

# THE MORNING LINE

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Where's Polo Today?

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## A NEW FRONTIER AGAINST THE DISEASE

### HOW RESEARCH ON THE EHV-1 VIRUS CAN BRIGHTEN THE HORIZON FOR HORSES AND THEIR OWNERS, COMMUNITIES AND GOVERNMENT

BY FREDERIC ROY

One particularly worrisome and dangerous virus of recent concern is Equine Herpes virus 1 (EHV-1). EHV-1 is a virus that causes abortion, respiratory disease, neurological disease, and, occasionally, neonatal mortality in horses. There is currently no FDA approved vaccine or therapeutic against Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM), the often fatal neurologic form of an EHV-1 infection, and no treatment other than palliative care, although derivatives of acyclovir are sometimes used with limited success.

EHV-1 is spread by direct horse-to-horse contact and indirectly through contact with objects contaminated with the virus such as wipe rags, grooming equipment, food & water buckets, etc. and can decimate a stable.

With the increased frequency of outbreaks of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1), and with encouragement from collaborators at Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, **Nuovo Biologics**, a Davie Florida biopharmaceutical company, is trying to accelerate its entry into the Equine viral disease space.

Outbreaks of EHV-1 tend to occur in clusters and affect large numbers of valuable horses across large geographic areas. These appear to be occurring more frequently (and are often not reported) as exemplified by the EHV-1 outbreak in Ocala, Florida in February of 2013.

Such outbreaks have a major impact on the equine industry and horse owners as activities which bring large numbers of horses together such as polo tourna-

ment, horse shows, auctions, thoroughbred and quarterhorse racing, boarding stables and breeding efforts must be curtailed or canceled to limit exposure and the spread of the disease.

The outbreak at the 2011 Cutter Show in Ogden, Utah resulted in 90 horses with confirmed diagnoses and 13 horses that either died from the disease or were euthanized. As a result, all rodeos and shows for 3 months in the Western U.S. were shut down.

Nuovo Biologics is developing a proprietary broad spectrum antiviral drug, PVX, which experimental results indicate is effective against many virus families including influenzas, para-influenzas and herpes viruses across animal species including horses, dogs and cats as well as others.

The Company's drug in pilot studies has also shown indications of effectiveness against diseases such as Distemper, Parvo, Canine influenza, etc. It has been used in over 1,000 animals with no reported adverse events and appears safe.

PVX is a peptide based drug, an area of increasing interest to the pharmaceutical industry. Dr. Kent Miller, Ph.D., M.D., a Company founder, identified the antiviral properties of the peptide initially. Later Dr. Jay E. Yourist Ph.D., a founder and the Company's President and CEO, worked with Dr. Miller in performing basic research to study the antiviral properties of the drug and to identify the potential mechanism of action.

Nuovo Biologics has good reason to

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## NEW BRIDGE STARTS TOMORROW SUNDAY

