396 opportunity is especially important considering the geographical range of henipaviruses, and the
397 fact that a previously undescribed virus from this genus may emerge to cause a pandemic.
398 Having knowledge of the determinants of neutralization for both RBP and F will allow for quick
399 mobilization of platform technologies to develop vaccines, similar to what we have seen in the
400 response to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic (Zost et al., 2020b).

401

402 The Syrian golden hamster model of henipavirus infection is a well-characterized model suitable
403 for down-selection of therapeutic antibody candidates. With wild-type mice being completely
404 refractory to infection, the hamster is currently the most cost-effective small animal model
405 available. With these benefits in mind, there are also limitations to these studies. The biphasic
406 nature of NiV_B disease in hamsters, for instance, in which respiratory disease precedes
407 neurological sequelae, does not fully recapitulate the human condition. Ferrets, and optimally,
408 African Green monkeys, are potential models for further preclinical development of these
409 promising antibody candidates. This possibility is especially true of the AGM model of NiV_B
410 infection, in which the therapeutic window for use of antibody therapies (treatment at days 3 to
411 5) is shorter than that of HeV and NiV_M (treatment at days 5 to 7) (Mire et al., 2016). Studies in
412 these models might further elucidate if HENV-103 and HENV-117 are superior to previously
413 described antibodies.

414

415 Here, and in previous studies, functional anti-henipavirus RBP-specific mAbs from multiple
416 species have been isolated. These antibodies uniformly recognize the head domain of RBP,
417 suggesting this region is likely the most immunogenic domain of the RBP. Multiple studies
418 interrogating the function of RBP, and its role in triggering the F protein to undergo significant
419 conformational rearrangements, have pointed to the RBP stalk domain as playing a significant
420 role in viral fusogenicity. Specifically, Aguilar *et al.* have shown that the C-terminal portion of
421 the stalk domain can trigger fusion of membranes in the absence of a head domain (Liu et al.,
422 2013). While it is likely that the stalk domain, which is partially obstructed by the head domain,
423 is immunogenically subdominant, it is possible that rare, circulating memory B cells harboring
424 antibodies targeting this domain exist. Future studies interrogating the antibody response to these
425 viruses also may shed light on the role of mAbs targeting the stalk domain of HNV-RBP, and
426 whether these antibodies have the potential to prevent viral and host membrane fusion.
427

428 **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

429 Supplemental Information including supplemental experimental procedures, figures, and tables
430 can be found with this article online.

431

432 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

433 We thank Chris Gainza and Rachel Nargi from Vanderbilt in the Crowe laboratory for technical
434 support with antibody production and purification, and Joseph Reidy, Andrew Trivette, and
435 Robert Carnahan for intellectual contributions to antibody production and sequencing, and Ian
436 Setliff and Ivelin Georgiev for statistical support. We also thank Mathew Hyde and the UTMB
437 Animal Resource Center for their assistance with animal procedures. This work was supported
438 by a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) U19 AI142764 and departmental funds
439 from UTMB to Thomas Geisbert. The work of MPD was supported by NIH fellowship grant F31
440 AI152332. The project described was supported by CTSA award No. UL1 TR002243 from the
441 National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). The contents of this
442 publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the
443 official views of NIAID or NIH.

444

445 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

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450 Supervision C.C.B., T.W.G., J.E.C.; Project Administration T.W.G., J.E.C.; Funding Acquisition
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452

453 **Declaration of interests.** J.E.C. has served as a consultant for Lilly and Luna Biologics, is a
454 member of the Scientific Advisory Boards of CompuVax and Meissa Vaccines and is Founder of
455 IDBiologics. The Crowe laboratory at Vanderbilt University Medical Center has received
456 unrelated sponsored research agreements from IDBiologics and AstraZeneca. E.A.K., Z.A.B.,
457 and B.R.W. are employees and shareholders of Mapp. L.Z. is an employee, shareholder and co-
458 owner of Mapp. All other authors declare no competing interests.

459 **Figure Legends**

460

461 **Figure 1. Identification of major antigenic sites for recognition of RBP by human mAbs. A)**

462 Surface plasmon resonance competition-binding of human antibodies against HeV-RBP. A first

463 antibody was applied to a gold-coated sensorchip, and recombinant HeV-RBP head domain was

464 associated to the coupled antibody. A second antibody was applied to the sensorchip to

465 determine binding to RBP. Black boxes indicated a pairwise interaction in which the binding of

466 the second antibody is blocked by the first. White indicates both antibodies could bind

467 simultaneously. Gray indicates an intermediate competition phenotype. The matrix was

468 assembled using the Carterra Epitope software. **B)** Hydrogen-deuterium exchange mass

469 spectrometry profiles for representative mAbs. Decrease (blue) or increase (red) in deuterium

470 exchange on HeV-RBP in the presence of antibody is mapped onto the crystal structure of HeV-

471 RBP (PDB 6CMG). Structures are positioned in 3 orientations, with the top structure noting the

472 ephrin-B2 binding site in yellow. **C)** Half maximal binding (blue) or neutralization (green)

473 concentrations for antibodies against recombinant proteins or live HeV or NiV, respectively. **D)**

474 Neutralization curve plots for representative antibodies against HeV, NiV Malaysia, or NiV

475 Bangladesh viruses. Representative EC_{50} values for binding from 3 independent experiments are

476 shown. IC_{50} values for neutralization are from a single independent experiment due to limitations

477 of BSL-4 resources.

478

479 **Figure 2. Receptor blocking and structural studies. A)** Antibody binding to cell-surface-

480 displayed HeV-RBP when ephrin-B2 is bound. Cells transiently transfected with a cDNA

481 encoding the full-length HeV-RBP were incubated with a saturating concentration of

482 recombinantly expressed ephrin-B2. Without washing, cells were incubated with 2 $\mu\text{g/mL}$
483 antibody, and binding was compared to binding of antibodies in the absence of ephrin-B2. The
484 mAb m102.4 served as a control for receptor competition. Pooled data from 3 independent
485 experiments are shown. **B)** Three-dimensional reconstruction from negative stain electron
486 microscopy of dimeric HeV-RBP full ectodomain bound to HENV-103 Fab and HENV-117-Fab.
487 The EM map is shown in gray, the Fabs are in purple and green, and the RBP head domain is
488 colored by β -propeller. 2D classes are shown, with box size of 128 at A/pix of 3.5.

489

490 **Figure 3. Therapeutic protection by human antibodies in hamster model of Nipah**

491 **Bangladesh challenge.** Survival curves (left) and weight maintenance (right) for hamsters
492 treated with 10 mg/kg antibody (n=5 per group) 24 hours post-inoculation with 5×10^6 PFU NiV
493 Bangladesh by the intranasal route. An untreated control animal (n=1) succumbed to infection 3
494 days post-inoculation. All weight maintenance charts include control animal in black. Two
495 historical controls are plotted on survival curves and pooled with the experimental control to
496 perform statistical analysis by the long rank Mantel-Cox test.

497

498 **Figure 4. Synergistic binding and neutralization. A)** Cooperative binding by HENV-103 and
499 HENV-117 to cell-surface-displayed HeV-RBP. Cells expressing HeV-RBP were incubated with
500 unlabeled HENV-103 or HENV-117, followed by addition of a dilution series of Alexa Fluor
501 647 (AF647) -labeled HENV-103 or HENV-117. Cells were analyzed by flow cytometry and
502 gated for AF647-positive cells. Data were pooled from 3 independent experiments. **B)**
503 Dependence of HENV-117 effective concentration on HENV-103 binding enhancement. Cells
504 were incubated with varying concentrations of unlabeled HENV-117, followed by incubation

505 with AF647-labeled HENV-103 at 0.5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, with enhancement calculated by comparing
506 AF647+ cells to HENV-103 binding to HeV-RBP in the absence of HENV-117. Representative
507 data from 3 independent experiments are shown. **C)** Synergistic neutralization of rCedV-HeV by
508 HENV-103 and HENV-117 combinations. Neutralization values at each matrix concentration
509 (top) and calculated synergy scores (bottom) are shown. Serial dilutions of HENV-103 and
510 HENV-117 were mixed with 4,000 PFU rCedV-HeV-GFP for 2 hours, followed by addition to
511 Vero E6 cell monolayers in 96 well plates. Formalin fixed cells were imaged using a CTL S6
512 analyzer to count GFP+ cells. Neutralization was calculated by comparing treatment to virus-
513 only control wells. Values were imported into SynergyFinder using a Zero Interactions Potency
514 (ZIP) statistical model. Delta scores >10 indicate likely synergy. Two independent experiments
515 were performed, with data from a single representative experiment shown.

516

517 **Figure 5. Antibody cocktail and corresponding bispecific antibody therapeutic activity in**
518 **hamsters. A)** Neutralization of VSV-NiV_B by bispecific antibodies in comparison to equimolar
519 antibody cocktail. Representative data from two independent experiments is shown, each
520 performed in technical triplicate. **B)** Syrian golden hamster challenge studies with HENV-103
521 and HENV-117 cocktail or corresponding bispecific antibodies. Challenge studies were
522 performed as described above. P values represent statistical significance as determined by
523 Mantel-Cox log rank test. N=5 animals were included in all groups, with control animals treated
524 with PBS at 24 hours post-inoculation.

525

526 **Figure S1 (related to figure 1). ELISA binding curves for representative antibodies from**
527 **group A (receptor-blocking), group D (receptor-enhanced), or control antibodies. Values**

528 were fit to a non-linear regression model in GraphPad to generate curves following log
529 transformation of antibody concentrations. Data representative of three independent experiments
530 performed in technical duplicate are shown.

531

532 **Table S1 (related to Figure 1). Sequence features of 5 potently neutralizing, cross reactive**
533 **antibodies chosen for *in vivo* studies.** Heavy and light chain sequences were analyzed using
534 IgBLAST to identify V(D)J pairings for each mAb shown.

535

536 **Figure S2 (related to Figure 1). Pearson correlation analysis of surface plasmon resonance**
537 **competition binding.**

538

539 **Figure S3 (related to Figure 2). Prediction of antigenic sites recognized by HENV-103 and**
540 **HENV-117 by negative stain EM. A)** The RBP head domain with a model of HENV-117 scFv
541 (gray) overlapping with ephrin-B2 receptor electron density (dot surface PRB: 9PDL). **B)** The
542 RBP head domain with a model of HENV-103 Fv (blue) from top (right, looking down on
543 ephrin-B2 binding face) and side (left) view. Black line denoted the putative dimerisation
544 interface

545

546 **Figure S4 (related to Figure 3). Synergistic neutralization of rCedV-NiV_B and VSV-NiV_B**
547 **by HENV-103 and HENV-117.** Synergy plots using the zero interactions potency (ZIP) model
548 generated by SynergyFinder for neutralization of **A)** rCedV-NiV_B or **B)** VSV-NiV_B.

549 Representative data from two (A) or three (B) independent experiments shown.

550

551

552 **Methods**

553 **Generation of hmAbs**

554 Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) from a human subject were isolated from whole
555 blood and transformed using Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), as previously described (Crowe, 2017).
556 Briefly, transformed B cells were expanded and co-cultured with irradiated human PBMCs in
557 96-well plates. Cell supernatants were screened by ELISA using recombinant HeV-RBP or NiV-
558 RBP head domain proteins. Wells with positive reactivity then were fused to a human-mouse
559 heteromyeloma cell line (HMMA 2.5) and plated by limiting dilution in 384-well plates. The
560 resulting hybridomas were cloned as single cells by fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS)
561 to produce clonal hybridoma cell lines. These clonal hybridoma cells were cultured in T-225
562 flasks containing serum-free medium, and mAb was purified from spent medium by affinity
563 chromatography on an ÄKTATM pure Fast Protein Liquid Chromatography (FPLC) instrument
564 (GE Healthcare).

565

566 **Generation of bispecific mAbs**

567 Bispecific mAbs that combined the antigen binding domains of HENV-117 and HENV-103 into
568 a single molecule were designed, expressed, and purified as follows. The heavy chain of the
569 HENV-117-103 DVD combines the heavy chain variable domains of first HENV-117, then
570 HENV-103, each separated by a flexible linker, and then followed by the IgG1 human constant
571 heavy chain domains. Similarly, the light chain of the HENV-117-103 DVD includes the light
572 chain variable domains of both HENV-117 and HENV-103, separated by a flexible linker and
573 then followed by a single human kappa light chain constant domain which naturally pairs with
574 the corresponding DVD heavy chain. The HENV-117-103 Bis4Ab was constructed by inserting

575 a HENV-103 single-chain variable fragment (scFv) between CH₁ and CH₂ of the HENV-117
576 heavy chain. The HENV-103 scFv in the bis4Ab format contains a poly glycine-serine linker
577 between its variable domains, and the scFv unit is also flanked by poly glycine-serine linkers.
578 The modified heavy chain is then paired with the standard HENV-117 light chain for expression
579 and purification (Dimasi et al., 2019). The heavy and light chains of the HENV-117-103 DVD
580 and the HENV-117-103 Bis4Ab were cloned into pcDNA3 expression vectors. For each of the
581 bispecific mAbs, the corresponding heavy and light chain plasmids were chemically co-
582 transfected into ExpiCHO cells (Gibco) and transiently expressed for 9 days. The supernatant
583 was then clarified by centrifugation and filtration, prior to loading onto a MabSelect SuRe
584 Protein A (GE Healthcare) affinity chromatography column using an ÄKTA™ Fast Protein
585 Liquid Chromatography (FPLC) instrument (GE Healthcare). The column was washed with 1X
586 PBS, and the mAbs were eluted with IgG Elution Buffer (Pierce). Following neutralization with
587 1 M Tris pH 8.0 to pH ~7, the eluates were concentrated to 5 mg/ml in an Amicon 30K MWCO
588 centrifugal filter (Millipore), and then sterile-filtered using a 0.22 µM syringe filter (Millex-GP).
589

590 **HeV and NiV viruses.** NiV number 1999011924 was obtained from a patient from the 1999
591 outbreak in Malaysia. The isolate of NiV_B used was 200401066 and was obtained from a fatal
592 human case during the outbreak in Rajbari, Bangladesh in 2004 and passaged on Vero E6 cell
593 monolayer cultures twice, making this a passage 2 virus. HeV was obtained from a patient from
594 the 1994 outbreak in Australia. All viruses were kindly provided by Dr. Thomas Ksiazek,
595 UTMB. Each virus was propagated on Vero E6 cells in Eagle's minimal essential medium
596 supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum. The NiV_M, NiV_B and HeV challenge virus stocks were
597 assessed for the presence of endotoxin using The Endosafe-Portable Test System (PTS) (Charles

598 River Laboratories, Wilmington, MA). Each virus preparation was diluted 1:10 in Limulus
599 Amebocyte Lysate (LAL) Reagent Water per the manufacturer's instructions, and endotoxin
600 levels were tested in LAL Endosafe-PTS cartridges as directed by the manufacturer. Each
601 preparation was found to be below detectable limits, whereas positive controls showed that the
602 tests were valid. All experiments involving infectious henipaviruses were carried out at the
603 UTMB Galveston National Laboratory under biosafety level 4 conditions.

604

605 **Neutralization assays.** The virus neutralizing activity concentrations were determined for NiV_M,
606 NiV_B, and HeV using a plaque reduction assay. Briefly, antibodies were diluted two-fold from
607 100 µg/mL to extinction and incubated with a target of ~100 plaque-forming units (pfu) of
608 NiV_M, NiV_B, or HeV for 45 min at 37°C. Virus and antibody mixtures then were added to
609 individual wells of six-well plates of Vero 76 cell monolayer cultures. Plates were fixed and
610 stained with neutral red two days after infection, and plaques were counted 24 h after staining.
611 Neutralization potency was calculated based on pfu for each virus in the well without antibody.
612 The neutralization experiments were performed in triplicate, with independent virus preparations
613 and duplicate readings for each replicate. Mean half-maximal inhibitory concentration (IC₅₀)
614 values were calculated as previously described (Ferrara and Temperton, 2018).

615

616 **Surface plasmon resonance (SPR) epitope binning**

617 A continuous flow micro-spotter (CFM) instrument (Carterra) was used to generate antibody-
618 coated SPR sensor chips (Xantec) (Abdiche et al., 2014). Briefly, mAbs were diluted to 10
619 µg/mL in sodium acetate pH 4.5 in a 96-well round bottom plate. A mirroring 96-well plate

620 containing activation buffer (EDC and sulfo-NHS in 10 mM MES pH 5.5) was used first to
621 activate the gold-plated surface of the sensor chip, followed by association of antibodies. The
622 coated chip then was moved to an IBIS-MX96 microarray-based surface plasmon resonance
623 imager (Carterra), where it was quenched with 1 M ethanolamine to prevent further coupling of
624 proteins. To bin antibodies, 100 mM HeV-RBP head domain was flowed over the coated sensor
625 chip. One-by-one, antibodies diluted to 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ were tested for their ability to associate with
626 antigen captured on the sensor chip. Carterra Epitope software was used to analyze data and
627 construct competition-binding grids.

628

629 **Hydrogen-deuterium exchange mass spectrometry (HDX-MS) of Fab-HeV-RBP complexes.**

630 HDX-MS was performed as previously reported (Bennett et al., 2019). Briefly, antigen (HeV-
631 RBP) and selected mAbs were prepared individually or in complex at a protein-concentration of
632 10 pmol/ μL in 1 \times PBS pH 7.4 and incubated for 2 h at 0 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. Deuterium labeling was performed
633 by a 20-fold dilution of 3 μL sample in PBS pH 7.4 in D_2O and incubation at 20 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 0 s, 100
634 s, and 1000 s. The reaction was quenched by a 2-fold dilution in 1 \times PBS, 4 M guanidinium/HCl,
635 100 mM tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine to a final pH of 2.3 at 0 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. Samples were injected
636 immediately into a nano-ACQUITY UPLC system controlled by an HDX manager (Waters
637 Corporation, Milford, MA, USA). Online pepsin digestion was performed at 15 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, 10,000 psi at
638 a flow of 100 $\mu\text{L}/\text{min}$ of 0.1% formic acid in H_2O using an immobilized-pepsin column. A
639 Waters VanGuardTM BEH C18 1.7 μm guard column was used to trap peptides at 0 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 6 min
640 before separation on a Waters ACQUITY UPLC BEH C18 1.7 μm , 1 mm \times 100 mm column at a
641 flow of 40 $\mu\text{L}/\text{min}$ at 0 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ with a 6 min gradient of 5 to 35% acetonitrile, 0.1% formic acid in
642 H_2O . UPLC effluent was directed into a Waters Xevo G2-XS with electrospray ionization and

643 lock-mass acquisition (human Glu-1-Fibrinopeptide B peptide, $m/z=785.8427$) for peptide
644 analysis in MS^E-mode. The capillary was set to 2.8 kV, source-temperature to 80 °C, desolvation
645 temperature to 175 °C, desolvation gas to 400 L/h and the instrument was scanned over a m/z -
646 range of 50 to 2000. All experiments were carried out in triplicate. Data analysis was
647 accomplished using Waters ProteinLynx Global Server 3.0.3 software (non-specific protease,
648 min fragment ion matches per peptide of three, FDR 4% and oxidation of methionine as a
649 variable modification) for peptide identification and DynamX 3.0 software (minimum intensity
650 of 500, minimum products 3, minimum products per amino acid 0.3 and a mass error < 15 ppm)
651 for deuterium uptake calculations. Results are reported as an average of triplicate analyses.

652

653 **Generation of VSV pseudotyped viruses bearing NiV_B glycoproteins**

654 Recombinant VSVs containing genomic inserts for expression of NiV_B G and F proteins were
655 kindly provided by Chad Mire and generated as previously described (Mire et al., 2019). Stocks
656 of each rVSV were propagated and titrated on VSV-G transfected BHK-21 (WI-2), with viral
657 titers determined by counting GFP+ cells using a CTL S6 Analyzer instrument. To generate virus
658 bearing both G and F glycoproteins, cells were inoculated with each VSV at MOI=5 and
659 incubated for 48 hours. Cell supernatants were clarified by centrifugation. Resulting VSV-NiV_B
660 was titrated on Vero cell monolayers using an xCELLigence instrument to determine the lowest
661 virus concentration that would induce CPE as measured by cell impedance.

662

663 **Cooperative binding of antibodies to antigen displayed on the surface of cells**

664 A construct containing cDNA encoding full-length HeV-RBP protein was transfected using
665 polyethylenimine into 293F cells, and cells were cultured at 37 °C in 5% CO₂ for 3 days. Cells

666 subsequently were plated at 50,000 cells/well in V-bottom 96-well plates, washed, and incubated
667 with either 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ primary mAb in 30 μL or FACS buffer alone for 30 minutes at 4 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.
668 Without washing, 30 μL serially diluted mAb labeled with Alexa Fluor 647 dye (ThermoFisher)
669 was added to wells and incubated for 30 minutes at 4 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. Cells were washed and resuspended in
670 FACS buffer and analyzed using an iQue Plus flow cytometer (Intellicyt). Dead cells were
671 excluded from analysis by fluorescent staining with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI).

672

673 **Negative stain electron microscopy**

674 For electron microscopy imaging of HeV-RBP protein and Fabs complex, we expressed the
675 HeV-RBP full ectodomain (head domain with intact stalk domain) with a C-terminal
676 polyhistidine tag. Expressed protein was isolated by metal affinity chromatography on HisTrap
677 Excel columns (GE Healthcare), followed by GraFix methods using a 10% to 30% glycerol
678 gradient and 0 to 0.1% glutaraldehyde gradient (Stark, 2010). Glutaraldehyde was quenched with
679 1 M Tris-Cl after fractionation. 200 μL fractions were analyzed by SDS-PAGE, with fractions
680 corresponding to monomeric, dimeric, and tetrameric species pooled. Protein was then buffer
681 exchanged into 50 mM Tris-Cl pH 7.5 containing 140 mM NaCl. Fabs corresponding to HENV-
682 103 and HENV-117 were expressed and purified as previously described. Protein complexes
683 were generated by incubation of HeV-RBP_{ecto} dimer and the two Fab in a 1:5:5 molar ratio
684 overnight at 4 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. Approximately 3 μL of the sample at ~ 10 to 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ was applied to a glow-
685 discharged grid with continuous carbon film on 400 square mesh copper electron microscopy
686 grids (Electron Microscopy Sciences). Grids were stained with 0.75% uranyl formate (Ohi et al.,
687 2004). Images were recorded on a Gatan US4000 4k \times 4k CCD camera using an FEI TF20 (TFS)
688 transmission electron microscope operated at 200 keV and control with SerialEM. All images

689 were taken at 62,000 \times magnification with a pixel size of 1.757 Å per pixel in low-dose mode at a
690 defocus of 1.5 to 1.8 μ m. The total dose for the micrographs was \sim 35 e $^-$ per Å 2 . Image
691 processing was performed using the cryoSPARC software package. Images were imported, CTF-
692 estimated and particles were picked automatically. The particles were extracted with a box size
693 of 256 pixels and binned to 128 pixels (pixel size of 3.514 Å/pix) and 2D class averages were
694 performed to achieve clean datasets. Classes were further classified (2D) to separated different
695 complex variant and classes having the 2 Fab on one RBP domain were selected. *Ab-initio* was
696 used to generate initial 3D volume that was further refined with a mask over one RBP-Fabs
697 complex. The final refine volume has a resolution of \sim 15Å. Model docking to the EM map was
698 done in Chimera (Pettersen et al., 2004). For the RBP head domain PDB: 6PDL was used and for
699 the Fab PDB:12E8 or the prediction model of the Fv that was generated by SAbPred tool was
700 used (Dunbar et al., 2016). The 3D EM map has been deposited into EMDB (EMDB XXX).
701 Chimera software was used to make all structural figures.

702

703 **Neutralization synergy of VSV-NiV_B**

704 VSV-NiV_B pseudotype viruses were generated as described above. In 96-well plates, serial
705 dilutions of “receptor-blocking” and “receptor-enhanced” mAbs were mixed in a matrix
706 arrangement, followed by addition of equal volume of VSV-NiV_B diluted 1:500 in DMEM.
707 Mixtures were incubated for 1 hour at 37 °C prior to addition to Vero cell monolayers in
708 xCELLigence 96-well E-plates containing 10,000 cells/well. Cells were incubated with virus and
709 antibody for 1 hour at 37 °C, followed by addition of DMEM + 5% FBS to wells. Plates were
710 placed back on the xCELLigence instrument for reading of cell impedance every 15 minutes for
711 72 hours. Neutralization was determined by comparing cell index of treated wells vs. untreated

712 wells at a single time point (values output by xCELLigence instrument software). Neutralization
713 values then were imported into SynergyFinder software (Ianevski et al., 2020), with delta scores
714 calculated using the zero interactions potency (ZIP) synergy model.

715

716 **Neutralization synergy of rCedV chimeric viruses**

717 Recombinant Cedar virus chimeras displaying RBP and F proteins of HeV or NiV_B were
718 generated and validated as described elsewhere. Black-walled 96-well plates were coated with
719 20,000 cells/well Vero E6 cells in DMEM + 10% Cosmic calf serum and incubated overnight.
720 Approximately 24 hours later, HENV-103 and HENV-117 were diluted to indicated
721 concentrations and incubated 1:1 with 4,000 PFU/well rCedV-HeV-GFP or rCedV-NiV_B-GFP
722 and incubated for 2 hours at 37 °C. Following incubation, 90 µL virus/antibody mixtures were
723 added to aspirated cell monolayers and were incubated at 37 °C for 22 hours. Medium containing
724 virus/antibody mixtures was aspirated, and cells were fixed with 100 µL/well 4% formalin for 20
725 minutes at room temperature. After aspiration, cell monolayers were gently washed 4x with DI
726 water. GFP foci were then imaged on a CTL S6 plate analyzer, and spots were counted using S6
727 software. Percent neutralization was calculated by normalizing counts to a virus only control.
728 Matrices were then imported into SynergyFinder and analyzed as described before.

729

730 **Antibody therapy in Syrian golden hamster model of Nipah Bangladesh**

731 3 to 5 week-old Syrian golden hamsters were inoculated with 5×10^6 PFU Nipah Bangladesh
732 (passage 3) via the intranasal route. At 24 hours post challenge, 5 animals per group were treated
733 with 10 mg/kg antibody by intraperitoneal administration. Animals were monitored for 28 days
734 for changes in weight, temperature, and clinical appearance. Animals were humanely euthanized

735 at the experimental endpoint. A single untreated animal served as a control in each study

736 highlighted.

737

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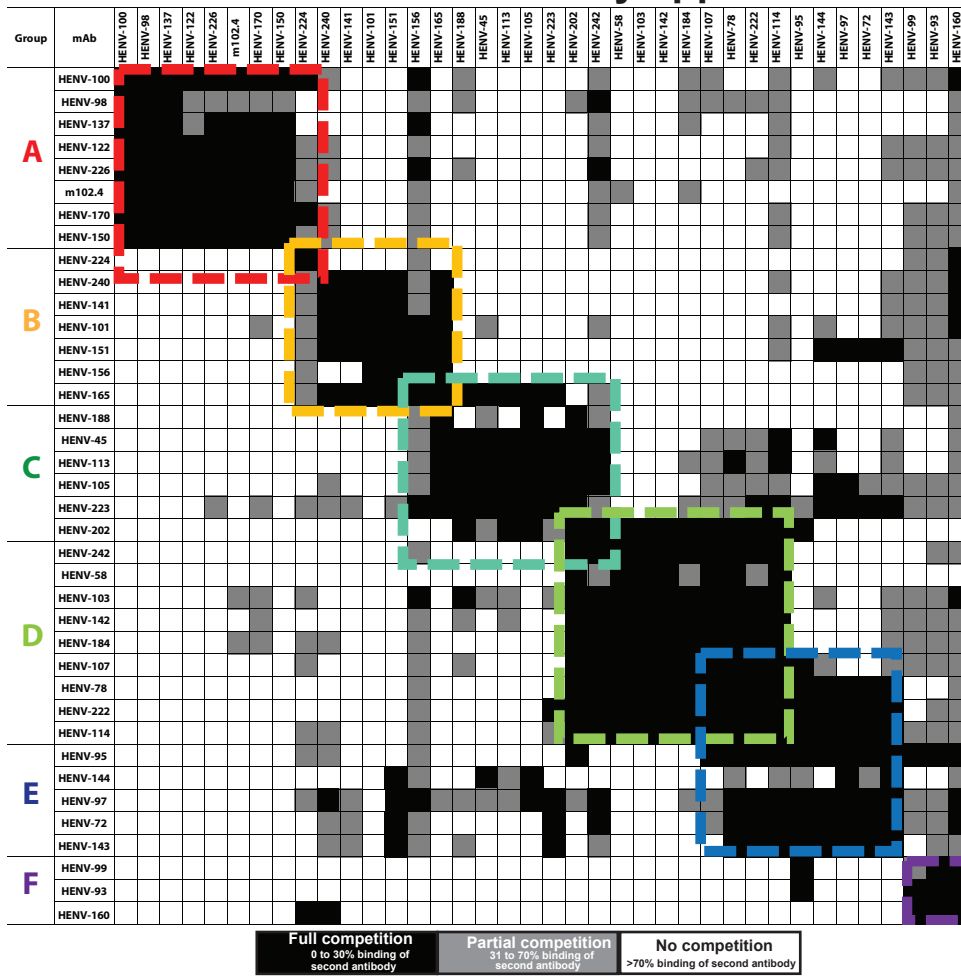
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A.

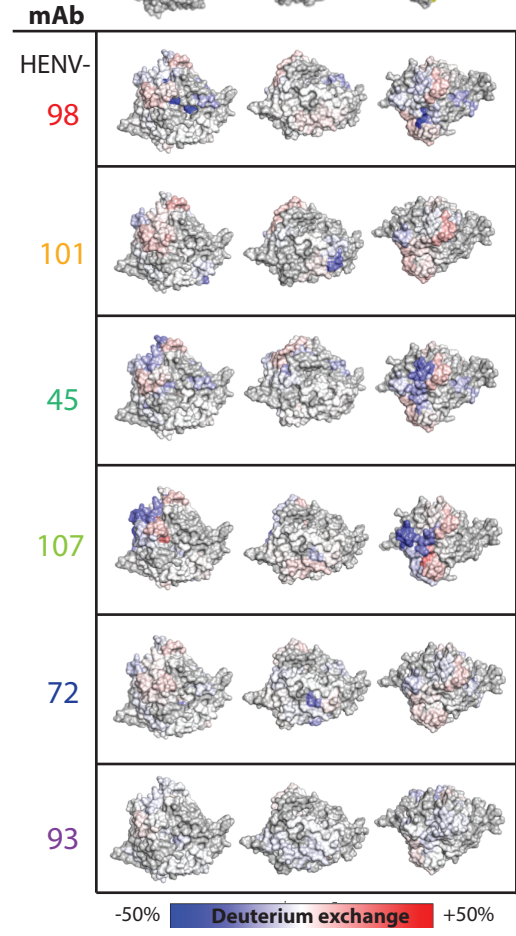
Second antibody applied

First antibody applied



Full competition 0 to 30% binding of second antibody
 Partial competition 31 to 70% binding of second antibody
 No competition >70% binding of second antibody

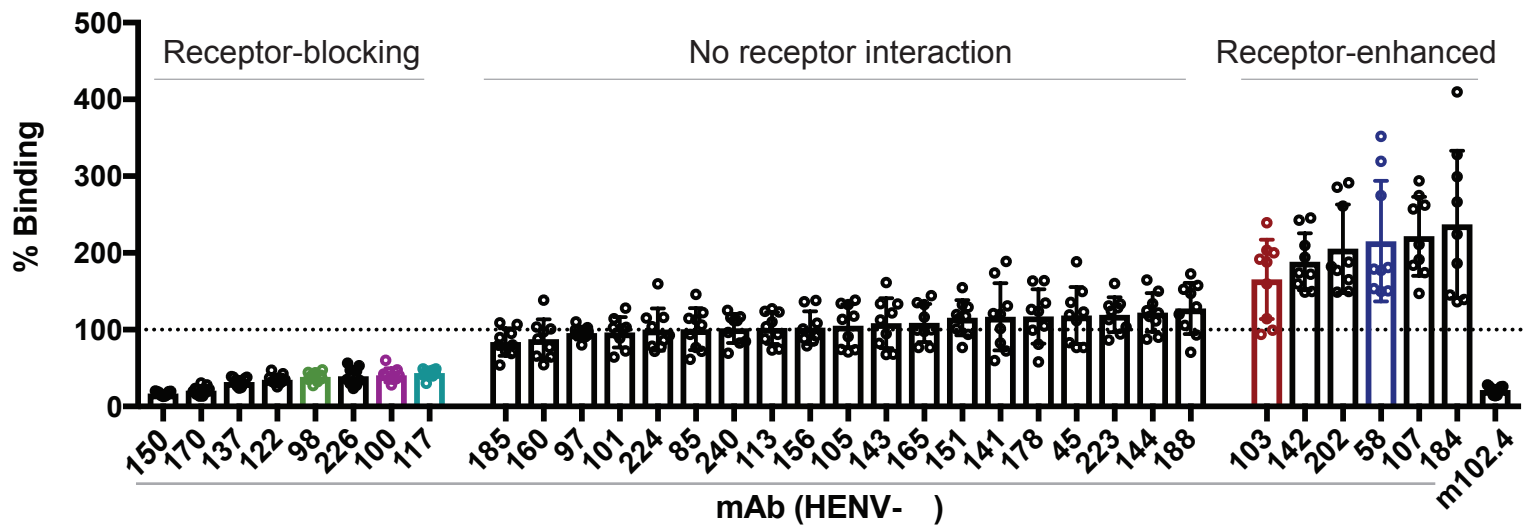
B.



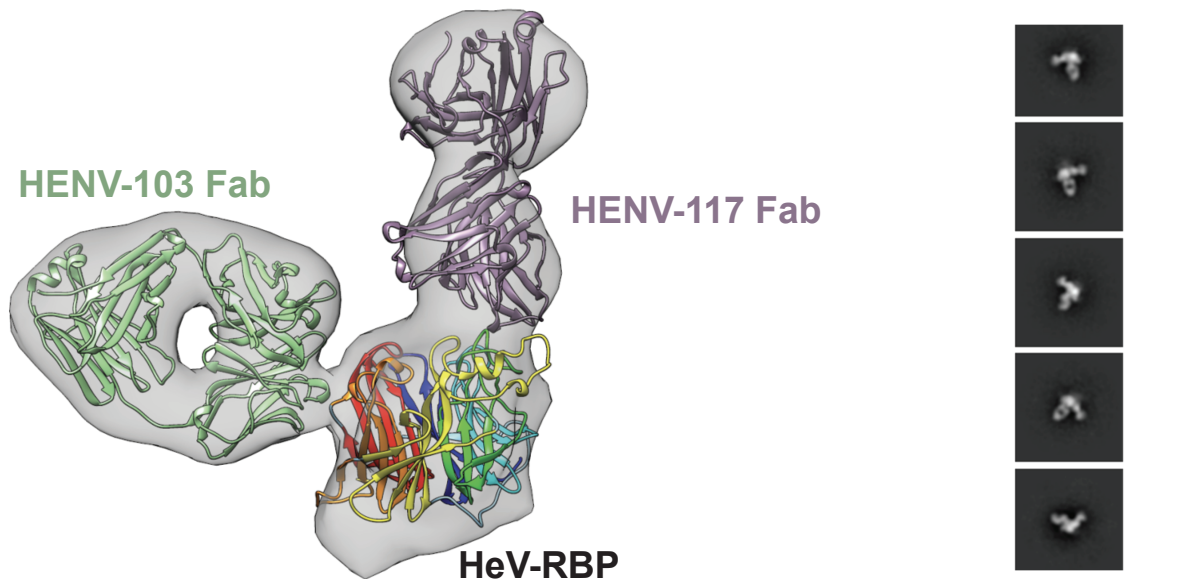
C.

Group	mAb	Binding EC ₅₀ (ng/mL)				Neutralization IC ₅₀ (ng/mL)		
		HeV-RBP FE	HeV-RBP HD	NiV ₁ -RBP HD	NiV ₂ -RBP HD	HeV	NiV ₁	NiV ₂
A	HENV-100	28	105	65	66	18	21	43
	HENV-226	38	99	94	88	34	51	79
	HENV-170	40	135	105	98	128	142	448
	HENV-98	44	132	101	94	18	23	58
	HENV-150	45	85	71	68	201	81	185
	HENV-137	49	179	122	134	32	32	194
	HENV-122	77	155	141	118	67	43	72
B	HENV-117	109	183	176	174	14	8	15
	HENV-224	28	79	>	>	378	>	>
	HENV-151	34	46	>	>	76	>	>
	HENV-101	39	39	>	>	61	>	>
B/C	HENV-141	53	62	59	55	171	268	2,758
	HENV-156	54	74	309	656	359	2,255	>
	HENV-240	93	140	>	>	753	>	>
C	HENV-165	49	49	>	>	148	>	>
	HENV-188	29	56	104	176	3,184	5,640	>
	HENV-45	31	69	110	>	61	3,619	>
C/D	HENV-113	31	36	73	245	64	1,045	8,112
	HENV-105	38	76	>	>	112	>	>
	HENV-223	49	46	>	>	56	>	>
D	HENV-202	368	>	>	>	9,251	7,976	>
	HENV-242	650	3,683	1,182	2,850	>	7,715	>
	HENV-142	50	514	309	1,260	1,049	1,224	2,311
D/E	HENV-103	53	269	135	370	445	420	507
	HENV-184	61	993	665	1,942	2,989	500	1,593
	HENV-58	90	373	275	472	2,182	129	900
E	HENV-107	113	519	>	>	3,734	>	>
	HENV-78	164	283	415	>	>	>	>
	HENV-222	292	1,640	265	2,327	>	9,761	>
	HENV-114	1,510	>	1,555	>	>	>	>
F	HENV-95	37	186	>	>	3,629	>	></

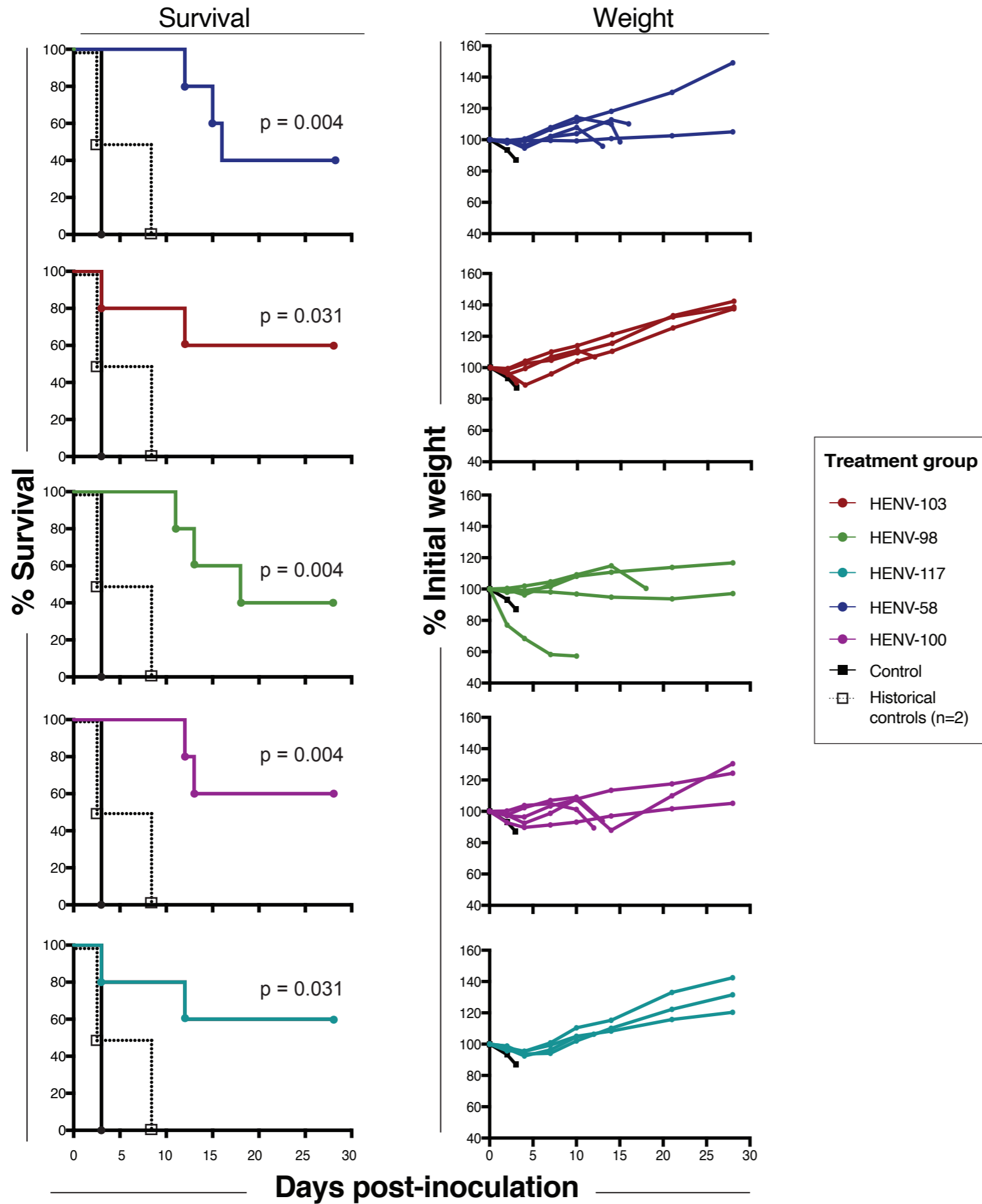
A. Ephrin-B2 competition binding



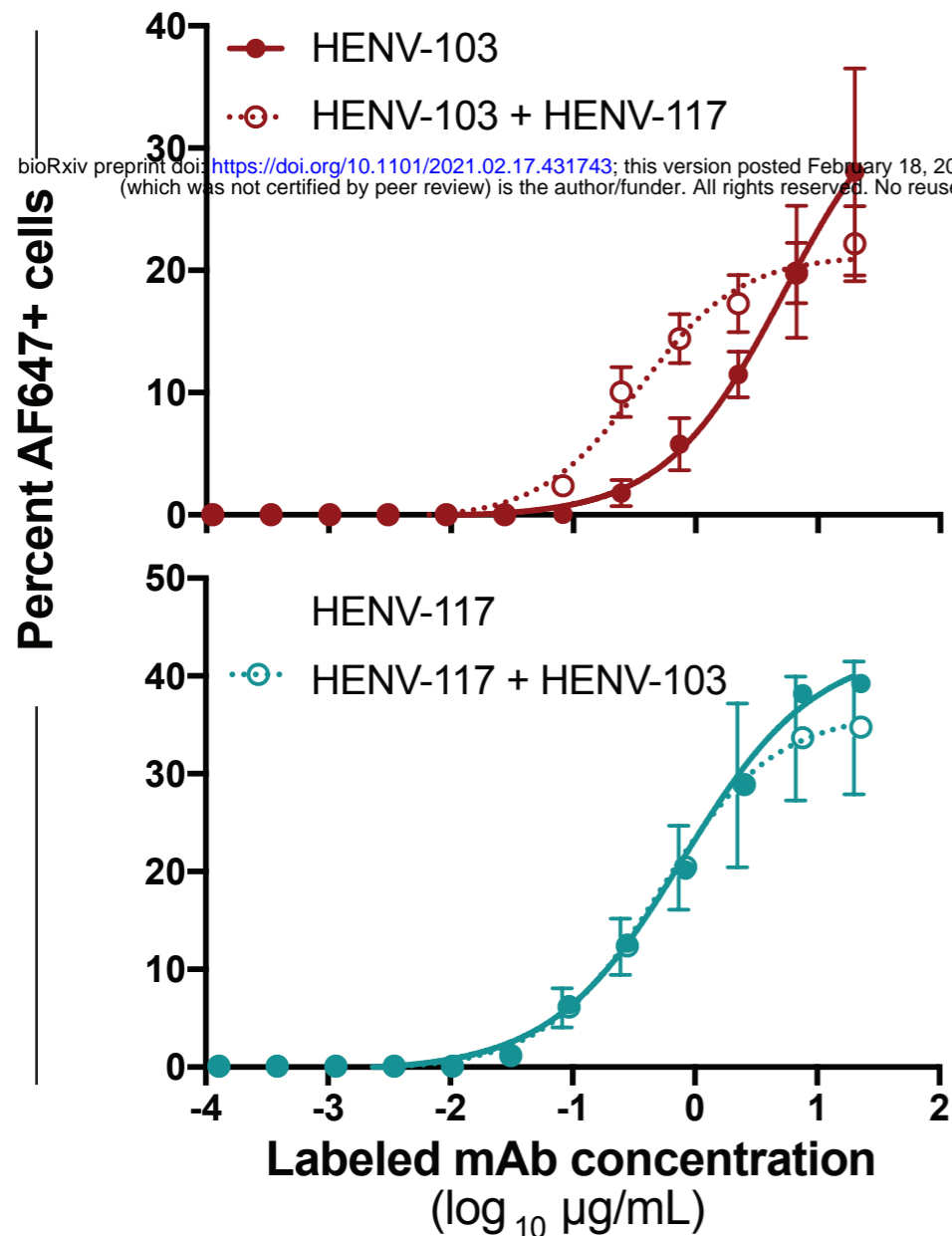
B. nsEM 3D reconstruction



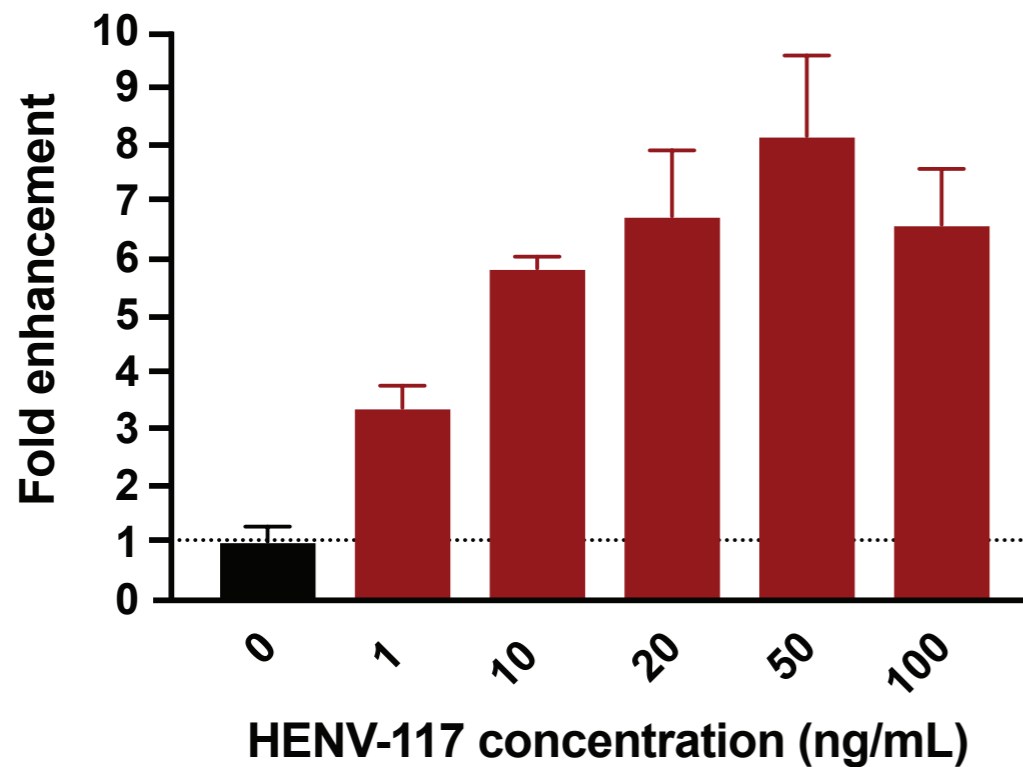
Nipah Bangladesh virus challenge



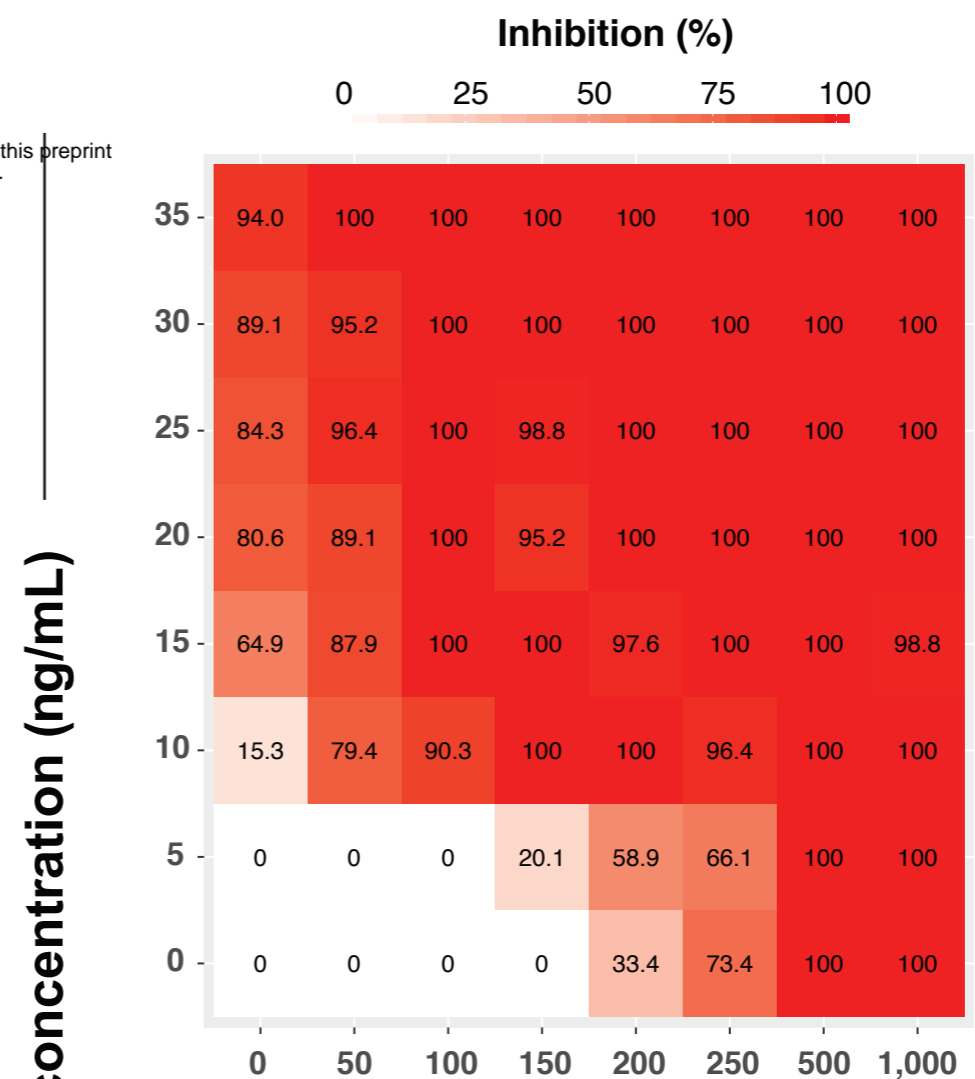
A. Binding to HeV-RBP



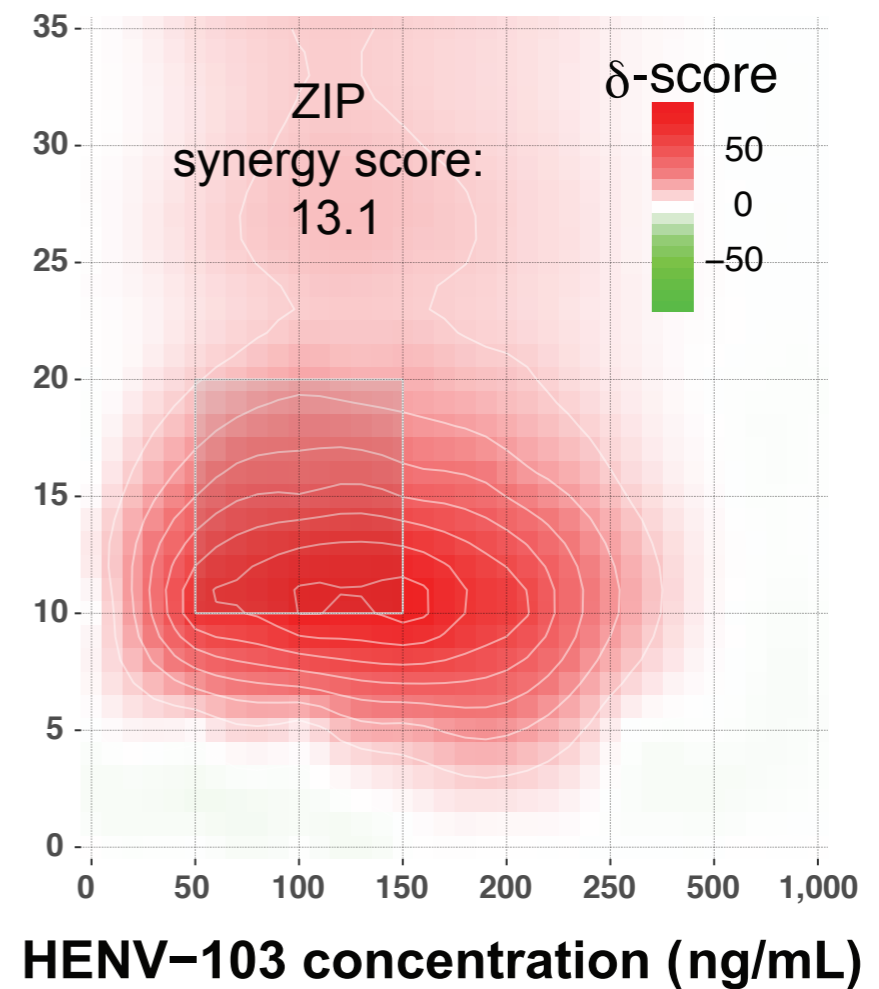
B. HENV-103 binding to HeV-RBP



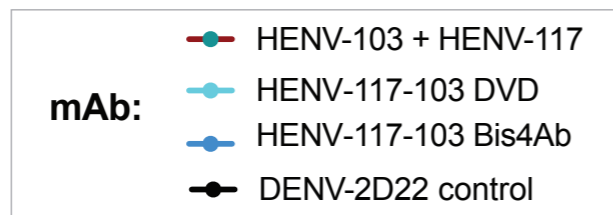
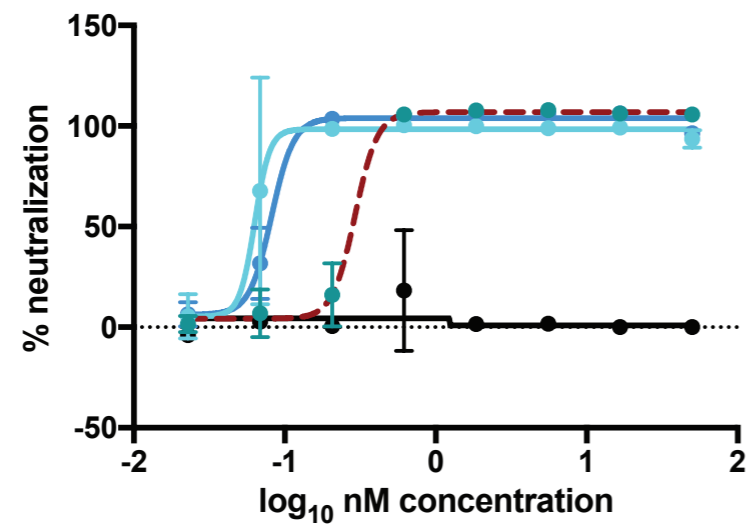
C. rCedV-HeV neutralization synergy



HENV-117 concentration (ng/mL)



A. NiV_B-VSV Neutralization *in vitro*



B. Authentic NiV_B challenge *in vivo*

