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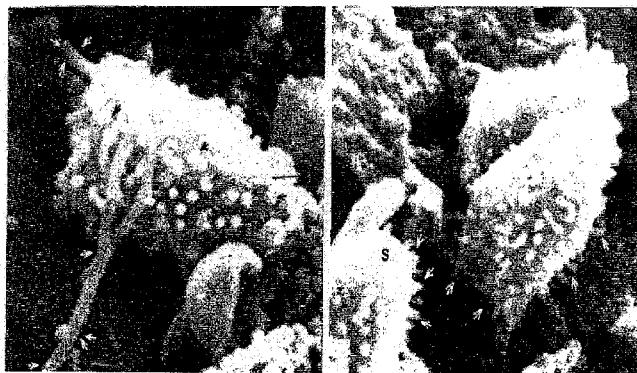


FIGURE 1

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides genes encoding novel microbial proteins (i.e., for example, exosporium genes and proteins) that mediate the attachment of microbial spores to surfaces. Specific fragments of these microbial spore proteins may be utilized to inhibit the attachment of microbial spores to surfaces, thereby providing an infection control agent. The invention provides recombinant expression vectors comprising genes encoding exosporium proteins, as well as host cells containing these expression vectors. Further provided herein are screening methods for identifying infection control compositions comprising exosporium proteins that inhibit bacterial spore attachment to either bodily tissues or solid surfaces. Additionally, the invention provides for the use of nucleic acid inhibitors of exosporium protein expression by hybridizing with nucleic acid sequences encoding exosporium proteins as well as with exosporium mRNA. The invention further describes monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies having affinity for exosporium proteins.

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**Compositions And Methods For Screening And Using Compounds
Antagonizing Spore-Surface Interactions**

Field Of Invention

5 The present invention is related to the field of infection control. Particularly, the invention is related to compositions and methods for maintenance of antiseptic conditions, bacterial decontamination, and/or bacterial exposure prophylaxis. In one embodiment, the invention contemplates infection control compositions that inhibit microbial spore binding to a substrate surface. For example, the inhibition disrupts and/or
10 displaces an interaction, attachment, and/or stabilization of a microbial spore to a substrate surface.

Background

Spore-forming bacteria may be responsible for contaminations including, but not
15 limited to, hospital infections, food spoilage and/or food-borne illness problems. As the production of minimally processed refrigerated products becomes more efficient and aseptic, background microflora are eliminated, and it is the spore-forming organism which eventually may limit the shelf-lives of these products. Spore-forming bacteria are suspected of being responsible for the spoilage of canned foods, bread, vacuum packed
20 meats, pasteurized dairy products, and fruit juices. The presence of bacterial spores at high levels in ingredients going into any of these types of products may increase the potential for spoilage of the finished product.

In the healthcare environment, spore-forming bacteria frequently cause infections including nosocomial diarrhea, tetanus, and gangrene. *Clostridium difficile* is a spore
25 forming anaerobic bacterium which causes antibiotic associated diarrhea and pseudomembranous colitis. The recent emergence of a highly pathogenic epidemic strain with increased attributable morbidity and mortality has further increased the importance of this nosocomial pathogen. Reductions in hospital staff-to-patient infectious transmission would be expected to drastically improve recovery times thereby
30 resulting in accelerated patient release. This is beneficial from both patient health and societal cost viewpoints. Despite efforts by the medical community to increase the use of antiseptics to prevent microbial transmission, the occurrence of patient infection and reinfection leads to unnecessary morbidity and mortality.

Bacteria that form spores that can reside in a dormant form for decades before germinating in a host cell and may be responsible for unexpected contamination, whether related to the food industry or in the practice of medicine. Furthermore, bacterial endospores are resistant to skin and surface disinfectants and thus current antimicrobial measures are largely ineffective. What is needed is a method to screen for infection control compositions that remove and/or prevent the attachment to, and subsequent infection of, a host by a microbial spore.

Summary

The present invention is related to the field of infection control. Particularly, the invention is related to compositions and methods for maintenance of antiseptic conditions, bacterial decontamination, and/or bacterial exposure prophylaxis. In one embodiment, the invention contemplates infection control compositions that inhibit microbial spore binding to a substrate surface. For example, the inhibition antagonizes, disrupts, and/or displaces an interaction, attachment, and/or stabilization of a microbial spore to a substrate surface.

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates an infection control composition capable of blocking and/or inhibiting the binding of a microbial spore to a substrate surface. In one embodiment, the composition comprises a small organic molecule. In one embodiment, the composition comprises a protein. In one embodiment, the peptide comprises a spore surface peptide. In one embodiment, the peptide is derived from a *Clostridia* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Clostridia* spore surface protein comprises a *Clostridia difficile* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the peptide is derived from a *Bacillus* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Bacillus* spore surface protein comprises a *Bacillus anthracis* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Clostridium difficile* spore surface peptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 or a homologue of SEQ ID NO: 1. In one embodiment, the spore surface peptide is selected from the group comprising SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 7, and SEQ ID NO: 15. In one embodiment, the composition comprises an antibody. In one embodiment, the antibody is a polyclonal antibody. In one embodiment, the antibody is a monoclonal antibody. In one embodiment, the composition comprises a synthetic peptide. In one embodiment, the composition comprises an inorganic ion complex. In one embodiment, the composition comprises a protein mimetic. In one embodiment, the substrate surface comprises an inanimate surface. In one embodiment, comprises an

animate surface. In one embodiment, the animate surface comprises a body tissue surface. In one embodiment, the body tissue surface comprises an epithelial surface. In one embodiment, the epithelial surface comprises a mammalian skin surface. In one embodiment, the inanimate surface comprises stainless steel. In one embodiment, the 5 inanimate surface comprises ceramic. In one embodiment, the inanimate surface comprises vinyl. In one embodiment, the inanimate surface comprises tile. In one embodiment, the composition further comprises at least one antimicrobial drug. In one embodiment, the composition further comprises a carrier. In one embodiment, the carrier further comprises a detergent. In one embodiment, the carrier is sterile and suitable for 10 human administration. In one embodiment, the carrier comprises an antimicrobial skin cleaner. In one embodiment, the skin cleaner comprises a handwash cleaner. In one embodiment, the carrier comprises an antimicrobial surface cleaner.

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates an infection control composition comprising an amino acid sequence capable of blocking and/or inhibiting the 15 binding of a microbial spore to a substrate surface, wherein the amino acid sequence has substantial homology to a microbial spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the substantial homology comprises approximately 75% homology, preferably 85% homology, but most preferably 90% or 95% homology. In one embodiment, the surface protein comprises a spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the spore surface protein is 20 a *Clostridium* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Clostridium* spore surface protein is a *C. difficile* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the spore surface protein is a *Bacillus* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Bacillus* spore surface protein is a *B. anthracis* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the spore surface protein comprises a spore surface peptide.. In one embodiment, the peptide is derived 25 from a *Clostridia* surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Clostridia* surface protein comprises a *Clostridia difficile* surface protein. In one embodiment, the peptide is derived from a *Bacillus* surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Bacillus* surface protein comprises a *Bacillus anthracis* surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Clostridium difficile* spore surface peptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 or a homologue of SEQ ID NO: 30 1. In one embodiment, the spore surface peptide is selected from the group comprising SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 7, and SEQ ID NO: 15. In one embodiment, the amino acid sequence is derived from a C-terminal end of the spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the amino acid sequence is derived from an N-terminal end of a spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the composition further

comprises a carrier. In one embodiment, the carrier comprises a detergent. In one embodiment, the composition further comprises at least one antimicrobial drug. In one embodiment, the carrier is suitable for human administration. In one embodiment, the composition further comprises an antimicrobial skin cleaner. In one embodiment, the 5 skin cleaner is a handwash cleaner. In one embodiment, the composition further comprises an antimicrobial surface cleaner. In one embodiment, the composition further comprises a skin barrier. In one embodiment, the composition further comprises a surface barrier.

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates an infection control 10 composition comprising an antagonistic compound, wherein the compound has affinity for a microbial spore surface protein amino acid sequence. In one embodiment, the affinity is directed at a substrate surface specific binding site region. In one embodiment, the compound comprises an antibody. In one embodiment, the compound comprises a small organic molecule. In one embodiment, the spore surface protein amino acid 15 sequence comprises a peptide fragment. In one embodiment, the peptide fragment is derived from a C-terminal end of the spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the peptide fragment is derived from an N-terminal end of the spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the spore surface protein is a *Clostridium* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Clostridium* spore surface protein is a *C. difficile* spore surface protein. 20 In one embodiment, the spore surface protein is a *Bacillus* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Bacillus* spore surface protein is a *B. anthracis* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the composition further comprises at least one antimicrobial drug. In one embodiment, the composition further comprises a carrier. In one embodiment, the carrier is suitable for human administration. In one embodiment, the composition further 25 comprises an antimicrobial hand cleaner. In one embodiment, the composition further comprises an antimicrobial surface cleaner.

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a method, comprising: a) 30 providing: i) a subject at risk for exposure to a microbe, wherein the exposure is likely to result in a microbial infection; and ii) an infection control composition; b) administering the composition to the subject before the microbial exposure, under conditions such that a microbial infection barrier is formed. In one embodiment, the microbial infection barrier reduces the microbial infection. In one embodiment, the microbial infection barrier prevents the microbial infection. In one embodiment, the microbe comprises a bacteria. In one embodiment, the bacteria is selected from the group comprising *Clostridia*,

Bacillus, Desulfotomaculum, Sporolactobacillus, Sporosarcina, or Thermoactinomyces.

In one embodiment, the bacteria comprises a bacterial spore. In one embodiment, the bacterial spore comprises at least one spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Clostridium* spore surface protein is a *C. difficile* spore surface protein. In one

5 embodiment, the *Bacillus* spore surface protein is a *B. anthracis* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the infection control composition comprises an amino acid sequence.

In one embodiment, the amino acid sequence is derived from a microbial spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the amino acid sequence has substantial homology to a microbial spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the infection control composition

10 comprises is capable of inhibiting, antagonizing, disrupting, displacing, and/or blocking the binding of a microbial spore to a substrate surface. In one embodiment, the infection control composition further comprises an antagonistic compound, wherein the compound has affinity for a microbial spore surface protein amino acid sequence. In one embodiment, the composition further comprises a carrier. In one embodiment, the

15 infection control composition further comprises at least one antimicrobial drug. In one embodiment, the subject at risk is a healthcare worker. In one embodiment, the subject at risk is a medical first responder. In one embodiment, the subject at risk is a medical patient. In one embodiment, the patient is in a healthcare setting. In one embodiment, the medical patient has been administered at least one antibiotic. In one embodiment, the

20 subject at risk is a fireman. In one embodiment, the subject at risk is a policeman. In one embodiment, the subject at risk is a military personnel. In one embodiment, the subject at risk is a food handler. In one embodiment, the subject at risk is an inanimate surface and/or object. In one embodiment, the administering is selected from the group comprising topical, oral, parenteral, pulmonary, anal, vaginal, ocular, or intranasal.

25 In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a method, comprising: a) providing: i) a subject having been exposed to a microbe, wherein the exposure resulted in a microbial infection; ii) an infection control composition; b) administering the composition to the subject after the microbial exposure, under conditions such that the microbial infection is reduced. In one embodiment, the microbe comprises a bacteria. In one embodiment, the bacteria is selected from the group comprising *Clostridia, Bacillus, Desulfotomaculum, Sporolactobacillus, Sporosarcina, or Thermoactinomyces*. In one embodiment, the bacteria comprises a bacterial spore. In one embodiment, the bacterial spore comprises at least one spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Clostridium* spore surface protein is a *C. difficile* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the

Bacillus spore surface protein is a *B. anthracis* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the infection control composition comprises an amino acid sequence. In one embodiment, the amino acid sequence is derived from a microbial spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the amino acid sequence has substantial homology to a microbial spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the infection control composition is capable of inhibiting, antagonizing, disrupting, displacing and/or blocking the binding of a microbial spore to a substrate surface. In one embodiment, the infection control composition further comprises an antagonistic compound, wherein the compound has affinity for a microbial spore surface protein amino acid sequence. In one embodiment, the 5 composition further comprises a carrier. In one embodiment, the infection control composition further comprises at least one antimicrobial drug. In one embodiment, the exposed subject is a healthcare worker. In one embodiment, the exposed subject is a medical first responder. In one embodiment, the exposed subject is a fireman. In one embodiment, the exposed subject is a policeman. In one embodiment, the exposed 10 subject is a military personnel. In one embodiment, the administering is selected from the group comprising topical, oral, parenteral, pulmonary, anal, vaginal, ocular, or intranasal. In one embodiment, the exposed subject is an inanimate surface and/or object.

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a screening method comprising: a) providing; i) an isolated peptide, wherein the peptide is derived from a 20 microbial spore surface protein; and ii) an infection control test compound suspected of having an interaction with the peptide; b) contacting the peptide with the infection control test compound; and c) detecting the interaction of the peptide with the infection control test compound. In one embodiment, the method further comprises a substrate capable of attaching the isolated peptide. In one embodiment, the substrate surface comprises 25 pigskin. In one embodiment, the peptide is derived from a *Clostridia* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Clostridia* spore surface protein comprises a *Clostridia difficile* exosporium. In one embodiment, the peptide is derived from a *Bacillus* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Bacillus* exosporium comprises a *Bacillus anthracis* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the peptide comprises a spore 30 surface peptide. In one embodiment, the *Clostridium difficile* spore surface peptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 or a homologue of SEQ ID NO: 1. In one embodiment, the spore surface peptide is selected from the group comprising SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 7, and SEQ ID NO: 15. In one embodiment, the infection control test compound comprises a small organic molecule. In one embodiment, the infection control

test compound comprises a synthetic peptide. In one embodiment, the infection control test compound comprises a protein mimetic. In one embodiment, the infection control test compound comprises an antibody.

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a method, comprising: a) providing; i) an isolated labeled microbial spore surface peptide, wherein said peptide creates a first fluorescent intensity pattern; and ii) an infection control test compound capable of interacting with said peptide; b) contacting said peptide with said compound to produce a contacted peptide having a second fluorescent intensity pattern; c) comparing said first intensity pattern with the second fluorescence intensity pattern. In one embodiment, the method further comprises step d) detecting a difference between the first intensity pattern and the second intensity pattern. In one embodiment, the difference indicates that said compound binds to said peptide. In one embodiment, the peptide is derived from a bacterial spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the bacterial spore surface protein is derived from a *Clostridia* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Clostridia* spore surface protein comprises *Clostridia difficile* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the bacterial spore surface protein is derived from a *Bacillus* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Bacillus* spore surface protein comprises *Bacillus anthracis* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the spore surface protein comprises a peptide fragment. In one embodiment, the peptide is selected from the group comprising SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 7, or SEQ ID NO: 9. In one embodiment, the label is selected from the group consisting of 4'-6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI), anilinonaphthalene sulfonate (ANS), bis-ANS (Bis-anilinonaphthalene sulfonate), N-phenyl-1-naphthalene (NPN), ruthenium red, cresol violet, and 4-(dicyanovinyl)julolidine (DCVJ).

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a method of screening for a compound, comprising: a) providing; i) a bacteria comprising a recombinant expression vector, wherein said vector comprises at least a portion of a spore surface oligonucleotide sequence; and ii) a compound suspected of having infection control activity; b) expressing said vector such that a spore surface protein is displayed on the bacterial membrane; c) contacting said bacteria with said compound; and d) detecting infection control activity of said compound. In one embodiment, the infection control activity comprises forming a binding pair of said compound with said displayed protein. In one embodiment, the oligonucleotide sequence comprises SEQ ID NO: 2. In one embodiment, the oligonucleotide sequence selected from the group comprising SEQ ID

NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 8, or SEQ ID NO: 16. In one embodiment, the recombinant expression vector further comprises a fusion sequence, wherein the fusion sequence comprises reporter sequence. In one embodiment, the reporter sequence is a β -galactosidase sequence.

5 In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a method for detecting the presence of polynucleotide sequences encoding at least a portion of a microbial spore surface protein gene in a sample, the method comprising: a) providing; i) at least a portion of SEQ ID NO: 2; and ii) a sample suspected of containing a spore surface oligonucleotide sequence; b) combining the SEQ ID NO: 2 portion and the sample under 10 conditions such that a hybridization complex is formed between the SEQ ID NO: 2 portion and the spore surface oligonucleotide sequence; and c) detecting the hybridization complex. In one embodiment, the spore surface oligonucleotide is derived from a microbial spore. In one embodiment, the spore is derived from a *Clostridia* species. In one embodiment, the spore is derived from a *Bacillus* species. In one embodiment, the 15 oligonucleotide sequence is RNA. In one embodiment, the oligonucleotide sequence is DNA.

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a method comprising; providing an infection control composition and a substrate surface comprising bacterial spores; applying the composition to the surface, wherein at least 50%, preferably 60%, 20 more preferably 70%, even more preferably 80%, most preferably 90%, or 100% of the spores are removed from the surface. In one embodiment, the surface may be selected from the group consisting of skin, body tissues, inorganic surfaces (i.e., for example, stainless steel, granite, plastic, tile, ceramic etc), gloves, laboratory coats, or medical instruments.

25 In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a method comprising; providing an infection control composition and a substrate surface at high risk of bacterial spore binding; applying the composition to the surface, wherein at least 50%, preferably 60%, more preferably 70%, even more preferably 80%, most preferably 90%, or 100% of bacterial spore binding is prevented. In one embodiment, the surface may be selected 30 from the group consisting of skin, body tissues, inorganic surfaces (i.e., for example, stainless steel, granite, plastic, tile, ceramic etc.) or medical instruments.

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a method of screening a plurality of infection control compositions for binding to a microbial spore protein,

comprising: a) providing a chromatography column comprising beads carrying said microbial spore proteins; b) contacting said plurality of infection control compositions with said beads under conditions such that at least one of said infection control compositions form a binding pair with said beads; c) controllably releasing said at least one bound infection control composition from said bead; d) detecting said at least one bound infection control composition. In one embodiment, said binding pair comprises a microbial spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the detecting of the at least one bound infection control composition comprises the production of a fluorescent signal. In one embodiment, the detecting of the at least one bound infection control composition comprises the formation of an enzyme-substrate product. In one embodiment, the step of controllably releasing comprises exposing the beads to a releasing agent. In one embodiment, the releasing agent is selected from a group consisting of light, acid and base.

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates an infection control composition comprising a protein mimetic compound and a carrier, wherein the protein mimetic compound has a first specific binding site pattern on a substrate surface wherein the first binding pattern has at least 50% identity, preferably 60% identity, more preferably 70% identity, even more preferably 80% identity, most preferably 90% identity, or 100% identity to a second specific binding site pattern of an amino acid sequence, wherein the sequence has substantial homology to a microbial spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the protein mimetic compound comprises a small organic molecule. In one embodiment, the protein mimetic compound comprises a synthetic peptide. In one embodiment, the protein mimetic compound comprises an inorganic ion complex. In one embodiment, the surface protein comprises a spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the microbial spore surface protein is derived from a *Clostridium* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Clostridium* spore surface protein is a *C. difficile* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the spore surface protein is derived from a *Bacillus* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Bacillus* spore surface protein is a *B. anthracis* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the amino acid sequence is derived from a C-terminal end of the microbial spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the amino acid sequence is derived from a N-terminal end of the microbial spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the substrate surface comprises an animate surface. In one embodiment, the substrate surface comprises an inanimate surface. In one embodiment, the animate surface comprises a body tissue surface. In one

embodiment, the body tissue surface comprises a mammalian skin surface. In one embodiment, the inanimate surface comprises stainless steel. In one embodiment, the inanimate surface comprises ceramic. In one embodiment, the inanimate surface comprises vinyl. In one embodiment, the inanimate surface comprises tile. In one embodiment, the carrier comprises a detergent. In one embodiment, the composition further comprises at least one antimicrobial drug. In one embodiment, the carrier is sterile and suitable for human administration. In one embodiment, the composition further comprises an antimicrobial skin cleaner. In one embodiment, the composition further comprises an antimicrobial surface cleaner.

10

Definitions

The term "pharmaceutically" or "pharmacologically acceptable", as used herein, refer to molecular entities and compositions that do not produce adverse, allergic, or other untoward reactions when administered to an animal or a human.

15 The term, "pharmaceutically acceptable carrier", as used herein, includes any and all solvents, or a dispersion medium including, but not limited to, water, ethanol, polyol (for example, glycerol, propylene glycol, and liquid polyethylene glycol, and the like), suitable mixtures thereof, and vegetable oils, coatings, isotonic and absorption delaying agents, liposome, commercially available cleansers, and the like. Supplementary 20 bioactive ingredients also can be incorporated into such carriers.

The term, "purified" or "isolated", as used herein, may refer to a peptide composition that has been subjected to treatment (i.e., for example, fractionation) to remove various other components, and which composition substantially retains its expressed biological activity. Where the term "substantially purified" is used, this 25 designation will refer to a composition in which the protein or peptide forms the major component of the composition, such as constituting about 50%, about 60%, about 70%, about 80%, about 90%, about 95% or more of the composition (i.e., for example, weight/weight and/or weight/volume). The term "purified to homogeneity" is used to include compositions that have been purified to "apparent homogeneity" such that there is 30 single protein species (i.e., for example, based upon SDS-PAGE or HPLC analysis). A purified composition is not intended to mean that some trace impurities may remain.

As used herein, the term "substantially purified" refers to molecules, either nucleic or amino acid sequences, that are removed from their natural environment, isolated or separated, and are at least 60% free, preferably 75% free, and more preferably 90% free

from other components with which they are naturally associated. An "isolated polynucleotide" is therefore a substantially purified polynucleotide.

"Nucleic acid sequence" and "nucleotide sequence" as used herein refer to an oligonucleotide or polynucleotide, and fragments or portions thereof, and to DNA or

5 RNA of genomic or synthetic origin which may be single- or double-stranded, and represent the sense or antisense strand.

The term "an isolated nucleic acid", as used herein, refers to any nucleic acid molecule that has been removed from its natural state (e.g., removed from a cell and is, in a preferred embodiment, free of other genomic nucleic acid).

10 The term "functionally equivalent codon", as used herein, refers to different codons that encode the same amino acid. This phenomenon is often referred to as "degeneracy" of the genetic code. For example, six different codons encode the amino acid arginine.

15 The terms "amino acid sequence" and "polypeptide sequence" as used herein, are interchangeable and to refer to a sequence of amino acids.

20 The term "spore surface protein" as used herein, refers to any protein or peptide fragment that is derived from, or has substantial similarity (i.e., is homologous) to, any bacterial spore exoprium protein. Microbial spore surface proteins are believed responsible for attaching, and immobilizing, a microbial spore to an inanimate and/or animate surface until conditions are sufficient to induce germination.

The term "derived from" as used herein, refers to the source of a compound or sequence. In one respect, a compound or sequence may be derived from an organism or particular species. In another respect, a compound or sequence may be derived from a larger complex or sequence.

25 As used herein, "BclA" or "BclA polypeptide" or "BclA protein" or "BclA homologue" are used interchangeably to refer to the amino acid sequence of substantially purified *Bacillus*-like protein, obtained from any species, particularly bacterial species which include gram negative, gram positive, aerobic, and anaerobic bacteria, and obtained from any source whether natural, synthetic, semi-synthetic or recombinant. For 30 example, a *Clostridium difficile* BclA homologue would have the same function and activity as a *Bacillus anthracis* BclA peptide.

A "variant" of a protein is defined as an amino acid sequence which differs by one or more amino acids from a polypeptide sequence (i.e., for example, SEQ ID NO: 1) or any homolog of the polypeptide sequence. The variant may have "conservative" changes,

wherein a substituted amino acid has similar structural or chemical properties, e.g., replacement of leucine with isoleucine. More rarely, a variant may have "nonconservative" changes, e.g., replacement of a glycine with a tryptophan. Similar minor variations may also include amino acid deletions or insertions (i.e., additions), or 5 both. Guidance in determining which and how many amino acid residues may be substituted, inserted or deleted without abolishing biological or immunological activity may be found using computer programs including, but not limited to, DNASTar® software.

A "variant" of a nucleotide is defined as a novel nucleotide sequence which differs 10 from a reference oligonucleotide by having deletions, insertions and substitutions. These may be detected using a variety of methods (e.g., sequencing, hybridization assays etc.). Included within this definition are alterations to the genomic DNA sequence which encodes a *Clostridium* spore surface protein (i.e., for example, by alterations in the pattern of restriction enzyme fragments capable of hybridizing to SEQ ID NO: 2 (RFLP 15 analysis), the inability of a selected fragment of SEQ ID NO: 2 to hybridize under high stringency conditions to a sample of genomic DNA (e.g., using allele-specific oligonucleotide probes), and improper or unexpected hybridization, such as hybridization to a locus other than the normal chromosomal locus for a *Clostridium* spore surface gene (e.g., using fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH)).

20 A "deletion" is defined as a change in either nucleotide or amino acid sequence in which one or more nucleotides or amino acid residues, respectively, are absent.

An "insertion" or "addition" is that change in a nucleotide or amino acid sequence 25 which has resulted in the addition of one or more nucleotides or amino acid residues, respectively, as compared to, for example, the naturally occurring *Clostridium* spore surface protein.

A "substitution" results from the replacement of one or more nucleotides or amino acids by different nucleotides or amino acids, respectively.

The term "derivative" as used herein, refers to any chemical modification of a 30 nucleic acid or an amino acid. Illustrative of such modifications would be replacement of hydrogen by an alkyl, acyl, or amino group. For example, a nucleic acid derivative would encode a polypeptide which retains essential biological characteristics.

As used herein the term "portion" when in reference to a protein (as in "a portion of a given protein") refers to fragments of that protein. The fragments may range in size from four amino acid residues to the entire amino acid sequence minus one amino acid.

For example, a protein "comprising at least a portion of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1" encompasses a full-length *Clostridium* spore surface protein and fragments thereof of four (4) amino acids or more.

The term "portion" when used in reference to a nucleotide sequence refers to 5 fragments of that nucleotide sequence. The fragments may range in size from 5 nucleotide residues to the entire nucleotide sequence minus one nucleic acid residue.

The term "biologically active" refers to any molecule having structural, regulatory or biochemical functions. For example, spore surface protein biological activity may be determined, for example, by restoration of wild-type growth in cells lacking spore surface 10 protein activity (i.e., for example, spore surface protein null cells and/or "knock out" cells). Cells lacking spore surface protein activity may be produced by many methods (i.e., for example, point mutation and frame-shift mutation). Complementation is achieved by transfecting cells which lack spore surface protein activity with an expression vector which expresses spore surface protein, a derivative thereof, or a portion thereof.

15 The term "immunologically active" defines the capability of a natural, recombinant or synthetic peptide (i.e., for example, a spore surface protein), or any oligopeptide thereof, to induce a specific immune response in appropriate animals or cells and/or to bind with specific antibodies.

20 The term "antigenic determinant" as used herein refers to that portion of a molecule that is recognized by a particular antibody (i.e., an epitope). When a protein or fragment of a protein is used to immunize a host animal, numerous regions of the protein may induce the production of antibodies which bind specifically to a given region or three-dimensional structure on the protein; these regions or structures are referred to as 25 antigenic determinants. An antigenic determinant may compete with the intact antigen (i.e., the immunogen used to elicit the immune response) for binding to an antibody.

The terms "immunogen," "antigen," "immunogenic" and "antigenic" refer to any substance capable of generating antibodies when introduced into an animal. By definition, an immunogen must contain at least one epitope (the specific biochemical unit capable of causing an immune response), and generally contains many more. Proteins are most 30 frequently used as immunogens, but lipid and nucleic acid moieties complexed with proteins may also act as immunogens. The latter complexes are often useful when smaller molecules with few epitopes do not stimulate a satisfactory immune response by themselves.

The term "antibody" refers to immunoglobulin evoked in animals by an immunogen (antigen). It is desired that the antibody demonstrates specificity to epitopes contained in the immunogen. The term "polyclonal antibody" refers to immunoglobulin produced from more than a single clone of plasma cells; in contrast "monoclonal antibody" refers to immunoglobulin produced from a single clone of plasma cells.

The terms "specific binding" or "specifically binding" when used in reference to the interaction of an antibody and a protein or peptide means that the interaction is dependent upon the presence of a particular structure (i.e., for example, an antigenic determinant or epitope) on a protein; in other words an antibody is recognizing and binding to a specific protein structure rather than to proteins in general. For example, if an antibody is specific for epitope "A", the presence of a protein containing epitope A (or free, unlabelled A) in a reaction containing labeled "A" and the antibody will reduce the amount of labeled A bound to the antibody.

The term "recombinant DNA molecule" as used herein refers to a DNA molecule which is comprised of segments of DNA joined together by means of molecular biological techniques.

The term "recombinant protein" or "recombinant polypeptide" as used herein refers to a protein molecule which is expressed using a recombinant DNA molecule.

As used herein, the terms "vector" and "vehicle" are used interchangeably in reference to nucleic acid molecules that transfer DNA segment(s) from one cell to another.

The term "expression vector" or "expression cassette" as used herein refers to a recombinant DNA molecule containing a desired coding sequence and appropriate nucleic acid sequences necessary for the expression of the operably linked coding sequence in a particular host organism. Nucleic acid sequences necessary for expression in prokaryotes usually include a promoter, an operator (optional), and a ribosome binding site, often along with other sequences. Eukaryotic cells are known to utilize promoters, enhancers, and termination and polyadenylation signals.

The terms "in operable combination", "in operable order" and "operably linked" as used herein refer to the linkage of nucleic acid sequences in such a manner that a nucleic acid molecule capable of directing the transcription of a given gene and/or the synthesis of a desired protein molecule is produced. The term also refers to the linkage of amino acid sequences in such a manner so that a functional protein is produced.

The term "transfection" as used herein refers to the introduction of foreign DNA into cells. Transfection may be accomplished by a variety of means known to the art including calcium phosphate-DNA co-precipitation, DEAE-dextran-mediated transfection, polybrene-mediated transfection, electroporation, microinjection, liposome fusion, lipofection, protoplast fusion, retroviral infection, biolistics (i.e., particle bombardment) and the like.

As used herein, the terms "complementary" or "complementarity" are used in reference to "polynucleotides" and "oligonucleotides" (which are interchangeable terms that refer to a sequence of nucleotides) related by the base-pairing rules. For example, the sequence "C-A-G-T," is complementary to the sequence "G-T-C-A." Complementarity can be "partial" or "total." "Partial" complementarity is where one or more nucleic acid bases is not matched according to the base pairing rules. "Total" or "complete" complementarity between nucleic acids is where each and every nucleic acid base is matched with another base under the base pairing rules. The degree of complementarity between nucleic acid strands has significant effects on the efficiency and strength of hybridization between nucleic acid strands. This is of particular importance in amplification reactions, as well as detection methods which depend upon binding between nucleic acids.

The terms "homology" and "homologous" as used herein in reference to nucleotide sequences refer to a degree of complementarity with other nucleotide sequences. There may be partial homology or complete homology (i.e., identity). A nucleotide sequence which is partially complementary, i.e., "substantially homologous," to a nucleic acid sequence is one that at least partially inhibits a completely complementary sequence from hybridizing to a target nucleic acid sequence. The inhibition of hybridization of the completely complementary sequence to the target sequence may be examined using a hybridization assay (Southern or Northern blot, solution hybridization and the like) under conditions of low stringency. A substantially homologous sequence or probe will compete for and inhibit the binding (i.e., the hybridization) of a completely homologous sequence to a target sequence under conditions of low stringency. This is not to say that conditions of low stringency are such that non-specific binding is permitted; low stringency conditions require that the binding of two sequences to one another be a specific (i.e., selective) interaction. The absence of non-specific binding may be tested by the use of a second target sequence which lacks even a partial degree of complementarity (e.g., less than about 30% identity); in the

absence of non-specific binding the probe will not hybridize to the second non-complementary target.

The terms "homology" and "homologous" as used herein in reference to amino acid sequences refer to the degree of identity of the primary structure between two amino acid sequences. Such a degree of identity may be directed a portion of each amino acid sequence, or to the entire length of the amino acid sequence. Two or more amino acid sequences that are "substantially homologous" may have at least 50% identity, preferably at least 75% identity, more preferably at least 85% identity, most preferably at least 95%, or 100% identity.

An oligonucleotide sequence which is a "homolog" of a *Clostridium* spore surface protein nucleic acid sequence (i.e., for example, SEQ ID NO: 2) is defined herein as an oligonucleotide sequence which exhibits greater than or equal to 50% identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 when sequences having a length of 100 bp or larger are compared. Alternatively, a homolog of SEQ ID NO: 2 is defined as an oligonucleotide sequence which encodes a biologically active *Clostridium* spore surface protein amino acid sequence. For example, a *Clostridium* spore surface protein homolog may comprise a portion of an oligonucleotide sequence encoding a spore surface protein.

Low stringency conditions comprise conditions equivalent to binding or hybridization at 42°C in a solution consisting of 5 x SSPE (43.8 g/l NaCl, 6.9 g/l NaH₂PO₄·H₂O and 1.85 g/l EDTA, pH adjusted to 7.4 with NaOH), 0.1% SDS, 5x Denhardt's reagent {50x Denhardt's contains per 500 ml: 5 g Ficoll (Type 400, Pharmacia), 5 g BSA (Fraction V; Sigma)} and 100 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA followed by washing in a solution comprising 5x SSPE, 0.1% SDS at 42°C when a probe of about 500 nucleotides in length. is employed. Numerous equivalent conditions may also be employed to comprise low stringency conditions; factors such as the length and nature (DNA, RNA, base composition) of the probe and nature of the target (DNA, RNA, base composition, present in solution or immobilized, etc.) and the concentration of the salts and other components (e.g., the presence or absence of formamide, dextran sulfate, polyethylene glycol), as well as components of the hybridization solution may be varied to generate conditions of low stringency hybridization different from, but equivalent to, the above listed conditions. In addition, conditions which promote hybridization under conditions of high stringency (e.g., increasing the temperature of the hybridization and/or wash steps, the use of formamide in the hybridization solution, etc.) may also be used.

As used herein, the term "hybridization" is used in reference to the pairing of complementary nucleic acids using any process by which a strand of nucleic acid joins with a complementary strand through base pairing to form a hybridization complex.

Hybridization and the strength of hybridization (i.e., the strength of the association 5 between the nucleic acids) is impacted by such factors as the degree of complementarity between the nucleic acids, stringency of the conditions involved, the T_m of the formed hybrid, and the G:C ratio within the nucleic acids.

As used herein the term "hybridization complex" refers to a complex formed between two nucleic acid sequences by virtue of the formation of hydrogen bounds 10 between complementary G and C bases and between complementary A and T bases; these hydrogen bonds may be further stabilized by base stacking interactions. The two complementary nucleic acid sequences hydrogen bond in an antiparallel configuration. A hybridization complex may be formed in solution (e.g., $C_0 t$ or $R_0 t$ analysis) or between one nucleic acid sequence present in solution and another nucleic acid sequence 15 immobilized to a solid support (e.g., a nylon membrane or a nitrocellulose filter as employed in Southern and Northern blotting, dot blotting or a glass slide as employed in in situ hybridization, including FISH (fluorescent in situ hybridization)).

As used herein, the term " T_m " is used in reference to the "melting temperature." The melting temperature is the temperature at which a population of double-stranded 20 nucleic acid molecules becomes half dissociated into single strands. As indicated by standard references, a simple estimate of the T_m value may be calculated by the equation: $T_m = 81.5 + 0.41 (\% G+C)$, when a nucleic acid is in aqueous solution at 1M NaCl. Anderson et al., "Quantitative Filter Hybridization" In: Nucleic Acid Hybridization (1985). More sophisticated computations take structural, as well as sequence 25 characteristics, into account for the calculation of T_m .

As used herein the term "stringency" is used in reference to the conditions of temperature, ionic strength, and the presence of other compounds such as organic solvents, under which nucleic acid hybridizations are conducted. "Stringency" typically occurs in a range from about T_m to about 20°C to 25°C below T_m . A "stringent 30 hybridization" can be used to identify or detect identical polynucleotide sequences or to identify or detect similar or related polynucleotide sequences. For example, when fragments of SEQ ID NO: 2 are employed in hybridization reactions under stringent conditions the hybridization of fragments of SEQ ID NO: 2 which contain unique sequences (i.e., regions which are either non-homologous to or which contain less than

about 50% homology or complementarity with SEQ ID NOs: 2) are favored.

Alternatively, when conditions of "weak" or "low" stringency are used hybridization may occur with nucleic acids that are derived from organisms that are genetically diverse (i.e., for example, the frequency of complementary sequences is usually low between such

5 organisms).

As used herein, the term "amplifiable nucleic acid" is used in reference to nucleic acids which may be amplified by any amplification method. It is contemplated that "amplifiable nucleic acid" will usually comprise "sample template."

As used herein, the term "sample template" refers to nucleic acid originating from a sample which is analyzed for the presence of a target sequence of interest. In contrast, "background template" is used in reference to nucleic acid other than sample template which may or may not be present in a sample. Background template is most often inadvertent. It may be the result of carryover, or it may be due to the presence of nucleic acid contaminants sought to be purified away from the sample. For example, nucleic acids from organisms other than those to be detected may be present as background in a test sample.

"Amplification" is defined as the production of additional copies of a nucleic acid sequence and is generally carried out using polymerase chain reaction. Dieffenbach C. W. and G. S. Dveksler (1995) In: PCR Primer, a Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor 20 Press, Plainview, N.Y.

As used herein, the term "polymerase chain reaction" ("PCR") refers to the method of K. B. Mullis U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,683,195 and 4,683,202, herein incorporated by reference, which describe a method for increasing the concentration of a segment of a target sequence in a mixture of genomic DNA without cloning or purification. The length 25 of the amplified segment of the desired target sequence is determined by the relative positions of two oligonucleotide primers with respect to each other, and therefore, this length is a controllable parameter. By virtue of the repeating aspect of the process, the method is referred to as the "polymerase chain reaction" (hereinafter "PCR"). Because the desired amplified segments of the target sequence become the predominant sequences 30 (in terms of concentration) in the mixture, they are said to be "PCR amplified". With PCR, it is possible to amplify a single copy of a specific target sequence in genomic DNA to a level detectable by several different methodologies (e.g., hybridization with a labeled probe; incorporation of biotinylated primers followed by avidin-enzyme conjugate detection; incorporation of ³²P-labeled deoxynucleotide triphosphates, such as dCTP or

dATP, into the amplified segment). In addition to genomic DNA, any oligonucleotide sequence can be amplified with the appropriate set of primer molecules. In particular, the amplified segments created by the PCR process itself are, themselves, efficient templates for subsequent PCR amplifications.

5 As used herein, the term "primer" refers to an oligonucleotide, whether occurring naturally as in a purified restriction digest or produced synthetically, which is capable of acting as a point of initiation of synthesis when placed under conditions in which synthesis of a primer extension product which is complementary to a nucleic acid strand is induced, (i.e., in the presence of nucleotides and an inducing agent such as DNA 10 polymerase and at a suitable temperature and pH). The primer is preferably single stranded for maximum efficiency in amplification, but may alternatively be double stranded. If double stranded, the primer is first treated to separate its strands before being used to prepare extension products. Preferably, the primer is an oligodeoxyribonucleotide. The primer must be sufficiently long to prime the synthesis of extension products in the 15 presence of the inducing agent. The exact lengths of the primers will depend on many factors, including temperature, source of primer and the use of the method.

As used herein, the term "probe" refers; to an oligonucleotide (i.e., a sequence of nucleotides), whether occurring naturally as in a purified restriction digest or produced synthetically, recombinantly or by PCR amplification, which is capable of hybridizing to 20 another oligonucleotide of interest. A probe may be single-stranded or double-stranded. Probes are useful in the detection, identification and isolation of particular gene sequences. It is contemplated that any probe used in the present invention will be labeled with any "reporter molecule," so that is detectable in any detection system, including, but not limited to enzyme (e.g., ELISA, as well as enzyme-based histochemical assays), 25 fluorescent, radioactive, and luminescent systems. It is not intended that the present invention be limited to any particular detection system or label.

As used herein, the terms "restriction endonucleases" and "restriction enzymes" refer to bacterial enzymes, each of which cut double-stranded DNA at or near a specific nucleotide sequence.

30 DNA molecules are said to have "5' ends" and "3' ends" because mononucleotides are reacted to make oligonucleotides in a manner such that the 5' phosphate of one mononucleotide pentose ring is attached to the 3' oxygen of its neighbor in one direction via a phosphodiester linkage. Therefore, an end of an oligonucleotide is referred to as the "5' end" if its 5' phosphate is not linked to the 3' oxygen of a mononucleotide pentose

ring. An end of an oligonucleotide is referred to as the "3' end" if its 3' oxygen is not linked to a 5' phosphate of another mononucleotide pentose ring. As used herein, a nucleic acid sequence, even if internal to a larger oligonucleotide, also may be said to have 5' and 3' ends. In either a linear or circular DNA molecule, discrete elements are 5 referred to as being "upstream" or 5' of the "downstream" or 3' elements. This terminology reflects the fact that transcription proceeds in a 5' to 3' fashion along the DNA strand. The promoter and enhancer elements which direct transcription of a linked gene are generally located 5' or upstream of the coding region. However, enhancer elements can exert their effect even when located 3' of the promoter element and the 10 coding region. Transcription termination and polyadenylation signals are located 3' or downstream of the coding region.

As used herein, the term "an oligonucleotide having a nucleotide sequence encoding a gene" means a nucleic acid sequence comprising the coding region of a gene, i.e. the nucleic acid sequence which encodes a gene product. The coding region may be 15 present in a cDNA, genomic DNA or RNA form. When present in a DNA form, the oligonucleotide may be single-stranded (i.e., the sense strand) or double-stranded. Suitable control elements such as enhancers/promoters, splice junctions, polyadenylation signals, etc. may be placed in close proximity to the coding region of the gene if needed to permit proper initiation of transcription and/or correct processing of the primary RNA 20 transcript. Alternatively, the coding region utilized in the expression vectors of the present invention may contain endogenous enhancers/promoters, splice junctions, intervening sequences, polyadenylation signals, etc. or a combination of both endogenous and exogenous control elements.

As used herein, the term "regulatory element" refers to a genetic element which 25 controls some aspect of the expression of nucleic acid sequences. For example, a promoter is a regulatory element which facilitates the initiation of transcription of an operably linked coding region. Other regulatory elements are splicing signals, polyadenylation signals, termination signals, etc.

Transcriptional control signals in eukaryotes comprise "promoter" and "enhancer" 30 elements. Promoters and enhancers consist of short arrays of DNA sequences that interact specifically with cellular proteins involved in transcription. Maniatis, T. et al., *Science* 236:1237 (1987). Promoter and enhancer elements have been isolated from a variety of eukaryotic sources including genes in plant, yeast, insect and mammalian cells and viruses (analogous control elements, i.e., promoters, are also found in prokaryotes). The

selection of a particular promoter and enhancer depends on what cell type is to be used to express the protein of interest.

The presence of "splicing signals" on an expression vector often results in higher levels of expression of the recombinant transcript. Splicing signals mediate the removal of introns from the primary RNA transcript and consist of a splice donor and acceptor site. Sambrook, J. et al., In: Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd ed., Cold Spring Harbor laboratory Press, New York (1989) pp. 16.7-16.8. A commonly used splice donor and acceptor site is the splice junction from the 16S RNA of SV40.

The term "poly A site" or "poly A sequence" as used herein denotes a DNA sequence which directs both the termination and polyadenylation of the nascent RNA transcript. Efficient polyadenylation of the recombinant transcript is desirable as transcripts lacking a poly A tail are unstable and are rapidly degraded. The poly A signal utilized in an expression vector may be "heterologous" or "endogenous." An endogenous poly A signal is one that is found naturally at the 3' end of the coding region of a given gene in the genome. A heterologous poly A signal is one which is isolated from one gene and placed 3' of another gene. Efficient expression of recombinant DNA sequences in eukaryotic cells involves expression of signals directing the efficient termination and polyadenylation of the resulting transcript. Transcription termination signals are generally found downstream of the polyadenylation signal and are a few hundred nucleotides in length.

The term "transfection" or "transfected" refers to the introduction of foreign DNA into a cell.

As used herein, the terms "nucleic acid molecule encoding", "DNA sequence encoding," and "DNA encoding" refer to the order or sequence of deoxyribonucleotides along a strand of deoxyribonucleic acid. The order of these deoxyribonucleotides determines the order of amino acids along the polypeptide (protein) chain. The DNA sequence thus codes for the amino acid sequence.

As used herein, the term "antisense" is used in reference to RNA sequences which are complementary to a specific RNA sequence (e.g., mRNA). Antisense RNA may be produced by any method, including synthesis by splicing the gene(s) of interest in a reverse orientation to a viral promoter which permits the synthesis of a coding strand. Once introduced into a cell, this transcribed strand combines with natural mRNA produced by the cell to form duplexes. These duplexes then block either the further transcription of the mRNA or its translation. In this manner, mutant phenotypes may be

generated. The term "antisense strand" is used in reference to a nucleic acid strand that is complementary to the "sense" strand. The designation (-) (i.e., "negative") is sometimes used in reference to the antisense strand, with the designation (+) sometimes used in reference to the sense (i.e., "positive") strand.

5 The term "Southern blot" refers to the analysis of DNA on agarose or acrylamide gels to fractionate the DNA according to size, followed by transfer and immobilization of the DNA from the gel to a solid support, such as nitrocellulose or a nylon membrane. The immobilized DNA is then probed with a labeled oligodeoxyribonucleotide probe or DNA probe to detect DNA species complementary to the probe used. The DNA may be cleaved 10 with restriction enzymes prior to electrophoresis. Following electrophoresis, the DNA may be partially depurinated and denatured prior to or during transfer to the solid support. Southern blots are a standard tool of molecular biologists. J. Sambrook et al. (1989) In: Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Press, NY, pp 9.31-9.58.

15 The term "Northern blot" as used herein refers to the analysis of RNA by electrophoresis of RNA on agarose gels to fractionate the RNA according to size followed by transfer of the RNA from the gel to a solid support, such as nitrocellulose or a nylon membrane. The immobilized RNA is then probed with a labeled oligodeoxyribonucleotide probe or DNA probe to detect RNA species complementary to the probe used. Northern blots are a standard tool of molecular biologists. J. Sambrook, J. 20 et al. (1989) *supra*, pp 7.39-7.52.

25 The term "reverse Northern blot" as used herein refers to the analysis of DNA by electrophoresis of DNA on agarose gels to fractionate the DNA on the basis of size followed by transfer of the fractionated DNA from the gel to a solid support, such as nitrocellulose or a nylon membrane. The immobilized DNA is then probed with a labeled oligoribonucleotide probe or RNA probe to detect DNA species complementary to the ribo probe used.

30 As used herein the term "coding region" when used in reference to a structural gene refers to the nucleotide sequences which encode the amino acids found in the nascent polypeptide as a result of translation of a mRNA molecule. The coding region is bounded, in eukaryotes, on the 5' side by the nucleotide triplet "ATG" which encodes the initiator methionine and on the 3' side by one of the three triplets which specify stop codons (i.e., TAA, TAG, TGA).

As used herein, the term "structural gene" refers to a DNA sequence coding for RNA or a protein. In contrast, "regulatory genes" are structural genes which encode products which control the expression of other genes (e.g., transcription factors).

As used herein, the term "gene" means the deoxyribonucleotide sequences comprising the coding region of a structural gene and including sequences located adjacent to the coding region on both the 5' and 3' ends for a distance of about 1 kb on either end such that the gene corresponds to the length of the full-length mRNA. The sequences which are located 5' of the coding region and which are present on the mRNA are referred to as 5' non-translated sequences. The sequences which are located 3' or downstream of the coding region and which are present on the mRNA are referred to as 3' non-translated sequences. The term "gene" encompasses both cDNA and genomic forms of a gene. A genomic form or clone of a gene contains the coding region interrupted with non-coding sequences termed "introns" or "intervening regions" or "intervening sequences." Introns are segments of a gene which are transcribed into heterogeneous nuclear RNA (hnRNA); introns may contain regulatory elements such as enhancers. Introns are removed or "spliced out" from the nuclear or primary transcript; introns therefore are absent in the messenger RNA (mRNA) transcript. The mRNA functions during translation to specify the sequence or order of amino acids in a nascent polypeptide.

In addition to containing introns, genomic forms of a gene may also include sequences located on both the 5' and 3' end of the sequences which are present on the RNA transcript. These sequences are referred to as "flanking" sequences or regions (these flanking sequences are located 5' or 3' to the non-translated sequences present on the mRNA transcript). The 5' flanking region may contain regulatory sequences such as promoters and enhancers which control or influence the transcription of the gene. The 3' flanking region may contain sequences which direct the termination of transcription, posttranscriptional cleavage and polyadenylation.

The term "sample" as used herein is used in its broadest sense and includes environmental and biological samples. Environmental samples include material from the environment such as soil and water. Biological samples may be animal, including, human, fluid (e.g., blood, plasma and serum), solid (e.g., stool), tissue, liquid foods (e.g., milk), and solid foods (e.g., vegetables). A biological sample suspected of containing nucleic acid encoding a spore surface protein may comprise a cell, tissue extract, body fluid, chromosomes or extrachromosomal elements isolated from a cell, genomic DNA (in

solution or bound to a solid support such as for Southern blot analysis), RNA (in solution or bound to a solid support such as for Northern blot analysis), cDNA (in solution or bound to a solid support) and the like.

The term "infection control composition" refers to any compound or compounds which prevent and/or reduce the rate of growth of an organism (i.e., for example, a microbial organism, including spores derived from a microbial organism) compared to the rate of growth of the organism in the absence of the composition. An infection control composition can be natural (e.g., derived from a microbe such as a bacteria, virus, fungi, algae, mold etc.), synthetic, or recombinant. An infection control composition may be a competitive inhibitor of a microbial spore protein and/or a microbial spore surface protein. Alternatively, an infection control composition may form stable and/or transient binding pairs with microbial spore proteins and/or microbial spore surface proteins. An "infection control composition" may also include antibacterial and/or antimicrobial agents and/or drugs (i.e., for example, antibiotics). Consequently, "infection control activity" is interpreted to mean any reduction and/or prevention of microbial growth as a result of the application of an infection control composition to a surface.

The terms "antibacterial", and "antimicrobial" are used interchangeably to refer to a composition which prevents and/or reduces the rate of growth of an organism compared to the rate of growth of the organism in the absence of the composition. An antibacterial and/or antimicrobial composition can be bacteriostatic, bactericidal, both, or neither. An antibacterial and/or antimicrobial composition is bacteriostatic if it inhibits cell division without affecting the viability of the inhibited cell. An antibacterial and/or antimicrobial composition is bactericidal if it causes cell death. Cell death is commonly detected by the absence of cell growth in liquid growth medium (e.g., absence of turbidity) or on a solid surface (e.g., absence of colony formation on agar). An antibacterial and/or antimicrobial composition may be effective to reduce the growth rate and/or cause cell death for viruses, molds, and fungi. A composition which is bacteriostatic at a given concentration may be bactericidal at a higher concentration, while other certain bacteriostatic compositions are not bactericidal at any concentration.

The term "bacteria" and "bacterium" refer to all prokaryotic organisms, including those within all of the phyla in the Kingdom Prokaryotae. It is intended that the term encompass all microorganisms considered to be bacteria including, but not limited to, *Clostridia, Bacillus, Mycoplasma, Chlamydia, Actinomyces, Streptomyces, and Rickettsia*. All forms of bacteria are included within this definition including cocci, bacilli,

spirochetes, spheroplasts, protoplasts, spores etc. Also included within this term are prokaryotic organisms which are gram negative or gram positive. "Gram negative" and "gram positive" refer to staining patterns with the Gram-staining process. Finegold and Martin, In: Diagnostic Microbiology, 6th Ed. (1982), C. V. Mosby St. Louis, pp 13-15.

5 "Gram positive bacteria" are bacteria which retain the primary dye used in the Gram stain, causing the stained cells to appear dark blue to purple under the microscope. "Gram negative bacteria" do not retain the primary dye used in the Gram stain, but are stained by a counter stain. Thus, gram negative bacteria appear red.

10 The term "test agent" refers to an agent that is to be screened in one or more of the assays described herein. The agent can be virtually any chemical compound. It can exist as a single isolated compound or can be a member of a chemical (e.g., combinatorial) library. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the test agent will be a small organic molecule.

15 The term "small organic molecule" as used herein, refers to any molecule of a size comparable to those organic molecules generally used in pharmaceuticals. The term excludes biological macromolecules (e.g., proteins, nucleic acids, etc.). Preferred small organic molecules range in size from approximately 10 Da up to about 5000 Da, more preferably up to 2000 Da, and most preferably up to about 1000 Da.

20 The term "label" or "detectable label" are used herein, to refer to any composition detectable by spectroscopic, photochemical, biochemical, immunochemical, electrical, optical or chemical means. Such labels include biotin for staining with labeled streptavidin conjugate, magnetic beads (e.g., Dynabeads[®]), fluorescent dyes (e.g., fluorescein, texas red, rhodamine, green fluorescent protein, and the like), radiolabels (e.g., ³H, ¹²⁵I, ³⁵S, ¹⁴C, or ³²P), enzymes (e.g., horse radish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase and others commonly used in an ELISA), and calorimetric labels such as 25 colloidal gold or colored glass or plastic (e.g., polystyrene, polypropylene, latex, etc.) beads. Patents teaching the use of such labels include, but are not limited to, U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,817,837; 3,850,752; 3,939,350; 3,996,345; 4,277,437; 4,275,149; and 4,366,241 (all herein incorporated by reference). The labels contemplated in the present invention 30 may be detected by many methods. For example, radiolabels may be detected using photographic film or scintillation counters, fluorescent markers may be detected using a photodetector to detect emitted light. Enzymatic labels are typically detected by providing the enzyme with a substrate and detecting the reaction product produced by the

action of the enzyme on the substrate, and calorimetric labels are detected by simply visualizing the colored label.

The term "primary surfactant" as used herein, means any surfactant which acts upon or in conjunction with a substituted phenol to enhance further, or at the least, to not significantly reduce infection control activity of a substituted phenol.

The term "inhibit", "disrupt", "displace", "antagonize", or "block" as used herein refer to any means wherein a microbial spore and/or microbial spore surface protein is removed from, and/or prevented from attaching to, a substrate surface.

The term "antagonist" as used herein, refers to any compound that is capable of preventing the attachment of a microbe (i.e., for example, bacteria, virus, mold, fungi etc) and/or a reproductive component of the microbe (i.e., for example, a spore) to a surface.

The 'antagonist' may prevent attachment by either competitive displacement or by forming a binding pair (i.e., for example, stable or transient) with the microbe and/or reproductive component of the microbe. For example, an antagonist may prevent the attachment of a bacterial spore to a surface by binding to a spore surface protein.

The term "binding antagonist" as used herein, refers to any compound that is capable of forming a binding pair with either a microbial spore nap layer protein (i.e., for example, a *Clostridium* spore surface protein) or a substrate surface. A formation of either binding pair prevents and/or displaces the attachment of a microbial spore to a substrate surface.

The term "substrate surface" as used herein, refers to any material comprising a binding site for a microbial spore surface protein attachment. A substrate surface may including but not limited to, an animate surface and/or an inanimate surface.

The term "inanimate surface" as used herein, refers to any non-living material. For example, an inanimate surface may include but is not limited to, vinyl, stainless steel, plastic, wood, ceramic, glass, chrome, tile etc. Such surfaces commonly encountered including but not limited to countertops, chairs, tables, surgical equipment, medical devices, floors, walls, windows, sinks, cabinets etc.

The term "animate surface" as used herein, refers to any living material. For example, an animate surface may include but is not limited to, epidermal skin surfaces, mucosal epithelial tissue surfaces, and/or internal organ surfaces. As used herein, the term "animate surface" also comprises vegetative surfaces including but not limited to, fruit surfaces (i.e., for example, strawberries, apples, oranges, tangerines etc.), vegetable surfaces (eggplant, squash, tomatoes, potato etc.), legume surfaces (i.e., for example,

peanuts, cashews, beans etc), grain surfaces (i.e., for example, wheat, soy, rice, rye etc), flower surfaces, stem surfaces, stalk surfaces, leaf surfaces, bark surfaces, limb surfaces, branch surfaces, etc.

5 The term “interaction antagonist” as used herein, refers to any compound that is capable of interfering with the formation of a microbial spore nap layer protein/substrate surface binding pair.

The term “binding” as used herein, refers to any interaction between an infection control composition and a surface. Such as surface is defined as a “binding surface”.

10 Binding may be reversible or irreversible. Such binding may be, but is not limited to, non-covalent binding, covalent bonding, ionic bonding, Van de Waal forces or friction, and the like. An infection control composition is bound to a surface if it is impregnated, incorporated, coated, in suspension with, in solution with, mixed with, etc.

15 The term "infection control test composition", as used herein, refers to the collection of compounds that are to be screened for their ability to prevent microbial spore binding to a surface. Such test compositions may include, but are not limited to, a wide variety of different compounds, including chemical compounds, mixtures of chemical compounds, e.g., polysaccharides, small organic or inorganic molecules, biological macromolecules, e.g., peptides, proteins, nucleic acids, or an extract made from biological materials such as bacteria, plants, fungi, or animal cells or tissues, naturally 20 occurring or synthetic compositions.

25 The term “at risk” as used herein, refers to any person or inanimate surface having a more than average probability (i.e., greater than 50%) of becoming contaminated with a microbe. ‘At risk’ probabilities of exposure may be found in vocations such as first responders including, but not limited to, fireman, policeman, emergency medical personnel. ‘At risk’ probabilities of exposure may also be found in vocations such as healthcare workers including, but not limited to, doctors, nurses, orderlies, hospital janitorial staff and the like. ‘At risk’ probabilities of exposure may also be found in vocations such as military personnel including, but not limited to, Army personnel, Navy personnel, Air Force personnel, Marine personnel, National Guard personnel, Coast 30 Guard personnel. ‘At risk’ probabilities of exposure may also be found in medical patients, including, but not limited to, immunocompromised patients, burn patients, gunshot patients etc.

The term “specific binding site pattern” as used herein refers to any reproducible set of binding sites on either a body surface or inanimate surface. Such binding sites have

inherent affinity for compositions including, but not limited to, microbial spores, infection control compositions, or small organic molecules as discussed herein. Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that such a binding pattern is a result of unique arrangements of surface chemical groups and/or topography 5 that is three-dimensionally compatible (i.e., for example, via stereospecific chemical group interactions) with a composition. It is further believed that a specific binding site pattern predicts an arrangement of non-specific binding (i.e., that binding not mediated via a dedicated receptor) within a designated surface area.

10 Brief Description Of The Figures

Figure 1 presents an exemplary scanning electron micrograph of a *C. sporogens* endospores (S) having long, sinuous, or filiform exosporial membrane projections (arrows). Projections facing the surface form tenacious contacts.

15 Figure 2 presents an exemplary electron micrograph showing *C. difficile* 43594 smooth-surfaced, elliptical endospore before activation (insert), and covered with exosporial projections (arrows) following activation.

Figure 3 presents an exemplary electron micrograph showing a *C. difficile* 43594 spore as germination proceeds wherein an exosporial membrane is covered with low bumps and a thick anchoring structure at one pole, designated the tail (T) region.

20 Figure 4 presents exemplary data showing an SDS-PAGE gel identifying the total spore proteins present in the 18 kDa band (see arrow). This 18 kDa band corresponds with Western Blot 18kDa bands capable of hybridizing *C. difficile* antibodies.

25 Figure 5 presents exemplary data showing an SDS-PAGE gel identifying the total spore proteins present in the 140, 150, and 160 kDa bands (see p1, p2, and p3, respectively). These 140, 150, and 160 kDa bands correspond with Western Blot 140, 150, and 160 kDa bands capable of hybridizing *C. difficile* antibodies.

30 Figure 6A presents exemplary data showing an SDS-PAGE gel used to identify *C. difficile* exosporium proteins at approximately 300 kDa (arrow 1); 275 kDa (arrow 2); 250 kDa (arrow 3); 160 kDa (arrow 4); 150 kDa (arrow 5); 140 kDa (arrow 6); 35 kDa (arrow 7); 28 kDa (arrow 8); and 15 kDa (arrow 9). Six other non-hybridizing bands (arrows 10-15) were also identified to determine the non-immunoreactive exosporium proteins.

Figures 6B and 6C present exemplary data showing Western blots demonstrating *C. difficile* antibody hybridization to 300 kDa (arrow 1); 275 kDa (arrow 2); 250 kDa

(arrow 3); 160 kDa (arrow 4); 150 kDa (arrow 5); 140 kDa (arrow 6); 35 kDa (arrow 7); 28 kDa (arrow 8); and 15 kDa (arrow 9) bands corresponding to those bands shown in Figure 6A.

Figure 7 presents one embodiment of a structure for: BclA (green) and C1q (mauve) monomers (A and B), respectively and their superposition (C). The N and C termini and the β -strands are labeled.

Figure 8 presents one embodiment of BclA (A) and C1q (B) trimers viewed from the side and from above. The three monomers comprising each trimer are colored blue, green, and red.

Figure 9A presents an exemplary transmission electron micrographs of a *B. cereus* ATCC 10876 spore showing the exosporium.

Figure 9B presents an exemplary transmission electron micrograph of a *B. anthracis* spore showing a nap layer projecting from the exosporium.

Figure 9C presents an exemplary close-up of a *B. anthracis* exosporium layer showing the BclA nap layer and the interior basal layer.

Figure 10 presents an illustration of embodiments showing microbial spore interactions with surface substrates (i.e., for example, skin surfaces).

Figure 10A illustrates the attachment of a microbial spore nap layer (i.e., for example, by spore surface protein projections) to the epithelial layer of mammalian skin.

Figure 10B illustrates the attachment of a microbial spore surface protein (i.e., for example a native to a surface substrate and various infection control compositions capable of disrupting the attachment of the microbial spore surface proteins to a surface substrate.

Figure 11 presents a schematic of one embodiment of a pET-19b plasmid comprising a spore surface protein gene.

Figure 12 presents exemplary data showing an SDS-PAGE electrophoretic separation of recombinant CD1067 (red arrow) expression from a pET-19b vector. Lane 1: MW standards ladder. Lane 2: 1 hour sample. Lane 3: 2 hour sample. Lane 4: 3 hour sample. Lane 5: 4 hour sample. Lane 6: 5 hour sample. Lane 7: 6 hour sample. Protein Stain: Coomassie Blue.

Figure 13 presents exemplary data showing Western Blot analysis of recombinant CD1067 (red arrows) expression from a pET-19b vector. Lane 1: MW standards ladder.

Lane 2: 1 hour sample. Lane 3: 2 hour sample. Lane 4: 3 hour sample; Lane 5: 4 hour sample; Lane 6: 5 hour sample. Lane 7: 6 hour sample.

Figure 13A: Detection using F1373 anti-*C. difficile* antibody.

Figure 13B: Detection using anti-HIS antibody.

5 Figure 14 presents exemplary data showing an SDS-PAGE electrophoretic separation of recombinant CD3620 (red arrow) expression from a pET-19b vector. Lane 1: MW standards ladder. Lane 2: 0 hour sample. Lane 3: 1 hour sample. Lane 4: 2 hour sample; Lane 5: 3 hour sample; Lane 6: 4 hour sample. Lane 7: 4.5 hour sample. Protein Stain: Coomassie Blue.

10 Figure 15 presents exemplary data showing Western Blot analysis of recombinant CD3620 (red arrows) expression from a pET-19b vector. Lane 1: MW standards ladder. Lane 2: 0 hour sample. Lane 3: 1 hour sample. Lane 4: 2 hour sample; Lane 5: 3 hour sample; Lane 6: 4 hour sample. Lane 7: 4.5 hour sample.

Figure 15A: Detection using F1373 anti-*C. difficile* antibody.

15 Figure 15B: Detection using anti-HIS antibody.

Figure 16 presents exemplary data showing antibody detection control data for recombinant CD3620 (red arrows) expression from a pET-19b vector. Lane 1: MW standards ladder. Lane 2: 6 hour pJEB02 sample. Lane 3: 4.5 hour pJEB03 sample.

20 Figure 16A: SDS-PAGE Coomassie Blue reference electrophoresis separation identifying recombinant CD1067 (top red arrow) and recombinant CD3620 (bottom red arrow).

Figure 16B: Western Blot analysis using preimmune F1373 detection.

Figure 16C: Western Blot analysis using preimmune F1997 detection.

Figure 16D: Western Blot analysis using F1997 anti-*C. difficile* antibody detection.

25 Figure 17 illustrate several embodiments of a method to remove a *C. difficile* exosporium coat (see, Example IV).

Figure 18A depicts a representative *C. difficile* 630 spore that may be used as starting material.

30 Figure 18B depicts a representative *C. difficile* 630 spore after exosporium stripping.

Figure 18C depicts a purified and concentrated representative *C. difficile* 630 spore exoporum after stripping.

Detailed Description

The present invention is related to the field of infection control. Particularly, the invention is related to compositions and methods for maintenance of antiseptic conditions, bacterial decontamination, and/or bacterial exposure prophylaxis. In one embodiment, the invention contemplates infection control compositions that inhibit microbial spore binding to a substrate surface. For example, the inhibition disrupts and/or displaces an interaction, attachment, and/or stabilization of a microbial spore to a substrate surface.

For approximately 70 years, the first line of defense against bacterial infection has been antibiotics. The first antibiotics were used clinically in the 1940s and 1950s, and their use has been increasing significantly since this period. Although an invaluable advance, antibiotic and antimicrobial therapy suffers from several problems. First, antibiotics are ineffective against spores. Second, the development of antibiotic resistance is a serious and life-threatening event of worldwide importance. For example, some microbial strains are known to be immune to a majority of available antibiotics. (Travis, *Science* 264:360-362 (1994). Among other drug resistant organisms are: pneumococci that cause pneumonia and meningitis; *Cryptosporidium* and *E. coli* that cause diarrhea; and enterococci that cause blood-stream, surgical wound and urinary tract infections. (Berkelman et. al., *J Infect Dis.* 170:272-277 (1994). The present invention contemplates compositions and methods directed towards solving problems regarding contamination control of microbial spores and the clinical resistance of microbial infection to conventional antibiotic administration.

I. Bacterial Spores

Some microbes shed spores that enter a dormant phase when exposed to environments that do not favor growth and proliferation. Spore survival is enhanced when attachment and/or adhesion to a solid surface is made. When the environmental conditions again change to favor growth and proliferation the microbial spore germinates and proceeds to contaminate the surrounding area. A person or animal coming into contact with the proliferating new microbial growth then becomes infected from an area previously unknown to be contaminated. In some cases, a person and/or animal may come into contact with the microbial spore wherein germination and infection proceeds after contact. Alternatively, such undetected spore germination can result in food spoilage thereby initiating food-borne illness outbreaks. Because of their relative

resistance to chemical and physical sterilization agents, spores of these bacteria are used as indicators of sterilization efficiency for treatments involving moist and dry heat, UV irradiation, and hydrogen peroxide. Ito et al., "Sterilization of packaging materials using aseptic systems" *Food Technol.* 38:60-62 (1984).

5 An understanding the surface properties of bacterial spores and their interactions with inanimate and animate substrates is important for selection of packaging materials and for evaluation of the surface sterilization procedures used in the packaging of food, pharmaceutical agents, and medical supplies. For example, the role of hydrophobic interactions in the adhesion of bacteria (i.e., the vegetative cell) to the surfaces of inert 10 materials is well accepted. Relatively few studies, however, have thoroughly examined the surface hydrophobicity of bacterial spores or the adhesion of spores to inanimate substrata. The hydrophobicity of bacterial spores can be determined by applying methodologies used for measuring vegetative cell hydrophobicity. Established techniques for measuring surface hydrophobicity include, but are not limited to: i) adherence to 15 hydrocarbons (Beck et al., "Effect of growth on surface charge and hydrophobicity of *Staphylococcus aureus*" *Ann. Inst. Pasteur/Microbiol. (Paris)* 139:655-664 (1988)); ii) hydrophobic interaction chromatography (HIC) (Doyle et al., "Hydrophobic characteristics of *Bacillus* spores" *Curr. Microbiol.* 10:329-332 (1984); iii) salt aggregation (Takubo et al., "Isolation and characterization of outermost layer deficient 20 mutant spores of *Bacillus megaterium*" *Microbiol. Immunol.* 9:973-979 (1988); iv) contact angle measurements (Minagi et al., "Cell-surface hydrophobicity of *Candida* species as determined by the contact-angle and hydrocarbon-adherence methods" *J. Gen. Microbiol.* 132:1111-1115 (1986)); and v) bacterial adherence to hexadecane (BATH) 25 (Wienek et al., "Hydrophobicity of *Bacillus* and *Clostridium* spores" *Appl Environ Microbiol.* 56:2600-2605 (1990)).

Studies demonstrate that spore hydrophobicity varies among species and strains. However, for each organism, the hydrophobicity of spores is believed to be greater than the vegetative cell hydrophobicity. Further, moderate heat treatment increases the hydrophobicity of most *Bacillus* spores. One hypothesis suggests that increases in spore 30 hydrophobicity following heat treatment may result from the disruption of outer coat or exosporium proteins.

Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that the increased hydrophobicity of bacterial spores is due to the relative abundance of protein in the outer coats and exosporium as compared with peptidoglycan

on vegetative cells. Doyle et al., "Hydrophobic characteristics of *Bacillus* spores" *Curr. Microbiol.* 10:329-332 (1984); Matz et al., "Chemical composition of exosporium from spores of *Bacillus cereus*" *J. Bacteriol.* 101:196-201 (1970); and Takumi et al., "Isolation and partial characterization of exosporium from spores of a highly sporogenic mutant of 5 *Clostridium botulinum* type A" *Microbiol. Immunol.* 28:443-454 (1979). An association between spore hydrophobicity and the presence of an exosporium has been reported recently for several *Bacillus* species. Kjelleberg, S. "Adhesion to inanimate surfaces" In: Microbial adhesion and aggregation, pp. 51-70. K. C. Marshall (ed.), Springer-Verlag KG, Berlin (1984). Decreased spore hydrophobicity of *B. cereus* T spores was observed 10 of when spore surfaces were removed by chemical treatments. Kutima et al., "Involvement of the spore surface in germination of *Bacillus cereus* T spores" *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* 53:47-52 (1987). Decreases in spore hydrophobicities have also been seen in "knock-out" outer-coat-negative mutants of *B. megaterium* (QMB1551: ATCC 15 12872). Takubo et al., "Isolation and characterization of outermost layer deficient mutant spores of *Bacillus megaterium*" *Microbiol. Immunol.* 9:973-979 (1988); and Koshikawa et al., "Surface hydrophobicity of spores of *Bacillus* spp." *J. Gen. Microbiol.* 135:2717-2722 (1989). These observations suggest that the outer coats of the exosporium play a 15 role in spore hydrophobicity.

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates compositions and methods 20 to improve surface sanitation, sterilization of equipment and/or packaging materials used in the medical, pharmaceutical, and/or food industries. In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates compositions and methods to improve skin sanitation.

A. *Clostridium difficile* Spore Surface Proteins

Bacteria from the genus *Clostridium*, are thought to produce such diseases 25 including, but not limited to, gas gangrene, wound infections, botulism, tetanus, pseudomembranous colitis, septicemia, or nosocomial diarrhea. This genus survives well under adverse conditions by forming dehydrated endospores that are highly resistant to heat, chemicals, and radiation. These spores can be found in soil, carried by the wind, recovered from mammalian digestive and urogenital tracts, and have the ability to remain 30 dormant for very extended periods of time until conditions for growth support spore activation and germination.

C. difficile spores are prevalent within healthcare and hospital environments. *C. difficile* spores survive on animate and/or inanimate surfaces for a prolonged period, are resistant to many disinfectants and antibiotics, and are easily transmitted from patient to

patient. Understanding *C. difficile* spore attachment to surfaces, as well as sporulation and germination, will help in the prevention, control, and treatment of *C. difficile*-associated disease. For example, *C. difficile* lacks several genes that are involved in the phospho-relay system that triggers the sporulation process in *Bacillus* species; this, and other aspects of the sporulation system in *Clostridia* spp have recently been reviewed. Paredes et al., "A comparative genomic view of clostridial sporulation and physiology" *Nat. Rev. Microbiol.* 3:969-978 (2005). Further, *C. difficile* also lacks a tricistronic *ger* operon that are usually present in most *Bacillus* and *Clostridium* species.. Moir et al., "Spore germination" *Cell Mol Life Sci.* 59:403-409 (2002); and Broussolle et al., "Molecular and physiological characterisation of spore germination in *Clostridium botulinum* and *C. sporogenes*" *Anaerobe* 8:89-100 (2002). These observations suggest that the *C. difficile* germinant receptors are substantially different from, and should not be identified on the basis of sequence similarity to, other *Clostridium* spp. and *Bacillus* spp.

Microbial spore resistance to heat, solvents, enzymes, detergents, ultraviolet and ionizing radiation, sodium hydroxide, ethanol, performic acid, phenol, cold, and most sporicides, as well as their ability to grow aggressively when conditions are optimum, make them a serious threat to animal and especially human health. Tipper et al., "Structure of the bacterial endospore" In: *Spores V*, Ed. H. Halvorson, R. Hanson and L. Campbell. Amer. Soc. for Microbiol., Bethesda, Maryland, 3-12 (1972); and Russell, A., "Bacterial spores and chemical sporicidal agents" *Clin. Microbiol. Rev.*, 3, 99-119 (1990). Nosocomial acquisition of *Clostridium difficile* infection in hospitals and nursing homes presents a serious epidemiologic problem because spores are found on walls, floors, utensils, bed sheets, and on the hands of caregivers in health facilities. The spores easily seem to infect individuals including, but not limited to, those who have: i) an altered intestinal flora from antibiotic therapy; ii) a compromised immune system, or iii) require multiple enemas in relation to diagnostic testing or treatment. Zaleznik, D. "Clostridium difficile: an important nosocomial pathogen for the 1990s" *Clin. Microbiol. Newsletter* 13, 145-152 (1991).

The exosporia from two species of *Clostridium* spores (i.e., for example, *Clostridium sporogenes* ATCC 3584 and *C. difficile* ATCC 9689 and ATCC 43594) may play a role in attachment, germination, and/or colonization. Panessa-Warren et al., "Exosporial membrane plasticity of *Clostridium sporogenes* and *Clostridium difficile*" *Tissue & Cell* 29:449-461 (1997). Ultrastructural change was associated with germination and outgrowth of *C. bif fermentans* spore appendages but no specific function

was determined. Samsonoff et al., "Ultrastructural changes associated with germination and outgrowth of an appendage-bearing clostridial spore" *J. Bacteriol.*, 101, 1038-1045 (1970). Examination of *C. sporogenes* spores by thin-section transmission electron microscopy did reveal an exosporial outer layer, with hair-like projections, but no discussion regarding distribution, function, or appearance in relation to *Clostridium* colonization was offered. Hoeniger et al., "Ultrastructural aspects of spore germination and outgrowth in *Clostridium sporogenes*" *Can. J. Microbiol.*, 15, 1061-1065 (1969). Transmission electron microscopy thin-section reconstruction is known to have significant problems when observing and interpreting an exosporial morphology of numerous spores at one time, and the problems associated with obtaining thin-section slices of such small, delicate, and poorly staining, spore attachments to a nutritive substrate.

10 *C. sporogenes* spores may exhibit specific morphological stages once dormancy is broken, and that the exosprium seems to play an active role in successful germination, outgrowth, vegetative proliferation, and colonization of a substrate surface binding site. 15 Panessa-Warren et al., "Electron microscopy of *C. sporogenes* endospore attachment and germination" *Scanning* 16, 227-240 (1994). A *Clostridium* exosprium is believed to be an outer 'membranous' layer of a spore, has been described as a passive participant in germination. However, once dormancy is broken, *C. sporogenes* ATCC 3584 spores 20 appear to produce very specific exosporial morphological structures visible by scanning electron microscopy (SEM), which seem to facilitate attachment of a spore to a substrate or to other spores (i.e., for example, spore co-aggregation). Exosporial projections are later replaced by a single stalk extending from the distal (i.e., for example, the tail region) 25 of the spore, which appears to anchor the spore during the final stages of vegetative cell development and outgrowth.

During the initial stages of *C. sporogenes* attachment, delicate filiform projections of the exosporial membrane extend outward with some of the shorter projections attaching to a surface. See, Figure 1, white arrows. Usually long filamentous projections from the exosporial membrane originate from the top surface or sides of the spore, and 30 extend to either the surface or to a nearest neighboring spores, binding the spores together (co-aggregation). Exosporial membrane projections appear all over the outer surface of a *C. sporogenes* activated spore eventually developing into a single, thick, attachment structure extending to a surface, appearing to anchor the spore.

Unlike *C. sporogenes*, *C. difficile* has a reduced number of attached spores and requires a longer incubation time to allow attachment to take place. Dormant *C. difficile* spores are small (approximately 2.0 gm long x 1.1 gm wide), elliptical, and predominantly smooth. See, Figure 2, insert. Once activation had begun, spores 5 exhibited low prominences covering the exosporium. See, Figure 3. In the early stage of attachment, *C. difficile* 43594 developed exosporial bumps and knobs covering the entire surface of the elongate spore. These spores developed more elongate exosporial projections at the tail region, which were replaced later during the germination cycle by a thickened attachment structure. Figure 3, black arrows. Unlike *C. sporogenes*, *C. difficile* exhibits fewer exosporial membrane extensions but produces a thickened 10 exosporial membrane extension that developed at the tail end of the spore.

The ability of *C. sporogenes* and *C. difficile* spores to remain attached to an agar surface during agitation (i.e., for example, a 300 rpm centrifugation) in water or buffer, strongly suggests that these spores have a formidable means of adhesion and/or 15 attachment to surfaces. Under ideal conditions, the attachment of *C. sporogenes* to an agar surface has been observed to take place within 27 min following inoculation. Under anaerobic conditions on pre-reduced agar, maximal attachment of *C. sporogenes* spores has been observed to take place within 88 to 105 min. *C. difficile* spore attachment took considerably longer, for example, 105 min for *C. difficile* 9689 and 180 min for *C. difficile* ATCC 43594. 20

Once attached, the spores can remain tenaciously anchored to a solid surface. *C. difficile* 43594 appears unique in that the spores attach very slowly. However, *C. difficile* may have an adaptive response that accelerates attachment following exposure to an 25 animate surface. For example, an increased incidence of *C. difficile* nosocomial infection have been reported in patients having increased intestinal motility and those who have undergone multiple enemas. Bartlett, J. "Introduction" In: *Clostridium difficile: Its Role in Intestinal Disease*, Ed. R. Rolfe and S. Finegold). Academic Press, New York, pp. 1-13 (1988); Silva, J. Jr., "Prevention of *Clostridium difficile*-associated intestinal disease" In: *Clostridium difficile: Its Role in Intestinal Disease*, Ed. R. Rolfe and S. Finegold. 30 Academic Press, New York, pp. 368-378 (1988).; and McFarland et al., "Nosocomial acquisition of *Clostridium difficile* infection. *New Engl. J. Med.*, 320:204-210 (1989). *C. difficile* spores may be routinely found in the digestive tract of healthy, non-symptomatic individuals. Consequently, a triggering mechanism that initiates attachment to the gut and begins the infective process may be a combination of the loss of normal flora (i.e., for

example, caused by antibiotics, disease, or repeated enemas) and/or hypermobility of the colon.

Clostridium spore exosporium attachment outgrowths typically have a diameter of approximately 7 nm and may vary in length between 0.1 and 2.9 nm. These outgrowths 5 comprise fibrils that are usually less than 200 nm in length and can be extremely delicate. Hancock, I, "Microbial cell surface architecture" In: *Microbial Cell Surface Analysis* , Ed. N. Mozes, P. Handley, H. Busscher and P. Rouxhet, VCH Publishers, New York, pp. 23-59 (1991). Usually, exosporium outgrowths of *C. sporogenes* measure 85 to 1015 nm in width, however, some outgrowths, especially those also comprising co-aggregation 10 attachments, can be as long as 2000 nm in length. Knob-like protrusions from *C. sporogenes* exosporium can range from 68 to 75 nm in diameter, and swollen projections seen in the late stages of germination can be as large as 180 to 240 nm in diameter.

Clearly, the spore exosporium, which has always been thought to be 'a passive 15 participant in germination', appears to play an active role in spore attachment and colonization of *C. sporogenes* and *C. difficile*. In one embodiment, a *C. difficile* protein is derived from an exosporium surface layer, wherein the exosporium layer comprises the outermost protein of a *C. difficile* spore. In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a composition comprising at least one outermost surface protein of the *Clostridium difficile* spore. In one embodiment, the surface protein comprises a spore 20 surface protein. Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that these spore surface proteins present an interface between the bacterial spore and a substrate surface binding site. It is also believed that these proteins can be used to define molecular attachment interactions including, but not limited to: i) between the spore and animate surfaces; and ii) between the spore and inanimate surfaces. 25 Size characterizations of *Clostridium difficile* exosporium proteins are presented in Table I.

Table I. Size Characterizations Of Representative *C. difficile* Exosporium Proteins.

Protein (alternative name)	Size (kDa)	BAS gene no	GI
CD 1581	20	1581	126699184
CD 1067	47	1067	126698654
CD 3620	14	3620	126701246
CD 1613	35	1613	126699217

CD 1711	12	1711	126699318
Putative spore surface protein	22	598	126698176
Putative spore surface protein	22	2401	126700016
Superoxide dismutase	27	1631	126699235
Putative proline racemase	24	3237	126700857
60 kDa chaperonin	58	0194	126697767
Chaperone protein	67	2461	126700078
10 kDa chaperonin	10	0193	126697766
Pyruvate-flavodoxin oxidoreductase	130	2682	126700296
CD 0881	36	0881	126698458
CD 1511	35	1511	126699115
Cell surface protein	76	2793	126700409
3-hydroxybutyryl-CoA dehydrogenase	31	1058	126698642
Putative spore cortex-lytic enzyme	47	0551	126698130
Putative aliphatic sulfonates ABC transporter, substrate binding lipoprotein	36	1484	126699088
Putative fructose-bisphosphate aldolase	33	0403	126697972
Dipicolinate synthase, subunit B	21	2967	126700588
Putative indolepyruvate oxidoreductase subunit B	21	2380	126699995
Electron transfer flavoprotein alpha-subunit	36	1056	126698640
Putative phage-related cell wall hydrolase	28	1898	126699508
Cell surface protein	66	2791	126700407
Formate-tetrahydrofolate ligase	60	0718	126698298
Oligopeptide ABC transporter, substrate- binding protein	58	2672	126700286
Gamma-aminobutyrate metabolism dehydratase/isomerase	56	2341	126699959
NAD-specific glutamate dehydrogenase	46	0179	126697752
Putative aminoacyl-histidine dipeptidase	53	0708	126698287
Proline reductase subunit proprotein	68	3244	126700863
Glycine/sarcosine/betaine reductase complex component C beta subunit	55	2349	126699967

Glycine dehydrogenase subunit 2	54	1658	126699262
Acetyl CoA acetyltransferase	41	1059	126698643
Aspartate aminotransferase	45	1339	126698938
Putative bifunctional protein: peroxidoredoxin/chitinase	82	1433	126699037
Glyceraldehydes-3-phosphate dehydrogenase	36	3174	126700794
Butyryl-CoA dehydrogenase	41	1054	126698638
d-ribose ABC transporter, substrate-binding protein	35	0300	126697872
Putative ruberythrin	20	1474	126699078
Succinate-semialdehyde dehydrogenase	51	2342	126699960
Oxidoreductase, thiamine diP-binding subunit	39	0116	126697688

In one embodiment, *Clostridium difficile* proteins may be identified by probing total spore protein preparations with antibodies directed against purified, intact, *C. difficile* spores, to create a hybridized protein-antibody complex. In one embodiment, a 5 *C. difficile* spore surface protein includes, but is not limited to, CD1067, CD3620, CD 1581, CD 598, or CD 2401. In one embodiment, *C. difficile* enzymes are associated with *C. difficile* spore surface protein preparations.

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* hypothetical protein (CD 1581) may be isolated as a hybridized antibody-protein complex comprising a molecular weight including, but 10 not limited to, 18, 140, 150, or 160 kDa. See, Figures 4-6. In one embodiment, the hypothetical protein (~ 20 kDa) comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 (Accession Numbers YP_001088081, GI: 126699184):

15 1 MENKKCYSED WYERGESTAK WFQNDREYE REAYDEDRER RGSNCGSDS
51 51 GENPRNCER FRREAEIRER EAREAFCESS EKKKEALAYE CEARKLWEEA
101 101 EKYWDEYSKY NYKGIEYLAE AARLFDEGME CEARRNGNNG GNNNNCCCHKC
151 151 HKCNCNCCRK

20 encoded by a *Clostridium* hypothetical nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 2:

25 1 atggaaaata aaaaatgtta ttcagaagat tggatgaaa gaggagaatc tacagctaaa
61 61 tggttccaaa atgatagaga agaatatgaa agagaagcat atgatgaaga tagagaaaaga
121 121 agaggtaa actgtggatg ttcagattca ggagaaaata gacctgaaa ctgtgaaaaga
181 181 tttagaagag aagctgagat aagagaaaaga gaagcaagag aagcattctg tgaatctca
241 241 gagaaaaaga aagaggcatt agcatatgaa tgtgaagcta gaaaattatg ggaagaagca

301 gaaaaatact gggatgaata ttcaaatac aactataaag gaatcgaata tttagcagaa
361 gctgctagat tatttgcata aggtatggaa tgtgaagcta gaagaaatgg aaataatgg
421 gcaaacaata ataattgttgc ccataaatgc cataaatgttactgt ctgtagaaaa
481 taa

5

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* hypothetical protein (CD 1067) may be isolated as a hybridized antibody-protein complex comprising a molecular weight including, but not limited to, 140, 150, and 160 kDa. See, Figures 5, 6. In one embodiment, the hypothetical protein (~ 47 kDa) comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3

10 (Accession Numbers YP 001087551; GI: 126698654):

1 MQDYKKNKKR MMNQPMSTMN EEEVYTDIE SEDMRGFKKS HHINGCNDN
51 KCECHDDCNP CNPCNPCKPN PCNPCKPNPC DDNCGCHDNC KCDCEPCEMD
101 SDECENKCG PECCNPISPR NFSVSNAVPF AIEANRIFDT MQFQTFTDAT
151 GPNGEPLTFE TEVVEVFGSV PSAQQASVTI EKICL SNDGI VDVTGMMTLE
201 DFDDPLGDI VGRNCETTFE FAVCGERNSE CCRQGKGKSV AYKQRGLTVA
251 VRNLVLELRG RCGCTEFVAL AFPAVRAGGG CKRRVDYVEF TFNTLSAPIC
301 LPADGRAVTL RQEYQTNLTV DCIGKSILKL ECNECCEPFY ELIIPNDIDL
351 VLCLQETVST LISEQIVVLA SPNPIQPRLV DTFSKVCDFS QCGPNHGSGK
20 401 PSCHR

encoded by a *Clostridium* hypothetical nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 4;

25	1	atgcaagatt ataaaaaaaaaaa taaaagaaga atgatgaatc agccaatgtc tacaatgaat
	61	gaagaagaag tgtatacaga taaaataat tcagaagaca tgagggttt taaaaaatca
	121	caccatcata atggatgtaa tactgataat aagtgtgagt gccatgtatc ttgcaatcca
	181	tgcaaccat gtaatccatg taaacctaac ccatgcaatc catgcaaacc taatccatgt
	241	gatgacaattt gtggatgcca tgacaattgt aatgtgattt gtgaaccatg taaaatggat
	301	tcagatgaat gtttgaaaaa caaatgtgga ccagaatgtc gtaatccat atctccaaga
30	361	aacttctctg tatcaaattgc agtgcattt gcaatagagg ctaatagaat atttgatact
	421	atgcaattcc aaacatttc agatgcaaca ggaccaaattt gagagccattt aactttgaa
	481	acagaagtag tagaagtattt tggttcagttt ccaagtgcag gtcaagcaag tgtaactata
	541	gaaaaaatat gcttaagttaa tgatgaaatc gttatagaca caggaatgac aactttgaa
	601	gatttcgattt tagaccattt agggatata gtaggaagaa actgtgaaac aactttgaa
35	661	tttgcagttt gtggagaaag aaactctgag tgctgtgac aaggaaaagg caaatcgtt
	721	gcttataaac aaagaggattt aactgttagca gtcgttaattt tagtactaga gctaagagg
	781	agatgtggat gtacagaggctt cgttgcattt gcttcccaag cagtttaggc aggagggtgg
	841	tgtaagagaa gagttgatta tgtagaattt acttttaaca cacttcagc accaatatgc
	901	ttgccagctt acggaagagc tggacttta agacaagaat atcaaactaa cttaaactgtt
40	961	gattgttagt gaaaatctat attaaaattt gaatgcaacg aatgttgatc acctttctat
	1021	gaattaattt taccaatgtt tataattttt gtactttgtc tacaagaaac agtttagcaca
	1081	ttaataagtgtt aacaaatagt agtttagca tcaccaatc caatccaaacc aagactgtt
	1141	gatactttctt ctaaagtatgt tgattttcg caatgtggac ctaatcatgg aagtggaaag
	1201	ccaagttgcc acagatag

45

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* hypothetical protein (CD 3620) may be isolated as a hybridized antibody-protein complex comprising a molecular weight including, but not limited to, 140 kDa. See, Figures 5 & 6. In one embodiment, the hypothetical protein (~ 14 kDa) comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 (Accession Numbers

5 YP_001090143; GI: 126701246):

1 MYDDYKYNKC NKCYNDYEEM THVHEYSESV KLAEECEDRH NHRAAGVTGE
 51 AIPINGGTNH VHKINDNVDF LDHFHKICVT TGPARIPIGT DKHIHLICGE
 101 TTVNDGHCHK FLFTTQIEAP LV

10

encoded by a *Clostridium* hypothetical nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 6:

1 ttatactaaa ggtgcttcta tttgagtagt aaaaagaat ttatgacaat gaccatcatt
 61 aacagttagtt tctccacata ttaagtgaat gtgttatca gttccaggta ttctaattgc
 121 tggccctgtt gtaacacata tccttatgaaa atggtaaagg aaatctacat ttcatttat
 181 tttatgaaca tgatttgac ctccatttat tggtatagct tcaccagtaa cccctgctgc
 241 acggtggtta tgtctatcct cacattctc tgctaactta acactttctg aatattcatg
 301 aacatgtgtc atttcctat aatcattata gcacttggc cacttattgt atttataatc
 361 atcatacac

20

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* hypothetical protein (CD 1613) may be isolated as a hybridized antibody-protein complex. In one embodiment, the hypothetical protein comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7 (Accession Number YP_001088114):

25

1 mennkcredf rftqeyeedy pntneryyen yqvadryyny pnkykepkik qccckksmre
 61 alellrydal rpfvfnfqfa fisdffivga nlvgidlsap pkdnlsldg tferfsacnc
 121 dlidiagrvs ypiplvpltle glintigtip gvaellalid avipptidlg aildailaai
 181 idfilaastp lanvdslaslc nlkavafdit padyedfias lgyyldkkhy kecnncndcd
 30 301 241 dcccnkgild nlymsninnq vtvvagslvt tgvevlgkkn dvivlgnnsnd sriyfvcds
 301 idyia

encoded by a *Clostridium* hypothetical nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 8:

35

1 ttatgcaata taatctatag aatctacaca tacaaagtat attctgaat cattagaatt
 .61 tccaagtact ataacatcat tttcttacc tagaactca acaccaggta gaacccaaact
 121 accagctact acagtaactt gattatttat atttgacata taaagattat ctaggatacc
 181 tttattacaa cagcaatcat cacaatcgca gttacaatta cattcttgc aatgttttt
 241 atcaagatag taacctaaag atgctatgaa atcttcataa tctgcaggta taatatcaa
 301 tgcaacagct ttaagattac acaatcatgc taaatctacg tttgctaattg gagtagatgc
 361 agcaagtata aatcaatca tagcagaag tattgcatct aatatagccc caaggcttat
 421 cgtaggagga ataactgc cataaatgtc aattaattca gctactcctg gtatagttcc
 481 tatagttata attaattccct caagagttaa agggactgga ataggataag atactctacc
 541 agctatatact attaaatcac agttacaagc agaaaatctt tcaaaagtac catcaagtcc

601 agataaaatta tctttggag gagctgaaaag atctataacct accaaattag cacctactat
 661 aaagaaaatct gagataaaaag caaatttataa aaaggtctta gagcatcata
 721 tcttagaagt tctaaggcct ctctcatact tttttacaa caacattgtt ttattttagg
 781 ttcttataat ttatttggat aattatagta tctatcagct acttgataat tttcatagta
 5 841 tcttcattt gtatggat aatcttcctc atattctgt gtaaatctaa agtcctct
 901 acatttatta tttccac

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* hypothetical protein (CD 1711) may be isolated as a hybridized antibody-protein complex. In one embodiment, the hypothetical protein 10 comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9:

1 mlivtkekve gkkiskvlg vrgstirakh vgkdigasfk nlvggeltgy
 51 nemltcarqi aigrmvdaea akganaviaf rlssasvmqg aaemlaygta
 101 vvleddnsil ek:

15

encoded by a *Clostridium* hypothetical nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 10:

1 atgttaatag taactacaga aaaagttagaa ggtaaaaaga tatcaaaggt tttaggatta
 gtgagaggaa
 20 71 gtacaataag agcaaaacat gttggaaaag atataggagc aagtttaaa aatcttgtt
 gaggagaact 141 tactggatataatgaaatgc tcactgaagc aagacaaattt gccataggta
 gaatggttga agatgcagaa 211 gctaaaggtg caaacgcagt aatgcattt agactgttt
 cagcttcagt tatgcaaggg gcagcagaaaa 281 tgcttgctta tggaacagca gttgttttag
 25 aagatgataa tagtattctt gaaaaataa

25

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* hypothetical protein (CD 0881) may be isolated as a hybridized antibody-protein complex. In one embodiment, the hypothetical protein comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11:

30 1 mgtkivlsiv livvvvaisl tcirvikqsk vgiimrlgkf qkvaetvhf lipfldkmay
 61 vidlreivid fppqpvitkd nvtmqidtvv yykvtdpvry vfeianpiaa ienltatlr
 121 niigeldlde tltsrdiinv kmrtildeat dkwgikvnrv elknimppqd iqvamekqmr
 181 aererreail qaegnksaai lqaegekqsa iltaeakkea mrvvaegeke sailvaegea
 241 eairqtaiak aqgeaemikr tqmataeglk lvfsamkead idnnilalks mealekmaeg
 35 301 kstklvpse avnflgtfkg ikevmsddnk evldikevln dneslkk

encoded by a *Clostridium* hypothetical nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 12

40 1 atgggtacta aaattgttt aagtattgtt ttaatagtag tagtcgtgc aataagttt
 61 acttgtataa gagttataaa acaatctaaa gtaggtataa taatgagact tggtaagttt
 121 caaaaagtgg ctgaaacagg tgcatttc ttaataccat ttttagataa aatggcatat
 181 gtaattgacc tttagagaaat tgcataatagat ttccacctc aaccagttt aactaaagat

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* hypothetical protein (CD 1511) may be isolated as a hybridized antibody-protein complex. In one embodiment, the hypothetical protein comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13:

20 1 midnqkyvil slehlffsr imkehafle agftnkynl ameadhykkq fedllsytv
61 asngiirpdi lyseelvttl tsvaeqktee ftgieinkni ttrelnlqsg vnpqvgqdly
121 nyvaqlnsda irlldglinf kervldgvls ctiftsnyp1 llehihean lyrsyvvde
181 nkidieskna keielfwdhi mmehalfmrg lldpsegeli ntsndfaikf neliektnem
241 tdsniknite etlnetvefk dfkeagasgi eqckiksiil plladhv1re anhyiriles
25 301 yknm

encoded by a *Clostridium* hypothetical nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 14:

30	1 ttacatgttt ttataactct ccaatattct aatataatga ttgcctctc taaaacatg 61 gtctgctaaa agtggtaata ttatagattt tatcttacac tggcttattc ctgtatgc 121 tgcttctta aaatcttaa actcaacagt ttcatataga gtttcttctg taatgttctt 181 gatattagaa tcagtcattt cgttgtttt tcaattaaat tcattaaattt ttatagcaaa 241 atcatttcaa gtatttattt gttcaccttc tgaggggtct agtaatcctc tcataaacag 301 agcatgttcc atcataatat ggtcccagaa taattctatt tcttttagcgt tttttgacte 35 361 aatatctattt ttattttcaa ggtcaactac ataagaacga tataaatttgc ttcatgttat 421 tataatgttca agaagtagag ggttagttga tggtaatataat gtacatgata gtacaccatc 481 taagacttctt tcttttttttaat taataagccc atcaagttat ctatttgcat cagaggtaag 541 tttagactaca tagttcaactt aatcttgacc aacttggggg ttacaccac ttgttagatt 601 taattcttctt gtagtgatgt ttttttttat ttctatccct gtaaacttctt ctgttttttg 40 661 ttctgcaactt gatgtggagag tagttacaag ttcttctgaa tataatatat caggcttaat 721 tataccattttaat ctagcactaa cagtgtatga taataatct tcaaattgtct tttagtgc 781 gtcagcttcc atagcaagat tataattttt attttgtgaat cctgtttctaa aaaaaagagc 841 atgcctttc ataaattcttgc aaaaaaataa atgttaattctt agtgataaaaa taacatattt 901 ttgattatctt atcat
----	--

B Clostridium difficile Collagen-Like Proteins

The *B. anthracis* exosporium protein BclA was compared to the *C. difficile* genome, wherein three *C. difficile* genomic areas were identified as homologous to *B. anthracis* BclA (i.e., for example, spore surface genomic areas).

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* spore surface homolog protein comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:15 (Accession Number CAJ67154):

mrniilylnd dtfiskkypd knfsnlodyl igskcsnsfv keklitffkv ripdilkdk
 10 ilkaelfihi dsnknhifke kvdieikris eyynlritw ndrvsmenir gylpisdt
 snyiclnitg tikawamnky pnyglalsln ypyqilefts srgcnkpyil vtfedriidn
 cypkcecppi ritgpmgprg atgstgpmgv tgptgstgat gsigptgptg ntgatgsigp
 tgvtgptgst gatgsigptg vtgptgntgv tgsigptgat gptgntgvtg sigptgvtg
 15 tgngeigpt gatgptgvtg sigptgatgp tgeigptgat gatgsigptg atgptgatgv
 tgeigptgei gptgatgptg vtgsigptga tgptgatgei gptgatgptg vtgsigptga
 tgptgatgei gptgatgptg vtgeigptga tgptgntgvt geigptgatg ptgntgvtg
 igptgatgpt gvtgeigptg ntgatgsigp tgvtgptgat gsigptgatg atgvtgptg
 20 tcatgnssqp vanflvnaps pqtlnngdai tgwqtiigns ssitvdtngt ftvqengvyy
 isvsvalqpg sssinqysfa ilfpilggkd lagltpepgg ggvlsqyfag flfggftfti
 nnfssitvgi rngqsagtaa tltifriadt vmt

20 encoded by a *Clostridium* spore surface homolog nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 16:

atgagaaata ttatactta tttaaatgat gatactttta tatctaaaaaa atatccagat
 aaaaacttta gtaattttaga ttattgctta ataggaagta aatgttcaaa tagttttgt
 25 aaagaaaaagt tgattacttt tttaaaagtg agaataccag atatattaaa agacaaaaagt
 atattaaaag cagagtatt tattcatatt gattcaaata agaatcatat tttaaaagaa
 aaagtagata ttgaaattaa aagaataagt gaatattata attacgaac tataacatgg
 aatgatagag tgtctatgga aaatatcagg ggatattac caattggat aagtgataca
 tccaactata ttgtttaaa tattacggga actataaaag catggcaat gaataaaatat
 cctaattatg gtttagctt atctttaaat tacccttatac agattcttga attacatct
 30 agtagaggaa gtaacaaacc gtatatactt gtaacatttgc aagatagaat tatagataat
 ttttatccta aatgtgagtg tcctccaatt agaattacag gtccaatggg accaagaggg
 gcgacaggaa gtacaggacc aatggagta acaggccaa cccgaagtttccggcaca
 ggaagcatag gaccaacagg cccaaacggaa aatacaggag caacaggaaat tatagggcc
 acgggagtaa caggccaaac cggaaatgtca ggagcgcacag gaagtatagg accaacaggaa
 gtaacaggcgtc cgacaggaa tacggagtg acaggaaatgtca taggaccaac gggagcaaca
 35 gccccgacag gaaatacggg agtgcacaggaa agtataaggac caacaggaaatgtca aacaggccaa
 acaggaaata caggagaaat aggaccaacgg ggagcaacagg gtccaaacagg agtgcacaggaa
 agtataaggac caacaggagc aacaggacca acaggagaaatgtca taggaccaac gggagcaaca
 ggagcgcacag gaagtatagg accaacaggaa gcaacaggcgtc caacaggacca gacaggagtg
 acaggagaaatgtca agggccaaac aggagaaata ggaccaacgg gagcaacagg cccaaacaggaa
 40 gtgacaggaa gtataggacc aacgggagca acaggccaa caggagcgcac agggagaaata
 ggaccaacagg gagcaacagg cccaaacaggaa gtgacaggaa gtataggacc aacgggagca
 acaggccaa caggagcgcac agggagaaata ggaccaacgg gagcaacagg cccaaacaggaa
 gtaacaggag aaataggacc aacgggagca acaggccaa caggaaatac agggagtaaca
 ggagaaatgtca gaccaacggg agcaacgggt cggacaggaa atacaggagtg gacaggagaa
 45 ataggaccaac cgggagcaac aggaccaaca ggagtgacag gagaaatagg gccaacaggaa
 aatacaggag cgacaggaaatgtca acgggagtaa caggcgtcaac aggagcgcaca

5 ggaagtatag gaccaacggg agcaacagga ggcacaggag taacaggacc aacaggcca
 acaggagcaa caggcaattc ctctcagcca gttgctaact tcctcgtaaa tgcaccatct
 ccacaaacac taaataatgg agatgctata acaggttggc aaacaataat aggaaatagt
 tcaagtataa cagtagatac aaatggtacg ttacagtac aagaaaatgg tgtgtattat
 atatcagttt cagtagcatt acaaccagg tcatcaagta taaatcaata ttcttcgct
 atcttatcc caattttagg aggaaaagat ttggcaggc ttactactga gccaggaggc
 ggaggaggatc ttctcgata ttgtctgtt tttttattt gtgggactac ttttacaata
 aataattttt catctacaac agtagggata cgaaatggc aatcagcagg aactgcggct
 10 actttgacga tatttagaat agctgatact gttatgactt aa

10

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* spore surface homolog protein comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:17 (Accession Number CAJ70248):

15 mllimsmky fgpfdndyn ngydkyddcn ngrddynscd chhccppscv gptgpmgprg
 rtgptgtpgp tgpgvgatgp tgptgptgpt gntgntgatg lrptgatga tgptgatgai
 gfgvtgptgp tcatgtatgad gvtgptgpt atgadgitgp tcatgtatgfg vtgptgptga
 tgvgtgatg ligptgatgt pcatgptgai gatgigitgp tcatgtatgad gatgvtgptg
 20 ptgatgadgv tgptgatgat gigitgptgp tcatgigitg atgigptga tgptgatgpt
 gatgptgvvg tgatgatgat gadgatgvtg ptgatgatga nglvgptgat gaagtpgatg
 ptgatgptgv gitgatgatg atgptgadga tgptgatgnt gadgavgptg atgntgadga
 tgptgatgatg gadgatgptg atgatgvaga tcatgptgat gadgatgptg atgatgadga
 tgptgatgatg gvtgatgptg ptgatgatga tgasaiipfa sgiplsltti aglvgtpgf
 vfgssapgl sivggvidlt naagltlnfa fsmprdgtit sisayfstta alslvgstt
 25 itatlyqsta pnnstlavpg atvtlappi gilsvgiss givtghiaa taqtpdrqyai

25

encoded by a *Clostridium* spore surface homolog nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 18:

30 ttatatggca tactgtctgt ctggagttt tgctgttgct gctatattta atccgttac
 aatccacta gaaattgaac caactgataa tataccgtta agtgggtggag ctatgttaac
 tgcgcctt ggtacagctg taaatgagtt atttggtgca gtagattggt aaagtgttgc
 tgaatttgcatttggtaac caacaagtga aagtgtctgt gttgtactga agtatgtca
 aatagatgtt atttggccat ctcttggcat tggaaatgca aagttgtca atttccctgc
 tgcgttgcatttggtaac aggtcttatttggccat tccaccaac tatacttaat cctggagccg aactacaaa
 tccaacaaat ccaggtgtac ctactaatcc tccagctata gttgtaaatgt atagtggat
 35 acctgtatgca aaaggatattt ttgcacttgc acctgttgcct cttgttgcct ctgttgcctt
 tttgggcctt gttggccctt tgctccctgtt aactctgtt gccccctgtt ctccctgttgg
 acctgttgcctt ccattctgccc ctgttgcctt tgctccctgtt gttggacctg ttgtccatc
 tgcctctgtt gtcctgttgc gacctgttgc tccctgttgc ctgtccatc ctgttgcctt
 tttgtccctgtt gttggacctg ttgtccatc tgctccctgtt gccccctgtt ctccctgttgg
 40 acctgttgcctt ccattctgccc ctgttgcctt tgctccctgtt gttggacctg ctactccatc
 tgcctctgtt ttcctgttgc tccctgttgc acctgttgcctt ccattctgccc ctgttggacc
 tgcctctgtt gttggccctt tgctccctgtt tattcctact cctgttggcc ctgttgcctt
 tttgtggacct gttggccctt tgctccctgtt gtcctgttgc tccctgttgc ggcctactaa
 tccatttgcctt cctgttgcctt tgctccctgtt gttggacctg ctactccatc ttgtccctgtt
 45 tgcctctgtt gtcctgttgc tccctgttgc tccctgttact cctactccatc ttggccctgtt
 tgctccctgtt ggacctgttgc tccctgttgc acctgttggcc ctgttggacc ctattaaatcc
 tttgtggccctt gttatcccta ttccctgttgc tccctgttgc acctgttggcc ctgttattcc
 tattcctgtt gtcctgttgc tccctgttgc gccctgttact ccattctgccc ctgttgcctt

tggtggcct gttggccctg ttactcctgt tgctccatct gcccctgttg ctccctgtgc
tcctgttgg a cctgttattc ctattcctgt tgctcttattt gcccctgttg gacctgtgc
tccagggtt cctgtcgctc ctgttggacc tattaatcct gtgcctctg ttactcctac
tcctgttgc cctgttggcc ctgttggacc tgtaactcca aatcctgttg ccccctgtgc
tcctgttgg a cctgttattc catctgtcc tgtaactccc gttggacccgt ttggacccgt
tactccatct gtcctgttg ctccctgtcc tcctgttggg cctgttggac ctgttactcc
aaaccctata gtcctgtcg ctccctgttg gcctgttgc cctgttgc tcgttggacc
tccttaatcct gtgcctctg tattccctgt atttcctgtt ggaccagtc gaccgggttgg
tccctgttggg cctgttggcc ctactcctgg acctgttgg a cccgttggac ctgttggcc
ggttctacct ctggacccca ttggccctgt tggacccata catgtatgg gacagcaatg
atggcaatca cagctattat aatcatcacg accattgtta caatcatcat atttacata
gccattgttg taatcattat catcaaatgg tccaaaatat ttatttctac tcattattaa
aagcac

15 In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* spore surface homolog protein comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:19 (Accession Number CAJ70128):

msdisgpsonly qdvvgptgptg atgptgptgp rgatgatgan gitgptgntg atgangitgp
tgnmgatgpn gttgstgptg ntgatgangi tgptgntgat gangitgptg nkgtatgangi
tgstgptgnt gatgangitg ptgntgatga tgptgltgat gatgangitg ptgntgatga
ngvtgatgpt gntgatgptg sigatgatgt tgatgptgat gatgadgevg ptgavgtatg
dglvgptgpt gptgatgang lvgptgptga tganglvgpt gatgatgvag aigptgavga
tgptgadgav gptgatgatg angatgptga vgatgangava gpigptgptg engvagatga
tgatgangat gptgavgtatg angvagaigp tgptgangat gatgatgatg angatgptga
tgatgvlaan naqftvssss lvnntlvtfn ssfingtnit fptsstinla vggiyvnsfg
iratlslagf msittnfngv tqnnfiakav ntlssdvsv slsflvdara aavtlsftfg
sgttgtsaag yvsvyriq

encoded by a *Clostridium* spore surface homolog nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 20:

30 ctattgtatt ctataaactg atacatatcc agctgcagaa gtacctgtcg tgcctgaacc
aatgtaaaaa cttaaagtaa cagctgctgc tctagcatca actaaaaagc ttaaacttac
acttacatct gatgaagtaa gtgtattac tgctttgcata ataaagttat ttggagttac
tccattaaag ttagtagtaa ttgacataaa tcctgcaagt gaaagtgtgg cacgtatacc
gaaagataca ttgtatatcc ctccaactgc aagattata gtactacttg ttggaaaagt
tatatttagtt ccatttataa atgatgaatt aaatgtcact aatgttattat tcactaaact
tgaagaggac actgtaaatt gtgcattgtt tgctgtaac actccctgtt ctccctgtcg
tccgggttggaa cctgttgctc catttgctcc tggcttgcct gtgccttgc ttgcttgc
cgctccattt gctccgggttgg ggcctgttgg tccctatcgct cctgctactc catttgctcc
cggtgtctt actgtccctg ttggccctgt tgctccattt gcccctgtt ctccctgtcg
tcctgttgc cctgctactc cattttctcc cggttgcact gtggaccta ttggacactc
tactccattt cgtcccggttgg ctccctactgc tcccggttgg cctgttgctc catttgcccc
tggcttgcct tgccgttgcctt ttggacactac tgctccatct gcccctgtt ggcctgttgc
tcctactgt cccgttggac ctattggcccc agctactctt gttgcttgcct tgctccctgt
tggacactacc aaaccatttg ctccgggttgc tccgggttgg cctgttggc ctaccaaacc
atttgctcccg gtgttgccttggggctgt tgccctgtt ggacactacca aaccatctgg
acctgttgccttactgtc ctgttggacc taccttcacca tctgcttgc ttgcttgc
tgctccattt gggctgttgc cccagttgt tccctgttgc cctgttgccttacacttcc
tggacactt gttgcttgccttggggctgt tggccctgtt gacacgttacca ctccatttgc
tccgggttgccttactgttgc tggatccatcc tttgttgccttggggctgttgc

tgctcctgtt agtccgggtt gaccgttgc tcctgttgc cctgtattcc ctgtggacc
tgttattcca ttgtccag tcgtcctgt atttccgtt ggtccgttag aacctgttat
tccatttgcg ccgggtgctc ctttgttcc tgggtgcct gtattccat ttgtcccggt
tgctcctgtt ttccctgtcg gacgtttat tccatcgctt ccagtcgtc ctgtatttcc
tgggtgcct gttagaacctg ttgttccatt tggccagtc gctcccatat ttccgttgg
acccgttatt ccattcgctc cagttgttcc tgggtgcctg ttattccatt
tgctccggtc gtcgggtt caccgttgc ccccggttgc cctgtggac cagtagacc
tgggtgcctt gttggaccta catgttgcata taaacttggaa cttgttgcattt cactcat

10 C. *Clostridium difficile* Spore Proteins

1. Putative *Clostridium* Spore Proteins

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* putative spore protein (CD 2401) may be isolated as a hybridized antibody-protein complex comprising a molecular weight including, but not limited to, 140, 150, or 160 kDa. See, Figures 5 & 6. In one embodiment, the hypothetical protein (~ 22 kDa) comprises an amino acid sequence of

1 MWIYQKTIQH PVNIKTC DPR MAKFLITQFG GPNGELAASL RYLSQRYT TMP
51 TGNMRALLTD IGTEELAHVE LICTMVYQLT SDASPEELKA AGLGSNYAQN
101 GYGIYPTDSN GVPFDVRPIA VMSNPVTDLH EDMAAEQKAL ATYYQLINLT
151 DDVDVIDVULK FLGOREIIHY ORFGEALMDA YELEESOKMF

encoded by a *Clostridium* putative spore protein nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 22;

25 1 atgtggatat atcagaaaac tataacaac ccagttataa taaaaacttg tgaccctaga
61 atggctaaat ttcttataac tcaatttgggt gggccaaatg ggaaacttgc tgcacatctta
121 agatatttaa gccaaagata tacaatgcct actggtaata tgctgcact tttaacagat
181 attggtagac aagaacttagc tcacgtttag ctttatatgtt ctaggttta tcagttact
241 tctgtatgcaa gcccagaaga gttaaaagct gcaggtcttg gttcaaacta tgctcaaaat
30 301 ggatatggaa ttatccaac agattcaaat ggtgtccat ttgtatgtttag acctatagca
361 gttatgtcaa atcccgtaac cgatttacat gaggatatgg cagctgaaca aaaagcactt
421 gcaactttt atcaactttt aaacctaaca gatgacgttg atgttataga tgtttaaaaa
481 ttcttgggtc aaagagaaaat aattcactat caaagatttgc gtgaagctt aatggatgtc
541 tacgagtttag aagaatctca aaaaatgttc taa

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* putative spore surface protein (CD 589) may be isolated as a hybridized antibody-protein complex comprising a molecular weight including, but not limited to, 140, 150, or 160 kDa. See, Figures 5 & 6. In one embodiment, a hypothetical protein (~ 22 kDa) comprises an amino acid sequence of

1 MWIYQKTEH PVNIRQADPR MAKYIMTQLG GPNGELAAAT RYLQQRYTMP
51 TGKSRALLTG IGTEEMAHVE IISSVLYQLI GNCTPEELKA AGLGSNYANF
101 GHGLQPVDSN GVNFTTSYIN VFGDSVTDLH EDMAAEQKAL ATYYQLINLT
151 DDPDLKDILR FLGEREVVHY QRFGEALMDV YEFTECKHQF

encoded by a *Clostridium* putative spore protein nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 24:

5 1 atgtggattt atcaaaaaac actggaacat ccagttaca taagacaagc agaccctaga
 61 61 atggcaaaat atatcatgac tcagttggga ggacctaatg gtgagttggc agctgcaact
 121 121 agatatcttc aacaaagata tactatgcca actgaaaaat ctcgtgeact tttaactgtat
 181 181 ataggtacag aggaaatgac tcatgtttag ataatttctt cagtttata tcaattaata
 241 241 ggcaattgtt ctcagaaga gcttaaggct gctggacttg gttagtaattt tgctaatttt
 301 301 ggacatggtc ttccaggct agattctaat ggagtaact ttactacaag ttatattaat
 10 361 gtcttggcg attcggtaac tgatttacat gaggatatgg ctgctgaaca aaaaggatgg
 421 421 gctacgtact atcaattaat aaatttaact gatgaccctg atttggaaaga tatattgaga
 481 481 ttttgggtt agagggaaatg agttcactat caaagatttgg tgaaggcatt aatggatgtt
 541 541 tatgattttca cagatgttca gcatcagttt taa

15 2. Pyruvate-Flavodoxin Oxidoreductases

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* spore protein comprises a pyruvate-flavodoxin oxidoreductase protein (CD 2682) described by the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 25 (Accession Numbers YP_001089193; GI: 126700296):

20 1 MAKFMKTLDG NTAAAHVAYA FTDVAAIYPI TPSSTMAEVV DEWASQGRKN
 51 51 IFGQTVNVVE MQSEAGASGT FH GSLQGGAL TSTFTASQGL LLMIPNMYKV
 101 101 AGELLPGVFH VSARALASQA LSIFGDHQDV MAARQTGCVL LASGSVQEVA
 151 151 DIAPVAHLAA IEGRLPFIHF FDGFRTSHEI QKVELLENED YASLLNFEAV
 201 201 QAFRDNALSP NHPVARGTAQ NPDIYFQTRE ASNKYYQNIV GIVEKYMEKM
 25 251 SNLTGRKHSL FDYYGAEDAK YVLIAMGSVT ETIEETIDYL NAKGEKYGLV
 301 301 KVHLYRPFM KHFLDAMPST VERICVLDRT KEPGSTGEPL YLDVRDVFYG
 351 351 KENAPMIIGG RYGLGSKDTT PSDIKTVFDN LVSEQPKNGF TVGIVDDVTN
 401 401 TSLTPSEPIK IASKGTIRCK FWGLGSDGTV GANKQAIKII GDHTEKYAQA
 451 451 YFDYDSKKSG GITMSHLRFG DTPIRATYLI DEADYIACHK QSYVYQYDLL
 30 501 KGLKKGGTFV LNTIWDQAGL EEHLPAHMKQ YIAKNDIKFY TVNAVKLQGE
 551 551 IGLGNRINMI MQSAFFKLAE IIPEDAVKY LKDSIVKAYG KKGEKIVNMN
 601 601 YAAVDAGINA LVKVEVPASW ENAVDADKGE VKEPEFIKNI LRPMTAQEGN
 651 651 ZNLPVSTFNGI EDGTFPCGT AYEKRGIAVD VPEWIIDNCI QCNCQCSFICP
 701 701 HACIRPVLT EEELANAPEG FEAKKALGKG LEGLKYRIQV SPLDCTGCGN
 35 751 CADICPAKEK ALVMKPIDTQ LDTEDLNWAF AVNPDEVAPK VDVMMPANTVK
 801 801 GSQFRQPLME FSGACAGCGE TAYIKVVTQL YGDRMMIANA TGCSSIW GAS
 851 851 APSIPYTCNH EGKGPSWANS LFEDNAEYGF GMYTAVKQIR NKIVDAMTEL
 901 901 VSMDICEDAK AVFTEWLDLR NDGEASKVAS AKVVELLEKP ACDCTDEKAK
 951 951 ELVKAIKDRK DYLVKRSQWI LGGDGWAYDI GYGGLDHVLA SGEDVNVLVF
 40 1001 DTEVYSNTGG QASKATPAAA MAKFAASGKK SRKKDLGMMA MTYGNVYVAQ
 1051 1051 VAMGADKNQF IKAVLEAEKH DGPSLIIAYA PCINHGLKEG MGRTVANEAQ
 1101 1101 AVACGYWHLY RFNPEVKAEG KNPFTLDSKE PTASFKDFIL AQVRYSAIAK
 1151 1151 QFPEEADGLF AKAEADAKER YEGYKKLAE

45 encoded by a *Clostridium* pyruvate-flavodoxin oxidoreductase nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 26:

50 1 ttattcagct aatttttgtt atccttcata tcattttta gcatcagctt cagctttagc
 61 61 aaataatcca tcagttctt ctggaaattt tttagctata gcagaatata ttacttgtc
 121 121 aagtatgaaa tcatttgaac ttgcagttgg ttctttgaa tctaaagtga atgggtttt

181 acttcagct ttacttctg gattgaatct gtataaatgc cagtatccgc aagcaacagc
 241 ttgtgctcg ttagctacag ttctccat accttcttt aatccatgg ttatacatgg
 301 agcataagct attattaaag atggcccatc atgttttca gcttctaaaa cggcttgat
 361 aaattggttt ttatcagcac ccatagcaac ttgagctaca tatacgttac catatgtat
 5 421 agccatcatt cttaaatctt tctttctaga tttttacct gaagcagcaa acttagccat
 481 agcagcagct ggagtagct tagaagcttg acctcctgtt ttgaatata ctctgtatc
 541 aaataacaagt acgtttacat ctccaccaga tgcaagaaca tggctatac caccgttaacc
 601 gatatcatat gcccaccgt ctccaccatg tatccattga gatctcttaa ctgataatc
 661 ttttctatct ttatagctt ttactaattc tttagcttt tcatctgtac aatcacaagc
 10 721 tggttttct aataattcaa caacccatgc acttgctact tttagaagctt ctccatcatt
 781 tctagaatct aaccactctg taaatactgc tttagcatct tcacagatctt ccatagaaac
 841 taactctgtc atagcatcta ctatttatt tcttatttgc ttaacagctg tgtacatacc
 901 aaatccatat tcagcattat cctcgaataa agagttgcc caagatggac ctttaccc
 961 atggtttacaa gtataaggaa ttgatggtc agaagctccc catatagaag aacatccagt
 15 1021 agcattagct atcatcattc tatctccata taattgtgtt actactttaa tgtacgcagt
 1081 ttctccacat ccagcacatg ctccctgaaaa ctccattaaat ggttgtctaa attgacttcc
 1141 tttaacagta ttgcaggca taacatcaac tttggagct acttcatcg gatttactgc
 1201 aaatgcccua ttatctaact ctgtatcaag ttgagttatctt attggcttca taactaaagc
 1261 ttttcttta gctggacata tgcagcaca gtttccacat cctgtacagt caagtggact
 20 1321 aacttgaatt ctatattttt atccttctaa tctttacctt aatgttttt tagtttcaaa
 1381 tccttctgga gcattagctt attcttcttc agtaactaaat actggcttta tacatgcattg
 1441 aggacatata aaagaacattt ggttacattt aatacagttt tctattatcc attcaggaaac
 1501 atcaacagct ataccacgtt ttccataaagc tgcagtttca caaggaaatg ttccatctt
 1561 tataccattt aatgtactt ctggtaagtt gtttccctt tgcagtttca ttggctttag
 25 1621 tataattttt ataaattctg gttttaac ttctttaa tctgtatcaa cagcattttc
 1681 ccaagaagct ggaacttcaa cttaactaa agcattttt cctgtatcaa cagcagcata
 1741 gttcatatta actatttttt caccctttt accataagct ttaactatag aatcttttaa
 1801 gtatttaaca gcatctttt ctggattttt ttccatataat ttaaagaatg cagattgcatt
 1861 tatacatgtttt attctgtttt caagacctat ttcttgcctt agtttaacag cgttaactgt
 30 1921 atagaattttt atatcattttt tagctatata ttgtttccata tgagctggta aatgttttcc
 1981 aagtccctgtt tggccatata tagtgttaag tacaatgtt ccacccctttt taagaccttt
 2041 taataaaatca tattgataaa catatgtttt tttatgacag gcaatataat cagcttcatc
 2101 tattaaataaa gtagcttta ttggagtttcc accaaatctt aagtggacata tagttatacc
 2161 accagattttt ttagacttcat aatcaaagta agcttgcacca tatttttgcattt taggttcc
 35 2221 gattttttt atagttgtt tattagcttcc aacagtacccg tcagaaccta atccccagaa
 2281 cttacatctt atagttccctt tagaagctat ttttttgcctt tcagatggag ttaaagaagtt
 2341 attagttaca tcatcaacta tacctactgtt aaatccattt ttagttgtt ctgaaactaa
 2401 gttatcaaaaa acagttttt tatctgttacccg agtagttatctt ttgaaaccta atccgtatct
 2461 tccacccattt atcataggatcatttttccatataat aacatcacgtt catctaaatgt
 40 2521 taatggttca ccagttgaac ctggcttcc agttctatca agtacacata ttcttcaac
 2581 agtagatggc atagcatcttta agaaatgtttt cattggaaat ggtctatata aatgaacttt
 2641 aacttaaaacca tatttttctc ctttagcttccatataatctt atagtttctt ctattgtttc
 2701 ttttactgtt ccacatgttccatataatctt tttagcttccatataatctt agttaatcaaa
 2761 taaactatgtt ttcttacccgtt ttttccatataatctt ctttttccatataatctt caactataacc
 45 2821 tactatattt ttagacttcat ttttccatataatctt tttagcttccatataatctt tatctgggtt
 2881 ttgagcagta ccacggacaa ctggatgtt tggagataaa gctttagcttccatataatctt
 2941 aactgttca aagtttataa aactgttca atcttcatctt tctgtatctt caacttttttgc
 3001 gatttcatgtt gaaatgttca atccatcaaaa gaaatgttca aatgttcaatc taccttctat
 3061 tgcagctaaa tgcagctaaa gtagcttccatataatctt tgcagtttccatataatctt
 50 3121 taatacataatccatataatctt ccacatgttccatataatctt aacgttccatataatctt
 3181 taatacataatccatataatctt ccacatgttccatataatctt aacgttccatataatctt

3181 cgcttgagat gctaaagcac gagcacttac atggaatact cctggtaata actctccgtc
3241 aactttatac atgttaggtt tcattaataa taaaccttga gatgctgtaa aagtagaaagt
3301 taaagctcct ccttgtaaag aaccgtggaa tggctctgtat gcacctgttt ctgactgcat
3361 ttcaacaaca ttaactgttt gtccaaatat atttttctt ccttgtgtat cccactcata
3421 aactacttca gccatagttt aagatgggtt gattggatat atagctgtat catctgtaaa
3481 cgcataggca acatgagctg cagctgtatt tccatcaagt gttttcaataa acttagccat

3. γ -Aminobutyrate Metabolism Dehydratases/Isomerases

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* spore protein comprises a γ -aminobutyrate metabolism dehydratase/isomerase protein (CD 2341) described by the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 27 (Accession Numbers YP 001088856; GI: 126699959):

1 MALMTGAQYI ESLRKLNTKV YMFGEEVKNW VDHPMIRPSI NCVAATYDLA
51 HDPEYADLMT VTSNITGEKI NRFGHLHQSV DDLIKVKMQ RLCGQKTASC
101 FQRCVGMDAF NAVYSTTFEC DKAHGTYNYHD NFVKYLTYIQ ENDLVDGAM
151 TDPKGDRSLS PSAQPDPMF LHIVERREDG IIVRGAKAHQ TGSINSHEHL
201 IMPTISMTEA DKDYAVSFAV PSDAEGVFMI YGRQSCDTRK LEEGADVDLG
251 NKEFGGQEAL VVFDNVFVPN DRIFLCGEWD FSGMLVERFA GYHRQSYGGC
301 KVGVDVIIG AAALAADYNG ANKASHIKDK LIEMTHLNES LYCCGIACSS
351 EGHKTEAGNY QIDLLLANVC KQNVTRFPYE IVRLAEDIAG GLMV TMPSEK
401 DFKSDLKVGT SGMTIGEVN KYFKASSVAS TEERMRLRF LENICLGSSA
451 VGYRTESMHG AGSPQAQRIM ISRQGNINQK KELAKKIAGI KKEEALNL

25 encoded by a *Clostridium* gamma aminobutyrate metabolism dehydratase/isomerase nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 28:

1261 actttatgtt agatgaccaa atctattat ttttcacctt gtgatattt aagtaactgt
1321 cattaaatct gcatattctg ggtcatgagc taagtcataa gttgtcgcta cacaatttat
1381 agatggtcta atcataggtt ggtcaacccaa attcttaacc tcttcaccaa acatataaaac
1441 cttagtattt aattttctca aactttcaat atattgagct cctgtcattt atggcat

5

4. Butyryl-CoA Dehydrogenases

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* spore protein comprises a butyryl-CoA dehydrogenase protein (CD 1054) described by the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 (Accession Numbers YP_001087535; GI: 126698638):

10

1 MDLNSKKYQM LKELYVSFAE NEVKPLATEL DEEERFPYET VEKMAKAGMM
51 GIPYPKEYGG EGGDTVGYIM AVEELSRVCG TTGVILSAHT SLGSWPIYQY
101 GNEEQKQKFL RPLASGEKLG AFLGLTEPNAG TDASGQQTAA VLDGDEYILN
151 GSKIFITNAI AGDIYVVMAM TDKSKGNKGI SAFIVEKGTP GFSFGVKEKK
201 MGIRGSATSE LIFEDCRIPK ENLLGKEGQG FKIAMSTLDG GRIGIAAQAL
251 GLAQGALDET VKYVKERVQF GRPLSKFQNT QFQLADMEVK VQAARHLVYQ
301 AAINKDLGKP YGVEAAMAKL FAAETAMEVT TKAVALHGGY GYTRDYPVER
351 MMRDAKITEI YEGTSEVORM VISGKLLK

20 encoded by a *Clostridium butyryl*-CoA dehydrogenase nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 30;

1 atggatttaa attctaaaaa atatcagatg cttaaagagc tatatgttaa ctgcgtgaa
61 aatgaagtta aacccttagc aacagaacctt gatgaagaag aaagatttcc ttatgaaaca
121 gtggaaaaaaa tggcaaaagc aggaatgatg ggttataccat atccaaaaga atatgggaa
181 gaaggtggag acactgttagg atatataatg gcagttgaag aattgtctag agtttgtgt
241 actacaggag ttatattatc agctcataca tctctggct catggcctat atatcaat
301 ggtatgaag aacaaaaaca aaaatttta agaccactag caagtggaga aaaatttagga
361 gcatttggc ttactgagcc taatgtcggt acagatgcgt ctggccaaca aacaactgt
421 gtttagacg gggatgaata catacttaat ggctaaaaaa tatttataac aaacgcaata
481 gctggtgaca tatatgtgt aatggcaatg actgataaat ctaaggggaa caaaggaata
541 tcagcattta tagttaaaaa aggaactcct gggtttagct ttggagttaa agaaaaagaaaa
601 atgggtataa gaggttcagc tacgagtgaa ttaatatttgc aggattgcag aatacctaaa
661 gaaaatttac ttggaaaaga aggtcaagga ttaagatag caatgtctac tttgtatgg
721 ggttagaatttgc ttagatgtc acaagcttta ggttagcac aaggtgcctt tgatgaaact
781 gttaaatatg taaaagaaag agtacaattt ggttagaccat tatcaaaattt cccaaataca
841 caattccaaat tagctgatataa ggaagttaaag gtacaagcgg ctagacaccc ttttatcc
901 gcagctataa ataaagactt agggaaaacctt tatggagttaa aagcagcaat ggccaaatatt
961 ttgcagctg aaacagctat ggaagttact acaaaagctg tacaacttca tggaggatatt
1021 ggatacaccc tggactatcc agtagaaaga atgatgagag atgctaaagat aactgaaata
1081 tatgaaggaa ctatgtgaagt tcaaaagaatg gttatttcag gaaaactattt aaaaatag

5. Amino Acid Aminotransferases

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* spore protein comprises an amino acid aminotransferase protein (CD 3664) described by the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 31 (Accession Numbers YP 001090189; GI: 126701292):

1 MAVKYAKRMQ GLQGSEIREL LKLTQQPQII SFAGGMPAPE LFPVEEMKKV
 51 SVAVLEENGR SAMQYTTTEG YEPLREKIAA RMNDKNKTNV NKDDILVTSG
 101 SQQGLDFAGK VFIDEGDVIL CESPSYIGAI NAFKSYQPKF IDVPTDSGDM
 151 IMEELEKILE TTDRIKMIYV IPDFQNPTGR TWPLERRKKF MEIVNKFEIP
 201 VIEDNPYGDL RFEGETLPSL KSMDTKGLVI FLGTFSKIFC PGYRLGWTCA
 251 SPEILSKFNF AKQGADLQAS TISQMEVSKF MDMYDLDAAH DKIKAVYVKR
 301 RDVMLKTME EFPEGLVFTH PEGGLFTWVE LPSNLNAKEL MPKCLDKNVA
 351 YVAGGGFFPN GGRENTFRLN YSNMPEEKII EGKINIAAVL KEAMGVEA

10

encoded by a *Clostridium* amino acid aminotransferase nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 32:

1 ttaagcttct acacccatag cttcttttaa tacagctgct atatttttta taccttctat
 61 tatttttct tctggcatat ttgaatagtt aagtctgaaa gtatttctc taccaccatt
 15 121 aggagaagaat cctcctccag caacataaagc aacattctta tctaaacatt ttggcattaa
 181 ttctttagca tttaaattac ttggaagctc taccatgt aataatccac ctctggatg
 241 agtaaataact aatccttcg ggaactcttc ttccatagtc ttaagcatta catctctacg
 301 tttaacataa actgcttta ttttgtcaac atgtcatct aggtcataca tatccataaa
 361 ttgcctact tcatttgag atatagttga tgctgttaag tctgcacctt gtttgcaaa
 20 421 gttaaactta gataaaattt ctggagaagc acaagtccat cctaattctgt atccctggca
 481 gaatttta gagaaggatc ctaagaatat tactaatctt ttgtatcca ttgattttaa
 541 agatggtaaa gtctccctt caaatcttaa atctccatat ggattatctt ctattactgg
 601 tatttcaaat ttatttacta ttccatgaa tttttacgt ctttcaagtg gccaaggct
 661 tcctgttggaa ttggaaatgt caggttattac gtaaatcattt tttattctat cagtttttc
 25 721 tagtatctt tctaattctt ccattatcat tccatcagaa tctgttgaa catctatgaa
 781 tttaggttga taagatttaa atgcgttat agctcctatg taagatggac tttcacataa
 841 aattacatca ccctcatcaa tgaatacttt tcctgcaaaa tctagacctt gttgagaacc
 901 acttgtaact aatatacatctt tttttttac attagtttt tttttatcat tcattctagc
 961 tgctattttt tctttaatg gttcatatcc ttctgttga gtatattgca tagctgatct
 30 1021 tccattttct tcaagcactg caactgatac tttttcatt tcctcaactg gaaataactc
 1081 tggagccggc attccaccag caaaagatat tatttgttgg ttttgagttt gttttaaaag
 1141 ctcacgtt tctgatcattt gtaatcattt catttttgcattttt gcatatttaa ctgcatt

6. Succinic-Semialdehyde Dehydrogenases

35

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* spore protein comprises a succinic-semialdehyde dehydrogenase protein (CD 2342) described by the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33 (Accession Numbers YP_001088857; GI: 126699960):

40 1 MEKAVENFED LSKEYINGYI ERARKAQREF ECYTQEVDK IVKIVGKVVY
 51 YNAEYLAKLA VEETGMGVYE DKVAKNKSKA KVIYNNLKDK KSVGIIDIDR
 101 ETGITKVAKP VGVVAAITPC TNPIVTPMSN AMFALKGRNA IIITPHHKAI
 151 GCSTKTVEMI NEELEKIGAP ENLIQILDQQ SRENTRNLIS SADVVIATGG
 201 MGMVKAAYSS GKPALGVGAG NVQCIIDRDV DIKEAVPKII AGRIFDNGII
 251 CSGEQSVIVA EEMFDKIMDE FKNNKGFIWR DKVQKEAFRN AMFVNKSMMNK
 301 DAVGQSVHTI AKIAGVEIPE DTKIIVIEAD GPGEEDIIAK EKMCVPVISAY
 351 KYKSFEEGVA IAKANLNVEG KGHSVSIHSN TVKNIEYAGE NIEVSRFVIN
 401 QCCATSAGGS FFNGLAPNT LGCGSWGNNS ISENLDYKHL INISRIAYYM
 45 451 PENEVPTDEE LWG

encoded by a *Clostridium* succinic-semialdehyde dehydrogenase nucleic acid SEQ ID

NO: 34:

5	1 ttatccccaa agttcttcat ctgttagggac ttcatttctt ggcataataat aagcaattct
	61 agaaaatatta attagatgct tataatcaag attttcagag atgctgttat ttcccaaga
	121 accacaacctt agagtattag taggtcaag accattaaag aaacttctc cagcactagt
	181 agcacaacat tgattaataaa caaatcttga tacttctata ttctcttg catattctat
	241 atttttaact gtatttgaat gtatagatac actatgtcct ttcccttcta catttaatt
10	301 tgctttgca atagctacac ctcttcaaaa actttatac ttgtatgcag atataactgg
	361 acacatttt tctttgcaa taatatcctc ttctctgggt ccatcagctt ctattactat
	421 tattttgtt tcttctggta tctcaacacc tgcaattttt gcaattgtat gaactgattt
	481 acctactgca tctttattca tagattttt tacaaacata gcatttctga aagcttctt
	541 ttgtacttta tctctacta taaaacctt gttttttta aattcatcca ttattttatc
15	601 aaacatttct tctgctacta ttactgactg ttcacctgaa caaatgatac cattatcaaa
	661 aattcttctt gctatgattt taggtactgc ttctttaatg tctacatctc tatctatgat
	721 acattgaaca ttccctgccc ctacaccaag tgctggttt ccactgagt acgcagctt
	781 taccattccc attcctccag tggcaattac tacatctgtt gatgaaattt aatttctgt
	841 attttctttt gattttgtt caagtattt tattaaattt tctggagctc ctatttttc
20	901 taattcttca ttaatcatct ctacagttt tttactacat ccaattgc ttatgttggg
	961 tttgtataata attgcatttc ttcccttaag tgcaaacattt gcattgc tca taggtgttac
	1021 gattggattt gtacaaggag ttatgccgc tactactcca actgggttag ctacccttgc
	1081 tattccagtt tctctatcta tatcaattt accaactgtt ttatctt ttaaattttt
	1141 atatataact ttgcatttc ttatctt agctaccctt tcttcatata ctcccatcc
25	1201 agtctttctt acagcaagtt tagctaaata tttagcattta taataacta ctttccaaac
	1261 tattttactt attttatcta ctgttcttg agtataacat tcaaaactctc tttgagett
	1321 tcttgctctc tcaatataac cattaatgtt ttcccttactt aaatcttcaa agtttccac
	1381 tgcctttcc at

30 7. Rubrerythrins

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* spore protein comprises a rubrerythrin protein (CD 1524) described by the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 35 (Accession Numbers YP_001088025; GI: 126699128):

35	1 MKKFVCTVCG YIHEGDAAPA QCPVCKVGAD KFEEMKGEMV WADEHRIGVA
	51 QGVDAEIIEG LRAANFTGECT EVGMYLAMSR QADREGYPEV AEAYKRIAFE
	101 EAEHAAKFAE LLGEVVVADT KENLRVRVDA EYGATDGKLK LAKRAKELGL
	151 DAIHDTVHEM CKDEARHGKA FLGLNNRHFG K

40 encoded by a *Clostridium* rubrerythrin nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 36:

1	atgaaaaaaat ttgttgc agtatgttga tatatacatg aaggagatgc tgcaccagca
61	caatgtccag tatgtaaagt tggagctgtt aaatttgaag aatgaaagg cgaaatggtt
121	tggcgtatgtt aacatagaat aggatgttca aggtgttagt atgcagaaat aatcgaagga

181 ttaagagcta actttactgg tgagtgtaca gaagtaggaa tgtathtagc aatgagtaga
 241 caagctgata gagaaggta tccagaagta gctgaagcgt ataagagaat agctttgaa
 301 gaggctgaac atgctgtaa attgcagaa ctcttggag aagttgtgt tgcatgatca
 361 aaagaaaaact taagagttag agttgatgt gatgtatggg caactgtatgg aaaattaaaa
 5 421 ttagctaaaga gagctaaaga attaggata gatgtatatac atgatacagt acatgaaatg
 481 tgtaaagacg aagctagaca tggtaaagca ttcttaggt tattaaacag acattttgga
 541 aaataa

8. Flavoprotein Alpha Subunits

10 In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* spore protein comprises a flavoprotein alpha subunit protein (CD 1056) described by the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 37 (Accession Numbers YP_001087535; GI: 126698640):

15 1 MGNVLVIEQ RENVIQTVSL ELLGKATEIA KDYDTKVSAL LLGSKVEGLI
 51 DTLAHYGADE VIVVDDEALA VYTTEPYTKA AYEAIKAADP IVVLFGATSI
 101 GRDLAPRVSA RIHTGLTADC TGLAVAEDTK LLLMTRPAFG GNIMATIVCK
 151 DFRPQMSTVR PGVMKKNEPD ETKEAVINRF KVEFNDADKL VQVVQVIKEA
 201 KKQVKIEDAK ILVSAGRGMG GKENLDILYE LAEIIIGGEVS GSRATIDAGW
 251 LDKARQVGQT GKTVRPDLYI ACGISGAIQH IAGMEDAEFI VAINKNPEAP
 20 301 IFKYADVGIV GDVHKVLPEL ISQLSVAKEK GEVLAN

encoded by a *Clostridium* flavoprotein alpha subunit nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 38:

25 1 atgggtaacg ttttagtagt aatagaacaa agagaaaaatg taattcaaac tgttcttta
 61 gaattactag gaaaggctac agaaatagca aaagattatg atacaaaatgt ttctgcattta
 121 cttttagta gtaaggttaga aggttaata gatacattag cacactatgg tgcagatgag
 181 gtaatagtag tagatgtatgca agcttttagca gtgtatataa ctgaaccata tacaaaagca
 241 gcttatgaag caataaaaagc agctgaccct atatgttat tatttggtgc aacttcaata
 301 ggttagagatt tagctcttag agtttctgtc agaatacata caggtcttac tgctgactgt
 361 acaggtcttg cagtagctga agataaaaa ttattttaa tgacaagacc tgcatttggt
 421 gaaatataa tggcaacaat agtttgtaaa gatttcagac ctcaaattgtc tacagtttaga
 481 ccaggggta tgaagaaaaa tgaacctgt gaaactaaag aagctgtat taaccgtttc
 541 aaggtagaat ttaatgtatgc tgataaattt gttcaagttg tacaagttat aaaagaagct
 601 aaaaaacaag ttaaaataga agatgtatgg atattttt ctgctggacg tggatgggt
 661 gaaaaagaaa acttagacat actttatggaa ttagctgaaa ttataggtgg agaagtttct
 721 gttctcggt ccactataga tgcagggtgg ttatagataag caagacaagt tggtaact
 781 ggtaaaaactg taagaccaga cctttatata gcatgtggta tatctggacg aataacaacat
 841 atagctggta tggagatgtc tgagttataa ataaaaatcc agaagctcca
 901 atattttaat atgctgtatgt tggatgttt ggagatgttc ataaagtgtc tccagaactt
 40 961 atcagtcagt taagtgttgc aaaagaaaaa ggtgaagttt tagctaacta a

9. 2-Ketoisovalerate Ferrodoxin Reductases

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* spore protein comprises a 2-ketoisovalerate ferrodoxin reductase protein (CD 116) described by the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 39 (Accession Numbers YP_001086585; GI: 126697688):

5	1 MAKILMKGNE AFGKAAIEAG CKYFFGYPIT PQSELPEYLS RELPKIGGAF
	51 VQAESEVSAI NMVYGGAGAG ARVMTSSSP GVALKQEGIT YAVGAEVPCV
	101 VLNVMRGGPG LGSIQPSQAD YFMSTRGGGN GDYRTPVFAP ATVQEAVDMI
	151 MEAFDVADYY RSPVMVVADG MIGQMMEPVE FRAPEKKREL PPKDWTAVGT
10	201 KGKRKPNVIN SLYLEPEVLE DHCWHLQEKF DAMEKNEVQY EMYKTEDAEF
	251 VFAAYGTTSR VVKSAYDILR EEEGKAGLIR PKVLWPFPFE AFNQIPNARN
	301 ILTVEMSMGQ MVEDVKMAVE GKLPVYFHGR PGGMTPTPAE IVEKAKKIIA
	351 GELVAGGAR

encoded by a *Clostridium* flavoprotein alpha subunit nucleic acid SEQ ID NO: 40::

15
 1 atggctaaga tacttatgaa aggttaacgaa gcattggaa aagcagctat agaagctgg
 61 tgcaaatatt tcttcggta cccaaataact ccacaaagtg aattaccaga atatttatca
 121 agagagttac ctaaaatagg tggagcgttc gttcaagctg aatcagaagt ttctgcgata
 181 aacatggttt atggtgggac aggtgcagga gcaagagtt tgacttcctc atcttcacca
 20 241 ggagttgcct taaagcaaga aggtataaca tatgcagtag gagcagaagt tccttggtt
 301 gtacttaatg taatgagagg tggccagga ctggaaagta tacaacccttc acaagctgac
 361 tactttatgt ctacaagagg tggagggaaat ggagactaca gaactccagt attcgcacca
 421 gctacagttc aagaagctgt tgatatgata atggaagctt ttgacgttgc agattattac
 25 481 agatcaccag ttatggtagt tgccagatgtt atgataggtc aaatgatgga gccagttgaa
 541 ttttagagctc ctgagaagaa aagagaatttgc cttctaaag attgggcac ac tggact
 601 aaaggaaaaaa gaaaacctaa tgaataaaac tctctataact tagagccaga agtactagaa
 661 gaccattgtt ggcatttaca agaaaaattt gatgcaatgg aaaagaatga agtacaataac
 721 gaaatgtaca aaacagaaga tgctgaattt gtattgcag cttatggaaac tacttcaaga
 781 gtagaaaaaa ggcgaattga tatattaaga gaagaaggaa taaaagcagg tcttataaga
 30 841 cctaaagtat tatggccatt cccattcgaatgaa gcattcaacc aaattctaa tgctagaaac
 901 atattgactg ttgaaatgag tatggacaaatggtt ggaag atgttaaaat ggcagtagaa
 961 ggttaaattac cagttactt ccatggaaaga ccaggaggaa tgactccaac accagcagaa
 1021 ataggtaaaa aagctaaaaa aattattgcc ggagaatttgg ttgcaggagg tgcttagataa

35 D. *Bacillus* BclA Proteins And Homologs

The genus *Bacillus* is composed of rod-shaped, gram-positive, aerobic or (under some conditions) anaerobic bacteria widely found in soil and water. Most strains of *Bacillus* are not pathogenic for humans and only infect them incidentally in their role as soil organisms. A notable exception, however, is *Bacillus anthracis*. *B. anthracis* is believed to cause anthrax in humans and domestic animals. In addition to its role as a naturally occurring pathogen, *Bacillus anthracis* may also be used as a biological weapon. The spore form of *B. anthracis* is one of the most likely organisms to be used as a biological weapon. *B. anthracis* spores are well known to be highly resistant to most

disinfectants, wherein effective killing usually requires the use of toxic and irritating chemicals such as formaldehyde or sodium hypochlorite (i.e., bleach). Consequently, improvements to current decontamination procedures for both domestic and military applications are urgently needed. the present invention contemplates methods and 5 compositions to provide effective and non-toxic *Bacillus* contamination control, and especially *B. anthracis* decontamination procedures for both animate and inanimate surfaces.

1. BclA

In one embodiment, a *B. anthracis* BclA spore surface protein comprises an amino 10 acid sequence (Accession Number AAY15450; SEQ ID NO:41):

15 msnnnysngl npdeslsasa fdpnlvgptl ppippftlpt gptgptgptg ptgptgptgp tgptgptgpt gdtgttggptg ptgptgptgp tgdtgttgp gptgptgptg ptgptgptgp tgptgptgpt gptgptgptg ptgptgdtgt tgptgptgpt gptgptgptg ptgptgptgp tgptgptgpt gdtgttggptg ptgptgptgp tgdtgttgp gptgptgptg ptgptgptga tgltgptgpt gpsglglpag lyafnsggis ldlgindpvp fntvgsqfgt aisqldadtf visetgfyki tviantatas vlggtliqvni gvpvpgtgss lislgapivi qaitqittt pslvevivtgl glslalgtsa siiiekva

20 encoded by the *B. anthracis* BclA nucleic acid (Accession Number AY995120; SEQ ID NO: 42):

25 atgtcaaata ataattatttc aaatggatta aaccccgatg aatctttatc agcttagtgca ttgacccta atctttagg acctacatta ccacccgatac caccattac ctttcctacc ggaccaactg ggccgactgg accgactggg ccgactgggc caactggacc aactggcccg actggccaa ctggaccaac tggccaaact ggagacactg gtactactgg accaactggg ccgactgggc caactggacc aactggccaa actggagaca ctggactac tggaccaact gggccaaactg gaccaactgg gccgactggg ccaactggac caactggcc gactggccca actggacca ctggccaaac tggaccaact ggaccaactg gccaactgg accaactggg 30 ccaactgggc caactggaga cactggact actggaccaa ctggccaaac tggaccaact ggaccaactg ggccgactgg accgactggg ccgactgggc caactggacc aactggcccg actggccaa ctggaccaac tggccaaact ggagacactg gtactactgg accaactggg ccaactggac caactggacc aactggccaa actggagaca ctggactac tggaccaact gggccaaactg gaccaactgg accaactggg ccaactggac caactggcc aactgggtct accggactga ctggacccgac tggacccgact gggccatccg gactaggact tccagcagga ctatatgcat ttaactccgg tggattttc tttagatttag gaattaatga tccagtagca ttaataactg ttggatctca gtttgtaca gcaatttctc aatttagatgc tgataacttc gtaatttagtg aaactggatt ctataaaatt actgttatcg ctaataactgc aacagcaagt gttattaggag gtcttacaat ccaagtgaat ggagtacctg taccaggtac tggatcaagt ttgatttcac tcggagccacc tatcgattt caagcaatta cgccaaattac gacaactcca tcattagttg aagtaattgt tacaggcgtt ggactatcac tagctttgg cacgagtgca tccattattt ttgaaaaaagt tgcttaa

The BclA protein contains multiple spore surface GXX repeats in its central region and appears to be a structural component of the hair-like nap of the exosporium identified by a major immunoblot band separating exosporium proteins probed with mouse anti-spore polyclonal antibodies. Sylvestre et al., “A collagen-like surface 5 glycoprotein is a structural component of the *Bacillus anthracis* exosporium” *Mol. Microbiol.* 45:169–178 (2002).

The BclA protein is believed to be highly glycosylated and an immunodominant antigen of the *B. anthracis* spore surface providing a structural component of exosporium filaments. Daubenspeck et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 279:30945–30953 (2004). The length of the 10 gene *bclA* differs between strains of *B. anthracis*, encoding proteins of different sizes. Most BclA proteins possess an internal spore surface region (CLR) of GXX repeats of variable length (i.e., for example, from approximately 17 to 91 GXX repeats), which include a large proportion of GPT triplets. It has been shown that the length of the BclA spore surface region is responsible for the variation in filament length. Boydston et al., 15 “Orientation within the exosporium and structural stability of the collagen-like glycoprotein BclA of *Bacillus anthracis*” *J. Bacteriol.* 187, 5310–5317 (2005). One *B. anthracis* BclA comprises 70 GPT repeats and has a 21 amino acid sequence ((GPT)₅GDTGTT; SEQ ID NO: 43) repeated six times. BclA polymorphisms may map to sequences encoding CLRs with a number of contiguous GXX triplets varying from 17 20 – 91. In one report, *bclA* genes were exchanged between strains having different CLRs and the produced exosporium was examined by electron microscopy. The data supports a conclusion that the BclA protein CLR may control nap filament length. Sylvestre et al., “Polymorphism in the collagen region of the *Bacillus anthracis* BclA protein leads to 25 variation in exosporium filament length” *J Bacteriol.* 185:1555-1563 (2003).

CLRs are rare in microorganisms, but have been identified in some bacteria and viruses. Rasmussen et al., (2003) *J. Biol. Chem.* 278, 32313–32316 (2003). Their function is generally not clear, but they are found in surface proteins. *Bacillus cereus*, and *Bacillus thuringiensis*, species close to *B. anthracis*, both possess a protein related to BclA in their the exospria. Todd et al., *J. Bacteriol.* 185, 3373–3378 (2003). There is no 30 sequence similarity, however, between the C-terminal portion of BclA and proteins of known structure.

The C-terminal two-thirds of a BclA protein chain folds into an all-β structure with a jelly roll topology. See, Figure 7. Similar folds in the TNF-like of proteins,

ectodysplasin Eda-A1 (DALI; Z-score 16.1) and C1q (DEJAVU; DALI Z-score 14.6) indicate a strong structural relationships. Holm et al., *J. Mol. Biol.* 233:123–138 (1993); and Kleywegt et al., In: International Tables for Crystallography (Rossmann, M. G., and Arnold, E., eds) Vol. F, pp. 353–356, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, The Netherlands (2001). The twelve β -strands, numbered sequentially A, A'', A', B', B, C, D, E, F, G, G', and H, according to the TNF-like conventions, are connected with the Greek key topology and form two β -sheets, each containing five strands, A'AHCF and B'BGDE, respectively. The main difference with other members of the TNF-like is the presence of the extra A'' and G' strands that form a two-strand antiparallel β -sheet, 10 packing together the AA' and GH loops.

Three monomers related by crystallographic symmetry form a tight, globular trimer of ~50 Å in diameter. The total surface buried by the trimer formation is 1411 Å²/monomer, with two small cavities filled with solvent molecules at the center. The C and N termini come together on the bottom side of the trimer, with the N-terminal 15 residues of the non-collagenous part intertwining and then pointing outwards. See, Figure 8. Circular dichroism spectroscopy shows the entire trimer structure, except for the very N- and C-terminal residues, where for the latter, only the first two His residues of the affinity tag are visible. Seven residues per monomer have two alternate conformations; i) four that lie on the surface of the trimer close to the crystallographic 2-fold axis; and ii) 20 three that lie at the trimer interface within one of the two cavities. Clearly, BclA trimer assembly is very similar to other TNF-like trimers. Because of the shorter protruding loops, the overall shape of the BclA trimer is somewhat more globular than that of TNF, and it is slightly smaller than the globular head of C1q (by ~5 Å in diameter). Upon 25 trimer formation, the buried surface of 4234 Å² is less than the equivalent surface areas in C1q (5490 Å²) or collagen VIII NC1 (6150 Å²). This is due both to its slightly smaller overall size but principally to the existence of a solvent-filled cavity within the trimer center.

In one embodiment, a BclA protein (BAS1130) comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:44 (Accession Number YP_027402):

30

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1      msnnnysngl npdeslsasa fdpnlgptl ppippftlpt gptgptgptg ptgptgptgp
61     tgptgptgpt gptgptgptg dtgttgptgp tgptgptgpt gdtgttgptg ptgptgptgp
121    tgptgptgpt gptgptgdgt tgptgptgpt tgptgptgdt gttgptgptg ptgptgptgp
181    tgptgptgpt gptgptgptg ptgdtgtgp tgptgptgpt gptgdtgtg ptgptgptgp
35     241    tgptgptgpt gatgltgptg ptgpsglglp aglyafnsogg isldlgindp vpfntvgsqf

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301 gtaisqldad tfvisetgfy kitviantat asvlggltiq vngvpvpktg sslislgapi
 361 viqaitqitt tpslvevivt glglslalgt sasiiiekva

In one embodiment, a modified *Bacillus anthracis* protein (BclA) comprises an
 5 amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45, wherein the modification comprises a SEQ ID
 NO: 41 fragment:

10 MSNNNYSNGLNPDELSASAFAFPNLVGPTLPPFPLPTGPTGPTGPTGPT
 ISLDLGINDPVPFNTVGSQFGTAISQLDADTFVISETGFYKITVIANTATASV
 LGGLTIQVNGVPVPGTGSSLISLGAPIVIQAITQITTPSLVEVIVTGLGLSLA
 LGTSASIIIEKVA

2. BclB

15 In one embodiment, a BclB protein (BAS2281) comprises an amino acid sequence
 of SEQ ID NO:46 (Accession No. YP_028542):

20 1 mkqndklwld kgiigpenig ptfpvlppih iptgitgatg atgitgatgp tggtgatgat
 61 gitgvtgatg itgvtgatgi tgvtgatgit gvtgatgitg vtgptgitga tgptggtgvt
 121 gptgdtglag atgptgatgl agatgptgdt gatgptgatg lagatgptga tgltgatgat
 181 gatgggaiip fasgtpall vnavlantgt llgfqfsqpg iapvgvgltl ilpgvvgdya
 241 fvaprdgiit slagffsata alapltpvqi qmqifiapaa sntftpvapp lltpalpai
 301 aigttatgiq aynvpvvagd kilvyvsltg aspiaavagf vsaglniv

25 D. *Bacillus* Exosporium Proteins

The genus *Bacillus* also includes a diverse collection of gram positive, rod-shaped, aerobic bacteria that form a spore upon deprivation of an essential nutrient. Errington, “*Bacillus subtilis* sporulation: regulation of gene expression and control of morphogenesis” *Microbiol. Rev.* 57:1–33 (1993); and Priest, F. G., “Systemics and ecology of *Bacillus*” In: *Bacillus subtilis and other gram-positive bacteria. Biochemistry, physiology, and molecular genetics*. pp. 3–16., A. L. Sonenshein, J. A. Hoch, and R. Losick (ed.), American Society for Microbiology, Washington, D.C. (1993). In this process, an asymmetric septation of the starved vegetative cell produces a large and a small genome-containing compartment called the mother cell and forespore, respectively. The mother cell then engulfs the forespore, thereby surrounding it with two opposing cell membranes. A thick layer of modified peptidoglycan called the cortex is synthesized between the two membranes, and proteins synthesized in the mother cell form multiple layers of a spore surface that covers the cortex. While the coat forms the outermost

detectable layer for spores of some species (e.g., *Bacillus subtilis*), in others (e.g., *Bacillus anthracis*), the spore is enclosed by an additional layer called the exosporium, a prominent, loose-fitting, balloon-like layer also synthesized by the mother cell. Henriques et al., “Structure and assembly of the bacterial endospore surface” *Methods* 20:95–110

5 (2000).

Bacillus cereus, *Bacillus anthracis*, and *Bacillus thuringiensis* are representative of *Bacillus* bacteria believed to possess an exosporium. Ohye et al., “Exosporium and spore surface formation in *Bacillus cereus* T” *J. Bacteriol.* 115:1179–1190 (1973); and Andersen G., “Genome differences that distinguish *Bacillus anthracis* from *Bacillus cereus* and *Bacillus thuringiensis*” *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* 69:2755–2764 (2003). See, Figure 9A, 9B. *B. subtilis*, however, lacks a distinct, separate exosporium, although there has been a report that a very outermost tightly fitting layer of the spore surface can be visualized after extracting some of the coat material from spores with urea-mercaptoethanol and might be considered an exosporium. Sousa et al., “An exosporium-like outer layer in *Bacillus subtilis* spores” *Nature* 263:53–54 (1976). The exosporium of *Bacillus cereus* is first observed as a small lamellar structure in the mother cell cytoplasm in proximity to, but not in contact with, the outer forespore membrane; it is synthesized concurrently with the spore surface, although the two structures are clearly separate within the mature spore. Exospria usually contain a hexagonal crystal-like basal layer comprising 53% protein, 20% amino and neutral polysaccharide, 18% lipids, and approximately 4% ash. The exosporium comprises approximately 2% of the dry weight of the spore. The hydrophobic properties of *Bacillus megaterium* QMB1551 spores are also believed to be dictated by the exosporium, as spores with a defective or absent exosporium show greatly reduced affinity for hexadecane. Koshikawa et al., “Surface hydrophobicity of spores of *Bacillus spp*” *J. Gen. Microbiol.* 135:2717–2722 (1989).

After a final stage of maturation, the mother cell lyses to release the mature spore, which is dormant and capable of persisting in the soil for many years until it encounters a germination signal. Most *Bacillus* species are not pathogenic to humans. The most notable exception is *B. anthracis*, the causative agent of anthrax. Mock et al., “Anthrax” 30 *Annu. Rev. Microbiol.* 55:647–671 (2001). In light of the recent use of *B. anthracis* spores as a terrorist weapon in the United States and the development of these spores as a weapon of mass destruction by a number of countries, there is a pressing need to learn more about spore components that can be used for rapid detection and targeted for decontamination, treatment and prevention of anthrax. Inglesby et al., “Anthrax as a

biological weapon, 2002: updated recommendations for management" *JAMA* 287:2236–2252 (2002).

One such component is the exosporium, which serves as a primary permeability barrier for the spore and as the source of spore surface antigens. Gerhardt, P., "Cytology of *Bacillus anthracis*" *Fed. Proc.* 26:1504–1517 (1967). As the outermost surface of the spore, the exosporium will interact with the soil environment, with collection and detection devices, with spore-binding target cells in a mammalian host, and with host defenses. Presently, detailed information about exosporium structure and function is limited. Previous studies of the exosporium focused on spores of *B. anthracis* and the opportunistic human pathogen *Bacillus cereus*. These species, along with *Bacillus thuringiensis*, an insect pathogen, and *Bacillus mycoides* make up the closely related *B. cereus* group. All members of this group produce spores with a structurally similar exosporium composed of a basal layer and an external hair-like nap extending up to 600 A° in length. Gerhardt et al., "Ultrastructure of the exosporium enveloping spores of *Bacillus cereus*" *J. Bacteriol.* 88:1774–1789 (1964); and Hachisuka et al., "Fine filaments on the outside of the exosporium of *Bacillus anthracis* spores" *J. Bacteriol.* 91:2382–2384 (1966). The basal layer contains four paracrystalline sublayers, each exhibiting a hexagonal, perforate lattice structure. The hair-like nap varies in length from species to species and even from strain to strain. Beaman et al., "Paracrystalline sheets reaggregated from solubilized exosporium of *Bacillus cereus*" *J. Bacteriol.* 107:320–324 (1971); and Kramer et al., "Ultrastructural differences in the exosporium of the Sterne and Vollum strains of *Bacillus anthracis*" *Can. J. Microbiol.* 14:1297–1299 (1968).

The exosporium reacts with lectins, which appear to bind polysaccharides located in the hair-like nap. Cole et al., "Differentiation of *Bacillus anthracis* and other *Bacillus* species by lectins" *J. Clin. Microbiol.* 19:48–53 (1984); Matz et al., "Chemical ultrastructure of the exosporium enveloping spores of *Bacillus cereus*" *Bacteriol. Proc.*, p. 31 (1965). The exosporium constitutes about 2% of the mass of the spore and contains approximately 50% protein, 20% lipid, 20% neutral polysaccharides, and 10% other components. Matz et al., "Chemical composition of exosporium from spores of *Bacillus cereus*" *J. Bacteriol.* 101:196–201 (1970).

The exosporium contains multiple proteins that are synthesized concurrently with the cortex and coat. Desrosier et al., "Synthesis of the exosporium during sporulation of *Bacillus cereus*" *J. Gen. Microbiol.* 130:935–940 (1984); and Ohye et al., "Exosporium and spore surface formation in *Bacillus cereus* T" *J. Bacteriol.* 115:1179–1190 (1973).

More recent studies have attempted to identify individual exosporium proteins. An apparent 72-kDa glycoprotein was identified as a component of either the exosporium or the coat of *B. thuringiensis* spores. García-Patrone et al., "A glycoprotein multimer from *Bacillus thuringiensis* sporangia: dissociation into subunits and sugar composition" *Mol. Cell. Biochem.* 145:29–37 (1995). Three other proteins (GroEL and homologues of InA and RocA) were found to be associated with, although probably not structural components of, the *B. cereus* exosporium. Charlton et al., "Characterization of the exosporium of *Bacillus cereus*" *J. Appl. Microbiol.* 87:241–245 (1999).

The *Bacillus* spore itself is believed responsive to environmental stimuli. In one report, atomic force microscopy was used to identify species-specific alterations in spore morphology when exposed to arid versus humid environments. For example, dimensional changes appeared dependent upon species, growth regimes, and environmental conditions. In general, spore widths may fluctuate between 500 – 3000 nm depending upon the interaction of these factors. Plomp et al., "The high-resolution architecture and structural dynamics of *Bacillus* spores" *Biophys J* 88:603-608 (2005). Additionally, in addition to *BclA*, the *B. anthracis* exosporium is also believed to contain four other primary proteins: i) alanine racemase; ii) iron/manganese superoxide dismutase; iii) a 29,174-Da protein having an unknown function; and iv) a 17,331-Da protein having an unknown function. Steichen et al., "Identification of the immunodominant protein and other proteins of the *Bacillus anthracis* exosporium" *J Bacteriol.* 185:1903-1910 (2003).

As the outer surface layer of mature bacterial spores mature, the exosporium may represent a contact surface between a spore, the environment, and/or a host. The exosporium comprises proteins that are responsible for functions including, but not limited to, immunogenicity, environment/host attachment and stability, or germination responses. Redmond et al., "Identification of proteins in the exosporium of *Bacillus anthracis*" *Microbiol* 150:355-363 (2004).

For example, a bacterial species exosporium protein may include, but are not limited to, putative coat proteins (i.e., for example, genes *cotJC1* or *cotJC2*), hypothetical exosporium proteins, *BclA* proteins, *BclB* proteins, *Bcl Sterne* proteins, modified *BclA* or *BclB* proteins, *ExsF* proteins; *CotB* proteins; *ExsY* proteins; *CotY* proteins; *ExsK* proteins, inosine hydrolases, alanine racemases, pyruvate-flavodoxin oxidoreductases (i.e., for example, gene *nifJ*), gamma-aminobutyrate metabolism dehydratases/isomerases (i.e., for example, gene *abfD*), butyryl-CoA dehydrogenases

(i.e., for example, gene *bcd2*), amino acid aminotransferases, succinate-semialdehyde dehydrogenases (i.e., for example, gene *sucD*), rubrerythrins, flavoprotein alpha-subunits (i.e., for example, gene *etfA2*), or 2-ketoisovalerate ferredoxin reductases. Size characteristics of representative exosporium proteins are summarized in Table II:

5

Table II: Size Characteristics Of Various Exosporium Proteins

Protein (alternative name)	Size (Da)	BAS gene no. ^a
Alanine racemase	43,662	238
BclA	36,836	1130
BxpA	27,702	2008
BxpB (ExsF)	17,331	1144
BxpC (BA2332)	14,379	2174
CotB-1	19,422	340
CotB-2	16,830	341
CotY (CotZ-2)	16,842	1145
ExsK	12,034	2377
ExsY (CotZ, CotZ-1)	16,146	1141
Inosine-uridine nucleoside hydrolase	36,276	2693
Superoxide dismutase	36,162	1378

1. Alanine Racemase

10 In one embodiment, a *Bacillus thuringiensis* serovar *kurstaki* strain 1.175 alanine racemase (i.e., for example, gene *alrA*) (Accession No. DQ402058) comprises an amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 47):

15 MEEAPFYRDTWVEVDLDIAIYNVNTHIKEFIPSNVEIFAVVKANA YGHDYV
PVAKTALEAGATRLAVAFLDEALVLRAGITEPILVLGPSPRDVNVAEN
DVALTVFQKEWVEEAIKLWDGSSVMKFHINFDSGMGRIGIRERKELKEFL
KSLEGAPFLELEGVYTHFATADEVETSYFDKQYNTFLEQLSWLKEFGVDP
20 KFVHTANSATLRFQGITFNAVRIGIAMYGLSPSVEIRPFLPFELEPALSLHT
KVAHIKQVIKGDGISYNVTYRTKAEEWIAVAGYADGWLRLQGFEVLI
NGKRVPIVGRVTMDQFMIHLPCVPLGTVTLIGRQGDEYISATEVAEYS
GTINYEIIATISFRVPRIFIRNGKVVEIINYLNNI

encoded by the nucleic acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 48):

25 1 cgtgcgatac tcacatacac tggaaataag aaatcctta cttaataca agaaaaggca

2. Sterne Proteins

In one embodiment, a *Bacillus anthracis* str. *Sterne* protein (BAS3290) comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO :49 (Accession No. YP_029547):

40

1 mseykiilhg talepnlligp tlppippftf pngptgitgp tgatgftgig itgptgvtgp
61 tgigitgptg atglgilpvf gtittdvigig fsvivntnin ftlpgpvsqt tlnpvdnsii
121 inttgvysvs fsivfviqai sssilnltin dsiqfaiesr igaqqpgvrat sartdllsln
181 qgdvlrvrir eatgdiiysn aslvvskvd

45

In one embodiment, a *Bacillus anthracis* str. *Sterne* protein (BAS3557) comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 50 (Accession No. YP_029811):

1 msryddsqnk fskpcfpssa griplnpsip vtkaqlrtfr aiiidltkii pklfanpspq
 61 niedlidtln llskficsld aasslkaqgl aiiknlitil knptfvasav fielqnliny
 121 llsitklfri dpctlqellk llaalqtalv nsasfiqgpt gptgptgptg pagatgatgp
 5 181 qgvqgpagat gatgpqgvqg pagatgatgp qgaqgpagat gatgpqgaqg pagatgatgp
 241 qgiqgpagat gatgpqgvqg ptgatgigvt gptgpssgpa gatgpqgpqg ntgatgpqgi
 301 qgpagatgat gpqgaqgpag atgatgpqgv qgptgatgig vtgptgpsgp sfpvativvt
 361 nniqqtvlqf nnfifntain vnniifngtd tvtvinagiy visvsistta pgcaplgvgi
 421 singavatdn fssnlidsl sftielta ganisvqstl neitipatgn tnirltvfri
 10 481 a

In one embodiment, a *Bacillus anthracis str. Sterne* protein having a collagen triple helix repeat domain comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 51 (Accession No. YP_030670):

15 1 minmsswrnn ingycscnnq ngvhvdscf scdgtpklg ptgptgatga ttagtgvgt
 61 gvtgatgtg atgitgatgi tgvgtgptgat gitgatgatg ptgatgptga tgitgatgat
 121 gatgatgvtg vtgatgatgatg tgitgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatg
 181 itatyafann tsataisvll ggtvplpnn qnigpgitvs ggntvftvan agnyyisiti
 20 241 nitasllvss ritingapla gtinspavat tsfsatiitt laagsaislq lfqllavatl
 301 sttppgavlt iirls

In one embodiment, a *Bacillus anthracis str. Sterne* protein having a collagen triple helix repeat domain comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 52 (Accession No. YP_030869):

30 1 mvkvvegngg kskiksplns nfkilsdlvg ptfppvptgm tgitgatgat gntgptgetg
 61 atgsagitgs tgptgntggt gstdgptgntg atgatgvtgs tgvgtgatgat gstdgvtgatg
 121 ptgetggatgs tgvgtgatgat gstdgvtgatgat ptgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatg
 181 vtgatg
 241 vtgnmgptgs tgvgtgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatgatg
 301 ptgatg
 361 vtgnmgptgs tgvgtgatg
 421 ptgatg
 481 atg
 541 nnqnigpgit vsggnvftv anagnyyiay tnttagllv ssritvngsp lagtinsptv
 601 atgsfsatii aslpagaavv lqlfgvvala tlstatgat ltiirls

40 In one embodiment, a *Bacillus anthracis str. Sterne* protein (BAS2280) comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 53 (Accession No. YP_028541):

1 mkkqknllsl aleiilpyrl tgptgatgat gatgptgatgat ptgatgatgat tnsmfanntl
 61 ggpisvlgg tniplsnqns lgnftvnsnqns dftipvtgr yyltyqvntt tallagtrll

121 lnsstplsgs ifspaistsn ynnnliinli agntislqlf gvlsivnlvg ggstgaslti
181 irid

3. Modified Proteins

5 In one embodiment, a modified *Bacillus anthracis* str *CEB* protein comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 54, wherein the modification comprises a truncated leader sequence and the addition of a His-6 Tag:

10 MAFDPNLVGPTLPIPPFTLPTGPTGPTGPTGPTGPTGPTGDTGTTGPT
 GPTGPTGPTGPTGATGLTGPTGPTGPSGLGLPAGLYAFNSGGISLDLGINDP
 VPFNTVGSQFGTAISQLDADTFVISETGFYKITVIANTATASVLGGLTIQVN
 GVPVPGTGSSLISLGAPIVIQAITQITTPSLVEVIVTGLGLSLALGTSASIIIE
 KVA

15 4. ExsA Proteins

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a composition comprising a *Bacillus* spore surface protein, wherein the protein comprises an ExsA protein. The ExsA protein is localized in both the exosporium and bacterial coat and may be related to the SafA (SpoVID-associated factor) protein of *B. subtilis*. SafA interacts with SpoVID during the early stages of coat assembly. Ozin et al., “SpoVID guides SafA to the spore surface in *Bacillus subtilis*” *J. Bacteriol.* 183:3041–3049 (2001). Both SpoIVA and SpoVID are believed for SafA localization, and homologues of both are encoded in the *B. cereus* genome. By analogy, one would predict that they might also assist in the localization of ExsA. ExsA might play a larger role in *B. cereus* than SafA does in *B. subtilis*, in that a less extreme coat assembly defect has been reported for *B. subtilis* *safA* detection mutants. Like the *exsA* mutants, *safA* mutant spores were sensitive to lysozyme, but the *exsA* spore structure appeared rather less disturbed.

The ExsA protein is very different in amino acid sequence from SafA, apart from N-terminal and C-terminal regions. Given the large differences in sequence between SafA and ExsA, local regions of conservation are likely to be significant for functions conserved in both SafA and ExsA, and could be explored by directed mutagenesis in *B. subtilis*. The multiple proline-rich tandem repeat sequences in ExsA are likely to be in an extended conformation, but their function is not known—they either could be repetitive regions for binding of other coat proteins or could act as spacers between regions that bind other coat proteins. Speculatively, this could be a mechanism to provide some distance between integument layers, but it would not be obvious why there should be

three such regions, each with its own sequence repeat. The number of repeats in genome sequences of different species and strains in the *B. cereus/B. anthracis/B. thuringiensis* cluster vary slightly, but the sequences are otherwise almost identical. In both the *Bacillus halodurans* and *Oceanobacillus iheyensis* genome sequences, encoded SafA 5 homologues may also contain multiple short repeats, whose sequence is not conserved between species, but they are not as extensive as in *B. cereus*, and again, their significance is unknown. Bailey-Smith et al., “The ExsA protein of *Bacillus cereus* is required for assembly of coat and exosporium onto the spore surface” *J. Bacteriol.* 187:3800-3806 (2005).

10 5. ExsF Proteins

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a composition comprising a *Bacillus* spore surface protein, wherein said protein comprises an ExsF protein. ExsF proteins (i.e., for example, ExsF, ExsFA, and ExsFB) are exosporium components believed involved in the proper localization of BclA filaments on a *Bacillus* spore surface 15 and for the stability of the crystalline layers of the exosporium. These proteins are probably organized in multimeric complexes with other exosporium components, including BclA. The protein ExsFA may interact with BclA and ensures that it is localized on the spore surface. The contribution of ExsF is less clear, but one hypothesis is that ExsFB and ExsFA interact with the components of both arrays of the crystalline 20 basal layer and ensure its stability. Alternatively, the absence of two spore components (35 to 37 kDa) in mutant ExsF knock-out strains suggest that ExsFs proteins may be involved in the assembly of exosporium structural components or with maintenance on the spore. Sylvestre et al., “Contribution of ExsFA and ExsFB proteins to the localization 25 of BclA on the spore surface and to the stability of the *Bacillus anthracis* exosporium” *J. Bacteriol.* 187:5122-5128 (2005). Such a role would then resemble that described for some morphogenetic coat proteins, such as SpoIVFA and SpoVID which are involved in *B. subtilis* coat assembly. Driks A., “Maximum shields: the assembly and function of the bacterial spore surface” *Trends Microbiol.* 10:251–254 (2002).

30 6. BxpB Proteins

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a composition comprising a *Bacillus* spore surface protein, wherein said protein comprises a BxpB protein. BxpB was discovered as one of several proteins present in a purified sample of exosporium that had been isolated from the Sterne strain of *B. anthracis*. Steichen et al., “Identification of 35 the immunodominant protein and other proteins of the *Bacillus anthracis* exosporium” *J. Bacteriol.*

Bacteriol. 185:1903–1910 (2003). Specifically, BxpB was found in high levels in samples of chemically deglycosylated exosporium. This result suggested that BxpB was either glycosylated or associated with glycosylated material. However, BxpB is not a glycoprotein but forms a high-molecular-mass complex with a Bc1A glycoprotein and other proteins including, but not limited to, ExsY or CotY both of which are found in *Bacillus* exosporium. An anti-BxpB MAb studies suggests that BxpB may be an integral basal layer protein. For example, binding of the anti-BxpB MAb to Sterne spores was weaker than that detected with Δ bclA spores that lack BclA. The reduced MAb binding to Sterne spores was due primarily to the protein component of BclA, perhaps reflecting a close BxpB-BclA interaction. Spores that lack BxpB (i.e., for example, Δ bxpB mutants) are enclosed by an exosporium that are devoid of hair-like nap despite the presence of a normal BclA level. However, very little of this BclA was associated with Δ bxpB spores (i.e., for example, ~ 2% of the level found on Sterne spores). Steichen et al., “Characterization of the exosporium basal layer protein BxpB of *Bacillus anthracis*” *J Bacteriol* 187:5868-5876 (2005).

Therefore, it appears that BxpB may mediate attachment of BclA to the basal spore layer and assembly of the hair-like nap. Recent studies indicate that this attachment occurs through the 38-residue amino-terminal domain (NTD) of BclA, with the rest of the spore surface BclA protein extending away from the spore. Boydston et al., “Orientation within the exosporium and structural stability of the collagen like glycoprotein BclA of *Bacillus anthracis*” *J. Bacteriol.* 187:5310–5317 (2005). Apparently, the first 19 amino acids of this NTD are absent in mature BclA isolated from spores, most likely due to a proteolytic processing event. Steichen et al., “Identification of the immunodominant protein and other proteins of the *Bacillus anthracis* exosporium” *J. Bacteriol.* 185:1903–1910 (2003); and Sylvestre et al., “A collagen-like surface glycoprotein is a structural component of the *Bacillus anthracis* exosporium” *Mol. Microbiol.* 45:169–178 (2002). Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that that this processing event may be linked to the attachment of BclA to the basal layer of the exosporium, perhaps through a covalent linkage directly to BxpB.

In one embodiment, a BxpB exosporium protein comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 55:

mfssdceftkidceakpastlpafgfafnasapqfaslftpllpsvspnnpnitvp vind
tvsvgdgirilragiyqisyltisldnspvapeagrfflslgtpaniipgsgtavrsnv

igtgevdvssgvilinlnpgdlirivpveligtvdiraaaltvaqis

7. ExsJ Proteins

In one embodiment, an ExsJ exosporium protein (*Bacillus cereus*) comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 56 (Accession No. AY 183116.1):

MKHNDCFDHNCNPIVFSADCKNPQSVPTREQLSQLITLLNSLVSAISAFF
ANPSNANRLVLLDLFNQFLIFLNSLLPSPEVNFLKQLTQSIIVLLQSPAPNLG
QLSTLQQFYSLAQFFFALDLIPISCNSNVDSATLQLLFNLLIQLINATPGAT
GPTGPTGPTGPTGPAGTGAGPTGATGATGATGPTGATGPAGTGGATGATG
ATGVTGATGATGATGPTGPTGATGPTGATGATGPTGATGPTGATGPTGATGLT
GATGAAGGGAIIPFASGTTPSALVNALVANTGTLGFGFSQPGVALTGGTSI
TLALGVG DYAFVAPRAGTITSAGFFSATAALAPISPVQVQIQLTAPAA SNT
FTVQGAPLLTPAFAAIAIGSTASGIIAEAI PVAAGDKILLYVSLTAASPIAAV
AGFVSAGINIV

encoded by the nucleic acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 57:

1 gaaaacactc aactataaga aaagtaagga ggaataataat gaaacataat gattgttttg
20 61 atcataataa ctgcaatccg attgtttt cagcagattt cttgtaaaaat ccacagtcag
121 ttcctattac taggaaacaa ttaagtcaat taattacttt actaaactca ttagtacag
181 ctatttcagc atttttgca aatccaagta atgcaaacag attagtgtt ctcgatttat
241 ttaatcaatt ttaattttc ttaaattcct tattaccc tccagaagtt aatttttgaa
301 aacaattaac tcaaagtatt atagtttat tacaatctcc agcacctaatt ttaggacaat
361 tgtcaacattt attgcaacaa ttttatagcg ccctgcaca atttttcgc ttgttagatc
421 ttatccctat atccgtcaac tcaaattgtt attctgcaac ttacaactt ctttttaatt
481 tattaattca attaatcaat gctactccag gggcgacagg tccaaagggtt ccaacagggtc
541 caacagggtcc aacggggcca gcaggaaccc gggcgacagg tccaaagggtt ccaacagggtc
601 caggagcaac agggccaaca ggagcgacag gtccagcagg tactggtgga gcaacaggag
30 661 caacaggagc aacaggagta acaggagcaa caggggcaac aggagcaaca ggtccaaagg
721 gtcacacagg ggcaacagggtt ccaacagggg caacaggagc aacaggagca acagggtccaa
781 caggagcaac aggtccaaca ggggcaaccc gtttacagg agcaactggt gcagctggtg
841 gcggagctat tattccattt gtttacaggta caacaccatc tgcgttagtt aacgcgttag
901 tagctaatac aggaactttt ctggattt gatttagtca gcttgggtt gcaataacag
35 961 gtggaaacttacatcattt gtttacaggta gtttacaggta tgcgttagttt gcaataacag
1021 caggaaactat cacgtcattt gtttacaggta tgcgttagttt gcaataacag
1081 caccgttca agtgcataata caaatattaa ctgcacccatc agcaagcaat acgtttacag
1141 tacaaggcgc accttttta ttaacaccag catttgcgc aatagcgatt gtttacag
1201 catcaggat catagctgaa gtttacaggta tagctgtgg agataaaaata ctactgtatg
40 1261 ttttacatcattt gtttacaggta tgcgttagttt gcaataacag
1321 atatcggttta atttggatca atgttttagta ggaaattaaa caggggtttt gtttacag
1381 ctccatataa aattttaggaa ggactatatt t

8. ExsH Proteins

In one embodiment, an ExsH exosporium protein (*Bacillus cereus*) comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 58:

5 MKHNDCFHDNNCNPIVFSADCCKNPQSVPITREQLSQLITLLNSLVAISAFF
 ANPSNANRLVLLDLFNQFLIFLNSLLPSPEVNFLKQLTQSIIVLLQSPAPNLG
 QLSTLLQQFYSLAQFFFALDLIPISCNSNVDSATLQLLFNLLIQLINATPGAT
 10 GPTGPTGPTGPTGAGPTGATGATGATGPTGATGPTGATGAGPTGGATGATG
 ATGVTGATGATGATGPTGPTGATGPTGATGATGATGPTGATGPTGATGLT
 GATGAAGGGAIIPFASGTTPSALVNALVANTGTLGFGFSQPGVALTGGTSI
 TLALGVGDYAFVAPRAGTITSAGFFSATAALAPISPVQVQIQLTAPAASNT
 FTVQGAPLLTPAFAAIAIGSTASGIIAEAIPIVAAGDKILLYVSLTAASPIAAV
 AGFVSAGINIV

15 encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 59:

1 1 gttcctatt ttaagtcaat atataacata ttttttaca actttatgat cttataata
 61 61 gaaaaaactc aaatataaaa caagtaagga ggacataaaat gacaaacaat aattgtttg
 121 121 gtcataacca ctgcaataat ccgattttt tcactccaga ttgcgttaac aatccacaaa
 181 181 cagttccaat tactagttagtca caatttaggtt gattaattac ttactaaac tcttaatag
 241 241 cgcttattgc agcgaaaaa gcaatccaa gtgtgcacaa cagattagct ttactcaatt
 301 301 tggttactca actattgaac ttactaaatg aatttagcacc ttccccagaa gggaaattct
 361 361 taaaacaatt aattcaaagt attattaatt tactacaatc tccaaaccca aatctaagtc
 421 421 aattactttc ttatttacaa caattctaca gtgccttgc accattttc ttcttttaa
 481 481 ttattgaccc tgcaagtttta caacttttat taaactttt aactcaatta attggtgcta
 541 541 ctccaggagg cggagcaaca ggtcaacacag gtccaaacagg tccaggaggc ggagcaacag
 601 601 gtccaaacagg tccaacaggc ccaggaggcg gagcgcacagg tccaaacaggc ccaacaggag
 661 661 cgacagggtcc agcaggtaact ggtggagcaa cagggttaac aggagcaaca ggttaacag
 721 721 gagcaacagg cttaacagga gcgcacaggcc caacgggagc aacaggttt acaggagcaa
 781 781 cagggttaac aggagcaaca ggcttaacag gagcgcacagg tccaaacagg gcaacaggc
 841 841 caacaggaggc aacagggtta acaggagcaa ctggtgcaac tggggcgaa gctattattc
 901 901 catttgcttc aggtacaaca ccatctcggt tagttacgc gttaatagct aatacaggaa
 961 961 ctcttcgtt atttggattt agtcagcctg gtgtagctt aactggtgga acaagttatca
 1021 1021 cattagcatt aggtgttaggt gattatgcat ttgtacgacc acgcgcagg gttattacgt
 1081 1081 cattagctgg ttcttttagt gcaacagctg cattagctcc attatcacct gtcaagtgc
 1141 1141 aaatacaaat attaactgca ctcgcagcaaa gcaatacgat tacagtacaa ggcgcaccc
 1201 1201 tttttaac accagcattt gccgcaatag cgattggttc tacagcatca ggaatcatac
 1261 1261 ctgaagctat tccagtagca gctggggata aaatactgtt atatgttca ttaacagcag
 1321 1321 caagtccaat agctgcagg gctggatttta agtgcagg tattaaatc gtttaatttg
 40 1381 1381 ttacaatgtt ta

9. CotB Proteins

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a CotB exosporium protein (*Bacillus subtilis*; Accession No. AY186996) comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 60:

5 MSKRRMKYHSNNEISYYNFLHSM

encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61:

10 1 gatcatttaa gtattttatg aatgcgtgaa aatgggtatt cgcgaaaaaa gcgacaatta
61 ggctattgaa ttagttcaac aaataaaatgt gacacgtata tatgcagtat gtttatcatc
121 tatgtataag tgactaggag gaatttgaat gagcaagagg agaatgaaat atcattcaaa
181 taatgaaata tcgtattata acttttgca ctcaatg.

10. CotY Proteins

15 In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a CotY exosporium protein (*Bacillus cereus*) comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62:

20 MSCNCNEDHQHECDFNCVSNNVRFIHELQECATTCGSGCEVPFLGAHN
NASVANTRPFILYTKTGEPEAFAPSSLTSCRSPIFRVESIDDDCAVLRLV
TVVLGDGTAVPPGDDPICTFLAVPNARLISTSTCITVDLSCFCAIQCLRDVD

encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 63:

25 1 caattttca gaggaaagaa attagatata tctcgaaaa tatatactgt gcgaaaaagat
61 ttacctgaaa agacatccac taaataagga tgtcttttt tatatcacgc tatgtacatc
121 cctcctatat aaattccttg ttttatacgta gagaattaac gtaatatcgccatccatc
181 ctcatattgt aatagtgtat gtcagaactc acgagaagga gtgaacataa tgagctgcaa
241 ttgtatgaa gatcatcaac atgagtgtga ttcaactgt gtatcgaatg tcgttcgttt
30 301 tatacatgaa ctacaagaat gtgcaacgac aacatgtgga tctgggtgcg aagttccatt
361 tttaggtgca cataacaatg catcgtatc gaatacacgt ccttttattt tatacacaaaa
421 aaccggagaa cctttcgaag catttcgacc atctcaagc cttaactgtt gcccgtctcc
481 cattttccgc gtagaaagta tagatgtatc cgactgtgt gtattgcgtg tattaaactgt
541 agtttttaggtt gatggtaaccg ctgttaccacc tggtaacgac ccaatctgtt cgttttttagc
601 tgtaccaaat gcaagactaa tatcaacacc cacttgcatt actgttgatt taagttgcatt
35 661 ctgcgttattt caatgcattt gttgtatc tatttaa

11. ExsY Proteins

40 In one embodiment, an ExsY exosporium protein (*Bacillus cereus*) comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 64 (Accession No. AY121973):

MSCNENKHHGSSHCVVVKFINELQDCSTTCGSGCEIPFLGAHNTASV
ANTRPFILYTKTGEFAFAPSASLTSCRSPIFRVESVDDSCAVRLVLTVV
LGDSSPVPPGDDPICTFLAVPNARLISTTCTIVDLSCFCAIQCLRDVDIVK

5 encoded by a nucleic acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 65;

10	1 aaatagtatg agagatatta ggttgtat agatgatatc caatcgatta gtatggccgg 61 ttttaaata tgtaaaggtg gtagaaagct tctaccaccc caatagttt ttagttact 121 ttacgataga aacgtcgctg aagcattgaa tcgcacagaa acagcttaaa tcaacagtaa 181 tgcaagtatg tgttagatatt aatcttgcatttggtagac taaaaacgta caaattggat 241 cgtcaccagg tggtaactgga gaactgtcac ctaatactac agttaatacaca ctagcacag 301 cacagctatc atcatctaca cttccacac ggaaaattgg agatcggcag cttagtaaggc 361 ttgctgatgg tgcgaatgtt caaaagggtt ctccagttt tggtagataaa ataaaaggc 421 gtgtttagtgc tactgtatgca gtattgtgtg cacctaaaaa tgggatttca caaccagatc 481 cacatgttgt tgttagaacaa tcttgcattt cattgtatggaa ttttacaacg tcaactacac 541 aatgagaaga gcccattgtt ttatatttcgt tacaactcat taatgtcact ccttatttc 601 ttgtttgtat ttacattaaat aagatattgg agtcgaggag atttggtcac aatctcaaga 661 cctttttt taaataggcg aaagaggata agggaaagggtg aaattatgtt gtttacaagc 721 tggcttttat tttttatgg cgcgttagca gcttttaggc tcactcggtt aattgtatata 20 781 gataaaataa cagccctttt gccaagacca ttattgtatg aa
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In one embodiment, a *Clostridium perfringens* spore surface homolog protein comprises a triple helix protein comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 66 (Accession No. YP 695648):

25 MIRKIYNPNRYYDDYNRYNCYDRYNCYDDEYCQDDYYCKEDCYCKDDC
YLEINCNCCDCCKGPRGPRGPQGPRGPQGPRGPMGCQGERGPIGPMGPM
GPIGPQGPQGDQGLTGPQGPAGPQGEQGPQGDQGPVGPQGPQGEQGL
30 TGPQGPAGSQGPQGPQGPEGPTGPQGATGPQGPQGPQGPEGPTGAQGDQGPVGPQGAQGPQ
GPQGPQGATGPQGPQGPQGNQGPAGPQGPVGPQGPQGEQGPVDFDDTLLV
SYSSLTSQNVNANGIFTYNIQNPNNGSTFTAITANIANGTFTINEPGRYLFMW
SFNLDNTNNTTASAIVSLFRNGSRVFLSGTPRVAPGEIGVVNGSIAVNANA
GDVFALVNNSTRNVLSQLISSLSPISVTPAIGESTGINSGIGSWVQIVRVS

35

II. Antibody Inhibition Of Microbial Spore Binding

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates inhibiting microbial spore binding and/or attachment to inanimate and/or animate surfaces using antibodies. In one embodiment, the antibodies inhibit *Clostridium* spore binding. These antibodies include, but are not limited to, polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies. In addition, chimeric antibodies may be produced, for example, by splicing mouse antibody genes to human antibody genes. Single chain antibodies are also contemplated as well as antibody

fragments generated by pepsin digestion of the antibody molecule or by reduction of the disulfide bridges of the Fab fragments.

A. Antibody Generation Methods

The present invention provides isolated antibodies or fragments thereof. (i.e., for example, polyclonal, monoclonal, and/or Fab's). In one embodiment, the present invention provides monoclonal antibodies that specifically inhibit the binding of microbial spore surface proteins to various surfaces (i.e., for example, animate surfaces and/or inanimate surfaces).

An antibody against a protein of the present invention may be any monoclonal or polyclonal antibody, as long as it can recognize the protein. Antibodies can be produced by using a protein of the present invention as the antigen according to a conventional antibody or antiserum preparation process. Any suitable method may be used to generate the antibodies used in the methods and compositions of the present invention, including but not limited to, those disclosed herein. For example, for preparation of a monoclonal antibody, protein, as such, or together with a suitable carrier or diluent is administered to an animal (e.g., a mammal) under conditions that permit the production of antibodies (i.e., for example, immunization). Normally, the protein is administered once every 2 weeks to 6 weeks, in total, about 2 times to about 10 times. Animals suitable for use in such methods include, but are not limited to, primates, rabbits, dogs, guinea pigs, mice, rats, sheep, goats, etc. and may be immunized by injection with a full-length protein or any portion, fragment or oligopeptide which retains immunogenic properties. Depending on the host species, various adjuvants may be used to increase immunological response. For enhancing the antibody production capability, complete or incomplete Freund's adjuvant may be administered. Such adjuvants include, but are not limited to, Freund's, mineral gels such as aluminum hydroxide, and surface active substances such as lysolecithin, pluronic polyols, polyanions, peptides, oil emulsions, keyhole limpet hemocyanin, and dinitrophenol. BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guefin) and *Cornebacterium parrum* are potentially useful adjuvants.

Monoclonal antibodies may be prepared using any technique which provides for the production of antibody molecules by continuous cell lines in culture. These include, but are not limited to hybridoma techniques. Koehler et al. *Nature* 256:495-497(1975); Kosbor et al., *Immunol Today* 4:72 (1983); Cote et al., *Proc Natl Acad Sci* 80:2026.-2030 (1983); Cole et al., In: Monoclonal Antibodies and Cancer Therapy, Alan R Liss Inc, New York, N.Y., pp 77-96 (1985)(all references incorporated herein by reference).

For preparing monoclonal antibody-producing cells, an individual animal (e.g., a mouse) whose antibody titer has been confirmed is selected, and 2 days to 5 days after the final immunization, its spleen or lymph node is harvested and antibody-producing cells contained therein are fused with myeloma cells to prepare the desired monoclonal antibody producer hybridoma. Measurement of the antibody titer in antiserum can be carried out, for example, by reacting the labeled protein, as described hereinafter and antiserum and then measuring the activity of the labeling agent bound to the antibody. The cell fusion can be carried out according to known methods, for example, the method described by Kohler and Milstein (Nature 256:495 [1975]). As a fusion promoter, for example, polyethylene glycol (PEG) or Sendai virus (HVJ), preferably PEG is used.

Examples of myeloma cells include NS-1, P3U1, SP2/0, AP-1 and the like. The proportion of the number of antibody producer cells (i.e., for example, spleen cells) and the number of myeloma cells to be used is preferably about 1:1 to about 20:1. PEG (preferably PEG 1000-PEG 6000) is preferably added in concentration of about 10% to about 80%. Cell fusion can be carried out efficiently by incubating a mixture of both cells at about 20°C to about 40°C, preferably about 30°C to about 37°C for about 1 minute to 10 minutes.

Various methods may be used for screening for a hybridoma producing the antibody (e.g., against a tumor antigen or autoantibody of the present invention). For example, where a supernatant of the hybridoma is added to a solid phase (e.g., microplate) to which antibody is adsorbed directly or together with a carrier and then an anti-immunoglobulin antibody (if mouse cells are used in cell fusion, anti-mouse immunoglobulin antibody is used) or Protein A labeled with a radioactive substance or an enzyme is added to detect the monoclonal antibody against the protein bound to the solid phase. Alternately, a supernatant of the hybridoma is added to a solid phase to which an anti-immunoglobulin antibody or Protein A is adsorbed and then the protein labeled with a radioactive substance or an enzyme is added to detect the monoclonal antibody against the protein bound to the solid phase.

Selection of the monoclonal antibody can be carried out according to any known method or its modification. Normally, a medium for animal cells to which HAT (hypoxanthine, aminopterin, thymidine) are added is employed. Any selection and growth medium can be employed as long as the hybridoma can grow. For example, RPMI 1640 medium containing 1% to 20%, preferably 10% to 20% fetal bovine serum, GIT medium containing 1% to 10% fetal bovine serum, a serum free medium for cultivation of a

hybridoma (SFM-101, Nissui Seiyaku) and the like can be used. Normally, the cultivation is carried out at 20°C to 40°C., preferably 37°C for about 5 days to 3 weeks, preferably 1 week to 2 weeks under about 5% CO₂ gas. The antibody titer of the supernatant of a hybridoma culture can be measured according to the same manner as described above with respect to the antibody titer of the anti-protein in the antiserum.

Separation and purification of a monoclonal antibody can be carried out according to the same manner as those of conventional polyclonal antibodies such as separation and purification of immunoglobulins, for example, salting-out, alcoholic precipitation, isoelectric point precipitation, electrophoresis, adsorption and desorption with ion exchangers (e.g., DEAE), ultracentrifugation, gel filtration, or a specific purification method wherein only an antibody is collected with an active adsorbent such as an antigen-binding solid phase, Protein A or Protein G and dissociating the binding to obtain the antibody.

Polyclonal antibodies may be prepared by any known method or modifications of these methods including obtaining antibodies from patients. For example, a complex of an immunogen (an antigen against the protein) and a carrier protein is prepared and an animal is immunized by the complex according to the same manner as that described with respect to the above monoclonal antibody preparation. A material containing the antibody against is recovered from the immunized animal and the antibody is separated and purified.

As to the complex of the immunogen and the carrier protein to be used for immunization of an animal, any carrier protein and any mixing proportion of the carrier and a hapten can be employed as long as an antibody against the hapten, which is crosslinked on the carrier and used for immunization, is produced efficiently. For example, bovine serum albumin, bovine cycloglobulin, keyhole limpet hemocyanin, etc. may be coupled to an hapten in a weight ratio of about 0.1 part to about 20 parts, preferably, about 1 part to about 5 parts per 1 part of the hapten.

In addition, various condensing agents can be used for coupling of a hapten and a carrier. For example, glutaraldehyde, carbodiimide, maleimide activated ester, activated ester reagents containing thiol group or dithiopyridyl group, and the like find use with the present invention. The condensation product as such or together with a suitable carrier or diluent is administered to a site of an animal that permits the antibody production. For enhancing the antibody production capability, complete or incomplete Freund's adjuvant

may be administered. Normally, the protein is administered once every 2 weeks to 6 weeks, in total, about 3 times to about 10 times.

The polyclonal antibody is recovered from blood, ascites and the like, of an animal immunized by the above method. The antibody titer in the antiserum can be measured according to the same manner as that described above with respect to the supernatant of the hybridoma culture. Separation and purification of the antibody can be carried out according to the same separation and purification method of immunoglobulin as that described with respect to the above monoclonal antibody.

The protein used herein as the immunogen is not limited to any particular type of immunogen. For example, a protein expressed resulting from a virus infection (further including a gene having a nucleotide sequence partly altered) can be used as the immunogen. Further, fragments of the protein may be used. Fragments may be obtained by any methods including, but not limited to expressing a fragment of the gene, enzymatic processing of the protein, chemical synthesis, and the like.

For the production of antibodies in the context of the present invention, any antigenic portion of a microbial spore protein amino acid sequence contemplated herein (i.e., for example, SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, or 9) can be used either alone, or fused with amino acids of another protein (i.e., for example, glutathione to produce an antibody against a chimeric molecule). Such antibodies include, but are not limited to, polyclonal, monoclonal, chimeric, single chain, Fab fragments and fragments produced by a Fab expression library. Neutralizing antibodies, i.e., those which inhibit dimer formation, are especially preferred for diagnostics and therapeutics.

Polypeptides to be used for antibody induction need not retain biological activity; however, the protein fragment, or oligopeptide should be antigenic. Peptides used to induce specific antibodies may have an amino acid sequence comprising at least five amino acids, preferably at least 10 amino acids. Preferably, they should mimic a portion of the amino acid sequence of the natural protein and may contain the entire amino acid sequence of a small, naturally occurring molecule. Short stretches of an amino acid sequence may be fused with those of another protein including, but not limited to, keyhole limpet hemocyanin and antibody produced against a chimeric molecule.

Antibodies can also be used to detect polypeptides in samples including, but not limited to, body fluids, cell extracts, tissue extracts, or surface swipes using techniques including, but not limited to, enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), radioimmunoassay (RIA) and fluorescent activated cell sorting (FACS). Reporter

molecules can be joined to the polypeptides and antibodies to facilitate detection of polypeptide-antibody binding.

B. Methods For Antibody Inhibition Of Microbial Spore Surface Protein Binding

5 In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a screening method comprising a monoclonal and/or polyclonal antibody having affinity to a *Clostridium* spore surface protein.

10 It has been reported that mice immunized with a 1:1 mixture of *B. cereus* *T* spores and *Clostridium sporogenes* PA3679 spores resulted in the generation of 397 hybridomas that were screened for their reactivities with 10^7 *B. cereus* spores and for their reactivities with 10^7 *C. sporogenes* spores. Apparently, nine hybridomas produced antibodies specific for *B. cereus* *T* spores while fifteen hybridomas produced antibodies specific for *C. sporogenes* spores. Seven hybridomas produced antibodies which cross-reacted with *B. cereus* *T* and *C. sporogenes* spores. Quinlan et al., "Monoclonal antibodies for use in 15 detection of *Bacillus* and *Clostridium* spores" *Appl Environ Microbiol.* 63:482-487 (1997). Two of the hybridomas producing antibodies specific for *C. sporogenes* spores were subcloned and the resulting IgM antibodies were designated C33 and C225.

The antibodies were examined qualitatively (visually) for their reactivities with a range of *Bacillus*, *Clostridium*, and *Desulfotomaculum* spores by using a dot blot format. 20 Antibody C33 reacted strongly with *C. sporogenes* spores and weakly with *C. perfringens* spores. Antibody C225 reacted weakly with *B. megaterium* spores and strongly with spores of *B. stearothermophilus*, *C. perfringens*, and *C. sporogenes*. Immunocytochemical localization of the antigen in *C. sporogenes* indicated that it is present on the exosporium and the outer cortex region of the spore.

25 While less information is available about *C. sporogenes* spore antigens, it has been demonstrated that specific spore antigens are distinct from vegetative antigens. Norris J., "Bacterial spore antigens: a review" *J. Gen. Microbiol.* 28:393-408 (1962); and Princewell, T., "Spore antigens of *Clostridium sporogenes*" *J. Med. Microbiol.* 12:29-41 (1979). Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is 30 believed that polyclonal antibodies raised to *Clostridium* spore antigens are common to more than one specific of *Clostridium*. Foegeding et al., "Polyclonal antibodies in an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) to detect bacterial spores" *J. Rapid Methods Automat. Microbiol.* 2:135-150 (1993).

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a method whereby a monoclonal and/or a polyclonal antibody has affinity to a *Clostridium* spore surface protein (i.e., for example, CD1581) is used to disrupt the binding of a *Clostridium* spore to a surface. In one embodiment, the surface may be selected from the group including, 5 but not limited to, plastic, ceramic, stainless steel, iron steel, vinyl, tile, wood laminate, skin (i.e., for example, pigskin), internal body tissues, clothing, or environmental protection suits.

C. Antibody Inhibition Of Microbial Spore Binding

A modified cup scrub method was used to evaluate the ability of *C. difficile* spores 10 to bind to a human skin surrogate (i.e., for example, pigskin). See, Example X. The pigskin was first washed using a non-antimicrobial soap for 30 s followed by water rinse for 30 s. After washing the pigskin, up to 50 µl of spores were added to a 20 mm diameter area on the surface of the skin. The spores were allowed to dry for up to an hour and then removed according to the cup scrub method. This experiment determined the 15 ability of *C. difficile* spores to bind to the skin surrogate. Preliminary data has shown that up to 80% of spores can be removed from the surface of the pigskin. In subsequent experiments, spores were first reacted with *C. difficile* spore surface antibodies prior to being applied to the skin surface. The ability to remove the spores from the skin was again determined using the cup scrub method. Preliminary data has shown the ability to 20 remove greater than 80% of the spores from the pigskin, suggesting the antibody is preventing the spores from binding to the skin.

III. Microbial Spore Surface Protein Inhibition Of Microbial Spore Binding

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a method comprising 25 inhibiting microbial spore binding using an infection control agent, wherein the agent comprises at least a portion of a microbial spore protein. Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that the infection control agent competes for surface binding sites to which the microbial spore has similar affinity. It is further believed that the resultant competitive binding either displaces previously bound 30 microbial spores from the surface attachment site and/or is sterically prevented from binding due to the presence of the at least a portion of the microbial spore surface protein.

In one embodiment, the spore surface protein may be derived from microbial organisms selected from the group comprising bacteria, viruses, fungi, algae, or molds. In one embodiment, the method further comprises preventing attachment of a microbial

spore to a surface with the spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the spore surface proteins are formulated with non-spore surface protein compounds are selected from the group comprising small molecules, proteins, or nucleic acids. In one embodiment, the spore surface proteins are formulated with surface acting agents which may include, but 5 are not limited to, surfactants, soaps, detergents, foaming agents, wetting agents, and aerosolizing agents. In one embodiment, the compounds are selected from the class of compounds known as solvents.

A. Full Length Spore Surface Proteins

In one embodiment, at least a portion of a microbial spore surface protein 10 comprises a full length microbial spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the full length microbial spore surface protein comprises a *Clostridium* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Clostridium* full length spore surface protein comprises a *C. difficile* full length spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *C. difficile* full length spore surface proteins may be selected from the group comprising SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID 15 NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO: 7 SEQ ID NO: 9 .

In one embodiment, the full length microbial spore surface protein comprises a *Bacillus* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Bacillus* full length spore surface protein comprises a *B. anthracis* full length spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *B. anthracis* full length spore surface proteins may be selected from the group 20 comprising SEQ ID NO:41, SEQ ID NO: 43 SEQ ID NO: 45 SEQ ID NO: 47 SEQ ID NO: 49 .

B. Truncated Spore Surface Proteins

In one embodiment, the at least a portion of a microbial spore surface protein 25 comprises a truncated microbial spore surface protein. Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that such truncated microbial spore surface proteins may be constructed by recombinant protein expression platforms (*infra*) wherein a portion of a nucleic acid sequence encoding a microbial spore surface protein is integrated within a vector and placed in operable combination with a compatible promoter. Alternatively, such truncated microbial surface proteins may be 30 created by digesting full length microbial spore surface proteins using any one, or more, of peptidase enzymes previously reported. Such peptidase enzymes may comprise enzymes including but not limited to endopeptidases, exopeptidases, amidopeptidases, and/or carboxypeptidases.

In one embodiment, the truncated microbial spore surface protein is derived from a *Clostridium* spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Clostridium* truncated spore surface protein comprises a *C. difficile* truncated spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *C. difficile* truncated spore surface protein may be derived from a 5 *Clostridium* hypothetical protein (CD 1581) as listed in Table III:

Table III. *Clostridium difficile* Spore Surface Protein Truncated Peptide Fragments

Peptide Fragment	Sequence Identification Number
MENKKCYSED	SEQ ID NO: 67
WYERGESTAK	SEQ ID NO: 68
WFQNDREEYE	SEQ ID NO: 69
REAYDEDRER	SEQ ID NO: 70
RGSNCGCSDS	SEQ ID NO: 71
GENRPRNCER	SEQ ID NO: 72
FRREAEIRER	SEQ ID NO: 73
EAREAFCESS	SEQ ID NO: 74
EKKKEALAYE	SEQ ID NO: 75
CEARKLWEEA	SEQ ID NO: 76
EKYWDEYSKY	SEQ ID NO: 77
NYKGIEYLAE	SEQ ID NO: 78
AARLFDEGME	SEQ ID NO: 79
CEARRNGNNG	SEQ ID NO: 80
GNNNNCCHKC	SEQ ID NO: 81
HKCNCNCCRK	SEQ ID NO: 82

10 In one embodiment, the *C. difficile* truncated spore surface protein may be derived from a *Clostridium* hypothetical protein (CD 1067) as listed in Table IV:

Table IV. *Clostridium difficile* Spore Surface Protein Truncated Peptide Fragments

Peptide Fragment	Sequence Identification Number
MQDYKKNKRR	SEQ ID NO: 83
MMNQPMSTMN	SEQ ID NO: 84
EEEVYTDEIN	SEQ ID NO: 85

SEDMRGFKKS	SEQ ID NO: 86
HHHNGCNTDN	SEQ ID NO: 87
KCECHDDCNP	SEQ ID NO: 88
CNPCNPCKPN	SEQ ID NO: 89
PCNPCKPNPC	SEQ ID NO: 90
DDNCGCHDNC	SEQ ID NO: 91
KCDCEPCEMD	SEQ ID NO: 92
SDECfenKCG	SEQ ID NO: 93
PECCNPISPR	SEQ ID NO: 94
NFSVSNAVPF	SEQ ID NO: 95
AIEANRIFDT	SEQ ID NO: 96
MQFQTFTDAT	SEQ ID NO: 97
GPNGEPLTFE	SEQ ID NO: 98
TEVVEVFGSV	SEQ ID NO: 99
PSAGQASVTI	SEQ ID NO: 100
EKICLSNDGI	SEQ ID NO: 101
VIDTGMTTLE	SEQ ID NO: 102
DFDLDPLGDI	SEQ ID NO: 103
VGRNCETTIE	SEQ ID NO: 104
FAVCGERNSE	SEQ ID NO: 105
CCRQGKGKSV	SEQ ID NO: 106
AYKQRGLTVA	SEQ ID NO: 107
VRNLVLELRG	SEQ ID NO: 108
RCGCTEFVAL	SEQ ID NO: 109
AFPAVRAGGG	SEQ ID NO: 110
CKRRVDYVEF	SEQ ID NO: 111
TFNTLSAPIC	SEQ ID NO: 112
LPADGRAVTL	SEQ ID NO: 113
RQEYQTNLTV	SEQ ID NO: 114
DCIGKSILKL	SEQ ID NO: 115
ECNECCEPFY	SEQ ID NO: 116
ELIIPNDIDL	SEQ ID NO: 117

VLCLQETVST	SEQ ID NO: 118
LISEQIVVLA	SEQ ID NO: 119
SPNPIQPRLV	SEQ ID NO: 120
DTFSKVCDFS	SEQ ID NO: 121
QCGPNHGSGK	SEQ ID NO: 122
PSCHR	SEQ ID NO: 123

In one embodiment, the *C. difficile* truncated spore surface protein may be derived from a *Clostridium* hypothetical protein (CD 3620) as listed in Table V:

5

Table V. *Clostridium difficile* Spore Surface Protein Truncated Peptide Fragments

Peptide Fragment	Sequence Identification Number
MYDDYKYNKC	SEQ ID NO: 124
NKCYNDYEEM	SEQ ID NO: 125
THVHEYSESV	SEQ ID NO: 126
KLAEECEDRH	SEQ ID NO: 127
NHRAAGVTGE	SEQ ID NO: 128
AIPINGGTNH	SEQ ID NO: 129
VHKINDNVDF	SEQ ID NO: 130
LDHFHKICVT	SEQ ID NO: 131
TGPAIRIPGT	SEQ ID NO: 132
DKHIIHLICGE	SEQ ID NO: 133
TTVNDGHCHK	SEQ ID NO: 134
FLFTTQIEAPLV	SEQ ID NO: 135

In one embodiment, the *C. difficile* truncated spore surface protein may be derived 10 from a *Clostridium* hypothetical protein (CD 1613) as listed in Table VI:

Table VI. *Clostridium difficile* Spore Surface Protein Truncated Peptide Fragments

Peptide Fragment	Sequence Identification Number
MENNKCREDF	SEQ ID NO: 136
RFTQEYEEDY	SEQ ID NO: 137
PNTNERYYEN	SEQ ID NO: 138

YQVADRYYYNY	SEQ ID NO: 139
PNKYKEPKIK	SEQ ID NO: 140
QCCCKKSMRE	SEQ ID NO: 141
ALELLRYDAL	SEQ ID NO: 142
RPFVNFnQFA	SEQ ID NO: 143
FISDFFIVGA	SEQ ID NO: 144
NLVGIDLSAP	SEQ ID NO: 145
PKDNLSGLDG	SEQ ID NO: 146
TFERFSACNC	SEQ ID NO: 147
DLIDIAGRVS	SEQ ID NO: 148
YPIPVPLTLE	SEQ ID NO: 149
GLINTIGTIP	SEQ ID NO: 150
GVAELIALID	SEQ ID NO: 151
AVIPPTIDLG	SEQ ID NO: 152
AILDAILAAI	SEQ ID NO: 153
IDFILAASTP	SEQ ID NO: 154
LANVDLASLC	SEQ ID NO: 155
NLKAVAFDIT	SEQ ID NO: 156
PADYEDFIAS	SEQ ID NO: 157
LGYYLDKKHY	SEQ ID NO: 158
KECNCNCDCD	SEQ ID NO: 159
DCCCNKGILD	SEQ ID NO: 160
NLYMSNINNQ	SEQ ID NO: 161
VTVVAGSLVL	SEQ ID NO: 162
TGVEVLGKKN	SEQ ID NO: 163
DVIVLGNNSND	SEQ ID NO: 164
SRIYFVCVDS	SEQ ID NO: 165
IDYIA	SEQ ID NO: 166

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* truncated spore surface protein may be derived from a hypothetical protein (CD 1711) as listed in Table VII:

Table VII. *Clostridium difficile* Spore Surface Protein Truncated Peptide Fragments

Peptide Fragment	Sequence Identification Number
MLIVTTEKVE	SEQ ID NO: 167
GKKISKVLGL	SEQ ID NO: 168
VRGSTIRAKH	SEQ ID NO: 169
VGKDYGASFK	SEQ ID NO: 170
NLVGGELTGY	SEQ ID NO: 171
NEMLTEARQI	SEQ ID NO: 172
AIGRMVEDAE	SEQ ID NO: 173
AKGANAVIAF	SEQ ID NO: 174
RLSSASVMQG	SEQ ID NO: 175
AAEMLAYGTA	SEQ ID NO: 176
VVLEDDNSILEK	SEQ ID NO: 177

5

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* truncated spore surface protein may be derived from a hypothetical protein (CD 0881) as listed in Table VIII:

Table VIII. *Clostridium difficile* Spore Surface Protein Truncated Peptide Fragments

Peptide Fragment	Sequence Identification Number
MGTKIVLISIV	SEQ ID NO: 178
LIVVVVVAISL	SEQ ID NO: 179
TCIRVIKQSK	SEQ ID NO: 180
VGIIMRLGKF	SEQ ID NO: 181
QKVAETGVHF	SEQ ID NO: 182
LIPFLDKMAY	SEQ ID NO: 183
VIDLREIVID	SEQ ID NO: 184
FPPQPVITKD	SEQ ID NO: 185
NVTMQIDTVV	SEQ ID NO: 186
YYKVTDPVRY	SEQ ID NO: 187
VFEIANPIAA	SEQ ID NO: 188

IENLTATTLR	SEQ ID NO: 189
NIIGELLDLDE	SEQ ID NO: 190
TLTSRDIINV	SEQ ID NO: 191
KMRTILDEAT	SEQ ID NO: 192
DKWGIKVNRV	SEQ ID NO: 193
ELKNIMPPQD	SEQ ID NO: 194
IQVAMEKQMR	SEQ ID NO: 195
AERERREAIL	SEQ ID NO: 196
QAEGNKSAAI	SEQ ID NO: 197
LQAEGEKQSA	SEQ ID NO: 198
ILTAEAKKEA	SEQ ID NO: 199
MVRVAEGEKE	SEQ ID NO: 200
SAILVAEGEA	SEQ ID NO: 201
EAIRQTAIAK	SEQ ID NO: 202
AQGEAEMIKR	SEQ ID NO: 203
TQMATAEGLK	SEQ ID NO: 204
LVFSAMKEAD	SEQ ID NO: 205
IDNNILALKS	SEQ ID NO: 206
MEAlekmaeg	SEQ ID NO: 207
KSTKLVLPS	SEQ ID NO: 208
AVNFLGTFKG	SEQ ID NO: 209
IKEVMSDDNK	SEQ ID NO: 210
EVLDIKEVLN	SEQ ID NO: 211
DNESLKK	SEQ ID NO: 212

In one embodiment, a *Clostridium* truncated spore surface protein may be derived from a hypothetical protein (CD1511) as listed in Table IX:

Table IX. *Clostridium difficile* Spore Surface Protein Truncated Peptide Fragments

Peptide Fragment	Sequence Identification Number
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MIDNQKYVIL	SEQ ID NO: 213
SLELHLFFSR	SEQ ID NO: 214
IMKEHALFLE	SEQ ID NO: 215
AGFTNKNYNL	SEQ ID NO: 216
AMEADHYKKQ	SEQ ID NO: 217
FEDLLSYTWS	SEQ ID NO: 218
ASNGIIRPDI	SEQ ID NO: 219
LYSEELVTTL	SEQ ID NO: 220
TSVAEQKTEE	SEQ ID NO: 221
FTGIEINKNI	SEQ ID NO: 222
TTRELNLQSG	SEQ ID NO: 223
VNPQVGQDLV	SEQ ID NO: 224
NYVAQLNSDA	SEQ ID NO: 225
IRLLDGLINF	SEQ ID NO: 226
KERVLDGVLS	SEQ ID NO: 227
CTIFTSNYPL	SEQ ID NO: 228
LLEHIIHEAN	SEQ ID NO: 229
LYRSYVVVDLE	SEQ ID NO: 230
NKIDIESKNA	SEQ ID NO: 231
KEIELFWDHI	SEQ ID NO: 232
MMEHALFMRG	SEQ ID NO: 233
LLDPSEGELI	SEQ ID NO: 234
NTSNDFAIKF	SEQ ID NO: 235
NELIEKTNEM	SEQ ID NO: 236
TDSNIKNITE	SEQ ID NO: 237
ETLNNETVEFK	SEQ ID NO: 238
DFKEAGASGI	SEQ ID NO: 239
EQCKIKSIIIL	SEQ ID NO: 240
PLLADHVLRE	SEQ ID NO: 241
ANHYIRILES	SEQ ID NO: 242
YKNM	SEQ ID NO: 243

In one embodiment, the *C. difficile* truncated spore surface protein may be derived from a collagen-like protein as listed in Table X.

Table X. *Clostridium difficile* Spore Surface Protein Truncated Peptide Fragments

Peptide Fragment	Sequence Identification Number
MRNIIILYLND	SEQ ID NO: 244
DTFISKKYPD	SEQ ID NO: 245
KNFSNLNDYCL	SEQ ID NO: 246
IGSKCSNSFV	SEQ ID NO: 247
KEKLITFFKV	SEQ ID NO: 248
RIPDILKDKS	SEQ ID NO: 249
ILKAELFIHI	SEQ ID NO: 250
DSNKNHIFKE	SEQ ID NO: 251
KVDIEIKRIS	SEQ ID NO: 252
EYYNLRTITW	SEQ ID NO: 253
NDRVSMENIR	SEQ ID NO: 254
GYLPIGISDT	SEQ ID NO: 255
SNYICLNITG	SEQ ID NO: 256
TIKAWAMNKY	SEQ ID NO: 257
PNYGLALSLN	SEQ ID NO: 258
YPYQILEFTS	SEQ ID NO: 259
SRGCNKPYIL	SEQ ID NO: 260
VTFEDRIIDN	SEQ ID NO: 261
CYPKCECPPI	SEQ ID NO: 262
RITGPMGPRG	SEQ ID NO: 263
ATGSTGPMGV	SEQ ID NO: 264
TGPTGSTGAT	SEQ ID NO: 265
GSIGPTGPTG	SEQ ID NO: 266
NTGATGSIGP	SEQ ID NO: 267
TGVTGPTGST	SEQ ID NO: 268
GATGSIGPTG	SEQ ID NO: 269
VTGPTGNTGV	SEQ ID NO: 270

TGSIGPTGAT	SEQ ID NO: 271
GPTGNTGVTG	SEQ ID NO: 272
SIGPTGVTGP	SEQ ID NO: 273
TGNTGEIGPT	SEQ ID NO: 274
GATGPTGVTG	SEQ ID NO: 275
SIGPTGATGP	SEQ ID NO: 276
TGEIGPTGAT	SEQ ID NO: 277
ATGPTGATGV	SEQ ID NO: 278
TGEIGPTGEI	SEQ ID NO: 279
GPTGATGPTG	SEQ ID NO: 280
VTGEIGPTGA	SEQ ID NO: 281
TGPTGNTGVT	SEQ ID NO: 282
GEIGPTGATG	SEQ ID NO: 283
PTGNTGVTGE	SEQ ID NO: 284
IGPTGATGPT	SEQ ID NO: 285
GVTGEIGPTG	SEQ ID NO: 286
NTGATGSSIGP	SEQ ID NO: 287
TGVTGPTGAT	SEQ ID NO: 288
GSIGPTGATG	SEQ ID NO: 289
ATGVTGPTGP	SEQ ID NO: 290
TGATGNSSQP	SEQ ID NO: 291
VANFLVNAPS	SEQ ID NO: 292
PQTLNNNGDAI	SEQ ID NO: 293
TGWQTIIGNS	SEQ ID NO: 294
SSITVDTNGT	SEQ ID NO: 295
FTVQENGVYY	SEQ ID NO: 296
ISVSVALQPG	SEQ ID NO: 297
SSSINQYSFA	SEQ ID NO: 298
ILFPILGGKD	SEQ ID NO: 299
LAGLTTEPGG	SEQ ID NO: 300
GGVLSGYFAG	SEQ ID NO: 301
FLFGGTTFTI	SEQ ID NO: 302

NNFSSTTVGI	SEQ ID NO: 303
RNGQSAGTAA	SEQ ID NO: 304
TLTIFRIADTVMT	SEQ ID NO: 305

In one embodiment, the *C. difficile* truncated spore surface protein may be derived from a collagen-like protein as listed in Table XI.

5 Table XI. *Clostridia difficile* Spore Surface Protein Truncated Peptide Fragments

Peptide Fragment	Sequence Identification Number
MLLIMSRNKY	SEQ ID NO: 306
FGPFDDNDYN	SEQ ID NO: 307
NGYDKYDDCN	SEQ ID NO: 308
NGRDDYNNSCD	SEQ ID NO: 309
CHHCCPPSCV	SEQ ID NO: 310
GPTGPMGPRG	SEQ ID NO: 311
RTGPTGPTGP	SEQ ID NO: 312
TGPGVGATGP	SEQ ID NO: 313
TGPTGPTGPT	SEQ ID NO: 314
GNNTGNTGATG	SEQ ID NO: 315
LRGPTGATGA	SEQ ID NO: 316
TGPTGATGAI	SEQ ID NO: 317
GFGVTGPTGP	SEQ ID NO: 318
TGATGATGAD	SEQ ID NO: 319
GVTGPTGPTG	SEQ ID NO: 320
ATGADGITGP	SEQ ID NO: 321
TGATGATGFG	SEQ ID NO: 322
VTGPTGPTGA	SEQ ID NO: 323
TGVGVTGATG	SEQ ID NO: 324
LIGPTGATGT	SEQ ID NO: 325
PGATGPTGAI	SEQ ID NO: 326
GATGIGITGP	SEQ ID NO: 327
TGATGATGAD	SEQ ID NO: 328

GATGVTGPTG	SEQ ID NO: 329
PTGATGADGV	SEQ ID NO: 330
TGPTGATGAT	SEQ ID NO: 331
GIGITGPTGP	SEQ ID NO: 332
TGATGIGITG	SEQ ID NO: 333
ATGLIGPTGA	SEQ ID NO: 334
TGTPGATGPT	SEQ ID NO: 335
GATGPTGVGV	SEQ ID NO: 336
TGATGATGAT	SEQ ID NO: 337
GADGATGVTG	SEQ ID NO: 338
PTGATGATGA	SEQ ID NO: 339
NGLVGPTGAT	SEQ ID NO: 340
GAAGTPGATG	SEQ ID NO: 341
PTGATGPTGV	SEQ ID NO: 342
GITGATGATG	SEQ ID NO: 343
ATGPTGADGA	SEQ ID NO: 344
TGPTGATGNT	SEQ ID NO: 345
GADGVAGPTG	SEQ ID NO: 346
ATGNTGADGA	SEQ ID NO: 347
TGPTGATGAT	SEQ ID NO: 348
GVTGATGPTG	SEQ ID NO: 349
PTGATGATGA	SEQ ID NO: 350
TGASAIIPFA	SEQ ID NO: 351
SGIPLSLTTI	SEQ ID NO: 352
AGGLVGTPGF	SEQ ID NO: 353
VGFGSSAPGL	SEQ ID NO: 354
SIVGGVIDLT	SEQ ID NO: 355
NAAGTLTNFA	SEQ ID NO: 356
FSMPRDGTIT	SEQ ID NO: 357
SISAYFSTTA	SEQ ID NO: 358
ALSLVGSTIT	SEQ ID NO: 359
ITATLYQSTA	SEQ ID NO: 360
PNNSFTAVPG	SEQ ID NO: 361

ATVTLAPPLT	SEQ ID NO: 362
GILSVGSISS	SEQ ID NO: 363
GIVTGLNIAA	SEQ ID NO: 364
TAQTPDRQYAI	SEQ ID NO: 365

In one embodiment, the *C. difficile* truncated spore surface protein may be derived from a collagen-like protein as listed in Table XII.

5 Table XII. *Clostridia difficile* Spore Surface Protein Truncated Peptide Fragments

Peptide Fragment	Sequence Identification Number
MSDISGPSLY	SEQ ID NO: 366
QDVGPTGPTG	SEQ ID NO: 367
ATGPTGPTGP	SEQ ID NO: 368
RGATGATGAN	SEQ ID NO: 369
GITGPTGNTG	SEQ ID NO: 370
ATGANGITGP	SEQ ID NO: 371
TGNMGATGPN	SEQ ID NO: 372
GTTGSTGPTG	SEQ ID NO: 373
NTGATGANGI	SEQ ID NO: 374
TGPTGNTGAT	SEQ ID NO: 375
GANGITGPTG	SEQ ID NO: 376
NKGATGANGI	SEQ ID NO: 377
TGSTGPTGNT	SEQ ID NO: 378
GATGANGITG	SEQ ID NO: 379
PTGNTGATGA	SEQ ID NO: 380
TGPTGLTGAT	SEQ ID NO: 381
GATGANGITG	SEQ ID NO: 382
PTGNTGATGA	SEQ ID NO: 383
NGVTGATGPT	SEQ ID NO: 384
GNTGATGPTG	SEQ ID NO: 385
SIGATGATGT	SEQ ID NO: 386
TGATGPIGAT	SEQ ID NO: 387

GATGADGEVG	SEQ ID NO: 388
PTGAVGATGP	SEQ ID NO: 389
DGLVGPTGPT	SEQ ID NO: 390
GPTGATGANG	SEQ ID NO: 391
LVGPTGPTGA	SEQ ID NO: 392
TGANGLVGPT	SEQ ID NO: 393
GATGATGVAG	SEQ ID NO: 394
AIGPTGAVGA	SEQ ID NO: 395
TGPTGADGAV	SEQ ID NO: 396
GPTGATGATG	SEQ ID NO: 397
ANGATGPTGA	SEQ ID NO: 398
VGATGANGVA	SEQ ID NO: 399
GPIGPTGPTG	SEQ ID NO: 400
ENGVAGATGA	SEQ ID NO: 401
TGATGANGAT	SEQ ID NO: 402
GPTGAVGATG	SEQ ID NO: 403
ANGVAGAIGP	SEQ ID NO: 404
TGPTGANGAT	SEQ ID NO: 405
GATGATGATG	SEQ ID NO: 406
ANGATGPTGA	SEQ ID NO: 407
TGATGVLAAN	SEQ ID NO: 408
NAQFTVSSSS	SEQ ID NO: 409
LVNNTLVTFN	SEQ ID NO: 410
SSFINGTNIT	SEQ ID NO: 411
FPTSSTINLA	SEQ ID NO: 412
VGGIYNVSFG	SEQ ID NO: 413
IRATLSLAGF	SEQ ID NO: 414
MSITTNFNGV	SEQ ID NO: 415
TQNNFIAKAV	SEQ ID NO: 416
NTLTSSDVSV	SEQ ID NO: 417
SLSFLVDARA	SEQ ID NO: 418
AAVTLSFTFG	SEQ ID NO: 419

SGTTGTSAAAG	SEQ ID NO: 420
YVSVYRIQ	SEQ ID NO: 421

In one embodiment, the truncated microbial spore surface protein is derived from a *Bacillus* full length spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *Bacillus* truncated spore surface protein comprises a *B. anthracis* truncated spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the *B. anthracis* truncated spore surface protein may be derived from a BclA protein as listed in Table XIII.

Table XIII. *Bacillus anthracis* Spore Surface Protein Truncated Peptide Fragments

Peptide Fragment	Sequence ID Number
MSNNNYSNGL	SEQ ID NO: 422
NPDESLSASA	SEQ ID NO: 423
FDPNLVGPTL	SEQ ID NO: 424
PPIPPFTLPT	SEQ ID NO: 425
GPTGPTGPTG	SEQ ID NO: 426
PTGPTGPTGP	SEQ ID NO: 427
TGPTGPTGPT	SEQ ID NO: 428
GDTGTTGPTG	SEQ ID NO: 429
TGDTGTTGPT	SEQ ID NO: 430
PTGPTGDTGT	SEQ ID NO: 431
PTGPTGPTGA	SEQ ID NO: 432
TGLTGPTGPT	SEQ ID NO: 433
GPSGLGLPAG	SEQ ID NO: 434
LYAFNSGGIS	SEQ ID NO: 435
FNTVGSQFGT	SEQ ID NO: 436
AISQLDADTF	SEQ ID NO: 437
VISETGFYKI	SEQ ID NO: 438
TVIANTATAS	SEQ ID NO: 439
GVPVPGTGSS	SEQ ID NO: 440
LISLGAPIVI	SEQ ID NO: 441
QAITQITTP	SEQ ID NO: 442
SLVEVIVTGL	SEQ ID NO: 443

GLSLALGTSA	SEQ ID NO: 444
SIIIEKVA	SEQ ID NO: 445

C. Spore Surface Protein Mimetics

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates compositions and methods for making and using infection control compositions comprising microbial spore surface 5 protein mimetics. In one embodiment, the protein mimetic comprises an amino acid sequence. In one embodiment, the amino acid sequence comprises a circular tertiary structure. In one embodiment, the protein mimetic comprises a small organic molecule.

Small organic molecules mimicking the necessary conformation for recognition and docking to the active site binding to the peptides of the present invention are 10 contemplated as within the scope of this invention. For example, mimetics of microbial spore surface proteins and/or peptide fragments are contemplated. A variety of designs for such mimetics are possible. For example, cyclic and/or linear proteins and/or peptide fragments, in which the necessary conformation for binding is stabilized by nonpeptides, are specifically contemplated. United States Patent No. 5,192,746 to Lobl, et al., United 15 States Patent No. 5,169,862 to Burke, Jr., et al., United States Patent No. 5,539,085 to Bischoff, et al., United States Patent No. 5,576,423 to Aversa, et al., United States Patent No. 5,051,448 to Shashoua, and United States Patent No. 5,559,103 to Gaeta, et al., all hereby incorporated by reference, describe multiple methods for creating such compounds.

20 Synthesis of non-peptide compounds that mimic peptide sequences is also known in the art. For example, some non-peptide antagonists mimic the Arg-Gly-Asp sequence. Eldred, et al., (J. Med. Chem. 37:3882 (1994)). Likewise, Ku, et al., (J. Med. Chem. 38:9 (1995)) give further elucidation of the synthesis of a series of such compounds. Such 25 non-peptide compounds that mimic microbial spore surface proteins and/or peptide fragments are specifically contemplated by the present invention.

The present invention also contemplates synthetic mimicking compounds that are multimeric compounds that repeat relevant peptide sequences. As is known in the art, peptides can be synthesized by linking an amino group to a carboxyl group that has been activated by reaction with a coupling agent, such as dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC). 30 The attack of a free amino group on the activated carboxyl leads to the formation of a peptide bond and the release of dicyclohexylurea. It can be necessary to protect

potentially reactive groups other than the amino and carboxyl groups intended to react. For example, the α -amino group of the component containing the activated carboxyl group can be blocked with a tertbutyloxycarbonyl group. This protecting group can be subsequently removed by exposing the peptide to dilute acid, which leaves peptide bonds 5 intact.

With this method, peptides can be readily synthesized by a solid phase method by adding amino acids stepwise to a growing peptide chain that is linked to an insoluble matrix, such as polystyrene beads. The carboxyl-terminal amino acid (with an amino protecting group) of the desired peptide sequence is first anchored to the polystyrene 10 beads. The protecting group of the amino acid is then removed. The next amino acid (with the protecting group) is added with the coupling agent. This is followed by a washing cycle. The cycle is repeated as necessary.

In one embodiment, the mimetics of the present invention are peptides having sequence homology to the above-described microbial spore surface proteins and/or 15 peptide fragments. One common methodology for evaluating sequence homology, and more importantly statistically significant similarities, is to use a Monte Carlo analysis using an algorithm written by Lipman and Pearson to obtain a Z value. According to this analysis, a Z value greater than 6 indicates probable significance, and a Z value greater than 10 is considered to be statistically significant. W.R. Pearson and D.J. Lipman, Proc. 20 Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA), 85:2444-2448 (1988); D.J. Lipman and W.R. Pearson, Science, 227:1435-1441 (1985). In the present invention, synthetic polypeptides useful in solving the problems of microbial decontamination and microbial infection are those peptides with statistically significant sequence homology and similarity (Z value of Lipman and Pearson algorithm in Monte Carlo analysis exceeding 6).

25

IV. Screening For Infection Control Compositions

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates methods comprising screening for infection control compositions that inhibit, antagonize, interfere, displace, and/or disrupt the binding of a microbial spore to an inanimate and/or animate surface.

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In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates methods comprising screening for infection control compositions that inhibit, antagonize, interfere, displace, and/or disrupt the binding of a microbial spore surface protein to an inanimate and/or animate surface.

In one embodiment, the animate surface may be selected from the group comprising skin, human body tissues, and/or human cells. In one embodiment, the inanimate surface may comprise hard surfaces including, but not limited to, ceramic, tile, granite, and/or stainless steel. In one embodiment, the microbial spore comprises a 5 *Clostridium* spore. In one embodiment, the *Clostridium* spore comprises a *C. difficile* spore. In one embodiment, the screened infection control compositions are capable of binding to a microbial spore surface protein. Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that the infection control compositions bind to a surface thereby blocking binding of a microbial spore surface protein. Although it is 10 not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that such infection control compositions may include, but are not limited to, natural compounds isolated from viral, bacterial, fungal, plant, and animal sources, as well as synthetic compounds. It is further believed that neither the source, chemical structure, or mechanism of action of the infection control composition is essential to this invention.

15 A. Assays For Detecting Microbial Spore Binding To A Surface

1. Standard Growth Assays

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates methods for detecting microbial spores and/or microbial spore proteins comprising: a) providing; i) a substrate surface suspected of contamination by at least one microbial spore; ii) a spore collection 20 device comprising a plurality of infection control compositions capable of attaching the at least one microbial spore; and iii) a spore growth plate capable of supporting growth of the at least one microbial spore; b) contacting the spore collection device with the substrate surface wherein the at least one microbial spore becomes attached to the device; c) contacting the microbial collection device with the spore growth plate; and d) detecting 25 at least one microbial spore on the spore growth plate. In one embodiment, the infection control composition comprises a microbial spore protein peptide fragment. In one embodiment, the microbial spore protein peptide fragment is selected from the group comprising a *Clostridium* spore protein peptide fragment, or a *Bacillus* spore protein peptide fragment. In one embodiment, the microbial spore is a *Clostridium difficile* spore. In one embodiment, the microbial spore is a *Bacillus anthracis* spore.

30 Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that a growth assay can be performed using any microbial spore. By way of illustration, *C. sporogenes* spores are used below in a method to detect the growth of spores after their collection from a contaminated surface, but it should be understood that

any microbial spore can be substituted wherein collection and detection each respective microbial spore will be successfully performed (i.e., for example, *Clostridium difficile* antibodies).

5 a. Cup Scrub Assays

One described technique is suitable for the recovery of resident and transient microorganisms from human or animal skin. For example, the technique may be used in situ within clinical protocols or in vitro for studies using isolated skin or skin equivalents. ASTM International, "Standard Test Method for Recovery of Microorganisms From Skin using the Cup Scrub Technique" E1874 – 09 (2009). Briefly, resident microorganisms or 10 transient microorganisms (i.e., for example, microorganisms previously applied to a test site), are recovered from the site by pressing a rigid cylinder against the skin with sufficient pressure to form a seal and instilling recovery liquid into the cylinder. The surface of the skin is then mechanically 'scrubbed' with a glass rod, rubber policeman, or some other suitable device for a prescribed period of time. The fluid is pipetted from the 15 cylinder into a test tube, or other suitable receptacle, for further analysis.

A cub-scrub procedure can be incorporated into any method described herein to evaluate test materials containing infection control compositions that are intended to reduce significantly the number of microbial spores on a test surface (i.e., for example, intact skin). It also may be used to provide an indication of residual antimicrobial activity.

20 b. Cell Culture Assays

Aliquots of *C. difficile* endospore suspension are anaerobically incubated at 35°C on prereduced (i.e., for example, oxygen removed) BCDC, TCCFA, and TSA. Control and experimental plates are inoculated identically with a spore suspension, and one set of control plates are allowed to incubate and grow undisturbed for the duration of each 25 experiment.

Attachment experiments are done by placing a circle (i.e., for example, a target area) on the bottom of the agar-filled Petri dish, and inoculating the plate with 5 or 10 µl of *C. difficile* spore suspensions directly within a target area, incubating these spores in the anaerobic hood (Forma Scientific, Marietta, Ohio) on pre-reduced plates for 27 min, 30 99 min, 150 min, and 360 min. After timed incubation, the plates are removed, and 4 ml of sterile distilled water added to each culture plate. The plates are then shaken at 300 rpm for 10 min, after which the agitation solution is aseptically pipetted off the agar surface, and the plates re-incubated anaerobically for 24, 48, and 72 h. To determine if the plates had become contaminated, light microscopy smears on glass slides are made

from randomized colonies and photographed on a photomicroscope, and plates are inoculated and incubated under aerobic conditions to identify any aerobic contaminants.

To determine if spores are not yet attached to the agar, and establish if they could be easily detached and washed off the agar surface, the water agitation solution (removed 5 after shaking the plate) is also tested for the presence of spores. Aliquots of the water is:(i) screened by phase microscopy; and (ii) used to streak agar plates; and (iii) injected into BacTec NR6A broth (anaerobic blood culture broth, BD Microbiology Systems Cockeysville, MD) and the plates and broth read at 24 and 48 h for the presence of bacterial growth.

10 2. Anti-Spore Surface Antibody Assays

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates methods for detecting microbial spores comprising: a) providing; i) a substrate surface suspected of contamination by at least one microbial spore; and ii) an anti-spore surface antibody capable of binding to the at least one microbial spore; b) contacting the anti-spore surface 15 antibody with the substrate surface or spore surface under conditions such that the antibody binds to the at least one microbial spore, wherein an antibody/spore complex is created; and c) detecting the antibody/spore complex. In one embodiment, the antibody comprises a polyclonal antibody (i.e., for example, F1997) In one embodiment, the anti-spore surface antibody comprises a label. In one embodiment, the label comprises a 20 fluorescent label. In one embodiment, the microbial spore is a *Clostridium difficile* spore. In one embodiment, the microbial spore is a *Bacillus anthracis* spore.

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates methods for detecting microbial spores comprising: a) providing; i) a substrate surface suspected of contamination by at least one microbial spore; ii) an anti-spore surface antibody capable 25 of binding to the at least one microbial spore; and iii) a growth assay plate; b) combining the anti-spore surface antibody with the antibody, wherein an antibody/spore complex is created; c) contacting the antibody/spore complex with the substrate surface; d) removing a sample of the antibody/spore complex (i.e., for example, by the cup-scrub method) from the surface; e) streaking the sample on the growth assay plate. In one embodiment, the 30 antibody comprises a polyclonal antibody (i.e., for example, F1997). In one embodiment, the substrate surface comprises a pigskin surface. In one embodiment, the label comprises a fluorescent label. In one embodiment, the microbial spore is a *Clostridium difficile* spore. In one embodiment, the microbial spore is a *Bacillus anthracis* spore.

a. Antibody Development

Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that an anti-spore surface antibody can be directed towards any epitope on a spore surface (i.e., whether a protein or other antigenic structure). By way of illustration, 5 *C. sporogenes* spores are used below in a method to generate anti-spore surface monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies, but it should be understood that any microbial spore can be substituted wherein antibodies against each respective microbial spore will be successfully generated (i.e., for example, *Clostridium difficile* antibodies).

10 Mouse polyclonal antiserum and monoclonal antibodies against *C. sporogenes* spores were obtained by several injections of 10^8 inactivated spores (incubated in 4% (v/v) formaldehyde for 4 h at 37°C). Monoclonal antibodies were produced according to the procedures of Kohler and Milstein (Kohler and Milstein, 1975). Briefly, the mice were boosted on days 21 and 42 and bled on day 50 for polyclonal antibodies, or boosted on day 50 and sacrificed for fusion on day 53 for monoclonal antibodies. Spore stocks 15 are prepared by growing *C. sporogenes* cells in cooked meat medium at 35°C, and *Clostridium perfringens* cells in fluid thioglycolate medium at 37°C under anaerobic conditions

20 Antigen prepared by the above formalin inactivation of *C. sporogenes* PA3679 spore stocks were free of vegetative cell material as observed by phase-contrast microscopy. Phillips et al., "Assessment of immunofluorescence measurements of individual bacteria in direct and indirect assays for *Bacillus anthracis* and *Bacillus cereus* spores" *J. Appl. Bacteriol.* 53:223–231 (1982). A total of 1×10^7 *C. sporogenes* spores are used as the antigen.

25 Monoclonal antibody production is done according one of many procedures. Kohler et al., "Continuous cultures of fused cells secreting antibody of predefined specificity" *Nature* 296:495–497 (1975)(herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). Hybridomas are screened for reactivity with *C. sporogenes* spores. Hybridomas found to be reactive are also screened for reactivity with the vegetative cells.

30 Isotyping of monoclonal antibodies are performed by using a dot blot immunoassay format. Spores are applied to an Immobilon-P® membrane (Millipore Corp., Bedford, Mass.) in a dot blot apparatus. The spores are then incubated with 100 ml of the appropriate tissue culture supernatants. Monoclonal antibody bound to spores are isotype by using rabbit anti-mouse subclass specific antiserum obtained from Bio-Rad® (Hercules, Calif.).

Clostridium sporogenes spores were then applied to an Immobilon-P® membrane, followed by incubation with above generated antibodies. Similarly, 10⁶ of the *Clostridium* vegetative cells are applied to the membrane, followed by incubation with the indicated antibodies. Reactivity is detected with a goat anti-mouse immunoglobulin G (IgG)-horseradish peroxidase conjugate (Sigma A4416) or a goat anti-mouse IgM-horseradish peroxidase conjugate (Sigma A8786). Color development may be performed with the insoluble substrate 3-amino-9-ethyl-carbazole (Biomeda Corp.).

5 Culture supernatants are then diluted 1:32 and 1:128 with Tris-buffered saline (TBS) (0.01 M Tris, 0.15 M NaCl, pH 7.4). Aliquots of diluted culture supernatants are 10 mixed with an equal volume of the spore antigen (4 x 10⁹ spores/ml) by gentle inversion overnight at 48°C. Diluted culture supernatants mixed with sterile distilled water serve as a positive control. Antibodies adsorbed to spores are removed by centrifugation (ca. 4,000 3g, 10 min). The supernatant fluid is used in immunoblot assays as detailed above.

15 Antibodies are concentrated by ammonium sulfate precipitation of tissue culture supernatants. Halow et al., "Storing and purifying antibodies" In: Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual, p. 283–318. E. Halow and D. Lane (ed.), Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. (1988). The concentrated protein is biotinylated by incubation with N-hydroxysuccinimidobiotin (Sigma Chemical Co.) (ca. 100 mg/mg of antibody in the sample) at room temperature for 4 h. One molar ammonium chloride 20 (20 ml/250 mg of biotin) is added to stop the reaction, and the biotinylated protein is dialyzed extensively against phosphate-buffered saline (0.1 M sodium phosphate, 0.8% NaCl) (PBS), pH 7.0. For immunocytochemical localization studies.

IgG antibodies are purified out of tissue culture supernatants by using a protein A column (Pierce Chemical Co., Rockford, Ill.) according to the manufacturer's directions. 25 IgM antibodies are purified from the culture supernatant by using a goat anti-mouse IgM antibody column (Pierce Chemical Co.). The tissue culture supernatant is diluted 1:1 in PBS and applied to the goat anti-mouse IgM column, which is equilibrated with PBS. Washing and elution of antibody off the column is performed according to the manufacturer's directions. Fractions containing protein are pooled and concentrated with 30 a Centricon 10 microconcentrator (Amicon, Danvers, Mass.) and centrifugation at 3,000 3 g for 30 min.

3. Anti-Spore Surface Protein Antibody Assays

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates methods for detecting microbial spores comprising: a) providing; i) a substrate surface suspected of

contamination by at least one microbial spore, said spore comprising at least one surface protein; and ii) a anti-surface protein antibody capable of binding to the at least one surface protein; b) contacting the anti- surface protein antibody with the substrate surface under conditions such that the antibody binds to the at least one surface protein, wherein 5 an antibody/protein complex is created; and c) detecting the antibody/protein complex. In one embodiment, the spore surface protein includes, but is not limited to, CD 1067, CD 1581, CD 3520, CD 0372, or CD 1613. In one embodiment, the anti- surface protein antibody comprises a label. In one embodiment, the label comprises a fluorescent label. In one embodiment, the surface protein is a *Clostridium difficile* surface protein. In one 10 embodiment, the surface protein is a *Bacillus anthracis* surface protein.

Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that a microbial surface protein antibody can be directed towards a specific epitope on a spore surface protein (i.e., whether an amino acid sequence or other antigenic structure). By way of illustration, a specific *C. difficile* spore surface protein is 15 used below in a method to generate polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies, but it should be understood that any microbial spore surface protein can be substituted wherein polyclonal and/or monoclonal antibodies directed against each respective microbial spore surface protein will be successfully generated.

Mouse polyclonal antiserum and monoclonal antibodies against *C. difficile* 20 hypothetical protein (SEQ ID NO: 1) are obtained by several injections of isolated hypothetical protein (i.e., for example, approximately 10^8 proteins per injection). Monoclonal antibodies are produced according to the procedures of Kohler and Milstein (Kohler and Milstein, 1975). Briefly, the mice can be boosted on days 21 and 42 and bled 25 on day 50 for polyclonal antibodies, or boosted on day 50 and sacrificed for fusion on day 53 for monoclonal antibodies. Hybridomas may be screened for reactivity with *C. difficile* spores. Hybridomas found to be reactive are also screened for reactivity with the vegetative cells.

Isotyping of monoclonal antibodies are performed by using a dot blot 30 immunoassay format. Spores are applied to an Immobilon-P® membrane (Millipore Corp., Bedford, Mass.) in a dot blot apparatus. The spores are then incubated with 100 ml of the appropriate tissue culture supernatants. Monoclonal antibody bound to spores are isotype by using rabbit anti-mouse subclass specific antiserum obtained from Bio-Rad® (Hercules, Calif.).

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates methods for detecting microbial spores comprising: a) providing; i) a substrate surface suspected of contamination by at least one microbial spore, said spore comprising at least one surface protein; and ii) a anti-surface protein monoclonal antibody capable of binding to the at least one surface protein; b) contacting the anti-surface protein monoclonal antibody with the substrate surface under conditions such that the monoclonal antibody binds to the at least one surface protein, wherein a monoclonal antibody/protein complex is created; and c) detecting the monoclonal antibody/protein complex. In one embodiment, the spore surface protein includes, but is not limited to, CD 1067, CD 1581, CD 3520, CD 0372, or CD 1613. In one embodiment, the anti-surface protein monoclonal antibody comprises a label. In one embodiment, the label comprises a fluorescent label. In one embodiment, the surface protein is a *Clostridium difficile* surface protein. In one embodiment, the surface protein is a *Bacillus anthracis* surface protein.

B. Assays For Detecting Microbial Spore Surface Protein Binding To A Surface

Several methods are provided herein for detecting spore surface protein binding in order to screen potential infection control compositions.

In order to provide methods and devices for screening compounds for developing infection control compositions, the present invention generally incorporates model *in vitro* systems which mimic a given microbial system *in vitro* for which infection control compositions are desired. The range of systems against which these infection control compositions can be screened is extensive. For example, potential infection control compositions are optionally screened for effects in blocking, slowing or otherwise inhibiting key events associated with infectious microbial organisms. For example, potential infection control test compositions are optionally screened for their ability to block systems that are responsible, at least in part, for sporulation or for the binding of spores to a surface, including, e.g., skin, bodily tissues, granite, stainless steel, ceramic etc.. Infection control test compositions which show promising results in these screening assay methods can then be subjected to further testing to identify effective pharmacological agents for the treatment of disease or symptoms of microbial infections

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1. Binding Screens

In their simplest forms, the infection control composition screening models employed in the methods and apparatuses of the present invention will screen for an

interaction of a infection control composition with a component of a biochemical system, e.g., receptor-ligand interaction, enzyme-substrate interaction, and the like. In this form, the screening model will typically include two interacting components of the system (i.e., for example, a bacterial spore protein and an infection control composition or a microbial 5 enzyme and an infection control composition).

In one embodiment, the method comprises determining whether an infection control test composition has an effect on microbial spore protein binding interactions with a surface by contacting the microbial spore protein with the infection control test composition and assaying for residual binding of the microbial spore to the surface. The 10 residual surface binding amount is then compared to a control surface binding, e.g., the same binding assay performed in the absence of the infection control composition. Typically, such binding assays involve the measurement of a parameter of the screening system. By "parameter of the screening system" is meant some measurable evidence, e.g., the presence or absence of a labeled group or a change in molecular weight (e.g., in 15 binding reactions, transport screens), the presence or absence of a reaction product or substrate (in substrate turnover measurements), or an alteration in electrophoretic mobility (typically detected by a change in elution time of a labeled compound).

Although described above in terms of a two-component screening systems, the methods and apparatuses may also be used to screen for effectors of much more complex 20 systems, where the result or end product of the system is known and assayable at some level, e.g., enzymatic pathways, spore surface signaling pathways and the like. Alternatively, the methods and apparatuses described herein are optionally used to screen for compounds that interact with a single component of a biochemical system, e.g., compounds that specifically bind to a particular biochemical compound, e.g., a receptor, 25 ligand, enzyme, nucleic acid, structural macromolecule, etc.

In some embodiments, assays of this invention may involve the interaction of two or more components. Assays involving interactions between two components can be viewed as assays for enhancers or inhibitors of binding between members of "binding pairs". Preferred binding pairs include, but are not limited to, microbial spore 30 proteins/small organic molecules, microbial spore proteins/nucleic acids, microbial spore proteins/infection control compositions (i.e., for example, *Clostridium* spore surface protein fragments). In one embodiment, either member of the binding pair can be immobilized (i.e., for example, attached to the surface) while the other member is in a

solution contacted to the surface. In another embodiment, both members can be attached to different surfaces which are then juxtaposed to perform the assay.

Accordingly, in one aspect, the present invention will be useful in screening for infection control compositions that form a binding pair with a receptor molecule, wherein 5 the binding pair affects an interaction between the receptor molecule and a surface. As used herein, the term "receptor" generally refers to one member of the binding pair (i.e., for example, a microbial spore surface protein). The other member of the binding pair is termed "an infection control composition. Thus, a receptor/ligand pair may include a typical protein receptor, usually membrane associated, and its natural ligand, e.g., another 10 protein or small molecule. Receptor/ligand pairs may also include antibody/antigen binding pairs, complementary nucleic acids, nucleic acid associating proteins and their nucleic acid ligands.

Traditionally, methods for screening for effectors of a receptor/ligand interaction (i.e., for example, a microbial spore surface protein/infection control composition 15 interaction) have involved incubating a receptor/ligand binding pair in the presence of a test compound. The level of binding of the receptor/ligand pair is then compared to negative and/or positive controls. Where a decrease in normal binding is seen, the test compound is determined to be an inhibitor of the receptor/ligand binding. Where an increase in that binding is seen, the test compound is determined to be an enhancer or 20 inducer of the interaction. In the present invention, however, it is contemplated that the receptor/ligand interaction is assayed by measuring the amount of residual binding of the receptor to a surface in the presence of the infection control composition.

In one embodiment, high throughput screening assays may comprise multiwell reaction plates, e.g., multi-well microplates, which allow for the simultaneous, parallel 25 screening of large numbers of potential infection control compositions.

A similar, and perhaps overlapping, set of biochemical systems may include the interactions between microbial enzymes and their substrates. The term "enzyme" as used herein, generally refers to a protein which acts as a catalyst to induce a chemical change in other compounds or "substrates." Typically, effectors of an enzyme's activity toward its 30 substrate are screened by contacting the enzyme with a substrate in the presence and absence of the compound to be screened and under conditions optimal for detecting changes in the enzyme's activity. After a set time for reaction, the mixture is assayed for the presence of reaction products or a decrease in the amount of substrate. The amount of substrate that has been catalyzed is then compared to a control, i.e., enzyme contacted

with substrate in the absence of test compound or presence of a known effector. As above, a compound that reduces the enzymes activity toward its substrate is termed an "inhibitor," whereas a compound that accentuates that activity is termed an "inducer."

Depending upon the particular embodiment being practiced, the infection control

5 test compositions are provided in various different media including, but not limited to, by injection, free in solution, attached to a carrier, attached to a solid support (i.e., for example, beads). A number of suitable solid supports are employed for immobilization of the test compounds. Examples of suitable solid supports include agarose, cellulose, dextran (commercially available as, i.e., Sephadex, Sepharose) carboxymethyl cellulose, 10 polystyrene, polyethylene glycol (PEG), filter paper, nitrocellulose, ion exchange resins, plastic films, glass beads, polyaminemethylvinylether maleic acid copolymer, amino acid copolymer, ethylene-maleic acid copolymer, nylon, silk, etc. Additionally, for the methods and apparatuses described herein, test compounds are screened individually, or in groups. Group screening is particularly useful where hit rates for effective test 15 compounds are expected to be low such that one would not expect more than one positive result for a given group. Alternatively, such group screening is used where the effects of different test compounds are differentially detected in a single system.

2. Immunoassays

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates immunological tests 20 where a reaction takes place between two or more related immunological agents (i.e., for example, an antigen and antibody). Thus, for example, when it is sought to determine whether and how much of a particular antigen or antibody resides in a sample one must attempt to react the sample suspected of containing an antigen with its immunological binding pair. Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it 25 is believed that if a reaction takes place, then the visualization of that reaction is evidence of the presence of the antigen or antibody in the originally tested fluid.

In one embodiment, an antibody/antigen binding pair may be visualized using an indicator or carrier particle. One suitable system comprises a polymeric particle technique in which synthetic resin particles, surfaces, or matrices have been used as an 30 adsorbent onto which the appropriate antigen (i.e., for example, a microbial spore protein fragment) or antibody (i.e., for example, having affinity to a microbial spore protein fragment) has been adsorbed.

Formats for immunoassays include, but are not limited to, competitive (e.g., ELISA, hapten inhibition, etc.) and noncompetitive assays. Various immunoassay

formats have been reported. See, U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,366,241; 4,376,110; 4,517,288; and 4,837,168; Asai (1993) Methods in Cell Biology Volume 37: Antibodies in Cell Biology, Academic Press, Inc. New York, Stites & Terr, eds. (1991) Basic and Clinical Immunology 7th Edition, etc.) and the references cited therein)(all reference herein 5 incorporated by reference.

3. Nucleic Acid Binding Assays

In another embodiment, the materials and methods of this invention are used to immobilize components in nucleic acid binding protein assays. Typically such assays detect binding of a nucleic acid by one or more binding proteins. The assays are 10 generally used to screen for agents that improve (specificity or affinity) or inhibit nucleic acid binding by one or more particular nucleic acid binding proteins. Nucleic acid binding proteins include, but are not limited to endonucleases, polymerases, nuclear transcription factor receptors, API proteins (i.e., for example, *fos* and *jun*). Nucleic acid binding assays are facilitated by attachment to a surface of either the nucleic acid 15 containing the protein binding site or the binding protein itself.

4. Binding Assays in Physiologically Compatible Solutions

It will be appreciated that many of the foregoing assays require particular conditions for the subject assay components (e.g., enzymes) to maintain their desired activity. Typically such assays are optimized to maintain physiologically compatible 20 conditions for elements (e.g., pH, ion composition) critical to component activity.

It is a significant advantage that the infection control compositions of this invention are stable to physiological concentrations of most ionic species (e.g., Na^+ , Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , etc.) Thus, the assays can be run in standard physiologically compatible compositions (e.g., phosphate buffered saline (PBS) standard ringers solutions, and the 25 like.).

The infection control compositions of this invention can also be used to purify the moiety (e.g., polypeptide(s)) to which they form binding pairs. Specifically, the infection control compositions can be used in conjunction with virtually any anion or cation exchange resin. Suitable anion and cation exchange resins are commercially available. 30 Cation exchange resins, for example include, but are not limited to, carboxymethylcellulose, while anion exchange resins include, but are not limited to, DEAE cellulose, DEAE SEPHAROSE gel filtration ion exchange media, heparin, and the like.

In one preferred embodiment, the interaction of an infection control composition with a microbial spore surface protein can be exploited for purification purposes. This is accomplished in a manner analogous to a cation exchange resin or in a manner analogous to the polyhistidine/nickel separation systems substituting mica for the cation exchange resin or the nickel resin, respectively. In one embodiment, the mica is provided as a bed (either of mica flakes or powder) through which the sample is flowed. The mica bed is housed in any of a variety of suitable vessels, including cartridges that are attachable to syringes, chromatography columns, and the like. The microbial spore surface protein binds to the mica bed, while other components of the sample are washed away. Non-specifically binding components can be eluted away using salt solutions at concentrations sufficient to release undesired components while retaining the microbial spore surface protein. Once the infection control composition is bound to the microbial spore surface protein, the infection control composition can then be released by application of sufficient salt concentrations and/or other appropriate solvent mixtures as desired.

15 5. Continuous Flow Assay Systems

In one embodiment, the methods and apparatuses of the invention are used in screening infection control test compositions using a continuous flow assay system. The use of such continuous flow assay systems are not limited to screening for spore surface protein binding to surfaces but can also be readily used in screening for inhibitors or inducers of enzymatic activity, or for agonists or antagonists of receptor-ligand binding.

In brief, the continuous flow assay system involves the continuous flow of the particular biochemical system along a fluid pathway (i.e., for example, a microarray, a chromatography column, or a microfabricated channel). As used herein, the term "continuous" generally refers to an unbroken or contiguous stream of the particular composition that is being continuously flowed. For example, a continuous flow may include a constant fluid flow having a set velocity, or alternatively, a fluid flow which includes pauses in the flow rate of the overall system, such that the pause does not otherwise interrupt the flow stream.

6. Detectable Labels

30 In one embodiment, a functioning screening system comprises producing a detectable event or signal. Such detectable signals may include, but are not limited to, optically detectable chromophoric or fluorescent signals. For enzyme systems, such signals can be produced by products of the enzyme's catalytic action, e.g., on a chromogenic or fluorogenic substrate. For binding systems, e.g., receptor ligand

interactions or microbial spore surface binding to surfaces, signals will typically involve the association of a labeled ligand with the receptor, or vice versa.

A wide variety of other detectable signals and labels can also be used in the embodiments of the presently contemplated invention. In addition to the chromogenic and fluorogenic labels described above, radioactive decay, electron density, changes in pH, solvent viscosity, temperature and salt concentration are also conveniently measured.

More generally, labels are commonly detectable by spectroscopic, photochemical, biochemical, immunochemical, or chemical means. For example, useful nucleic acid labels include ^{32}P , ^{35}S , fluorescent dyes, electron-dense reagents, enzymes (e.g., as commonly used in an ELISA), biotin, dioxigenin, or haptens and proteins for which antisera or monoclonal antibodies are available. A wide variety of labels suitable for labeling biological components are known and are reported extensively in both the scientific and patent literature, and are generally applicable to the present invention for the labeling of biological components. Suitable labels include, but are not limited to, radionucleotides, enzymes, substrates, cofactors, inhibitors, fluorescent moieties, chemiluminescent moieties, magnetic particles, and the like. Labeling agents optionally include e.g., monoclonal antibodies, polyclonal antibodies, proteins, or other polymers such as affinity matrices, carbohydrates or lipids.

Detection of labels may proceed by a variety of methods, including but not limited to, spectrophotometric or optical tracking of radioactive or fluorescent markers, or other methods which track a molecule based upon size, charge or affinity. A detectable moiety can be of any material having a detectable physical or chemical property. Such detectable labels exist in the fields of gel electrophoresis, column chromatography, solid substrates, spectroscopic techniques, and the like, and in general, labels useful in such methods can be applied to the present invention.

Thus, a label may comprise any composition detectable by spectroscopic, photochemical, biochemical, immunochemical, electrical, optical thermal, or chemical means. In some embodiments, labels may include, but are not limited to, fluorescent dyes (e.g., fluorescein isothiocyanate, Texas red, rhodamine, and the like), radiolabels (e.g., ^3H , ^{125}I , ^{35}S , ^{14}C , ^{32}P or ^{33}P), enzymes (e.g., LacZ, CAT, horse radish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase and others, commonly used as detectable enzymes, either as marker products or as in an ELISA), nucleic acid intercalators (e.g., ethidium bromide) and colorimetric labels such as colloidal gold or colored glass or plastic (e.g. polystyrene, polypropylene, latex, etc.) beads.

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates fluorescent labels that are typically characterized by one or more of the following: high sensitivity, high stability, low background, low environmental sensitivity and high specificity in labeling. Such fluorescent moieties, which are incorporated into the labels of the invention may include,

5 but are not limited to, 1- and 2-aminonaphthalene, p,p'-diaminostilbenes, pyrenes, quaternary phenanthridine salts, 9-aminoacridines, p,p'-diaminobenzophenone imines, anthracenes, oxacarbocyanine, merocyanine, 3-aminoequilenin, perylene, bis-benzoxazole, bis-p-oxazolyl benzene, 1,2-benzophenazin, retinol, bis-3-aminopyridinium salts, hellebrigenin, tetracycline, sterophenol, benzimidazolylphenylamine, 2-oxo-3-chromen, indole, xanthen, 7-hydroxycoumarin, phenoxazine, calicylate, strophanthidin, porphyrins, triarylmethanes and flavin. Individual fluorescent compounds which have functionalities for linking to an element detectable by embodiments of the invention, or which can be modified to incorporate such functionalities, include but are not limited to, dansyl chloride; fluoresceins such as 3,6-dihydroxy-9-phenylxanthhydrol;

10 rhodamineisothiocyanate; N-phenyl 1-amino-8-sulfonatonaphthalene; N-phenyl 2-amino-6-sulfonatonaphthalene; 4-acetamido-4-isothiocyanato-stilbene-2,2'-disulfonic acid; pyrene-3-sulfonic acid; 2-toluidinonaphthalene-6-sulfonate; N-phenyl-N-methyl-2-aminoaphthalene-6-sulfonate; ethidium bromide; stebrine; auromine-0,2-(9'-anthroyl)palmitate; dansyl phosphatidylethanolamine; N,N'-dioctadecyl oxacarbocyanine;

15 N,N'-dihexyl oxacarbocyanine; merocyanine, 4-(3'pyrenyl)stearate; d-3-aminodesoxy-equilenin; 12-(9'-anthroyl)stearate; 2-methylanthracene; 9-vinylanthracene; 2,2'(vinylene-p-phenylene)bisbenzoxazole; p-bis(2-(4-methyl-5-phenyl-oxazolyl))benzene; 6-dimethylamino-1,2-benzophenazin; retinol; bis(3'-aminopyridinium) 1,10-decandiyli diiodide; sulfonaphthylhydrazone of hellibrienen; chlorotetracycline; N-(7-dimethylamino-4-methyl-2-oxo-3-chromenyl)maleimide; N-(p-(2-benzimidazolyl)-phenyl)maleimide; N-(4-fluoranthyl)maleimide; bis(homovanillic acid); resazarin; 4-chloro-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzooxadiazole; merocyanine 540; resorufin; rose bengal; and 2,4-diphenyl-3(2H)-furanone.

Many fluorescent tags are commercially available, for example, from SIGMA

30 chemical company (Saint Louis, Mo.), Molecular Probes, R&D systems (Minneapolis, Minn.), Pharmacia LKB Biotechnology (Piscataway, N.J.), CLONTECH Laboratories, Inc. (Palo Alto, Calif.), Chem Genes Corp., Aldrich Chemical Company (Milwaukee, Wis.), Glen Research, Inc., GIBCO BRL Life Technologies, Inc. (Gaithersberg, Md.),

Fluka Chemica-Biochemika Analytika (Fluka Chemie AG, Buchs, Switzerland), and Applied Biosystems (Foster City, Calif.).

Desirably, fluorescent labels absorb light above about 300 nm, preferably about 350 nm, and more preferably above about 400 nm, usually emitting at wavelengths greater than about 10 nm higher than the wavelength of the light absorbed. It should be noted that the absorption and emission characteristics of the bound label may differ from the unbound label. Therefore, when referring to the various wavelength ranges and characteristics of the labels, it is intended to indicate the labels as employed and not the label which is unconjugated and characterized in an arbitrary solvent. Fluorescent labels are detectable because by irradiating a fluorescent label with light, one can obtain a plurality of emissions. Thus, a single label can provide for a plurality of measurable events. Detectable signal may also be provided by chemiluminescent and bioluminescent sources.

Chemiluminescent sources include a compound which becomes electronically excited by a chemical reaction and may then emit light which serves as the detectible signal or donates energy to a fluorescent acceptor. A diverse number of families of compounds have been found to provide chemiluminescence under a variety of conditions. One of compounds is 2,3-dihydro-1,4-phthalazinedione. The most popular compound is luminol, which is a 5-amino compound. Other members of the include the 5-amino-6,7,8-trimethoxy- and the dimethylamino[ca]benz analog. These compounds can be made to luminesce with alkaline hydrogen peroxide or calcium hypochlorite and base. Another of compounds is the 2,4,5-triphenylimidazoles, with lophine as the common name for the parent product. Chemiluminescent analogs include para-dimethylamino and -methoxy substituents. Chemiluminescence may also be obtained with oxalates, usually oxalyl active esters, e.g., p-nitrophenyl and a peroxide, e.g., hydrogen peroxide, under basic conditions. Other useful chemiluminescent compounds are also known and available, including -N-alkyl acridinium esters (basic H₂O₂) and dioxetanes. Alternatively, luciferins may be used in conjunction with luciferase or lucigenins to provide bioluminescence.

A label may be coupled directly or indirectly to a molecule to be detected (a product, substrate, enzyme, or the like) according to many methods. As indicated above, a wide variety of labels are used, with the choice of label depending on the sensitivity required, ease of conjugation of the compound, stability requirements, available instrumentation, and disposal provisions. Non-radioactive labels are often attached by indirect means. Generally, a ligand molecule (e.g., biotin) is covalently bound to a

polymer. The ligand then binds to an anti-ligand (e.g., streptavidin) molecule which is either inherently detectable or covalently bound to a signal system, such as a detectable enzyme, a fluorescent compound, or a chemiluminescent compound. A number of ligands and anti-ligands can be used. Where a ligand has a natural anti-ligand, for 5 example, biotin, thyroxine, and cortisol, it can be used in conjunction with labeled, anti-ligands. Alternatively, any haptenic or antigenic compound can be used in combination with an antibody. Labels can also be conjugated directly to signal generating compounds, e.g., by conjugation with an enzyme or fluorophore. Enzymes of interest as labels will primarily be hydrolases, particularly phosphatases, esterases and glycosidases, or 10 oxidoreductases, particularly peroxidases. Fluorescent compounds include fluorescein and its derivatives, rhodamine and its derivatives, dansyl, umbelliferone, etc. Chemiluminescent compounds include luciferin, and 2,3-dihydrophthalazinediones, e.g., luminol.

Means of detecting labels are dependent upon the type of label. Thus, for 15 example, where the label is a radioactive label, a means for detection may include, but is not limited to, a scintillation counter or photographic film as in autoradiography. Where the label is a fluorescent label, a means for detection may include, but is not limited to, exciting the fluorochrome with the appropriate wavelength of light and detecting the resulting fluorescence, e.g., by microscopy, visual inspection, via photographic film, by 20 the use of electronic detectors such as digital cameras, charge coupled devices (CCDs) or photomultipliers and phototubes, and the like. When using fluorescent labels and detection techniques, microscopy and spectroscopy techniques are often integrated into the detection system. Similarly, enzymatic labels may be detected by providing appropriate substrates for the enzyme and detecting the resulting reaction product. 25 Finally, simple colorimetric labels are often detected simply by observing the color associated with the label. For example, conjugated gold often appears pink, while various conjugated beads appear the color of the bead.

In one embodiment, a continuous flow screening system generates a constant signal which varies only when a test compound is introduced that affects the system. 30 Specifically, as the system components flow through the system, they will produce a relatively constant signal level at a detection zone. When test compounds (i.e., for example, infection control compositions) are periodically introduced into the channel and mixed with the system components, the test compounds cause a deviation from the

constant signal level at the detection zone. This deviation may then be correlated to the particular test compound screened.

5 D. Detection Of Microbial Spore Surface Protein Binding To An Epidermal
 Protein

10 In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a method for detecting
 microbial spore surface protein binding to an epidermal layer. In one embodiment, the
 epidermal layer is derived from skin. In one embodiment, the epidermal layer is derived
 from an internal organ. In one embodiment, the epidermal layer is derived from a
 mucosal membrane. In one embodiment, the epidermal layer comprises a skin protein. In
 one embodiment, the skin protein comprises involucrin. In one embodiment, the skin
 protein comprises loricrin. In one embodiment, the skin protein comprises cytokeratin.
 See, Figure 10.

15 Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay plates were coated with 5 mg of human
 keratin in 100 μ l of PBS/well overnight at 4 °C. Wells were then washed three times with
 PBS and then blocked with 1% bovine serum albumin in PBS for 1 h before the addition
 of spores. Spores (*C. difficile* prepared as described above) were diluted to a
 concentration having an absorbance of 1.0 at 600 nm in PBS (approximately 5×10^7
 spores/ml) before being labeled with FITC. 100 μ l of labeled spores were added per well,
 and the plates were incubated at 37 °C for 1 h. The total fluorescence (F_{total}) per well was
 20 measured after a 1-h incubation using a Fluoroskan II fluorescence reader (Labsystems,
 Beverly, MA), with $\lambda_{ex} = 485$ nm and $\lambda_{em} = 535$ nm. The wells were washed with PBS
 three times to remove unbound spores and the remaining fluorescence (F_{test}) measured.
 Adherence was calculated as follows: adherence = F_{test}/F_{total} . Adherence of labeled cells
 in the absence of antibodies or infection control compositions was normalized to 100%.
 25 Bovine serum albumin-coated wells were used as negative controls. For inhibition
 assays, FITC-labeled spores were first incubated with anti- spore antibodies or infection
 control compositions for 1 h at 37 °C before addition of the mixture to the keratin-coated
 wells.

30 Alternatively, EpiDerm™ Skin Model plates (24-well or 96-well) were blocked
 with 1% bovine serum albumin in PBS for 1 h before the addition of spores. Spores (*C.*
 difficile prepared as described above) were diluted to a concentration having an
 absorbance of 1.0 at 600 nm in PBS (approximately 5×10^7 spores/ml) before being
 labeled with FITC. 100 μ l of labeled spores were added per well, and the plates were
 incubated at 37 °C for 1 h. The total fluorescence (F_{total}) per well was measured after a 1-

h incubation using a Fluoroskan II fluorescence reader (Labsystems, Beverly, MA), with $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 485$ nm and $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 535$ nm. The wells were washed with PBS three times to remove unbound spores and the remaining fluorescence (F_{test}) measured. Adherence was calculated as follows: adherence = $F_{\text{test}}/F_{\text{total}}$. Adherence of labeled cells in the absence of 5 antibodies or infection control compositions was normalized to 100%. Bovine serum albumin-coated wells were used as negative controls. For inhibition assays, FITC-labeled spores were first incubated with anti- spore antibodies for 1 h at 37 °C before addition of the mixture to the EpiDerm™ Skin Model plates.

E. High-Throughput Screening of Infection Control Compositions

10 In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates methods comprising high throughput assays for screening of infection control compositions. For example, high throughput binding assays for proteins and/or nucleic acids have been developed; i) high throughput screening methods for proteins (U.S. Pat. No. 5,559,410); ii) high throughput screening methods for nucleic acid binding (i.e., in arrays) (U.S. Pat. No. 5,585,639); and 15 iii) high throughput methods of screening for ligand/antibody binding (U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,576,220 and 5,541,061)(all patents herein incorporated by reference). In addition, high throughput screening systems are commercially available (see, e.g., Zymark Corp., Hopkinton, Mass.; Air Technical Industries, Mentor, Ohio; Beckman Instruments, Inc. Fullerton, Calif.; Precision Systems, Inc., Natick, Mass., etc.). These systems typically 20 automate entire procedures including all sample and reagent pipetting, liquid dispensing, timed incubations, and final readings of the microplate in detector(s) appropriate for the assay. These configurable systems provide high throughput and rapid start up as well as a high degree of flexibility and customization. The manufacturers of such systems provide detailed protocols the various high throughput. Thus, for example, Zymark Corp. 25 provides technical bulletins describing screening systems for detecting the modulation of gene transcription, ligand binding, and the like.

Conventionally, new chemical entities with useful properties are generated by identifying a chemical compound (called a "lead compound") with some desirable property or activity, creating variants of the lead compound, and evaluating the property 30 and activity of those variant compounds. However, the current trend is to shorten the time scale for all aspects of drug discovery. Because of the ability to test large numbers quickly and efficiently, high throughput screening (HTS) methods are replacing conventional lead compound identification methods.

In one preferred embodiment, high throughput screening methods involve providing a library containing a large number of potential therapeutic compounds (candidate compounds). Such "combinatorial chemical libraries" are then screened in one or more assays, as described herein, to identify those library members (particular chemical species or subclasses) that display a desired characteristic activity. The compounds thus identified can serve as conventional "lead compounds" or can themselves be used as potential or actual therapeutics.

10 1. Combinatorial Chemical Libraries

Recently, attention has focused on the use of combinatorial chemical libraries to assist in the generation of new chemical compound leads. A combinatorial chemical library is a collection of diverse chemical compounds generated by either chemical synthesis or biological synthesis by combining a number of chemical "building blocks" such as reagents. For example, a linear combinatorial chemical library such as a polypeptide library is formed by combining a set of chemical building blocks called amino acids in every possible way for a given compound length (i.e., the number of amino acids in a polypeptide compound). Millions of chemical compounds can be synthesized through such combinatorial mixing of chemical building blocks. For example, a systematic, combinatorial mixing of 100 interchangeable chemical building blocks may result in the theoretical synthesis of 100 million tetrameric compounds or 10 billion pentameric compounds.

Combinatorial chemical libraries include, but are not limited to, peptide libraries. *U.S. Pat. No. 5,010,175*, Furka et al., *Int. J Pept. Prot. Res.*, 37: 487-493 (1991); and *25 Houghton et al., Nature* 354:84-88 (1991)(all references herein incorporated by reference). Peptide synthesis is by no means the only approach envisioned and intended for use with the present invention. Other chemistries for generating chemical diversity libraries can also be used. Such chemistries include, but are not limited to: peptoids (*PCT Publication No WO 91/19735*, 26 Dec. 1991), encoded peptides (*PCT Publication WO 30 93/20242*, 14 Oct. 1993), random bio-oligomers (*PCT Publication WO 92/00091*, 9 Jan. 1992), benzodiazepines (*U.S. Pat. No. 5,288,514*)(herein incorporated by reference), diversomers such as hydantoins, benzodiazepines and dipeptides (Hobbs et al., *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA* 90:6909-6913 (1993), vinylogous polypeptides (Hagihara et al., *J Amer. Chem. Soc.* 114:6568 (1992), nonpeptidal peptidomimetics with a Beta-D-Glucose

scaffolding (Hirschmann et al., *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.* 114:9217-9218 (1992), analogous organic syntheses of small compound libraries (Chen et al., *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.* 116:2661 (1994), oligocarbamates (Cho et al., *Science* 261:1303 (1993), and/or peptidyl phosphonates (Campbell et al., *J. Org. Chem.* 59 658 (1994); nucleic acid libraries, 5 peptide nucleic acid libraries (U.S. Pat. No. 5,539,083) antibody libraries (Vaughn et al., *Nature Biotechnology* 14(3): 309-314 (1996), and PCT/US96/10287), carbohydrate libraries (Liang et al. *Science* 274:1520-1522 (1996), and U.S. Pat. No. 5,593,853), and small organic molecule libraries - benzodiazepines (Baum *C&EN*, January 18, page 33 (1993); isoprenoids (U.S. Pat. No. 5,569,588)(herein incorporated by reference); 10 thiazolidinones and metathiazanones, U.S. Pat. No. 5,549,974; pyrrolidines, U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,525,735 and 5,519,134; morpholino compounds, U.S. Pat. No. 5,506,337; benzodiazepines, 5,288,514; and the like)(all references herein incorporated by reference).

Devices for the preparation of combinatorial libraries are commercially available 15 (See, e.g., 357 NIPS, 390 NTS, Advanced Chem Tech, Louisville Ky., Symphony, Rainin, Woburn, Mass., 433A Applied Biosystems, Foster City, Calif., 9050 Plus, Millipore, Bedford, Mass.).

A number of robotic systems have also been developed for solution phase 20 chemistries. These systems include automated workstations like the automated synthesis apparatus developed by Takeda Chemical Industries, LTD. Osaka, Japan) and many robotic systems utilizing robotic arms (Zymate II, Zymark Corporation, Hopkinton, Mass.; Orca, Hewlett-Packard, Palo Alto, Calif.) which mimic the manual synthetic operations performed by a chemist. Any of the above devices are suitable for use with the present invention. In addition, numerous combinatorial libraries are themselves 25 commercially available. ComGenex, Princeton, N.J.; Asinex, Moscow, Ru; Tripos, Inc., St. Louis, Mo.; ChemStar, Ltd, Moscow, RU; 3D Pharmaceuticals, Exton, Pa.; or Martek Biosciences, Columbia, Md..

2. High Throughput Assays of Chemical Libraries

Any of the assays for compounds inhibiting the attachment of bacterial spores as 30 described herein are amenable to high throughput screening. As described above, in a preferred embodiment, the assays screen for agents that interact with a microbial spore surface protein.

High throughput implementation of the assays described herein can be implemented with, at most, routine modification of the assays format (e.g., for

compatibility with robotic manipulators, large plate readers, and the like). Various high throughput screening systems (e.g., for protein binding, nucleic acid binding, etc.) are described. *U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,559,410, 5,585,639, 5,576,220, and 5,541,061* (all herein incorporated by reference).

5 In addition, high throughput screening systems are commercially available. Zymark Corp., Hopkinton, Mass.; Air Technical Industries, Mentor, Ohio; Beckman Instruments, Inc. Fullerton, Calif.; or Precision Systems, Inc., Natick, Mass. These systems typically automate entire procedures including all sample and reagent pipetting, liquid dispensing, timed incubations, and final readings of the microplate in detector(s) 10 appropriate for the assay. These configurable systems provide high throughput and rapid start up as well as a high degree of flexibility and customization. The manufacturers of such systems provide detailed protocols the various high throughput. Thus, for example, Zymark Corp. provides technical bulletins describing screening systems for detecting the modulation of gene transcription, ligand binding, and the like.

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V. Detection Of Infection Control Test Compounds

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a method for detecting and/or quantifying of an amount, or rate, of interaction between a microbial spore surface protein and an infection control test compound. In some embodiments, detecting methods 20 include, but are not limited to, video microscopy; DAPI fluorescence changes, fluorescence resonance energy transfer or centrifugation.

A. Microscopy

In one embodiment, an infection control test compound is detected by microscopy (i.e., for example, by direct visual observation or using a video or photographic recording 25 device). Assays involving microscopic visualization may utilize *Clostridium* spore surface peptides and/or another microbial spore surface protein comprising a labeled (e.g., fluorescently labeled). In one embodiment, the peptides and/or proteins are placed adjacent to a solid support (e.g., a glass slide), and exposed to a solution containing an infection control test compound. Attachment of the peptides and/or proteins to the solid 30 support can be directly visualized using a microscope (i.e., for example, a scanning electron microscope).

A microscope can optionally be equipped with a still camera or a video camera and may be equipped with image acquisition and analysis software to quantify the relative abundance of protein and/or peptide attachment.

Any label that can be visualized in a microscope can be used in conjunction with this type of detection. Such labels include, but are not limited to, fluorescent labels (e.g., fluorescein, rhodamine, etc.), calorimetric labels, and radioactive labels (with appropriate scintillation screen), and the like. In some embodiments of the assays of this invention, 5 the microtubules can be visualized without any label (e.g., via differential interference contrast microscopy).

B. DAPI Fluorescence Changes.

In another embodiment, the interaction of an infection control test compound with a *Clostridium* spore surface peptide and/or another microbial spore surface protein can be 10 determined by changes in fluorescence utilizing a label comprising DAPI. A decreased rate or amount in DAPI fluorescence is indicative of an interaction between a test compound and a microbial spore surface protein. A change in fluorescence with a test compound is compared to that observed in a negative and/or positive control reaction.

Other labels that can be used include, but are not limited to, anilinonaphthalene 15 sulfonate (ANS) (e.g., Molecular Probes Catalogue Nos: A-47, A-50, T-53, etc.), bis-ANS (Molecular Probes Catalogue No: B-153), N-phenyl-1-naphthylene (NPN) (Molecular Probes Catalogue No: P65), DCVJ (Molecular Probes Catalogue No: D-3923), ruthenium red, and cresol violet.

C. Fluorescence Resonance Energy Transfer

The degree of interaction between a *Clostridium* spore surface peptide and/or 20 another microbial spore surface protein and an infection control test compound can also be determined by fluorescent resonance energy transfer (FRET). Fluorescence resonance energy transfer, a phenomenon that occurs when two fluorophores with overlapping absorption and emission spectra are located close together (e.g., <7 nm apart). Stryer et 25 al., *Ann. Rev. Biochem.*, 47:819-846 (1978). In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates detecting protein-protein interactions using FRET. Taylor et al., *J. Cell Biol.* 89:362-367 (1981).

In one embodiment, equimolar proportions of differently labeled microbial spore 30 surface peptide and an infection control test peptide compound are combined (e.g., fluorescein labeled and rhodamine-labeled, respectively). Fluorescence may be quenched upon the interaction of the microbial spore surface peptide with the peptide test compound, indicating that the respective bound fluorochromes come in close enough proximity for energy transfer to occur. The rates and/or amount of fluorescence generated by a reaction with a test compound and a control can be compared.

VI. Recombinant Expression Of Microbial Spore Surface Proteins And Peptides

In one embodiment, *Clostridium* spore surface peptides and/or another microbial spore surface proteins are synthesized using recombinant DNA methodology. Generally 5 this involves creating a DNA sequence that encodes a protein, placing the DNA in an expression cassette under the control of a particular promoter, expressing the protein in a host, isolating the expressed protein and, if required, renaturing the protein. DNA encoding a peptide and/or protein as contemplated by this invention can be prepared by many suitable methods, including, for example, cloning and restriction of appropriate 10 sequences or direct chemical synthesis by methods such as the phosphotriester method of Narang et al., *Meth. Enzymol.* 68: 90-99 (1979); the phosphodiester method of Brown et al., *Meth. Enzymol.* 68: 109-151 (1979); the diethylphosphoramidite method of Beaucage et al., *Tetra. Lett.*, 22: 1859-1862 (1981); and the solid support method of U.S. Pat. No. 4,458,066 (all above reference herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

15 Generally, the nomenclature used hereafter and the laboratory procedures in cell culture, molecular genetics, and nucleic acid chemistry and hybridization described below will be understood by those having ordinary skill in the art. Standard techniques are used for recombinant nucleic acid methods, polynucleotide synthesis, and microbial culture and transformation (e.g., electroporation, lipofection). Generally, enzymatic reactions and 20 purification steps are performed according to the manufacturer's specifications supplied with commercial kits. The techniques and procedures are generally performed according to conventional methods in the art and various general references. Sambrook et al., In: *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, 2d ed. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., (1989); and In: *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology* John 25 Wiley and Sons, Inc., N.Y. (1996), which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety).

The present invention contemplates any nucleic acid sequence which encodes a spore surface polypeptide sequence or its variants; these nucleic acid sequences are used to make recombinant molecules which express a spore surface protein. For example, the 30 redundancy of the genetic code permits many nucleic acid sequences that encode a spore surface polypeptide. Thus, codons which are different from SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, 6 or 8 may be used to increase the rate of expression of a spore surface nucleotide sequence. Additionally, alternative codons may also be used in eukaryotic expression hosts to generate splice variants of recombinant RNA transcripts which have other properties (i.e.,

for example, longer or shorter half-life). In addition, different codons may also be desirable for the purpose of altering restriction enzyme sites or, in eukaryotic expression hosts, of altering glycosylation patterns in translated polypeptides.

5 Variants of microbial spore surface protein nucleotide sequences (i.e., for example, a *Clostridium* spore surface protein) are also included within the scope of this invention. These variants include, but are not limited to, nucleotide sequences having deletions, insertions or substitutions of different nucleotides or nucleotide analogs as long as the biological activity of the translation product of the nucleotide sequence is maintained. This invention is not limited to the *Clostridium* spore surface protein nucleic acid sequences (i.e., for example, SEQ ID NO: 2) but specifically includes nucleic acid 10 homologues which are capable of hybridizing to SEQ ID NO: 2 (i.e., for example, *Bacillus* homologues; SEQ ID NOs: 3, 5, and 7), and to portions, variants and derivatives thereof, under different hybridization stringencies. For example, higher stringencies may reduce or eliminate nonspecific binding between SEQ ID NO:2 and other nucleic acid 15 sequences. Alternatively, lower stringencies may detect a larger number of nucleic acid sequences having different homologies to SEQ ID NO:2. Fragments of SEQ ID NO:2 (i.e., also referred to as a portion) are also specifically contemplated to be within the scope of this invention. In one embodiment, a fragment has a length equal to or greater than 10 nucleotides and shows greater than 50% homology to SEQ ID NO:2.

20 The present invention further contemplates antisense molecules comprising the nucleic acid sequence complementary to at least a portion of a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:2 or at least a portion of a polynucleotide encoding a spore surface protein. The present invention further contemplates a fusion gene comprising at least a portion, 25 variant, derivative and/or homologue of a nucleic acid selected from the group comprising SEQ ID NO:2 or a polynucleotide encoding a spore surface protein ligated to one or more heterologous sequences. Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that such a fusion gene may detect expression of nucleic acid sequences. Examples of a heterologous sequence include, but are not limited to, a reporter sequence encoding enzymes such as β -galactosidase or luciferase. Fusion 30 genes may also facilitate purification of the expressed protein. For example, a heterologous sequence of protein A allows purification of a fusion protein on an immobilized immunoglobulin. Other affinity traps can also be utilized to purify expressed fusion protein. For example, pGEX vectors (Promega, Madison, Wis.) may be

used to express a spore surface protein as a fusion protein with glutathione S-transferase (GST). In general, such fusion proteins are soluble and can easily be purified from lysed cells by adsorption to glutathione-agarose beads followed by elution in the presence of free glutathione. Proteins made in such systems are designed to include heparin, 5 thrombin, or factor XA protease cleavage sites so that the cloned polypeptide of interest can be released from the GST moiety at will.

A. Recombinant Expression Of Representative Spore Surface Proteins

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a method for expression recombinant microbial spore surface proteins. In one embodiment, the method comprises 10 constructing a plasmid encoding at least a portion of a microbial spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the method comprises transfecting a suitable organism with the plasmid. In one embodiment, the suitable organism is *E. coli*.

The data presented herein demonstrates the successful cloning of a transfected *E. coli* with a plasmid comprising nucleic acids encoding at least a portion of a *C. difficile* 15 spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the spore surface protein is CD1067. In one embodiment, the spore surface protein is CD3620. The following experiment is merely intended to be illustrative, and is not intended to be limiting, of the present embodiment as similar results may be obtained with other spore surface protein nucleic acid constructs using the basic technique described below.

20 Cloning of *C. difficile* suspected surface proteins was performed in *E. coli* Rosetta-Gami expression strain via an pET-19b plasmid (Novagen, product number 69677-3) having a ten (10) amino acid His tag.. Specifically, pET-19b+CD1067 (pJEB02) or pET-19b+CD3620 (pJEB03) was incubated in an overnight culture (i.e., for example, 12 hr) comprising *E. coli* Rosetta-Gami cells. See, Figure 11.

25 Approximately 2 ml of the transfected *E. coli* cell culture was transferred to an expression culture medium comprising 50 ml Luria Broth (LB) + 100 µg/ml adenosine monophosphate (AMP) and 34 µg/ml chloramphenical. After the culture was grown to approximately OD₆₂₅ to 0.5-0.6, expression of the pET plasmid was induced with 1 mM IPTG. Following IPTG induction, 1 ml medium samples were taken at approximate one 30 hour intervals. The samples were centrifuged (i.e., for example, approximately 10,000 x g for 1 min), and the resulting pellet was resuspended in 100 µl Novex solution (45 µl 2x SDS-PAGE Sample Buffer + 45 µl H₂O + 10 µl 2M dithiothreitol) and boiled for approximately 5 minutes. Approximately 20 µl of the boiled pellet suspension was

initially run on a 4-12% Tris-Glycine SDS-PAGE gel, whereupon approximately 10 µl of the suspected isolated recombinant protein was used for a Western Blot analysis.

The pJEB02 plasmid was expected to express a protein having 405 amino acids with an approximate molecular weight of 44 kDa. SDS-PAGE gel electrophoresis 5 separation confirms this expectation showing that expression of a protein of approximately 50 kDa appeared within one hour after IPTG induction and increased in intensity in subsequent samples (i.e., 2 - 6 hour samples). See, Figure 12. This preliminary separation was confirmed using Western Blot analysis detected by either F1373 anti-*C. difficile* antibody or anti-His antibody. See, Figure 13A and Figure 13B, 10 respectively.

The pJEB03 plasmid was expected to express a protein having 122 amino acids with an approximate molecular weight of 14 kDa. SDS-PAGE gel electrophoresis separation confirms this expectation showing that expression of a protein of approximately 20 kDa appeared within one hour after IPTG induction and increased in 15 intensity in subsequent samples (i.e., 2 - 4.5 hour samples). See, Figure 14. This preliminary separation was confirmed using Western Blot analysis detected by either F1373 anti-*C. difficile* antibody or anti-His antibody. See, Figure 15A and Figure 15B, respectively.

Preimmune Western Blot control samples for both the F1373 anti-*C. difficile* 20 antibody or the F1997 anti-*C. difficile* antibody (e.g., commercial customized preparations directed against spore surfaces; Strategic Diagnostics, Inc.) demonstrated an absence of binding specificity in both pJEB02 and pJEB03 expression profiles. See, Figure 16A-D. These data show that when CD1067 and CD3620 are cloned into E. coli, a preimmune control detection is not reactive with either a recombinant CD1067 protein 25 or a recombinant CD3620 protein. In contrast, a *C. difficile* spore surface antibody (i.e., for example, F1373 or F1997) reacts specifically with a recombinant CD1067 protein and a recombinant CD3620 protein. Specific expression of these proteins was confirmed by the detection of a His₁₀ tag attached to the expression plasmid construct that corresponds with the MW of both a recombinant CD1067 protein and a CD3620 recombinant protein.

30 B. Nucleic Acid Sequence Synthesis Techniques

Synthetic chemistry techniques may also be used to generate nucleic acid sequences contemplated by the present invention. Oligonucleotides can be synthesized on an Applied BioSystems oligonucleotide synthesizer according to specifications provided by the manufacturer. Sinha et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* 12:4539 (1984).

Following synthesis, complementary oligonucleotides can be annealed by heating them to 90°C in a solution of 10 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.0) containing NaCl (200 mM) and then allowing them to cool slowly to room temperature. For binding and turnover assays, duplex DNA is purified from native polyacrylamide (15% w/v) gels. The band 5 corresponding to double-stranded DNA is excised and soaked overnight in 0.30 M sodium acetate buffer (pH 5.0) containing EDTA (1 mM). After soaking, the supernatant is extracted with phenol/chloroform (1/1 v/v) and precipitated with ethanol. DNA substrates are radiolabeled on their 5'-OH group by treatment with ³²P-ATP and T4 10 polynucleotide kinase. Salts and unincorporated nucleotides are removed by chromatography on Sephadex G columns.

A synthesized nucleotide sequence may be confirmed using commercially available kits comprising enzymes including, but not limited to, Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I, Sequenase[®], Taq DNA polymerase, or thermostable T7 polymerase. Capillary electrophoresis may also be used to analyze a nucleic acid sequence size and 15 confirm sequences nucleic acid synthesis products. Synthesized sequences may also be amplified by: i) polymerase chain reaction (PCR) (Mullis et al., *U.S. Pat. No. 4,683,195*; and Mullis et al., *U.S. Pat. No. 4,683,202*, the ligase chain/amplification reaction (LCR/LAR); Barany et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 88:189 (1991); Barany et al., *PCR Methods and Applic.*, 1:5 (1991); and Wu et al., *Genomics* 4:560 (1989).

20 A spore surface protein nucleotide sequence of the present invention may be used in a variety of ways. For example, fragments of a sequence of at least about 10 bp, more usually at least about 15 bp, and up to and including the entire (i.e., full-length) sequence can be used as probes for the detection and isolation of complementary genomic DNA 25 sequences from *Bacillus*, *Clostridia*, as well as other bacteria. Genomic sequences are isolated by screening genomic library containing bacterial DNA with all or portion of a spore surface protein nucleic acid sequence. In addition to screening genomic libraries, a spore surface protein nucleic acid sequence can also be used to screen cDNA libraries made using bacterial RNA. A spore surface protein nucleic sequence is also useful in directing the synthesis of a spore surface protein. Spore surface protein antibodies may 30 also be used to antagonize the interaction of spore surface proteins to mammalian cells, mammalian skin, hard surfaces etc. A spore surface protein finds use in producing a spore surface protein antibodies for diagnostic purposes such as detecting infections with bacteria which express a spore surface protein. A spore surface protein nucleic acid

sequence is also useful for the screening of binding antagonists and the detection of microbes which contain spore surface proteins.

Chemical synthesis usually produces a single stranded oligonucleotide. This may be converted into double stranded DNA by hybridization with a complementary sequence, or by polymerization with a DNA polymerase using the single strand as a template. Chemical synthesis of DNA is routinely performed for sequences of about 100 bases, but longer sequences may be obtained by the ligation of shorter sequences.

Alternatively, subsequences may be cloned and the appropriate subsequences cleaved using appropriate restriction enzymes. The fragments may then be ligated to produce the desired DNA sequence.

In one embodiment, a microbial spore surface protein nucleic acid can be cloned using DNA amplification methods such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Thus, for example, a nucleic acid sequence or subsequence is PCR amplified, using a sense primer containing one restriction site (e.g., NdeI) and an antisense primer containing another restriction site (e.g., HindIII). This will produce a nucleic acid encoding the desired protein comprising terminal restriction sites. This nucleic acid can then be easily ligated into a vector containing a nucleic acid encoding the second molecule and having the appropriate corresponding restriction sites.

Suitable PCR primers can be determined using the sequence information provided herein. Appropriate restriction sites can also be added to the nucleic acid encoding the microtubule depolymerizing or severing proteins by site-directed mutagenesis. The plasmid containing the microtubule depolymerizing or severing protein encoding nucleic acid is cleaved with the appropriate restriction endonuclease and then ligated into the vector encoding the second molecule according to standard methods.

Nucleic acid sequences encoding *Clostridium* spore surface peptides and/or other microbial spore surface proteins may be expressed in a variety of host cells, including *E. coli*, other bacterial hosts, yeast, and various higher eukaryotic cells such as the COS, CHO and HeLa cells lines and myeloma cell lines. A recombinant protein gene will usually be operably linked to appropriate expression control sequences for each host. For *E. coli*, preferred promoters include, but are not limited to, T7, trp, or lambda promoters. Further, a ribosome binding site and a transcription termination signal is part of the expression vector. For eukaryotic cells, the control sequences will include a promoter and preferably an enhancer derived from immunoglobulin genes, SV40, cytomegalovirus,

etc., and a polyadenylation sequence, and may include splice donor and acceptor sequences.

The plasmids of the invention can be transferred into the chosen host cell by methods including, but not limited to, calcium chloride, calcium phosphate, or 5 electroporation. Cells transformed by the plasmids can be selected by resistance to antibiotics conferred by genes contained on the plasmids, such as the *amp*, *gpt*, *neo* and *hyg* genes.

Once expressed, the recombinant proteins can be purified according to standard 10 procedures including, but not limited to, ammonium sulfate precipitation, affinity columns, column chromatography, gel electrophoresis and the like. R. Scopes, In: Protein Purification, Springer-Verlag, N.Y. (1982); and Deutscher et al., In: Methods in Enzymology Vol. 182 (1990). Substantially pure compositions of at least about 90 to 15 95% homogeneity are preferred, and 98 to 99% or more homogeneity are most preferred. Once purified, partially or to homogeneity as desired, the polypeptides may then be used (e.g., as immunogens for antibody production).

VII. *Clostridium* Infections

Clostridium difficile, a gram-positive anaerobic bacterium, frequently causes 20 morbidity in hospitalized patients and is believed an etiological agent of antibiotic-associated diarrhea and pseudomembranous colitis. Borriello et al., “Virulence factors of *Clostridium difficile*” *Rev. Infect. Dis.* 12:S185–S191 (1990); Cerquetti et al., “Characterization of surface layer proteins from different *Clostridium difficile* clinical isolates” *Microb. Pathog.* 28:363–372 (2000); and Kuipers et al., “Quorum sensing-controlled gene expression in lactic acid bacteria” *J. Biotechnol.* 64:15–21 (1998). Two 25 factors have been evaluated for their involvement in the pathogenesis of these conditions: i) the suppression of the resident intestinal flora by the administration of antibiotics (Freeman et al., “Antibiotics and *Clostridium difficile*” *Microbes Infect.* 1:377–384 (1999); and George W., “Antimicrobial agent-associated colitis and diarrhea: historical background and clinical aspects” *Rev. Infect. Dis.* 6:S208–S213 (1984); and ii) the 30 production by the bacterium of two high-molecular-weight (MW) toxins (toxins A and B) (Pothoulakis et al., “Microbes and microbial toxins: paradigms for microbial-mucosal interactions. II. The integrated response of the intestine to *Clostridium difficile* toxins” *Am. J. Physiol.-Gastroint. Liver Physiol.* 280:G178–G183 (2001); and Wren B., “Molecular characterisation of *Clostridium difficile* toxins A

and B" *Rev. Med. Microbiol.* 3:21-27 (1992).

As with other enterotoxigenic pathogens, delivery of toxins follows *C. difficile* colonization of the gut, which requires bacterial adherence to the mucosa. In a Syrian hamster model of clindamycin-induced disease, a correlation was reported between 5 variable efficiencies of gut colonization by different *C. difficile* strains and their abilities to associate with regions of the gastrointestinal tract spanning from the jejunum to the colon. At least part of the variation was suggested to be due to factors other than toxin production. However, the adherence of a poorly virulent strain to the small bowel mucosa was increased by the administration of a crude toxin preparation, possibly due to 10 the unmasking of receptor sites following cell damage.

Two virulence factors from *C. difficile* have been shown to be exotoxins, toxin A (TcdA) and toxin B (TcdB) 3, little is known about other factors involved in the adherence and colonization processes. Voth et al., "Clostridium difficile toxins: mechanism of action and role in disease" *Clin. Microbiol. Rev.* 18, 247-263 (2005). This 15 is in contrast to other enteric organisms such as *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella*, and *Shigella spp.* Possibly, this might be partly explained by the lack of well-developed mutagenesis systems for studying *C. difficile*. One approach to possibly understanding *C. difficile* involves identifying the genomic locations of potential factors involved in pathogenicity. The complete genome sequence of *C. difficile* strain 630 (epidemic type 20 X; virulent and multidrug resistant) has been reported. Wust et al., "Investigation of an outbreak of antibiotic-associated colitis by various typing methods" *Clin. Microbiol* 16:1096-1101 (1982).

The genome of *C. difficile* strain 630 comprises a circular chromosome of 4,290,252 bp and a plasmid, pCD630, of 7,881 bp. The chromosome encodes 3,776 25 predicted coding sequences (CDSs); in common with other low-G+C content Gram-positive bacteria, the chromosome has a strong coding bias, with 82.1% of the CDSs encoded on the leading strand. The plasmid carries 11 CDSs, none of which has any obvious function. Reciprocal FASTA analysis against the four sequenced clostridial genomes, *C. acetobutylicum*, *C. botulinum*, *C. perfringens*, and *C. tetani*, showed that only 30 567 (15%) of *C. difficile* CDSs are shared with all the sequenced clostridia, whereas 1,893 (50%) are unique to *C. difficile*. The conserved clostridial CDSs mainly encode essential functions, whereas the *C. difficile* unique CDSs encode many accessory functions and mobile elements. Sebaihia et al., "The multi-drug-resistant human pathogen *Clostridium difficile* has a highly mobile, mosaic genome" *Nature Genetics* 38:779-786 (2006).

Binding of purified *C. difficile* surface layer proteins (SLPs) has been observed in both human epithelial cells and gastrointestinal tissues. Calabi et al., "Binding of *Clostridium difficile* surface layer proteins to gastrointestinal tissues" *Infect Immun* 70:5770-5778 (2002). Binding to both cells and tissues is observed with acid-extracted SLPs and with the soluble recombinant high-MW subunit. In contrast, much less or no binding is observed with a soluble recombinant low-MW SLP subunit, expressed and purified under the same conditions as a recombinant high-MW SLP subunit. Because an anti-high-MW subunit serum partially blocked adherence of *C. difficile* to HEp-2 cells it is possible that SLPs are involved in the adherence of whole bacteria to epithelial cells. It is believed that the natural conformation of these proteins are retained during the adhesion because; i) both native and recombinant SLP preparations retained peptidoglycan hydrolase activities; ii) acid-extracted SLPs are capable of polymerizing into higher order structures upon the addition of calcium; and iii) antisera raised against both recombinant subunits react at high titers with whole *C. difficile* cells.

Clostridium perfringens is suspected to cause gas gangrene and is a severe form of gangrene (tissue death; also referred to as necrotizing subcutaneous infection. Gas gangrene can also result from infections from *Streptococcus spp.* and *Vibrio vulnificus*.

Gas gangrene usually occurs as a result of infection with a *Clostridium perfringens* bacteria that, under anaerobic (low oxygen) conditions, produce toxins that cause tissue death and associated symptoms. In the United States, gas gangrene is rare, with only 1,000-3,000 cases yearly. Gas gangrene generally occurs at the site of trauma or a recent surgical wound but may also occur spontaneously. Patients who develop gas gangrene spontaneously often have a high risk factor including, but not limited to, an underlying blood vessel disease (i.e., for example, atherosclerosis or hardening of the arteries), diabetes, or colon cancer.

The onset of gas gangrene is generally sudden and dramatic. Inflammation begins at the site of infection as a pale-to-brownish-red and extremely painful tissue swelling. Gas may be felt in the tissue as a crackly sensation when the swollen area is pressed with the fingers. The edges of the infected area expand so rapidly that changes are visible over a few minutes. The involved tissue is completely destroyed.

Clostridium perfringens bacteria produce many different toxins, four of which (i.e., for example, alpha, beta, epsilon, and iota) can cause potentially fatal syndromes. In addition, they cause tissue death (i.e., for example, necrosis), destruction of blood cells (i.e., for example, hemolysis), local decrease in circulation (i.e., for example,

vasoconstriction), and leaking of the blood vessels (i.e., for example, increased vascular permeability).

Clostridium perfringens toxins are responsible for both the local tissue destruction and the systemic symptoms (the other symptoms that occur throughout the body).

5 Systemic symptoms develop early in a gas gangrene infection and include, but are not limited to, sweating, fever, and anxiety. If left untreated, the subject develops a shock - like syndrome including, but not limited to, decreased blood pressure (i.e., for example, hypotension), kidney failure, coma, and finally death. Other gas gangrene symptoms may include, but are not limited to, moderate to severe pain around a skin injury, progressive 10 swelling around a skin injury, moderate to high fever, skin color initially pale, later dusky progressing to dark red or purple, jaundice, vesicle formation, coalescent vesicles combining into large blisters, blisters filled with brown-red fluid, drainage from the tissues, foul-smelling brown-red or bloody fluid (i.e., for example, serosanguineous discharge), increased heart rate (i.e., for example, tachycardia), sweating, subcutaneous 15 emphysema (i.e., for example, air under the skin), or crepitus (i.e., for example, air in the tissues).

Alternatively, the subject may be in shock comprising general pallor, cold extremities, low blood pressure, or rapid heart rate. Ultimately a systemic infection may develop involving the entire body (i.e., for example, systemic toxicity or sepsis).

20 Other methods of determining the presence of gas gangrene include, but are not limited to, a gram stain of fluid from the infected area may shows Gram-positive rods (i.e., for example, a *Clostridium* species); a culture may grow the bacteria causing the infection; blood cultures may grow the infecting bacteria; an anaerobic tissue and/or fluid culture may reveal at least on *Clostridium* species; or an X-ray, computerized tomography scan, 25 or a magnetic resonance image of the affected area may show gas in the tissues

Treatment of gas gangrene generally involves a prompt surgical removal of dead, damaged, and infected tissue (i.e., for example, debridement). Amputation of an arm or leg may be indicated to control the spread of infection. Conventional antibiotics (i.e., for example, of the penicillin) may be intravenously administered as an initial bolus dose 30 followed by a long term oral regimen.

VIII. *Bacillus* Infections

Anthrax is a disease that was first described over a century ago and one of the first diseases for which a microbial cause was also determined. The infection is propagated by

spores of *Bacillus anthracis*, which can penetrate into the mammalian host by ingestion, inoculation, or inhalation. The latter mode of infection is the most severe, with rapid progression of the disease and a mostly fatal outcome. Dixon et al., *N. Engl. J. Med.* 341, 815–826 (1999). The spore is a dormant cell form of some microorganisms characterized by high resistance to chemicals and to environmental factors, such as heat and drought, which allow the organism to persist in the environment for decades. After penetrating host tissues, *B. anthracis* spores germinate into the vegetative, lethal form. The early stages of *B. anthracis* infection and the role of the host defenses in the lung are still unclear. A study by confocal microscopy shows that spore germination takes place within the macrophages, where the bacilli start producing toxins, including the lethal factor, protective antigen, and edema factor. Guidi-Rontani et al., *Mol. Microbiol.* 31:9–17 (1999). Production of these toxins leads to macrophage apoptosis and the release of vegetative bacilli into the bloodstream, causing septicemia and death. Dixon et al., *Cell. Microbiol.* 2:453–463 (2000).

On the other hand, macrophages appear to protect animals against infection due to inhalation of the spores by eliminating them. Cote et al., *Microb. Pathog.* 37:169–175 (2004). Another protective barrier that *B. anthracis* spores will encounter upon inhalation by the host is the epithelial surface of lung alveoli, which is coated with a thin layer of pulmonary surfactant. Pulmonary surfactant is a lipid-protein complex that plays two roles by: i) mechanically reducing the surface tension in the alveolus (which prevents it from collapse during expiration); and ii) providing a lung defense against infections. McCormack et al., *J. Clin. Invest.* 109:707–712 (2002). This immune function is attributed to surfactant proteins (SPs) including, but not limited to, SP-A and SP-D. SP-A and SP-D are hydrophilic members of the collection that can interact with pathogen surfaces, promote their destruction, and thus prevent infections. Crouch et al., *Annu. Rev. Physiol.* 63:521–554 (2001). Two other surfactant proteins, SP-B and SP-C, are highly hydrophobic, the latter having been shown to bind bacterial lipopolysaccharides and modulate their cellular effects. Augusto et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 277:23484–23492 (2002); and Augusto et al., *Am. J. Respir. Crit. Care Med.* 168:335–341 (2003).

IX. Prophylactic And Therapeutic Uses

A. Hospital Decontamination

Hospital pathogens (i.e., for example, *C. difficile*) are responsible for the vast majority of bacterial infections in both hospital staff and the resident patient population. Such infections may cause symptoms including, but not limited to, severe diarrhea but may also result in death following the infection of a compromised patient (i.e., for example, an immunocompromised patient). Consequently, improved antiseptic maintenance of both the hospital facility and staff should facilitate patient recovery and reduce overall health care costs due to shorter hospitalization durations.

Some bacteria (i.e., for example, *C. difficile*) produce spores which have proved highly resistant to common skin and surface disinfectants. Currently available cleansers for both hospital facility surfaces and hospital staff skin (i.e., epidermal layers) are ineffective for killing and/or removing bacterial spores. Anaerobic bacteria (i.e., for example, *C. difficile*) require specialized equipment and handling techniques to work with and manipulate. Consequently, there are currently no easy ways to develop an anaerobic bacteria specific “spore removal handwash”.

In fact *C. difficile* is responsible for 15-25% of all cases of antibiotic-associated diarrhea. Recurrences of this type of diarrhea is a serious, difficult, and still unresolved management problem and increase both the length and overall cost of hospitalization. Most studies demonstrate that hospital recurrences of *C. difficile* infections are split 50:50 between a reinfection with the same, or different, bacterial subtype. Adequately controlling these types of recurrences depends upon the quality of antimicrobial procedures such as handwashing, environmental decontamination, and enteric isolation. Contamination of the environment and persistence of spores have been demonstrated and implicated in cross infections. Barbut et al., “Epidemiology of recurrences or reinfections of *Clostridium difficile*-Associated diarrhea” *J Clin Microbiol* 38:2386-2388 (2000).

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a composition comprising at least one outermost protein component of an anaerobic bacterial spore. In one embodiment, the anaerobic bacteria comprises a *C. difficile* spore. In one embodiment, the protein component is derived from an exosporium layer. In one embodiment, the protein component comprises a spore surface protein. Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that the outermost protein component of anaerobic bacterial spore directs the attachment of the spores to tissues of an organism (i.e., for example, skin or gut) or to inanimate hard surfaces (i.e., for example, stainless steel, granite, leather, vinyl, ceramic etc).

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a method comprising screening for compositions capable of disrupting attachment interactions between anaerobic spore proteins and tissues or inanimate surfaces. In one embodiment, an outermost protein component of an anaerobic bacterial spore serves as a molecular target 5 for screening such compositions.

A spore surface protein derived from a *C. difficile* exosporium can be expressed and purified by standard methods (*supra*). Consequently, using purified and isolated spore surface protein, simple screening assays may be used to develop anaerobic spore removing products (e.g., handwashes, inanimate surface cleansers, whole body 10 decontamination solutions) without the need to work with the intact *C. difficile* organism. This eliminates the above mentioned need for large scale anaerobic equipment and effectively miniaturizes the screening process.

B. Emergency First Responders

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates prophylactic and 15 therapeutic treatment of emergency personnel responding to microbial contamination (i.e., for example, first responders). In one embodiment, emergency first responders may include, but are not limited to, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), fireman, firewomen, policeman, policewomen, journalists, police dogs, or police horses.

The collection and identification of unknown substances can be a dangerous and 20 generally time consuming procedure. In particular, microbial analysis typically requires specialized equipment in a laboratory. With the recent increase in global terrorism where there is an increased high risk of encountering toxic substances (i.e., for example anthrax) there is a need for quickly preventing and/or treating emergency first responder 25 contamination. Further, screening and/or testing protocols should be readily available without specialized equipment.

With the recent acceleration of terrorist activities around the world, first 30 responders need a readily available composition comprising compounds that provide specific protection against microbial infection. The need for such protection for emergency first responders extends beyond terrorist attacks to events including, but not limited to, natural disasters, truck crashes, and industrial accidents. These events can disperse microbial substances and make prompt identification nearly impossible by removing or destroying written descriptions, warning labels, etc. of said microbial sources.

Without knowing a microbe's identity, emergency first responders put themselves, their families, and others at high risk of being contaminated as well as the person they are treating. It is also necessary that a first responder know what the person they are treating has been exposed to because they cannot properly treat a person without knowing what is causing the person's condition and if first responders do not know what substance a person has been exposed to they might treat that person with a drug which will react with the unknown substance in a negative way.

Emergency first responders are not the only people who need quick and efficient analysis, protection, and treatment of/from unknown substances. Other examples of people who need to have prophylaxis, treatment, and/or quick analysis of an unknown substances include, but are not limited to, a waste clean up person cleaning up an industrial site, a mail room clerk who sees a package leaking a fluid, a police officer who has found an unknown substance in a suspect's car, and a teacher who has found a child unconscious next to an unmarked bottle of chemicals.

Current methods used to test an unknown substance are often times only available at a specialized laboratory. Precious time is wasted waiting for sample transport, assembly of trained personnel to perform the testing. Consequently, the present invention contemplates a kit comprising an array of labeled microbial DNA, a sample DNA extraction solution, and a detector capable of quantitating the label. Such a kit would allow an on-site determination of the type of microbial contamination.

Non-specific decontamination is labor intensive and a time consuming task which may not be effective if microbial spores are present. The present invention contemplates a readily available decontamination composition comprising a plurality of peptide fragments derived from at least one spore surface protein. Such fragments would displace bacterial spores from solid surfaces (i.e., for example, building walls, ceiling, staircases, office furnishings etc) as well as from the outer epithelial layers (i.e., for example, skin) of emergency first responders. Further, either parenteral, intranasal, pulmonary, or oral compositions suitable for human and/or animal administration would displace bacterial spores from bodily tissues (i.e., for example, mouth, throat, nasal passages, lungs, stomach, intestine, bladder, or colon). Consequently, the present invention contemplates a composition comprising a compound having an affinity for a spore surface protein, wherein the protein is responsible for the attachment of a microbial spore to a surface (i.e., for example, a solid artificial surface or a skin surface).

C. Military Applications

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates prophylactic and therapeutic treatment of military personnel responding to microbial contamination (i.e., for example, first responders). In one embodiment, military personnel may include, but are not limited to, infantry, pilots, cavalry, naval, marine, special forces, logistics, contractors, or journalists.

5 The present invention contemplates a readily available decontamination composition comprising a plurality of peptide fragments derived from at least one spore surface protein. Such fragments would displace bacterial spores from solid surfaces (i.e., for example, tents, jeeps, tanks, weapons, uniforms, etc.) as well as from the outer 10 epithelial layers (i.e., for example, skin) of military personnel. Further, either parenteral, intranasal, pulmonary, or oral compositions suitable for human and/or animal administration would displace bacterial spores from bodily tissues (i.e., for example, mouth, throat, nasal passages, lungs, stomach, intestine, bladder, or colon).

15 Consequently, the present invention contemplates a composition comprising a compound having an affinity for a spore surface protein, wherein the protein is responsible for the attachment of a microbial spore to a surface (i.e., for example, a solid artificial surface or a skin surface).

20 In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a method of routine decontamination of ballistic fabrics. At present, garments made of ballistic fabrics are washed by hand with cold water and mild detergent, rinsing thoroughly to remove all traces of detergent. Proper rinsing prohibits the accumulation of residual soap film, which can absorb water and reduce the ballistic resistance of certain types of ballistic fabric. While such a process is time consuming and laborious, it is necessary since machine washing or drying, can be damaging to the fabric, ultimately affecting its 25 ballistic performance. Furthermore, some detergents, dry cleaning solvents, bleach and starch may reduce the garment's level of ballistic resistance and most manufacturers strongly recommend against their use. Furthermore, most manufacturers of ballistic fabric strongly recommend that ballistic fabrics never be submerged in water or dried outdoors, even in the shade, because ultraviolet light causes degradation of certain types of ballistic 30 fabric.

Similarly, the care and cleaning of protective apparel, such as military turnout gear and other protective items such as knee pads, shin guards, shoulder pads and the like, is laborious and time consuming. Repeated cleaning can reduce the useful life of such garments.

A problem common to both protective gear and garments made of ballistic fabric is sweat from the wearer. If the sweat is not removed, fungal and/or bacterial growth can result over time. This fungal and/or bacterial growth ultimately degrades the protective properties of the article, results in noxious odors, and possibly even results in long-term 5 health issues for the wearer. With regard to military turnout gear in particular, all fabrics and components used in the construction of military protective clothing must pass minimum performance requirements. Thus, the inner lining of protective garments designed for military personnel where there is a danger of exposure to weapons fire and/or flame and high temperatures are usually made from aramid fibers and yarns.

10 In one embodiment, the present invention comprises a method to decontaminating ballistic fabric articles and other military protective gear, wherein the articles and gear comprise components including, but not limited to, aramid, polybenzazole, or high performance polyethylene fiber. In one embodiment, the articles and/or gear are decontaminated by a composition comprising a compound having affinity for a spore 15 surface protein. The composition can be applied to the article directly or to the fiber or as a fabric finish easily and in a cost-effective way.

X. Antimicrobial Peptides

Infection control research now includes searching for novel anti-microbial 20 peptides as well as anti-microbial organic chemicals. Antimicrobial peptides have been isolated from plants, insects, fish, amphibians, birds, and mammals. Gallo, *J Invest Dermatol.*, 111:739 -743 (1998); and Ganz et al, *Pharmac. Ther.*, 66:191-205 (1998). These peptides are apparently a primary component of innate host protection against 25 microbial pathogenesis functioning to create pores in the cytoplasmic membrane of microorganisms. Oren et al., *Biopolymers*, 47(6):451-463 (1998). Furthermore, antimicrobial peptides also act on animal cells by stimulating them to change behaviors such as syndecan expression, chemotaxis, and chloride secretion. Gallo, *J Invest Dermatol.*, 111:739 -743 (1998). After contact with microorganisms, vertebrate skin, trachea and tongue epithelia have been reported to produce peptide antibiotics. Russell et 30 al., *Infect Immun*, 64(5):1565-1568 (1996). Antimicrobial peptides, however, have not generally been observed to be effective against microbial spores.

Antimicrobial peptides of higher eukaryotes, though long recognized as components of the innate immune system, were initially considered primitive and of little clinical significance. However, the relative simplicity of these peptides belies their

importance, not only in the prevention of primary microbial infection, but also in subsequent immunomodulation. Bowman, "Peptide antibiotics and their role in innate immunity," *Annu. Rev. Immunol.*, 13:61-92 (1995). Further, the small size of the molecules suggests a decreased sensitivity to many of the mechanisms of microbial 5 resistance.

Antimicrobial peptides are generally lethal to bacteria and some fungi. They exhibit differential toxicity towards mammalian cells. Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that anti-microbial peptides interact with the lipid bilayer and may thus compromise the integrity of the bacterial 10 membrane. Hwang et al., *Biochem Cell Biol.*, 76:235-246 (1998).

SMAP 29 is an ovine antimicrobial peptide of the cathelicidin originally identified through 3' RACE analysis of sheep bone marrow RNA. Mahoney, *FEBS Lett.*, 377:519-522 (1995). RCAP 18 is a lupine antimicrobial peptide of the cathelicidin originally identified from granulocytes. Hirata et al., *Infect. Immun.* 62:421-1426 (1994). It is 15 believed that SMAP 29 and RCAP 18 peptides provide protection against some drug resistant bacterial strains. For example, SMAP 29 compositions are capable of controlling antibiotic resistant infections by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Alcaligenes xylosoxidans*, and *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*.

The antibacterial potency of the full-length antimicrobial peptides are apparently 20 correlated directly with a hydrophobicity gradient along their backbone, inversely with their relative abundance of anionic residues, but not with the extent of helix formation in trifluoroethanol.

This invention thus contemplates methods to screen for, and identify, 25 compositions that are capable of inhibiting microbial spore interaction, attachment, and/or stabilization to a solid surface. It is further contemplated that these screening methods would also identify compounds capable of inhibiting microbial spore interaction, attachment, and/or stabilization to a host organism (i.e., for example, a human, domestic animal, livestock animal, etc).

30 XI. Combination Vegetative Cell/Spore Antimicrobial Compositions

This invention encompasses methods to solve problems related to antimicrobial resistance to common antibiotic drugs. One reason for apparent antimicrobial resistance is that common antimicrobial agents are ineffective against microbial spores. Consequently, when microbial spores are still present after "decontamination" with a

conventional antimicrobial compound, the spore will convert into an active microbial growth. This can be (mis)-interpreted as “microbial resistance” when, in fact, the recurring microbial presence is due to an incomplete decontamination technique. In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a composition comprising a compound 5 having affinity for a bacterial spore surface peptide in combination with one or more conventional antimicrobial agents or antibiotics.

Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that a composition comprising a compound having affinity for a microbial surface spore peptide and/or one or more conventional antimicrobial agents or antibiotics 10 will not only effectively kill the active microbes (i.e., for example, vegetative cells) but also detach microbial spores from solid surfaces and or bodily tissues. It is further believed that this combination strategy results in an antiseptic level not possible with decontamination with an antimicrobial agent alone.

A list of bacterial strains that have been identified with resistance characteristics 15 are listed in Table XIV.

Table XIV: Mechanisms Of Bacterial Resistance To Antimicrobial Agents

Antimicrobial Agent	Mechanisms Causing Resistance	Examples of Organisms
Aminoglycosides	Modifying enzymes: acetyltransferases, adenylyl-transferases (nucleotidyl-transferases), phosphotransferases Ribosomal resistance (streptomycin, spectinomycin) Inadequate drug transport	Enterobacteriaceae, <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>E. faecalis</i> , <i>E. faecalis</i> , Enterobacteriaceae, <i>M. tuberculosis</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> <i>E. faecalis</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , anaerobes
β-Lactams	Enzymatic inactivation Low affinity PBPs Lack of penetration through outer membrane	<i>S. aureus</i> , <i>E. faecalis</i> , Enterobacteriaceae, <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>Neisseria</i> spp., <i>H. influenzae</i> <i>S. pneumoniae</i> , <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , Enterobacteriaceae
Chloramphenicol	Acetylation Lack of penetration	Enterobacteriaceae, <i>S. aureus</i> , streptococci, <i>Bacteroides uniformis</i> <i>P. aeruginosa</i>
Clindamycin, erythromycin,	Ribosomal resistance due to	Streptococci, <i>E. faecalis</i> ,

lincomycin	methylation of rRNA Inactivation by esterase Decreased penetration	Enterobacteriaceae Enterobacteriaceae, <i>S. hominis</i>
Fluoroquinolones	Decreased uptake Altered target site (DNA gyrase)	Enterobacteriaceae, <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>staphylococci</i> Enterobacteriaceae, <i>P. aeruginosa</i>
Lincomycin	Inactivation	<i>S. aureus</i>
Sulfonamides	Synthesis of an altered or alternative target site (dihydropteroate synthetase) Lack of penetration Overproduction of PABA	Enterobacteriaceae, <i>Neisseria</i> spp., <i>P. aeruginosa</i> Anaerobes <i>Neisseria</i> , <i>S. aureus</i>
Tetracycline	Drug efflux Protection of ribosome from tetracycline Inactivation	Enterobacteriaceae, <i>staphylococci</i> , <i>streptococci</i> <i>Streptococci</i> , <i>E. faecalis</i> , <i>Neisseria</i> spp., <i>Mycoplasma</i> spp. Cryptic gene found in <i>B. fragilis</i> , expressed resistance in <i>E. coli</i>
Trimethoprim	Synthesis of an altered or alternative target site (dihydrofolate reductase) Lack of penetration Ability to use alternative pathway Overproduction of dihydrofolate reductase	Enterobacteriaceae, <i>V. cholerae</i> , <i>staphylococci</i> <i>P. aeruginosa</i> <i>Enterococci</i> <i>H. influenzae</i>
Vancomycin	? ?Blocking of target site	<i>Pediococci</i> , <i>Leuconostoc</i> spp. (intrinsic) <i>Enterococci</i> (acquired)

Lorian, In: *Antibiotics in Laboratory Medicine*, Satterfield (Ed), Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia, pp. 558-559 (1991).

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a composition comprising
5 a compound having affinity for microbial spore surface peptides, wherein the compound comprises an affinity for peptides derived from different species and strains of bacteria. In one embodiment, different strains of bacteria are resistant to a plurality of antibiotic drugs. In one embodiment, the compositions of the present invention comprise stable pharmaceutical formulations. In one embodiment, the formulation may further comprise
10 a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. It is further contemplated that formulations may be administered to humans or animals, included in food preparations, pharmaceutical preparations, medicinal and pharmaceutical products, cosmetic products, hygienic

products, cleaning products and cleaning agents, as well as any material to which the compositions could be sprayed on, or adhered to, wherein inhibition of microbial spore attachment and subsequent growth on such a material is desired.

The proper applied amount of compositions of the present invention necessary to prevent microbial attachment and subsequent growth and proliferation depends upon a number of factors including the types of bacteria that might be present, the environment into which the composition is being introduced, and the time that the composition is envisioned to remain in a given area.

It is further contemplated that compositions of the present invention may be used in combination with other antimicrobial agents or antibiotics to enhance their activity. Combinations of compositions of the present invention with other agents may be useful to allow antibiotics to be used at lower doses due to toxicity concerns, to enhance the activity of antibiotics whose efficacy has been reduced, or to effectuate a synergism between the components such that the combination is more effective than the sum of the efficacy of either component independently.

Antibiotics which may be combined with compositions of the present invention in combination therapy include, but are not limited to, penicillin, ampicillin, amoxycillin, vancomycin, cycloserine, bacitracin, cephalosporin, imipenem, colistin, methicillin, streptomycin, kanamycin, tobramycin, gentamicin, tetracycline, chlortetracycline, doxycycline, chloramphenicol, lincomycin, clindamycin, erythromycin, oleandomycin, polymyxin nalidixic acid, rifamycin, rifampicin, gantrisin, trimethoprim, isoniazid, paraminosalicylic acid, and ethambutol.

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates reducing the resistance of a microorganism to an antimicrobial agent, as exemplified by reducing the resistance of a bacterium to an antibiotic, or to kill a microorganism or bacterium, by generally contacting the microorganism or bacterium with an effective amount of the antibiotic or antimicrobial agent in combination with an amount of a composition having affinity for a microbial spore surface peptide effective to inhibit the attachment and/or subsequent growth of the microorganism or bacterium. The terms "microorganism" and "bacterium" are used for simplicity and it will be understood that the invention is suitable for use against a population of microorganisms.

The microorganism, e.g., bacterium, or population thereof, may be contacted either *in vitro* or *in vivo*. Contacting *in vivo* may be achieved by administering to an animal (including a human patient) that has, or is suspected to have been contaminated

with a microbe or bacteria, a therapeutically effective amount of pharmacologically acceptable formulation comprising a composition having a compound having affinity for a microbial spore surface peptide alone, or in combination with, a therapeutic amount of a pharmacologically acceptable formulation of an antibiotic agent. The invention may thus 5 be employed to treat both systemic and localized microbial and bacterial infections by introducing the combination of agents into the general circulation or by applying the combination, e.g., topically to a specific site, such as a wound or burn, or to the eye, ear or other site of infection.

Where a composition of the present invention is used in combination with other 10 antimicrobial agents or antibiotics, an "effective amount of an antimicrobial agent or antibiotic" means an amount, or dose, within the range normally given or prescribed. Such ranges are well established in routine clinical practice and will thus be known to those of skill in the art. Appropriate doses and treatment regimens are further detailed herein. See, Table XV. Naturally, in confirming the optimal therapeutic dose for 15 compounds having affinity for microbial spore surface peptides, first animal studies and then clinical trials would be conducted, as is routinely practiced in the art. See, Example II.

Table XV: Common Antibiotics And Usual Oral Doses Antibiotic Dosage

Antibiotic	Dosage
Penicillin V	2
Rugby (generic) V-cillin K	50 mg qid
Dicloxacillin Glenlawn (generic) Dynapen Cloxacillin (Tegopen) Amoxicillin Rugby (generic) Polymox Ampicillin Moore (generic) Polycillin	250 mg qid
Augmentin	tid 250-mg tablets chewables (250 mg) 125-mg (suspension) chewables (125 mg)
Carbenicillin (Geocillin)	382 mg qid (1 tb) 2 tabs qid
Cephalexin Rugby (generic) Keflex	250 mg qid

Rugby (generic)	500 mg qid
Keflex	
Cefadroxil	1 gm bid
Rugby (generic)	
Duricef	
Cephradine	250 mg qid
Rugby (generic)	500 mg qid
Velosef	
Rugby (generic)	
Cefaclor	250 mg tid
Ceclor	
Cefuroxime axetil	125 mg bid
Ceftin	250 mg bid 500 mg bid
Cefixime	400 mg q24h
Suprax	
Cefprozil	250 mg q12h
Cefzil	
Loracarbef (Lorabid)	200 mg bid
Cefpodoxime proxetil (Vantin)	200 mg bid
Clindamycin	300 mg q8h
Cleocin	
TMP/SMZ	1 double-strength bid
Bactrim	
Septa (generic)	
Trimethoprim	100 mg bid
Rugby (generic) Proloprim	
Erythromycin (base)	250 mg qid
Abbott E-mycin (delayed release)	
Erythromycin stearate	250 mg qid
Rugby (generic)	
Azithromycin	1 g once only; 500 mg day 1 plus 250 mg day 2- 5
Zithromax	
Clarithromycin	250 mg bid
Biaxin	500 mg bid
Tetracycline hydrochloride	250 mg qid
Mylan Sumycin 250	
Doxycycline	100 mg qd (with 200- mg initial load)
Lederle (generic)	
Vibramycin	
Vancomycin	Capsules (oral 125 mg q6h PO soln/powder)
Vancocin HCl	
Metronidazole	250 mg qid
Rugby (generic)	
Flagyl	
Norfloxacin	400 mg bid
Noroxin	

Ciprofloxacin	250 mg bid
Cipro	500 mg bid 750 mg bid
Ofloxacin	200 mg bid
Floxin	300 mg bid 400 mg bid
Lomefloxacin Maxaquin	400 mg once qid

qid (4 times daily), tid (3 times daily), bid (twice daily), qd (once daily), q4h (every 4 hours around the clock), q6h (every 6 hours around the clock) and q8h (every 8 hours around the clock).

The LD₅₀/ED₅₀ ratio required for safe use of the proposed compositions and/or combinations of the compositions with other antimicrobial agents are assessed by determining the LD₅₀ (median lethal toxic dosage) and the ED₅₀ (median effective therapeutic dosage) in experimental animals. The optimal dose for human subjects is then defined by fine-tuning the range in clinical trials. In the case of LD₅₀, an inhibitor is usually administered to mice or rats (orally or intraperitoneal) at several doses (usually 4-5) in the lethal range. The dose in mg/kg is plotted against % mortality and the dose at 50% represents the LD₅₀. The ED₅₀ is determined in a similar fashion.

In a clinical trial, the therapeutic dose would be determined by maximizing the benefit to the patient, while minimizing any side-effects or associated toxicities. In optimizing a therapeutic dose within the ranges disclosed herein, one would not use the upper limit of the range as the starting point in a clinical trial due to patient heterogeneity. Starting with a lower or mid-range dose level, and then increasing the dose will limit the possibility of eliciting a toxic or untoward reaction in any given patient or subset of patients. The presence of some side-effects or certain toxic reactions per se would not, of course, limit the utility of the invention, as it is well known that most beneficial drugs also produce a limited amount of undesirable effects in certain patients.

In the treatment of animals or human patients with combination therapy, there are various appropriate formulations and treatment regimens that may be used. For example, a composition comprising a compound having affinity for a spore surface peptide and at least one additional antimicrobial drug may be administered to an animal simultaneously, e.g., in the form of a single formulation that includes the compound and additional drug(s), or by using at least two distinct formulations. The compounds having affinity for a spore surface peptide could also be administered to an animal prior to the additional drug(s) or *vice versa*.

Further embodiments of the invention include therapeutic kits that comprise, in suitable container means, a pharmaceutical composition of at least one compound having affinity for a spore surface peptide and at least one additional antimicrobial drug and/or antibiotic. The compound, antimicrobial agent and/or antibiotic may be contained within 5 a single container means, or a plurality of distinct containers may be employed.

Depending on the circumstances, antimicrobial agents may be employed in oral or parenteral treatment regimens. Methods to achieve appropriate doses are described in various publications. Reese and Betts, In: A Practical Approach to Infectious Diseases, (3rd ed.), Boston, Little Brown, (1993).

10

XII. Antibacterial Cleanser Compositions

Antibacterial cleansing compositions are typically used to cleanse the arms and hands of the user and to destroy bacteria and any other microorganisms which might be present on the user's arms or hands. These compositions are widely used in the health 15 care industry by hospital staff and other health care personnel as hand washing cleansers to prevent infection either between staff personnel or between staff personnel and patients. They are particularly suitable for use by healthcare worker such as surgeons, nurses and other health care professionals who might be subject to contact with bacteria and the like. They are also suitable for use by personnel in the food service and meat processing 20 industries and, generally are used for antimicrobial cleansing of the hands and arms by the public.

There are several active antimicrobial agents currently available for use in cleansing compositions. For example, many antimicrobial cleansing compositions contain a bisbiguanide bacterial substance such as chlorhexidine digluconate (CHG). 25 Other cleansing compositions use phenolic compounds. The antimicrobial activity of these substances, however, are often dependent upon the type(s) of surfactants or other ingredients employed therewith, and therefore, the use of the same ingredients with these antimicrobial substances will not necessarily derive the same result. For instance, when CHG is employed as an active antimicrobial agent, the cleansing composition may 30 include, but not be limited to, alkyl polyglucosides and nonionic alcohol ethoxylates as the primary surfactants. However, in compositions containing substituted phenols such as para-chloro-meta-xylenol (PCM_X; 4-chloro-3,5-dimethyl phenol) as the active antimicrobial agent, most non-ionic alcohol ethoxylates inhibit, rather than enhance, PCM_X antibacterial activity. PCM_X may yield high initial reductions of Gram-positive

and Gram-negative bacteria as well as fungi, and provide good residual activity for several hours between hand washings. Typically, where PCMX is used in cleansing compositions, it is used in concentrations of from about 0.1 to 4 percent by weight. However, the majority of formulas contain 1 percent or less by weight.

5 Antimicrobial cleansing compositions containing substituted phenols as the active antimicrobial agent have also included anionic detergents, soaps, surfactants, and the like, as well as other compounds (non-ionic ethoxylated surfactants, polyethylene glycol etc.) which may reduce the antibacterial activity of the phenolic compounds. Substituted phenolic compounds and anionic surface active detergents or soaps in an alcohol and 10 water-based carrier are also useful. Additionally, chelating agents such as ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (hereinafter, EDTA) may be added. Winicov et al., U.S. *Pat. No. 3,824,190* & RE 28,778 (herein incorporated by reference).

15 Antimicrobial compositions exhibiting mildness characteristics may include, but are not limited to, a substituted phenol, namely PCMX, an anionic detergent, a thickener such as ethylene glycol monostearate, and a foam builder such as a fatty acid alkanol amide. The thickener and fatty acid alkanol amides as well as the anionic surfactant are suspected to hinder antibacterial activity of a phenolic compound. Garabedian et al. U.S. *Pat. No. 4,632,772* (herein incorporated by reference). Other PCMX compositions comprise anhydrous blends in surfactant mixtures. Corti et al., U.S. *Pat. No. 5,114,978* 20 (herein incorporated by reference).

PCMX may be solubilized in high concentrations of water or aqueous compositions. PCMX compositions include, but are not limited to, diethanolamides of fatty acids and anionic surfactants of the class diethanolammonium salts of alkylpolyoxyethylsulfuric acid.

25 Alcohol-based antimicrobial compositions may include, but are not limited to, PCMX or CHG, hydropropyl cellulose, an alcohol, an emollient, and water. Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that the use of alcohol as a solvent or carrier in the composition is known to defat the skin which may lead to skin dryness and irritation. White et al., U.S. *Pat. No. 5,288,486* (herein 30 incorporated by reference).

Consequently, PCMX is similar to that of CHG and other substituted phenols against microorganisms in that their efficacy is highly dependent upon both the carrier and other chemical constituents within the antimicrobial cleanser composition. While the antimicrobial activity of PCMX may be potentiated against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* by

the addition of the chelating agent ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) and/or the sequestering agent sodium hexametaphosphate, PCMX may be reduced in the presence of some organic materials, and/or moderate concentrations of anionic surfactants.

Antimicrobial activity may also be lost as a consequence of reversible interactions 5 between PCMX and nonionic surfactants, polyethylene glycol, and polyethylene glycol stearate. Similarly, reduction in the antibacterial efficacy of PCMX has also been found to be the direct result of its interaction with a variety of macromolecules, namely, methyl cellulose, polyethylene glycol 6000, and polysorbate 80.

The present invention is not limited to standard antibiotic cleanser compositions 10 such as PCMX and CGH. In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates an antibacterial composition containing a substituted phenol which does not include conventional anionic surfactants or other chemical ingredients detrimental to substituted phenol antimicrobial activity. In one embodiment, an antimicrobial cleansing composition comprises a substituted phenol and at least one primary surfactant. In one 15 embodiment, the composition comprises a substituted phenol in amounts ranging from about 0.1 to about 4 percent by weight of the total composition, and preferably in amounts ranging from about 0.3 to 1 percent by weight of the total composition. In one embodiment, the composition comprises a substituted phenol in amounts that are more than 4 percent by weight of the antimicrobial agent. Although it is not necessary to 20 understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that the upper limit of the antimicrobial agent amount is related to the amount of substituted phenol which is considered to be non-toxic and non-irritating to the skin.

Any substituted phenol which is soluble in water or other non-alkanol solvent 25 (i.e., for example, triethylene glycol, propylene glycol, hexylene glycol etc.) may be used in the compositions of the present invention. In one embodiment, a substituted phenol may include, but is not limited to, alkyl substituted, halogen substituted, phenol substituted, alkyl halo substituted, benzyl alkyl substituted, phenylethyl alkyl substituted and benzyl halo substituted phenols, and alkyl substituted, halogen substituted and alkyl halo substituted bisphenols, bis(hydroxyphenyl) alkanes, amino substituted phenols, 30 resorcinol derivatives, trihydric phenol derivatives, naphthol derivatives and carboxylic acid substituted phenols (e.g., salicylic acid and esters). In one embodiment, a substituted phenol comprises a chloro-substituted phenol, namely para-chloro-meta-xylenol (PCMX). Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that PCMX may have 60 times the antimicrobial activity of an unsubstituted phenol

against a wide spectrum of bacteria and is also considered to be non-toxic and non-irritating to human skin at levels below about 3 percent by weight. Fendler, et al., "Antimicrobial cleansing compositions" *United States Patent 5,635,462* (herein incorporated by reference).

5 In one embodiment, an infection control cleanser composition of the present invention comprises at least one primary surfactant selected from the group including, but not limited to, amine oxides, phospholipids, partially neutralized carboxylic acids and diacids, betaines, or ethoxylated methylglucosides, and/or mixtures thereof. Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that the
10 amount of primary surfactant(s) to be added to the composition of the present invention is somewhat dependent upon the number of primary surfactants added. In one embodiment, the composition comprises a plurality of primary surfactants wherein the combined amount of the primary surfactants is less than about 20 percent by weight of the composition.

15 In one embodiment, the composition comprises a primary surfactant including, but not limited to, an amine oxide or an alkyl amine oxide. In one embodiment, an amine oxide is added to the composition in an amount ranging from about 0 (absent) to about 10 percent by weight but more preferably in an amount ranging from about 5 to 7 percent by weight. In one embodiment, a composition comprises an amine oxide as a sole primary
20 surfactant wherein the amine oxide added in amounts ranging from about 1 to about 10 percent by weight. In one embodiment, an amine oxide has a alkyl chain length of from about C₈ to about C₁₆, with chain lengths of from C₁₂ to C₁₄.

25 Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that amine oxides contemplated by the present invention are considered to be amphoteric surfactants. Examples of amine oxides found to be suitable for the present invention include, but are not limited to, lauramine oxide a C₁₂ alkyl amine oxide (Mackamine LO[®]) and cocamine oxide a C₁₂ -C₁₄ alkyl amine oxide (Mackamine CO[®])(McIntyre Chemical Co., Ltd., Chicago, Ill.), as well as a C₁₄ alkyl amine oxide(Barlox 14[®]) and a C₁₂ alkyl amine oxide(Barlox 12[®])(Lonza, Inc., Fair Lawn, N.J.).
30 Alternatively, the compositions contemplated herein are suitable for amidopropyl amine oxides including, but not limited to Standamox LAO[®] or Mackamine CAO[®] (Henkel Corp., Hoboken, N.J.).

In addition, alkylamides such as cocamide may be used in conjunction with the amine oxides or other primary surfactants to boost foaming and add to the viscosity of the

composition. Viscosity modifiers and/or foam stabilizers may include, but are not limited to, Standamide CD[®], Standamide SD[®], and Cocamide DEA[®] (Henkel Corp., Hoboken, N.J.).

Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is 5 believed that amine oxides do not significantly reduce the antibacterial activity of a substituted phenol and have been found to be effective in combination with PCMX for killing microorganisms..

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates an infection control 10 composition comprising zwitterionic/amphoteric surfactants such as phospholipids and betaines as a primary surfactant. In one embodiment, phospholipids and/or betaines may be used in place of, or in conjunction with, amine oxides. In one embodiment, a composition may comprise phospholipids and betaines in amounts up to about 10 percent by weight.

In one embodiment, an infection control cleanser composition comprises a 15 phospholipid including, but not limited to, an alkyl phosphatidyl PG-dimonium chloride. In one embodiment, an alkyl phosphatidyl PG-dimonium chloride may be selected from the group comprising cocamidopropyl phosphatidyl PG-dimonium chloride (Phospholipid PTC[®], MONA Industries, Inc., Paterson, N.J.); stearamidopropyl phosphatidyl PG-dimonium chloride (Phospholipid PTS[®], MONA Industries, Inc., Paterson, N.J.); 20 linoleamidopropyl phosphatidyl PG-dimonium chloride (Phospholipid EFA[®], MONA Industries, Inc., Paterson, N.J.); and stearamidopropyl phosphatidyl PG-dimonium chloride/cetyl alcohol (Phospholipid SV[®], MONA Industries, Inc., Paterson, N.J.). In one embodiment, alkyl phosphatidyl PG-dimonium chlorides are incorporated into the composition in an amount ranging from 0 (absent) to about 10 percent by weight of the 25 total composition.

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates an infection control 30 cleanser composition comprising a betaine lipid as a primary surfactant either alone or in conjunction with other primary surfactants. In one embodiment, a betaine lipid comprises an alkylammonio carboxylate ranging from 8 to 18 carbon atoms. In one embodiment, a composition comprising an alkylammonio carboxylate includes up to 10 percent by weight of the total composition. In one embodiment, an alkylammonio carboxylate comprises cocobetaine (Mackam CB-35[®], McIntyre Chemical Co., Chicago, Ill.).

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates an infection control 35 cleanser composition comprising a mixture of at least one partially neutralized carboxylic

acids and/or diacids (i.e., for example, sodium caproyl lactylate) that may be employed as a primary surfactant. In one embodiment, a carboxylic acid and/or diacid is added to the cleansing composition in amounts ranging from 0 (absent) to about 5 percent by weight. Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed 5 that although partially neutralized carboxylic acids and diacids might contain some anionic surfactants they have considerable protonated acid character and, therefore, these compounds are expressly excluded from the term "conventional anionic surfactants".

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates an infection control 10 cleanser composition comprising a nonionic primary surfactant. In one embodiment, the nonionic primary surfactant comprises an ethoxylated nonionic methylglucoside. In one embodiment, an ethoxylated nonionic methylglycoside may also be added to a composition in amounts ranging from 0 (absent) to about 10 percent by weight.

The composition may also include other additives such as thickeners, emollients, 15 chelating and sequestering agents, fragrances, coloring agents, opacifying agents, pearlizing agents, vitamins and the like. For example, a composition may include a polymer viscosifier or thickener such as hydroxyethyl cellulose to make the composition more aesthetically pleasing. Examples of other suitable polymer viscosifiers include, but are not necessarily limited to, hydroxypropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, and carboxymethyl cellulose.

20 A glycol may be added in order to quicken the rate of dissolution of the substituted phenol and as an emollient and/or humectant. Glycols may include, but are not limited to, propylene glycol, triethylene glycol, and hexylene glycol. Glycols may be added to a composition in amounts ranging from 0 (absent) to about 10 percent by weight of the total composition, but more preferably in an amount of about 3 percent. In one 25 embodiment, a PCMX and/or a second substituted phenol may be dissolved in at least a portion of a glycol prior to adding other ingredients to the solution. In one embodiment, a composition comprises a 25 percent/75 percent ratio of PCMX:glycol.

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates an infection control 30 cleanser composition comprising a chelating and/or sequestering agent ranging up to about 1 percent by weight. Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that a chelating agent and/or sequestering agent may be added to soften the water-based composition. In one embodiment, a suitable chelating agent for the present invention comprises ethylenediaminetetra-acetic acid (EDTA) (i.e., for example, disodium EDTA).

The compositions of the present invention may further comprise minor but effective amounts of other conventional additives such as fragrances, color additives, opacifying agents, pearlizing agents, vitamins, etc. An example of a particular pearlizing agent includes, but is not necessarily limited to, ethylene glycol distearate. Generally, 5 these additives are used in amounts which do not affect the essential nature of the composition with respect to its infection control properties.

For optimal antibacterial efficacy, the pH of the composition should be between 4 and 8, and preferably between 5.5 and 6.5. To adjust the pH of the composition, any acid compatible with the components of the composition can be used. Acids may include, but 10 are not limited to, lactic acid, citric acid, acetic acid, glycolic acid, or gluconic acid. Typically, less than 1 percent by weight of these acids are used to achieve the proper pH balance.

The balance of the composition is typically water so as to provide 100 percent by weight of the composition but other water soluble compounds are also suitable (i.e., for 15 example, alcohols).

All percents by weight indicated herein are based upon the percent active composition. Thus, for example, where 5 percent by weight lauramine oxide is employed and the lauramine oxide is obtained from the manufacturer or has been diluted into solution so as to comprise a 30 percent active solution, 16.7 percent of the solution will 20 have to be used in order to obtain the 5 percent by weight recommended.

The infection control cleansing compositions of the present invention are generally prepared by dissolving substituted phenol, namely PCMX, in glycol as noted hereinabove, and adding this solution to one or more of the primary surfactant discussed hereinabove, in water. More particularly, the primary surfactant or surfactants, and other 25 ingredients (i.e., for example, fragrance, chelating agent, pearlizing agent, etc.) are added to the solution with stirring. The pH of the composition is adjusted with lactic acid or similar acid. The thickener/viscosifier is then preferably added and the solution is mixed until it is completely homogeneous. The pH is checked and adjusted again if necessary. This process may be employed with or without the application of heat to enhance 30 hydration of the viscosifier, if required.

XIII. Detecting Microbes Comprising Spore Surface Protein Nucleotide Sequences

The present invention provides methods for the detection of microbes which contain a spore surface protein nucleotide sequence (i.e., for example, SEQ ID NO: 2) and/or a

spore surface protein nucleotide sequence (i.e., for example, SEQ ID NO's: 4, 6, or 8).

Microbes which contain nucleotide sequences may be identified by variety of procedures.

These procedures include, but are not limited to, DNA--DNA or DNA-RNA

hybridization as well as amplification (e.g., PCR) using DNA probes (e.g.,

5 oligonucleotide or oligomer probes or amplimers), mRNA probes and fragments of the sequence of interest. These probes and fragments can be made using a wide variety of techniques including, but not limited to, chemical synthesis, restriction digestion and expression of the nucleotide sequence, or any portion of it, in an expression vector.

Labeling of synthesized or expressed probes and nucleotide sequence fragments can be

10 achieved using oligolabeling, end-labeling or PCR amplification using labeled nucleotide.

Having generated labeled probes, microbes present in a biological sample can be tested for the presence of a nucleotide sequence using Southern or reverse Northern analysis of isolated plasmid total cellular DNA, or using Northern analysis of mRNA.

Microbes can be either grown on filters or spotted onto filters either directly or

15 following overnight culture. Moseley et al., *J. Infect. Dis.* 142:892-898 (1980); Perine et al., *J. Infect. Diseases* 152(1):59-63 (1985); and Gootz et al., *Antimicrob. Agents and Chemother.* 28(1):69-73 (1985). Briefly, a solid support such as nitrocellulose paper or a nylon membrane is inoculated with clinical specimen, or with broth culture of clinical specimen suspected of containing bacteria. The cells lysed onto the nitrocellulose paper and the DNA denatured, for example by treatment with NaOH. The support is treated with pronase and chloroform to lower background non-specific binding of DNA probes to the colony material. Prehybridization and hybridization of the filters (i.e., support) with oligonucleotides, oligomers, or portions of a nucleotide sequence is then performed using standard techniques. Hybridization is detected using any one of many available methods, 25 such as by imaging radioactive probes using X-ray films (i.e., autoradiography).

Detection of bacteria which harbor a microbial spore surface protein nucleotide sequence in a sample derived from a surface demonstrates that it is beneficial to administer infection control compositions which alter microbial spore surface protein binding to the surface. In addition, such detection also permits monitoring the surface for 30 the presence of the bacteria during and after administration of the infection control composition.

In one embodiment, screening methods (i.e., for example, an assay) contemplated by this invention can be performed in solid phase where one or more components of the assay is attached to a solid surface. In solid phase assays, one or more components of the

assay is attached to a solid surface. Virtually any solid surface is suitable, as long as the surface material is compatible with the assay reagents and it is possible to attach the component to the surface without unduly altering the reactivity of the assay components. Some components might show reduced activity in solid phase, but this is generally acceptable so long as the activity is sufficient to interact with an infection control test compound.

5 Solid supports include, essentially any solid surface, including, but not limited to, a glass bead, planar glass, controlled pore glass, plastic, porous plastic metal, or resin to which the molecule may be adhered. Solid supports may be derivatized with functional groups (e.g., hydroxyls, amines, carboxyls, esters, and sulfhydryls) to provide reactive sites for the attachment of linkers or the direct attachment of the component(s).

10 Adhesion of an assay component (e.g., a spore surface protein) to the solid support can be direct or indirect (i.e., a particular compound or compounds are bound to the support, and an assay component binds to this compound or compounds rather than to the solid support). The component can be immobilized either: i) covalently (i.e., for example, by utilizing single reactive thiol groups of cysteine for anchoring protein components; Collioud et al., *Bioconjugate Chem.* 4:528-536 (1993)); ii) non-covalently but specifically (i.e., for example, via immobilized antibodies or other specific binding proteins; Schuhmann et al. *Adv. Mater.* 3:388-391 (1991); and Lu et al. *Anal. Chem.* 67:83-87 (1995); iii) by the biotin/streptavidin system; Iwane et al., *Biophys. Biochem. Res. Comm.* 230:76-80 (1997); iv) by using metal-chelating Langmuir-Blodgett films; Ng et al. *Langmuir* 11:4048-4055 (1995); and Schmitt et al., *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* 35: 317-320 (1996); and v) metal-chelating self-assembled monolayers for binding of polyhistidine fusion proteins; Sigal et al., *Analytical Chem.* 68:490-497 (1996).

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XVI. Detecting Microbes Comprising Spore Surface Proteins

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates methods comprising detecting a microbial spore protein and/or peptide fragment. In one embodiment, the microbial spore protein and/or peptide fragment comprises a microbial spore surface protein and/or peptide fragment. In one embodiment, the microbial spore surface protein and/or peptide fragment comprises a *Clostridium* spore surface protein and/or peptide fragment. In one embodiment, the *Clostridium* spore surface protein and/or peptide fragment comprises a *Clostridium difficile* spore surface protein and/or peptide fragment.

Proteins and/or peptide fragments, from any source, may be detected by a variety of suitable methods. In some embodiments, proteins and/or peptide fragments are detected by immunohistochemistry. In other embodiments, proteins and/or peptide fragments are detected by their binding to an antibody raised against the protein.

5 Antibody binding may be detected by many different techniques including, but not limited to, (e.g., radioimmunoassay, ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay), "sandwich" immunoassays, immunoradiometric assays, gel diffusion precipitation reactions, immunodiffusion assays, in situ immunoassays (e.g., using colloidal gold, enzyme or radioisotope labels, for example), Western blots, precipitation reactions, 10 agglutination assays (e.g., gel agglutination assays, hemagglutination assays, etc.), complement fixation assays, immunofluorescence assays, protein A assays, and immunoelectrophoresis assays, etc.

15 In one embodiment, antibody binding is detected by detecting a label on the primary antibody. In another embodiment, the primary antibody is detected by detecting binding of a secondary antibody or reagent to the primary antibody. In a further embodiment, the secondary antibody is labeled.

20 In some embodiments, an automated detection assay is utilized. Methods for the automation of immunoassays include those described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,885,530, 4,981,785, 6,159,750, and 5,358,691, each of which is herein incorporated by reference. 25 In some embodiments, the analysis and presentation of results is also automated. For example, in some embodiments, software that generates a prognosis based on the presence or absence of a series of proteins corresponding to cancer markers is utilized.

30 In other embodiments, the immunoassay described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,599,677 and 5,672,480; each of which is herein incorporated by reference.

25 In other embodiments, the present invention provides kits for the detection and characterization of proteins and/or nucleic acids. In some embodiments, the kits contain antibodies specific for a protein expressed from a gene of interest, in addition to detection reagents and buffers. In other embodiments, the kits contain reagents specific for the detection of mRNA or cDNA (e.g., oligonucleotide probes or primers). In preferred 30 embodiments, the kits contain all of the components necessary to perform a detection assay, including all controls, directions for performing assays, and any necessary software for analysis and presentation of results.

XV. Pharmaceutical Formulations

The active compositions of the present invention may include traditional pharmaceutical formulations. Administration of these formulations according to the present invention will be via any common route so long as the target tissue is available via that route. This includes topical, oral, nasal, buccal, rectal, vaginal or topical.

5 Alternatively, administration may be by orthotopic, intradermal, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal or intravenous injection. Such formulations would normally be administered as a pharmaceutically acceptable composition.

A. Solutions For Oral Or Parenteral Administration

The formulations, compositions, and other agents and drugs contemplated by the 10 present invention may be active compounds that may also be administered parenterally or orally. Solutions of active compounds as free base or pharmacologically acceptable salts can be prepared in water suitably mixed with a surfactant, such as hydroxypropylcellulose. Dispersions can also be prepared in glycerol, liquid polyethylene glycols, and mixtures thereof and in oils. Under ordinary conditions of storage and use, 15 these preparations may contain a preservative.

Pharmaceutical formulations suitable for injectable use include, but are not limited to, sterile aqueous solutions or dispersions and sterile powders for the extemporaneous preparation of sterile injectable solutions or dispersions. In one embodiment, a formulation is sterile. In one embodiment, the formulation comprises fluid characteristics 20 such that the formulation is easily manipulated using a syringe. In one embodiment, the formulation is stable under manufacture and/or storage conditions. In one embodiment, the formulation may further comprise a carrier such as a solvent or dispersion medium including, but not limited to, water, ethanol, polyol (for example, glycerol, propylene glycol, and liquid polyethylene glycol, and the like), suitable mixtures thereof, and 25 vegetable oils. The proper fluidity can be maintained, for example, by use of a coating, such as lecithin, by the maintenance of the required particle size in the case of dispersion and by the use of surfactants. The prevention of the action of microorganisms can be brought about by various antibacterial and antifungal agents, for example, parabens, chlorobutanol, phenol, sorbic acid, thimerosal, and the like. In many cases, it will be 30 preferable to include isotonic agents, for example, sugars or sodium chloride. Prolonged absorption of the injectable compositions can be brought about by the use in the compositions of agents delaying absorption, for example, aluminum monostearate and gelatin.

Sterile injectable solutions may be prepared by incorporating the active compounds in the required amount in the appropriate solvent with various of the other ingredients enumerated above, as required, followed by sterilization (i.e., for example, by filtration, radiation, and/or ethylene oxide exposure). Generally, dispersions may be

5 prepared by incorporating the various sterilized active ingredients into a sterile vehicle which contains the basic dispersion medium and the required other ingredients from those enumerated above. In the case of sterile powders for the preparation of sterile injectable solutions, the preferred methods of preparation are vacuum-drying and freeze-drying techniques which yield a powder of the active ingredient plus any additional desired

10 ingredient from a previously sterile-filtered solution thereof.

For oral administration, compositions having affinity for microbial spore surface proteins of the present invention may be incorporated with excipients and used in the form of non-ingestible mouthwashes and dentifrices. A mouthwash may be prepared incorporating the active ingredient in the required amount in an appropriate solvent, such

15 as a sodium borate solution (i.e., for example, Dobell's Solution). Alternatively, the active ingredient may be incorporated into an antiseptic wash containing sodium borate, glycerin and potassium bicarbonate. The active ingredient may also be dispersed in dentifrices, including: gels, pastes, powders and slurries. The active ingredient may be added in a therapeutically effective amount to a paste dentifrice that may include water,

20 binders, abrasives, flavoring agents, foaming agents, and humectants.

The compositions of the present invention may be formulated in a neutral or salt form. Pharmaceutically-acceptable salts include the acid addition salts (formed with the free amino groups of the protein) and which are formed with inorganic acids such as, for example, hydrochloric or phosphoric acids, or such organic acids as acetic, oxalic,

25 tartaric, mandelic, and the like. Salts formed with the free carboxyl groups can also be derived from inorganic bases such as, for example, sodium, potassium, ammonium, calcium, or ferric hydroxides, and such organic bases as isopropylamine, trimethylamine, histidine, procaine and the like.

Upon formulation, solutions will be administered in a manner compatible with the dosage formulation and in such amount as is therapeutically effective. The formulations are easily administered in a variety of dosage forms such as injectable solutions, drug release capsules and the like. Routes of administration may be selected from intravenous, intrarterial, intrabuccal, intraperitoneal, intramuscular, subcutaneous, oral, topical, rectal, vaginal, nasal and intraocular.

For parenteral administration in an aqueous solution, for example, the solution should be suitably buffered if necessary and the liquid diluent first rendered isotonic with sufficient saline or glucose. These particular aqueous solutions are especially suitable for intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous and intraperitoneal administration. In this connection, sterile aqueous media which can be employed will be known to those of skill in the art in light of the present disclosure. For example, one dosage could be dissolved in 1 ml of isotonic NaCl solution and either added to 1000 ml of hypodermoclysis fluid or injected at the proposed site of infusion. In: Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences 15th Edition, pages 1035-1038 and 1570-1580 (herein incorporated by reference). Some variation in dosage will necessarily occur depending on the condition of the subject being treated. The person responsible for administration will, in any event, determine the appropriate dose for the individual subject. Moreover, for human administration, preparations should meet sterility, pyrogenicity, general safety and purity standards as required by FDA Office of Biologics standards.

15 B. Liposomes For Topical Or Parenteral Administration

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a formulation comprising a liposomal preparation comprising a compound having affinity for a microbial spore surface protein. In one embodiment, the compound is encapsulated by a liposome, wherein the encapsulation prolongs the compound half-life when compared to conventional drug delivery systems.

20 A "liposome" is generally used as a generic term encompassing a variety of single and multilamellar lipid vehicles formed by the generation of enclosed lipid bilayers. For example, phospholipids may be used for preparing liposomes and can carry a net positive charge, a net negative charge, or are neutral. Dicetyl phosphate can be employed to confer a negative charge on the liposomes, and stearylamine can be used to confer a positive charge on the liposomes. Liposomes may be characterized by a phospholipid bilayer membrane and an inner aqueous medium. Multilamellar liposomes have multiple lipid layers separated by aqueous medium. Liposomes usually form spontaneously when phospholipids are suspended in an excess of aqueous solution. Although it is not necessary to understand the mechanism of an invention, it is believed that the lipid components undergo self-rearrangement before the formation of closed structures and entrap water and dissolved solutes between the lipid bilayers. Ghosh et al, In: Liver diseases, targeted diagnosis and therapy using specific receptors and ligands, Wu G. and C. Wu (eds.), New York: Marcel Dekker, pp. 87-104, (1991). Also contemplated are

cationic lipid-nucleic acid complexes, such as lipofectamine-nucleic acid complexes. In certain embodiments of the invention, the liposome may be complexed with a hemagglutinating virus (HVJ). HVJ has been shown to facilitate fusion with the cell membrane and promote cell entry. Kaneda et al., *J Biol Chem.*, 264: 12126-12129
5 (1989).

Lipids suitable for making liposomes according to the present invention can be obtained from commercial sources. For example, dimyristyl phosphatidylcholine ("DMPC") can be obtained from Sigma Chemical Co., dicetyl phosphate ("DCP") is obtained from K & K Laboratories (Plainview, N.Y.); cholesterol ("Chol") is obtained
10 from Calbiochem-Behring; dimyristyl phosphatidylglycerol ("DMPG") and other lipids may be obtained from Avanti Polar Lipids, Inc. (Birmingham, Ala.). Stock solutions of lipids in chloroform, chloroform/methanol or t-butanol can be stored at about -20°C. Preferably, chloroform is used as the only solvent since it is more readily evaporated than methanol.

15 Phospholipids from natural sources, such as egg or soybean phosphatidylcholine, brain phosphatidic acid, brain or plant phosphatidylinositol, heart cardiolipin and plant or bacterial phosphatidylethanolamine are preferably not used as the primary phosphatide, i.e., constituting 50% or more of the total phosphatide composition, because of the instability and leakiness of the resulting liposomes.

20 Liposomes used according to the present invention can be made by different methods. The size of the liposomes varies depending on the method of synthesis. A liposome suspended in an aqueous solution is generally in the shape of a spherical vesicle, having one or more concentric layers of lipid bilayer molecules. Each layer consists of a parallel array of molecules represented by the formula XY, wherein X is a
25 hydrophilic moiety and Y is a hydrophobic moiety. In aqueous suspension, the concentric layers are arranged such that the hydrophilic moieties tend to remain in contact with an aqueous phase and the hydrophobic regions tend to self-associate. For example, when aqueous phases are present both within and without the liposome, the lipid molecules will form a bilayer, known as a lamella, of the arrangement XY-YX.

30 Liposomes within the scope of the present invention can be prepared in accordance with many laboratory techniques. In one embodiment, liposomes are prepared by mixing liposomal lipids, in a solvent in a container, e.g., a glass, pear-shaped flask. The container should have a volume ten-times greater than the volume of the expected suspension of liposomes. Using a rotary evaporator, the solvent is removed at

approximately 40°C and under negative pressure. The solvent normally is removed within about 5 min to 2 hours, depending on the desired volume of the liposomes. The composition can be dried further in a desiccator under vacuum. The dried lipids generally are discarded after about 1 week because of a tendency to deteriorate with time.

5 Dried lipids can be hydrated at approximately 25-50 mM phospholipid in sterile, pyrogen-free water by shaking until all the lipid film is resuspended. The aqueous liposomes can be then separated into aliquots, each placed in a vial, lyophilized and sealed under vacuum.

10 In an alternative method, liposomes can be prepared in accordance with other procedures. Bangham et al., *J. Mol. Biol.*, 13:238-252, (1965); Gregoriadis (Ed), In. Drug Carriers in Biology and Medicine, pp 287-341 (1979); Deamer et al., "Liposome Preparation: Methods and Mechanisms," In. Liposomes, M. Ostro (Ed.) (1983); and Szoka et al., *Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA*, 75:4194-4198 (1978)(the contents of all are incorporated herein by reference). The aforementioned methods may differ in their 15 respective abilities to entrap aqueous material and their respective aqueous space-to-lipid ratios.

20 The dried lipids or lyophilized liposomes prepared as described above may be reconstituted in a solution of nucleic acid and diluted to an appropriate concentration with an suitable solvent, e.g., DPBS. The mixture is then vigorously shaken in a vortex mixer. Unencapsulated nucleic acid is removed by centrifugation at 29,000xg and the liposomal 25 pellets washed. The washed liposomes are resuspended at an appropriate total phospholipid concentration, e.g., about 50-200 mM. The amount of nucleic acid encapsulated can be determined in accordance with standard methods. After determination of the amount of nucleic acid encapsulated in the liposome preparation, the liposomes may be diluted to appropriate concentration and stored at 4°C until use.

30 In one embodiment, a lipid dioleoylphosphatidylchoine is used to create a liposome formulation. In one embodiment, compositions having affinity for microbial spore surface peptides are mixed with lipids in the presence of excess t-butanol. The mixture was vortexed before being frozen in an acetone/dry ice bath. The frozen mixture was lyophilized and hydrated with HEPES-buffered saline (1 mM HEPES, 10 mM NaCl, pH 7.5) overnight, and then the liposomes were sonicated in a bath type sonicator for 10 to 15 min. The size of the peptide-liposomes typically range between 200-300 nm in diameter as determined by the submicron particle sizer autodilute model 370. (Nicomp, Santa Barbara, Calif.).

Purified compositions comprising an infection control composition having affinity for a spore surface peptide may be used without further modifications or it may be diluted in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The infection control composition may be used independently or in combination with other antimicrobial drugs. Because of the stability 5 of the compositions it is contemplated that the invention may be administered to humans or animals, included in food preparations, pharmaceutical preparations, medicinal and pharmaceutical products, cosmetic products, hygienic products, cleaning products and cleaning agents, as well as any material to which the peptides could be sprayed on or adhered to wherein the inhibition of microbial growth is desired.

10

Experimental

The following examples are included to demonstrate preferred embodiments of the invention. These examples are intended to represent techniques that are capable of practicing specific embodiments of the present invention. However, many changes can 15 be made in the specific embodiments which are disclosed and still obtain a like or similar result without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

Example I

Spore Surface Peptide Synthesis

Spore surface peptides contemplated by the present invention may be synthesized 20 by the solid-phase method employing an Applied Biosystems model 433A peptide synthesizer and Fasfmoc strategy at the 0.1 mM scale. Peptide purification may be performed by reversed-phase HPLC on a Waters Delta Prep employing a Vydac 218TP1022 (22 x 250 mm) column. Separation is performed with a gradient system of aqueous 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid (solvent A) and 100% acetonitrile containing 0.085% 25 trifluoroacetic acid (solvent B). A linear gradient from 0 to 100% B is applied over 70 min and fractions collected every 0.2 min. Fractions are subsequently monitored by analytical scale reversed-phase HPLC on a Beckman Gold System using a Vydac 218TP54 (4.6x250 mm) column at a flow rate of 0.5 ml/min under isocratic elution 30 conditions. Select fractions are pooled and lyophilized; further characterization of peptides are provided by mass spectrometry and capillary electrophoresis. Mass measurements are performed by flow injection at 0.1 ml/min in 64% acetonitrile containing 0.05% trifluoroacetic acid with a Hewlett-Packard model 1100 MSD equipped with an electrospray ionization source.

Capillary electrophoresis is performed on a Hewlett-Packard 3D instrument equipped with an extended light path fused-silicate column 75 micrometers (ID) x 80.5 centimeters (total length). Capillary electrophoresis experiments are conducted at 18°C in 100 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 2.9 at 20,000 volts. Peptide concentration is 5 determined by quantitative amino acid analysis on a Beckman 6300 Amino Acid analyzer.

Example II

Bacterial Strains And Spore Preparation

10 The following *Clostridium difficile* strains were used: ATCC 700057, ATCC BAA-1382 (Strain 630), ATCC 43594, and ATCC 9689. Spore crops were produced by anaerobic growth on Brucella blood agar oxyrase plates (BBAO) at 35°C for 2 days, followed by restreaking on BBAO. Spores were harvested into 15 ml 1x PBS and 0.1% Tween-80 (PBST) after growing for 4 days at 35°C. Spores were centrifuged at 3000 x g 15 for 20 min at 4°C, washed 3 times with 15 ml of (PBST), and resuspended in 10 ml HistoDenz (Sigma). The suspension was layer on top of 15 ml 50% HistoDenz solution to form a gradient. The gradient was centrifuged at 5000 x g for 15 min at 4°C. The pellet was washed three times in 15 ml PBST, previously described, and resuspended in 5 ml PBST. The sample was then sonicated two times for 5 s at power level 0.5 to lyse 20 vegetative mother cells. The HistoDenz procedure, previously described, was then repeated. Final spore suspensions were stored at 4°C.

Example III

Thin Section Transmission Electron Microscopy

25 The following procedure was used for sample prep and Electron Microscopy:

1. Fix samples with 2.5% glutaraldehyde, 2% paraformaldehyde, 0.01M phosphate buffer, 2.5% DMSO at room temperature for 2 hours.
2. Wash in 0.1M phosphate buffer (3 changes over 15-30 minutes elapsed time).
3. 1% aqueous osmium tetroxide+1.5% potassium ferrocyanide for 1 h at RT.
4. Wash in DDW (3-4 changes over 15-30 minutes elapsed time) at RT.
- 30 5. Block staining: 0.5% aqueous uranyl acetate for overnight at 4C.

6. Dehydration (i.e., for example, with ethanol), each step for 10- 15 min.: a) 30%; b) 50%; c) 70% (possible for overnight at 4°C); d) 80%; e) 90%; f) 95%; g) 99%; and h) 100%
7. Propylene Oxide (PO): each step for 15-30 min
 - 5 a) Ethanol:PO = 50:50
 - b) Ethanol:PO = 25:75
 - c) PO = 100%
8. Epon: each step for 2 h
 - a) Epon:PO = 30:70
 - 10 b) Epon:PO = 50:50
 - c) Epon:PO = 75:25
 - d) Epon = 100%
 - e) Epon = 100%
9. Polymerization, i.e., for example by heating @ 60°~70°C for 48 hr.
- 15 10. Sectioning
11. Uranyl acetate and Lead citrate staining
12. Carbon coating.
13. EM observation (JEOL 1200EX or Zeiss 902)

20

Example IV

Clostridium difficile Exosporium Preparation

Approximately 10^9 spores were passed once through a chilled (4°C) French press at 20,000 lb/in². See, Figure 17. Transmission electron microscopic (TEM) examination confirmed that this procedure removed large exosporium fragments without detectable 25 damage to the remainder of the spore when compared to unprocessed control exosporium fragments. The photographs compare spores before and after stripping along with purified exosporium attached.. See, Figure 18A versus Figure 18B. The sample extruded from the French press was centrifuged for 5 min at 9,000 x g and 4°C, and the supernatant was saved. The pellet was resuspended in 10 ml of cold TEP buffer, and centrifuged as 30 described above. The pellet was resuspended in 10 ml of TEP Buffer and stored at -20°C while the supernatant was combined with the supernatant of the previous spin and centrifuged for 15 min at 9.500 x g and 4°C.

The resulting supernatant was then concentrated by centrifugation for approximately 60 min at 5000 x g and 4°C using Amicon Ultra Centrifugal Filter Devices

(Millipore), final volume, 500 μ l. Electron microscopic examination of this exosporium sample confirmed the virtual absence of spores. See, Figure 18C.

Example V

Exosporium Solubilization, Protein Electrophoresis, And Immunoblotting

Exosporium samples, 10 μ l, were solubilized by boiling for 5 min in 45 μ l of 2x Novex Tris-Glycine SDS Sample Buffer (Invitrogen), 35 μ l water and 10 μ l 200 mM dithiothreitol. Solubilized proteins were separated by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) with 4-12% Tris-Glycine gels. For immunoblotting, proteins were electrophoretically transferred from an SDS-polyacrylamide gel to a polyvinylidene difluoride membrane and treated as described in the manual for the Invitrogen Western Breeze assay kit. Briefly, each blot was blocked, probed with 1:1000 dilution of the primary MAb for 1 h, and washed. The blot was then probed with alkaline phosphatase conjugated, goat anti-rabbit IgG secondary antibody for 30 min, washed, and developed with the alkaline phosphatase developer solution.

Example VI

Amino-Terminal Protein Sequencing And Mass Spectrometry

The SDS-PAGE pieces washed with water and dehydrated in acetonitrile. The bands were then alkylated with iodoacetamide prior to the in-gel digestion. All bands were digested in-gel by incubating overnight at room temperature in trypsin, 5 μ L 20 ng/ μ l trypsin in 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate. Formed peptides were extracted from the polyacrylamide in two aliquots of 30 μ L 50% acetonitrile with 5% formic acid. These extracts were combined and evaporated to <10 μ l in Speedvac and then resuspended in 1% acetic acid to make up a final volume of ~30 μ l for LC-MS analysis.

The LC-MS system (Finnigan LTQ) contained a self-packed 9 cm x 75 μ m id Phenomenex Jupiter C18 reversed-phase capillary HPLC column. Ten μ l volumes of the extract were injected and the peptides eluted were introduced into the source of the mass spectrometer on-line. The digest was analyzed using the data dependent multitask capability of the instrument acquiring full scan mass spectra to determine peptide molecular weights and product ion spectra to determine amino acid sequence in successive instrument scans. This mode of analysis produces approximately 2500 collisionally induced dissociation (CID) spectra of ions ranging in abundance over several orders of magnitude.

The data were analyzed by using all CID spectra collected in the experiment to search the NCBI non-redundant database with the search program Mascot using mammalian taxonomy filter. All matching spectra were verified by manual interpretation. The interpretation process was aided by additional searches using the programs Sequest and Blast as needed (Cleveland Clinic for Mass Spectrometry and Protein Sequencing).

5 Example VII

CD Spectroscopy

10 Circular dichroism (CD) spectroscopy may be performed on an AVIV 62 DS spectrometer (AVIV Associates, Lakewood, N.J.) equipped with a thermoelectric temperature control at 25°C. Samples contained 0.11 - 0.24 mg/mL peptide in either 50 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.0; some samples also contain 40% trifluoroethanol or 0.1% (0.22 mM) lipopolysaccharide (LPS). Spectra are collected at 0.5 nm intervals with an averaging time of 2 s per datum point using a pathlength of 0.1 cm. The spectra are 15 smoothed once over an interval of five data points prior to plotting with each spectrum representing the average of two scans. The average of two buffer scans are subtracted prior to data smoothing. The fractional helical content are calculated from the ratio of observed mean residue ellipticity to the mean residue ellipticity for a 100% helical peptide of identical length at 25°C. (Luo and Baldwin (1997)).

20

Example VIII

Calculation of Peptide Hydrophobic Moment and Hydrophobicity

Peptide hydrophobicities and hydrophobic moments are calculated by using 25 normalized consensus hydrophobicity scales. Eisenberg et al., *J Cell Biochem* 31: 11-7 (1986).

30

Example XI

Clostridium sporogenes Exosporium Removal

Exosporia are removed from *C. sporogenes* spores using homogenization in a Braun homogenizer was for 30-s intervals up to a total of 150 s, with 120 to 150 s required for optimal removal of exosporia as determined by crystal violet staining and

light microscopy. Du et al., "Bacillus thuringiensis HD-73 spores have surfaced localized Cry 1Ac toxin: physiological and pathogenic consequences" *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* 62:3722-3726 (1996).

Spores are extracted to remove spore surface and exosporium components.

5 Aronson et al., "Comparative structural and functional aspects of spore surfaces" In: *Spores VII*. American Society for Microbiology, p. 54-61. G. Chambliss and J. C. Vary (ed.), Washington, D.C. (1978). Spores of *C. sporogenes* (1.1×10^9) are extracted in 5 mM cyclohexylaminoethane sulfonic acid-8 M urea-50 mM β -mercaptoethanol-0.8% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) at pH 9.8 for 90 min at 378C. Spores are centrifuged at 10 12,000 x g for 10 min, and the supernatant extract boiled for 5 min. Extracts are applied directly to SDS-polyacrylamide gels containing 6 M urea. For molecular weight determination, gels are transferred to 0.2-mm-pore size nitrocellulose. Blots are blocked with 3% bovine serum albumin in TBS, pH 7.4. The blots are then incubated with the appropriate biotinylated antibody (i.e., for example, C33 and/or C225, or D89 for *C. 15 sporogenes*) diluted 1:1,000 in TBS containing 0.05% Tween 20. Avidin labeled peroxidase (Sigma A7419) diluted 1:1,000 in TBS-0.05% Tween 20 is used to detect the antigens with the insoluble substrate 4-naphthol (Bio-Rad)

Glycoprotein determination is performed using periodic acid-Schiff staining. The gels are fixed overnight and treated with 0.7% periodic acid for 2 h and then with 0.2% 20 metabisulfite for 2 h. Gels are then exposed to a Schiff reagent comprising basic fuchsin, sodium metabisulfite, and hydrochloric acid (Fisher Scientific, Pittsburgh, Pa.) The mobility of proteins that stain positive as glycoproteins from the spore extracts are determined and compared to the mobility of the antigens determined by Western blotting.

Ultrathin (ca. 100-mm) cryosections of spores for immunological labeling with 25 colloidal gold are prepared. Chang et al., "Immunocytochemical localization of antigens in *B. cereus* T spores" *J. Rapid Methods Automat. Microbiol.* 2:229-233 (1993). *C. sporogenes* PA3679 spores from the same stock as had been used for the antigen are used for these experiments. The cryosections are floated on PBS containing 5% fetal calf serum, followed in sequence by PBS, PBS containing 0.1 M ammonium chloride, and 30 PBS, each for 5 to 10 min at room temperature. Sections are floated on drops of primary reagent (the appropriate monoclonal antibody diluted 1:100) for 1 to 2 h, followed by washing in PBS six times for 5 min each. Sections are then floated on drops of secondary reagent for 20 to 30 min. The secondary reagent is goat anti-mouse IgG plus goat anti-

mouse IgM conjugated to 10-nm-diameter colloidal gold used at a dilution of 1:10. Sections are again washed six times in PBS, followed by three washes with distilled water. They are stained and embedded in methylcellulose by floating them on drops of 2.3 M methylcellulose containing about 20% (vol/vol) saturated aqueous uranyl acetate. 5 Grids were picked up in loops, drained, and air dried. They are viewed in a Philips EM 300 electron microscope. Negative controls are spores treated with monoclonal antibodies of the IgG₁ and IgM isotypes which did not react with bacterial spores.

Example X

10 Cup-Scrub Assay Of *Clostridium difficile* Spores Bound To A Surface

This example describes one embodiment of a method that can assay spores that are bound to a surface. In this example, *C. difficile* spores are bound to a surface and assayed by the cup-scrub method. ATSM International, "Standard Test Method for Recovery of Microorganisms From Skin using the Cup Scrub Technique" E1874 – 09 15 (2009).

Materials

Sterilizer—Any suitable steam sterilizer capable of producing the conditions of sterilization.

20 Scrub Cups—Sterile cylinders of suitable composition, preferably with rod handles to facilitate stabilization, height approximately 2.5 cm, inside diameter of convenient size. Useful sizes range from approximately 1.5 to 4.0 cm.

Polished Glass Rod or Rubber Policeman—Can be fashioned in the laboratory or purchased.

25 Pipettor—With disposable tips to deliver appropriate volume(s).

Sterile Beakers, Test Tubes or other container, to receive the cup scrub fluid.

Microbial Cultures—This test method can be used within a protocol targeting any microbial culture (i.e., for example, a *C. difficile* microbial culture).

30 Sampling and Dilution Fluid—Sterile Butterfield's phosphate buffered water or other recovery fluid of suitable composition; this should contain an antimicrobial inactivator specific for any antimicrobial that might be on the test site; inactivator efficacy should be determined by Test Method

Test Control and Baseline Skin Sites

Skin sites are selected that are appropriate for *C. difficile* growth, providing contralateral sample sites for use as controls. A number of subjects (human or animal) selected for the assay depends on the statistical confidence needed for the expected test results, the variability encountered in the study, and the relative efficacy of any 5 antibacterial agent that may be evaluated. There may be multiple sites available on subjects; randomization is required to suppress sample bias. The number of replicates required to discriminate effects will depend in part on the appropriateness and design of controls within the protocol. The use of this technique on isolated skin or equivalents is dependent on securing the test site in order to effectively perform the procedure.

10

In Vivo Sample Collection

The area to be sampled is delineated by a sterile sampling cylinder. The cylinder is pressed firmly against the skin surface during sampling to ensure that the sampling fluid does not leak from the sampling site. A minimum 1.5-mL aliquot of sterile 15 sampling fluid, with or without product neutralizers, is pipetted into the cylinder. The entire area is then scrubbed with moderate pressure for 60 ± 6 s using a sterile polished glass rod or policeman. After scrubbing, the sampling fluid is transferred by pipette into a sterile sample tube. This procedure is repeated once more with a fresh aliquot of sampling fluid. The sampling fluids are pooled. This procedure is repeated for each 20 sampling site. The same pipettes, cylinders, glass rods, and policeman are used for both washes of a site, but new sterile equipment is used for each site. After samples are collected, paper toweling is used to blot the site dry. Care must be taken during this process to prevent the sampling fluid from spilling into an adjacent site that has not been sampled. Following all sampling, when using marker organisms, the sampling site should 25 be decontaminated using 70 to 90 % isopropanol or equivalent, followed by a 4 % chlorhexidine scrub.

Isolated Skin or Skin Equivalent Sample Collection

Quantitative microbial counts are obtained by the cup scrub technique. This 30 procedure is used for test and control samples. Samples are positioned and secured as necessary to enable placement and effective use of the sampling cylinder. The area to be sampled is delineated by a sterile sampling cylinder. The cylinder is pressed firmly against the sample surface during sampling to ensure that the sampling fluid does not leak from the sampling site. A minimum 1.5-mL aliquot of sterile sampling fluid, with or

without product neutralizers, is pipetted into the cylinder. The entire area is then scrubbed with moderate pressure for 60 ± 6 s using a sterile polished glass rod or policeman. After scrubbing, the sampling fluid is transferred by pipet into a sterile sample tube. This procedure is repeated once more with a fresh aliquot of sampling fluid. The sampling 5 fluids are pooled. This procedure is repeated for each sampling site. The same pipettes, cylinders, glass rods, and policeman are used for both washes of a site, but new sterile equipment is used for each site. If there are multiple sample sites on the same piece of isolated tissue, care must be taken during this process to prevent the sampling fluid from spilling into an adjacent site that has not been sampled.

10

Microbial Counts

Each sample is mixed thoroughly. Tenfold serial dilutions of each sample are prepared in dilution fluid. Duplicate quantitative pour or spread plates using soybean-casein digest agar with suitable neutralizer are prepared. Incubate plated samples at 15 suitable growth temperature, 62°C for 24 to 72 h, or until colonies are visible on the plates.

20

Example XI

Spore Adherence Assays - Skin Proteins

25 This example provides one embodiment to assay spore adherence to a skin protein. For purposes of illustration, the example describes the generation of a involucrin skin protein to study adherence of *C. difficile*.

Plasmids

30 Compatible plasmids for this assay may including but not limited to, pIsdA IsdA overexpression vector, pMK4 E. coli-S. aureus shuttle vector, pSRC001 rIsdA complementation vector, pNZ8148 L. lactis expression plasmid, pLIsdA IsdA expression vector, pL_NEAT IsdA_NEAT expression vector, pL_C IsdA_C expression vector, pQE30 Overexpression plasmid (Qiagen), pHuman K, pQE30 human cytokeratin

10 expression, pCMC-SPORT6-INV Involucrin cDNA clone 4749952 (IMAGE consortium, MRC Geneservice), pQE30-INV 6 His-tagged involucrin, or pET11a-LOR Loricrin cDNA clone. Clarke et al., “IsdA of *Staphylococcus aureus* is a broad spectrum, iron-regulated adhesin” *Mol. Microbiol.* 51:1509–1519 (2004); Clarke et al., “The 5 *Staphylococcus aureus* surface protein IsdA mediates resistance to innate defenses of human skin” *Cell Host Microbe* 1:199–212 (2007); Sullivan et al., “New shuttle vectors for *Bacillus subtilis* and *Escherichia coli* which allow rapid detection of inserted fragments” *Gene* 29:21–26 (1984); Kuipers, O. P., P. G. G. A. de Ruyter, M. Kleerebezem, and W. M. de Vos. 10 1998. Controlled overproduction of proteins by lactic acid bacteria. *J. Biotechnol.* 64:15–21; Sullivan et al., “New shuttle vectors for *Bacillus subtilis* and *Escherichia coli* which allow rapid detection of inserted fragments” *Gene* 29:21–26 (1984); and Walsh et al., “Clumping factor B, a fibrinogen binding MSCRAMM (microbial surface component recognizing adhesive matrix molecules) adhesin of *Staphylococcus aureus* also binds the 15 tail region of type I cytokeratin 10” *J. Biol. Chem.* 279:50691–50699 (2004).

20 *Clostridium difficile* is grown in a Luria-Bertani medium, using selection with kanamycin (50 µg/ml) where appropriate. *C. difficile* strains are grown in brain heart infusion medium (Oxoid) or chemically defined CL medium. Horsburgh et al., “In *Staphylococcus aureus*, Fur is an interactive regulator with PerR, contributes to virulence, and is necessary for oxidative stress resistance through positive regulation of catalase and 25 iron homeostasis” *J. Bacteriol.* 183:468–475 (2001).. When included, antibiotics are added at the following concentrations: erythromycin, 5 µg/ml; lincomycin, 25 µg/ml; and tetracycline, 2.5 µg/ml. *C. difficile* cultures may be grown at 37°C.

Cloning the involucrin gene

30 The coding sequence for involucrin is amplified from pCMV-SPORT6-INV by PCR employing Pfu polymerase and the forward primer CGCGGATCCATGTCCCCAGCAA CACACAC (SEQ ID NO: 446), incorporating a BamHI site (underlined), and the reverse primer CCCAAGCTTATTTATGTTGGG

TGGCCAC (SEQ ID NO: 447), incorporating a HindIII site (underlined). The fragment is cloned into pQE30 cut with BamHI and HindIII, forming pQE30-INV.

Expression and purification of recombinant proteins.

5 The expression of hexahistidine-tagged recombinant IsdA (rIsdA), cytokeratin 10, and involucrin is induced by the addition of 100 μ M isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) to growing cells. Purification is achieved by using nickel chelate chromatography using the Hi-Trap system (Amersham Biosciences). Recombinant loricrin may be affinity tagged or purified from lysed *E. coli* T4037.

10

ELISA analysis of ligand binding.

An enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) is used to analyze the ability of rIsdA to bind ligands. Clarke et al., "Analysis of Ebh, a 1.1-megadalton cell wall-associated fibronectin-binding protein of *Staphylococcus aureus*" *Infect. Immun.* 70:6680–15 6687 (2002). Briefly, 100 μ l of appropriate ligand or bovine serum albumin (BSA) in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) (5 μ g/ml) is added to wells of a 96-well microtiter plate (Nunc) overnight at 4°C. Plates are washed three times with PBST (PBS containing 0.05% [vol/vol] Tween 20), and the remaining protein-binding sites are blocked with 5% (wt/ vol) BSA in PBS for 2 h at room temperature. The plates are again washed three 20 times in PBST, and different concentrations of purified rIsdA (i.e., for example, 0 to 15 μ M) diluted in PBS–0.1% (wt/vol) BSA were added. The plates are incubated for a further 1 h before being washed three times, and anti-IsdA (diluted 1:1,000) is added in PBS–0.1% (wt/vol) BSA, followed by 1 h of incubation.

25 Mouse antibodies used for the detection of bound IsdA may be raised in accordance with reported methods. Clarke et al., "IsdA of *Staphylococcus aureus* is a broad spectrum, iron-regulated adhesin" *Mol. Microbiol.* 51:1509–1519 (2004). The plates are washed an additional three times, and alkaline phosphatase conjugated anti-mouse antibodies diluted 1:30,000 in PBS–0.1% (wt/vol) BSA is added and the plates 30 incubated for 1 h. Finally, bound antibodies are detected by using the Sigma Fast p-nitrophenyl phosphate system (Sigma). Plates are read at 405 nm in a Victor microtiter plate reader (Wallac).

Studies of the inhibition of binding are performed by the incubation of rIsdA with various concentrations of inhibitor or BSA (0 to 10 μ M) for 1 h at room temperature in

PBS–0.1% (wt/vol) BSA. The reaction mixtures then are added to ligand-coated wells, and bound protein is detected.

Atomic Force Microscopy

5 Atomic force microscopy (AFM) tips and supports are functionalized with IsdA and loricrin molecules as follows. AFM cantilevers (Microlevers; Veeco Metrology Group, Santa Barbara, CA) and silicon wafers (Siltronix, France) are coated using electron beam thermal evaporation with a 5-nm-thick Cr layer followed by a 30-nm-thick Au layer. Before use, the gold-coated surfaces are rinsed with ethanol, dried with a gentle 10 nitrogen flow, and cleaned for 15 min by UV/ozone treatment (Jelight Co., Irvine, CA). Gold tips and gold supports are immersed overnight in ethanol solutions containing 0.05 mM nitrilotriacetate-terminated (5%) (Prochimia) and tri(ethylene glycol) [tri(EG)]-terminated (95%) alkanethiols and rinsed with ethanol. Sonication is briefly applied to remove alkanethiol aggregates that can be adsorbed. The SAM (self-assembled 15 monolayer)-coated surfaces then are immersed in a 40 mM aqueous solution of NiSO₄ (pH 7.2) for 1 h and rinsed with PBS. Finally, the samples are incubated in PBS with 2 µM His-tagged IsdA for 2 h and further rinsed several times with PBS. For loricrin and BSA, gold supports are immersed for 36 h in an ethanol solution containing a 20 µM mixture (95:5, mol/mol) of alkanethiols terminated with oligo(EG) (OEG) and OEG 20 propionic acid. Following a rinse with ethanol, sonication is briefly applied to remove alkanethiol aggregates that may be adsorbed. The supports are immersed for 30 min into MilliQ water (Millipore) containing 20 g/liter N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS) (Aldrich) and 50 g/liter 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)- carbodiimide (EDC) (Sigma), rinsed with MilliQ water, incubated with 10 µg/liter loricrin or BSA (sigma) in PBS for 3 h, 25 further rinsed, and then used immediately.

AFM images and force-distance curves were obtained in PBS at room temperature using a Picoforce Multimode AFM (Veeco Metrology Group, Santa Barbara, CA). The supports were immobilized on a steel sample puck using a small piece of adhesive tape. The mounted samples were immediately transferred into the AFM liquid cell while 30 avoiding dewetting. All force curves were recorded with a maximum applied force of 450 pN. The spring constants of the cantilevers were measured using the thermal noise method (Picoforce; Veeco Metrology Group), yielding values (0.011 N/m) that were slightly larger than those announced by the manufacturer (0.01 N/m). To account for the flexibility of the biomolecules, loading rates (in piconewtons per second) were estimated

by multiplying the tip retraction velocity (in nanometers per second) by the slope of the rupture peaks (in piconewtons per nanometer).

Microbial interactions with immobilized ligands

5 The binding of mid-log growth-phase cells to immobilized ligands may be measured using a previously described method. Ni Eidhin et al., Clumping factor B (ClfB), a new surface-located fibrinogenbinding adhesin of *Staphylococcus aureus*" *Mol. Microbiol.* 30:245–257 (1998). Further, squamous cells may be harvested from the anterior nares of healthy donors, and the binding of *C. difficile* grown in iron-free medium
10 is assayed. O'Brien et al., "Staphylococcus aureus clumping factor B (ClfB) promotes adherence to human type I cytokeratin 10: implications for nasal colonization" *Cell. Microbiol.* 4:759–770 (2002). Comparisons between strains were performed using Student's t test.

15

Example XII

Expression and Purification of Recombinant Exosporium Proteins

Expression constructs were created containing recombinant exosporium proteins
20 with a N-terminus poly-Histidine tag and transformed in *E. coli* strains. Recombinant proteins were produced by inoculating 1-liter cultures of Luria broth (supplemented with 100 µg/ml ampicillin) with 10 ml of an overnight culture of the expression construct described above. Following 2.5 h of growth at 37 °C, isopropyl-β-D-thiogalactoside was added to a final concentration of 0.2 mM to induce protein expression and the cultures
25 were allowed to grow for another 3 h. Bacteria were harvested by centrifugation, the supernatant decanted, and the cell pellets resuspended in PBS before being stored at -80 °C. The suspension was later thawed in an ambient-temperature water bath for 30 min and the cells lysed using a French press. Insoluble cell debris was removed by centrifugation at 28,000 x g for 20 min, followed by filtration through a 0.45-mm
30 membrane. Recombinant exosporium protein was then initially purified using metal-chelating chromatography. Bacterial lysates were applied to a 5-ml Ni₂-charged HiTrap chelating column (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech) and bound protein eluted with a 200-ml linear gradient of 0–200 mM imidazole in 4 mM Tris-HCl, 100 mM NaCl, pH 7.9, at a flow rate of 5 ml/min. Fractions corresponding to recombinant exosporium protein, as

determined by SDS-PAGE, were pooled and dialyzed against 25 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, before further purification by ion-exchange chromatography. Dialyzed protein was applied to a 5-ml HiTrap Q column (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech) and bound protein eluted with a 200-ml linear gradient of 0–0.5 M NaCl in 25 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, at a 5 flow rate of 5 ml/min. Fractions containing purified exosporium protein were identified by SDS-PAGE and estimated to be 90% pure.

Example XIII

Exosporium Protein Adherence Assays

10 Binding of exosporium proteins to human skin protiens and/or EpiDerm® differentiated human keratinocytes was performed essentially as described in Example X and XI above with the exception that FITC conjugated spores were replaced with the exosporium protein. Detection of bound protein was accomplished using fluorescein conjugated Streptavidin (Rockland Immunochemicals). The total fluorescence (F_{total}) per 15 well was measured after a 1-h incubation using a Fluoroskan II fluorescence reader (Labsystems, Beverly, MA), with $\lambda_{ex} = 495$ nm and $\lambda_{em} = 528$ nm.

20

Claims

We claim:

- 5 1. An infection control composition capable of blocking and/or inhibiting the binding of a microbial spore to a substrate surface.
2. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises a small organic molecule.
- 10 3. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises a protein.
4. The composition of Claim 3, wherein said protein comprises a spore surface peptide.
- 15 5. The composition of Claim 4, wherein said peptide is derived from a *Clostridia* spore surface protein.
6. The composition of Claim 5, wherein said *Clostridia* surface protein comprises a *Clostridium difficile* spore surface protein.
- 20 7. The composition of Claim 4, wherein said peptide is derived from a *Bacillus* spore surface protein.
- 25 8. The composition of Claim 7, wherein said *Bacillus* surface protein comprises a *Bacillus anthracis* spore surface protein.
9. The composition of Claim 6, wherein said *Clostridium difficile* spore surface peptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 or a homologue of SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 30 10. The composition of Claim 6, said *Clostridium difficile* spore surface peptide is selected from the group comprising SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 7, and SEQ ID NO: 15.

11. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises an antibody.
12. The composition of Claim 11, wherein said antibody is a polyclonal antibody.
- 5 13. The composition of Claim 11, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
14. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises a synthetic peptide.
- 10 15. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises an inorganic ion complex.
16. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises a protein mimetic.
- 15 17. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said substrate surface comprises an inanimate surface.
18. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said substrate surface comprises an animate surface.
- 20 19. The composition of Claim 18, wherein said animate surface comprises a body tissue surface.
- 25 20. The composition of Claim 19, wherein said body tissue surface comprises an epithelial surface.
21. The composition of Claim 20, wherein said epithelial surface comprises a mammalian skin surface.
- 30 22. The composition of Claim 17, wherein said inanimate surface comprises stainless steel.
23. The composition of Claim 17, wherein said inanimate surface comprises ceramic.

24. The composition of Claim 17, wherein said inanimate surface comprises vinyl.

25. The composition of Claim 17, wherein said inanimate surface comprises tile.

5

26. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises at least one antimicrobial drug.

10 27. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition is suitable for human administration.

28. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises an antimicrobial skin cleaner.

15 29. The composition of Claim 28, wherein said skin cleaner comprises a handwash cleaner.

30. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises an antimicrobial surface cleaner.

20

31. A method, comprising: a) providing: i) a subject at risk for exposure to a microbe, wherein the exposure is likely to result in a microbial infection and/or colonization; and ii) an infection control composition; b) administering the composition to the subject before the microbial exposure, under conditions such that a microbial infection barrier is formed.

25

32. The method of Claim 31, wherein said microbial infection barrier reduces said microbial infection.

30 33. The method of Claim 31, wherein said microbial infection barrier prevents said microbial infection.

34. The method of Claim 31, wherein said microbe comprises a bacteria.

35. The method of Claim 34, wherein said bacteria is selected from the group comprising *Clostridia*, *Bacillus*, *Desulfotomaculum*, *Sporolactobacillus*, *Sporosarcina*, or *Thermoactinomyces*.

5 36. The method of Claim 34, wherein said bacteria comprises a bacterial spore.

37. The method of Claim 36, wherein said bacterial spore comprises at least one spore surface protein.

10 38. The method of Claim 37, wherein said *Clostridium* spore surface protein is a *C. difficile* spore surface protein.

39. The method of Claim 37, the *Bacillus* spore surface protein is a *B. anthracis* spore surface protein.

15 40. The method of Claim 31, wherein said infection control composition comprises an amino acid sequence.

41. The method of Claim 40, wherein said amino acid sequence is derived from a 20 microbial spore surface protein.

42. The method of Claim 40, wherein said amino acid sequence has substantial homology to a microbial spore surface protein.

25 43. The method of Claim 31, wherein said infection control composition comprises is capable of inhibiting, antagonizing, disrupting, displacing, and/or blocking the binding of a microbial spore to a substrate surface.

44. The method of Claim 31, wherein said infection control composition further 30 comprises an antagonistic compound, wherein said compound has affinity for said microbial spore surface protein amino acid sequence.

45. The method of Claim 31, wherein said composition further comprises a carrier.

46. The method of Claim 31, wherein said infection control composition further comprises at least one antimicrobial drug.

47. The method of Claim 31, wherein said subject at risk is a healthcare worker.

5

48. The method of Claim 31, wherein said subject at risk is a medical first responder.

49. The method of Claim 31, wherein said subject at risk is a medical patient.

10 50. The method of Claim 49, wherein said medical patient is in a healthcare setting.

51. The method of Claim 49, wherein said medical patient has been administered at least one antibiotic.

15 52. The method of Claim 31, wherein said subject at risk is a fireman.

53. The method of Claim 31, wherein said subject at risk is a policeman.

54. The method of Claim 31, wherein said subject at risk is a military personnel.

20

55. The method of Claim 31, wherein said subject at risk is a food handler.

56. The method of Claim 31, wherein said subject at risk is an inanimate surface and/or object.

25

57. The method of Claim 31, wherein said administering is selected from the group consisting of topical, oral, parenteral, pulmonary, anal, vaginal, ocular, and intranasal.

30 58. A method, comprising: a) providing: i) a subject having been exposed to a microbe, wherein said exposure resulted in a microbial infection; ii) an infection control composition; b) administering said composition to said subject after said microbial exposure, under conditions such that said microbial infection is reduced.

59. The method of Claim 58, wherein said microbe comprises a bacteria.

60. The method of Claim 59, wherein said bacteria comprises a bacterial spore.
61. The method of Claim 60, wherein said bacterial spore comprises at least one spore
5 surface protein.
62. The method of Claim 61, wherein said bacterial spore surface protein is a *C. difficile*
spore surface protein
- 10 63. The method of Claim 61, wherein said bacterial spore surface protein is a *B.*
anthracis spore surface protein.
64. The method of Claim 58, wherein said infection control composition comprises is
capable of inhibiting, antagonizing, disrupting, displacing, and/or blocking the binding of
15 a microbial spore to a substrate surface.
65. The method of Claim 58, wherein said infection control composition further
comprises an antagonistic compound, wherein said compound has affinity for said
microbial spore surface protein amino acid sequence.
- 20 66. The method of Claim 58, wherein said composition further comprises a carrier.
67. The method of Claim 58, wherein said infection control composition further
comprises at least one antimicrobial drug.
- 25 68. The method of Claim 58, wherein said subject at risk is a healthcare worker.
69. The method of Claim 58, wherein said subject at risk is a medical first responder.
- 30 70. A screening method comprising: a) providing; i) an isolated peptide, wherein the
peptide is derived from a microbial spore surface protein; and ii) an infection control test
compound suspected of having an interaction with the peptide; b) contacting the peptide
with the infection control test compound; and c) detecting the interaction of the peptide
with the infection control test compound.

71. The method of Claim 70, wherein said method further comprises a substrate surface capable of attaching the isolated peptide.

5 72. The method of Claim 71, wherein said substrate surface comprises pigskin.

73. The method of Claim 70, wherein said peptide is derived from a *Clostridia* spore surface.

10 74. The method of Claim 73, wherein said *Clostridia* spore surface comprises a *Clostridia difficile* spore surface.

75. The method of Claim 70, wherein said peptide is derived from a *Bacillus* spore surface.

15 76. The method of Claim 75, wherein said *Bacillus* spore surface comprises a *Bacillus anthracis* spore surface.

77. The method of Claim 70, wherein said peptide comprises a spore surface peptide.

20 76. The method of Claim 77, wherein said spore surface peptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 or a homologue of SEQ ID NO: 1.

78. The method of Claim 77, wherein said spore surface peptide is selected from the 25 group comprising SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 7, and SEQ ID NO: 15.

79. The method of Claim 70, wherein said peptide comprises an antibody.

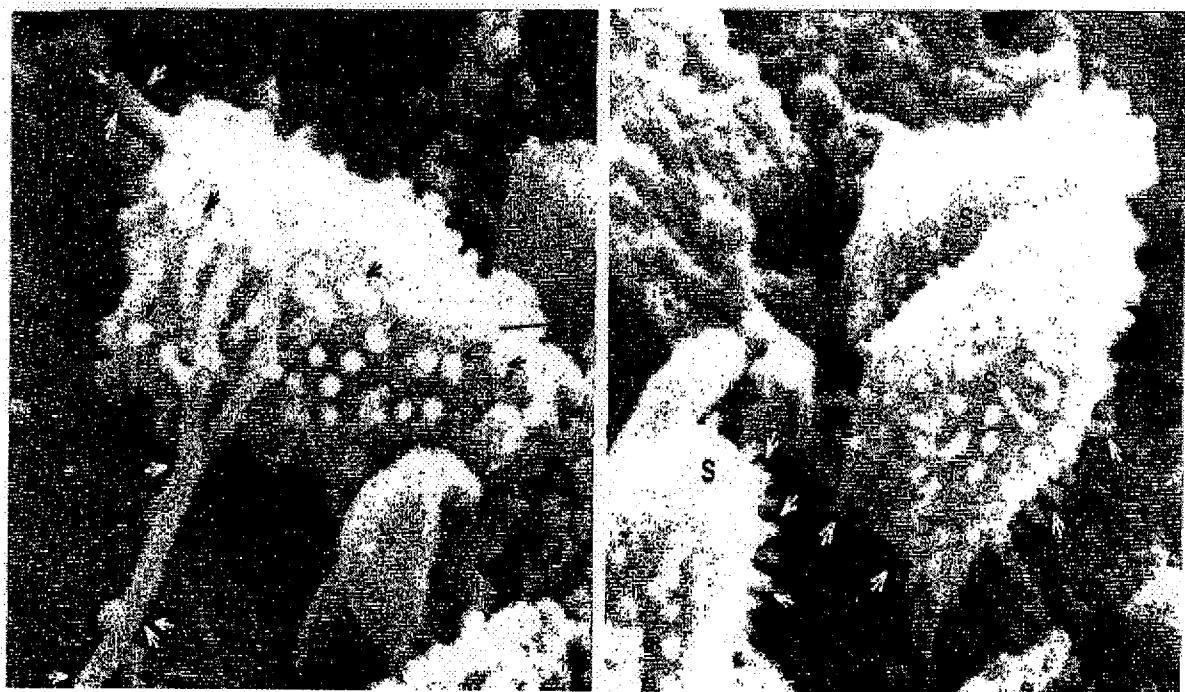


FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2

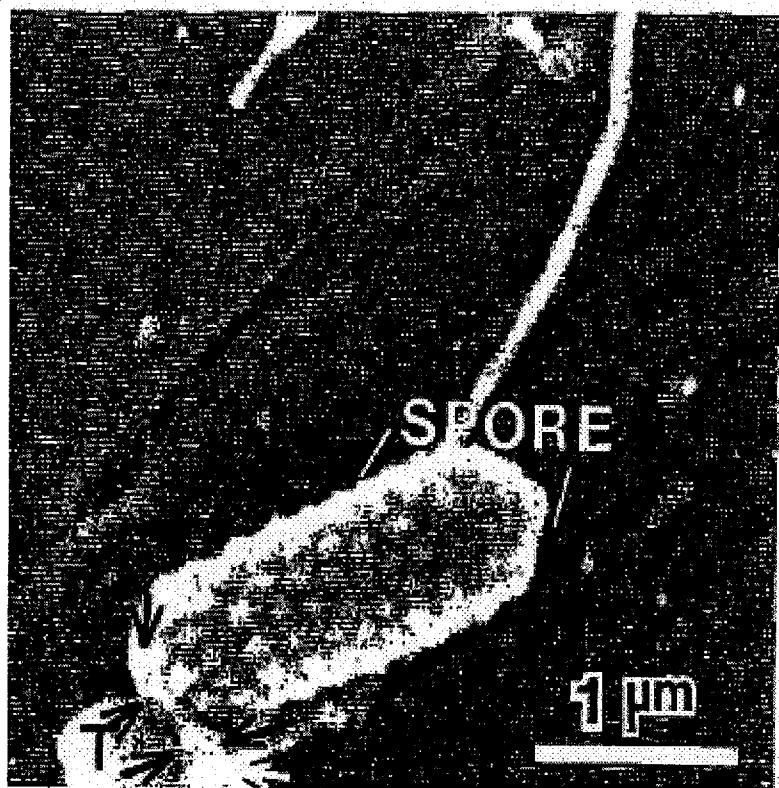
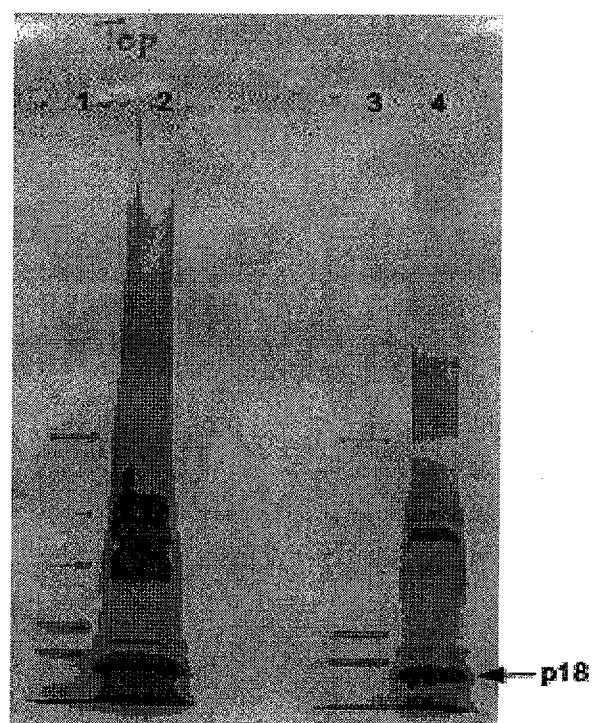
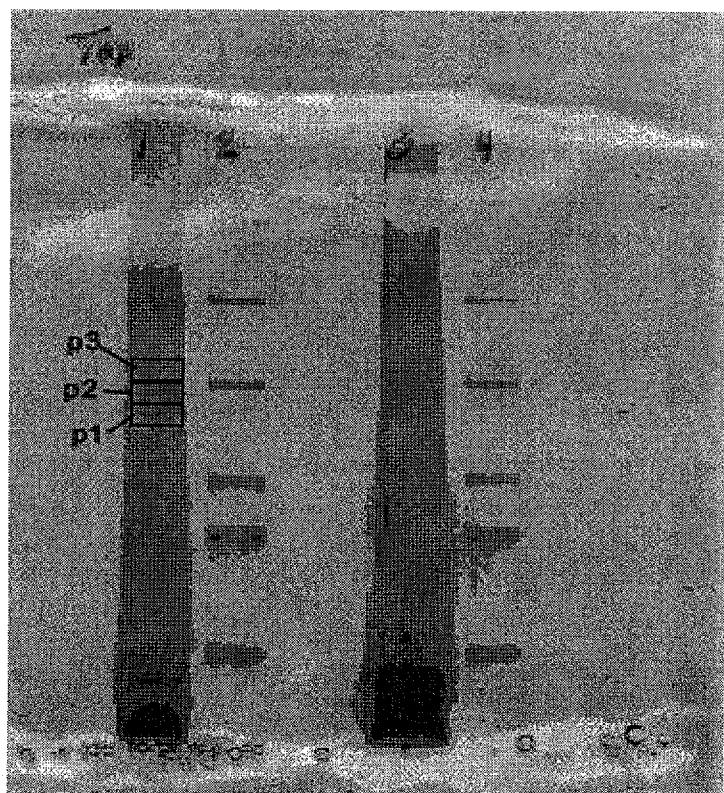
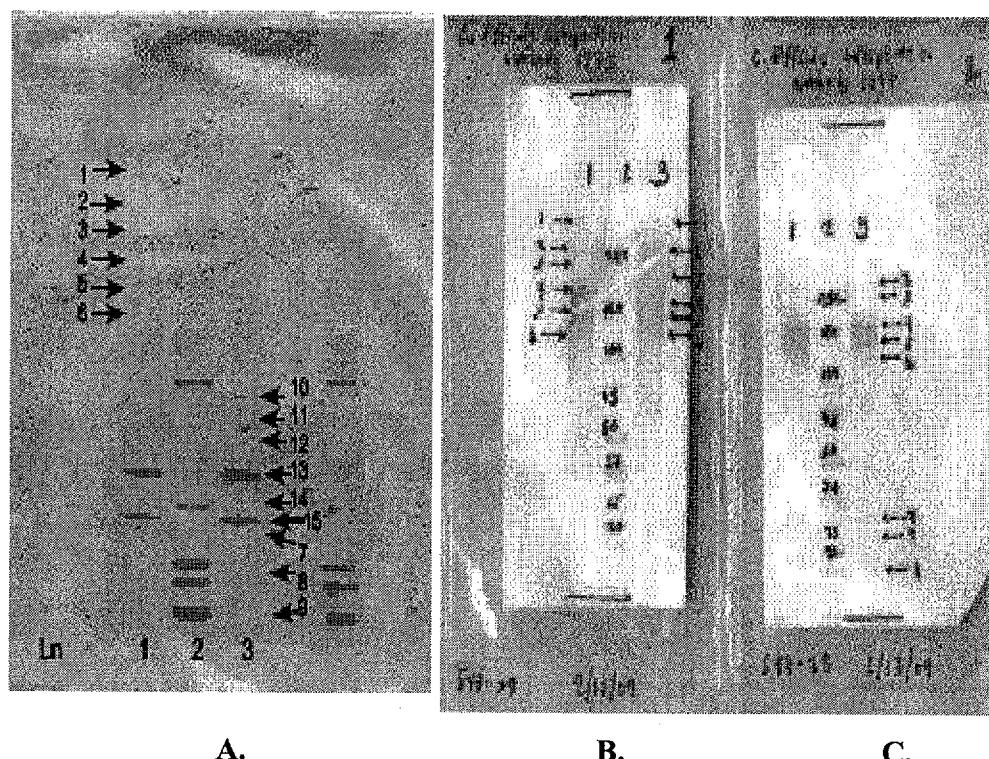


FIGURE 3

**FIGURE 4**

**FIGURE 5**

**FIGURE 6**

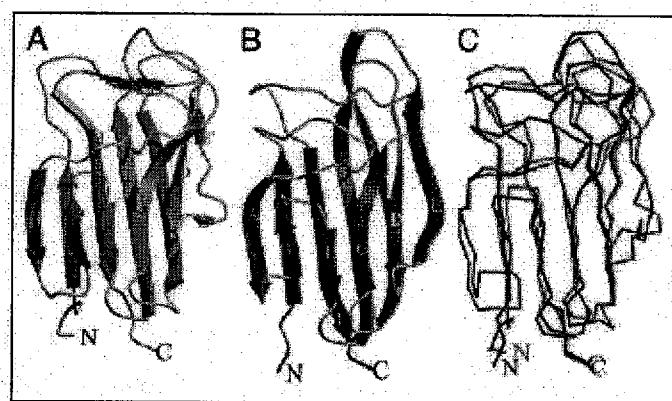


FIGURE 7

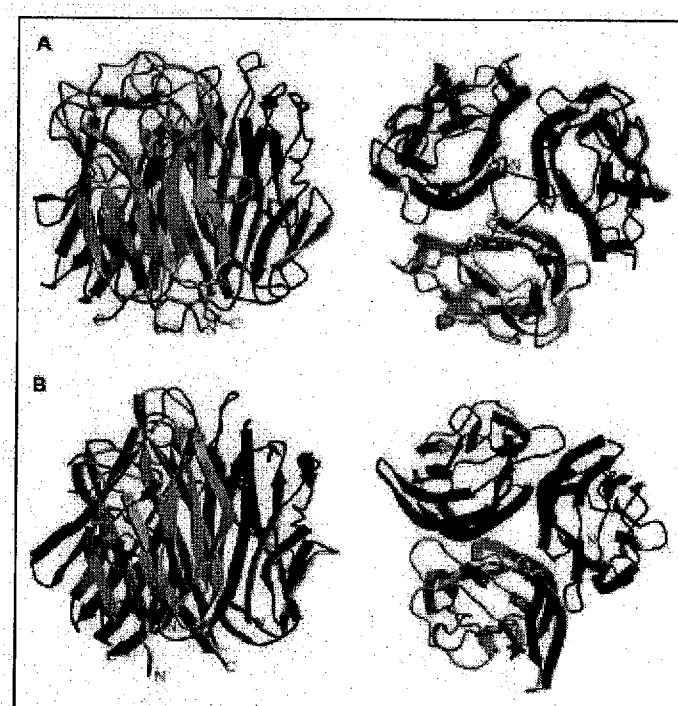
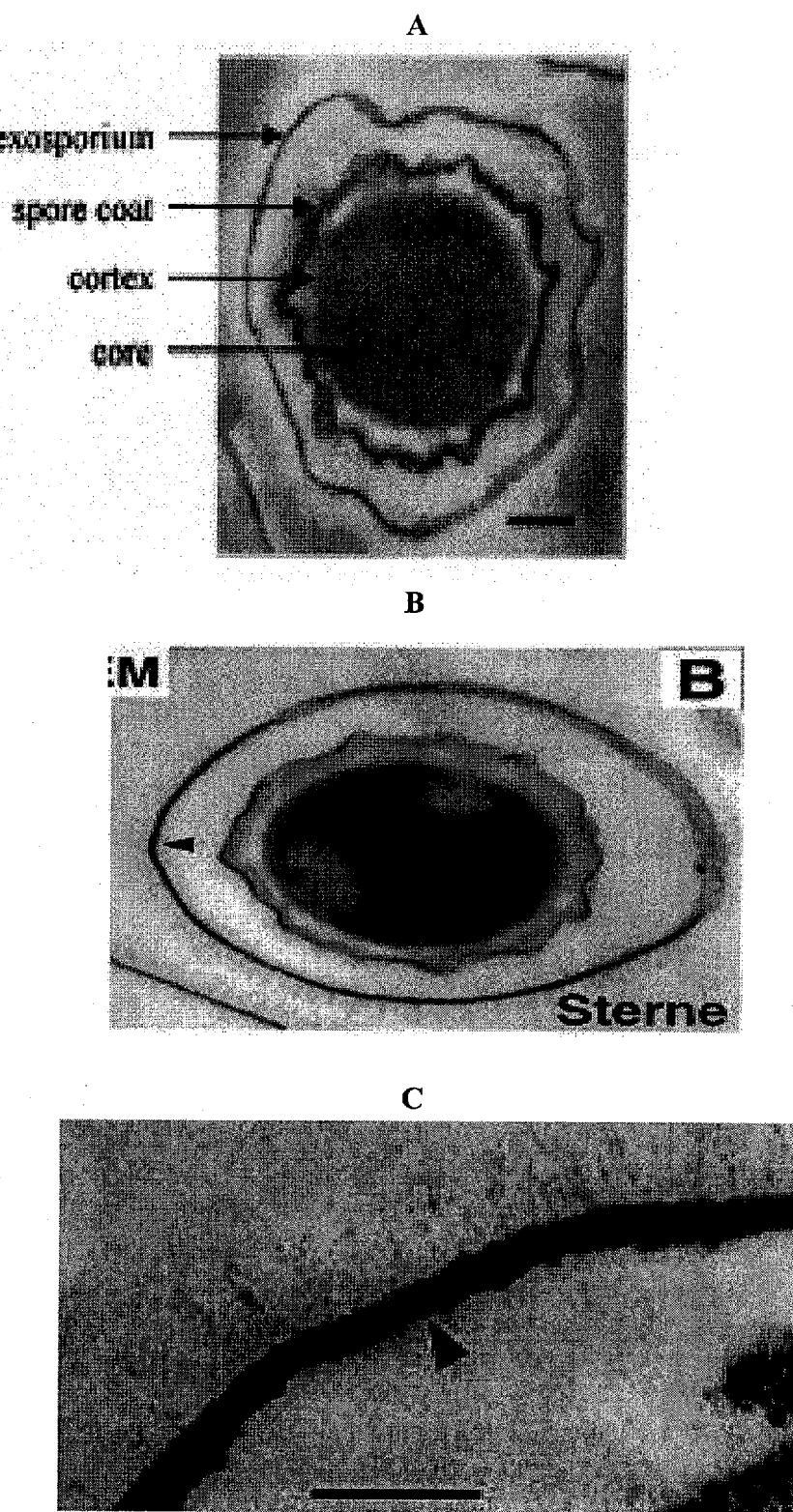
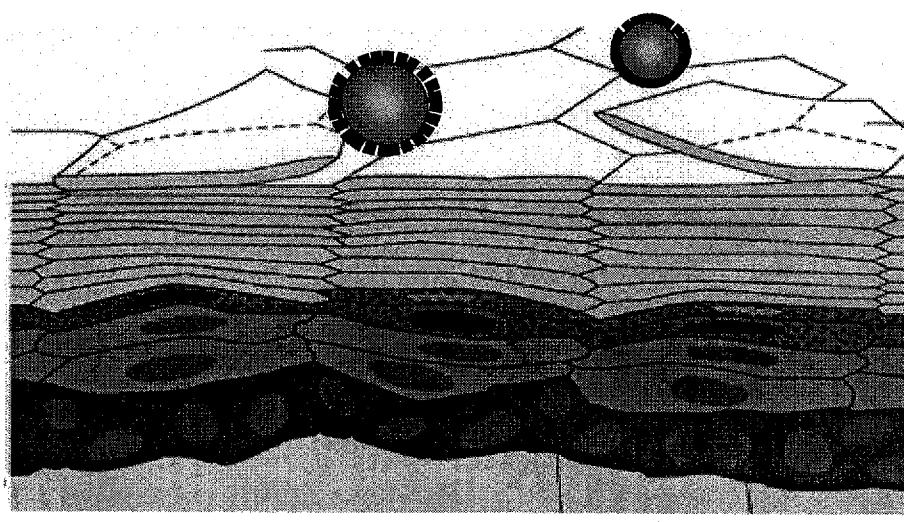
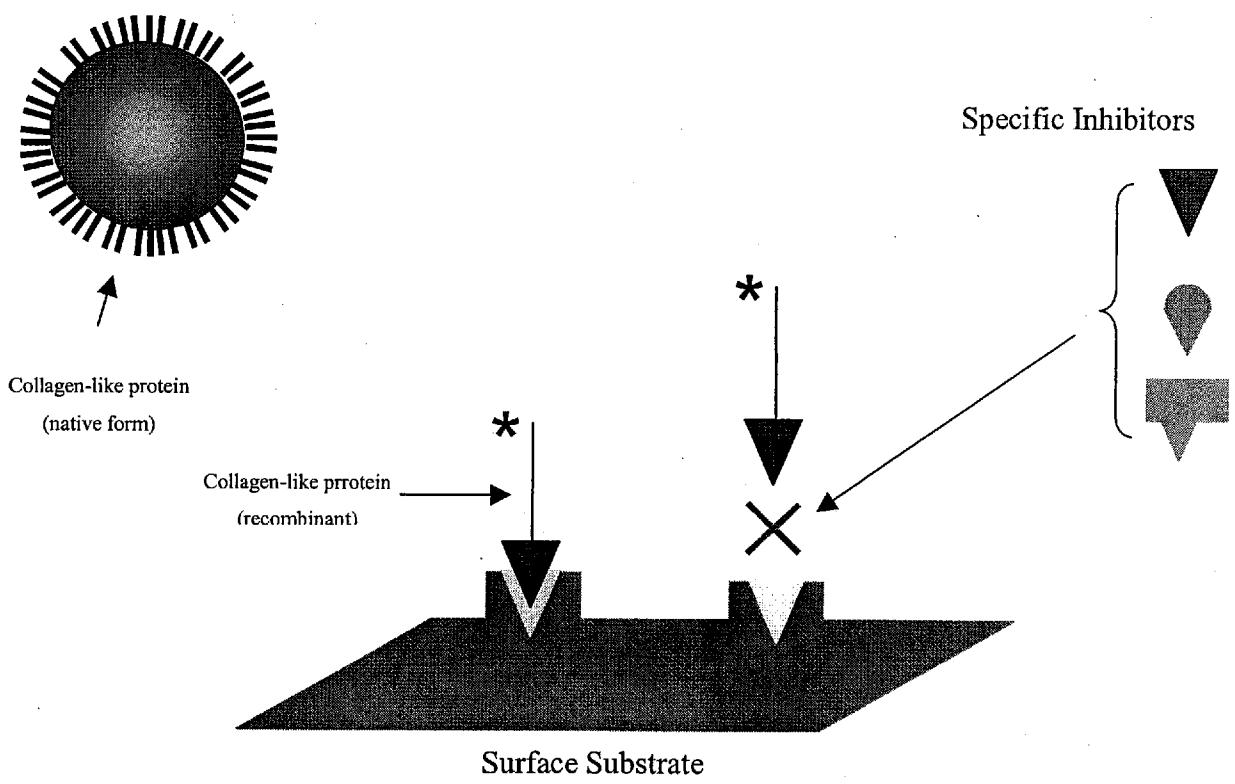


FIGURE 8

**FIGURE 9**



A

B
FIGURE 10

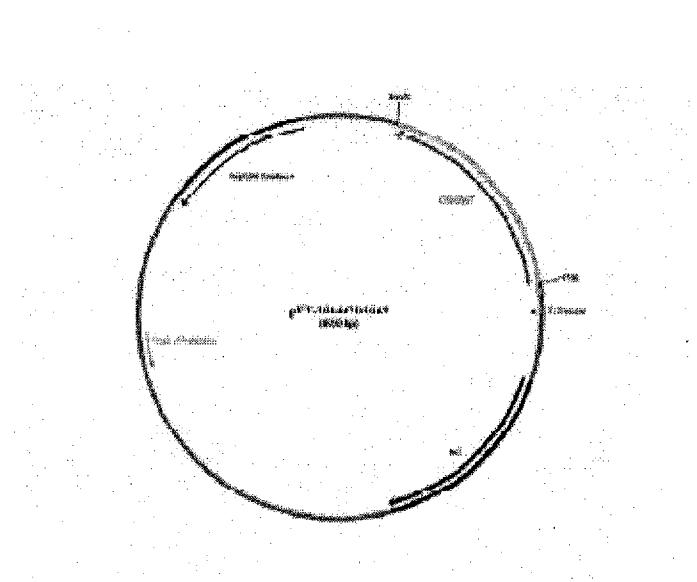


Figure 11

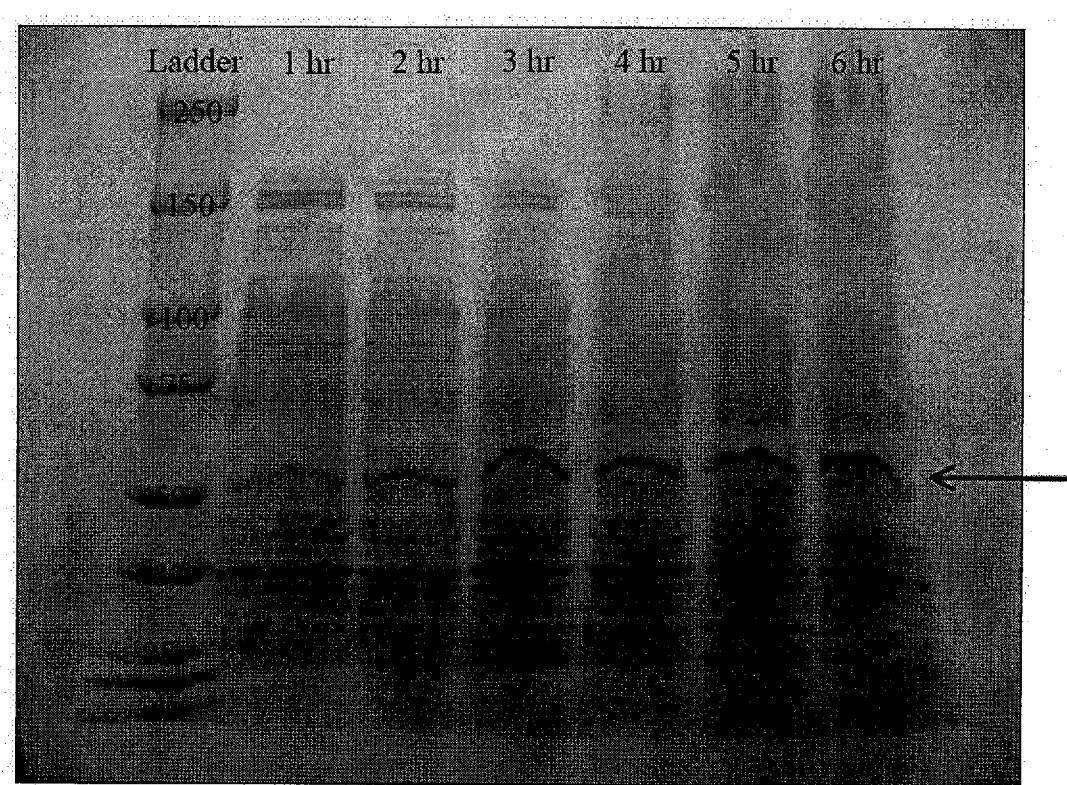
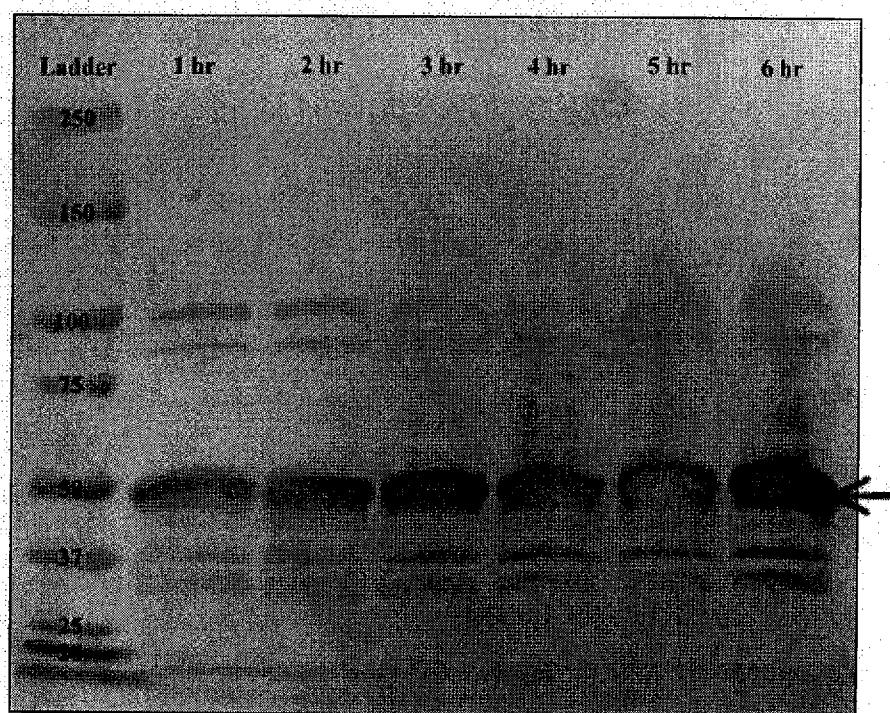


Figure 12

A**F1373 anti-*C. difficile* Antibody****Figure 13**

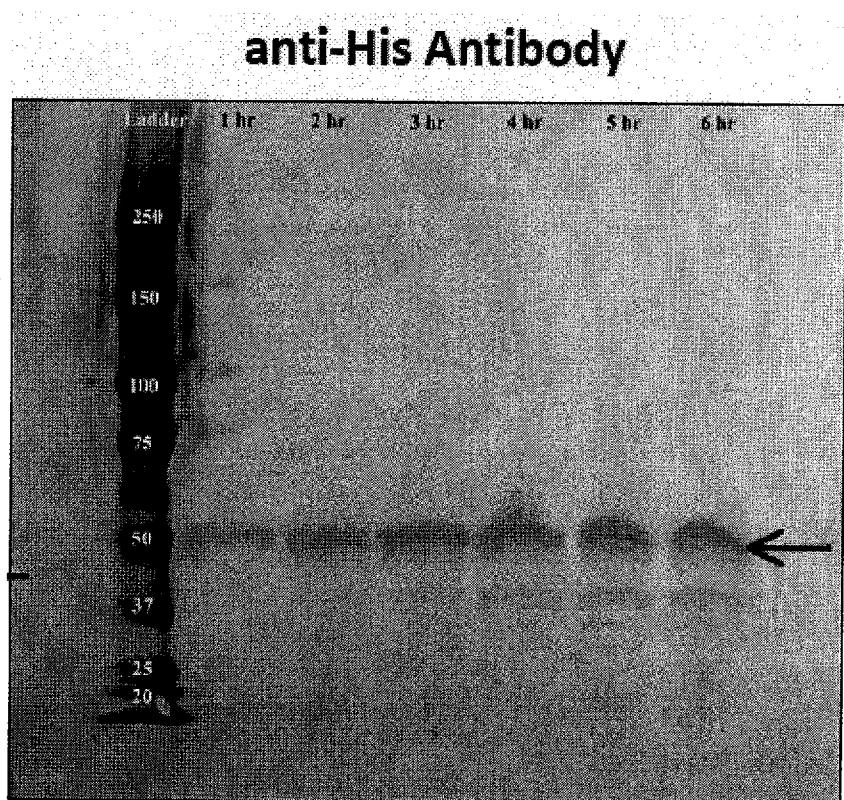
B

Figure 13 (Cont'd)

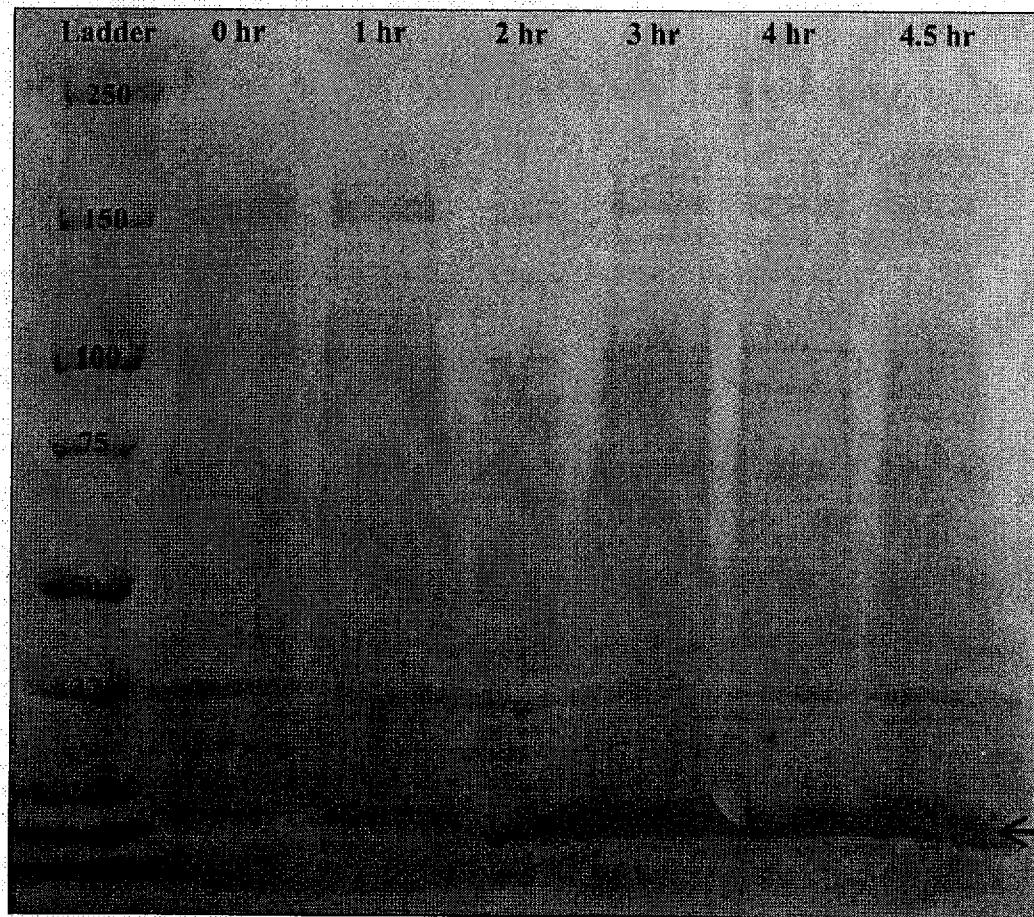
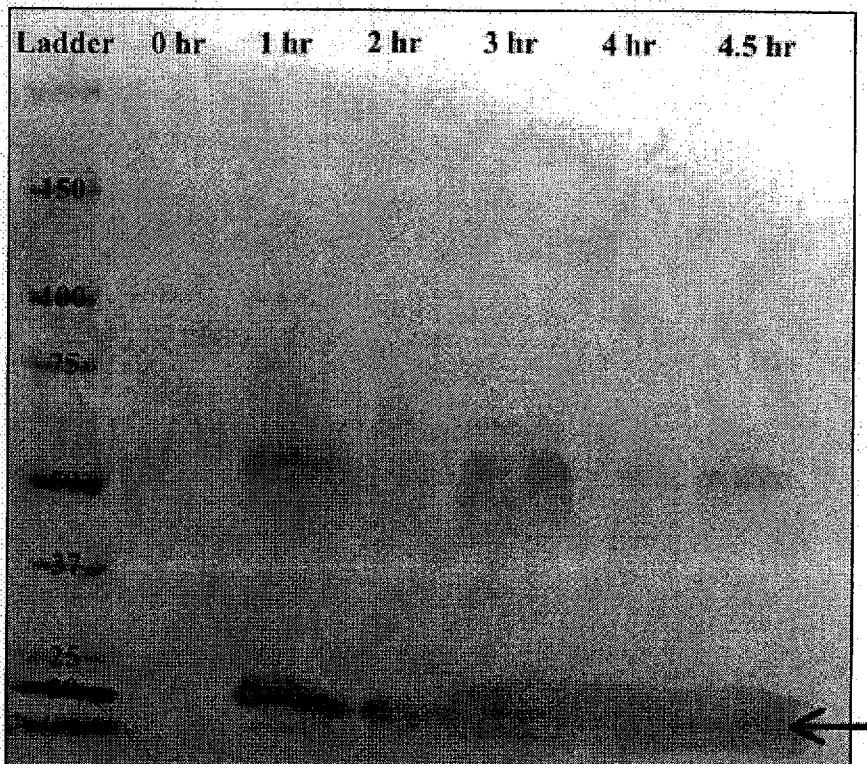


Figure 14

A

F1373 anti-*C. difficile* Antibody**Figure 15**

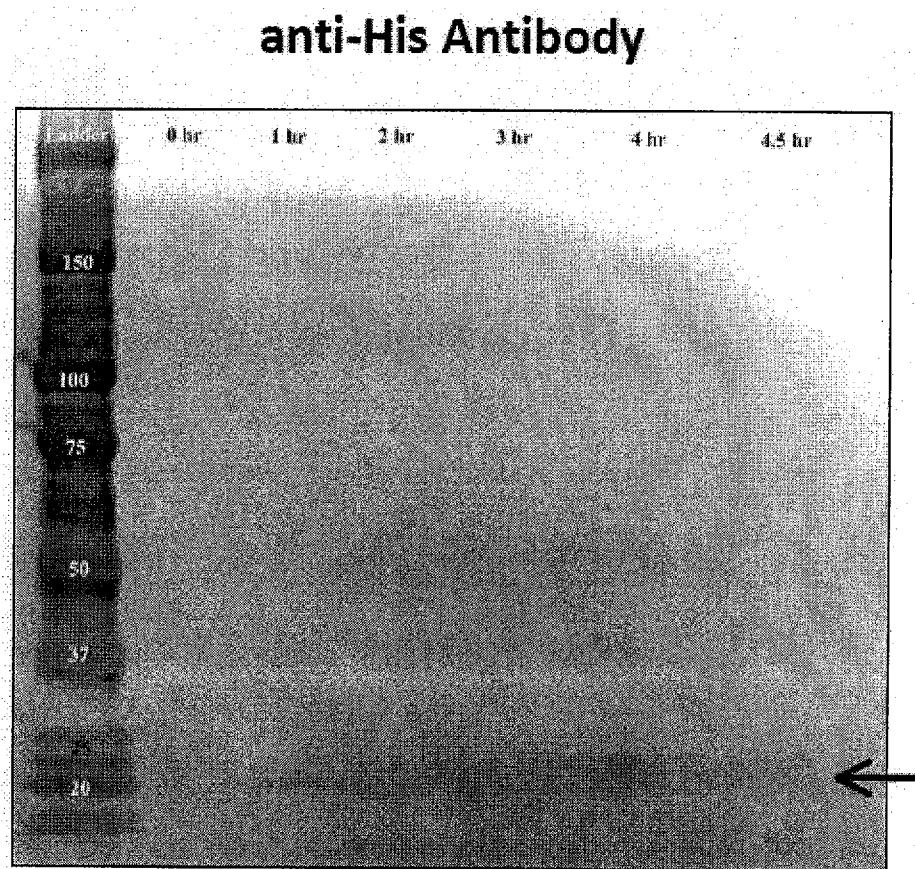
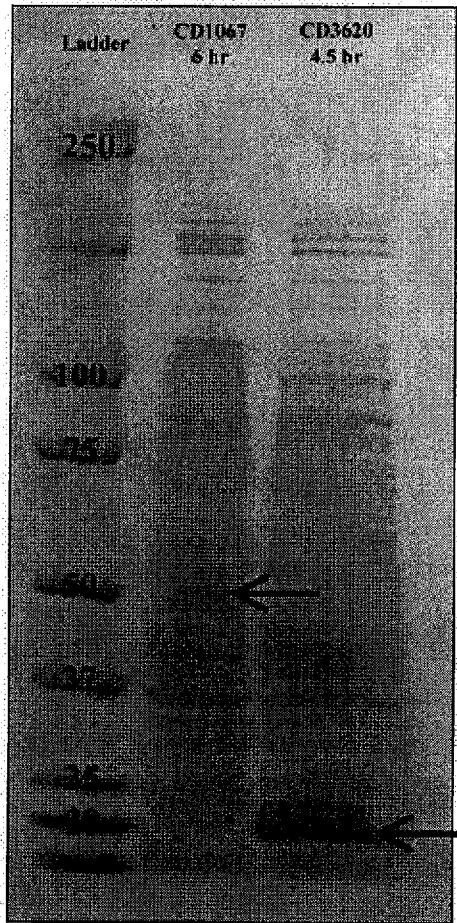
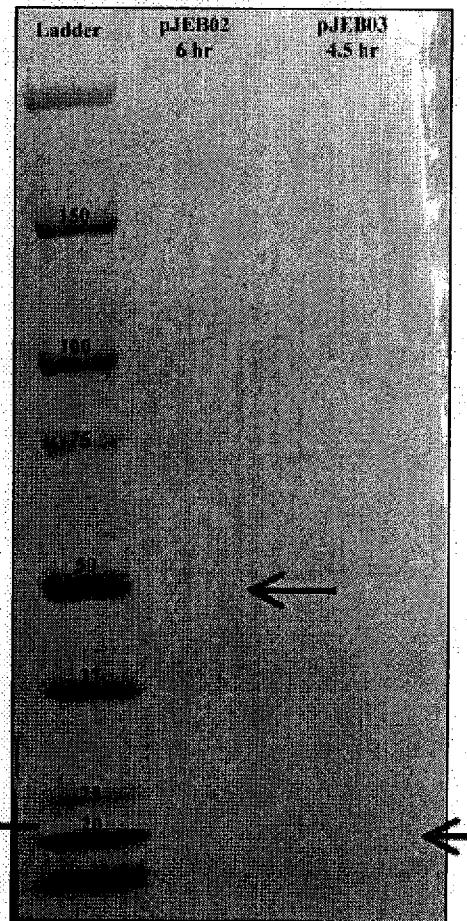
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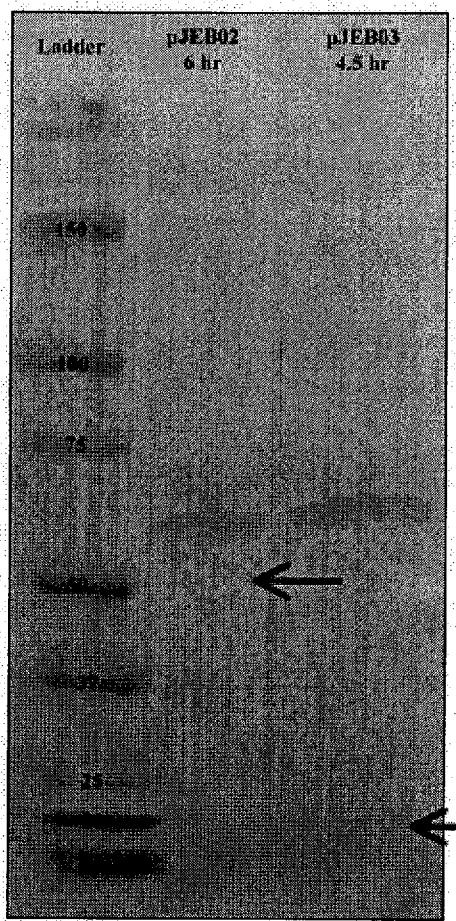
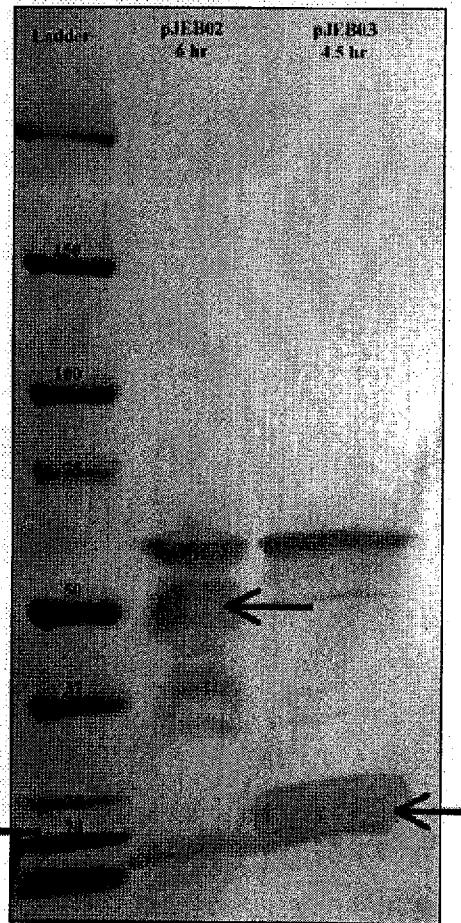
Figure 15 (Cont'd)

SDS-PAGE

**A**

F1373 Preimmune

**B****Figure 16**

F1997 Preimmune**C.****F1997 Antibody****D.****Figure 16 (Cont'd)**

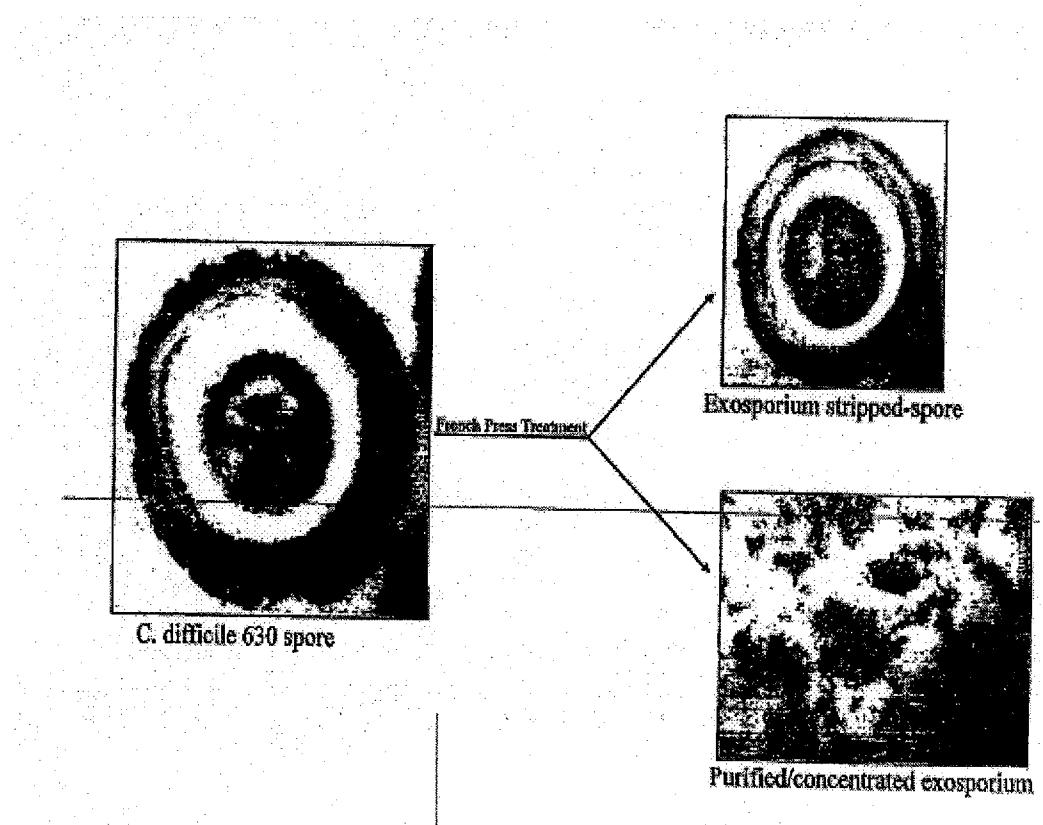


FIGURE 17

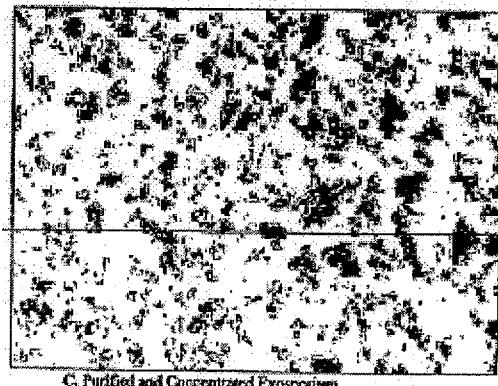
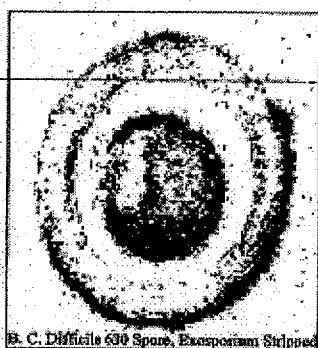


FIGURE 18