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- (54) **Title:** ANTIBODIES THAT POTENTLY NEUTRALIZE RSV AND USES THEREOF

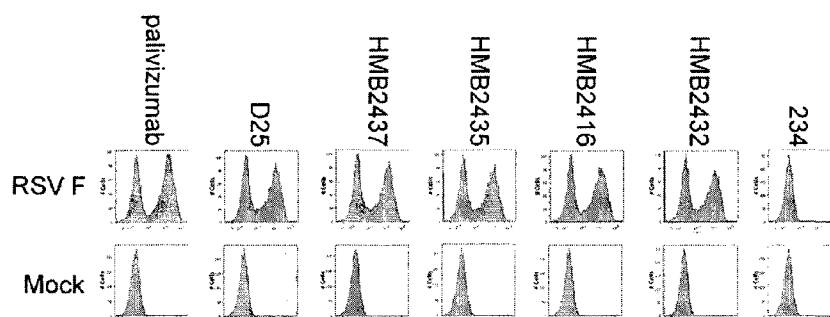


FIGURE 5

- (57) **Abstract:** The invention relates to antibodies, and antigen binding fragments thereof, that neutralize infection of both group A and group B RSV. The invention also relates to antigenic sites to which the antibodies and antigen binding fragments bind, as well as to nucleic acids that encode and immortalized B cells and cultured plasma cells that produce such antibodies and antibody fragments. In addition, the invention relates to the use of the antibodies, antibody fragments, and polypeptides recognized by the antibodies of the invention in screening methods as well as in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of RSV infection and group A and group B RSV co-infection.



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ANTIBODIES THAT POTENTLY NEUTRALIZE RSV AND USES THEREOF

BACKGROUND

10 The invention relates to antibodies, and antigen binding fragments thereof, that neutralize infection of both group A and group B Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). The invention also relates to antigenic sites to which the antibodies and antigen binding fragments bind, as well as to nucleic acids that encode and immortalized B cells and cultured plasma cells that produce such antibodies and antibody fragments. In addition, the invention relates to the use
15 of the antibodies, antibody fragments, and polypeptides recognized by the antibodies of the invention in screening methods as well as in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of RSV infection and group A and group B RSV co-infection.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common cold virus that belongs to the family of
20 paramyxoviruses. The virion of RSV is enveloped with a lipid bilayer, which contains glycoproteins including the attachment protein G and the fusion protein F. RSV strains are separated into two major groups (A and B) on the basis of antigenic and genetic variability. The amino acid sequences of the G and F proteins of RSV are classified into A and B groups. The F protein of RSV is a type I trans-membrane surface protein that has an N-terminal cleaved
25 signal peptide and a membrane anchor near the C-terminus. The F protein is synthesized as an inactive F0 precursor that assembles into homotrimers and is activated by cleavage. The F protein is formed by three domains (DI to DIII), a fusion peptide (FP) and three heptad-repeats regions (HR-A, -B and -C). The F glycoprotein of RSV directs viral penetration by fusion between the virion envelope and the host cell plasma membrane. The N-terminus of
30 the F subunit, that is created by proteolytic cleavage and contains the fusion peptide, inserts directly into the target membrane to initiate fusion. After binding to the target cell and

subsequent activation, the metastable pre-fusion F protein undergoes a series of structural rearrangements that result in the insertion of the fusion peptide into the target cell membrane, followed by the formation of a stable helical bundle that forms as the viral and cell membranes are apposed. These structural changes lead to the formation of a stable post-fusion F protein.

5 Later in infection, the F protein expressed on the cell surface of infected cells can mediate fusion with adjacent non-infected cells forming large syncytia.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is the most common cause of lower respiratory tract disease in children less than two years. It is also the cause of severe disease in premature newborns,
10 hospitalized children (Hall, C. B. *et al.*, 2009, *N Engl J Med* 360, 588-598), immune-compromised patients (Falsey, A. R. *et al.*, 2005, *N Engl J Med* 352, 1749-1759), and patients with chronic lung disease and congenital heart disease. RSV plays a role in acute asthma exacerbations (Edwards, M. R. *et al.*, 2012, *Nat Rev Immunol* 10, 459-471) and is also a cause
15 of acute respiratory tract illness in lung transplant recipients leading to increased risk of chronic rejection.

Immunocompromised patients have a 5% to 15% rate of RSV infection and the progression to low respiratory tract infection (LRTI) is observed in 38% of these patients with an average mortality of 32%. There is no effective treatments to prevent the spread of the virus or to
20 control LRTI. Ribavirin and IVIG have been used with limited success. Immunity to RSV appears to be short-lived, and thus re-infections are frequent (Ogra, 2003, *Paediatric Respiratory Reviews* 5 Suppl A:S119-126).

Vaccines for RSV infection are currently not available. A formalin-inactivated and alum-
25 adjuvanted RSV vaccine (FI-RSV) tested in the 1960s was found to predispose infants for enhanced disease following natural RSV infection leading to high fever and severe pneumonia, resulting in high hospitalization rates and even some fatalities (Fulginiti *et al.*, 1969, *American Journal of Epidemiology* 89:435-448; Kapikian *et al.*, 1969, *American Journal of Epidemiology* 89:405-421; Kim *et al.*, 1969, *American Journal of Epidemiology*
30 89:422-434).

Evidence for the role of serum antibodies in protection against RSV virus has emerged from epidemiological as well as animal studies. In infants, titers of maternally transmitted antibodies correlate with resistance to serious disease (Glezen *et al.*, 1981, *The Journal of Pediatrics* 98:708-715) and in adults incidence and severity of lower respiratory tract involvement is diminished in the presence of high levels of serum RSV neutralizing antibodies (McIntosh *et al.*, 1978, *The Journal of Infectious Diseases* 138:24-32).

A monoclonal antibody, palivizumab (SYNAGIS®), is registered for the prevention of RSV infection in premature newborns. In addition to palivizumab, other monoclonal antibodies shown to neutralize RSV infection, such as 101F and D25, as disclosed in EP 1 997 830 A1, have also been described. The antibody registered for the prevention of RSV infection, palivizumab, is, however, not potent and the response to palivizumab is varied among individuals. Further, it fails to prevent RSV infections effectively in some cases (Weisman, L. E., 2005, *Curr. Opin. Mol. Ther.* 11, 208–218) and prolonged pulmonary replication of RSV in the presence of palivizumab is followed in animals by the appearance of resistant virus strains (Zhao and Sullender, 2005, *Journal of Virology* 79:3962-3968).

Accordingly, there is still a need for agents capable of preventing as well as treating or attenuating RSV infection in high-risk patients with high potency and efficacy. Further, it is important to have antibodies that target different epitopes and different antigenic sites on the various strains in order to avoid appearance of resistant virus strains.

SUMMARY

The objectives described above are solved by the present invention, preferably by the subject-matter of the appended claims.

The invention is based, in part, on the discovery of antibodies that potently neutralize infection of RSV, as well as antigenic sites and epitopes to which the antibodies of the invention bind. Accordingly, in one aspect of the invention, the invention comprises an isolated antibody, for example a monoclonal antibody, a human antibody, a human

monoclonal antibody, an antibody variant, or an antigen binding fragment, that neutralizes infection of RSV.

More specifically, the present invention comprises an isolated antibody, or an antigen binding
5 fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A RSV and group B RSV, but does preferably not neutralize infection of MPV, wherein preferably the antibody or the antigen binding fragment specifically binds the pre-fusion F protein of RSV, but not the post-fusion RSV F protein. Preferably, the antibody or the antigen binding fragment has an isoelectric point (pI) of 7.5 or higher. Preferably, the antibody or the antigen binding fragment does not
10 specifically bind to the pre-fusion F protein of RSV at antigenic site S1 and/or does not bind to the pre-fusion F protein of RSV at antigenic site S1, respectively. Preferably, the antibody or the antigen binding fragment specifically binds to antigenic site S2, antigenic site S3, antigenic site S5 or a site in between antigenic sites S2 and S3 on the pre-fusion F protein of RSV. Preferably, the concentration of the antibody or the antigen binding fragment thereof
15 required for 50% neutralization of RSV is 150 ng/ml or less.

It is moreover preferred that the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises a heavy chain comprising CDRH1, CDRH2 and CDRH3 and a light chain comprising CDRL1, CDRL2 and CDRL3, wherein the heavy chain CDRH3 comprises an amino acid sequence
20 that is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51. More preferably, the heavy chain CDRH3 of the antibody, or of the antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51.

Preferably, the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises: (i) heavy chain
25 CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, respectively; (ii) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 17-22, respectively; (iii) heavy
30 chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 33-38, respectively; or (iv) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3

amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 49-54, respectively. More preferably, the antibody or the antigen binding fragment comprises: (i) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, respectively; (ii) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 17-22, respectively; (iii) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 33-38, respectively; or (iv) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 49-54, respectively.

It is furthermore preferred that the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises: (i) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (ii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; (iii) or a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46; or (iv) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (v) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or (vi) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (vii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the

amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or (viii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (ix) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (x) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (xi) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86; or (xii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; or (xiii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86. More preferably, the antibody or the antigen binding fragment comprises: (i) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (ii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; (iii) or a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46; or (iv) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (v) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or (vi) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (vii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or (viii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a

light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (ix) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (x) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (xi) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86; or (xii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; or (xiii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86.

Preferably, the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, is according to gHMB2435, gHMB2435 variant 2, gHMB2435 variant 3, gHMB2435 variant 4, gHMB2437, gHMB2437 variant 2, gHMB2437 variant 3, gHMB2437 variant 4, gHMB2416, gHMB2432 variant 1, gHMB2432 variant 2, gHMB2432 variant 3 or gHMB2432 variant 4. More preferably, the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, is HMB2435, HMB2435 variant 2, HMB2435 variant 3, HMB2435 variant 4, HMB2437, HMB2437 variant 2, HMB2437 variant 3, HMB2437 variant 4, HMB2416, HMB2432 variant 1, HMB2432 variant 2, HMB2432 variant 3 or HMB2432 variant 4. It is particularly preferred that the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, specifically binds to antigenic site S5 on the pre-fusion F protein of RSV.

Moreover, it is preferred that the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, is a human antibody, a monoclonal antibody, a human monoclonal antibody, a purified antibody, a single chain antibody, Fab, Fab', F(ab')₂, Fv or scFv.

The present invention also comprises an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that binds to the same epitope as the antibody according to the present invention as described above, wherein the antibody or the antigen binding fragment thereof neutralizes infection of both group A and group B RSV, but does not neutralize infection of MPV and wherein the antibody or the antigen binding fragment specifically binds the pre-fusion F protein of RSV,

but not the post-fusion RSV F protein, and wherein the antibody or fragment has an isoelectric point (pI) of 7.5 or higher.

The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to the present invention is preferably used in the treatment or attenuation of infection by group A RSV or group B RSV.

In another aspect the present invention also comprises a nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to the present invention. Preferably, the polynucleotide sequence of the nucleic acid molecule is at least 75% identical to the nucleic acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 7-12, 15, 16, 23-28, 31, 32, 39-44, 47, 48, 55-60, 63, 64, 67, 68, 69 – 74, 77, 78, 79 – 84, 87, or 88.

In yet another aspect, the present invention also comprises a vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to the present invention.

In yet another aspect, the present invention also relates to a cell expressing the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to the present invention; or comprising the vector according to the present invention.

Furthermore, the present invention comprises an isolated or purified immunogenic polypeptide comprising an epitope that specifically binds to the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to the present invention.

In yet another aspect, the present invention also comprises (i) a pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, the nucleic acid, the vector, the cell, or the immunogenic polypeptide according to the present invention, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier and/or (ii) a pharmaceutical composition comprising a first antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a second antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, wherein the first antibody is the antibody according to the present invention, and the second antibody neutralizes infection of RSV or MPV or PVM or any combination of RSV, MPV and PVM.

According to another aspect, the present invention provides the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, the nucleic acid, the vector, the cell, the immunogenic polypeptide, or the pharmaceutical composition according to the present invention for use as a medicament (i) for the treatment or attenuation of group A RSV or group B RSV infection; (ii) for vaccination against group A RSV or group B RSV infection; or (iii) for diagnosis of group A RSV or group B RSV infection.

Furthermore, the present invention also relates to the use of the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to the present invention, for monitoring the quality of anti-group A RSV or anti-group B RSV vaccines by checking that the antigen of said vaccine contains the specific epitope in the correct conformation.

In one embodiment of the invention, the invention comprises an isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A RSV and group B RSV, but does not neutralize infection of metapneumovirus (MPV), wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment specifically binds the pre-fusion F protein of RSV, but not the post-fusion RSV F protein. The antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, specifically binds the pre-fusion F protein of both group A and group B RSV, but not the post-fusion F protein of group A or group B RSV. Further, the antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, specifically binds the pre-fusion F protein of RSV, but not the pre-fusion F protein of MPV or pneumonia virus of mice (PVM). The antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, potentially neutralizes infection of both group A and B RSV; the concentration of antibody or antigen binding fragment required for 50% neutralization is 150 ng/ml or less.

In another embodiment of the invention, the invention comprises an isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A RSV and group B RSV, but does not neutralize infection of MPV, wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment specifically binds the pre-fusion F protein of RSV, but not the post-fusion RSV F protein, and wherein the antibody or fragment has an isoelectric point (pI) of 7.5 or higher.

In yet another embodiment of the invention, the invention comprises an isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A RSV and group

B RSV, wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment specifically binds to antigenic site S5 on the pre-fusion F protein of RSV.

In another embodiment of the invention, the invention comprises an isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A and group B RSV and comprises a heavy chain comprising CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 and a light chain comprising CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3, wherein the heavy chain CDR3 comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51.

In yet another embodiment of the invention, the invention comprises an isolated antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A and group B RSV, comprising: (i) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, respectively; (ii) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 17-22, respectively; (iii) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 33-38, respectively; or (iv) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 49-54, respectively.

In still another embodiment of the invention, the invention comprises an isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A and group B RSV, comprising: (i) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (ii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; (iii) or a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46; or (iv) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (v) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:

66; or (vi) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (vii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66.

5 The invention further comprises an isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, described herein as HMB2435, HMB2437, HMB2416, HMB2432 variant 1, HMB2432 variant 2, HMB2432 variant 3 or HMB2432 variant 4. In another embodiment, the invention comprises an antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of group A and group B RSV, wherein the antibody or fragment thereof is expressed by an
10 immortalized B cell clone that produces HMB2435, HMB2437, HMB2416, HMB2432 variant 1, HMB2432 variant 2, HMB2432 variant 3 or HMB2432 variant 4.

In another aspect, the invention comprises a nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide encoding an antibody or antibody fragment of the invention. In yet another
15 aspect, the invention comprises a vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of the invention. The invention also comprises a cell that expresses an antibody of the invention or an antigen binding fragment thereof. In still another aspect, the invention comprises an isolated or purified immunogenic polypeptide comprising an epitope that binds to an antibody or antigen binding fragment of the invention.

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The invention further comprises a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody of the invention or an antigen binding fragment thereof, a nucleic acid molecule of the invention, a vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of the invention, a cell expressing an antibody or an antibody fragment of the invention, or an immunogenic polypeptide of the invention, and
25 a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier. The invention also comprises a pharmaceutical composition comprising a first antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a second antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, wherein the first antibody is an antibody of the invention, and the second antibody is an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of RSV, MPV or PVM, or any two
30 of RSV, MPV and PVM, or all three of RSV, MPV, and PVM.

Use of an antibody of the invention, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, a nucleic acid of the invention, a vector comprising a nucleic acid of the invention, a cell expressing a vector of the invention, an isolated or purified immunogenic polypeptide comprising an epitope that binds to an antibody or antibody fragment of the invention, or a pharmaceutical composition of the invention in the manufacture of a medicament for (i) the treatment or attenuation of RSV or group A and group B RSV co-infection, (ii) for vaccination against RSV (group A and group B RSV) infection, or (iii) for diagnosis of RSV (group A or group B RSV) infection is also contemplated to be within the scope of the invention. Further, use of an antibody of the invention, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, for monitoring the quality of a vaccine against RSV or both group A and group B RSV by checking that the antigen of said vaccine contains the specific epitope in the correct conformation is also contemplated to be within the scope of the invention.

In another aspect of the invention, the invention comprises a method of treating or attenuating RSV infection or lowering the risk of RSV infection comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody or an antigen binding antibody fragment of the invention.

In yet another aspect of the invention, the invention comprises a polypeptide which specifically binds to an antibody of the invention, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, for use (i) in therapy, (ii) in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or attenuation of RSV, (iii) as a vaccine, or (iv) in screening for ligands able to neutralise infection of RSV.

DESCRIPTION OF FIGURES

Figure 1 shows the results of neutralization (IC₅₀ values) of RSV by the panel of 28 monoclonal antibodies isolated.

Figure 2 shows the results of neutralization of RSV A and B strains by monoclonal antibodies HMB2437, HMB2435, HMB2416, HMB2432, palivizumab and D25.

Figure 3 shows a comparison of the neutralization potency of monoclonal antibodies HMB2437, HMB2435, HMB2416, HMB2432 and D25 with palivizumab (ratio of the palivizumab IC50 with the IC50s of the other monoclonal antibodies).

- 5 Figure 4 shows a comparison of the neutralization potency of monoclonal antibodies HMB2437, HMB2435, HMB2416, HMB2432, D25 and palivizumab against RSV A (upper panel) and B (lower panel) viruses.

- 10 Figure 5 shows the binding of monoclonal antibodies HMB2437, HMB2435, HMB2416, HMB2432, D25, palivizumab and 234 to cells transfected with a plasmid encoding the RSV F gene or an empty plasmid as a control.

- 15 Figure 6 shows the antigenic sites targeted by HMB2437, HMB2435, HMB2416, HMB2432, D25, palivizumab and 101F monoclonal antibodies on RSV pre-fusion F protein as determined by cross-competition data obtained by surface plasmon resonance (SPR).

Figure 7 shows the amino acid sequences for the heavy and light chains of antibody HMB2435 as well as the nucleic acid sequences that encode them.

- 20 Figure 8 shows the amino acid sequences for the heavy and light chains of antibody HMB2437 as well as the nucleic acid sequences that encode them.

Figure 9 shows the amino acid sequences for the heavy and light chains of antibody HMB2416 as well as the nucleic acid sequences that encode them.

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Figure 10 shows the amino acid sequences for the two heavy chains of the variants of antibody HMB2432 and the nucleic acid sequences that encode them (Figure 10A); as well as the amino acid sequences for the two light chains of the variants of antibody HMB2432 and the nucleic acid sequences that encode them (Figure 10B).

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Figure 11 shows the amino acid sequence of the heavy and light chains of antibodies HMB2435 and HMB2437 aligned with the corresponding framework regions germlined sequences (FR-GL).

- 5 Figure 12 shows the results of neutralization of RSV A2 strain by monoclonal antibodies HMB2435 and HMB2437 and the corresponding variants 2, 3 and 4.

Figure 13 shows a comparison of the neutralization potency of monoclonal antibodies HMB2435, HMB2435 variant 2, HMB2435 variant 3, HMB2435 variant 4, HMB2437 and

- 10 HMB2437 variant 3 on a panel of 9 RSV A and RSV B strains.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

- 15 Although the present invention is described in detail below, it is to be understood that this invention is not limited to the particular methodologies, protocols and reagents described herein as these may vary. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is not intended to limit the scope of the present invention which will be limited only by the appended claims. Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein
- 20 have the same meanings as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art.

- In the following, the elements of the present invention will be described. These elements are listed with specific embodiments, however, it should be understood that they may be combined in any manner and in any number to create additional embodiments. The variously
- 25 described examples and preferred embodiments should not be construed to limit the present invention to only the explicitly described embodiments. This description should be understood to support and encompass embodiments which combine the explicitly described embodiments with any number of the disclosed and/or preferred elements. Furthermore, any permutations and combinations of all described elements in this application should be
- 30 considered disclosed by the description of the present application unless the context indicates otherwise.

Throughout this specification and the claims which follow, unless the context requires otherwise, the term "comprise", and variations such as "comprises" and "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated member, integer or step but not the exclusion of any other non-stated member, integer or step. The term "consist of" is a particular embodiment of the term "comprise", wherein any other non-stated member, integer or step is excluded. In the context of the present invention, the term "comprise" encompasses the term "consist of". The term "comprising" thus encompasses "including" as well as "consisting" *e.g.*, a composition "comprising" X may consist exclusively of X or may include something additional *e.g.*, X + Y.

The terms "a" and "an" and "the" and similar reference used in the context of describing the invention (especially in the context of the claims) are to be construed to cover both the singular and the plural, unless otherwise indicated herein or clearly contradicted by context. Recitation of ranges of values herein is merely intended to serve as a shorthand method of referring individually to each separate value falling within the range. Unless otherwise indicated herein, each individual value is incorporated into the specification as if it were individually recited herein. No language in the specification should be construed as indicating any non-claimed element essential to the practice of the invention.

The word "substantially" does not exclude "completely" *e.g.*, a composition which is "substantially free" from Y may be completely free from Y. Where necessary, the word "substantially" may be omitted from the definition of the invention.

The term "about" in relation to a numerical value x means $x \pm 10\%$.

The term "disease" as used herein is intended to be generally synonymous, and is used interchangeably with, the terms "disorder" and "condition" (as in medical condition), in that all reflect an abnormal condition of the human or animal body or of one of its parts that impairs normal functioning, is typically manifested by distinguishing signs and symptoms, and causes the human or animal to have a reduced duration or quality of life.

As used herein, reference to "treatment" of a subject or patient is intended to include prevention, prophylaxis, attenuation, amelioration and therapy. The terms "subject" or "patient" are used interchangeably herein to mean all mammals including humans. Examples of subjects include humans, cows, dogs, cats, horses, goats, sheep, pigs, and rabbits. In one embodiment, the patient is a human.

As used herein, the terms "antigen binding fragment," "fragment," and "antibody fragment" are used interchangeably to refer to any fragment of an antibody of the invention that retains the antigen-binding activity of the antibody. Examples of antibody fragments include, but are not limited to, a single chain antibody, Fab, Fab', F(ab')₂, Fv or scFv. Further, the term "antibody" as used herein includes both antibodies and antigen binding fragments thereof.

As used herein, a "neutralizing antibody" is one that can neutralize, *i.e.*, prevent, inhibit, reduce, impede or interfere with, the ability of a pathogen to initiate and/or perpetuate an infection in a host. The terms "neutralizing antibody" and "an antibody that neutralizes" or "antibodies that neutralize" are used interchangeably herein. These antibodies can be used alone, or in combination, as prophylactic or therapeutic agents upon appropriate formulation, in association with active vaccination, as a diagnostic tool, or as a production tool as described herein.

The term "specifically binding" and similar reference does not encompass non-specific sticking.

As used herein, "sequence variant" refers to any alteration in a reference sequence, whereby a reference sequence is any of the sequences listed in the "Table of Sequences and SEQ ID Numbers" (sequence listing), *i.e.* SEQ ID NO:1 to SEQ ID NO:88. Thus, the term "sequence variant" includes nucleotide sequence variants and amino acid sequence variants.

Sequence identity is usually calculated with regard to the full length of the reference sequence (*i.e.* the sequence recited in the application). Percentage identity, as referred to herein, can be determined, for example, using BLAST version 2.1.3 using the default parameters specified by the NCBI (the National Center for Biotechnology Information;

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) [Blosum 62 matrix; gap open penalty=11 and gap extension penalty=1].

As used herein, a "nucleotide sequence variant" has an altered sequence in which one or more of the nucleotides in the reference sequence is deleted, or substituted, or one or more nucleotides are inserted into the sequence of the reference nucleotide sequence. Nucleotides are referred to herein by the standard one-letter designation (A, C, G, or T). Due to the degeneracy of the genetic code, a "nucleotide sequence variant" can either result in a change in the respective reference amino acid sequence, i.e. in an "amino acid sequence variant" or not. Preferred sequence variants are such nucleotide sequence variants, which do not result in amino acid sequence variants (silent mutations), but other non-silent mutations are within the scope as well, in particular mutant nucleotide sequences, which result in an amino acid sequence, which is at least 80%, preferably at least 90 %, more preferably at least 95% sequence identical to the reference sequence.

An "amino acid sequence variant" has an altered sequence in which one or more of the amino acids in the reference sequence is deleted or substituted, or one or more amino acids are inserted into the sequence of the reference amino acid sequence. As a result of the alterations, the amino acid sequence variant has an amino acid sequence which is at least 80% identical to the reference sequence, preferably, at least 90% identical, more preferably at least 95% identical, most preferably at least 99% identical to the reference sequence. Variant sequences which are at least 90% identical have no more than 10 alterations, i.e. any combination of deletions, insertions or substitutions, per 100 amino acids of the reference sequence.

While it is possible to have non-conservative amino acid substitutions, it is preferred that the substitutions be conservative amino acid substitutions, in which the substituted amino acid has similar structural or chemical properties with the corresponding amino acid in the reference sequence. By way of example, conservative amino acid substitutions involve substitution of one aliphatic or hydrophobic amino acids, e.g. alanine, valine, leucine and isoleucine, with another; substitution of one hydroxyl-containing amino acid, e.g. serine and threonine, with another; substitution of one acidic residue, e.g. glutamic acid or aspartic acid,

with another; replacement of one amide-containing residue, e.g. asparagine and glutamine, with another; replacement of one aromatic residue, e.g. phenylalanine and tyrosine, with another; replacement of one basic residue, e.g. lysine, arginine and histidine, with another; and replacement of one small amino acid, e.g., alanine, serine, threonine, methionine, and glycine, with another.

Amino acid sequence insertions include amino- and/or carboxyl-terminal fusions ranging in length from one residue to polypeptides containing a hundred or more residues, as well as intrasequence insertions of single or multiple amino acid residues. Examples of terminal insertions include the fusion to the N- or C-terminus of an amino acid sequence to a reporter molecule or an enzyme.

Importantly, the alterations in the sequence variants do not abolish the functionality of the respective reference sequence, in the present case, e.g., the functionality of a sequence of an antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, to bind to the same epitope and/or to sufficiently neutralize infection of RSV. Guidance in determining which nucleotides and amino acid residues, respectively, may be substituted, inserted or deleted without abolishing such functionality are found by using computer programs well known in the art.

Several documents are cited throughout the text of this specification. Each of the documents cited herein (including all patents, patent applications, scientific publications, manufacturer's specifications, instructions, etc.), whether supra or infra, are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety. Nothing herein is to be construed as an admission that the invention is not entitled to antedate such disclosure by virtue of prior invention.

It is to be understood that this invention is not limited to the particular methodology, protocols and reagents described herein as these may vary. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only, and is not intended to limit the scope of the present invention which will be limited only by the appended claims. Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meanings as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art.

The invention is based, in part, on the discovery and isolation of antibodies that are highly potent in neutralizing RSV, as well as antigenic sites and epitopes to which the antibodies of the invention bind. Such antibodies are desirable, as only small quantities of the antibodies
5 are required in order to neutralize RSV infection and are highly effective in preventing as well as treating or attenuating RSV infection in high-risk patients. This reduces the costs of production of medicaments comprising the antibodies for the treatment of RSV infection. In addition, the antigenic sites or immunogenic polypeptides comprising epitopes recognized by the antibodies of the invention may be part of a vaccine capable of inducing protection
10 against RSV.

The present invention comprises an isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A RSV and group B RSV, but does preferably not neutralize infection of MPV, wherein preferably the antibody or the antigen binding fragment
15 specifically binds the pre-fusion F protein of RSV, but not the post-fusion RSV F protein. Additionally, the antibody or the antigen binding fragment may preferably not bind the RSV G protein.

In one aspect of the invention, the invention provides an isolated antibody, antibody variants
20 and antigen binding fragments thereof, that neutralize infection of RSV. In one embodiment, the RSV is a human RSV. In another embodiment, the RSV is a bovine RSV.

The antibodies of the invention neutralize infection of both group A RSV (RSV A) and group B RSV (RSV B). As used herein, "group A RSV" and "RSV A" are used interchangeably to refer
25 to an A strain of RSV, and "group B RSV" and "RSV B" are used interchangeably to refer to a B strain of RSV. In one embodiment of the invention, the invention comprises an isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A RSV and group B RSV, but does not neutralize infection of MPV or PVM, wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment specifically binds the pre-fusion F protein of RSV, but not the
30 post-fusion RSV F protein.

The amino acid sequences of the G and F proteins of RSV are classified into A and B groups. The F protein of RSV is a type I trans-membrane surface protein that has an N-terminal cleaved signal peptide and a membrane anchor near the C-terminus. The F protein is synthesized as an inactive F0 precursor that assembles into homotrimers and is activated by cleavage. The F protein is formed by three domains (DI to DIII), a fusion peptide (FP) and three heptad-repeats regions (HR-A, -B and -C). The F glycoprotein of RSV directs viral penetration by fusion between the virion envelope and the host cell plasma membrane. The N-terminus of the F subunit, that is created by proteolytic cleavage and contains the fusion peptide, inserts directly into the target membrane to initiate fusion. After binding to the target cell and subsequent activation, the metastable pre-fusion F protein undergoes a series of structural rearrangements that result in the insertion of the fusion peptide into the target cell membrane, followed by the formation of a stable helical bundle that forms as the viral and cell membranes are apposed. These structural changes lead to the formation of a stable post-fusion F protein. Later in infection, the F protein expressed on the cell surface of infected cells can mediate fusion with adjacent non-infected cells forming large syncytia.

The epitope for palivizumab has been mapped on the post-fusion RSV F protein antigenic site II (also called site A) formed by residues 255-275, and antibody 101F targets the post-fusion RSV F protein antigenic site IV (also called site C) of RSV formed by residues 422-438. To be effective, antibodies should recognize the pre-fusion F protein, which is the relevant conformation to block virus entry, and preferably avoids recognition of the abundant post-fusion F protein that can act as a decoy, thus consuming the antibody and reducing its efficacy.

In one embodiment of the invention, the invention comprises an isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that specifically binds RSV pre-fusion F protein, but not RSV post-fusion F protein. The antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, specifically binds the pre-fusion F protein of both group A and group B RSV, but not the post-fusion F protein of group A or group B RSV. In yet another embodiment, the invention comprises an isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that specifically binds the pre-fusion F protein of RSV, but not the pre-fusion F protein of MPV or PVM.

The antibodies of the invention do not, for example, bind the antigenic site II of the RSV F protein (recognized by palivizumab) or antigenic site IV of the RSV F protein (recognized by mAb 101F). The epitopes recognized by the antibodies of the invention on the RSV F protein are also distinct from that recognized by the antibodies disclosed in U.S. Application No. 13/827,845 (and PCT application No. PCT/IB2013/000627).

Preferably, the antibody according to the present invention, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, has an isoelectric point (pI) of 7.5 or higher. The isoelectric point (pI) can, for example, be calculated based on the amino acid sequences.

Preferably, the isoelectric point of the antibodies and the antigen binding fragments of the invention is about 7.5 to about 8.6, for example, about 7.5, about 7.6, about 7.7, about 7.8, about 7.9, about 8.0, about 8.1, about 8.2, about 8.3, about 8.4, about 8.5 or about 8.6. It is also preferred that the isoelectric point of the antibodies and the antigen binding fragments of the invention is higher than 7.5, higher than 7.6, higher than 7.7, higher than 7.8, higher than 7.9, higher than 8.0, higher than 8.05, higher than 8.1, higher than 8.15, higher than 8.2, higher than 8.25, higher than 8.3, higher than 8.35, higher than 8.4, higher than 8.45, higher than 8.5 or higher than 8.55.

It is known in the art that physical aggregation of monoclonal antibodies is pH dependent, since pH has an impact on the tertiary structure conformation as well as the net charge of the protein, thus affecting net protein-protein interactions (Ejima et al., 2007, *Proteins Structural Function Bioinformatics*, 66, 954-962). Aggregation of monoclonal antibodies is favored when the working pH is near to the isoelectric point of the antibody. While solution environment higher than pH 7.0 can promote deamidation of the asparagine residues, disulphide exchange and aggregation, lower pH values (pH 4 and below) can promote isomerization, hydrolysis and fragmentation (Zheng et al., 2006, *Internal Journal of Pharmacology*, 308, 46-51). In general currently marketed antibodies have a pI between 7.4 to 8.6 and are formulated in the pH range of 5.0 to 7.2, with most of the antibodies being formulated at slightly acidic pH. Thus, an antibody according to the present invention, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, having an isoelectric point (pI) of 7.5 or higher, makes them excellent candidates for production and formulation in marketable quantities.

The invention further provides antibodies and antigen binding fragments thereof that neutralize infection of RSV A and RSV B and have a higher isoelectric point than some of the other antibodies that neutralize RSV infection. The antibodies of the invention and fragments thereof, for example, have a higher isoelectric point than D25. In one embodiment, the isoelectric point of the antibodies and antigen binding fragments of the invention is about 7.5 to about 8.6, for example, about 7.5, about 7.6, about 7.7, about 7.8, about 7.9, about 8.0, about 8.1, about 8.2, about 8.3, about 8.4, about 8.5 or about 8.6. In another embodiment, the isoelectric point of the antibodies and antigen binding fragments of the invention is higher than 7.5, higher than 7.6, higher than 7.7, higher than 7.8, higher than 7.9, higher than 8.0, higher than 8.05, higher than 8.1, higher than 8.15, higher than 8.2, higher than 8.25, higher than 8.3, higher than 8.35, higher than 8.4, higher than 8.45, higher than 8.5 or higher than 8.55.

Preferably, the antibody or the antigen binding fragment thereof does not specifically bind to the pre-fusion F protein of RSV at antigenic site S1 and/or does not bind to the pre-fusion F protein of RSV at antigenic site S1, respectively. Preferably, the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, specifically binds to antigenic site S2, antigenic site S3, antigenic site S5 or a site in between antigenic sites S2 and S3 on the pre-fusion F protein of RSV. It is particularly preferred that the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, specifically binds to antigenic site S5 on the pre-fusion F protein of RSV.

Using surface plasmon resonance (SPR), four antigenic sites (S1, S2, S3 and S5) on the pre-fusion F protein of RSV have been identified. More specifically, using cross-competition SPR experiments and a panel of available antibodies of known specificity (palivizumab, D25 and 101F), as well as antibodies according to the present invention, as specified in the Examples, four antigenic sites (S1, S2, S3 and S5) have been identified on the pre-fusion F protein (Figure 6, Table 6).

For SPR, any SPR system may be used, for example ProteOn-XPR36 instrument (Bio-Rad). Antibodies may be immobilized, for example on a ProteOn GLC sensor chip surface, for example, through amine coupling. For use as a reference, for example, a blank surface with

no antibody may be created under identical coupling conditions. RSV F protein may be injected, for example at a flow rate of 100 ml min^{-1} , for example at concentrations of 200, 100, 75, 50 and/or 25 nM. The data may be processed for example using Proteon software. For competition experiment, antibodies may be covalently coupled to a GLC sensor chip,
5 RSV F protein may be injected, and the competing antibody may be injected after a dissociation time, for example of 20 s.

Palivizumab binds to antigenic site S1 of the RSV pre-fusion F protein. The antibodies provided as examples of the present invention specifically bind, for example, to antigenic
10 sites S2, S3, S5 or a site in between S2 and S3 on the RSV pre-fusion F protein. In particular, none of the antibodies provided as examples of the present invention competed with palivizumab. Moreover, a preferred antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof according to the present invention does not compete with any of palivizumab, D25 and 101F, indicating that it binds to a novel site, S5, on the pre-fusion F protein.

15 In one embodiment, the invention provides an isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A RSV and group B RSV and specifically binds to antigenic site S5 on the pre-fusion F protein of RSV. No other antibody known in the art binds to the antigenic site identified for the first time herein as S5.

20 Four antigenic sites (S1, S2, S3 and S5) on the pre-fusion F protein of RSV have thus been identified herein. In one embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that specifically binds antigenic site S5 of the RSV A or RSV B pre-fusion F protein. In another embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or antigen binding
25 fragment thereof that specifically binds antigenic site S2 of the RSV A or RSV B pre-fusion F protein. In another embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that specifically binds antigenic site S3 of the RSV A or RSV B pre-fusion F protein. In another embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that specifically binds an antigenic site that overlaps sites S2 and S3 of the
30 RSV A or RSV B pre-fusion F protein. In yet another embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that does not specifically bind antigenic site S1 of the RSV A or RSV B pre-fusion F protein.

Preferably, the concentration of the antibody according to the present invention, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, required for 50% neutralization of RSV is 150 ng/ml or less. More preferably, the concentration of the antibody of the invention required for 50% neutralization of both RSV A and RSV B is about 150 ng/ml to about 200 ng/ml.

The antibody and antigen binding fragment of the invention have high neutralizing potency. The concentration of the antibody of the invention required for 50% neutralization of RSV A or RSV B is, for example, about 50 ng/ml or less.

This means that only low concentrations of antibody are required for 50% neutralization of RSV. Specificity and potency can be measured using standard assays as known to one of skill in the art. A neutralization assay for RSV typically measures the loss of infectivity through reaction of the virus with specific antibodies. A loss of infectivity is caused by interference by the bound antibody with any of the virus replication steps including binding to target cells, entry, and/or viral release. Usually, a given amount of RSV, e.g. 50-100 TCID₅₀ (50% tissue culture infective dose), and different concentrations of the (monoclonal) antibodies are mixed under appropriate conditions, e.g. for 1 hour at room temperature, and then inoculated into an appropriate target cell culture, e.g. Hep-2 cells. Values are typically provided per ml cell culture. The presence of unneutralized virus is detected after a predetermined amount of time, e.g. 6 days, by measuring the cytopathic effect of the (unneutralized) virus on target cells, e.g. by using a colorimetric assay for the quantification of cellular viability, like for instance the WST-1 reagent. The more target cells are rescued from cell death or are measured to be viable, the more virus was neutralized by the antibodies. The effects measured are usually dose-dependent: The higher the antibody titer, the more cells are rescued. Depending on the neutralizing character of the antibody, the TCID₅₀ values vary, e.g. an antibody of significant neutralizing character will require lower amounts (of the antibody) to be added (for, e.g., achieving the same amount of "rescued" target cells in the assay, i.e. cells measured to be viable) than another antibody of less pronounced neutralizing character.

In one embodiment, the concentration of the antibody of the invention required for 50% neutralization of both RSV A and RSV B is about 150 ng/ml to about 200 ng/ml. In other embodiments, the concentration of the antibody of the invention required for 50%

neutralization of group A or group B RSV is about 150 ng/ml or about 120, 100, 90, 80, 75, 70, 60, 50, 45, 40, 35, 30, 25, or about 20 ng/ml or less. In other embodiments, the concentration of the antibody of the invention required for 50% neutralization of RSV A or RSV B is about 20 ng/ml or about 19, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 or about 1 ng/ml or less. In other embodiments, the concentration of the antibody of the invention required for 50% neutralization of RSV A or RSV B is about 1 ng/ml or about 0.9, 0.8, 0.7, 0.6, 0.5, 0.4, 0.3, 0.2 or about 0.1 ng/ml or less. This means that only low concentrations of antibody are required for 50% neutralization of RSV. Specificity and potency can be measured using standard assays as known to one of skill in the art.

Preferably, the antibody according to the present invention, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, is a human antibody, a monoclonal antibody, a human monoclonal antibody, a purified antibody, a single chain antibody, Fab, Fab', F(ab')₂, Fv or scFv.

The antibodies of the invention may be human antibodies, monoclonal antibodies, human monoclonal antibodies, recombinant antibodies or purified antibodies. The invention also provides fragments of the antibodies of the invention, particularly fragments that retain the antigen-binding activity of the antibodies. Such fragments include, but are not limited to, single chain antibodies, Fab, Fab', F(ab')₂, Fv or scFv. Although the specification, including the claims, may, in some places, refer explicitly to antigen binding fragment(s), antibody fragment(s), variant(s) and/or derivative(s) of antibodies, it is understood that the term "antibody" or "antibody of the invention" includes all categories of antibodies, namely, antigen binding fragment(s), antibody fragment(s), variant(s) and derivative(s) of antibodies.

Fragments of the antibodies of the invention can be obtained from the antibodies by methods that include digestion with enzymes, such as pepsin or papain, and/or by cleavage of disulfide bonds by chemical reduction. Alternatively, fragments of the antibodies can be obtained by cloning and expression of part of the sequences of the heavy or light chains. Antibody "fragments" include Fab, Fab', F(ab')₂ and Fv fragments. The invention also encompasses single-chain Fv fragments (scFv) derived from the heavy and light chains of an antibody of the invention. For example, the invention includes a scFv comprising the CDRs from an antibody of the invention. Also included are heavy or light chain monomers and dimers, single domain

heavy chain antibodies, single domain light chain antibodies, as well as single chain antibodies, *e.g.*, single chain Fv in which the heavy and light chain variable domains are joined by a peptide linker.

5 Antibody fragments of the invention may impart monovalent or multivalent interactions and be contained in a variety of structures as described above. For instance, scFv molecules may be synthesized to create a trivalent "triabody" or a tetravalent "tetrabody." The scFv molecules may include a domain of the Fc region resulting in bivalent minibodies. In addition, the sequences of the invention may be a component of multispecific molecules in
10 which the sequences of the invention target the epitopes of the invention and other regions of the molecule bind to other targets. Exemplary molecules include, but are not limited to, bispecific Fab2, trispecific Fab3, bispecific scFv, and diabodies (Holliger and Hudson, 2005, *Nature Biotechnology* 9: 1126-1136).

15 Preferably, the antibody according to the present invention, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises a heavy chain comprising CDRH1, CDRH2 and CDRH3 and a light chain comprising CDRL1, CDRL2 and CDRL3, wherein the heavy chain CDRH3 comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51. More preferably, the heavy chain CDRH3 of the antibody, or of the antigen binding fragment
20 thereof, comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51. In more general terms, the present invention also comprises an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, comprising a heavy chain comprising CDRH1, CDRH2 and CDRH3 and a light chain comprising CDRL1, CDRL2 and CDRL3, wherein the heavy chain CDRH3 comprises an amino acid sequence variant to SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51.

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In one embodiment, an isolated antibody of the invention, or antigen binding fragment thereof, neutralizes infection of RSV A and RSV B and comprises a heavy chain comprising CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 and a light chain comprising CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3, wherein the heavy chain CDR3 comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 90%, for example, 90%,
30 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% identical to SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51.

In this context, the antibody according to the present invention, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, preferably comprises (at least) three CDRs on the heavy chain and (at least) three CDRs on the light chain. In general, complementarity determining regions (CDRs) are the hypervariable regions present in heavy chain variable domains and light chain variable domains. Typically, the CDRs of a heavy chain and the connected light chain of an antibody together form the antigen receptor. Usually, the three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3) are arranged non-consecutively in the variable domain. Since antigen receptors are typically composed of two variable domains (on two different polypeptide chains, i.e. heavy and light chain), there are six CDRs for each antigen receptor (heavy chain: CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3; light chain: CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3). A single antibody molecule usually has two antigen receptors and therefore contains twelve CDRs. The CDRs on the heavy and/or light chain may be separated by framework regions, whereby a framework region (FR) is a region in the variable domain which is less "variable" than the CDR. For example, a chain (or each chain, respectively) may be composed of four framework regions, separated by three CDR.

The sequences of the heavy chains and light chains of several antibodies of the invention, each comprising three CDRs on the heavy chain and three CDRs on the light chain have been determined. The position of the CDR amino acids are defined according to the IMGT numbering system (IMGT: <http://www.imgt.org/>; cf. Lefranc, M.-P. et al. (2009) Nucleic Acids Res. 37, D1006-D1012). The sequences of the CDRs, heavy chains, light chains as well as the sequences of the nucleic acid molecules encoding the CDRs, heavy chains, light chains of the antibodies of the invention, i.e. of several antibodies according to the invention, are disclosed in the sequence listing. The CDRs of the antibody heavy chains are also referred to as CDRH1, CDRH2 and CDRH3, respectively. Similarly, the CDRs of the antibody light chains are also referred to as CDRL1, CDRL2 and CDRL3, respectively. Table 1 provides the SEQ ID numbers for the amino acid sequences of the six CDRs of the heavy and light chains, respectively, of the exemplary antibodies of the invention.

Table 1. SEQ ID Numbers for CDR Polypeptides of Antibodies that Neutralize RSV A and RSV B.

	SEQ ID NOs. for CDR Polypeptides					
	CDRH1	CDRH2	CDRH3	CDRL1	CDRL2	CDRL3
HMB2435	1	2	3	4	5	6
HMB2437	17	18	19	20	21	22
HMB2416	33	34	35	36	37	38
HMB2432 variant 1	49	50	51	52	53	54
HMB2432 variant 2	49	50	51	52	53	54
HMB2432 variant 3	49	50	51	52	53	54
HMB2432 variant 4	49	50	51	52	53	54
HMB2435 Variant 2	1	2	3	4	5	6
HMB2435 variant 3	1	2	3	4	5	6
HMB2435 variant 4	1	2	3	4	5	6
HMB2437 variant 2	17	18	19	20	21	22
HMB2437 variant 3	17	18	19	20	21	22
HMB2437 variant 4	17	18	19	20	21	22

The present invention provides RSV-specific antibodies or an antigen binding fragment thereof having improved properties as compared to prior art antibodies. The RSV-specific antibodies according to the present invention have very low IC₅₀ values. Such antibodies have a particular high or strong affinity for RSV and are therefore particularly suitable for counteracting and/or at least in part preventing an RSV-infection and/or adverse effects of an RSV infection.

Variant antibodies are also included within the scope of the invention. Thus, variants of the sequences recited in the application are also included within the scope of the invention. Such variants include natural variants generated by somatic mutation *in vivo* during the immune response or *in vitro* upon culture of immortalized B cell clones. Alternatively, variants may arise due to the degeneracy of the genetic code or may be produced due to errors in transcription or translation.

Further variants of the antibody sequences having improved affinity and/or potency may be obtained using methods known in the art and are included within the scope of the invention. For example, amino acid substitutions may be used to obtain antibodies with further improved affinity. Alternatively, codon optimization of the nucleotide sequence may be used to improve the efficiency of translation in expression systems for the production of the antibody. Further, polynucleotides comprising a sequence optimized for antibody specificity or neutralizing activity by the application of a directed evolution method to any of the nucleic acid sequences of the invention are also within the scope of the invention.

Preferably, variant antibody sequences may share 70% or more (i.e. 75%, 80%, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) amino acid sequence identity with the sequences recited in the application. Such variants usually have a greater homology to the sequences listed herein in the CDRs of the heavy chain variable region (V_H) and light chain variable region (V_L) than in the framework region. As is known to one of skill in the art, mutations are more tolerated, *i.e.*, limited or no loss of function (*e.g.*, specificity or neutralization ability) in the framework regions than in the CDRs.

The invention thus comprises an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, wherein the variation from the sequences provided herein is preferably in the framework region(s) of the antibody or in the nucleic acid residues that encode the framework region(s) of the antibody.

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In the present invention, such (variant) antibodies are preferred, in which the number of somatic mutations is reduced (i.e. "germlined" antibodies: reverted back to the "germline" configuration). Germline sequences of antibodies may be determined, for example, with reference to IMGT database (e.g., according to the IMGT VDJ and VJ assignments and rearrangement interpretation: <http://www.imgt.org/>; cf. Lefranc, M.-P. et al. (2009) Nucleic Acids Res. 37, D1006-D1012) and "germlined" antibody variants may be produced, for example, by gene synthesis or by site-directed mutagenesis. A low level of somatic mutations reduces the potential risk of antibody immunogenicity. Preferably, the number of somatic mutations is reduced in the framework regions (FR) (i.e. "framework regions germlined" antibodies, also referred to herein as FR-GL variants). (Variant) antibodies, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and FR-GL variants, respectively, without any somatic mutations in the framework regions (FR) are more preferred. Particularly preferred are such (variant) antibodies, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and FR-GL variants, respectively, with as few somatic mutations as possible, whereby on the other hand the neutralizing activity is not impaired (as compared to the reference antibody/fragment containing (more) somatic mutations). Such antibodies are on the one hand not impaired in their neutralizing activities, thus showing a very high potency and breadth. On the other hand, a potential risk of antibody immunogenicity is significantly reduced.

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In one embodiment, an isolated antibody or antibody fragment of the invention comprises at least one CDR with a sequence that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, 17-22, 33-38, or 49-54. The amino acid sequences of the heavy and light chain variable regions of the antibodies of the invention as well as the nucleic acid sequences that encode them are provided in Figures 7-10. The amino acid residues corresponding to the six CDRs and the nucleic acid residues that encode them are highlighted in bold text.

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Preferably, an isolated antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, according to the present invention comprises more than one CDR with a sequence that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, 17-22, 33-38, or 49-54.

5 Preferably, the antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises two CDRs with a sequence that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, 17-22, 33-38, or 49-54. Thereby it is preferred that the antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises (i) a CDRH1 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 17, 33 or 49, and a CDRL1 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID
10 NOs: 4, 20, 36 or 52; (ii) a CDRH2 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 18, 34 or 50, and a CDRL2 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 5, 21, 37 or 53; or (iii) a CDRH3 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51, and a CDRL3 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 6, 22, 38 or 54.

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Preferably, the antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises three CDRs with a sequence that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, 17-22, 33-38, or 49-54. Thereby it is preferred that the antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises (i) a CDRH1 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 17, 33 or 49, a CDRH2 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 18, 34 or 50, and a CDRH3 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID
20 NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51; or (ii) a CDRL1 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 4, 20, 36 or 52, a CDRL2 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 5, 21, 37 or 53, and a CDRL3 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any
25 one of SEQ ID NOs: 6, 22, 38 or 54.

Preferably, the antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises four CDRs with a sequence that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, 17-22, 33-38, or 49-54. Thereby it is preferred that the antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises (i) a CDRH1 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 17, 33 or 49, a CDRH2 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 18, 34 or 50, a CDRH3 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 3,
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19, 35 or 51, and a CDRL that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 4-6, 20-22, 36-38, or 52-54; (ii) a CDRL1 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 4, 20, 36 or 52, a CDRL2 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 5, 21, 37 or 53, a CDRL3 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 6, 22, 38 or 54, and a CDRH that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1-3, 17-19, 33-35, or 49-51, whereby a CDRH3 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51 is particularly preferred; (iii) a CDRH1 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 17, 33 or 49, a CDRL1 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 4, 20, 36 or 52, a CDRH2 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 18, 34 or 50, and a CDRL2 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 5, 21, 37 or 53; (iv) a CDRH1 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 17, 33 or 49, a CDRL1 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 4, 20, 36 or 52, a CDRH3 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51, and a CDRL3 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 6, 22, 38 or 54; or (v) a CDRH2 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 18, 34 or 50, a CDRL2 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 5, 21, 37 or 53, a CDRH3 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51, and a CDRL3 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 6, 22, 38 or 54.

Preferably, the antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises five CDRs with a sequence that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, 17-22, 33-38, or 49-54. Thereby it is preferred that the antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises five CDRs selected from the group of a CDRH1 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 17, 33 or 49, a CDRH2 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 18, 34 or 50, a CDRH3 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51, a CDRL1 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 4, 20, 36 or 52, a CDRL2 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 5, 21, 37 or 53, and a CDRL3 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 6, 22, 38 or 54.

Preferably, the antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises six CDRs with a sequence that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, 17-22, 33-38, or 49-54. Thereby it is preferred that the antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises six CDRs selected from the group of a CDRH1 that has at least 95% sequence
5 identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 17, 33 or 49, a CDRH2 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 18, 34 or 50, a CDRH3 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51, a CDRL1 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 4, 20, 36 or 52, a CDRL2 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 5, 21, 37 or 53, and a CDRL3 that has at least 95%
10 sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 6, 22, 38 or 54. More preferably, the antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises: (i) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, respectively; (ii) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light
15 chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 17-22, respectively; (iii) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 33-38, respectively; or (iv) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid
20 sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 49-54, respectively.

Among the embodiments described above of the antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, of the invention having at least one CDR, i.e. one, two, three, four, five six CDRs as
25 described above, such an embodiment of the antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, is preferred, which comprises a CDRH3 that has at least 95% sequence identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51.

In yet another embodiment, the isolated antibody or antigen binding fragment of the invention
30 comprises a heavy chain CDR1 with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 17, 33 or 49 or sequence variants thereof; a heavy chain CDR2 with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 18, 34 or 50 or sequence variants thereof; and a heavy chain CDR3 with the

amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51 or sequence variants thereof. In certain embodiments, an antibody or antibody fragment as provided herein comprises a heavy chain comprising the amino acid sequence of (i) SEQ ID NO: 1 for CDRH1, SEQ ID NO: 2 for CDRH2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 for CDRH3, (ii) SEQ ID NO: 17 for CDRH1, SEQ ID NO: 18 for CDRH2, and SEQ ID NO: 19 for CDRH3, (iii) SEQ ID NO: 33 for CDRH1, SEQ ID NO: 34 for CDRH2, and SEQ ID NO: 35 for CDRH3, or (iv) or SEQ ID NO: 49 for CDRH1, SEQ ID NO: 50 for CDRH2, and SEQ ID NO: 51 for CDRH3.

In one embodiment, the antibody or antigen binding fragment of the invention comprises a light chain CDR1 with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 4, 20, 36 or 52 or sequence variants thereof; a light chain CDR2 with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 5, 21, 37 or 53 or sequence variants thereof; and a light chain CDR3 with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6, 22, 38 or 54 or sequence variants thereof. In certain embodiments, an antibody or antibody fragment as provided herein comprises a light chain comprising the amino acid sequence of (i) SEQ ID NO: 4 for CDRL1, SEQ ID NO: 5 for CDRL2, and SEQ ID NO: 6 for CDRL3; (ii) SEQ ID NO: 20 for CDRL1, SEQ ID NO: 21 for CDRL2, and SEQ ID NO: 22 for CDRL3; (iii) SEQ ID NO: 36 for CDRL1, SEQ ID NO: 37 for CDRL2, and SEQ ID NO: 38 for CDRL3; or (iv) SEQ ID NO: 52 for CDRL1, SEQ ID NO: 53 for CDRL2, and SEQ ID NO: 54 for CDRL3.

In another embodiment of the invention, the invention comprises an isolated antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprising heavy chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90%, for example, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1-6; 17-22; 33-38; or 49-54, respectively, wherein the antibody neutralizes infection of both group A and group B RSV.

In another embodiment, the invention comprises an isolated antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A and group B RSV, comprising: (i) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, respectively; (ii) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid

sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 17-22, respectively; (iii) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of
5 SEQ ID NOs: 33-38, respectively; or (iv) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 49-54, respectively.

In yet another embodiment of the invention, the invention comprises an isolated antibody or
10 antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A and group B RSV, comprising: (i) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, respectively; (ii) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 17-22, respectively; (iii) heavy
15 chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 33-38, respectively; or (iv) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 49-54, respectively.

20 Preferably, the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, is according to gHMB2435, gHMB2435 variant 2, gHMB2435 variant 3, gHMB2435 variant 4, gHMB2437, gHMB2437 variant 2, gHMB2437 variant 3, gHMB2437 variant 4, gHMB2416, gHMB2432 variant 1, gHMB2432 variant 2, gHMB2432 variant 3 or gHMB2432 variant 4. More preferably, the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, is HMB2435, HMB2435 variant 2,
25 HMB2435 variant 3, HMB2435 variant 4, HMB2437, HMB2437 variant 2, HMB2437 variant 3, HMB2437 variant 4, HMB2416, HMB2432 variant 1, HMB2432 variant 2, HMB2432 variant 3 or HMB2432 variant 4.

The present inventors have isolated four monoclonal antibodies (mAbs), which are referred
30 to herein as "HMB2437", "HMB2435", "HMB2416", and "HMB2432" (cf. Example 1). These antibodies have been further analyzed and the VH and VL genes of HMB2437, HMB2435, HMB2416, and HMB2432 have been cloned into appropriate expression vectors and

recombinant antibodies were produced (cf. Example 1). Based on the antibodies HMB2437, HMB2435, HMB2416, and HMB2432, in particular on the VH and VL genes of HMB2437, HMB2435, HMB2416, and HMB2432, the terms "gHMB2435", "gHMB2435 variant 2", "gHMB2435 variant 3", "gHMB2435 variant 4", "gHMB2437", "gHMB2437 variant 2",
5 "gHMB2437 variant 3", "gHMB2437 variant 4", "gHMB2416", "gHMB2432 variant 1", "gHMB2432 variant 2", "gHMB2432 variant 3" and "gHMB2432 variant 4", as used herein, refer to respective "generic" antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, having the specific amino acid sequences, encoded by the specific nucleotide sequences, as outlined below.

10 As used herein, "gHMB2435" refers to an antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, having a CDRH1 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1, which is encoded by a CDRH1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 7, a CDRH2 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2, which is encoded by a CDRH2 nucleotide sequence according
15 to SEQ ID NO: 8, a CDRH3 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 3, which is encoded by a CDRH3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 9, a CDRL1 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 4, which is encoded by a CDRL1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 10, a CDRL2 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 5, which is encoded by a CDRL2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 11, and a
20 CDRL3 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 6, which is encoded by a CDRL3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 12. The heavy chain variable region (V_H) of "gHMB2435" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 13, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 15, and the light chain variable region (V_L) of "gHMB2435" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 14, which is
25 encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 16.

As used herein, "gHMB2435 variant 2", "gHMB2435 variant 3", and "gHMB2435 variant 4" refers to antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, which are framework regions germlined (FR-GL) variants of "gHMB2435". "gHMB2435 variant 2", "gHMB2435 variant 3",
30 and "gHMB2435 variant 4" have the same CDR amino acid sequences as "gHMB2435", i.e. having a CDRH1 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1, a CDRH2 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2, a CDRH3 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID

NO: 3, a CDRL1 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 4, a CDRL2 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 5, and a CDRL3 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 6.

5 In the "gHMB2435 variant 2", the CDRH1 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRH1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 7, the CDRH2 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRH2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 8, the CDRH3 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRH3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 9, the CDRL1 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRL1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ
10 ID NO: 72, the CDRL2 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRL2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 73, and the CDRL3 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRL3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 74. The heavy chain variable region (V_H) of "gHMB2435 variant 2" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 13, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 15, and the light chain variable
15 region (V_L) of "gHMB2435 variant 2" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 76, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 78.

In the "gHMB2435 variant 3", the CDRH1 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRH1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 69, the CDRH2 amino acid sequence is
20 encoded by a CDRH2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 70, the CDRH3 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRH3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 71, the CDRL1 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRL1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 10, the CDRL2 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRL2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 11, and the CDRL3 amino acid sequence is encoded by
25 a CDRL3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 12. The heavy chain variable region (V_H) of "gHMB2435 variant 3" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 75, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 77, and the light chain variable region (V_L) of "gHMB2435 variant 3" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ
ID NO: 14, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 16.

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In the "gHMB2435 variant 4", the CDRH1 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRH1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 69, the CDRH2 amino acid sequence is

encoded by a CDRH2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 70, the CDRH3 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRH3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 71, the CDRL1 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRL1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 72, the CDRL2 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRL2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 73, and the CDRL3 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRL3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 74. The heavy chain variable region (V_H) of "gHMB2435 variant 4" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 75, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 77, and the light chain variable region (V_L) of "gHMB2435 variant 4" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 76, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 78.

"gHMB2435 variant 4" has, for example, only 14 amino acids somatic mutations in total in the heavy and light chains, which are all located in the CDRs. "gHMB2435", in contrast, has 34 amino acids somatic mutations, with 20 out of the 34 amino acids somatic mutations located in the framework regions, while the other 14 amino acids somatic mutations are located in the CDRs. Therefore, the number of somatic mutations in the framework regions is considerably reduced in "gHMB2435 variant 4" as compared to "gHMB2435" – in fact, "gHMB2435 variant 4" does not have any amino acid somatic mutations in the framework regions. However, "gHMB2435 variant 4" is not impaired in neutralization activity compared to "gHMB2435" and, thus, shows a very high potency and breadth, whereby the potential risk of antibody immunogenicity is significantly reduced due to the low level of somatic mutations. For these reasons an antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, according to "gHMB2435 variant 4" is particularly preferred. Accordingly, an antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, having a heavy chain variable region (V_H) having an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 75, which is preferably encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 77 or sequence variants thereof, and a light chain variable region (V_L) having an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 76, which is preferably encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 78 or sequence variants thereof, is particularly preferred.

As used herein, "gHMB2437" refers to an antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, having a CDRH1 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 17, which is encoded by a

- CDRH1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 23, a CDRH2 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 18, which is encoded by a CDRH2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 24, a CDRH3 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 19, which is encoded by a CDRH3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 25, a CDRL1 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 20, which is encoded by a CDRL1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 26, a CDRL2 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 21, which is encoded by a CDRL2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 27, and a CDRL3 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 22, which is encoded by a CDRL3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 28. The heavy chain variable region (V_H) of "gHMB2437" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 29, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 31, and the light chain variable region (V_L) of "gHMB2437" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 30, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 32.
- As used herein, "gHMB2437 variant 2", "gHMB2437 variant 3", and "gHMB2437 variant 4" refers to antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, which are framework regions germlined (FR-GL) variants of "gHMB2437". "gHMB2437 variant 2", "gHMB2437 variant 3", and "gHMB2437 variant 4" have the same CDR amino acid sequences as "gHMB2437", i.e. having a CDRH1 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 17, a CDRH2 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 18, a CDRH3 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 19, a CDRL1 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 20, a CDRL2 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 21, and a CDRL3 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 22.
- In the "gHMB2437 variant 2", the CDRH1 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRH1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 23, the CDRH2 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRH2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 24, the CDRH3 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRH3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 25, the CDRL1 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRL1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 82, the CDRL2 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRL2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 83, and the CDRL3 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRL3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 84. The heavy chain variable region

(V_H) of "gHMB2437 variant 2" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 29, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 31, and the light chain variable region (V_L) of "gHMB2437 variant 2" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 86, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 88.

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In the "gHMB2437 variant 3", the CDRH1 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRH1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 79, the CDRH2 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRH2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 80, the CDRH3 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRH3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 81, the CDRL1 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRL1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 26, the CDRL2 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRL2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 27, and the CDRL3 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRL3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 28. The heavy chain variable region (V_H) of "gHMB2437 variant 3" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 85, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 87, and the light chain variable region (V_L) of "gHMB2437 variant 3" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 30, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 32.

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In the "gHMB2437 variant 4", the CDRH1 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRH1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 79, the CDRH2 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRH2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 80, the CDRH3 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRH3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 81, the CDRL1 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRL1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 82, the CDRL2 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRL2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 83, and the CDRL3 amino acid sequence is encoded by a CDRL3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 84. The heavy chain variable region (V_H) of "gHMB2437 variant 4" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 85, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 87, and the light chain variable region (V_L) of "gHMB2437 variant 4" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 86, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 88.

As used herein, "gHMB2416" refers to an antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, having a CDRH1 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 33, which is encoded by a CDRH1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 39, a CDRH2 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 34, which is encoded by a CDRH2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 40, a CDRH3 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 35, which is encoded by a CDRH3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 41, a CDRL1 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 36, which is encoded by a CDRL1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 42, a CDRL2 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 37, which is encoded by a CDRL2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 43, and a CDRL3 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 38, which is encoded by a CDRL3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 44. The heavy chain variable region (V_H) of "gHMB2416" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 45, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 47, and the light chain variable region (V_L) of "gHMB2416" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 46, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 48.

As used herein, "gHMB2432 variant 1", "gHMB2432 variant 2", "gHMB2432 variant 3", and "gHMB2432 variant 4" refers to antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, having a CDRH1 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 49, which is encoded by a CDRH1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 55, a CDRH2 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 50, which is encoded by a CDRH2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 56, a CDRH3 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 51, which is encoded by a CDRH3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 57, a CDRL1 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 52, which is encoded by a CDRL1 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 58, a CDRL2 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 53, which is encoded by a CDRL2 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 59, and a CDRL3 amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 54, which is encoded by a CDRL3 nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 60.

In the "gHMB2432 variant 1", the heavy chain variable region (V_H) has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 61, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 63, and the light chain variable region (V_L) of "gHMB2432 variant

1" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 62, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 64.

In the "gHMB2432 variant 2", the heavy chain variable region (V_H) has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 61, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 63, and the light chain variable region (V_L) of "gHMB2432 variant 2" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 66, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 68.

In the "gHMB2432 variant 3", the heavy chain variable region (V_H) has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 65, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 67, and the light chain variable region (V_L) of "gHMB2432 variant 3" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 62, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 64.

In the "gHMB2432 variant 4", the heavy chain variable region (V_H) has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 65, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 67, and the light chain variable region (V_L) of "gHMB2432 variant 4" has an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 66, which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 68.

Antibodies according to gHMB2435, gHMB2435 variant 2, gHMB2435 variant 3, gHMB2435 variant 4, gHMB2437, gHMB2437 variant 2, gHMB2437 variant 3, gHMB2437 variant 4, gHMB2416, gHMB2432 variant 1, gHMB2432 variant 2, gHMB2432 variant 3 and gHMB2432 variant 4 neutralize infection of both group A RSV and group B RSV, but do not neutralize infection of MPV. Moreover, they specifically bind the pre-fusion F protein of RSV, but not the post-fusion RSV F protein or the RSV G protein.

Preferably, the antibodies according to gHMB2435, gHMB2435 variant 2, gHMB2435 variant 3, gHMB2435 variant 4, gHMB2437, gHMB2437 variant 2, gHMB2437 variant 3, gHMB2437 variant 4, gHMB2416, gHMB2432 variant 1, gHMB2432 variant 2, gHMB2432 variant 3 and gHMB2432 variant 4 are of the IgG1 type.

In another embodiment, the invention provides an isolated antibody or antigen binding fragment comprising a heavy chain comprising one or more (*i.e.*, one, two or all three) heavy chain CDRs from HMB2435, HMB2435 variant 2, HMB2435 variant 3, HMB2435 variant 4, HMB2437, HMB2437 variant 2, HMB2437 variant 3, HMB2437 variant 4, HMB2416, HMB2432 variant 1, HMB2432 variant 2, HMB2432 variant 3 or HMB2432 variant 4.

Also provided is an isolated antibody or antigen binding fragment that neutralizes infection of RSV A and RSV B and comprises a light chain comprising one or more (*i.e.* one, two or all three) light chain CDRs from HMB2435, HMB2435 variant 2, HMB2435 variant 3, HMB2435 variant 4, HMB2437, HMB2437 variant 2, HMB2437 variant 3, HMB2437 variant 4, HMB2416, HMB2432 variant 1, HMB2432 variant 2, HMB2432 variant 3 or HMB2432 variant 4.

In one embodiment, an isolated antibody of the invention, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises all of the CDRs of antibody HMB2435 as listed in Table 1, and neutralizes infection of RSV A and RSV B. In another embodiment, an antibody of the invention, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises all of the CDRs of antibody HMB2437 as listed in Table 1, and neutralizes infection of RSV A and RSV B. In another embodiment, an antibody of the invention, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises all of the CDRs of antibody HMB2416 as listed in Table 1, and neutralizes infection of RSV A and RSV B. In another embodiment, an antibody of the invention, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises all of the CDRs of antibody HMB2432 as listed in Table 1, and neutralizes infection of RSV A and RSV B.

The SEQ ID numbers for the amino acid sequence for the heavy chain variable region (V_H) and the light chain variable region (V_L) of exemplary antibodies of the invention as well as the SEQ ID numbers for the nucleic acid sequences encoding them are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. SEQ ID Numbers for V_H and V_L amino acid and nucleic acid residues for Antibodies that Neutralize RSV A and RSV B.

	V _H amino acid	V _L amino acid	V _H nucleic acid	V _L nucleic acid
HMB2435	13	14	15	16
HMB2437	29	30	31	32
HMB2416	45	46	47	48
HMB2432 variant 1	61	62	63	64
HMB2432 variant 2	61	66	63	68
HMB2432 variant 3	65	62	67	64
HMB2432 variant 4	65	66	67	68
HMB2435 variant 2	13	76	15	78
HMB2435 variant 3	75	14	77	16
HMB2435 variant 4	75	76	77	78
HMB2437 variant 2	29	86	31	88
HMB2437 variant 3	85	30	87	32
HMB2437 variant 4	85	86	87	88

- 5 In one embodiment, an antibody or antibody fragment of the invention neutralizes infection of RSV A and RSV B and comprises a heavy chain variable region having an amino acid

sequence that is about 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% identical to the sequence recited in any one of SEQ ID NOs: 13, 29, 45, 61, 65, 75 or 85. In another embodiment, the antibody or antibody fragment comprises a light chain variable region having an amino acid sequence that is about 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% identical to the sequence recited in SEQ ID NOs: 14, 30, 46, 62, 66, 76 or 86. In yet another embodiment, the antibody or antibody fragment comprises a heavy chain or a light chain variable region having an amino acid sequence that is about 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% identical to the sequences provided in Figures 7, 8, 9, 10A, 10B and 11.

Figures 7, 8, 9 and 10 show the amino acid sequences for the heavy and light chains of antibodies HMB2435, HMB2437, 2416 and 2432, respectively, as well as the nucleic acid sequences that encode them. The amino acid sequences of the CDRs and the nucleic acid sequences that encode the CDRs are in bold text whereas the amino acid sequences of the framework region and the nucleic acid sequences that encode the framework region are in plain text.

Figure 11 shows the amino acid sequences of the heavy and light chains of antibodies HMB2435 and HMB2437 aligned with the corresponding framework regions germlined sequences (FR-GL). The amino acid sequences of the CDRs of the heavy and light chains are highlighted by grey boxes. For the FR-GL variants only the substituted amino acids are shown, i.e. the dots symbolize amino acids, which correspond to the respective amino acids of HMB2435 or HMB2437, respectively. The "variants 2" of HMB2435 or HMB2437, respectively, have a heavy chain according to HMB2435 or HMB2437, respectively, and a light chain according to HMB2435 FR-GL or HMB2437 FR-GL, respectively. The "variants 3" of HMB2435 or HMB2437, respectively, have a heavy chain according to HMB2435 FR-GL or HMB2437 FR-GL, respectively, and a light chain according to HMB2435 or HMB2437, respectively. Thus, only the "variants 4" of HMB2435 or HMB2437, respectively, have both, a heavy chain and a light chain according to HMB2435 FR-GL or HMB2437 FR-GL, respectively.

In another embodiment, the invention comprises an isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of RSV A and RSV B and comprises (i) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (ii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; (iii) or a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46; or (iv) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (v) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or (vi) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (vii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ

ID NO: 66; or (viii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (ix) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (x) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (xi) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86; or (xii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; or (xiii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86.

It is thus preferred that the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, comprises: (i) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%,

95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (ii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; (iii) or a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46; or (iv) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (v) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or (vi) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (vii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or (viii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (ix) a heavy chain variable region having at

least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (x) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (xi) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86; or (xii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; or (xiii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region having at least 80%, for example, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86.

More preferably, the antibody or the antigen binding fragment comprises: (i) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (ii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; (iii) or a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46; or (iv) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (v) a heavy chain

- variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or (vi) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (vii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or (viii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (ix) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (x) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (xi) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86; or (xii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; or (xiii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86.
- 20 In another embodiment of the invention, the invention comprises an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of RSV A and RSV B and comprises a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; or a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46; or a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light

chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86; or a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; or a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86.

Examples of antibodies of the invention include, but are not limited to, HMB2435, HMB2435 variant 2, HMB2435 variant 3, HMB2435 variant 4, HMB2437, HMB2437 variant 2, HMB2437 variant 3, HMB2437 variant 4, HMB2416, HMB2432 variant 1, HMB2432 variant 2, HMB2432 variant 3 or HMB2432 variant 4. Preferably, the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, is according to gHMB2435, gHMB2435 variant 2, gHMB2435 variant 3, gHMB2435 variant 4, gHMB2437, gHMB2437 variant 2, gHMB2437 variant 3, gHMB2437 variant 4, gHMB2416, gHMB2432 variant 1, gHMB2432 variant 2, gHMB2432 variant 3 or gHMB2432 variant 4.

25

The invention further comprises an antibody, or fragment thereof, that binds to the same epitope as an antibody or antigen binding fragment of the invention, or an antibody that competes with an antibody or antigen binding fragment of the invention.

30 Preferably, the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to the present invention that binds to the same epitope as the antibody as described above, (i) neutralizes infection of both group A and group B RSV, but does not neutralize infection of MPV; (ii)

specifically binds the pre-fusion F protein of RSV, but not the post-fusion RSV F protein; and (iii) has an isoelectric point (pI) of 7.5 or higher.

Antibodies of the invention also include hybrid antibody molecules that neutralize infection of group A and group B RSV and that comprise one or more CDRs from an antibody of the invention and one or more CDRs from another antibody to the same epitope. In one embodiment, such hybrid antibodies comprise three CDRs from an antibody of the invention and three CDRs from another antibody to the same epitope. Exemplary hybrid antibodies comprise (i) the three heavy chain CDRs from an antibody of the invention and the three light chain CDRs from another antibody to the same epitope, or (ii) the three light chain CDRs from an antibody of the invention and the three heavy chain CDRs from another antibody to the same epitope.

Variant antibodies are also included within the scope of the invention. Thus, variants of the sequences recited in the application are also included within the scope of the invention. Such variants include natural variants generated by somatic mutation *in vivo* during the immune response or *in vitro* upon culture of immortalized B cell clones. Alternatively, variants may arise due to the degeneracy of the genetic code or may be produced due to errors in transcription or translation.

Further variants of the antibody sequences having improved affinity and/or potency may be obtained using methods known in the art and are included within the scope of the invention. For example, amino acid substitutions may be used to obtain antibodies with further improved affinity. Alternatively, codon optimization of the nucleotide sequence may be used to improve the efficiency of translation in expression systems for the production of the antibody. Further, polynucleotides comprising a sequence optimized for antibody specificity or neutralizing activity by the application of a directed evolution method to any of the nucleic acid sequences of the invention are also within the scope of the invention.

In one embodiment variant antibody sequences may share 70% or more (i.e. 75%, 80%, 85%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) amino acid sequence identity with the sequences recited in the application. Such variants in general have a greater

homology to the sequences listed herein in the CDRs of the V_H and V_L than in the framework region. As is known to one of skill in the art, mutations are more tolerated, *i.e.*, limited or no loss of function (*e.g.*, specificity or neutralization ability) in the framework regions than in the CDRs. In one embodiment, the invention comprises an antibody, or an antigen binding
5 fragment thereof, wherein the variation from the sequences provided herein is in the framework region(s) of the antibody or in the nucleic acid residues that encode the framework region(s) of the antibody.

In some embodiments such sequence identity is calculated with regard to the full length of
10 the reference sequence (*i.e.* the sequence recited in the application). In some further embodiments, percentage identity, as referred to herein, is as determined using BLAST version 2.1.3 using the default parameters specified by the NCBI (the National Center for Biotechnology Information; <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) [Blosum 62 matrix; gap open penalty=11 and gap extension penalty=1].

15 In another aspect, the invention also includes nucleic acid sequences encoding part or all of the light and heavy chains and CDRs of the antibodies of the present invention. Provided herein are nucleic acid sequences encoding part or all of the light and heavy chains and CDRs of exemplary antibodies of the invention. Table 2 provides the SEQ ID numbers for the nucleic
20 acid sequences encoding the heavy chain and light chain variable regions of some examples of antibodies of the invention. Table 3 provides the SEQ ID numbers for the nucleic acid sequences encoding the CDRs of some examples of the antibodies of the invention. Due to the redundancy of the genetic code, variants of these nucleic acid sequences will exist that encode the same amino acid sequences.

25 Thus, the present invention also comprises a nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to the present invention.

Table 3. SEQ ID Numbers for CDR Polynucleotides of Antibodies that Neutralize RSV A and RSV B.

	SEQ ID NOs. for CDR Polynucleotides					
	CDRH1	CDRH2	CDRH3	CDRL1	CDRL2	CDRL3
HMB2435	7	8	9	10	11	12
HMB2437	23	24	25	26	27	28
HMB2416	39	40	41	42	43	44
HMB2432 variant 1	55	56	57	58	59	60
HMB2432 variant 2	55	56	57	58	59	60
HMB2432 variant 3	55	56	57	58	59	60
HMB2432 variant 4	55	56	57	58	59	60
HMB2435 variant 2	7	8	9	72	73	74
HMB2435 variant 3	69	70	71	10	11	12
HMB2435 variant 4	69	70	71	72	73	74
HMB2437 variant 2	23	24	25	82	83	84
HMB2437 variant 3	79	80	81	26	27	28
HMB2437 variant 4	79	80	81	82	83	84

Preferably, the polynucleotide sequence of the nucleic acid molecule according to the invention is at least 75% identical to the nucleic acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 7-12, 15, 16, 23-28, 31, 32, 39-44, 47, 48, 55-60, 63, 64, 67, 68, 69 – 74, 77, 78, 79 – 84,

87, or 88. Preferably, the nucleotide sequence of the nucleic acid molecule according to the invention is according to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 7-12, 15, 16, 23-28, 31, 32, 39-44, 47, 48, 55-60, 63, 64, 67, 68, 69 – 74, 77, 78, 79 – 84, 87, or 88, or sequence variants thereof.

- 5 In one embodiment, nucleic acid sequences according to the invention include nucleic acid sequences having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 88%, at least 90%, at least 92%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98% or at least 99% identity to the nucleic acid encoding the variable region of a heavy or light chain of an antibody of the invention. In another embodiment, a nucleic acid sequence of the invention
- 10 has the sequence of a nucleic acid encoding a heavy or light chain CDR of an antibody of the invention. For example, a nucleic acid sequence according to the invention comprises a sequence that is at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 88%, at least 90%, at least 92%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98% or at least 99% identical to the nucleic acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 7-12, 15, 16, 23-28, 31, 32, 39-44, 47, 48, 55-60,
- 15 63, 64, 67, 68, 69 – 74, 77, 78, 79 – 84, 87 or 88.

In yet another embodiment, nucleic acid sequences according to the invention include nucleic acid sequences having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 88%, at least 90%, at least 92%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98% or at least 99% identity to the nucleic acid encoding a heavy or light chain of an antibody of the invention as provided in Figures 7, 8, 9, 10A and 10B.

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In general, the nucleic acid molecule may be manipulated to insert, delete or alter certain nucleic acid sequences. Changes from such manipulation include, but are not limited to, changes to introduce restriction sites, to amend codon usage, to add or optimize transcription and/or translation regulatory sequences, etc. It is also possible to change the nucleic acid to alter the encoded amino acids. For example, it may be useful to introduce one or more (*e.g.*, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, etc.) amino acid substitutions, deletions and/or insertions into the antibody's amino acid sequence. Such point mutations can modify effector functions, antigen-binding affinity, post-translational modifications, immunogenicity, etc., can introduce amino acids for the attachment of covalent groups (*e.g.*, labels) or can introduce tags (*e.g.*, for purification purposes). Mutations can be introduced in specific sites or can be

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introduced at random, followed by selection (*e.g.*, molecular evolution). For instance, one or more nucleic acids encoding any of the CDR regions, heavy chain variable regions or light chain variable regions of antibodies of the invention can be randomly or directionally mutated to introduce different properties in the encoded amino acids. Such changes can be the result of an iterative process wherein initial changes are retained and new changes at other nucleotide positions are introduced. Further, changes achieved in independent steps may be combined. Different properties introduced into the encoded amino acids may include, but are not limited to, enhanced affinity.

Further included within the scope of the invention are vectors, for example, expression vectors, comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to the invention. Preferably, a vector comprises a nucleic acid molecule according to the invention, for example a nucleic acid molecule as described above.

Cells transformed with such vectors are also included within the scope of the invention. Examples of such cells include but are not limited to, eukaryotic cells, *e.g.*, yeast cells, animal cells or plant cells. In one embodiment the cells are mammalian, *e.g.*, human, CHO, HEK293T, PER.C6, NS0, myeloma or hybridoma cells. Accordingly, the present invention also relates to a cell expressing the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to the present invention; or comprising the vector according to the present invention.

The invention also relates to monoclonal antibodies that bind to an epitope capable of binding the antibodies or antigen binding fragments of the invention. Accordingly, the present invention comprises an isolated or purified immunogenic polypeptide comprising an epitope that specifically binds to the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to the present invention.

The invention provides novel epitopes to which the neutralizing antibodies of the invention bind. These epitopes are found on the RSV pre-fusion, but not post-fusion, F protein. In one embodiment, the antibodies, or the antigen binding fragments thereof, bind RSV pre-fusion F protein and not RSV post-fusion F protein. In another embodiment, the antibodies, or the

antigen binding fragments thereof, bind RSV pre-fusion F protein and not MPV or PVM pre-fusion F protein. In a preferred embodiment the antibodies, or the antigen binding fragments thereof, bind RSV pre-fusion F protein and neither RSV post-fusion F protein nor MPV or PVM pre-fusion F protein.

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The epitopes to which the antibodies of the invention bind may be linear (continuous) or conformational (discontinuous). In one embodiment, the antibodies and antibody fragments of the invention bind a conformational epitope. In another embodiment, the conformational epitope is present only under non-reducing conditions.

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In another embodiment, the epitope to which the antibodies of the invention bind is distinct from antigenic site I, antigenic site II, antigenic site IV as defined on the RSV post-fusion F protein and from antigenic site S1 as defined herein on the RSV pre-fusion F protein. In yet another embodiment, the antibodies and the antigen binding fragments of the invention do not cross-compete with palivizumab for binding to the F protein of RSV.

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Four antigenic sites (S1, S2, S3 and S5) on the pre-fusion F protein of RSV have been identified herein. In one embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that specifically binds antigenic site S5 of the RSV A or RSV B pre-fusion F protein. In another embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that specifically binds antigenic site S2 of the RSV A or RSV B pre-fusion F protein. In another embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that specifically binds antigenic site S3 of the RSV A or RSV B pre-fusion F protein. In another embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that specifically binds an antigenic site that overlaps sites S2 and S3 of the RSV A or RSV B pre-fusion F protein. In yet another embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that does not specifically bind antigenic site S1 of the RSV A or RSV B pre-fusion F protein.

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Monoclonal and recombinant antibodies are particularly useful in identification and purification of the individual polypeptides or other antigens against which they are directed. The antibodies of the invention have additional utility in that they may be employed as

reagents in immunoassays, radioimmunoassays (RIA) or enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA). In these applications, the antibodies can be labeled with an analytically-detectable reagent such as a radioisotope, a fluorescent molecule or an enzyme. The antibodies may also be used for the molecular identification and characterization (epitope mapping) of antigens.

Antibodies of the invention can be coupled to a drug for delivery to a treatment site or coupled to a detectable label to facilitate imaging of a site comprising cells of interest, such as cells infected with RSV A or RSV B or both RSV A and RSV B. Methods for coupling antibodies to drugs and detectable labels are well known in the art, as are methods for imaging using detectable labels. Labeled antibodies may be employed in a wide variety of assays, employing a wide variety of labels. Detection of the formation of an antibody-antigen complex between an antibody of the invention and an epitope of interest (an epitope or RSV A or RSV B or both) can be facilitated by attaching a detectable substance to the antibody. Suitable detection means include the use of labels such as radionuclides, enzymes, coenzymes, fluorescers, chemiluminescers, chromogens, enzyme substrates or co-factors, enzyme inhibitors, prosthetic group complexes, free radicals, particles, dyes, and the like. Examples of suitable enzymes include horseradish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase, β -galactosidase, or acetylcholinesterase; examples of suitable prosthetic group complexes include streptavidin/biotin and avidin/biotin; examples of suitable fluorescent materials include umbelliferone, fluorescein, fluorescein isothiocyanate, rhodamine, dichlorotriazinylamine fluorescein, dansyl chloride or phycoerythrin; an example of a luminescent material is luminol; examples of bioluminescent materials include luciferase, luciferin, and aequorin; and examples of suitable radioactive material include ^{125}I , ^{131}I , ^{35}S , or ^3H . Such labeled reagents may be used in a variety of well-known assays, such as radioimmunoassays, enzyme immunoassays, *e.g.*, ELISA, fluorescent immunoassays, and the like. (See US 3,766,162; US 3,791,932; US 3,817,837; and US 4,233,402 for example).

An antibody according to the invention may be conjugated to a therapeutic moiety such as a cytotoxin, a therapeutic agent, or a radioactive metal ion or radioisotope. Examples of radioisotopes include, but are not limited to, I-131, I-123, I-125, Y-90, Re-188, Re-186, At-211, Cu-67, Bi-212, Bi-213, Pd-109, Tc-99, In-111, and the like. Such antibody conjugates

can be used for modifying a given biological response; the drug moiety is not to be construed as limited to classical chemical therapeutic agents. For example, the drug moiety may be a protein or polypeptide possessing a desired biological activity. Such proteins may include, for example, a toxin such as abrin, ricin A, pseudomonas exotoxin, or diphtheria toxin.

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Techniques for conjugating such therapeutic moiety to antibodies are well known. See, for example, Arnon et al. (1985) "Monoclonal Antibodies for Immunotargeting of Drugs in Cancer Therapy," in *Monoclonal Antibodies and Cancer Therapy*, ed. Reisfeld et al. (Alan R. Liss, Inc.), pp. 243-256; ed. Hellstrom et al. (1987) "Antibodies for Drug Delivery," in *Controlled Drug Delivery*, ed. Robinson et al. (2d ed; Marcel Dekker, Inc.), pp. 623-653; Thorpe (1985) "Antibody Carriers of Cytotoxic Agents in Cancer Therapy: A Review," in *Monoclonal Antibodies '84: Biological and Clinical Applications*, ed. Pinchera et al. pp. 475-506 (Editrice Kurtis, Milano, Italy, 1985); "Analysis, Results, and Future Prospective of the Therapeutic Use of Radiolabeled Antibody in Cancer Therapy," in *Monoclonal Antibodies for Cancer Detection and Therapy*, ed. Baldwin et al. (Academic Press, New York, 1985), pp. 303-316; and Thorpe et al. (1982) *Immunol. Rev.* 62:119-158.

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Alternatively, an antibody, or antibody fragment thereof, can be conjugated to a second antibody, or antibody fragment thereof, to form an antibody heteroconjugate as described in US 4,676,980. In addition, linkers may be used between the labels and the antibodies of the invention (*e.g.*, US 4,831,175). Antibodies or, antigen-binding fragments thereof may be directly labeled with radioactive iodine, indium, yttrium, or other radioactive particle known in the art (*e.g.*, US 5,595,721). Treatment may consist of a combination of treatment with conjugated and non-conjugated antibodies administered simultaneously or subsequently (*e.g.*, WO00/52031; WO00/52473).

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Antibodies of the invention may also be attached to a solid support. Additionally, antibodies of the invention, or functional antibody fragments thereof, can be chemically modified by covalent conjugation to a polymer to, for example, increase their circulating half-life. Examples of polymers, and methods to attach them to peptides, are shown in US 4,766,106; US 4,179,337; US 4,495,285 and US 4,609,546. In some embodiments the polymers may be selected from polyoxyethylated polyols and polyethylene glycol (PEG). PEG is soluble in

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water at room temperature and has the general formula: $R(O-CH_2-CH_2)_nO-R$ where R can be hydrogen, or a protective group such as an alkyl or alkanol group. In one embodiment the protective group may have between 1 and 8 carbons. In a further embodiment the protective group is methyl. The symbol n is a positive integer. In one embodiment n is
5 between 1 and 1,000. In another embodiment n is between 2 and 500. In one embodiment the PEG has an average molecular weight between 1,000 and 40,000. In a further embodiment the PEG has a molecular weight between 2,000 and 20,000. In yet a further embodiment the PEG has a molecular weight between 3,000 and 12,000. In one embodiment PEG has at least one hydroxy group. In another embodiment the PEG has a terminal hydroxy
10 group. In yet another embodiment it is the terminal hydroxy group which is activated to react with a free amino group on the inhibitor. However, it will be understood that the type and amount of the reactive groups may be varied to achieve a covalently conjugated PEG/antibody of the present invention.

15 Water-soluble polyoxyethylated polyols are also useful in the present invention. They include polyoxyethylated sorbitol, polyoxyethylated glucose, polyoxyethylated glycerol (POG), and the like. In one embodiment, POG is used. Without being bound by any theory, because the glycerol backbone of polyoxyethylated glycerol is the same backbone occurring naturally in, for example, animals and humans in mono-, di-, triglycerides, this branching would not
20 necessarily be seen as a foreign agent in the body. In some embodiments POG has a molecular weight in the same range as PEG. Another drug delivery system that can be used for increasing circulatory half-life is the liposome. Methods of preparing liposome delivery systems are known to one of skill in the art. Other drug delivery systems are known in the art and are described in, for example, referenced in Poznansky et al. (1980) and
25 Poznansky (1984).

Antibodies of the invention may be provided in purified form. Typically, the antibody will be present in a composition that is substantially free of other polypeptides *e.g.*, where less than 90% (by weight), usually less than 60% and more usually less than 50% of the
30 composition is made up of other polypeptides.

Antibodies of the invention may be immunogenic in non-human (or heterologous) hosts *e.g.*, in mice. In particular, the antibodies may have an idiotope that is immunogenic in non-human hosts, but not in a human host. Antibodies of the invention for human use include those that cannot be easily isolated from hosts such as mice, goats, rabbits, rats, non-primate mammals, etc. and cannot generally be obtained by humanization or from xeno-mice.

Antibodies of the invention can be of any isotype (*e.g.*, IgA, IgG, IgM i.e. an α , γ or μ heavy chain), but will generally be IgG. Within the IgG isotype, antibodies may be IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 or IgG4 subclass. Antibodies of the invention may have a κ or a λ light chain.

Production of Antibodies

Antibodies according to the invention can be made by any method known in the art. For example, the general methodology for making monoclonal antibodies using hybridoma technology is well known (Kohler, G. and Milstein, C., 1975; Kozbar et al. 1983). In one embodiment, the alternative EBV immortalization method described in WO2004/076677 is used.

Using the method described in WO 2004/076677, B cells producing the antibody of the invention can be transformed with EBV and a polyclonal B cell activator. Additional stimulants of cellular growth and differentiation may optionally be added during the transformation step to further enhance the efficiency. These stimulants may be cytokines such as IL-2 and IL-15. In one aspect, IL-2 is added during the immortalization step to further improve the efficiency of immortalization, but its use is not essential. The immortalized B cells produced using these methods can then be cultured using methods known in the art and antibodies isolated therefrom.

Using the method described in WO 2010/046775, plasma cells can be cultured in limited numbers, or as single plasma cells in microwell culture plates. Antibodies can be isolated from the plasma cell cultures. Further, from the plasma cell cultures, RNA can be extracted and PCR can be performed using methods known in the art. The VH and VL regions of the antibodies can be amplified by RT-PCR, sequenced and cloned into an expression vector that is then transfected into HEK293T cells or other host cells. The cloning of nucleic acid in

expression vectors, the transfection of host cells, the culture of the transfected host cells and the isolation of the produced antibody can be done using any methods known to one of skill in the art.

- 5 The antibodies may be further purified, if desired, using filtration, centrifugation and various chromatographic methods such as HPLC or affinity chromatography. Techniques for purification of antibodies, *e.g.*, monoclonal antibodies, including techniques for producing pharmaceutical-grade antibodies, are well known in the art.
- 10 It is known in the art that physical aggregation of monoclonal antibodies is pH dependent, since pH has an impact on the tertiary structure conformation as well as the net charge of the protein, thus affecting net protein-protein interactions (Ejima et al., 2007, *Proteins Structural Function Bioinformatics*, 66, 954-962). Aggregation of monoclonal antibodies is favored when the working pH is near to the isoelectric point of the antibody. While solution
- 15 environment higher than pH 7.0 can promote deamidation of the asparagine residues, disulphide exchange and aggregation, lower pH values (pH 4 and below) can promote isomerization, hydrolysis and fragmentation (Zheng et al., 2006, *Internal Journal of Pharmacology*, 308, 46-51). In general currently marketed antibodies have a pI between 7.4 to 8.6 and are formulated in the pH range of 5.0 to 7.2, with most of the antibodies being
- 20 formulated at slightly acidic pH. The antibodies provided herein as examples of antibodies of the invention have a pI between about 8.1 and 8.5, making them excellent candidates for production and formulation in marketable quantities.

- Fragments of the antibodies of the invention can be obtained from the antibodies by methods
- 25 that include digestion with enzymes, such as pepsin or papain, and/or by cleavage of disulfide bonds by chemical reduction. Alternatively, fragments of the antibodies can be obtained by cloning and expression of part of the sequences of the heavy or light chains. Antibody "fragments" include Fab, Fab', F(ab')₂ and Fv fragments. The invention also encompasses single-chain Fv fragments (scFv) derived from the heavy and light chains of an antibody of the
- 30 invention. For example, the invention includes a scFv comprising the CDRs from an antibody of the invention. Also included are heavy or light chain monomers and dimers, single domain heavy chain antibodies, single domain light chain antibodies, as well as single chain

antibodies, *e.g.*, single chain Fv in which the heavy and light chain variable domains are joined by a peptide linker.

Antibody fragments of the invention may impart monovalent or multivalent interactions and be contained in a variety of structures as described above. For instance, scFv molecules may be synthesized to create a trivalent "triabody" or a tetravalent "tetrabody." The scFv molecules may include a domain of the Fc region resulting in bivalent minibodies. In addition, the sequences of the invention may be a component of multispecific molecules in which the sequences of the invention target the epitopes of the invention and other regions of the molecule bind to other targets. Exemplary molecules include, but are not limited to, bispecific Fab2, trispecific Fab3, bispecific scFv, and diabodies (Holliger and Hudson, 2005, *Nature Biotechnology* 9: 1126-1136).

Standard techniques of molecular biology may be used to prepare DNA sequences encoding the antibodies or antibody fragments of the present invention. Desired DNA sequences may be synthesized completely or in part using oligonucleotide synthesis techniques. Site-directed mutagenesis and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) techniques may be used as appropriate.

Any suitable host cell/vector system may be used for expression of the DNA sequences encoding the antibody molecules of the present invention or fragments thereof. Bacterial, for example *E. coli*, and other microbial systems may be used, in part, for expression of antibody fragments such as Fab and F(ab')₂ fragments, and especially Fv fragments and single chain antibody fragments, for example, single chain Fvs. Eukaryotic, *e.g.*, mammalian, host cell expression systems may be used for production of larger antibody molecules, including complete antibody molecules. Suitable mammalian host cells include, but are not limited to, CHO, HEK293T, PER.C6, NS0, myeloma or hybridoma cells.

The present invention also provides a process for the production of an antibody molecule according to the present invention comprising culturing a host cell comprising a vector encoding a nucleic acid of the present invention under conditions suitable for expression of protein from DNA encoding the antibody molecule of the present invention, and isolating the antibody molecule.

The antibody molecule may comprise only a heavy or light chain polypeptide, in which case only a heavy chain or light chain polypeptide coding sequence needs to be used to transfect the host cells. For production of products comprising both heavy and light chains, the cell
5 line may be transfected with two vectors, a first vector encoding a light chain polypeptide and a second vector encoding a heavy chain polypeptide. Alternatively, a single vector may be used, the vector including sequences encoding light chain and heavy chain polypeptides. Alternatively, antibodies according to the invention may be produced by (i) expressing a nucleic acid sequence according to the invention in a host cell, and (ii) isolating the expressed
10 antibody product. Additionally, the method may include (iii) purifying the isolated antibody. Transformed B cells and cultured plasma cells may be screened for those producing antibodies of the desired specificity or function.

The screening step may be carried out by any immunoassay, *e.g.*, ELISA, by staining of tissues
15 or cells (including transfected cells), by neutralization assay or by one of a number of other methods known in the art for identifying desired specificity or function. The assay may select on the basis of simple recognition of one or more antigens, or may select on the additional basis of a desired function *e.g.*, to select neutralizing antibodies rather than just antigen-binding antibodies, to select antibodies that can change characteristics of targeted cells, such
20 as their signaling cascades, their shape, their growth rate, their capability of influencing other cells, their response to the influence by other cells or by other reagents or by a change in conditions, their differentiation status, etc.

Individual transformed B cell clones may then be produced from the positive transformed B
25 cell culture. The cloning step for separating individual clones from the mixture of positive cells may be carried out using limiting dilution, micromanipulation, single cell deposition by cell sorting or another method known in the art.

Nucleic acid from the cultured plasma cells can be isolated, cloned and expressed in
30 HEK293T cells or other known host cells using methods known in the art.

The immortalized B cell clones or the transfected host-cells of the invention can be used in various ways *e.g.*, as a source of monoclonal antibodies, as a source of nucleic acid (DNA or mRNA) encoding a monoclonal antibody of interest, for research, etc.

- 5 The invention provides a composition comprising immortalized B memory cells or transfected host cells that produce antibodies that neutralize infection of group A RSV, group B RSV or both group A and group B RSV.

10 The immortalized B cell clone or the cultured plasma cells of the invention may also be used as a source of nucleic acid for the cloning of antibody genes for subsequent recombinant expression. Expression from recombinant sources is more common for pharmaceutical purposes than expression from B cells or hybridomas *e.g.*, for reasons of stability, reproducibility, culture ease, etc.

- 15 Thus the invention provides a method for preparing a recombinant cell, comprising the steps of: (i) obtaining one or more nucleic acids (*e.g.*, heavy and/or light chain mRNAs) from the B cell clone or the cultured plasma cells that encodes the antibody of interest; (ii) inserting the nucleic acid into an expression vector and (iii) transfecting the vector into a host cell in order to permit expression of the antibody of interest in that host cell.

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Similarly, the invention provides a method for preparing a recombinant cell, comprising the steps of: (i) sequencing nucleic acid(s) from the B cell clone or the cultured plasma cells that encodes the antibody of interest; and (ii) using the sequence information from step (i) to prepare nucleic acid(s) for insertion into a host cell in order to permit expression of the antibody of interest in that host cell. The nucleic acid may, but need not, be manipulated between steps (i) and (ii) to introduce restriction sites, to change codon usage, and/or to optimize transcription and/or translation regulatory sequences.

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The invention also provides a method of preparing a transfected host cell, comprising the step of transfecting a host cell with one or more nucleic acids that encode an antibody of interest, wherein the nucleic acids are nucleic acids that were derived from an immortalized B cell clone or a cultured plasma cell of the invention. Thus the procedures for first preparing the

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nucleic acid(s) and then using it to transfect a host cell can be performed at different times by different people in different places (*e.g.*, in different countries).

5 These recombinant cells of the invention can then be used for expression and culture purposes. They are particularly useful for expression of antibodies for large-scale pharmaceutical production. They can also be used as the active ingredient of a pharmaceutical composition. Any suitable culture technique can be used, including but not limited to static culture, roller bottle culture, ascites fluid, hollow-fiber type bioreactor cartridge, modular minifermenter, stirred tank, microcarrier culture, ceramic core perfusion,
10 etc.

Methods for obtaining and sequencing immunoglobulin genes from B cells or plasma cells are well known in the art (*e.g.*, see Chapter 4 of Kuby Immunology, 4th edition, 2000).

15 The transfected host cell may be a eukaryotic cell, including yeast and animal cells, particularly mammalian cells (*e.g.*, CHO cells, NS0 cells, human cells such as PER.C6 or HKB-11 cells, myeloma cells), as well as plant cells. Preferred expression hosts can glycosylate the antibody of the invention, particularly with carbohydrate structures that are not themselves immunogenic in humans. In one embodiment the transfected host cell may
20 be able to grow in serum-free media. In a further embodiment the transfected host cell may be able to grow in culture without the presence of animal-derived products. The transfected host cell may also be cultured to give a cell line.

The invention also provides a method for preparing one or more nucleic acid molecules (*e.g.*,
25 heavy and light chain genes) that encode an antibody of interest, comprising the steps of: (i) preparing an immortalized B cell clone or culturing plasma cells according to the invention; (ii) obtaining from the B cell clone or the cultured plasma cells nucleic acid that encodes the antibody of interest. Further, the invention provides a method for obtaining a nucleic acid sequence that encodes an antibody of interest, comprising the steps of: (i)
30 preparing an immortalized B cell clone or culturing plasma cells according to the invention; (ii) sequencing nucleic acid from the B cell clone or the cultured plasma cells that encodes the antibody of interest.

The invention also provides a method of preparing nucleic acid molecule(s) that encode an antibody of interest, comprising the step of obtaining the nucleic acid that was obtained from a transformed B cell clone or cultured plasma cells of the invention. Thus the procedures for first obtaining the B cell clone or the cultured plasma cell, and then obtaining nucleic acid(s) from the B cell clone or the cultured plasma cells can be performed at different times by different people in different places (*e.g.*, in different countries).

The invention provides a method for preparing an antibody (*e.g.*, for pharmaceutical use), comprising the steps of: (i) obtaining and/or sequencing one or more nucleic acids (*e.g.*, heavy and light chain genes) from the selected B cell clone or the cultured plasma cells expressing the antibody of interest; (ii) inserting the nucleic acid(s) into or using the nucleic acid(s) sequence(s) to prepare an expression vector; (iii) transfecting a host cell that can express the antibody of interest; (iv) culturing or sub-culturing the transfected host cells under conditions where the antibody of interest is expressed; and, optionally, (v) purifying the antibody of interest.

The invention also provides a method of preparing an antibody comprising the steps of: culturing or sub-culturing a transfected host cell population under conditions where the antibody of interest is expressed and, optionally, purifying the antibody of interest, wherein said transfected host cell population has been prepared by (i) providing nucleic acid(s) encoding a selected antibody of interest that is produced by a B cell clone or cultured plasma cells prepared as described above, (ii) inserting the nucleic acid(s) into an expression vector, (iii) transfecting the vector in a host cell that can express the antibody of interest, and (iv) culturing or sub-culturing the transfected host cell comprising the inserted nucleic acids to produce the antibody of interest. Thus the procedures for first preparing the recombinant host cell and then culturing it to express antibody can be performed at very different times by different people in different places (*e.g.*, in different countries).

Epitopes

As mentioned above, the antibodies of the invention can be used to map the epitopes to which they bind. The invention provides novel epitopes to which the neutralizing antibodies

of the invention bind. These epitopes are found on the pre-fusion, but not post-fusion, F protein. In one embodiment, the antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, bind RSV pre-fusion F protein and not RSV post-fusion F protein. In another embodiment, the antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, bind RSV pre-fusion F protein and not MPV or PVM pre-fusion F protein.

The epitopes to which the antibodies of the invention bind may be linear (continuous) or conformational (discontinuous). In one embodiment, the antibodies and antibody fragments of the invention bind a conformational epitope. In another embodiment, the conformational epitope is present only under non-reducing conditions.

In another embodiment, the epitope to which the antibodies of the invention bind is distinct from antigenic site I, antigenic site II, antigenic site IV as defined on the RSV post-fusion F protein and from antigenic site S1 as defined herein on the RSV pre-fusion F protein. In yet another embodiment, the antibodies and antigen binding fragments of the invention do not cross-compete with palivizumab for binding to the F protein of RSV.

Four antigenic sites (S1, S2, S3 and S5) on the pre-fusion F protein of RSV have been identified herein. In one embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that specifically binds antigenic site S5 of the RSV A or RSV B pre-fusion F protein. In another embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that specifically binds antigenic site S2 of the RSV A or RSV B pre-fusion F protein. In another embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that specifically binds antigenic site S3 of the RSV A or RSV B pre-fusion F protein. In another embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that specifically binds an antigenic site that overlaps sites S2 and S3 of the RSV A or RSV B pre-fusion F protein. In yet another embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that does not specifically bind antigenic site S1 of the RSV A or RSV B pre-fusion F protein.

The polypeptides that bind to the antibodies of the present invention may have a number of uses. The polypeptides and polypeptide variants thereof in purified or synthetic form can be

used to raise immune responses (*i.e.*, as a vaccine, or for the production of antibodies for other uses) or for screening sera for antibodies that immunoreact with the epitope or mimotopes thereof. In one embodiment such polypeptides or polypeptide variants, or antigen comprising such polypeptides or polypeptide variants may be used as a vaccine for raising
5 an immune response that comprises antibodies of the same quality as those described in the present invention.

Furthermore, the present invention also relates to the use of the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to the present invention, for monitoring the quality of
10 anti-group A RSV or anti-group B RSV vaccines by checking that the antigen of said vaccine contains the specific epitope in the correct conformation.

The antibodies and antibody fragments of the invention can also be used in a method of monitoring the quality of vaccines. In particular the antibodies can be used to check that the
15 antigen in a vaccine contains the correct immunogenic epitope in the correct conformation. The use of an antibody of the invention, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, for monitoring the quality of a vaccine against RSV or MPV or both RSV and MPV by, for example, checking that the antigen of said vaccine contains the specific epitope in the correct conformation is also contemplated to be within the scope of the invention.

20 The polypeptides that bind to the antibodies of the present invention may also be useful in screening for ligands that bind to said polypeptides. Such ligands, include but are not limited to antibodies; including those from camels, sharks and other species, fragments of antibodies, peptides, phage display technology products, aptamers, adnectins or fragments of other viral
25 or cellular proteins, may block the epitope and so prevent infection. Such ligands are encompassed within the scope of the invention.

Pharmaceutical Compositions

The invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more of: the
30 antibodies or antibody fragments of the invention; nucleic acid encoding such antibodies or fragments; vectors encoding the nucleic acids; or polypeptides recognized by the antibodies or antigen binding fragment of the invention. The pharmaceutical composition may also

contain a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient. Preferably, the pharmaceutical composition comprises the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to the present invention, the nucleic acid according to the present invention, the vector according to the present invention, the cell according to the present invention, or the immunogenic polypeptide according to the present invention, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.

Although the carrier or excipient may facilitate administration, it should not itself induce the production of antibodies harmful to the individual receiving the composition. Nor should it be toxic. Suitable carriers may be large, slowly metabolized macromolecules such as proteins, polypeptides, liposomes, polysaccharides, polylactic acids, polyglycolic acids, polymeric amino acids, amino acid copolymers and inactive virus particles.

Pharmaceutically acceptable salts can be used, for example mineral acid salts, such as hydrochlorides, hydrobromides, phosphates and sulphates, or salts of organic acids, such as acetates, propionates, malonates and benzoates.

Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers in therapeutic compositions may additionally contain liquids such as water, saline, glycerol and ethanol. Additionally, auxiliary substances, such as wetting or emulsifying agents or pH buffering substances, may be present in such compositions. Such carriers enable the pharmaceutical compositions to be formulated as tablets, pills, dragees, capsules, liquids, gels, syrups, slurries and suspensions, for ingestion by the subject.

Within the scope of the invention are compositions present in several forms of administration; the forms include, but are not limited to, those forms suitable for parenteral administration, *e.g.*, by injection or infusion, for example by bolus injection or continuous infusion. Where the product is for injection or infusion, it may take the form of a suspension, solution or emulsion in an oily or aqueous vehicle and it may contain formulatory agents, such as suspending, preservative, stabilizing and/or dispersing agents. Alternatively, the antibody molecule may be in dry form, for reconstitution before use with an appropriate sterile liquid.

Once formulated, the compositions of the invention can be administered directly to the subject. In one embodiment the compositions are adapted for administration to mammalian, *e.g.*, human subjects.

- 5 The pharmaceutical compositions of this invention may be administered by any number of routes including, but not limited to, oral, intravenous, intramuscular, intra-arterial, intramedullary, intraperitoneal, intrathecal, intraventricular, transdermal, transcutaneous, topical, subcutaneous, intranasal, enteral, sublingual, intravaginal or rectal routes. Hyposprays may also be used to administer the pharmaceutical compositions of the invention. Typically, the therapeutic compositions may be prepared as injectables, either as liquid solutions or suspensions. Solid forms suitable for solution in, or suspension in, liquid vehicles prior to injection may also be prepared.

- 15 Direct delivery of the compositions will generally be accomplished by injection, subcutaneously, intraperitoneally, intravenously or intramuscularly, or delivered to the interstitial space of a tissue. The compositions can also be administered into a lesion. Dosage treatment may be a single dose schedule or a multiple dose schedule. Known antibody-based pharmaceuticals provide guidance relating to frequency of administration *e.g.*, whether a pharmaceutical should be delivered daily, weekly, monthly, etc. Frequency and dosage may also depend on the severity of symptoms. Preferably, the composition according to the invention is administered to a subject before an RSV-infection has taken place. Alternatively, the composition according to the invention is administered when a subject is already infected with RSV.

- 25 Compositions of the invention may be prepared in various forms. For example, the compositions may be prepared as injectables, either as liquid solutions or suspensions. Solid forms suitable for solution in, or suspension in, liquid vehicles prior to injection can also be prepared (*e.g.*, a lyophilized composition, like Synagis™ and Herceptin™, for reconstitution with sterile water containing a preservative). The composition may be prepared for topical administration *e.g.*, as an ointment, cream or powder. The composition may be prepared for oral administration *e.g.*, as a tablet or capsule, as a spray, or as a syrup (optionally flavored). The composition may be prepared for pulmonary administration *e.g.*, as an inhaler, using a

fine powder or a spray. The composition may be prepared as a suppository or pessary. The composition may be prepared for nasal, aural or ocular administration *e.g.*, as drops. The composition may be in kit form, designed such that a combined composition is reconstituted just prior to administration to a subject. For example, a lyophilized antibody can be provided
5 in kit form with sterile water or a sterile buffer.

It will be appreciated that the active ingredient in the composition will be an antibody molecule, an antibody fragment or variants and derivatives thereof. As such, it will be susceptible to degradation in the gastrointestinal tract. Thus, if the composition is to be
10 administered by a route using the gastrointestinal tract, the composition will need to contain agents which protect the antibody from degradation but which release the antibody once it has been absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract.

A thorough discussion of pharmaceutically acceptable carriers is available in Gennaro (2000)
15 Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy, 20th edition, ISBN: 0683306472.

Pharmaceutical compositions of the invention generally have a pH between 5.5 and 8.5, in some embodiments this may be between 6 and 8, and in other embodiments about 7. The pH may be maintained by the use of a buffer. The composition may be sterile and/or pyrogen
20 free. The composition may be isotonic with respect to humans. In one embodiment pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are supplied in hermetically-sealed containers.

Pharmaceutical compositions will include an effective amount of one or more antibodies of the invention and/or a polypeptide comprising an epitope that binds an antibody of the
25 invention *i.e.*, an amount that is sufficient to treat, ameliorate, attenuate or prevent a desired disease or condition, or to exhibit a detectable therapeutic effect. Therapeutic effects also include reduction or attenuation in pathogenic potency or physical symptoms. The precise effective amount for any particular subject will depend upon their size, weight, and health, the nature and extent of the condition, and the therapeutics or combination of therapeutics
30 selected for administration. The effective amount for a given situation is determined by routine experimentation and is within the judgment of a clinician. For purposes of the present invention, an effective dose will generally be from about 0.01mg/kg to about 50 mg/kg, or

about 0.05 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg of the compositions of the present invention in the individual to which it is administered. Known antibody-based pharmaceuticals provide guidance in this respect *e.g.*, Herceptin™ is administered by intravenous infusion of a 21 mg/ml solution, with an initial loading dose of 4 mg/kg body weight and a weekly maintenance dose of 2 mg/kg body weight; Rituxan™ is administered weekly at 375 mg/m²; etc.

Preferably, a pharmaceutical composition according to the present invention comprises a first antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a second antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, wherein the first antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, is the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to the present invention, and the second antibody neutralizes infection of RSV or MPV or PVM or any combination of RSV, MPV and PVM.

In one embodiment compositions can include more than one or more (*e.g.*, 2, 3, etc.) antibodies of the invention to provide an additive or synergistic therapeutic effect. In another embodiment, the composition may comprise one or more (*e.g.*, 2, 3, etc.) antibodies of the invention and one or more (*e.g.*, 2, 3, etc.) additional antibodies against RSV, MPV or both RSV and MPV. Further, the administration of antibodies of the invention together with antibodies specific to other pathogens, for example, influenza A or influenza B virus, are within the scope of the invention. The antibodies of the invention can be administered either combined/simultaneously or at separate times from antibodies of specific to pathogens other than RSV.

In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising two or more antibodies, wherein the first antibody is an antibody of the invention as described herein and the second antibody is specific for RSV, MPV or both RSV and MPV or a different pathogen that may have co-infected the subject to whom the pharmaceutical composition is being administered.

Examples of antibodies of the invention specific for, and that neutralize RSV include, but are not limited to, HMB2435, HMB2435 variant 2, HMB2435 variant 3, HMB2435 variant 4,

HMB2437, HMB2437 variant 2, HMB2437 variant 3, HMB2437 variant 4, HMB2416, HMB2432 variant 1, HMB2432 variant 2, HMB2432 variant 3 or HMB2432 variant 4. Preferably, the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, is according to gHMB2435, gHMB2435 variant 2, gHMB2435 variant 3, gHMB2435 variant 4, gHMB2437, gHMB2437
5 variant 2, gHMB2437 variant 3, gHMB2437 variant 4, gHMB2416, gHMB2432 variant 1, gHMB2432 variant 2, gHMB2432 variant 3 or gHMB2432 variant 4.

In one embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody HMB2435 or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically
10 acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody HMB2435 variant 2 or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody HMB2435 variant 3 or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another
15 embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody HMB2435 variant 4 or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody HMB2437 or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a
20 pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody HMB2437 variant 2 or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody HMB2437 variant 3 or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising
25 the antibody HMB2437 variant 4 or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody HMB2416 or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody HMB2432 variant
30 1 or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody HMB2432 variant 2 or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically

acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody HMB2432 variant 3 or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody HMB2432 variant 4 or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In one embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, according to gHMB2435 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, according to gHMB2435 variant 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, according to gHMB2435 variant 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In a preferred embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, according to gHMB2435 variant 4 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, according to gHMB2437 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, according to gHMB2437 variant 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, according to gHMB2437 variant 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, according to gHMB2437 variant 4, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, according to gHMB2416, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, according to gHMB2432 variant 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody, or an antigen binding

fragment thereof, according to gHMB2432 variant 2, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, according to gHMB2432 variant 3, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, according to gHMB2432 variant 4, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Antibodies of the invention may be administered (either combined or separately) with other therapeutics *e.g.*, with chemotherapeutic compounds, with radiotherapy, etc. In one embodiment, the therapeutic compounds include anti-viral compounds such as Tamiflu™. Such combination therapy provides an additive or synergistic improvement in therapeutic efficacy relative to the individual therapeutic agents when administered alone. The term “synergy” is used to describe a combined effect of two or more active agents that is greater than the sum of the individual effects of each respective active agent. Thus, where the combined effect of two or more agents results in “synergistic inhibition” of an activity or process, it is intended that the inhibition of the activity or process is greater than the sum of the inhibitory effects of each respective active agent. The term “synergistic therapeutic effect” refers to a therapeutic effect observed with a combination of two or more therapies wherein the therapeutic effect (as measured by any of a number of parameters) is greater than the sum of the individual therapeutic effects observed with the respective individual therapies.

Antibodies may be administered to those subjects who have previously shown no response, *i.e.*, have been shown to be refractive to treatment for RSV infection. Such treatment may include previous treatment with an anti-viral agent. This may be due to, for example, infection with an anti-viral resistant strain of RSV A, RSV B or both RSV A and RSV B.

In one embodiment, a composition of the invention may include antibodies of the invention, wherein the antibodies may make up at least 50% by weight (*e.g.*, 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) of the total protein in the composition. In such a composition, the antibodies are in purified form.

The invention provides a method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising the steps of: (i) preparing an antibody of the invention; and (ii) admixing the purified antibody with one or more pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers.

- 5 In another embodiment, a method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprises the step of: admixing an antibody with one or more pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody that was obtained from a transformed B cell or a cultured plasma cell of the invention. Thus the procedures for first obtaining the monoclonal antibody and then preparing the pharmaceutical can be performed at very
10 different times by different people in different places (*e.g.*, in different countries).

- As an alternative to delivering antibodies or B cells for therapeutic purposes, it is possible to deliver nucleic acid (typically DNA) that encodes the monoclonal antibody (or active fragment thereof) of interest derived from the B cell or the cultured plasma cells to a subject,
15 such that the nucleic acid can be expressed in the subject in situ to provide a desired therapeutic effect. Suitable gene therapy and nucleic acid delivery vectors are known in the art.

- Compositions of the invention may be immunogenic compositions, and in some
20 embodiments may be vaccine compositions comprising an antigen comprising an epitope recognized by an antibody of the invention or an antigen binding fragment thereof. Vaccines according to the invention may either be prophylactic (*i.e.*, prevent infection) or therapeutic (*i.e.*, treat or ameliorate infection).

- 25 Compositions may include an antimicrobial, particularly if packaged in a multiple dose format. They may comprise detergent *e.g.*, a Tween (polysorbate), such as Tween 80. Detergents are generally present at low levels *e.g.*, less than 0.01%. Compositions may also include sodium salts (*e.g.*, sodium chloride) to give tonicity. A concentration of 10 ± 2 mg/ml NaCl is typical.

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Further, compositions may comprise a sugar alcohol (*e.g.*, mannitol) or a disaccharide (*e.g.*, sucrose or trehalose) *e.g.*, at around 15-30 mg/ml (*e.g.*, 25 mg/ml), particularly if they are to

be lyophilized or if they include material which has been reconstituted from lyophilized material. The pH of a composition for lyophilisation may be adjusted to between 5 and 8, or between 5.5 and 7, or around 6.1 prior to lyophilisation.

- 5 The compositions of the invention may also comprise one or more immunoregulatory agents. In one embodiment, one or more of the immunoregulatory agents include(s) an adjuvant.

The epitope compositions of the invention may elicit both a cell mediated immune response as well as a humoral immune response in order to effectively address RSV and MPV infection.

- 10 This immune response may induce long lasting (*e.g.*, neutralizing) antibodies and a cell mediated immunity that can quickly respond upon exposure to RSV or MPV or both RSV and MPV.

Medical Treatments and Uses

- 15 The antibodies and antibody fragments of the invention or derivatives and variants thereof may be used for the treatment of RSV infection, *i.e.*, RSV A infection or RSV B infection or co-infection with both RSV A and RSV B; for the prevention of infection of RSV A or RSV B or both RSV A and RSV B; or for the diagnosis of RSV A or RSV B infection. Preferably, the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to the present invention may be
20 used in the treatment or attenuation of infection by group A RSV or group B RSV.

- The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, the nucleic acid, the vector, the cell, the immunogenic polypeptide, or the pharmaceutical composition according to the present invention may be provided for use as a medicament (i) for the treatment or attenuation of
25 group A RSV or group B RSV infection; (ii) for vaccination against group A RSV or group B RSV infection; or (iii) for diagnosis of group A RSV or group B RSV infection.

- Within the scope of the invention are several forms of administration of the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, the nucleic acid, the vector, the cell, the immunogenic
30 polypeptide, or the pharmaceutical composition; the forms include, but are not limited to, those forms suitable for parenteral administration, *e.g.*, by injection or infusion, for example by bolus injection or continuous infusion. Where the product is for injection or infusion, it

may take the form of a suspension, solution or emulsion in an oily or aqueous vehicle and it may contain formulatory agents, such as suspending, preservative, stabilizing and/or dispersing agents. Alternatively, the antibody molecule may be in dry form, for reconstitution before use with an appropriate sterile liquid.

5

The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, the nucleic acid, the vector, the cell, the immunogenic polypeptide, or the pharmaceutical composition of this invention may be administered by any number of routes including, but not limited to, oral, intravenous, intramuscular, intra-arterial, intramedullary, intraperitoneal, intrathecal, intraventricular, transdermal, transcutaneous, topical, subcutaneous, intranasal, enteral, sublingual, intravaginal or rectal routes. Hyposprays may also be used to administer the pharmaceutical compositions of the invention. Typically, the therapeutic compositions may be prepared as injectables, either as liquid solutions or suspensions. Solid forms suitable for solution in, or suspension in, liquid vehicles prior to injection may also be prepared.

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Delivery of the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, the nucleic acid, the vector, the cell, the immunogenic polypeptide, or the pharmaceutical composition may generally be accomplished by injection, subcutaneously, intraperitoneally, intravenously or intramuscularly, or delivered to the interstitial space of a tissue. They can also be administered into a lesion. Dosage treatment may be a single dose schedule or a multiple dose schedule. Known antibody-based pharmaceuticals provide guidance relating to frequency of administration *e.g.*, whether a pharmaceutical should be delivered daily, weekly, monthly, etc. Frequency and dosage may also depend on the severity of symptoms. Preferably, the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, the nucleic acid, the vector, the cell, the immunogenic polypeptide, or the pharmaceutical composition according to the invention is administered to a subject before an RSV-infection has taken place. Alternatively, the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, the nucleic acid, the vector, the cell, the immunogenic polypeptide, or the pharmaceutical composition according to the invention is administered when a subject is already infected with RSV.

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Methods of diagnosis may include contacting an antibody or an antibody fragment with a sample. Such samples may be tissue samples taken from, for example, nasal passages, sinus

cavities, salivary glands, lung, liver, pancreas, kidney, ear, eye, placenta, alimentary tract, heart, ovaries, pituitary, adrenals, thyroid, brain or skin. The methods of diagnosis may also include the detection of an antigen/antibody complex.

5 The invention therefore provides (i) an antibody, an antibody fragment, or variants and derivatives thereof according to the invention, (ii) an immortalized B cell clone according to the invention, (iii) an epitope capable of binding an antibody of the invention or (iv) a ligand, preferably an antibody, capable of binding an epitope that binds an antibody of the invention for use in therapy.

10 The invention also provides a method of treating a subject comprising administering to the subject an antibody, an antibody fragment, or variants and derivatives thereof according to the invention, or, a ligand, preferably an antibody, capable of binding an epitope that binds an antibody of the invention. In one embodiment, the method results in reduced RSV (*i.e.*,
15 RSV A or RSV B) infection in the subject. In another embodiment, the method prevents, reduces the risk or delays of RSV (*i.e.*, RSV A or RSV B) infection in the subject.

The invention also provides the use of (i) an antibody, an antibody fragment, or variants and derivatives thereof according to the invention, (ii) an immortalized B cell clone according to
20 the invention, (iii) an epitope capable of binding an antibody of the invention, (iv) a ligand, preferably an antibody, that binds to an epitope capable of binding an antibody of the invention, or (v) a pharmaceutical composition of the invention in (i) the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or attenuation of infection by RSV A or RSV B or both RSV A and RSV B (ii) a vaccine, or (iii) diagnosis of RSV A or RSV B infection.

25 The invention provides a composition of the invention for use as a medicament for the prevention or treatment of RSV A or RSV B infection. It also provides the use of an antibody of the invention and/or a protein comprising an epitope to which such an antibody binds in the manufacture of a medicament for treatment of a subject and/or diagnosis in a subject. It
30 also provides a method for treating a subject, comprising the step of administering to the subject a composition of the invention. In some embodiments the subject may be a human. One way of checking efficacy of therapeutic treatment involves monitoring disease symptoms

after administration of the composition of the invention. Treatment can be a single dose schedule or a multiple dose schedule.

In one embodiment, an antibody, antibody fragment, immortalized B cell clone, epitope or composition according to the invention is administered to a subject in need of such treatment. Such a subject includes, but is not limited to, one who is particularly at risk of or susceptible to RSV A or RSV B infection, including, for example, an immunocompromised subject. The antibody or antibody fragment of the invention can also be used in passive immunization or active vaccination.

Antibodies and fragments thereof as described in the present invention may also be used in a kit for the diagnosis of RSV A or RSV B infection. Further, epitopes capable of binding an antibody of the invention may be used in a kit for monitoring the efficacy of vaccination procedures by detecting the presence of protective anti-RSV A or anti-RSV B antibodies.

Antibodies, antibody fragment, or variants and derivatives thereof, as described in the present invention may also be used in a kit for monitoring vaccine manufacture with the desired immunogenicity.

The invention also provides an epitope that specifically binds to an antibody of the invention or an antigen binding fragment thereof, for use (i) in therapy, (ii) in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or attenuation of RSV A or RSV B or both RSV A and RSV B infection, (iii) as a vaccine, or (iv) in screening for ligands able to neutralize RSV A or RSV B or both RSV A and RSV B infection.

The invention also provides a method of preparing a pharmaceutical, comprising the step of admixing a monoclonal antibody with one or more pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers, wherein the monoclonal antibody is a monoclonal antibody that was obtained from a transfected host cell of the invention. Thus the procedures for first obtaining the monoclonal antibody (*e.g.*, expressing it and/or purifying it) and then admixing it with the pharmaceutical carrier(s) can be performed at very different times by different people in different places (*e.g.*, in different countries).

Starting with a transformed B cell or a cultured plasma cell of the invention, various steps of culturing, sub-culturing, cloning, sub-cloning, sequencing, nucleic acid preparation etc. can be performed in order to perpetuate the antibody expressed by the transformed B cell or the cultured plasma cell, with optional optimization at each step. In one embodiment, the above
5 methods further comprise techniques of optimization (*e.g.*, affinity maturation or optimization) applied to the nucleic acids encoding the antibody. The invention encompasses all cells, nucleic acids, vectors, sequences, antibodies etc. used and prepared during such steps.

10 In all these methods, the nucleic acid used in the expression host may be manipulated to insert, delete or alter certain nucleic acid sequences. Changes from such manipulation include, but are not limited to, changes to introduce restriction sites, to amend codon usage, to add or optimize transcription and/or translation regulatory sequences, etc. It is also possible to change the nucleic acid to alter the encoded amino acids. For example, it may be useful
15 to introduce one or more (*e.g.*, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, etc.) amino acid substitutions, deletions and/or insertions into the antibody's amino acid sequence. Such point mutations can modify effector functions, antigen-binding affinity, post-translational modifications, immunogenicity, etc., can introduce amino acids for the attachment of covalent groups (*e.g.*, labels) or can introduce tags (*e.g.*, for purification purposes). Mutations can be introduced in
20 specific sites or can be introduced at random, followed by selection (*e.g.*, molecular evolution). For instance, one or more nucleic acids encoding any of the CDR regions, heavy chain variable regions or light chain variable regions of antibodies of the invention can be randomly or directionally mutated to introduce different properties in the encoded amino acids. Such changes can be the result of an iterative process wherein initial changes are
25 retained and new changes at other nucleotide positions are introduced. Further, changes achieved in independent steps may be combined. Different properties introduced into the encoded amino acids may include, but are not limited to, enhanced affinity.

General

30 As used herein, the terms "antigen binding fragment," "fragment," and "antibody fragment" are used interchangeably to refer to any fragment of an antibody of the invention that retains the antigen-binding activity of the antibody. Examples of antibody fragments include, but are

not limited to, a single chain antibody, Fab, Fab', F(ab')₂, Fv or scFv. Further, the term "antibody" as used herein includes both antibodies and antigen binding fragments thereof.

As used herein, a "neutralizing antibody" is one that can neutralize, *i.e.*, prevent, inhibit, reduce, impede or interfere with, the ability of a pathogen to initiate and/or perpetuate an infection in a host. The terms "neutralizing antibody" and "an antibody that neutralizes" or "antibodies that neutralize" are used interchangeably herein. These antibodies can be used alone, or in combination, as prophylactic or therapeutic agents upon appropriate formulation, in association with active vaccination, as a diagnostic tool, or as a production tool as described herein.

The term "comprising" encompasses "including" as well as "consisting" *e.g.*, a composition "comprising" X may consist exclusively of X or may include something additional *e.g.*, X + Y.

The word "substantially" does not exclude "completely" *e.g.*, a composition which is "substantially free" from Y may be completely free from Y. Where necessary, the word "substantially" may be omitted from the definition of the invention.

The term "about" in relation to a numerical value x means $x \pm 10\%$.

The term "disease" as used herein is intended to be generally synonymous, and is used interchangeably with, the terms "disorder" and "condition" (as in medical condition), in that all reflect an abnormal condition of the human or animal body or of one of its parts that impairs normal functioning, is typically manifested by distinguishing signs and symptoms, and causes the human or animal to have a reduced duration or quality of life.

As used herein, reference to "treatment" of a subject or patient is intended to include prevention, prophylaxis, attenuation, amelioration and therapy. The terms "subject" or "patient" are used interchangeably herein to mean all mammals including humans. Examples of subjects include humans, cows, dogs, cats, horses, goats, sheep, pigs, and rabbits. In one embodiment, the patient is a human.

EXAMPLES

Exemplary embodiments of the present invention are provided in the following examples. The following examples are presented only by way of illustration and to assist one of ordinary skill in using the invention. The examples are not intended in any way to otherwise limit the scope of the invention.

Example 1. Isolation and characterization of monoclonal antibodies from human memory B Cells Able to Potently Neutralize RSV

From a cohort of 125 blood donors we selected 7 donors showing high serum antibody titers against RSV. CD22+ IgG+ B cells were sorted from cryopreserved peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and immortalized at 3 to 5 cells/well using Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) and CpG oligodeoxynucleotide 2006 and irradiated allogeneic PBMCs as feeder cells. Culture supernatants were harvested after 14 days and analyzed for the presence of neutralizing antibodies using a microneutralization assay based on infection of Hep-2 cells by RSV strain A2. Neat supernatants were incubated with 50-100 TCID₅₀ of viruses for 1 hour at room temperature prior to addition of Hep-2 target cells, which were incubated for 6 days. Viable cells were then detected with a spectrophotometer by adding to the cultures the WST-1 reagent (Roche) for 3 to 4 hours. From five independent experiments, 28 mAbs that neutralized RSV were isolated (Figure 1). Four mAbs (HMB2437, HMB2435, HMB2416 and HMB2432) derived from 3 different donors (E, D and B) showed the highest potency against the reference RSV isolate A/A2/61 and these were then selected for further analysis. A fifth mAb, HMB2439, was not selected since in preliminary experiments showed very weak activity against RSV B strains.

The four selected mAbs were all IgG1 and two (HMB2437 and HMB2432) carried a kappa light chain, while the other two (HMB2435 and HMB2416) carried a lambda light chain. The VH and VL genes of HMB2437, HMB2435, HMB2416 and HMB2432 were cloned into IgG1 expression vectors and recombinant mAbs were produced by transient transfection of 293 Freestyle cells (293F). Supernatants from transfected cells were collected after 10 days of culture and IgG were affinity purified by Protein A chromatography. The four mAbs carried all different VH, D and JH, VL and JL gene fragments and were therefore considered not

clonally related (Table 4). Based on the amino acid sequences, the isoelectric points (pI) of the four mAbs isolated was calculated and found to be in the range from 8.1 to 8.45 (Table 4). The pI values calculated for palivizumab and D25 were 8.51 and 7.00, respectively.

5 Table 4. V gene usage, isoelectric points (pI) and donor origin of the four selected mAbs.

			VH	D	JH	VL	JL	pI	Donor
HMB2437	IgG1	κ	2-26*01	5-24*01	6*02	1-39*01	5*01	8.24	E
HMB2435	IgG1	λ	3-30*01	3-10*01	6*02	2-14*01	3*02	8.36	D
HMB2416	IgG1	λ	4-30*01	5-5*01	4*02	3-21*01	2*01	8.10	B
HMB2432	IgG1	κ	5-51*01	2-15*01	6*02	1-39*01	1*01	8.45	B

The four mAbs were then tested for their breadth and potency against a panel of RSV A and B isolates (Table 5 and Figure 2) in parallel with palivizumab and D25 mAbs. The following RSV strains were tested: RSV A2 (A, 1961 Australia; A/A2/61), RSV Long (A, Maryland US, 1956; A/Long/56), RSV Randall (A, Chicago US, 1958; A/Randall/58), RSV 9395/2007 (A, Pavia IT, 2007; A/9395/07), RSV 9393/2007 (A, Pavia IT, 2007; A/9393/07), RSV 9278/2007 (A, Pavia IT, 2007; A/9278/07), RSV 9830/2009 (A, Pavia IT, 2009; A/9830/09), RSV 9835/2009 (A, Pavia IT, 2009; A/9835/09), RSV 9846/2009 (A, Pavia IT, 2009; A/9846/09), RSV 9320 (B, Massachusetts US, 1977; B/9320/77), WV/14617/85 (B, Huntington West Virginia, 1985; B/WV/14617/85), 18537 (B, Washington District of Columbia US, 1962; B/18537/62), RSV 9727/2009 (B, Pavia IT, 2009; B/9727/09), RSV 9736/2009 (B, Pavia IT, 2009; B/9736/09), RSV 9847/2009 (B, Pavia IT, 2009; B/9847/09), RSV 9719/2009 (B, Pavia IT, 2009; B/9719/09), RSV 9717/2009 (B, Pavia IT, 2009; B/9717/09).

20 Table 5. Virus neutralizing titers of human and reference monoclonal antibodies.

RSV Viruses	IC50 (ng/ml)					
	HMB2437	HMB2435	HMB2416	HMB2432	palivizumab	D25
A/9830/09	0.9	0.5	2.9	2.7	37.3	2.8
A/9278/07	1.6	1.4	2.4	1.5	66.6	1.1
A/9393/07	1.2	1.3	1.1	3.6	68.5	1.3
A/9395/07	2.0	2.3	1.8	4.5	79.6	2.5

A/A2/61	5.3	4.5	5.8	9.8	188.1	6.0
A/Long/56	7.4	7.6	5.9	10.1	273.9	4.8
A/Randall/58	5.2	7.5	10.7	6.5	242.9	4.9
A/9846/09	4.5	3.3	4.3	11.0	164.7	4.7
A/9835/09	5.3	4.5	5.8	9.8	188.1	6.0
B/9717/09	0.5	0.5	1.0	4.8	678.0	1.7
B/9719/09	1.0	0.7	2.1	2.4	55.6	1.3
B/9320/77	0.7	0.9	1.8	1.5	33.0	1.1
B/WV/14617/85	1.2	1.2	2.0	3.1	36.1	9.4
B/18537/62	1.3	0.8	3.7	4.3	93.9	5.7
B/9727/09	1.6	1.1	1.7	6.6	110.0	2.5
B/9847/09	1.9	0.7	1.1	12.0	108.1	3.4
B/9736/09	1.3	1.1	2.5	6.0	74.2	1.5

When compared to palivizumab the four mAbs showed a neutralizing potency against the full set of RSV A and B strains that was 9 to 148 fold higher than palivizumab and in this type of analysis HMB2435 and HMB2437 scored significantly better than D25 (Figure 3).

5

When compared with D25 the four antibodies showed a similar activity against RSV A strains, while HMB2435 showed a significantly ($p=0.0433$) higher potency against RSV B strains. A similar, but statistically not significant, trend was observed for mAb HMB2437. The other two mAbs HMB2416 and HMB2432 showed a neutralizing potency similar to D25 against both RSV A and B strains (Figure 4).

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Example 2. Epitope Mapping Studies

In order to identify the target antigen recognized by HMB2435, HMB2437, HMB2416 and HMB2432 on RSV viruses, we analyzed the four mAbs in parallel with palivizumab and the control mAb 234 (specific for human MPV), for their ability to stain intracellularly 293F cells transiently transfected with mammalian expression vectors encoding for the full length F protein from either RSV (A2 strain) indicating that the four mAbs recognize epitopes present on RSV F proteins. The four mAbs HMB2435, HMB2437, HMB2416 and HMB2432 stained

15

the cells transfected with the RSV F protein but not the cells transfected with an empty control vector (mock) (Figure 5). These results indicate that the four mAbs target epitopes that are located on RSV F protein.

- 5 A DNA construct encoding RSV F residues 26–136 and 147–512 (corresponding to the F ecto-domain without the fusion peptide of the RSV strain A2) with a C-terminal histidine tag was codon optimized and synthesized. Recombinant F was expressed using a baculovirus expression vector in Sf21 cells and purified from the supernatant by nickel affinity and size exclusion chromatography (SEC). A similar construct was already used by others (Swanson
10 *et al.* PNAS 2011 and McLellan *et al.* J Virol 2011) to solve the crystal structure of the post-fusion F protein.

The protein was analyzed under non-reducing conditions on an SDS-PAGE gel and gave a band at ≈ 65 -70 kDa and when analyzed by SEC on a S200 column the “post-fusion” RSV F
15 protein eluted as a symmetric peak with an apparent molecular weight of ≈ 150 kDa that corresponds to the MW of the trimeric F protein. This protein was used to test the four antibodies by ELISA. The three antibodies HMB2437, HMB2435 and HMB2416 did not react with the “post-fusion” protein, while HMB2432 reacted poorly. In parallel, palivizumab, D25 and 234 were also tested under the same conditions. As expected palivizumab reacted
20 strongly with the post-fusion F protein while D25 did not.

These data indicate that the four antibodies recognize epitopes on the RSV F protein, which are either not accessible or poorly accessible on the post-fusion F protein. To test these mAbs against the pre-fusion F protein we engineered a stabilized soluble form of the F protein by:
25 i) introducing of inter-monomeric disulphide bridges (*cf.* Magro, M. *et al.* (2012) Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA 109, 3089 – 3094), ii) deleting of the fusion peptide region, and iii) substituting of the trans-membrane region with a T4 fibrin motif (foldon) to stabilize the trimeric structure. When tested by surface plasmon resonance (SPR), palivizumab bound to both pre- and post-fusion proteins with similar affinities.

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In striking contrast, HMB2435, HMB2437, HMB2416 and HMB2432 selectively bound to the pre-fusion F protein (Table 6). Using cross-competition SPR experiments and a panel of

available antibodies of known specificity (palivizumab, D25 and 101F) we identified on the pre-fusion F protein four antigenic sites (S1, S2, S3 and S5) (Figure 6). In particular, none of the four mAbs competed with palivizumab. HMB2432 competed with 101F (which recognize the antigenic site IV on the post-fusion), thus both 101F and HMB2432 were assigned to the site S2 on the pre-fusion F protein. HMB2416 competed with D25 and the two mAbs were assigned to site S3. HMB2437 competed with both 101F and D25 and was therefore assigned to a site in between S2 and S3. Finally, mAb HMB2435 did not compete with any of the mAbs tested indicating that it binds to a novel site, S5, on the pre-fusion F protein.

Table 6. Binding to pre- and post-fusion F proteins by ELISA and SPR

RSV Viruses	Post-fusion F protein binding (ELISA)	Post-fusion F protein binding (SPR)	Pre-fusion F protein binding (SPR)
HMB2435	-	-	+
HMB2437	-	-	+
HMB2416	-	-	+
HMB2432	+/-	-	+
palivizumab	+	+	+
D25	-	-	+
234	-	ND	ND

SPR experiments were performed on a ProteOn-XPR36 instrument (Bio-Rad). Antibodies were immobilized on a ProteOn GLC sensor chip surface through amine coupling at 2,000 response units (RU) and a blank surface with no antibody was created under identical coupling conditions for use as a reference. RSV F protein was injected at a flow rate of 100 ml min⁻¹, at concentrations of 200, 100, 75, 50 and 25 nM in different sensor channels. The data were processed using Proteon software and double referenced by subtraction of the blank surface and buffer-only injection before local fitting of the data. Binding curves were locally fitted to the two states model, to perform a K_d calculation. For competition experiment, antibodies were covalently coupled to a GLC sensor chip at 2,000 RU. RSV F protein was injected at 200 nM and the competing antibody was injected after 20 s of dissociation time.

Example 3. Removal of unnecessary somatic mutations

In the development of therapeutic monoclonal antibodies the risk of antibody immunogenicity is also related to the degree of similarity of the antibody sequence with that of the unmutated ancestor antibody. In this respect, the removal of all the unnecessary somatic mutations is associated with a lower risk of antibody immunogenicity. We therefore removed all the somatic mutations from the framework heavy and light chain regions of antibodies HMB2435 and HMB2437, by synthesizing new antibody sequences in which we reverted back to the « germline » configuration (according to the IMGT VDJ and VJ assignments and rearrangement interpretation) all the somatic mutations located in the framework regions 1, 2, 3 and 4 of both variable heavy and light chains. Three additional antibody variants (variants 2, 3 and 4) of HMB2435 and HMB2437 antibodies were then produced using different heavy and light chain combinations. In particular : HMB2435 and HMB2437 variants 2 are formed by the original heavy chain sequences (SEQ ID NOs: 13 and 29, respectively) combined with the framework regions germlined light chains (SEQ ID NOs: 76 and 86, respectively); HMB2435 and HMB2437 variants 3 are formed by the framework regions germlined heavy chains sequences (SEQ ID NOs: 75 and 85, respectively) combined with the original light chain sequences (SEQ ID NOs: 14 and 30, respectively) ; HMB2435 and HMB2437 variants 4 are formed by the combination of framework regions germlined heavy and light chains (SEQ ID NOs: 75 and 76 for HMB2435 and SEQ ID NOs: 85 and 86 for HMB2437). An alignment of HMB2435 and HMB2437 heavy and light chains amino acid sequences in the original and framework regions germlined variants is provided in Figure 11. The Figure 11 shows that HMB2435 has 20 somatic mutations located in the framework regions (15 in the heavy chain and 5 in the light chain) and HMB2437 has 13 somatic mutations located in the framework regions (5 in the heavy chain and 10 in the light chain). When HMB2435 and HMB2437 and the corresponding variants 2, 3 and 4 were tested against RSV A2 strain in a neutralization assay (Figure 12), HMB2435 and all the framework germlined variants neutralized with the same potency RSV A2 neutralization, thus indicating that the 20 amino acid somatic mutations in the framework regions of the heavy and light chain of HMB2435 are dispensable for its neutralizing activity and that therefore the HMB2435 variant 4 represents a fully framework regions germlined antibody with favorable characteristics for further development over the original HMB2435 antibody. In the case of HMB2437, however, not all the framework regions germlined variants neutralized RSV A2 virus with the same potency of the

original HMB2437. In particular, HMB2437 variants 2 and 4 showed a 10-fold lower neutralization activity as compared to HMB2437 and HMB2437 variant 3. These results indicate that the 10 somatic mutations located in the framework regions of the HMB2437 light chain are not dispensable for its neutralizing activity. In summary, in the case of HMB2437 the same neutralizing activity is maintained only in the HMB2437 variant 3 in which the 5 somatic mutations in the heavy chain framework regions are reversed to the germline VH-encoded amino acids. We finally tested HMB2435 and HMB2437 and all the framework germlined variants that showed similar neutralizing activity as compared to the original antibody (i.e. HMB2435 variants 2, 3 and 4 and HMB2437 variant 3) against a panel of 9 RSV A and B viruses spanning 53 years of virus antigenic evolution. The results of the analysis of this extended panel of viruses (Figure 13) confirmed that the reversion of the somatic mutations of the framework regions to the germline residues in the HMB2435 antibody variants 2, 3 and 4 and in HMB2437 antibody variant 3 did not reduce their neutralizing activity as compared to the originals HMB2435 and HMB2437 antibodies.

Table of Sequences and SEQ ID Numbers

SEQ ID NO	Description	Sequence
		HMB2435 ANTIBODY
1	CDRH1 aa	GFAFNNFA
2	CDRH2 aa	VSVDGTSP
3	CDRH3 aa	ARGLGSGSYSWIGYFYAMDV
4	CDRL1 aa	SSDVGGYVY
5	CDRL2 aa	DVS
6	CDRL3 aa	ISYTDRTVV
7	CDRH1 nuc	ggattcgccttcaataatttgct
8	CDRH2 nuc	gtgtcctatgacggaaccagtcca
9	CDRH3 nuc	gcgagagggcttggtcggggagtattcgtggattggtactttatgcaatggacgtc
10	CDRL1 nuc	agcagtgcgttggtggtatgtctat
11	CDRL2 nuc	gatgtcagt
12	CDRL3 nuc	atctcgtataccgacagaaactgtcgtt
13	heavy chain aa	QVQLVESGGGVVQPRPLRLSCAASGFAFNNFALHWVRQAPG KGPEWLA AVSYDGTSPYYAESVRARFSISRDN SKTFYLQLDSL RP EDTAVYYCARGLGSGSYSWIGYFYAMDVWGRGTTTVTVSS
14	light chain aa	QSALTQPASVSGSPGQSITISCTGTSSDVGGYVYVAWYQQHPGT APKLIYDVSDRPSGVSNRFSGSKSGNTASLTISGLQAEDDADYYC ISYTDRTVVFGGGTKLTVL
15	heavy chain nuc	caggtgcagctggtggagctctgggggaggcgtggtccagcctgggaggccctcagactct cctgtgcagcctctggattcgccttcaataatttgctttactgggtccgcccagggtccagg caaggggtccagagtggtggtcagctgtgtcctatgacggaaccagtccatactacgcagag tccgtcagggtccgattcagcatctccagagacaattccaagaaaacattctatctgcaatt ggacagcctgcgacctgaagacacggctgtctattactgtgcgagagggcttggtcgggga gttattcgtggattggtactttatgcaatggacgtctggggccgagggacgacgggtcaccgt ctctca

16	light chain nuc	cagctctgccctgactcagcctgcctccgtctctgggtctcctggacaatcgatcaccatctcc tgactggaaccagcagtgacgttggtgggtatgtctatgtcgctggtagcaacaacaccc aggcacagccccaaactcatcttatgatgtcagtgatcgccctcaggggtttctaactg attctctgggtccaagtctggcaacacggcctccctgacctctctgggtccaggctgagg acgacgtgattactgcatctcgataccgacagaaacactgtcggttttggcggcgggga ccaagttgaccgtcctg
		HMB2437 ANTIBODY
17	CDRH1 aa	GFSLTDARMG
18	CDRH2 aa	IFSNDEK
19	CDRH3 aa	ARVDQGWVNTYSAFYYGMDF
20	CDRL1aa	QYISTH
21	CDRL2 aa	GAS
22	CDRL3 aa	QQTYKTPIT
23	CDRH1 nuc	ggattctcactcacagatgctagaatgggt
24	CDRH2 nuc	attttctcgaatgacgaaaaa
25	CDRH3 nuc	gcacgagtcgatcagggatgggtaaacacgtacagcgccctttattatgggatggacttc
26	CDRL1 nuc	cagtacattagcacccat
27	CDRL2 nuc	ggcgcctcc
28	CDRL3 nuc	caacagactataaaaccccgatcacc
29	heavy chain aa	QVTLKESGPVLVKPSETLTLCTVSGFSLTDARMGVSWIRQPPGK ALEWLAHIFSNDEKFYSTSLKTRLTISKDTSTSQVVLRTNMDPVD TATYYCARVDQGWVNTYSAFYYGMDFWGQGTTVTVSS
30	light chain aa	DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGERVTITCRASQYISTHLNWIYQHHPGKAPR LLIYGASHLEGDPSPRFSGSGSGTDFSLTITSLQPEDFATYYCQQT YKTPITFAQGTRLEIK
31	heavy chain nuc	caggtcacctgaaggagtctggtcctgtgctggtgaaaccctcagagaccctcacgtgac ctgcaccgtctctggattctcactcacagatgctagaatgggtgtgagttggatccgtcagcc cccaggggaaggccctggagtggcttgacacatcttctcgaatgacgaaaaattctacagca catctctgaagaccaggctcaccatctccaaggacacctccacaagccaggtggctcttag gatgaccaacatggaccctgtggacacagccactattattgtgcacgagtcgatcagggat gggtaaacacgtacagcgccctttattatgggatggactctggggccaagggaaccaggtc accgtctcctca

32	light chain nuc	gacatccagatgacccagctcctccctgtctgcatctgtaggagaaagagtcacat cacttgccgggcaagtcagtagcatttagcaccatttaaattggatcagcacaaccaggga aagcccctcgtctcctgatctatggcgctccatttgaagggtgggacccatcacgggtca gtggcagtggtctgggacagattcagctcaccattaccagctgcaacctgaagatttgc aacttactactgtcaacagactataaaaccccgatcaccttcgccaagggaacacgactg gagattaaa
		HMB2416 ANTIBODY
33	CDRH1 aa	GGSISSGDYY
34	CDRH2 aa	IYFSGST
35	CDRH3 aa	AREDTTMAIPYYFDP
36	CDRL1 aa	NIGNEN
37	CDRL2 aa	SDS
38	CDRL3 aa	QVWDSSTDQVV
39	CDRH1 nuc	gggtggctccatcagcagtggtgattactac
40	CDRH2 nuc	atctacttcagtggcagcacc
41	CDRH3 nuc	gccagagaggatacaactatggctattccatactacttcgacccc
42	CDRL1 nuc	aatattggaaatgaaaat
43	CDRL2 nuc	tctgatagc
44	CDRL3 nuc	caggtgtgggatagtagtactgatcaagtggta
45	heavy chain aa	QVQLQESGPGLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGSISSGDYYWSWIRQPPG KGLEWIGYIYFSGSTYYNPSLKSRTMSGDTSKNQFSLRLSSVTAA DTAVYYCAREDTTMAIPYYFDPWGRGILVTSS
46	light chain aa	SYVLTQPPSVSVAPGRTARITCGRHNIGNENVHWYQQRPGQAP VLVIYSDSDRPSGIPERFSGSNSGNTATLSISRVEAGDEADYYCQV WDSSTDQVVFVGGGTKLTVL
47	heavy chain nuc	caggtgcagctgcaggagtcgggcccaggactcgtgaagccttcacagacctgtccctc acctgcactgtctcgtggctccatcagcagtggtgattactactggagtggatccgccag ccccagggaaggcctggagtggattgggtacatctacttcagtggcagcacctactaca atccgtccctcaagagtcagttaccatgtcaggggacacgtccaagaatcagttctccctg aggctgagctctgtgactgccgcagacacggcgtgtattattgtgccagagaggatacaac tatggctattccatactacttcgacccctggggccggggaatcctggtcaccgtctcctca

48	light chain nuc	tcctatgtcctgactcagccaccctcagtgctcagtggtggcccccggaaggacggccaggatca cctgtgggagacataatattggaaatgaaaatgttcactgggtaccagcagaggccaggcca ggccccctgtgctggatctattctgatagcgaccggccctcagggatccctgagcgattctc tggctccaactctgggaacacggccaccctaagcatcagcaggggtcgaagccggggatg aggccgactattattgtcaggtgtgggatagtagtactgatcaagtgggtattcggcggaggga ccaagctgaccgtccta
		HMB2432 ANTIBODY
49	CDRH1 aa	GFSFSNYW
50	CDRH2 aa	VYPADSDT
51	CDRH3 aa	VRQIGGVVTTATDDYFYGMDI
52	CDRL1 aa	QTVKSF
53	CDRL2 aa	DAS
54	CDRL3 aa	QQSYRTPLT
55	CDRH1 nuc	ggatttagtttagcaactattgg
56	CDRH2 nuc	gtctatccggctgactctgacacc
57	CDRH3 nuc	gtgagacaaatcggggggggtggtgacaactgctactgacgactacttctacggtatggacat c
58	CDRL1 nuc	cagaccgttaaaagcttt
59	CDRL2 nuc	gatgcatcc
60	CDRL3 nuc	caacagagttacaggaccctctgacg
61	heavy chain 1 aa	EVQLVQSGAEVKKPGTSLKISCKGSGFSFSNYWIGWVRQMPGKG LEWMGIVYPADSDTRYSPSFQGQVTISGDNSINTAYLQWSRLKA SDTATYYCVRQIGGVVTTATDDYFYGMDIWGPCTTVIVSS
62	light chain 1 aa	ETTLTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCRASQTVKSFLNWFYQQKPGKAPK LLIYDASDLQSGVPSRFSGSGSGTDFLTISRLQPEDFATYFCQQS YRTPLTFGQGTRVEIK

63	heavy chain 1 nuc	gaggtgcagctggtgcagtctggagcggaggtgaaaaaacccgggacgtctctgaagatct cctgcaagggttctggatttagtttagcaactattggatcggctgggtgcgccagatgccggg gaaaggcctggagtggatggggatcgtctatccggctgactctgacaccagatacagcccg tcctccagggccaggtcaccatctcaggcgacaactccatcaataccgcctacctgcagt ggagccgcctgaaggcctcggacaccgccacctattactgtgtgagacaaatcggggggg tggtgacaactgctactgacgactacttctacggtatggacatctggggcccagggaaccag gtcatcgtctcctca
64	light chain 1 nuc	gaaacgacactcacgcagtctccatcctcctgtctgcatctgtaggagacagagtcaccat cacttgccgggcaagtcagaccgttaaaagcttttaattggtatcagcagaagccaggga aagcccctaaactcctgatctatgatgcacccgatttgcaaagtgggggtcccatccaggttca gtggcagtggtatctgggacagatttcactctcaccatcagccgtctgcaacctgaagatttg caacttacttctgtcaacagagttacaggaccctctgacgttcggccaagggaaccagggtg gaaatcaaa
65	heavy chain 2 aa	EVQLVQSGAEVKKPGTSLKISCKGSGFSFSNYWIGWVRQMPGKG LEWMGIVYPADSDTRYSPSFQGGVTVISGDNISINTAYLQWSRLKA SDTATYYCVRQIGGVVTTATDDYFYGMIDIWGPGLTITVSS
66	light chain 2 aa	ETTLTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCRASQTVKSFLNWIYQQKPGKAPK LLIYDASDLQSGVPSRFSGSGSGTDFTLTISRLQPEDFATYFCQQS YRTPLTFGQGTKVEIK
67	heavy chain 2 nuc	gaggtgcagctggtgcagtctggagcggaggtgaaaaaacccgggacgtctctgaagatct cctgcaagggttctggatttagtttagcaactattggatcggctgggtgcgccagatgccggg gaaaggcctggagtggatggggatcgtctatccggctgactctgacaccagatacagcccg tcctccagggccaggtcaccatctcaggcgacaactccatcaataccgcctacctgcagt ggagccgcctgaaggcctcggacaccgccacctattactgtgtgagacaaatcggggggg tggtgacaactgctactgacgactacttctacggtatggacatctggggcccagggaaccag gtcaccgtctcctca
68	light chain 2 nuc	gaaacgacactcacgcagtctccatcctcctgtctgcatctgtaggagacagagtcaccat cacttgccgggcaagtcagaccgttaaaagcttttaattggtatcagcagaagccaggga aagcccctaaactcctgatctatgatgcacccgatttgcaaagtgggggtcccatccaggttca gtggcagtggtatctgggacagatttcactctcaccatcagccgtctgcaacctgaagatttg caacttacttctgtcaacagagttacaggaccctctgacgttcggccaagggaaccaaggtg gaaatcaaa
		HMB2435 ANTIBODY FRAMEWORK REGIONS GERMLINED (FR-GL) VARIANTS
69	CDRH1 nuc	ggcttcgcttttaacaatttcgca
70	CDRH2 nuc	gtcagttacgacgggacttcacct

71	CDRH3 nuc	gccagaggactgggcagcgggtcctattcttgatcggtacttctatgctatggatgtg
72	CDRL1 nuc	agctccgacgtcggaggatacgtgtat
73	CDRL2 nuc	gatgtgagc
74	CDRL3 nuc	attagctacaccgacaggaatacagtggtc
75	heavy chain FR-GL aa	QVQLVESGGGVVQPGRSRLSCAASGFAFNNFAMHWVRQAPG KGLEWVAVVSYDGTSPYYADSVKGRFTISRDN SKNTLYLQMNSL RAEDTAVYYCARGLGSGSYSWIGYFYAMDVWGQGT TVTVSS
76	light chain FR-GL aa	QSALTQPASVSGSPGQSITISCTGTSSDVGGYVYVSWYQQHPGK APKLMYDVS NRPSGVSNRFSKSGNTASLTISGLQAEDEADYY CISYTD RNTVVFEGG GTKLTVL
77	heavy chain FR-GL nuc	cagggtgcagctggctcagctcggaggaggagtggtccagccaggacggagctgagactgt catgcgccgctagcggcttcgcttttaacaatttcgcaatgcactgggtgcggcaggcacca ggcaagggactggaatgggtcgctgtggtcagttacgacgggacttcaccttactatgccga tagcgtgaagggcaggtttaccatctcccgacaaactctaaaaatacactgtacctgcaga tgaactccctgcgagcagaggatacccgctgtactattgtgccagaggactgggcagcgg gtcctattctggatcggctacttctatgctatggatgtgtgggggcagggcactaccgtcactg tgtcttca
78	light chain FR-GL nuc	cagtccgcactgactcagccagcctctgtgagtggatcaccggccagagcatcacaaattt cctgcaccggcacaagctccgacgtcggaggatacgtgtatgtctcttggtaccagcagca ccccggcaaggctcctaaactgatgatctatgatgtgagcaaccggcccagtggggtctca aatagattcagcgggtccaagtctggaaacacagcctctgactatcagtggcctgcaggc cgaggacgaagctgattactattgtattagctacaccgacaggaatacagtggtctttggagg cgggactaaactgaccgtgctg
		HMB2437 ANTIBODY FRAMEWORK REGIONS GERMLINED (FR-GL) VARIANTS
79	CDRH1 nuc	ggcttctccctgaccgacgctcggatgggg

80	CDRH2 nuc	atTTTTagcaacgacgaaaag
81	CDRH3 nuc	gcccgggtggatcaggggtgggtcaatacctattcagccttctattatggaatggacttc
82	CDRL1 nuc	cagtacatttctacacac
83	CDRL2 nuc	ggagcttct
84	CDRL3 nuc	cagcagacatataaaaactcccatcacc
85	heavy chain FR-GL aa	QVTLKESGPVLVKPTETLTCTVSGFSLTDARMGVSWIRQPPGK ALEWLAHIFSNDKSYSTSLKSRLTISKDTSKSQVVLMTNMDPVD TATYYCARVDQGWVNTYSAFYYGMDFWGQGTTVTVSS
86	light chain FR-GL aa	DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCRASQYISTHLNWWYQQKPGKAP KLLIYGASSLQSGVPSRFSGSGSGTDFTLTISSLQPEDFATYYCQQT YKTPITFGQGTRLEIK

87	heavy chain FR-GL nuc	caagtgactctgaaggagtctggcccagtgctggtcaaaccacccgaaacactgactctga cctgcacagtgagcggcttctccctgaccgacgctcggatgggggtctcctggatcagaca gccacctggaaaggcactggagtggtggtcacatttttagcaacgacgaaaagagctac tccacatctctgaaatctaggctgaccatcagtaaggatacaagtaaatcacaggtggtcct gactatgaccaacatggaccccggtggatacagcaacttactattgtcccgggtggatcagg ggtgggtcaatacctattcagccttctattatggaatggacttctggggacaggggactaccgt caccgtctctca
88	light chain FR-GL nuc	gacatccagatgaccagagccctagctccctgtccgcatctgtgggggatcgggtcacca tcacatgcagagcctcccagtacatttctacacacctgaactggtatcagcagaagcccgg caaagcccctaagctgctgatctacggagctttagtctgcagagtggcgtgccctctagggt cagtggctcagggagcggaacagacttactctgaccatttcaagcctgcagccagaggatt tcgctacttactattgtcagcagacatataaaactcccatcaccttggccaggggacccgg ctggaaatcaaa

CLAIMS

1. An isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A RSV and group B RSV, but does preferably not neutralize infection of MPV, characterized in that preferably the antibody or antigen binding fragment specifically binds the pre-fusion F protein of RSV, but not the post-fusion RSV F protein.

2. The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to claim 1 characterized in that the antibody or antigen binding fragment has an isoelectric point (pI) of 7.5 or higher.

3. The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the antibody or antigen binding fragment does not specifically bind to the pre-fusion F protein of RSV at antigenic site S1.

4. The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the antibody or antigen binding fragment specifically binds to antigenic site S2, antigenic site S3, antigenic site S5 or a site in between antigenic sites S2 and S3 on the pre-fusion F protein of RSV.

5. The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the concentration of antibody or fragment required for 50% neutralization of RSV is 150 ng/ml or less.

6. The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the antibody or antigen binding fragment comprises a heavy chain comprising CDRH1, CDRH2 and CDRH3 and a light chain comprising CDRL1, CDRL2 and CDRL3, wherein the heavy chain CDRH3 comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51.

7. The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to claim 6, characterized in that the heavy chain CDRH3 comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51.

8. The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to any of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the antibody or antigen binding fragment comprises: (i) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, respectively; (ii) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 17-22, respectively; (iii) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 33-38, respectively; or (iv) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 49-54, respectively.

9. The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to claim 8, characterized in that the antibody or antigen binding fragment comprises: (i) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, respectively; (ii) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 17-22, respectively; (iii) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 33-38, respectively; or (iv) heavy chain CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 49-54, respectively.

10. The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to any of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the antibody or antigen binding fragment comprises: (i) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of

SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (ii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; (iii) or a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46; or (iv) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (v) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or (vi) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (vii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or (viii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (ix) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (x) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (xi) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86; or (xii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; or (xiii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain

variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86.

11. The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to claim 10,
5 characterized in that the antibody or antigen binding fragment comprises: (i) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (ii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; (iii) or a heavy chain
10 variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46; or (iv) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (v) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain
15 variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or (vi) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (vii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or (viii) a heavy chain
20 variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (ix) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (x) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain
25 variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (xi) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86; or (xii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; or (xiii) a heavy
30 chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86.

12. The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to any of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, is according to gHMB2435, gHMB2435 variant 2, gHMB2435 variant 3, gHMB2435 variant 4, gHMB2437, gHMB2437 variant 2, gHMB2437 variant 3, gHMB2437 variant 4, gHMB2416, gHMB2432 variant 1, gHMB2432 variant 2, gHMB2432 variant 3 or gHMB2432 variant 4.

13. The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to claim 12, characterized in that the antibody or antigen binding fragment is HMB2435, HMB2435 variant 2, HMB2435 variant 3, HMB2435 variant 4, HMB2437, HMB2437 variant 2, HMB2437 variant 3, HMB2437 variant 4, HMB2416, HMB2432 variant 1, HMB2432 variant 2, HMB2432 variant 3 or HMB2432 variant 4.

14. The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to any of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that the antibody or antigen binding fragment specifically binds to antigenic site S5 on the pre-fusion F protein of RSV.

15. The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to any of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that the antibody or antigen binding fragment is a human antibody, a monoclonal antibody, a human monoclonal antibody, a purified antibody, a single chain antibody, Fab, Fab', F(ab')₂, Fv or scFv.

16. An antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that binds to the same epitope as the antibody according to any of the previous claims, wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof neutralizes infection of both group A and group B RSV, but does not neutralize infection of MPV, characterized in that the antibody or antigen binding fragment specifically binds the pre-fusion F protein of RSV, but not the post-fusion RSV F protein, and wherein the antibody or fragment has an isoelectric point (pI) of 7.5 or higher.

17. The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to any of claims 1 to 16, for use in the treatment or attenuation of infection by group A RSV or group B RSV.

18. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to any of the previous claims.

19. The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 18, wherein the polynucleotide sequence is at least 75% identical to the nucleic acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 7-12, 15, 16, 23-28, 31, 32, 39-44, 47, 48, 55-60, 63, 64, 67, 68, 69 – 74, 77, 78, 79 – 84, 87, or 88.

20. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 18 or claim 19.

21. A cell expressing the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to any of claims 1 to 17; or comprising the vector according to claim 20.

22. An isolated or purified immunogenic polypeptide comprising an epitope that specifically binds to the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to any of claims 1 to 17.

23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to any of claims 1 to 17, the nucleic acid according to claim 18 or claim 19, the vector according to claim 20, the cell according to claim 21, or the immunogenic polypeptide according to claim 22, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.

24. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a first antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a second antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, wherein the first antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, is the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to any of claims 1 to 17, and the second antibody neutralizes infection of RSV or MPV or PVM or any combination of RSV, MPV and PVM.

25. The antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, antigen binding fragment thereof, according to any of claims 1 to 17, the nucleic acid according to claim 18 or claim 19, the vector according to claim 20, the cell according to claim 21, or the immunogenic

polypeptide according to claim 22, or the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 23 or claim 24 for use as a medicament (i) for the treatment or attenuation of group A RSV or group B RSV infection; (ii) for vaccination against group A RSV or group B RSV infection; or (iii) for diagnosis of group A RSV or group B RSV infection.

5

26. Use of the antibody, or the antigen binding fragment thereof, according to any of claims 1 to 17, for monitoring the quality of anti-group A RSV or anti-group B RSV vaccines by checking that the antigen of said vaccine contains the specific epitope in the correct conformation.

10

27. An isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A RSV and group B RSV, but does not neutralize infection of MPV, wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment specifically binds the pre-fusion F protein of RSV, but not the post-fusion RSV F protein.

15

28. The antibody of claim 27, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment has an isoelectric point (pI) of 7.5 or higher.

20

29. The antibody of claim 27 or 28, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment does not specifically bind to the pre-fusion F protein of RSV at antigenic site S1.

25

30. The antibody of claim 27 or 28, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment specifically binds to antigenic site S2, antigenic site S3, antigenic site S5 or a site in between antigenic sites S2 and S3 on the pre-fusion F protein of RSV.

30

31. The antibody of any one of claims 27-30, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, wherein the concentration of antibody or fragment required for 50% neutralization of RSV is 150 ng/ml or less.

32. An isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A and group B RSV and comprises a heavy chain comprising CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 and a light chain comprising CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3, wherein the heavy chain CDR3 comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51.

33. An isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A and group B RSV and comprises a heavy chain comprising CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 and a light chain comprising CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3, wherein the heavy chain CDR3 comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 3, 19, 35 or 51.

34. An isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A and group B RSV, comprising: (i) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, respectively; (ii) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 17-22, respectively; (iii) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 33-38, respectively; or (iv) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences that are at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 49-54, respectively.

35. An isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A and group B RSV, comprising: (i) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, respectively; (ii) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 17-22, respectively; (iii) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 33-38, respectively; or (iv) heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid

sequences and light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 49-54, respectively.

36. The antibody of any one of the above claims, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, comprising: (i) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (ii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; (iii) or a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46; or (iv) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (v) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or (vi) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (vii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or (viii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (ix) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (x) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (xi) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable

region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86; or (xii) a heavy chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; or (xiii) a heavy chain variable region
5 having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region having at least 80% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86.

37. An isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection
10 of both group A and group B RSV, comprising: (i) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (ii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; (iii) or a heavy chain variable region comprising
15 the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46; or (iv) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (v) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61 and a light chain variable region comprising the
20 amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or (vi) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62; or (vii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 65 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66; or (viii) a heavy chain variable region comprising
25 the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (ix) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; or (x) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 75 and a light chain variable region comprising the
30 amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 76; or (xi) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86; or (xii) a heavy chain variable region comprising

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30; or (xiii) a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86.

5

38. The antibody of any one of the above claims, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, wherein the antibody is HMB2435, HMB2435 variant 2, HMB2435 variant 3, HMB2435 variant 4, HMB2437, HMB2437 variant 2, HMB2437 variant 3, HMB2437 variant 4, HMB2416, HMB2432 variant 1, HMB2432 variant 2, HMB2432 variant 3 or HMB2432 variant 4.

10

39. An isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that neutralizes infection of both group A RSV and group B RSV, wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment specifically binds to antigenic site S5 on the pre-fusion F protein of RSV.

15

40. The antibody of any one of the above claims, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, wherein the antibody is a human antibody, a monoclonal antibody, a human monoclonal antibody, a purified antibody, a single chain antibody, Fab, Fab', F(ab')₂, Fv or scFv.

20

41. An antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, that binds to the same epitope as the antibody of any one of the previous claims, wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof neutralizes infection of both group A and group B RSV, but does not neutralize infection of MPV, wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment specifically binds the pre-fusion F protein of RSV, but not the post-fusion RSV F protein, and wherein the antibody or fragment has an isoelectric point (pI) of 7.5 or higher.

25

42. The antibody of any one of the previous claims, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, for use in the treatment or attenuation of infection by group A RSV or group B RSV.

30

43. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, of any one of the previous claims.

44. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 43, wherein the polynucleotide sequence is at least 75% identical to the nucleic acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 7-12, 15, 16, 23-28, 31, 32, 39-44, 47, 48, 55-60, 63, 64, 67, 68, 69 – 74, 77, 78, 79 – 84, 87, or 88.

5 45. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 43 or claim 44.

46. A cell expressing the antibody of any one of claims 27-42, or an antigen binding fragment thereof; or comprising the vector of claim 45.

10 47. An isolated or purified immunogenic polypeptide comprising an epitope that specifically binds to the antibody of any one of claims 27-42, or an antigen binding fragment thereof.

15 48. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody of any one of claims 27-42, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, the nucleic acid of claim 43 or claim 44, the vector of claim 45, the cell of claim 46, or the immunogenic polypeptide of claim 47, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.

20 49. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a first antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof, and a second antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, wherein the first antibody is the antibody of any one of claims 27-42, and the second antibody neutralizes infection of RSV or MPV or PVM or any combination of RSV, MPV and PVM.

25 50. Use of the antibody of any one of claims 27-42, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, the nucleic acid of claim 43 or claim 44, the vector of claim 45, the cell of claim 46, or the immunogenic polypeptide of claim 47, or the pharmaceutical composition of claim 48 or claim 49 in the manufacture of a medicament (i) for the treatment or attenuation of group A RSV or group B RSV infection; (ii) for vaccination against group A RSV or group B RSV infection; or (iii) for diagnosis of group A RSV or group B RSV infection.

30

51. Use of the antibody of any one of claims 27-42, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, for monitoring the quality of anti-group A RSV or anti-group B RSV vaccines by

checking that the antigen of said vaccine contains the specific epitope in the correct conformation.

52. A method of reducing RSV group A or group B RSV infection, or lowering the risk of group A RSV or group B RSV infection, comprising: administering to a subject in need thereof, a therapeutically effective amount of the antibody of any one of claims 27-42, or an antigen binding fragment thereof.

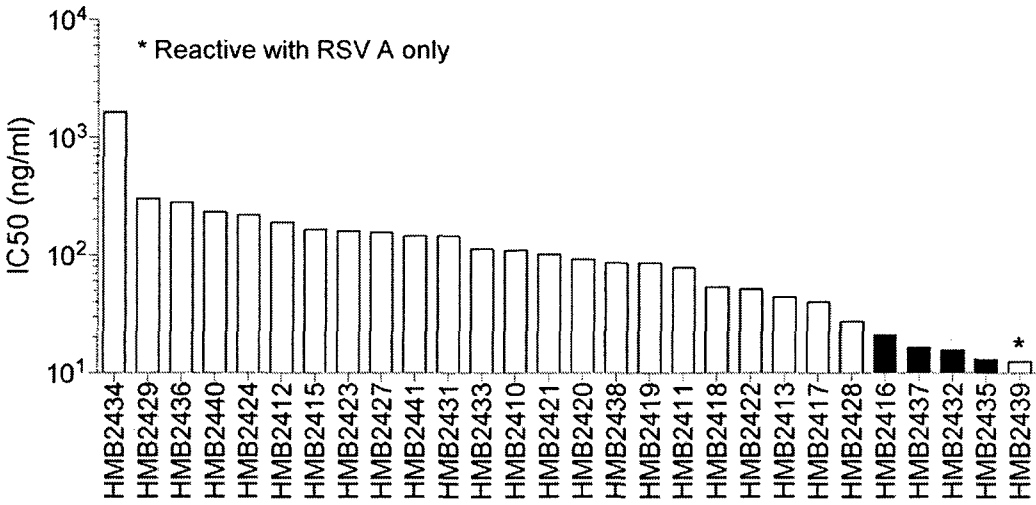


FIGURE 1

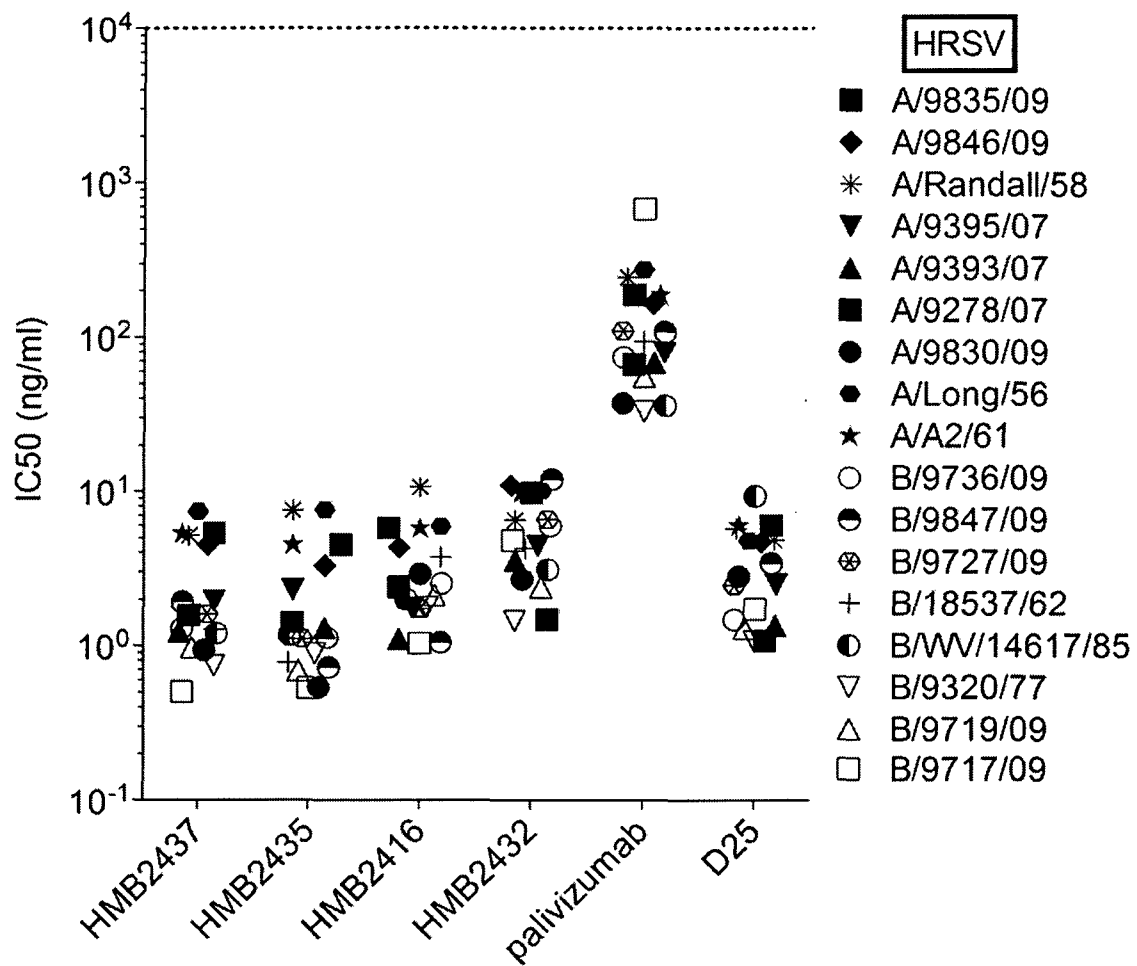


FIGURE 2

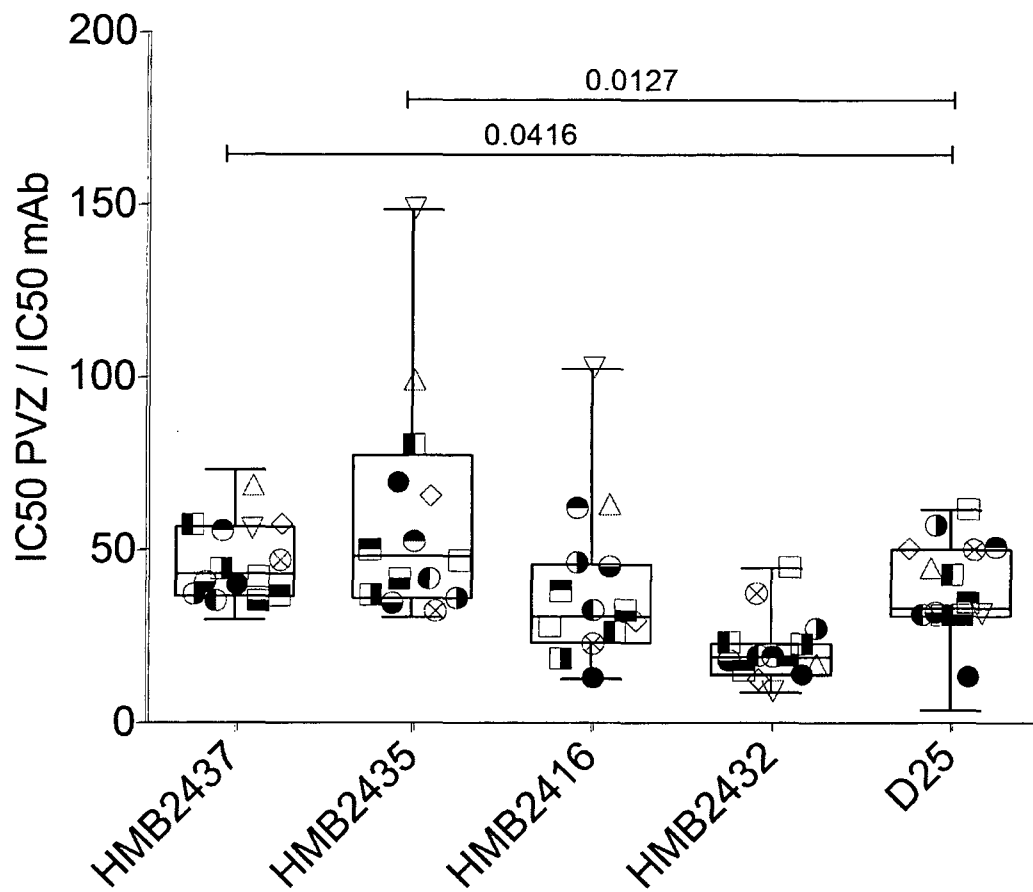


FIGURE 3

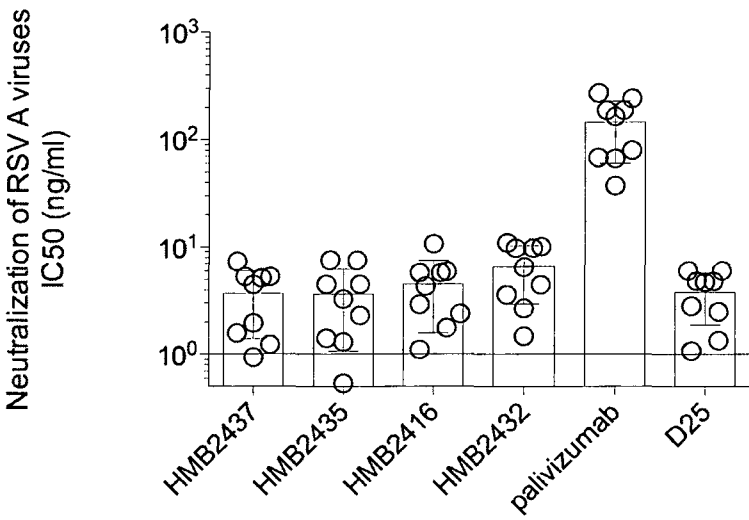


FIGURE 4A

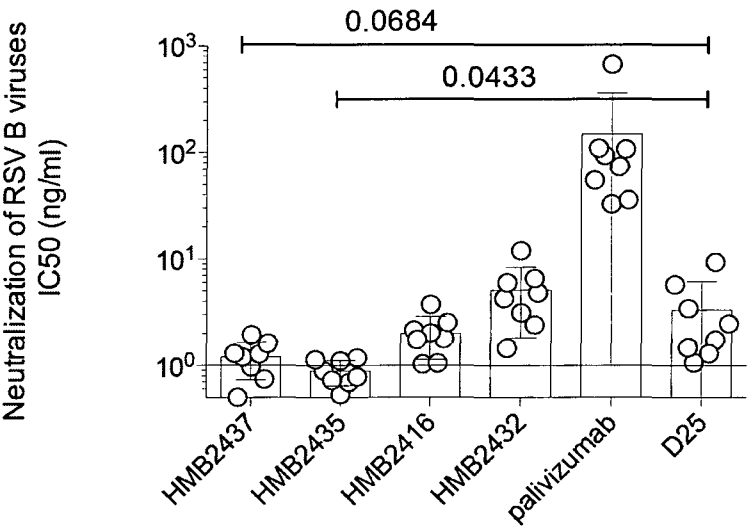


FIGURE 4B

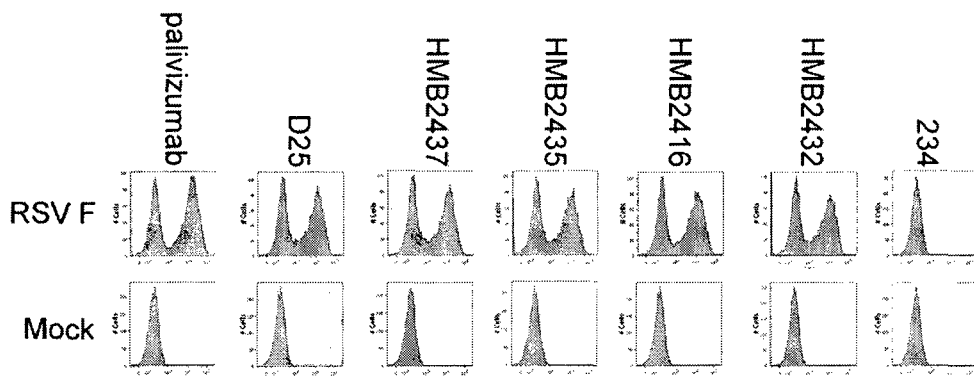


FIGURE 5

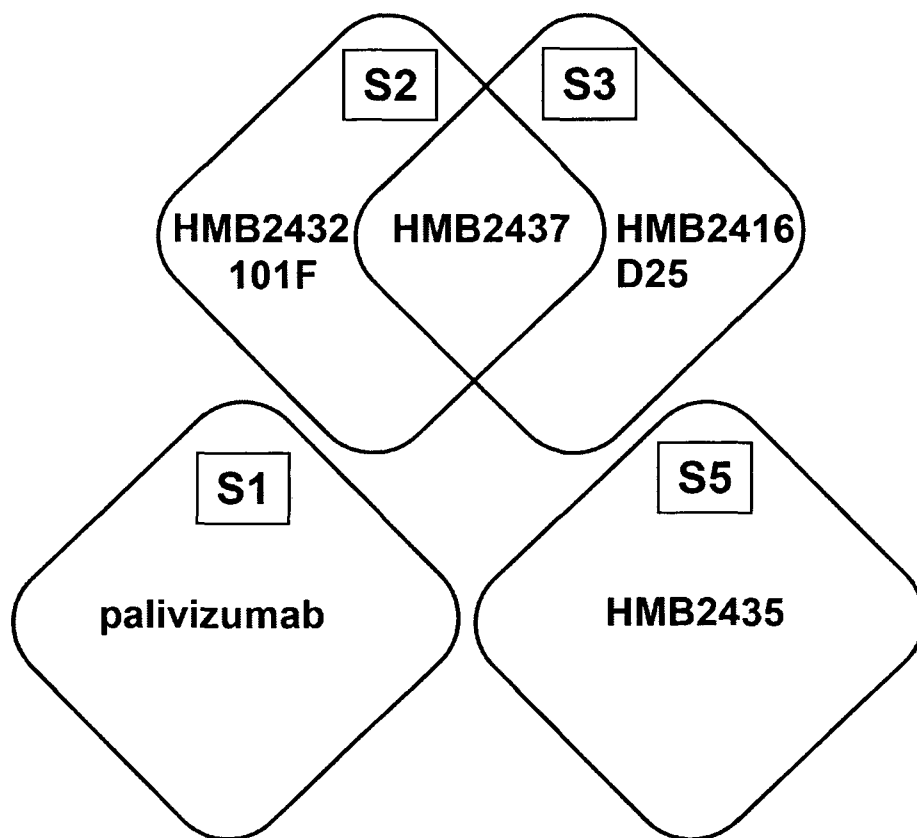


FIGURE 6

HMB2435

Homsap IGHV3-30*01 F, or Homsap IGHV3-30-3*01 F (87.15%), Homsap IGHJ6*02 F (a) (75.81%), Homsap IGHD3-10*01 F
Homsap IGLV2-14*01 F (93.75%), Homsap IGLJ2*01 F, or Homsap IGLJ3*01 F or Homsap IGLJ3*02 F (85.29%)

VH nucleic acid sequence

cagggtgcagctggtggagctctgggggaggcgtggtccagcctgggaggcccctcagactctcct
 gtgcagcctct**ggattcgccttcaataattttgcttt**taactgggtccgccagggtccaggcaa
 ggggtccagagtggctggcagct**gtgtcctatgacggaaccagtcc**atactacgcagagtcctgc
 agggcccgattcagcatctccagagacaattccaagaaaacattctatctgcaattggacagcc
 tgcgacctgaagacacggctgtctattactgt**gcgagagggttggttcggggagttattcgtg**
gattggttacttttatgcaatggacgtctggggccgagggacgacggtcaccgtctcctca

VH amino acid sequence

QVQLVESGGGVVQPGRPLRLSCAAS**GFAFN**FALHWVRQAPGKGPEWLA**AVSYDGTSP**YYAESV
 RARFSISRDNSSKKTFFYLQLDSLRLPEDTAVYYC**ARGLGSGSYSWIGYFYAMD**VWGRGTTTVTVSS

VL nucleic acid sequence

cagtctgccttgactcagcctgcctccgtgtctgggtctcctggacaatcgatcaccatctcct
 gcaactggaacc**agcagtgacgttggtgggttatgtctat**gtcgcctggtaccaacaacaccagg
 cacagccccaaactcatcatttat**gatgtcagt**gatcgccctcaggggtttctaategatc
 tctgggtccaagtctggcaacacggcctccctgaccatctctgggctccaggctgaggacgacg
 ctgattattactgc**atctcgtataccgacagaaacactgtcgt**ttttggcggcgggaccaagtt
 gaccgtcctg

VL amino acid sequence

QSALTQPASVSGSPGQSITISCTGT**SSDVGGYVY**VAWYQQHPGTAPKLI**IYDV**SDRPSGVSNR
 FSGSKSGNTASLTISGLQAEDDADYYC**ISYTD**RNTVVFGGGTKLTVL

FIGURE 7

HMB2437

Homsap IGHV2-26*01 F (95.19%), Homsap IGHJ6*02 F (83.87%), Homsap IGHD5-24*01 ORF
Homsap IGKV1-39*01 F, or Homsap IGKV1D-39*01 F (91.40%), Homsap IGKJ5*01 F (97.37%)

VH nucleic acid sequence

caggtcacettgaaggagtcctggctcctgtgctgggtgaaaccctcagagaccctcacgctgacct
gcaccgtctct**ggattctcactcacagatgctagaatgggt**gtgagttggatccgtcagcccc
aggaagggccctggagtggttgccacac**ttttctcgaatgacgaaaa**attctacagcacatct
ctgaagaccaggctcaccatctccaaggacacctccacaagccagggtggccttaggatgacca
acatggaccctgtggacacagccacttattattgt**gcacgagtcgatcagggatgggtaaacac**
gtacagcgccttttattatggtatggacttctggggccaagggaccacgggtcacgctctcctca

VH amino acid sequence

QVTLKESGPVLVKPSETLTLTCTVSG**FS**LT**D**ARMGVSWIRQPPGKALEWLAH**I**FS**N**DEK**F**YSTS
LKTRLTISKDTSTSQVVLRLMTNMDPVDATYYC**ARVDQGW**VNTY**S**A**F**YY**G**MD**F**WGQGT**T**TV**S**S

VK nucleic acid sequence

gacatccagatgacccagtcctccatcctccctgtctgcatctgtaggagaaagagtcaccatca
cttgccggggaagtc**ag**tacatt**agc**acccatttaaattggtatcagcacaaccagggaagc
ccctcgtctcctgatctat**gg**tg**cc**tccatttggaaagtggggacccatcacggttcagtggc
agtggatctgggacagatttcagtcctcaccattaccagtcctgcaacctgaagattttgcaactt
actactgt**caacagacttataaaaccccgatcac**cttcgccaagggacacgactggagattaa
a

VK amino acid sequence

DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGERVTITCRAS**QY**I**S**THLNWYQHKGKAPRLLIY**G**ASHLEGGDPSRFSG
SGSGTDFSLTITSLQPEDFATYYC**QQ**T**Y**K**T**P**I**T**F**AQ**G**TRLEIK

FIGURE 8

HMB2416

IGHV4-30-4*01 (96.22%), IGHJ4*02 (89.59%), IGHD5-5*01
IGLV3-21*01 (93.55%), IGLJ2*01, or IGLJ3*01 (97.37%)

VH nucleic acid sequence

caggtgcagctgcaggagtcgggcccaggactcgtgaagccttcacagaccctgtccctcacct
gcactgtctct**ggtggctccatcagcagtggtgattactact**ggagttggatccgccagcccc
aggaagggcctggagtggttgggtacat**ctacttcagtggcagcacc**tactacaatccgtcc
ctcaagagtcgagttaccatgtcaggggacacgtccaagaatcagttctccctgaggctgagct
ctgtgactgccgcagacacggccgtgtattattgt**gccagagaggatacaactatggctattcc**
atactacttcgacccctggggccggggaatcctggtcacccgtctcctca

VH amino acid sequence

QVQLQESGPGLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGGSISSGDYYWSWIRQPPGKGLEWIGY**IYFSGSTYYNPS**
LKSRVTMSGDTSKNQFSRLSSVTAADTAVYYC**AREDTTMAIPYYFDPWGRGILVTVSS**

VL nucleic acid sequence

tcctatgtcctgactcagccaccctcagtgtcagtggtcccccggaaggacggccaggatcacct
gtgggagacata**aatattggaaatgaaaat**gttactggtaccagcagagggccaggccaggcccc
tgtgctggtcatctat**tctgatagc**gaccggccctcagggatccctgagcgattctctggctcc
aactctgggaacacggccaccctaagcatcagcagggtcgaagccggggatgaggccgactatt
attgt**caggtgtgggatagtagtactgatcaagtgg**tattcggcggagggaccaagctgaccgt
cctag

VL amino acid sequence

SYVLTQPPSVSVAPGRTARITCGRH**NIGNEN**VHWYQQRPGQAPVLVIY**SDSDRPSGIPERFSGS**
NSGNTATLSISRVEAGDEADYYC**QVWDSSTDQVVF**GGGTKLTVL

FIGURE 9

HMB2432

Homsap IGHV5-51*01 F (92.01%), Homsap IGHJ6*02 F (a) (90.32%), Homsap IGHD2-15*01 F
Homsap IGKV1-39*01 F, or Homsap IGKV1D-39*01 F (91.76%), Homsap IGKJ1*01 F (97.22%)

VH.1 nucleic acid sequence

gaggtgcagctggtgcagtcctggagcggaggtgaaaaaacccgggacgtctctgaagatctcct
gcaaggggttct**ggatttagtttagcaactattggat**cggctgggtgcgccagatgcccgggaa
aggcctggagtggtatggggat**gtctatccggctgactctgacacc**agatacagccgctccttc
cagggccaggtcaccatctcaggcgacaactccatcaataccgcctacctgcagtggagccgcc
tgaaggcctcggacaccgccacctattactgt**gtgagacaaatcgggggggtggtgacaactgc**
tactgacgactacttctacggtatggacatctggggcccagggaccacggtcatcgtctcctca

VH.1 amino acid sequence

EVQLVQSGAEVKKPGTSLKISCKGSG**FSFSNYW**IGWVRQMPGKGLEWMGI**VYPADSD**TRYSPSF
QGQVTISGDNSINTAYLQWSRLKASDTATYYC**VRQIGGVVTTATDDYFYGMD**IWGPGETTVIVSS

VH.2 nucleic acid sequence

gaggtgcagctggtgcagtcctggagcggaggtgaaaaaacccgggacgtctctgaagatctcct
gcaaggggttct**ggatttagtttagcaactattggat**cggctgggtgcgccagatgcccgggaa
aggcctggagtggtatggggat**gtctatccggctgactctgacacc**agatacagccgctccttc
cagggccaggtcaccatctcaggcgacaactccatcaataccgcctacctgcagtggagccgcc
tgaaggcctcggacaccgccacctattactgt**gtgagacaaatcgggggggtggtgacaactgc**
tactgacgactacttctacggtatggacatctggggcccagggaccacggtcaccgtctcctca

VH.2 amino acid sequence

EVQLVQSGAEVKKPGTSLKISCKGSG**FSFSNYW**IGWVRQMPGKGLEWMGI**VYPADSD**TRYSPSF
QGQVTISGDNSINTAYLQWSRLKASDTATYYC**VRQIGGVVTTATDDYFYGMD**IWGPGETTVTVSS

FIGURE 10A

HMB2432

Homsap IGHV5-51*01 F (92.01%), Homsap IGHJ6*02 F (a) (90.32%), Homsap IGHD2-15*01 F
Homsap IGKV1-39*01 F, or Homsap IGKV1D-39*01 F (91.76%), Homsap IGKJ1*01 F (97.22%)

VK.1 nucleic acid sequence

gaaacgacactcacgcagtcctccatcctccctgtctgcatctgtaggagacagagtcaccatca
cttgccgggcaagtcagaccgttataaagcttttttaaattggtatcagcagaagccagggaaagc
ccctaaactcctgatctatgatgcatccgatttgcaaagtgggtcccatccaggttcagtggc
agtggatctgggacagatttcactctcaccatcagccgtctgcaacctgaagattttgcaactt
acttctgtcaacagagttacaggacccctctgacggttcggccaagggaccaggggtggaaatcaa
a

VK.1 amino acid sequence

ETTLTQSPSSLSASVGDRVITICRASQTVKSFLNWFYQQKPGKAPKLLIYDASDLQSGVPSRFSG
SGSGTDFTLTISRLQPEDFATYFCQQSYRTPLTFGQGRVEIK

VK.2 nucleic acid sequence

gaaacgacactcacgcagtcctccatcctccctgtctgcatctgtaggagacagagtcaccatca
cttgccgggcaagtcagaccgttataaagcttttttaaattggtatcagcagaagccagggaaagc
ccctaaactcctgatctatgatgcatccgatttgcaaagtgggtcccatccaggttcagtggc
agtggatctgggacagatttcactctcaccatcagccgtctgcaacctgaagattttgcaactt
acttctgtcaacagagttacaggacccctctgacggttcggccaagggaccaaggtggaaatcaa
a

VK.2 amino acid sequence

ETTLTQSPSSLSASVGDRVITICRASQTVKSFLNWFYQQKPGKAPKLLIYDASDLQSGVPSRFSG
SGSGTDFTLTISRLQPEDFATYFCQQSYRTPLTFGQGTKVEIK

FIGURE 10B

HMB2435 heavy chain QVQLVESGGGVQPGRPLRLSCAASGf afnfa LHWVRQAPGKGPEWLAavsydgispYYAESVR 65
 HMB2435 FR-GL heavy chain S.....M.....L.V.V.....D..K 65
 HMB2435 heavy chain ARFSISRDNKKTFYLQLDLSRPEDTAVYYCarglgsgsywgyfyamdvwWGRGTTVTVSS 127
 HMB2435 FR-GL heavy chain G..T.....N.L..MN..A.....Q..... 127

 HMB2435 light chain QSALTQPASVSGSPGQSITISCTGTssdvgyvyVAWYQQHPGTAPKLIYdvsDRPSGVSNRFS 65
 HMB2435 FR-GL light chain S.....K...M...N..... 65
 HMB2435 light chain GSKSGNTASLTISGLQAEDDADYYCIsytdrnlvFGGGKLTVL 110
 HMB2435 FR-GL light chain E..... 110

 HMB2437 heavy chain QVTLKESGPVLVKPSETLTLTCTVSgfsitdarmgVSWIRQPPGKALEWLAHifsndekFYSTSL 65
 HMB2437 FR-GL heavy chain T.....S..... 65
 HMB2437 heavy chain KTRLTISKDTSTSQVVLMTNMDPVDATYYCaryddqgwvntysafyygmdfWGQGTTVTVSS 128
 HMB2437 FR-GL heavy chain .S.....K.....T..... 128

 HMB2437 light chain DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGERVTITCRASqyisthLNWYQHKGPKAPRLLIYgasHLEGGDPSRFSGS 65
 HMB2437 FR-GL light chain D.....Q.....K.....S.QS.V..... 65
 HMB2437 light chain GSGTDFSLTITSLQPEDFATYYCqqtyktpitFAQGTRLEIK 107
 HMB2437 FR-GL light chain T...S.....G..... 107

FIGURE 11

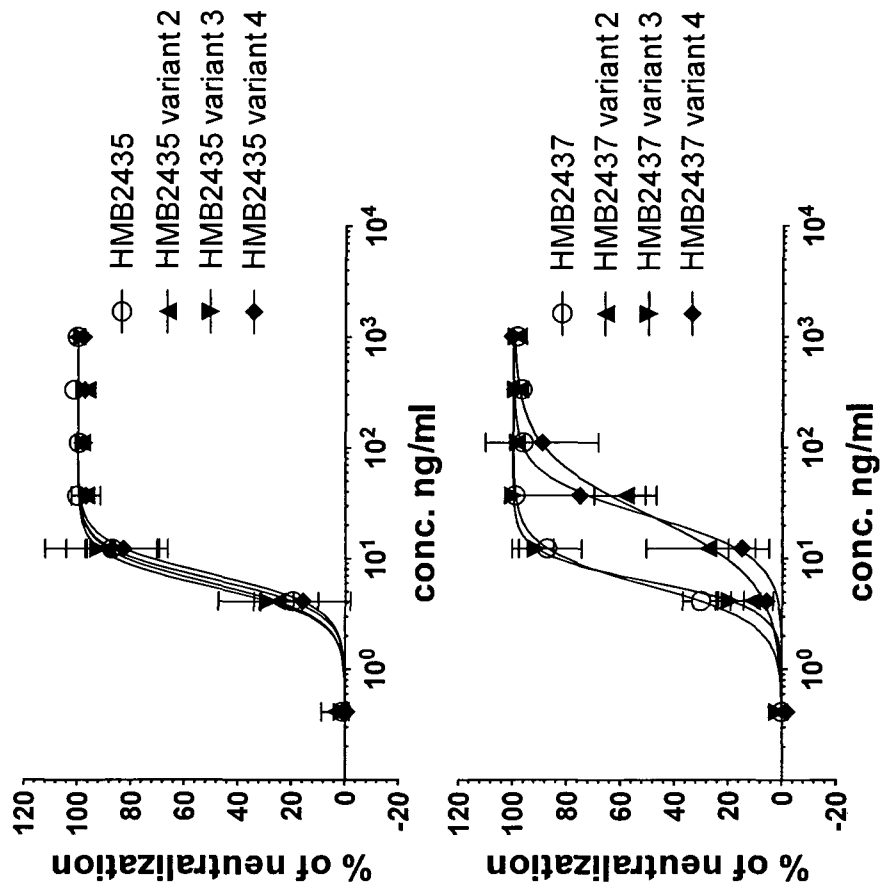


FIGURE 12

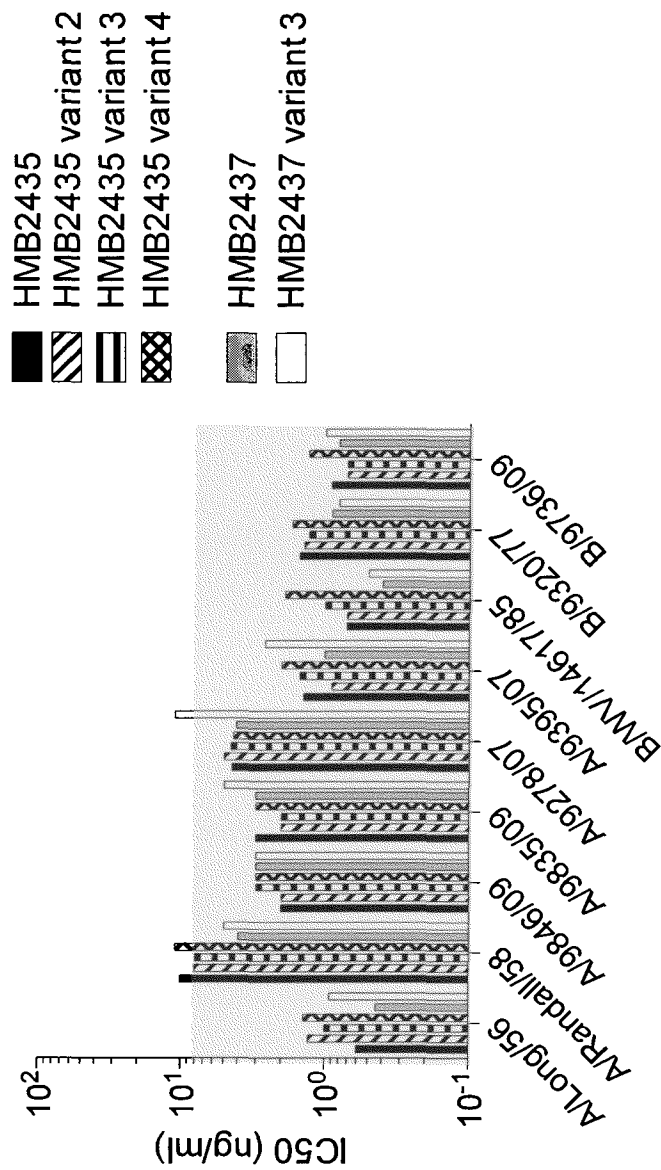


FIGURE 13

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2014/002027

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. C07K16/10 A61P31/14
ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
C07K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, BIOSIS, EMBASE, Sequence Search, WPI Data

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X	EP 1 997 830 A1 (AIMM THERAPEUTICS B V [NL]) 3 December 2008 (2008-12-03) cited in the application paragraph [0107] page 0021	1-52
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 October 2014

Date of mailing of the international search report

05/11/2014

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Authorized officer

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/EP2014/002027

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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T	DAVIDE CORTI ET AL: "Cross-neutralization of four paramyxoviruses by a human monoclonal antibody-Supplementary Information", NATURE, vol. 501, no. 7467, 18 August 2013 (2013-08-18), pages 1-16, XP055148969, ISSN: 0028-0836, DOI: 10.1038/nature12442 figure 9 -----	16,27
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International application No

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