WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. An antigenic reassortant influenza virus composition comprising, (i) internal gene segments PBl, PB2, PA, M, NP and NS from a first H5N1 influenza virus A strain and (ii) hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA) genes from a second H5N1 influenza virus A strain, the HA and NA genes being from the same viral strain, wherein said HA gene is modified to produce an attenuated virus.

2. The antigenic composition of claim 1, said HA gene modified at a polybasic cleavage site.

3. The antigenic composition virus of claim 1, said influenza virus characterized by the ability to propagate in mammalian cell culture, optionally wherein the mammalian cells are selected from the group consisting of MRC-5, MRC-9, Lederle 130, Chang liver and WI-38; U937, Vero, CV-1, IMR-90 and IMR-91, MDCK, MDBK, HEK, H9, CEM and CD4-expressing HUT78, PerC6, BHK-21 cells, BSC and LLC-MK2, preferably wherein the mammalian cell culture is a Vero cell culture.

4. The antigenic composition of claim 1, said HA and NA genes derived from an H5N1 strain selected from the group consisting of A/Vietnam/1203/2004, A/Hong Kong/213/03, A/Indonesia/5/05, A/Hong Kong/156/97, A/turkey/Turkey/01/2005, A/Anhui/1/05, A/Cambodia/R0405050/2007, A/chicken/Nakorn-Patom/Thailand/CU-K2/04, A/chicken/Vietnam/C58/04, A/quail/Vietnam/36/04, MDk/JX/1653/05, MDk/1657/JX/05, BH goose/QH/65/05, Gs/GD/l/96-like, Dk/Vietnam/568/05, Gs/GX/345/05, MDk/JX/1701/05, MDk/JX/2136/05, MDk/JX/2295/05, MDk/JX/2300/05, Dk/GX/351/04, Dk/GX/380/04, Dk/ST/4610/03, Ck/MYS/5858/04, Ck/Salatiga/BBVet-I/05, and Dk/VNM/S654/05, and A/Muscovy Duck/Vietnam/453/2004.

5. The antigenic composition of claim 1, said internal genes derived from an H5N1 strain selected from the group consisting of A/Vietnam/1203/2004, A/Hong Kong/213/03, A/lndonesia/5/05, A/Hong Kong/156/97, A/turkey/Turkey/01/2005, A/Anhui/1/05, A/Cambodia/R0405050/2007, A/chicken/Nakorn-Patom/Thailand/CU-K2/04, A/chicken/Vietnam/C58/04, A/quail/Vietnam/36/04, MDk/JX/1653/05, MDk/1657/JX/05,

BH goose/QH/65/05, Gs/GD/l/96-like, Dk/Vietnam/568/05, Gs/GX/345/05, MDk/JX/1701/05, MDk/JX/2136/05, MDk/JX/2295/05, MDk/JX/2300/05, Dk/GX/351/04, Dk/GX/380/04, Dk/ST/4610/03, Ck/MYS/5858/04, Ck/Salatiga/BBVet-I/05, and Dk/VNM/S654/05, and A/Muscovy Duck/Vietnam/453/2004.

6. The antigenic composition of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the internal gene segments are from A/Vietnam/ 1203/2004.

7. The antigenic composition of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the HA and NA genes are from the H5N1 strain A/Vietnam/ 1203/2004 or from the H5N1 strain A/Indonesia/5/05.

8. The antigenic composition of claim 2, wherein the modification at the polybasic cleavage site is mutation from **R**ERRRK**K**R (SEQ ID NO: 13) → **T**E**T**R (SEQ ID NO: 14).

9. The antigenic composition of any one of claims 1 to 5 further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. A vaccine comprising a reassortant influenza A virus, the virus comprising: (i) a polynucleotide encoding for PBl; a polynucleotide encoding for PA, a polynucleotide encoding for PB2, a polynucleotide encoding for M, a polynucleotide encoding for NP, a polynucleotide encoding for NS, the polynucleotides for PBl, PA, PB2, M, NP and NS derived from a first H5N1 influenza virus, and (ii) a polynucleotide encoding for surface protein HA and a polynucleotide encoding for surface protein NA, each of HA and NA derived from a second H5N1 influenza virus, the polynucleotides being operatively linked to allow packaging of the reassorted polynucleotides into a virion, wherein said HA gene is modified to produce an attenuated virus.

11. The vaccine of claim 10, said HA gene modified at a polybasic cleavage site.

12. The vaccine of claim 10, said internal genes derived from an H5N1 strain selected from the group consisting of A/Vietnam/1203/2004, A/Hong Kong/213/03, A/lndonesia/5/05, A/Hong Kong/156/97, A/turkey/Turkey/01/2005, A/Anhui/1/05, A/Cambodia/R0405050/2007A/chicken/Nakorn-Patom/Thailand/CU-K2/04, A/chicken/Vietnam/C58/04, A/quail/Vietnam/36/04, MDk/JX/1653/05, MDk/1657/JX/05, BH goose/QH/65/05, Gs/GD/l/96-like, Dk/Vietnam/568/05, Gs/GX/345/05, MDk/JX/1701/05, MDk/JX/2136/05, MDk/JX/2295/05, MDk/JX/2300/05, Dk/GX/351/04, Dk/GX/380/04, Dk/ST/4610/03, Ck/MYS/5858/04, Ck/Salatiga/BBVet-I/05, and Dk/VNM/S654/05, and A/Muscovy Duck/Vietnam/453/2004.

13. The vaccine of claim 10, said HA and NA genes derived from an H5N1 strain selected

from the group consisting of A/Vietnam/1203/2004, A/Hong Kong/213/03, A/Indonesia/5/05, A/Hong Kong/156/97, A/turkey/Turkey/01/2005, A/Anhui/1/05, A/Cambodia/R0405050/2007A/chicken/Nakorn-Patom/Thailand/CU-K2/04, A/chicken/Vietnam/C58/04, A/quail/Vietnam/36/04, MDk/JX/1653/05, MDk/1657/JX/05, BH goose/QH/65/05, Gs/GD/l/96-like, Dk/Vietnam/568/05, Gs/GX/345/05, MDk/JX/1701/05, MDk/JX/2136/05, MDk/JX/2295/05, MDk/JX/2300/05, Dk/GX/351/04, Dk/GX/380/04, Dk/ST/4610/03, Ck/MYS/5858/04, Ck/Salatiga/BBVet-I/05, and Dk/VNM/S654/05, and A/Muscovy Duck/Vietnam/453/2004.

14. The vaccine of claim 10, wherein the HA and NA genes are from the H5N1 strain A/Vietnam/1203/2004 or from H5N1 strain A/Indonesia/5/05.

15. The vaccine of claim 10, wherein the HA is modified at the polybasic cleavage site by mutation from **R***E**RRRK***K**R (SEQ ID NO: 13)→ **T**E**T**R (SEQ ID NO: 14).

16. The vaccine of claim 10 further comprising an adjuvant.

17. The vaccine of claim 10, wherein the vaccine is an inactivated vaccine.

18. The vaccine of claim 10 comprising an HA content of from 1 μg to 100 μg HA.

19. The antigenic composition of any one of claims 1 to 9 or the vaccine of any one of claims 10 to 18 for use in eliciting an immune response to at least one pandemic influenza virus strain in a subject in an amount effective to protect the subject against infection of at least one H5N1 influenza virus strain.

20. The antigenic composition of any one of claims 1 to 9 or the vaccine of any one of claims 10 to 18 for use in preventing infection of a subject by an influenza virus.

21. Use of the antigenic composition of any one of claims 1 to 9 or the vaccine of any one of claims 10 to 18 in the manufacture of a medicament for eliciting an immune response to at least one pandemic influenza virus strain in a subject, wherein the medicament is in an amount effective to protect the subject against infection of at least one H5N1 influenza virus strain.

22. Use of the antigenic composition of any one of claims 1 to 9 or the vaccine of any one of claims 10 to 18 in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing infection of a subject by an influenza virus.

23. The antigenic composition or vaccine of claim 20 or use of claim 22, wherein the vaccine comprises an HA content of from 1 μg to 100 μg HA.

24. The antigenic composition or vaccine or use of claim 23, wherein the vaccine comprises an HA content of from 1 μg to 30 μg HA.

25. The antigenic composition or vaccine or use of claim 23, wherein the vaccine comprises 1 μg to 15 μg HA.

26. The antigenic composition or vaccine of claim 20 or use of claim 22, wherein the vaccine comprises an HA content of 10 ng to 1 μg HA units.

27. A method of making a vaccine comprising a reassortant influenza virus comprising, internal gene segments PB1, PB2, PA, M, NP and NS of a first H5N1 strain of influenza A and the hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA) genes from a second H5N1 influenza A virus, the HA and NA genes derived from the same viral strain and the HA gene modified at a polybasic cleavage site to produce an attenuated HA gene, the method comprising transfecting the virus in ex vivo mammalian cells under conditions suitable for growth of the reassortant virus.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the mammalian cells are selected from the group consisting of MRC-5, MRC-9, Lederle 130, Chang liver and WI-38; U937,Vero, CV-1, IMR-90 and IMR-91, MDCK, MDBK, HEK, H9, CEM and CD4-expressing HUT78, PerC6, BHK-21 cells, BSC and LLC-MK2.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein the mammalian cells are Vero cells.

~~WHAT IS CLAIMED:~~

1. An antigenic reassortant influenza virus composition comprising,

(i) internal gene segments PB1, PB2, PA, M, NP and NS from a first H5N1 influenza virus A strain and (ii) hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA) genes from a second H5N1 influenza virus A strain, the HA and NA genes being from the same viral strain.

2. The antigenic composition of claim 1, said HA gene modified to produce an attenuated virus.

3. The antigenic composition of claim 2, said HA gene modified at a polybasic cleavage site.

4. The antigenic composition virus of claim 1, said influenza virus characterized by the ability to propagate in mammalian cell culture, optionally wherein the mammalian cells are selected from the group consisting of MRC-5, MRC-9, Lederle 130, Chang liver and WI-38; U937, Vero, CV-1, IMR-90 and IMR-91, MDCK, MDBK, HEK, H9, CEM and CD4-expressing HUT78, PerC6, BHK-21 cells, BSC and LLC-MK2, preferably wherein the mammalian cell culture is a Vero cell culture.

5. The antigenic composition of claim 1, said HA and NA genes derived from an H5N1 strain selected from the group consisting of A/Vietnam/1203/2004, A/Hong Kong/213/03, A/Indonesia/5/05, A/Hong Kong/156/97, A/turkey/Turkey/01/2005, A/Anhui/1/05, A/Cambodia/R0405050/2007, A/chicken/Nakorn-Patom/Thailand/CU-K2/04, A/chicken/Vietnam/C58/04, A/quail/Vietnam/36/04, MDk/JX/1653/05, MDk/1657/JX/05, BH goose/QH/65/05, Gs/GD/1/96-like, Dk/Vietnam/568/05, Gs/GX/345/05, MDk/JX/1701/05, MDk/JX/2136/05, MDk/JX/2295/05, MDk/JX/2300/05, Dk/GX/351/04, Dk/GX/380/04, Dk/ST/4610/03, Ck/MYS/5858/04, Ck/Salatiga/BBVet-I/05, and Dk/VNM/S654/05, and A/Muscovy Duck/Vietnam/453/2004.

6. The antigenic composition of claim 1, said internal genes derived from an H5N1 strain selected from the group consisting of A/Vietnam/1203/2004, A/Hong Kong/213/03, A/Indonesia/5/05, A/Hong Kong/156/97, A/turkey/Turkey/01/2005, A/Anhui/1/05, A/Cambodia/R0405050/2007, A/chicken/Nakorn-Patom/Thailand/CU-K2/04, A/chicken/Vietnam/C58/04, A/quail/Vietnam/36/04, MDk/JX/1653/05, MDk/1657/JX/05,

~~BH goose/QH/65/05, Gs/GD/1/96-like, Dk/Vietnam/568/05, Gs/GX/345/05,~~ MDk/JX/1701/05, MDk/JX/2136/05, MDk/JX/2295/05, MDk/JX/2300/05, Dk/GX/351/04, Dk/GX/380/04, Dk/ST/4610/03, Ck/MYS/5858/04, Ck/Salatiga/BBVet-I/05, and Dk/VNM/S654/05, and A/Muscovy Duck/Vietnam/453/2004.

7. The antigenic composition of claim 1, wherein the internal gene segments and the HA and NA genes are derived from the same virus strain.

8. The antigenic composition of claim 1, wherein the internal gene segments and the HA and NA genes are derived from different virus strains.

9. The antigenic composition of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the internal gene segments are from A/Vietnam/ 1203/2004.

10. The antigenic composition of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the HA and NA genes are from the H5N1 strain A/Vietnam/ 1203/2004 or from the H5N1 strain A/Indonesia/5/05.

11. The antigenic composition of claim 3, wherein the modification at the polybasic cleavage site is mutation from **R**ERRRK**KR** (SEQ ID NO: 13) → **TET**R (SEQ ID NO: 14).

12. The antigenic composition of any one of claims 1 to 8 further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. A vaccine comprising a reassortant influenza A virus, the virus comprising: (i) a polynucleotide encoding for PBl; a polynucleotide encoding for PA, a polynucleotide encoding for PB2, a polynucleotide encoding for M, a polynucleotide encoding for NP, a polynucleotide encoding for NS, the polynucleotides for PBl, PA, PB2, M, NP and NS derived from a first H5N1 influenza virus, and (ii) a polynucleotide encoding for surface protein HA and a polynucleotide encoding for surface protein NA, each of HA and NA derived from a second H5N1 influenza virus, the polynucleotides being operatively linked to allow packaging of the reassorted polynucleotides into a virion.

14. The vaccine of claim 13, said HA gene modified to produce an attenuated virus.

15. The vaccine of claim 14, said HA gene modified at a polybasic cleavage site.

16. The vaccine of claim 13, said internal genes derived from an H5N1 strain selected from the group consisting of A/Vietnam/1203/2004, A/Hong Kong/213/03, A/Indonesia/5/05, A/Hong Kong/156/97, A/turkey/Turkey/01/2005, A/Anhui/1/05, A/Cambodia/R0405050/2007A/chicken/Nakorn-Patom/Thailand/CU-K2/04, A/chicken/Vietnam/C58/04, A/quail/Vietnam/36/04, MDk/JX/1653/05, MDk/1657/JX/05, BH goose/QH/65/05, Gs/GD/l/96-like, Dk/Vietnam/568/05, Gs/GX/345/05, MDk/JX/1701/05, MDk/JX/2136/05, MDk/JX/2295/05, MDk/JX/2300/05, Dk/GX/351/04, Dk/GX/380/04, Dk/ST/4610/03, Ck/MYS/5858/04, Ck/Salatiga/BBVet-I/05, and Dk/VNM/S654/05, and A/Muscovy Duck/Vietnam/453/2004.

17. The vaccine of claim 13, said HA and NA genes derived from an H5N1 strain selected from the group consisting of A/Vietnam/1203/2004, A/Hong Kong/213/03, A/Indonesia/5/05, A/Hong Kong/156/97, A/turkey/Turkey/01/2005, A/Anhui/1/05, A/Cambodia/R0405050/2007A/chicken/Nakorn-Patom/Thailand/CU-K2/04, A/chicken/Vietnam/C58/04, A/quail/Vietnam/36/04, MDk/JX/1653/05, MDk/1657/JX/05, BH goose/QH/65/05, Gs/GD/l/96-like, Dk/Vietnam/568/05, Gs/GX/345/05, MDk/JX/1701/05, MDk/JX/2136/05, MDk/JX/2295/05, MDk/JX/2300/05, Dk/GX/351/04, Dk/GX/380/04, Dk/ST/4610/03, Ck/MYS/5858/04, Ck/Salatiga/BBVet-I/05, and Dk/VNM/S654/05, and A/Muscovy Duck/Vietnam/453/2004.

~~18. The vaccine of claim 13, wherein the internal gene segments and the HA and NA genes~~ are derived from the same virus strain.

19. The vaccine of claim 13, wherein the internal gene segments and the HA and NA genes are derived from different virus strains.

20. The vaccine of claim 13, wherein the HA and NA genes are from the H5N1 strain A/Vietnam/1203/2004 or from H5N1 strain A/Indonesia/5/05.

21. The vaccine of claim 13, wherein the HA is modified at the polybasic cleavage site by mutation from **R***ERRRK***KR** (SEQ ID NO: 13)→ **TETR** (SEQ ID NO: 14).

22. The vaccine of claim 13 further comprising an adjuvant.

23. The vaccine of claim 13, wherein the vaccine is an inactivated vaccine.

24. The vaccine of claim 13 comprising an HA content of from 1 μg to 100 μg HA.

25. The antigenic composition of any one of claims 1 to 8 or the vaccine of any one of claims 13 to 24 for use in eliciting an immune response to at least one pandemic influenza virus strain in a subject in an amount effective to protect the subject against infection of at least one H5N1 influenza virus strain.

26. The antigenic composition of any one of claims 1 to 8 or the vaccine of any one of claims 13 to 24 for use in preventing infection of a subject by an influenza virus.

27. Use of the antigenic composition of any one of claims 1 to 8 or the vaccine of any one of claims 13 to 24 in the manufacture of a medicament for eliciting an immune response to at least one pandemic influenza virus strain in a subject, wherein the medicament is in an amount effective to protect the subject against infection of at least one H5N1 influenza virus strain.

28. Use of the antigenic composition of any one of claims 1 to 8 or the vaccine of any one of claims 13 to 24 in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing infection of a subject by an influenza virus.

29. The antigenic composition or vaccine of claim 26 or use of claim 28, wherein the vaccine comprises an HA content of from 1 μg to 100 μg HA.

30. The antigenic composition or vaccine or use of claim 29, wherein the vaccine comprises an HA content of from 1 μg to 30 μg HA.

31. The antigenic composition or vaccine or use of claim 29, wherein the vaccine comprises 1 μg to 15 μg HA.

32. The antigenic composition or vaccine of claim 26 or use of claim 28, wherein the vaccine comprises an HA content of 10 ng to 1 μg HA units.

33. A method of making a vaccine comprising a reassortant influenza virus comprising, internal gene segments PB1, PB2, PA, M, NP and NS of a first H5N1 strain of influenza A and the hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA) genes from a second H5N1 influenza A virus, the HA and NA genes derived from the same viral strain and the HA gene modified at a polybasic cleavage site to produce an attenuated HA gene, the method comprising transfecting the virus in ex vivo mammalian cells under conditions suitable for growth of the reassortant virus.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the mammalian cells are selected from the group consisting of MRC-5, MRC-9, Lederle 130, Chang liver and WI-38; U937,Vero, CV-1, IMR-90 and IMR-91, MDCK, MDBK, HEK, H9, CEM and CD4-expressing HUT78, PerC6, BHK-21 cells, BSC and LLC-MK2.

35. The method of claim 33, wherein the mammalian cells are Vero cells.