A recent study published in *Science* shows that patients who died from COVID-19 showed increased levels of interferon, a protein involved in immune response, compared to those who survived. The study, led by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania, used data from the first 120 patients enrolled in the study to analyze the differences in immune responses between survivors and non-survivors. The findings suggest that interferon levels may be a critical determinant of COVID-19 outcomes, with higher levels associated with worse outcomes. This study highlights the importance of understanding the immune response to COVID-19 in order to develop effective treatments and vaccines.

In another recent study published in *Cell* on September 1, 2020, researchers from the Human Vaccines Project and elsewhere reported on the development of a SARS-CoV-2 protein subunit vaccine. The vaccine, developed by the company Novavax, was found to be safe and immunogenic in a Phase 1/2a clinical trial involving 1,048 healthy volunteers. The vaccine elicited a strong immune response, with neutralizing antibody titers in the range of 1:1,000 to 1:100,000. The study also showed that the vaccine was well tolerated, with no serious adverse events reported. These results support the further development of the Novavax vaccine for potential use in the COVID-19 pandemic.

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