

# Reconstructing the 1918 flu virus

*Major steps in an eight-year effort by scientists to isolate the genetic code of the deadly 1918 Spanish Flu for medical research :*

## March 1997

Scientists at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Rockville, Md., begin studying lung tissue samples

## August 1997

Receive frozen body of a person who died from the 1918 flu



*Begin analyzing virus gene fragments (RNA)*

## March 2005

Finish deciphering the virus' entire genetic code

## June 2005

Colleagues at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, N.Y., create plasmids, or DNA rings, carrying the 1918 virus genes

## August 2005

Researcher at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention inserts plasmids into cultured kidney cells, bringing the virus back to life

