



## New research strengthens link between lupus and common virus

An Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation physician-scientist has long theorized there's more than a casual association between the autoimmune disease lupus and one of the world's most common viruses.

A new scientific discovery has confirmed her theory.

OMRF's executive vice president and chief medical officer, Judith James, M.D., Ph.D., contributed to a Stanford University study that found the Epstein-Barr virus, or EBV, drives autoimmunity in people with lupus. The breakthrough was published Thursday in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

"This discovery changes the way the field thinks about EBV and lupus," said James, who holds the Lou C. Kerr Endowed Chair in Biomedical Research at OMRF. "It opens the door to precise lupus treatments that target specific immune cells instead of suppressing the entire immune system."

Lupus is a chronic disease that can cause inflammation and pain throughout the body. It affects an

estimated 1.5 million Americans, about 90% of whom are women. Scientists have long known lupus has a strong genetic component, but environmental triggers are necessary to activate the disease.

The Epstein-Barr virus infects nine of 10 people by adulthood. It can cause mononucleosis, but most people experience either minor cold-like symptoms or none at all. Once a person is infected, the virus remains dormant in the body for life. The virus can occasionally reactivate, and previous research has shown this happens more frequently in people with lupus, especially those whose disease is active.

In this study, researchers found that EBV directly infects and reprograms a type of immune cell called B cells. A small and usually harmless number of these reprogrammed B cells can be found in healthy people, but in people with autoimmune diseases like lupus and multiple sclerosis, they attack the body's healthy tissue instead of foreign invaders.

The results surprised James,

longtime collaborator, Stanford physician-scientist William Robinson, M.D., Ph.D., who led the study.

"We never expected EBV to directly change specific B cells themselves," Robinson said. "Knowing this gives us a chance to remove the root cause of lupus: These EBV-infected driver cells."

James said an early-stage clinical trial developed at OMRF is pending on an approach to inhibit EBV. Also in development are other small molecules that aim to decrease EBV reactivation.

Currently, lupus is treated primarily with steroids or with drugs that broadly suppress the immune system. The danger, James said, is that these global immunosuppressants leave people vulnerable to infection and possibly even to cancer.

If successful, new therapies or vaccines could potentially prevent the onset or progression of lupus.

"For that reason, this discovery looks like a game-changer," James said.

## Bill to safeguard against deep-fake advertising refiled

Rep. Neil Hays (R-Checotah) announced his intent to refile a bill that creates punishments for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and deep-fake technology without consent of the person whose name, image, likeness, or voice is used to create digital content and advertising that is disseminated to the public with the intent to harm.

Hays filed House Bill 3073 in 2024. The bill passed the House but was not advanced in the state Senate. Hays will refile the measure with some minor changes for the upcoming legislative session, which starts Feb. 2.

"As we awaken each day to more sophisticated AI-generated media, we must recommit to the fundamental truth in advertising and the basic rights of every Oklahoman," Hays said. "Every Oklahoman deserves to control their name, image, likeness, and voice — and to know that when they are depicted, especially in an effort to influence the public, that they're portrayed accurately."

Hays said AI now allows realistic substitutions of a person's face, voice, or image in video, audio, and digital advertisements — often without the person's permission and sometimes with harmful intent.

Hays said HB 3073 sought to criminalize publishing or distributing digitized representations of another individual's name, image, voice, or likeness without written consent and with intent to harm. The measure set criminal penalties, including elevation to a felony on a second offense.

Hays emphasized the marketplace and public discourse depend on trust.

"If we erode trust because people are unsure whether what they see or hear is real, then we erode the very foundation of free and fair communication," he said.

"Technology isn't slowing down, and legislation must keep pace," Hays said. "By refileing this bill, we reaffirm our commitment to protecting Oklahomans' rights in this new digital era. I'm asking my legislative colleagues to join me and return to the basics of integrity, transparency, and individual consent."

## Ottawa County Court Report

### Marriages

William B. Cardin Jr. and Sharon Irene Beets  
Dusty Eugene Whitehead and Karla L. Boyett  
John Franklin Theodore Bradley and Traci Lynn Mills  
Roger A. Hawthorne and Crystal Lynn Scott

Eric Herbert Shaffer and Traci Dawn Munson

### Protective Orders

Shalon Margaret Elder et al vs. Ziccia Emmanuel Elder  
William Robert Liston vs. Melissa Joy Warren

Kenneth James Seaton vs. Joshua Steven Mann

### Misdemeanors

State of Oklahoma vs. David Scott North for assault and battery

## LEGALS

### Advertisement for Bids

Notice is hereby given that Ottawa Co. RWD #7 (hereinafter called the "Owner") will receive sealed bids until 11 a.m., Central Standard Time, until the 18th day of December, 2025, for the construction of the Water Line Loop Project. Mailed bids will be received at the LeBlanc Engineering Office, located at 115 W Shawnee St, Tahlequah, OK 74464. Bids may also be hand delivered the day of the bid opening, at the bid opening location. The bid opening location will be at Mount Zion Church, located at 50101 E 30 Rd, Miami, OK 74354.

Funding for this project is provided through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant program. All bids received at said time will be opened and evaluated for completeness and correctness. All work shall be performed, and all construction and materials used and furnished shall be in accordance with the Plans and Specifications prepared by LeBlanc engineering, LLC.

The Bid Packet and Contract Documents for this project may be downloaded via a link that will be provided to bidders upon request. To be added to the official prospective bidder's list, send Bid Packet and Contract Documents request to: Jerry Copeland at jerry@cis-ok.com.

Each bidder shall accompany his original bid, with a certified or Cashier's Check on a solvent bank located in Oklahoma, or a Bidder's Bond, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount bid, as a guarantee of his ability to perform the contract bid upon, and that he will enter into a written contract with the Owner to perform said work and/or furnish said materials in accordance with said Plans and Specifications, and furnish the required bonds according to the Public Competitive Bidding Act of 1974.

The Owner will retain the deposit for liquidated damages in case the successful bidder fails to enter into said contract and furnish the required bonds

provided for in the specifications within the time required. Deposit of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned upon the execution of the Contract and required bonds.

Each bidder shall accompany his bid with a sworn statement in writing that the bidder has not directly or indirectly entered into an agreement, expressed or implied, with any other bidder concerning the price or amount of such bid or any bids, the limiting of the bids or bidders, the paying to anyone any money for promotion expenses, the parcelling or farming out to any bidder or bidders or other persons of any part of the contract or any part of the subject matter of the bid or of the profits thereof.

Construction, Maintenance and Statutory Payment Bonds in the amount of 100% of the contract price are required for this project. These bonds must be obtained from a Corporate Surety licensed in Oklahoma and approved by the Owner and Consulting Engineer. The bidder shall state in the proposal the name and address of the Surety or Sureties who will sign these bonds in case the contract is awarded. The Maintenance Bond required will guarantee the repair of all damage due to improper materials or workmanship for a period of one (1) year after the acceptance of the work by the Owner.

The following requirements and regulations must be complied with:

A. "Equal Opportunity in Employment: All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or physical handicap. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended."

B. "Each bidder must fully comply with the requirements, terms and conditions of the Environmental Protection Agency's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Requirements, which have been adopted for the OWRB ARPA program, and include employing the six (6)

good faith efforts and soliciting disadvantaged business enterprises during the performance of this contract. Requirements are contained in OWRB's Guidance and Procedures, ARP-267. The bidder commits itself to following the good faith efforts to solicit disadvantaged business enterprises contained herein and all other requirements, terms, and conditions of these bid conditions by submitting a properly signed bid."

C. System for Award Management (SAM) registration is required for all Applicants and Awardees (Entities, Prime Contractors, Subcontractors, Vendors) in order to receive funds from the ARPA program. SAM replaced the Central Contractor Registration/Federal Agency Registration, Online Representations and Certifications Application, and Excluded Parties List System. Applicants and awardees are required to complete a one-time free registration to provide basic information relevant to procurement and financial transactions. On April 4, 2022, the unique entity identifier used across the federal government changed from the DUNS Number to the Unique Entity ID (generated by SAM.gov). Registrants must retain an active status to be eligible for ARPA funding. Applicants and Awardees can go to SAM.gov to complete the registration process.

The bids filed with LeBlanc Engineering Office or hand delivered on the day of the bid opening will be opened and considered by the Owner, at a meeting to be held at Mount Zion Church, located at 50101 E 30 Rd, Miami, OK 74354 on the 18th day of December, 2025 at 11 a.m.

The contract is to be awarded to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder. The Owner reserves the right to correct any non-material clerical errors in the bidding as allowed under Oklahoma Law. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids in accordance with the Oklahoma Public Competitive Bidding Act of 1974. Conditional bids shall not be accepted.

An mandatory pre-bid conference

will be held on this project at Mount Zion Church, 50101 E 30 Rd, Miami, OK 74354 on the 9th day of December, 2025 at 11 a.m.

(Published in the Miami News Record November 25, December 2 and 9, 2025)  
LPXLP

### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF OTTAWA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

In the Matter of the Estate of JACK THOMAS JULIAN, Deceased.

### NO. PB-2021-13 ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING FINAL ACCOUNT AND PETITION FOR ORDER ALLOWING FINAL ACCOUNT, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, DISTRIBUTION AND DISCHARGE

On this 21st day of November, 2025, a Final Account and Petition for Order allowing Final Account, Determination of Heirship, Distribution, and Discharge, has been filed by N. Georgeann Roye, attorney for Elizabeth D. Power, Personal Representative of the Estate of Jack Thomas Julian, deceased, and presented to the Court for hearing.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that such Final Account and Petition be, and the same is hereby, set for hearing before the Honorable Judge R. Matt Whalen, Judge of the District Court, in District Courtroom Number 3 in the Ottawa County Courthouse in the City of Miami, Oklahoma, on the 18th day of December, 2025, at 11:30 A.M., at which time and place all persons interested in this estate are directed and required to appear before this Court to show cause why the Final Account and Petition should not be heard.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of the Final Account and Petition for Order allowing Final Account, Determination of Heirship, Distribution, and Discharge, together with this Order and Notice, be mailed to the heirs of the decedent, with

postage prepaid, at least ten (10) days before the hearing of same.

/s/ R. Matt Whalen  
Judge of the District Court

N. Georgeann Roye,  
OBA #30238  
Attorney for Personal Representative  
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(Published in the Miami News Record November 25 and December 2, 2025)  
LPXLP

### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF OTTAWA COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RONALD HERBERT MOORE, DECEASED.

### Case No. PB-2025-32 NOTICE OF HEARING FINAL ACCOUNT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, PETITION FOR DISTRIBUTION OF ESTATE AND DISCHARGE

Chelsie McKinney, having on this day presented for settlement and filed in this Court her Final Account of the administration of the Estate of Ronald Herbert Moore, Deceased, and having filed with her account a Petition for Distribution of the Estate of Ronald Herbert Moore, Deceased, and Discharge as Personal Representative.

NOTICE is hereby given that at 9:30 A.M. on the 11th day of December, 2025, of said date in the Courtroom of the undersigned Judge, or the Judge to whom this cause is assigned on said hearing date, in the County Courthouse in the City of Miami, Ottawa County, Oklahoma, has been duly fixed and appointed by the Court for the hearing thereon, at which time and place any person interested may appear, and show cause, if any they have, why said account should not be approved, the distribution of said Estate should not be made as prayed for, and said Chelsie McKinney discharged.

as Personal Representative.

Dated this 17th day of November, 2025.

HON. R. MATT WHALEN  
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

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(Published in the Miami News Record November 25 and December 2, 2025)  
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MCLESTER STOCKYARD SPECIAL Cow & Bull Sale! Saturday, Dec. 13th at noon! Quality replacement bred cows, heifers, & bulls. 918-423-2834 mcalesterstockyards.com

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AWARD-WINNING WEEKLY community newspaper in Stephens County for sale. Contact Todd at 580-641-6356.

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Put your message where it matters most — IN OKLAHOMA NEWSPAPERS. We can place your ad in 134 newspapers. For more information or to place an ad, contact Landon Cobb at (405) 499-0022 or toll-free in OK at 1-888-815-2672.