

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NON-HUMAN PRIMATE MODELS FOR AIDS RESEARCH

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Non-human primate models represent a unique resource and a powerful tool for studies of many aspects of AIDS research, ranging from basic studies of pathogenesis to proof of concept experiments and applied evaluations of new prophylactic and therapeutic approaches. However, the availability of multiple different non-human primate models, involving different non-human primate species and different viruses, having distinct features, can make following this field or contemplating studies in non-human primate models a daunting proposition for researchers not actively involved in this area. Ongoing development of new models, and refinement of existing models based on emerging research findings, represent additional challenges for the non-specialist. The presentation will review the basic features of non-human primate models and provide an update on recent developments, including: current findings regarding the role of microbial translocation in contributing to pathological chronic immune activation in AIDS virus infection; analysis of commonly used challenge virus stocks and optimization of mucosal challenge procedures; results from recent studies of vaccine approaches employing novel paradigms; and development of new non-human primate models.