Dr. Greg Poland is suiting up for another round in the fight against Zika …

… as work continues at Mayo Clinic on a vaccine for the virus, primarily spread through the bite of an infected mosquito.

You first have to decide on the method that you’re going to use.

Dr. Poland’s research team is working on what’s called a peptide vaccine.

What we’ll be doing is isolating these peptides, determining how they have to be packaged.

Dr. Poland says a prototype vaccine is initially tested in cells taken from people who’ve been exposed to Zika. Next come animal tests – first, on mice, then monkeys. If the vaccine still shows promise …

Then, you transfer it to a company that has the resources to begin testing this, what’s called Phase 1 testing, in humans.

The first of three phases of human testing needed to complete a Zika vaccine.

Dr. Poland says it will take time – probably years – to get there. But, he believes researchers will eventually win the fight against Zika.

I absolutely believe we will have a vaccine.
| Graphic: newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org | For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m Jeff Olsen. |