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- (73) Patenthaver: **Vanderbilt University, 305 Kirkland Hall, 2201 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37240, USA**
- (72) Opfinder: **CROWE, James E., Jr., 2101 20th Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37212, USA**
ZOST, Seth, 2213 Garland Avenue MRB IV 11475, Nashville, Tennessee 37232, USA
CARNAHAN, Robert, 2213 Garland Avenue MRB IV 11475, Nashville, Tennessee 37232, USA
GILCHUK, Pavlo, 2213 Garland Avenue MRB IV 11475, Nashville, Tennessee 37232, USA
- (74) Fuldmægtig i Danmark: **RWS Group, Europa House, Chiltern Park, Chiltern Hill, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks SL9 9FG, Storbritannien**
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DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND

1. Field of the Disclosure

[0001] The present disclosure relates generally to the fields of medicine, infectious disease, and immunology. More particular, the disclosure relates to human antibodies binding to a novel coronavirus designated SARS-CoV-2 and methods of use thereof.

2. Background

[0002] An epidemic of a novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) affected mainland China, along with cases in 179 other countries and territories. It was identified in Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei province, after 41 people developed pneumonia without a clear cause. The virus, which causes acute respiratory disease designated coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), is capable of spreading from person to person. The incubation period (time from exposure to onset of symptoms) ranges from 0 to 24 days, with a mean of 3-5 days, but it may be contagious during this period and after recovery. Symptoms include fever, coughing and breathing difficulties. An estimate of the death rate in February 2020 was 2% of confirmed cases, higher among those who require admission to hospital.

[0003] As of 10 February 2020, 40,627 cases have been confirmed (6,495 serious), including in every province-level division of China. A larger number of people may have been infected, but not detected (especially mild cases). As of 10 February 2020, 910 deaths have been attributed to the virus since the first confirmed death on 8 January, with 3,323 recoveries. The first local transmission outside China occurred in Vietnam between family members, while the first international transmission not involving family occurred in Germany on 22 January. The first death outside China was in the Philippines, where a man from Wuhan died on 1 February. As of 10 February 2020, the death toll from this virus had surpassed the global SARS outbreak in 2003.

[0004] As of early February 2020, there is no licensed vaccine and no specific treatment, although several vaccine approaches and antivirals are being investigated. The outbreak has been declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) by the World Health Organization (WHO), based on the possible effects the virus could have if it spreads to countries with weaker healthcare systems. Thus, there is an urgent need to explore the biology and pathology of SARS-CoV-2 and well as the human immune response to this virus.

[0005] Wang et al, Nat Commun 11, 2251 (2020) discloses a human monoclonal antibody that neutralizes SARS-CoV-2 (and SARS-CoV) in cell culture.

[0006] Ng C-W et al, PLOS ONE 9(7): e102415, discloses murine monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) that target the S2 subunit of the S protein are capable of neutralizing SARS-CoV infection in vitro.

SUMMARY

[0007] The present invention provides an antibody or antibody fragment that binds to a SARS-CoV-2 surface spike protein, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises a CDRH1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:59, a CDRH2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:60, a CDRH3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:61, a CDRL1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:59, a CDRL2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:90, a CDRL3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:91.

[0008] The present invention also provides an antibody or antibody fragment that binds to a SARS-CoV-2 surface spike protein, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises a CDRH1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:68, a CDRH2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:69, a CDRH3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:70, a CDRL1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:98, a CDRL2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:99, a CDRL3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:100.

[0009] The present invention also provides a pharmaceutically acceptable composition comprising the antibody or antibody fragment of the invention, optionally wherein the composition is formulated for intravenous administration.

[0010] The present invention also provides a pharmaceutically acceptable composition comprising a first antibody or antibody fragment of the invention and a second antibody or antibody fragment of the invention.

[0011] The present invention also provides a combination of a first antibody or antibody fragment that binds to a SARS-CoV-2 surface spike protein and a second antibody or antibody fragment that binds to a SARS-CoV-2 surface spike protein for use in a method for treating or preventing SARS-CoV-2 infection in a subject, wherein

the first antibody or antibody fragment comprises a CDRH1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:59, a CDRH2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:60, a CDRH3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:61, a CDRL1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:59, a CDRL2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:90, a CDRL3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:91; and

the second antibody or antibody fragment comprises a CDRH1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:68, a CDRH2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:69, a CDRH3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:70, a CDRL1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:98, a CDRL2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:99, a CDRL3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:100.

[0012] Thus, in accordance with the present disclosure, but not part of the invention, there is provided a method of detecting COVID-19 infection with SARS-CoV-2 in a subject comprising (a) contacting a sample from said subject with an antibody or antibody fragment having clone-paired heavy and light chain CDR sequences from Tables 3 and 4, respectively, and (b) detecting SARS-CoV-2 in said sample by binding of said antibody or antibody fragment to a SARS-CoV-2 antigen in said sample. The sample may be a body fluid, such as blood, sputum, tears, saliva, mucus or serum, semen, cervical or vaginal secretions, amniotic fluid, placental tissues, urine, exudate, transudate, tissue scrapings or feces. Detection may comprise ELISA, RIA, lateral flow assay or western blot. The method may further comprise performing steps (a) and (b) a second time and determining a change in SARS-CoV-2 antigen levels as compared to the first assay. The antibody or antibody fragment may be encoded by clone-paired variable sequences as set forth in Table 1, or by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, 90% or 95% identity to clone-paired variable sequences as set forth in Table 1, or by light and heavy chain variable sequences having 100% identity to clone-paired sequences as set forth in Table 1. The antibody or antibody fragment may be encoded by clone-paired variable sequences as set forth in Table 1, or by light and heavy chain variable sequences having 100% identity to clone-paired sequences as set forth in Table 1. The antibody or antibody fragment may comprise light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 2, or light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, 90% or 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. The antibody or antibody fragment may bind to a SARS-CoV-2 surface spike protein. The antibody fragment may be a recombinant scFv (single chain fragment variable) antibody, Fab fragment, F(ab')₂ fragment, or Fv fragment.

[0013] In another embodiment of the disclosure but not part of the invention, there is disclosed a method of treating a subject infected with SARS-CoV-2 or reducing the likelihood of infection of a subject at risk of contracting SARS-CoV-2, comprising delivering to said subject an antibody or antibody fragment having clone-paired heavy and light chain CDR sequences from Tables 3 and 4, respectively. The antibody or antibody fragment may be encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, 90% or 95% identity to clone-paired variable sequences as set forth in Table 1, or by light and heavy chain variable sequences having 100% identity to clone-paired sequences as set forth in Table 1. The antibody or antibody fragment may comprise light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 2, or light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, 90% or 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. The antibody fragment may be a recombinant scFv (single chain fragment variable) antibody, Fab fragment, F(ab')₂ fragment, or Fv fragment. The antibody may be a chimeric antibody or a bispecific antibody. The antibody may be an IgG, or a recombinant IgG antibody or antibody fragment comprising an Fc portion mutated to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions, to increase half-life and/or increase therapeutic efficacy, such as a LALA, LALA PG, N297, GASD/ALIE, DHS, YTE or LS mutation or glycan modified to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions, such as enzymatic or chemical addition or removal of glycans or expression in a cell line engineered with a defined glycosylation pattern. The antibody or antibody fragment may be administered prior to infection or after infection. The subject may be of age 60 or older, may be immunocompromised, or may suffer from a respiratory and/or cardiovascular disorder. Delivering may comprise antibody or antibody fragment administration, or genetic delivery with an RNA or DNA sequence or vector encoding the antibody or antibody fragment.

[0014] In yet another embodiment of the disclosure but not part of the invention, there is provided a monoclonal antibody, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment is characterized by clone-paired heavy and light chain CDR sequences from Tables 3 and 4, respectively. The antibody or antibody fragment may be encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, 90% or 95% identity to clone-paired variable sequences as set forth in Table 1, or by light and heavy chain variable sequences having 100% identity to clone-paired sequences as set forth in Table 1. The antibody or antibody fragment may comprise light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 2, or light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, 90% or 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. The antibody fragment may be a recombinant scFv (single chain fragment variable) antibody, Fab fragment, F(ab')₂ fragment, or Fv fragment. The antibody may be a chimeric antibody, a bispecific antibody, or is an intrabody. The antibody may be an IgG, or a recombinant IgG antibody or antibody fragment comprising an Fc portion mutated to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions, to increase half-life and/or increase therapeutic efficacy, such as a LALA, LALA PG, N297, GASD/ALIE, DHS, YTE or LS mutation or glycan modified to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions, such as enzymatic or chemical addition or removal of glycans or expression in a cell line engineered with a defined glycosylation pattern. The antibody or antibody fragment may bind to a SARS-CoV-2 surface spike protein.

[0015] A hybridoma or engineered cell encoding an antibody or antibody fragment wherein the antibody or antibody fragment is characterized by clone-paired heavy and light chain CDR sequences from Tables 3 and 4, respectively. The antibody or antibody fragment may be encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, 90% or 95% identity to clone-paired variable sequences as set forth in Table 1, or by light and heavy chain variable sequences having 100% identity to clone-paired sequences as set forth in Table 1. The antibody or antibody fragment may comprise light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 2, or light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, 90% or 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. The antibody fragment may be a recombinant scFv (single chain fragment variable) antibody, Fab fragment, F(ab')₂ fragment, or Fv fragment. The antibody may be a chimeric antibody, a bispecific antibody, or is an intrabody. The antibody may be an IgG, or a recombinant IgG antibody or antibody fragment comprising an Fc portion mutated to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions, to increase half-life and/or increase therapeutic efficacy, such as a LALA, LALA PG, N297, GASD/ALIE, DHS, YTE or LS mutation or glycan modified to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions, such as enzymatic or chemical addition or removal of glycans or expression in a cell line engineered with a defined glycosylation pattern. The antibody or antibody fragment may bind to a SARS-CoV-2 surface spike protein.

[0016] In still yet another embodiment of the disclosure but not part of the invention, there is provided a vaccine formulation comprising one or more antibodies or antibody fragments characterized by clone-paired heavy and light chain CDR sequences from Tables 3 and 4, respectively. The at least one of said antibodies or antibody fragments may be encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 1, by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, or 90% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 1, or by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 1. The at least one of said antibodies or antibody fragments may comprise light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 2, or may comprise light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, 90% or 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. The at least one of said antibody fragments is a recombinant scFv (single chain fragment variable) antibody, Fab fragment, F(ab')₂ fragment, or Fv fragment. The antibody may be a chimeric antibody, a bispecific antibody or an intrabody. The antibody may be an IgG, or a recombinant IgG antibody or antibody fragment comprising an Fc portion mutated to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions, to increase half-life and/or increase therapeutic efficacy, such as a LALA, LALA PG, N297, GASD/ALIE, DHS, YTE or LS mutation or glycan modified to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions, such as enzymatic or chemical addition or removal of glycans or expression in a cell line engineered with a defined glycosylation pattern. The antibody or antibody fragment may bind to a SARS-CoV-2 surface spike protein.

[0017] In a further embodiment of the disclosure but not part of the invention, there is provided a vaccine formulation comprising one or more expression vectors encoding a first antibody or antibody fragment as described herein. The expression vector(s) may be Sindbis virus or VEE vector(s). The vaccine may be formulated for delivery by needle injection, jet injection, or electroporation. The vaccine formulation may further comprise one or more expression vectors encoding for a second antibody or antibody fragment, such as a distinct antibody or antibody fragment of claims 26-34.

[0018] In yet a further embodiment of the disclosure but not part of the invention, there is provided a method of protecting the health of a subject of age 60 or older, an immunocompromised, subject or a subject suffering from a respiratory and/or cardiovascular disorder that is infected with or at risk of infection with SARS-CoV-2 comprising delivering to said subject an antibody or antibody fragment having clone-paired heavy and light chain CDR sequences from Tables 3 and 4, respectively. The antibody or antibody fragment may be encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, 90% or 95% identity to clone-paired variable sequences as set forth in Table 1, or by light and heavy chain variable sequences having 100% identity to clone-paired sequences as set forth in Table 1. The antibody or antibody fragment may comprise light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 2, or light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, 90% or 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. The antibody fragment may be a recombinant scFv (single chain fragment variable) antibody, Fab fragment, F(ab')₂ fragment, or Fv fragment. The antibody may be an IgG, or a recombinant IgG antibody or antibody fragment comprising an Fc portion mutated to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions, to increase half-life and/or increase therapeutic efficacy, such as a LALA, LALA PG, N297, GASD/ALIE, DHS, YTE or LS mutation or glycan modified to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions, such as enzymatic or chemical addition or removal of glycans or expression in a cell line engineered with a defined glycosylation pattern. The antibody may be a chimeric antibody or a bispecific antibody. The said antibody or antibody fragment may be administered prior to infection or after infection. The antibody or antibody fragment may bind to a SARS-CoV-2 antigen such as a surface spike protein. Delivering may comprise antibody or antibody fragment administration, or genetic delivery with an RNA or DNA sequence or vector encoding the antibody or antibody fragment. The antibody or antibody fragment may improve the subject's respiration as compared to an untreated control and/or may reduce viral load as compared to an untreated control.

[0019] In still yet a further embodiment of the disclosure but not part of the invention, there is provided a method of determining the antigenic integrity, correct conformation and/or correct sequence of a SARS-CoV-2 surface spike protein comprising (a) contacting a sample comprising said antigen with a first antibody or antibody fragment having clone-paired heavy and light chain CDR sequences from Tables 3 and 4, respectively, and (b) determining antigenic integrity, correct conformation and/or correct sequence of said antigen by detectable binding of said first antibody or antibody fragment to said antigen. The sample may comprise recombinantly produced antigen or a vaccine formulation or vaccine production batch. Detection may comprise ELISA, RIA, western blot, a biosensor using surface plasmon resonance or biolayer interferometry, or flow cytometric staining. The first antibody or antibody fragment may be encoded by clone-paired variable sequences as set forth in Table 1, by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, or 90% identity to clone-paired variable sequences as set forth in Table 1, or by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 95% identity to clone-paired sequences as set forth in Table 1. The first antibody or antibody fragment may comprise light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 2, may comprise light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80% or 90% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2, or may comprise light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. The first antibody fragment may be a recombinant scFv (single chain fragment variable) antibody, Fab fragment, F(ab')₂ fragment, or Fv fragment. The method may further comprise performing steps (a) and (b) a second time to determine the antigenic stability of the antigen over time.

[0020] The method may further comprise (c) contacting a sample comprising said antigen with a second antibody or antibody fragment having clone-paired heavy and light chain CDR sequences from Tables 3 and 4, respectively, and (d) determining antigenic integrity of said antigen by detectable binding of said second antibody or antibody fragment to said antigen. The second antibody or antibody fragment may be encoded by clone-paired variable sequences as set forth in Table 1, by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, or 90% identity to clone-paired variable sequences as set forth in Table 1, or by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 95% identity to clone-paired sequences as set forth in Table 1. The second antibody or antibody fragment may comprise light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 2, may comprise light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80% or 90% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2, or may comprise light and heavy chain

variable sequences having at least 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. The second first antibody fragment may be a recombinant scFv (single chain fragment variable) antibody, Fab fragment, F(ab)₂ fragment, or Fv fragment. The method may further comprise performing steps (c) and (d) a second time to determine the antigenic stability of the antigen over time.

[0021] Also disclosed but not part of the invention is human monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment, or hybridoma or engineered cell producing the same, wherein said antibody binds to a SARS-CoV-2 antigen surface spike protein.

[0022] In one aspect (A1) of the disclosure but not part of the invention provided herein, a method of detecting COVID-19 infection with SARS-CoV-2 in a subject comprises: (a) contacting a sample from said subject with an antibody or antibody fragment having clone-paired heavy and light chain CDR sequences from Tables 3 and 4, respectively, and (b) detecting SARS-CoV-2 in said sample by binding of said antibody or antibody fragment to a SARS-CoV-2 antigen in said sample. In one aspect (A2) of A1, said sample is a body fluid. In one aspect (A3) of A1 or A2, said sample is blood, sputum, tears, saliva, mucous or serum, semen, cervical or vaginal secretions, amniotic fluid, placental tissues, urine, exudate, transudate, tissue scrapings or feces. In one aspect (A4) of any one of A1-A3, the detection comprises ELISA, RIA, lateral flow assay or western blot. In one aspect (A5) of any one of A1-A4, the method further comprises performing steps (a) and (b) a second time and determining a change in SARS-CoV-2 antigen levels as compared to the first assay. In one aspect (A6) of any one of A1-A5, the antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by clone-paired variable sequences as set forth in Table 1. In one aspect (A7) of any one of A1-A5, said antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, 90% or 95% identity to clone-paired variable sequences as set forth in Table 1. In one aspect (A8) of any one of A1-A5, said antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having 100% identity to clone-paired sequences as set forth in Table 1. In one aspect (A9) of any one of A1-A5, said antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A10) of any one of A1-A5, said antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, 90% or 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A11) of any one of A1-A10, said antibody or antibody fragment binds to a SARS-CoV-2 surface spike protein. In one aspect (A12) of any one of 1, the antibody fragment is a recombinant scFv (single chain fragment variable) antibody, Fab fragment, F(ab)₂ fragment, or Fv fragment.

[0023] In one aspect (A13) of the disclosure but not part of the invention provided herein, a method of treating a subject infected with SARS-CoV-2 or reducing the likelihood of infection of a subject at risk of contracting SARS-CoV-2, comprises delivering to said subject an antibody or antibody fragment having clone-paired heavy and light chain CDR sequences from Tables 3 and 4, respectively. In one aspect (A14) of A13, the antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by clone-paired light and heavy chain variable sequences as set forth in Table 1. In one aspect (A15) of A13 or A14, said antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, 90% or 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 1. In one aspect (A16) of A13, said antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A17) of A13, said antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80% or 90% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A18) of A13, said antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A19) of any one of A13-A18, the antibody fragment is a recombinant scFv (single chain fragment variable) antibody, Fab fragment, F(ab)₂ fragment, or Fv fragment. In one aspect (A20) of any one of A13-A19, said antibody is an IgG, or a recombinant IgG antibody or antibody fragment comprising an Fc portion mutated to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions, to increase half-life and/or increase therapeutic efficacy, such as a LALA, LALA PG, N297, GASD/LALIE, DHS, YTE or LS mutation or glycan modified to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions such as enzymatic or chemical addition or removal of glycans or expression in a cell line engineered with a defined glycosylating pattern. In one aspect (A21) of any one of A13-A18, said antibody is a chimeric antibody or a bispecific antibody. In one aspect (A22) of any one of A13-A21 said antibody or antibody fragment binds to a SARS-CoV-2 surface spike protein. In one aspect (A23) of any one of A13-A22, said antibody or antibody fragment is administered prior to infection or after infection. In one aspect (A24) of any one of A13-A23, said subject is of age 60 or older, is immunocompromised, or suffers from a respiratory and/or cardiovascular disorder. In one aspect (A25) of any one of A13-A24, delivering comprises antibody or antibody fragment administration, or genetic delivery with an RNA or DNA sequence or vector encoding the antibody or antibody fragment.

[0024] In one aspect (A26) of the disclosure but not part of the invention provided herein is a monoclonal antibody, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment is characterized by clone-paired heavy and light chain CDR sequences from Tables 3 and 4, respectively. In one aspect (A27) of A26, said antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 1. In one aspect (A28) of A26, said antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, 90%, or 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 1. In one aspect (A29) of A26, said antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, 90%, or 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A30) of A26, said antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A31) of any one of A26-A30, the antibody fragment is a recombinant scFv (single chain fragment variable) antibody, Fab fragment, F(ab)₂ fragment, or Fv fragment. In one aspect (A32) of any one of A26-A30, said antibody is a chimeric antibody, or is a bispecific antibody. In one aspect (A33) of any one of A26-A32, said antibody is an IgG, or a recombinant IgG antibody or antibody fragment comprising an Fc portion mutated to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions, to increase half-life and/or increase therapeutic efficacy, such as a LALA, LALA PG, N297, GASD/LALIE, DHS, YTE or LS mutation or glycan modified to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions such as enzymatic or chemical addition or removal of glycans or expression in a cell line engineered with a defined glycosylating pattern. In one aspect (A34) of any one of A26-A33, said antibody or antibody fragment binds to a SARS-CoV-2 antigen such as a surface spike protein. In one aspect (A35) of any one of A26-A34, said antibody is an antibody.

[0025] In one aspect (A36) of the disclosure but not part of the invention provided herein, a hybridoma or engineered cell encodes an antibody or antibody fragment wherein the antibody or antibody fragment is characterized by clone-paired heavy and light chain CDR sequences from Tables 3 and 4, respectively. In one aspect (A37) of A36, said antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 1. In one aspect (A38) of A36, said antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, or 90% identity to clone-paired variable sequences from Table 1. In one aspect (A39) of A36, said antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 95% identity to clone-paired variable sequences from Table 1. In one aspect (A40) of A36, said antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A41) of A36, said antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, or 90% identity to clone-paired variable sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A42) of A36, said antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A43) of any one of A36-A42, the antibody fragment is a recombinant scFv (single chain fragment variable) antibody, Fab fragment, F(ab)₂ fragment, or Fv fragment. In one aspect (A44) of any one of A36-A43, said antibody is a chimeric antibody, a bispecific antibody, or an intrabody. In one aspect (A45) of any one of A36-A43, said antibody is an IgG, or a recombinant IgG antibody or antibody fragment comprising an Fc portion mutated to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions, to increase half-life and/or increase therapeutic efficacy, such as a LALA, LALA PG, N297, GASD/LALIE, DHS, YTE or LS mutation or glycan modified to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions such as enzymatic or chemical addition or removal of glycans or expression in a cell line engineered with a defined glycosylating pattern. In one aspect (A46) of any one of A36-A45, said antibody or antibody fragment binds to a SARS-CoV-2 surface spike protein.

[0026] In one aspect (A47) of the disclosure but not part of the invention provided herein, a vaccine formulation comprises one or more antibodies or antibody fragments characterized by clone-paired heavy and light chain CDR sequences from Tables 3 and 4, respectively. In one aspect (A48) of A47, at least one of said antibodies or antibody fragments is encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 1. In one aspect (A49) of A47, at least one of said antibodies or antibody fragments is encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, or 90% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 1. In one aspect (A50) of A47, at least one of said antibodies or antibody fragments is encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 1. In one aspect (A51) of A47, at least one of said antibodies or antibody fragments comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A52) of A47, at least one of said antibodies or antibody fragments comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, 90% or 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A53) of any one of A47-A52, at least one of said antibody fragments is a recombinant scFv (single chain fragment variable) antibody, Fab fragment, F(ab)₂ fragment, or Fv fragment. In one aspect (A54) of any one of A47-A52, at least one of said antibodies is a chimeric antibody, is bispecific antibody or an intrabody. In one aspect (A55) of any one of A47-A54, said antibody is an IgG, or a recombinant IgG antibody or antibody fragment comprising an Fc portion mutated to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions, to increase half-life and/or increase therapeutic efficacy, such as a LALA, LALA PG, N297, GASD/LALIE, DHS, YTE or LS mutation or glycan modified to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions such as enzymatic or chemical addition or removal of glycans or expression in a cell line engineered with a defined glycosylating pattern. In one aspect (A56) of any one of A47-A55, said antibody or antibody fragment binds to a SARS-CoV-2 surface spike protein.

[0027] In one aspect (A57) of the disclosure but not part of the invention provided herein, a vaccine formulation comprises one or more expression vectors encoding a first antibody or antibody fragment according to any one of A26-A34. In one aspect (A58) of A57, said expression vector(s) is/are Sindbis virus or VEE vector(s). In one aspect (A59) of A57 or A58, the vaccine formulation is formulated for delivery by needle injection, jet injection, or electroporation. In one aspect (A60) of A57, the vaccine formulation further comprises one or more expression vectors encoding for a second antibody or antibody fragment, such as a distinct antibody or antibody fragment of any one of A26-A34.

[0028] In one aspect (A61) of the disclosure but not part of the invention provided herein, a method of protecting the health of a subject of age 60 or older, an immunocompromised subject, or a subject suffering from a respiratory and/or cardiovascular disorder that is infected with or at risk of infection with SARS-CoV-2 comprises delivering to said subject an antibody or antibody fragment having clone-paired heavy and light chain CDR sequences from Tables 3 and 4, respectively. In one aspect (A62) of A61, the antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by clone-paired light and heavy chain variable sequences as set forth in Table 1. In one aspect (A63) of A61 or A62, the antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by clone-paired light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 95% identity to as set forth in Table 1. In one aspect (A64) of A61 or A62, said antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, or 90% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 1. In one aspect (A65) of A61, said antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A66) of A61, said antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80% or 90% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A67) of A61, said antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A68) of any one of A61-A67, the antibody fragment is a recombinant scFv (single chain fragment variable) antibody, Fab fragment, F(ab)₂ fragment, or Fv fragment. In one aspect (A69) of any one of A61-A68, said antibody is an IgG, or a recombinant IgG antibody or antibody fragment comprising an Fc portion mutated to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions, to increase half-life and/or increase therapeutic efficacy, such as a LALA, LALA PG, N297, GASD/LALIE, DHS, YTE or LS mutation or glycan modified to alter (eliminate or enhance) FcR interactions such as enzymatic or chemical addition or removal of glycans or expression in a cell line engineered with a defined glycosylating pattern. In one aspect (A70) of any one of A61-A67, said antibody is a chimeric antibody or a bispecific antibody. In one aspect (A71) of any one of A61-A70, said antibody or antibody fragment is administered prior to infection or after infection. In one aspect (A72) of any one of A61-A71, said antibody or antibody fragment binds to a SARS-CoV-2 surface spike protein. In one aspect (A73) of any one of A61-A72, delivering comprises antibody or antibody fragment administration, or genetic delivery with an RNA or DNA sequence or vector encoding the antibody or antibody fragment. In one aspect (A74) of A61, the antibody or antibody fragment improves the subject's respiration as compared to an untreated control. In one aspect (A75) of A61, the antibody or antibody fragment reduces viral load as compared to an untreated control.

[0029] In one aspect (A76) of the disclosure but not part of the invention provided herein, a method of determining the antigenic integrity, correct conformation and/or correct sequence of a SARS-CoV-2 surface spike protein comprises: (a) contacting a sample comprising said antigen with a first antibody or antibody fragment having clone-paired heavy and light chain CDR sequences from Tables 3 and 4, respectively, and (b) determining antigenic integrity, correct conformation and/or correct sequence of said antigen by detectable binding of said first antibody or antibody fragment to said antigen. In one aspect (A77) of A76, said sample comprises recombinantly produced antigen. In one aspect (A78) of A76, said sample comprises a vaccine formulation or vaccine production batch. In one aspect (A79) of A76-A78, detection comprises ELISA, RIA, western blot, a biosensor using surface plasmon resonance or biolayer interferometry, or flow cytometric staining. In one aspect (A80) of A76-A78, the first antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by clone-paired variable sequences as set forth in Table 1. In one aspect (A81) of A76-A79, said first antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, or 90% identity to clone-paired variable sequences as set forth in Table 1. In one aspect (A82) of any one of A76-A79, said first antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 95% identity to clone-paired sequences as set forth in Table 1. In one aspect (A83) of any one of A76-A79, said first antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A84) of any one of A76-A79, said first antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80% or 90% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A85) of any one of A76-A79, said first antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A86) of any one of A76-A85, the first antibody fragment is a recombinant scFv (single chain fragment variable) antibody, Fab fragment, F(ab)₂ fragment, or Fv fragment. In one aspect (A87) of any one of A76-A86, the method further comprises performing steps (a) and (b) a second time to determine the antigenic stability of the antigen over time. In one aspect (A88) of any one of A76-A87, the method further comprises (c) contacting a sample comprising said antigen with a second antibody or antibody fragment having clone-paired heavy and light chain CDR sequences from Tables 3 and 4, respectively, and (d) determining antigenic integrity of said antigen by detectable binding of said second antibody or antibody fragment to said antigen. In one aspect (A89) of A88, the second antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by clone-paired variable sequences as set forth in Table 1. In one aspect (A90) of A89, said second antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80%, or 90% identity to clone-paired variable sequences as set forth in Table 1. In one aspect (A91) of A89, said second antibody or antibody fragment is encoded by light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 95% identity to clone-paired sequences as set forth in Table 1. In one aspect (A92) of A89, said second antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences according to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A93) of A89, said second antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 70%, 80% or 90% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A94) of A89, said second antibody or antibody fragment comprises light and heavy chain variable sequences having at least 95% identity to clone-paired sequences from Table 2. In one aspect (A95) of A89, the second antibody fragment is a recombinant scFv (single chain fragment variable) antibody, Fab fragment, F(ab)₂ fragment, or Fv fragment. In one aspect (A96) of A89, the method further comprises performing steps (c) and (d) a second time to determine the antigenic stability of the antigen over time.

[0030] In one aspect (A97) of the disclosure but not part of the invention provided herein is a human monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment, or hybridoma or engineered cell producing the same, wherein said antibody binds to a SARS-CoV-2 surface spike protein.

[0031] The use of the word "a" or "an" when used in conjunction with the term "comprising" in the claims and/or the specification may mean "one," but it is also consistent with the meaning of "one or more," "at least one," and "one or more than one." The word "about" means plus or minus 5% of the stated number.

[0032] It is contemplated that any method or composition described herein can be implemented with respect to any other method or composition described herein. Other objects, features and advantages of the present disclosure will become apparent from the following detailed description. It should be understood, however, that the detailed description and the specific examples, while indicating specific embodiments of the disclosure, are given by way of illustration only.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0033] The patent or application file contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent or patent application publication with color drawing(s) will be provided by the Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee.

[0034] The following drawings form part of the present specification and are included to further demonstrate certain aspects of the present disclosure. The disclosure may be better understood by reference to one or more of these drawings in combination with the detailed description of specific embodiments presented herein.

FIG. 1. Dose-response matrix to assess synergistic neutralizing activity by the cocktail of COV2-2196 + COV2-2130 using live BSL3 SARS-CoV-2 virus. Qualitatively there was a small fraction of non-neutralized virus at the highest tested concentrations (250 ng/mL) of individual mAbs (boxes at 0 ng/mL COV2-2196 + 250 ng/mL COV2-2130 and 250 ng/mL COV2-2130 but full neutralization (100%) at the range of lower Ab concentrations by the combo. Box at 15.6 ng/mL COV2-2196 + 63 ng/mL COV2-2130 indicates the area with maximal synergy with 15.6 ng/mL of mAb COV2-2196 and 63 ng/mL of mAb COV2-2130 in a combination that neutralized 96% of virus, while the individual Abs showed only 6 or 0% neutralization, respectively (ovals at 0 ng/mL COV2-2196 + 63 ng/mL COV2-2130 and 15.6 ng/mL COV2-2196 + 0 ng/mL COV2-2130). The average values for triplicate technical replicates is shown.

FIGS. 2A-B. Dose-response matrix to assess synergistic neutralizing activity by the cocktail of mAb COV2-2196 + mAb COV2-2130 using BSL3 SARS-CoV-2 live virus. Average of triplicate values for technical replicates is shown. Data were visualized and synergy was assessed using SynergyFinder software.

FIG. 3. Dose-response matrix to assess synergistic neutralizing activity by the cocktail of mAb COV2-2196 + mAb COV2-2130 using BSL3 SARS-CoV-2 live virus. Synergy score interpretation: <10: the interaction is likely to be antagonistic. From -10 to 10: the interaction is likely to be additive. >10: the interaction is likely to be synergistic.

FIGS. 4A-C. Therapeutic efficacy of neutralizing human mAbs against established SARS-CoV-2 infection. (FIG. 4A) Mice were inoculated by the intranasal route with 10⁵ PFU of Ma-SARS-CoV-2 and 12 hrs later given the indicated antibody treatments by intraperitoneal injection. Viral burden in the lungs was measured at 2 days after viral challenge using plaque assay. Measurements from individual mice and median titer is shown, and each group was compared to the isotype control using Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA with Dunn's post-test (* p < 0.05). Data represent one experiment. (FIG. 4B) Ten to eleven-week-old BALB/c mice (one experiment of 3 to 9 mice per group) were treated with anti-Hfrmr1 mAb and transduced with AdV-HACE2 via the intranasal route one day later. After four days, mice were inoculated via the intranasal route with 10⁵ PFU of authentic SARS-CoV-2 and 12 hrs later given the indicated mAb treatments by intraperitoneal injection. Viral burden in the lungs was measured at 2 dpi after viral challenge using plaque assay. Two controls for plaque neutralization assay performance included lung homogenates from individual isotype treated mice that were mixed 1:1 (volume:volume) with lung homogenates from individual uninfected or mAb COV2-2196 + COV2-2130 cocktail treated mice. Measurements from individual mice and median titer is shown, and each group was compared to the isotype control using Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA with Dunn's post-test (* p < 0.01). Data represent one experiment. (FIG. 4C) Cytokine and chemokine gene expression was measured by qPCR analysis from the lungs harvested as in FIG. 4B. Measurements from individual mice and median values are shown. Groups were compared using the Mann-Whitney U test (* p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01).

FIG. 5. Antibody pharmacokinetics following infection of human mAb into macaques.

FIG. 6. SARS-CoV-2 viral loads (measured as subgenomic newly made RNA) in macaque bronchoalveolar lavage following intranasal and intratracheal challenge with wild-type SARS-CoV-2 virus.

FIG. 7. SARS-CoV-2 viral loads (measured as subgenomic newly made RNA) in macaque nasal swab specimens following intranasal and intratracheal challenge with wild-type SARS-CoV-2 virus.

FIGS. 8A-E. Crystal structure of S protein RBD in complex with Fab COV2-2196. (FIG. 8A) Cartoon representation of COV2-2196 in complex with RBD. COV2-2196 heavy chain is shown in cyan, light chain in magenta, and RBD in green. The coloring is visible in FIG. 8A of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 8B) Structure of COV2-2196-RBD complex is superimposed onto the structure of RBD-human ACE2 complex (PDB ID: 6M0J), using the RBD structure as the reference. The color scheme of COV2-2196-RBD complex is the same as that in FIG. 8A. The RBD in the RBD-ACE2 complex is colored in light blue, the human ACE2 peptidase domain in grey. The coloring is visible in FIG. 8B of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 8C) Structure of COV2-2196-RBD complex is superimposed onto the structure of spike with single RBD in the "up" conformation (PDB ID: 6XMA), using the RBD in the "up" conformation as the reference. The color scheme of COV2-2196-RBD complex is the same as that in FIG. 8A. The three subunits of spike are colored in grey, yellow, or light blue respectively (the subunit with its RBD in "up" conformation is yellow). The coloring is visible in FIG. 8C of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 8D) Surface representation of RBD epitope recognized by COV2-2196. The epitope residues are colored in different shades of green and labeled in black. The coloring is visible in FIG. 8D of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 8E) Antibody-antigen interactions between COV2-2196 and RBD. RBD is shown in the same surface representation and orientation as that in FIG. 8D. COV2-2196 paratope residues are shown in stick representation. The heavy chain is colored in cyan, and light chain is colored in magenta. The coloring is visible in FIG. 8E of U.S. 63/161,590.

FIGS. 8A-F. Crystal structure of S protein RBD in complex with both Fabs COV2-2196 and COV2-2130. (FIG. 8A) Cartoon representation of crystal structure of S protein RBD in complex with COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 Fabs. RBD is shown in green, COV2-2196 heavy chain in cyan, COV2-2196 light chain in magenta, COV2-2130 heavy chain in yellow, and COV2-2130 light chain in orange. CDRs of COV2-2130 are labeled. The coloring is visible in FIG. 8A of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 8B) Structure of COV2-2130-RBD complex is superimposed onto the structure of the RBD-ACE2 complex (PDB ID: 6M0J), using the RBD structure as the reference. The color scheme of the COV2-2130-RBD complex is the same as that of FIG. 8A. The RBD in the RBD-ACE2 complex is colored in light blue, the human ACE2 peptidase domain in grey. The coloring is visible in FIG. 8B of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 8C) Structure of COV2-2130-RBD complex is superimposed onto the structure of spike with all RBD in "down" conformation (PDB ID: 6Z0Y), using the RBD in one protomer as the reference. The color scheme of COV2-2130-RBD complex is the same as that in FIG. 8A. The three protomers of spike are colored in green, light blue, or purple respectively. The coloring is visible in FIG. 8C of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 8D) Structure of COV2-2196-2130-RBD complex is superimposed onto the structure of spike with one RBD in "up" conformation (PDB ID: 7CAK), using the RBD in "up" conformation as the reference. The color scheme of COV2-2130-RBD complex is the same as that in FIG. 8A. The three protomers of spike are colored in green, light blue, or purple respectively. The coloring is visible in FIG. 8D of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 8E) Surface representation of RBD epitope recognized by COV2-2130. The epitope residues are indicated in different colors and labeled in black. The coloring is visible in FIG. 8E of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 8F) Interactions of COV2-2130 paratope residues with the epitope. RBD is shown in the same surface representation and orientation as those in FIG. 8E. The paratope residues are shown in stick representation. The heavy chain is colored in yellow, and the light chain in orange. The coloring is visible in FIG. 8F of U.S. 63/161,590.

FIGS. 10A-B. (FIG. 10A) IMGT/DomainGapAgn results of COV2-2196 heavy and light chains. Key interacting residues and their corresponding residues in germline genes are shown in boxes. The SEQ ID NOs for the sequences in FIG. 10A are as follows:

	FR2-HCDR2	HCDR3-FR4	LCDR1-FR2	LCDR3-FR4
IGHV1-58	SEQ ID NO. 101	SEQ ID NO. 102		
IGHD2-2		SEQ ID NO. 103		
IGHD2-8		SEQ ID NO. 104		
IGHD2-15		SEQ ID NO. 105		
IGHJ3*02		SEQ ID NO. 168		
IGKV3-20			SEQ ID NO. 107	SEQ ID NO. 108
IGKJ1*01				SEQ ID NO. 109
COV2-2196	SEQ ID NO. 110	SEQ ID NO. 111	SEQ ID NO. 112	SEQ ID NO. 113
COV2-2381	SEQ ID NO. 114	SEQ ID NO. 115	SEQ ID NO. 116	SEQ ID NO. 117
COV2-2072	SEQ ID NO. 118	SEQ ID NO. 119	SEQ ID NO. 120	SEQ ID NO. 121
McC512p_1_G1	SEQ ID NO. 122	SEQ ID NO. 123	SEQ ID NO. 124	SEQ ID NO. 125
HnnC31tp2_C6	SEQ ID NO. 126	SEQ ID NO. 127	SEQ ID NO. 128	SEQ ID NO. 129
HnnC31tp1_C6	SEQ ID NO. 130	SEQ ID NO. 131	SEQ ID NO. 132	SEQ ID NO. 133
S2E12	SEQ ID NO. 134	SEQ ID NO. 135	SEQ ID NO. 136	SEQ ID NO. 137
COV107_1	SEQ ID NO. 138	SEQ ID NO. 139	SEQ ID NO. 140	SEQ ID NO. 141
COV107_2	SEQ ID NO. 142	SEQ ID NO. 143	SEQ ID NO. 144	SEQ ID NO. 145
COV72	SEQ ID NO. 146	SEQ ID NO. 147	SEQ ID NO. 148	SEQ ID NO. 149
COV21_1	SEQ ID NO. 150	SEQ ID NO. 151	SEQ ID NO. 152	SEQ ID NO. 153
COV21_2	SEQ ID NO. 154	SEQ ID NO. 155	SEQ ID NO. 156	SEQ ID NO. 157
COV57_1	SEQ ID NO. 158	SEQ ID NO. 159	SEQ ID NO. 160	SEQ ID NO. 161
COV57_2				SEQ ID NO. 162

(FIG. 10B) Binding curves of point mutants of COV2-2196. cDNAs encoding point mutants for the heavy chain, boxed above, were designed, synthesized as DNA to make recombinant IgG proteins, and tested for binding activity to spike protein. Mutants of D108 residue are in the top left graph, revertant mutation of inferred somatic mutations to germline sequence are in the top right graph, P99 mutants are in the bottom left graph, and a mutant removing the disulfide bond in HCDR3 is in the bottom right graph.

FIGS. 11A-H. Identification of critical residues for COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 through deep mutational scanning coupled with resistant variant selection. (FIG. 11A) Logo plots of mutation escape fractions of all at RBD sites with strong escape for COV2-2196 (left) or COV2-2130 (right). Taller letters indicate greater antibody-binding escape. Mutations are colored based on the degree to which they reduce RBD binding to human ACE2. Data shown are the average of two independent escape selection experiments using two independent yeast libraries; correlations are shown in FIGS. 18B-C. Interactive, zoomable versions of these logo plots are at jlabmetab.github.io/SARS-CoV-2-RBD_MAP_AZ_Abs/. The inventors determined escape fractions, as described in methods, which represent the estimated fraction of cells expressing that specific variant that fall in the antibody escape bin, such that a value of 0 means the variant is always bound by antibody and a value of 1 means that it always escapes antibody binding. (FIG. 11B) Logo plots of mutation escape fractions for COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 that are accessible by single nucleotide substitutions from the Wuhan-Hu-1 reference strain used in escape selections (FIGS. 11E-F). The effect of each substitution on ACE2 binding is represented as in FIG. 11A. (FIG. 11C) Left panel: mapping deep mutational scanning escape mutations for COV2-2196 onto the RBD surface in the RBD-COV2-2196 structure. Mutations that abrogate COV2-2196 binding are displayed on the RBD structure using a heatmap, where blue represents the RBD site with the greatest cumulative antibody escape and white represents no detected escape. Grey denotes residues where deleterious effects on RBD expression prevented assessment of the effect of the mutation on antibody binding. Right panel: the blow-up of the left panel showing interacting residues around the strongest escape sites of RBD. COV2-2196 heavy chain is colored cyan and the light chain magenta. Two replicates were performed with independent libraries, as described in FIG. 11A. The coloring is visible in FIG. 11C of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 11D) Right panel: mapping deep mutational scanning escape mutations for COV2-2130 onto the RBD surface in the RBD-COV2-2130 structure. Mutations that abrogate COV2-2130 binding are displayed on the RBD structure using a heatmap as in FIG. 11C. Left panel: the blow-up of the left panel showing interacting residues around the strongest escape sites of RBD. COV2-2130 heavy chain is colored yellow and the light chain salmon. The coloring is visible in FIG. 11D of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 11E) Table showing the results of VSV-SARS-CoV-2 escape selection experiments with COV2-2196, COV2-2130, and their combination. The number of escape mutants selected and the total number of escape selection replicates performed is shown, as well as the residues identified by sequencing escape mutant viruses. (FIG. 11F) Table showing the results of passage of SARS-CoV-2 in the presence of sub-neutralizing concentrations of AZD895 (based on COV2-2196), AZD1061 (based on COV2-2130), and AZD7442 (AZD895 + AZD1061). Resistance-associated viral mutations identified by sequencing neutralization-resistant plaques are denoted. (FIG. 11G) Scatter plot showing DMS data from FIG. 11A, with mutation escape fraction on the x-axis and effect on ACE2 binding on the y-axis. Crosses denote mutations accessible only by multi-nucleotide substitutions, while circles indicate mutations accessible by single-nucleotide substitution. Amino acid substitutions selected by COV2-2130 in VSV-SARS-CoV-2 (K444R, K444E) or authentic SARS-CoV-2 (R346L) are denoted. (FIG. 11H) Antibody neutralization as measured by FRNT against reference strains and SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern. Neutralization assays were performed in duplicate and repeated twice, with results shown from one experimental replicate. Error bars denote the range for each point. Mutations compared to the WA-1 reference strain are denoted. B. 1. 1-17-OF contains 69-70 and 144-145 deletion and the following substitutions: N501Y, A570D, D614G, P681H, and T716I.

FIG. 12. Overlay of substructure of RBD-COV2-2196 in RBD-COV2-2196-2130 complex and RBD-COV2-2196 crystal structure.

FIGS. 13A-F. Similar aromatic stacking and hydrophobic interaction patterns at the RBD site F458 shared between RBD-COV2-2196 and spike-S2E12 complexes. (FIGS. 13A and B) Same hydrogen bonding pattern surrounding residue F458 in the structures of the two complexes. (FIG. 13C) Detailed interactions between COV2-2196 and RBD. COV2-2196 heavy chain is colored in cyan, the light chain is colored in magenta, and RBD is colored in green. Important interactions are shown in stick representation. Water molecules involved in Ab-Ag interaction are represented as pink spheres. Dashed hydrogen bonds are shown as orange dashed lines, and water-mediated hydrogen bonds as yellow dashed lines. The coloring is visible in Extended Data Fig. 2C of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 13D) Superimposition of S2E12/RBD cryo-EM structure onto the RBD-COV2-2196 crystal structure, with the variable domains of antibodies as references. COV2-2196 heavy chain is in cyan, and its light chain is in pale cyan, and S2E12 heavy chain is in pale cyan, and its light chain in light pink. The two corresponding RBD epitopes are colored in green or yellow, respectively. The coloring is visible in Extended Data Fig. 2D of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 13E) Detailed interactions between COV2-2130 heavy chain and RBD. Paratope residues are shown in stick representation and colored in yellow, epitope residues in green sticks. Hydrogen-bonds or strong polar interactions are represented as dashed magenta lines. The coloring is visible in Extended Data Fig. 2E of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 13F) Detailed interactions between COV2-2130 light chain and RBD. Paratope residues are shown in stick representation and colored in orange, epitope residues in green sticks. Hydrogen-bonds are represented as dashed magenta lines. The coloring is visible in Extended Data Fig. 2F of U.S. 63/161,590.

FIGS. 14A-E. A common clone type of anti-RBD antibodies with the same binding mechanism. (FIG. 14A) COV2-2196/RBD crystal structure. (FIG. 14B) S2E12/RBD cryo-EM structure. (FIG. 14C) COV2-2381/RBD homology model. COV2-2072 encodes an N-linked glycosylation sequon in the HCDR3, indicated by the grey spheres. The coloring is visible in Extended Data Fig. 3D of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 14D) COV2-2072/RBD homology model. (FIG. 14E) Overlay of the COV2-2196/RBD crystal structure (FIG. 14A) and S2E12/RBD cryo-EM structure (FIG. 14B).

FIGS. 15A-B. Identification of putative public clonotype members genetically similar to COV2-2196 in the antibody variable gene repertoires of virus-naïve individuals. Antibody variable gene sequences from healthy individuals with the same sequence features as COV2-2196 heavy chain (FIG. 15A) and light chain (FIG. 15B) are aligned. Sequences from different donors as well as cont. Nucleotide indicated sequences with the features of the public clonotype. The sequence features are color-coded and the context residues used in COV2-2196 are highlighted with boxes below each multiple sequence alignment (boxes are colored red in Extended Data Fig. 4A of U.S. 63/161,590). The SEQ ID NOs for the heavy chain sequences in FIG. 15A are as follows: HPI1: SEQ ID NO. 166, HPI2: SEQ ID NO. 167, HPI3: SEQ ID NO. 168, and COR2: SEQ ID NO. 169. The SEQ ID NOs for the light chain sequences in FIG. 15A are as follows: HPI1: SEQ ID NO. 171, HPI2: SEQ ID NO. 171, and HPI3: SEQ ID NO. 172. The SEQ ID NOs for the HPI1 light chain sequences in FIG. 15B are as follows: SEQ ID NO. 173, SEQ ID NO. 174, SEQ ID NO. 175, SEQ ID NO. 176, and SEQ ID NO. 177 (from top to bottom). The SEQ ID NOs for the HPI2 light chain sequences in FIG. 15B are as follows: SEQ ID NO. 178, SEQ ID NO. 179, SEQ ID NO. 180, SEQ ID NO. 181, and SEQ ID NO. 182 (from top to bottom). The SEQ ID NOs for the HPI3 light chain sequences in FIG. 15B are as follows: SEQ ID NO. 183, SEQ ID NO. 184, SEQ ID NO. 185, SEQ ID NO. 186, and SEQ ID NO. 187 (from top to bottom).

FIGS. 16A-D. (FIG. 16A) Detailed COV2-2130 HCDR3 loop structure. Short-range hydrogen bonds, stabilizing the loop conformation, are shown as dashed lines (dashed lines are colored magenta in Extended Data Fig. 5A of U.S. 63/161,590). (FIG. 16B) Residues of COV2-2130 light chain form aromatic stacking interactions and hydrogen bonds with HCDR3 to further stabilize the HCDR3 loop. (FIG. 16C) Long LCDRI, HCDR2, and HCDR3 form complementary binding surface to the RBD epitope. RBD is shown as surface representation in grey. COV2-2130 heavy chain is colored in yellow with HCDR3 in orange, and the light chain in salmon with LCDRI in magenta. The coloring is visible in Extended Data Fig. 3D of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 16D) 180° rotation view of FIG. 16C.

FIG. 17. Interface between COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 in the crystal structure of RBD in complex with COV2-2196 and COV2-2130. COV2-2196 heavy or light chain are shown as cartoon representation in cyan or magenta, respectively, and COV2-2130 heavy or light chain in yellow or salmon, respectively. The RBD is colored in green. The coloring is visible in Extended Data Fig. 6 of U.S. 63/161,590. Interface residues are shown in stick representation.

FIGS. 18A-I. Identification by deep mutational scanning of mutations affecting antibody binding and method of selection of antibody resistant mutants with VSV-SARS-CoV-2 virus. (FIG. 18A) Top: Flow cytometry plots showing representative gating strategy for selection of single yeast cells using forward- and side-scatter (first three panels) and selection of yeast cells expressing RBD (right panel). Each plot is derived from the preceding gate. Bottom: Flow cytometry plots showing gating for RBD⁺ antibody⁺ yeast cells (i.e., cells that express RBD but where a mutation prevents antibody binding). Selection experiments are shown for COV2-2196 or COV2-2130, with two independent libraries shown for each. (FIG. 18B) Correlation of observed sites of escape from antibody binding between yeast library selection experiments using COV2-2196 and COV2-2130. The x-axes show cumulative escape fraction for each site for library 1, and the y-axes show cumulative escape fraction for each site for library 2. Correlation coefficient and *n* are denoted for each graph. (FIG. 18C) Correlation of observed mutations that escape antibody binding between yeast library selection experiments using COV2-2196 and COV2-2130, or a 1:1 mixture of COV2-2196 and COV2-2130. The x-axes show each amino acid mutation's escape fraction for library 1, and the y-axes show each amino acid mutation's escape fraction for library 2. Correlation coefficient and *n* are denoted for each graph. (FIGS. 18D-F) DMS results for COV2-2196 (FIG. 18D), COV2-2130 (FIG. 18E), or a 1:1 mixture of COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 (FIG. 18F). Left panels: sites of escape across the entire RBD are indicated by peaks that correspond to the logo plots in the middle and right panel. Middle panel: a FIG. 11A logo plot of cumulative escape mutation fractions of all RBD sites with strong escape mutations for COV2-2196, or COV2-2130, or COV2-2196+COV2-2130. Mutations are colored based on the degree to which they abrogate RBD binding to human ACE2. Right panel: again, logo plots show cumulative escape fractions, but colored based on the degree to which mutations affect RBD expression in the yeast display system. Interactive, zoomable versions of these logo plots are at jlabmetab.github.io/SARS-CoV-2-RBD_MAP_AZ_Abs/. The coloring is visible in Extended Data Fig. 7F of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 18G) Representative RTCA sensograms showing virus that escaped antibody neutralization. Cytopathic effect (CPE) was monitored kinetically in Vero E6 cells inoculated with virus in the presence of a saturating concentration (5 µg/mL) of antibody COV2-2196. Representative instances of escape (magenta) or block of detectable escape (blue) are shown. Uninfected cells (green) or cells inoculated with virus without antibody (red) serve as controls. Magenta and blue curves represent a single representative well; the red and green controls are the mean of technical replicates. The coloring is visible in Extended Data Fig. 7G of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 18H) Representative RTCA sensograms validating that a variant virus selected by COV2-2130 in FIG. 18G indeed escaped COV2-2130 (magenta) but was neutralized by COV2-2196 (light blue). The coloring is visible in Extended Data Fig. 7H of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 18I) Example sensograms from individual wells of 96-well E-plate analysis for escape selection experiments with COV2-2196, COV2-2130, or a 1:1 mix of COV2-2196 and COV2-2130. Instances of escape from COV2-2130 are noted, while escape was not detected in the presence of COV2-2196 or COV2-2196+COV2-2130. Positive and negative controls are denoted on the first plate.

FIG. 18. Method of selection of antibody resistant mutants with authentic SARS-CoV-2 virus.

FIG. 20(A-I). Functional characteristics of neutralizing SARS-CoV-2 mAbs. (FIG. 20A) Histogram of mAb neutralization activity, hACE2 blocking activity, and binding to either titrimic S2Pecto protein or monomeric S2PBD. MAb are ordered by neutralization potency (highest at the top, lowest at the bottom). Dashed lines indicate the 13 antibodies with a neutralization IC50 value lower than 150 ng/mL for wt virus. IC50 values are visualized for viral neutralization and hACE2 blocking, while EC50 values are visualized for binding. A recombinant form of the cross-reactive SARS-CoV S2PBD mAb CR3022 is shown as a positive control, while the anti-henry mAb ZD22 is shown as a negative control. Data are representative of at least 2 independent experiments, each performed in technical duplicate. No inhibition indicates an IC50 value of >10,000 ng/mL, while no binding indicates an EC50 value of >10,000 ng/mL. (FIGS. 20B-E) Correlation of hACE2 blocking, S2Pecto trimer binding, or S2PBD binding of mAbs with their neutralization activity. R2 values are shown for linear regression analysis of log-transformed values. Dark circles (shown in purple in FIGS. 1B-E of Example 5 of U.S. 63/161,590) indicate mAbs with a neutralization IC50 value lower than 150 ng/mL. (FIG. 20B) Correlation of hACE2 blocking and S2Pecto trimer binding. R2 values are shown for linear regression analysis of log-transformed values. (FIG. 20F) Neutralization curves for COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 in a neutralization assay against authentic SARS-CoV-2 virus. Calculated IC50 values are denoted on the graph. Error bars denote the standard deviation of each point. Data are representative of at least 2 independent experiments, each performed in technical duplicate. (FIG. 20G) Neutralization curves for COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 in a pseudovirus neutralization assay. Error bars denote the standard deviation of each point. Values shown are technical replicates from a single experiment. Calculated IC50 values from a minimum of 6 experiments are denoted on the graph. (FIG. 20H) hACE2 blocking curves for COV2-2196, COV2-2130, and the non-blocking SARS-CoV mAb CR3022 in the hACE2 blocking ELISA. Calculated IC50 values are denoted on the graph. Error bars denote the standard deviation of each point. Values shown are technical replicates from a representative experiment repeated twice. (FIG. 20I) ELISA binding of COV2-2196, COV2-2130, and CR3022 to trimeric S2Pecto. Calculated EC50 values are denoted on the graph. Error bars denote the standard deviation of each point. Values shown are technical replicates from a representative experiment repeated twice.

FIG. 21(A-D). Epitope mapping of mAbs by competition-binding analysis and synergistic neutralization by a pair of mAbs. (FIG. 21A) Left: biolayer interferometry-based competition binding assay measuring the ability of mAbs to prevent binding of reference mAbs COV2-2196 and CR3022 to RBD fused to mouse Fc. RBD-mFc tested onto anti-mouse Fc biosensors. Values in squares are % of binding of the reference mAb in the presence of the competing mAb relative to a mock-competition control. Black squares denote full competition (>33% of binding relative to no-competition control), while white squares denote no competition (<67% of binding relative to no-competition control). Right: biolayer interferometry-based competition binding assay measuring the ability of mAbs to prevent binding of hACE2. Values denote % binding of hACE2, normalized to hACE2 binding in the absence of competition. Shading denotes competition of mAb with hACE2. (Shading shown in red color in FIG. 2A of Example 5 of U.S. 63/161,590). (FIG. 21B) Competition of neutralizing mAb panel with reference mAbs COV2-2196, COV2-2196, or CR3022. Reference mAbs were biotinylated and binding of reference mAbs to titrimic S2Pecto was measured in the presence of saturating amounts of each mAb in a competition ELISA. ELISA signal for each reference mAb was normalized to the signal in the presence of the non-binding anti-dengue mAb ZD22. Black denotes full competition (>25% binding of reference mAb), grey denotes partial competition (25-60% binding of reference mAb), and white denotes no competition (<60% binding of reference mAb). (FIG. 21C) Synergistic neutralization of wild-type SARS-CoV-2 by COV2-2196 and COV2-2130. Top: neutralization matrix with serial dilutions of each mAb. Experiment was performed in technical triplicate. Shown is a representative experiment of how many that was performed in technical triplicate. % neutralization for each combination of mAbs is shown in each square. A white-to-black heatmap denotes 0% neutralization to 100% neutralization, respectively. (Heatmap shown in white-to-red in FIG. 2C of Example 5 of U.S. 63/161,590). (FIG. 21D) Synergistic matrix calculated based on the SARS-CoV-2 neutralization in the FIG. 21C. Darker color (shown in red in FIG. 2D of Example 5 of U.S. 63/161,590) denotes areas where synergistic neutralization was observed, and a black box denotes the area of maximal synergy between the two mAbs.

FIG. 22(A-F). Epitope identification and structural characterization of mAbs. (FIG. 22A) Identification of critical contact residues by alanine and arginine mutagenesis. Top: binding of COV2-2130 (pink), COV2-2165 (maroon) or COV2-2196 (dark purple) to wild-type or mutant S2PBD constructs measured by biolayer interferometry. Shown are graphs of the response normalized to the signal observed for binding to wt S2PBD. Bottom: representative binding curves for COV2-2196 to wt or S2PBD constructs with critical contact residues mutated. The coloring is visible in FIG. 3A of Example 5 of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 22B) Crystal structure of SARS-CoV-2 (blue) and hACE2 (green) (PDB: 6M0J). The hACE2 recognition motif is colored orange. Critical contact residues for COV2-2130 are shown as pink spheres, while critical contact residues for COV2-2196 are shown as purple spheres. The coloring is visible in FIG. 3B of Example 5 of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 22C) ELISA binding of mAbs to the 60-amino-acid hACE2 recognition motif. ZD22, an anti-dengue mAb, is shown as a negative control. Bottom: structure of hACE2 recognition motif in orange with COV2-2196 critical contact residues shown in purple. The coloring is visible in FIG. 3C of Example 5 of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 22D) Single-FatS2Pecto trimer complexes visualized by negative-stain electron microscopy for COV2-2130 (pink), COV2-2165 (maroon), or COV2-2196 (dark purple). The RBD is shown in blue and the S N-terminal domain (NTD) is shown in red. Electron density is shown in grey. Trimer state (open or closed) is denoted for each complex. Representative 2D class averages for each complex are shown at the bottom (box size 128 pixels). The coloring is visible in FIG. 3D of Example 5 of U.S. 63/161,590. (FIG. 22E) COV2-2130 and COV2-2196 Fabs in complex with S2Pecto trimer. Simultaneous

binding of COV2-2130 (gold) and COV2-2196 (purple) Fabs to S2Pecto trimer. Electron density is shown in gray. Trimer state (open or closed) is denoted. Representative 2D class averages for the complexes are shown at the bottom (box size 128 pixels). All images were made with Chimera. The coloring is visible in FIG. 3E of Example 5 of U.S. 63/161,890. (FIG. 22F) Competition-binding analysis visualized on S2Pecto trimer. The CR3022 crystal structure was docked into the double-Fab-S2Pecto trimer structure. CR3022 is shown in cyan. The coloring is visible in FIG. 3F of Example 5 of U.S. 63/161,890. Bottom: a quantitative Venn diagram notes the number of mAbs in each competition group and the overlap between groups.

FIG. 23 (A-F). Protective efficacy of neutralizing human mAbs against SARS-CoV-2 infection. (FIG. 23A) SARS-CoV-2 challenge model. Ten to eleven-week-old BALB/c mice (two experiments of 4-5 mice per group) were treated with anti-InflA1 mAb and transduced with AdV-HACE2 via the i.n. route one day later. After four days, mice were tested via the i.p. route with 200 µg of mAbs COV2-2196, -2130, or combination (1:1 ratio) or isotype control mAb. One day later, SARS-CoV-2 was inoculated via the i.n. route. Tissues were harvested at 7 dpi for analysis (FIGS. 23C and 23D). (FIG. 23B) Body weight change of mice in panel A. (two-way ordinary ANOVA with Tukey's post-test, **** P < 0.0001). (FIG. 2C) Viral burden in the lung, spleen and heart was measured by RT-qPCR. Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA with Dunn's post-test (*, P < 0.05, **, P < 0.01, ***, P < 0.001, **** P < 0.0001). The dashed line indicates the assay limit of detection. (FIG. 23D) Cytokine and chemokine gene expression was measured by qPCR analysis. Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA with Dunn's post-test (*, P < 0.05, **, P < 0.01, ***, P < 0.001, **** P < 0.0001). (FIG. 23E) MA-SARS-CoV-2 challenge model. Twelve-week-old BALB/c mice (n=10) were inoculated with 105 PFU of MA-SARS-CoV-2 via the i.n. route. Body weight change of mice is shown. (FIG. 23F) Viral burden in the lung was measured at 2 dpi by RT-qPCR (left) or plaque assay (right) from (FIG. 23E). Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA with Dunn's post-test (**** P < 0.001, **** P < 0.0001).

FIG. 24. SARS-CoV-2 neutralization curves for mAb panel. Neutralization of authentic SARS-CoV-2 by human mAbs. Mean ± SD of technical duplicates is shown. Data represent one of two or more independent experiments.

FIGS. 25A-B. Inhibition curves for mAb inhibition of S2Pecto binding to HACE2. Blocking of HACE2 binding to S2Pecto by anti-SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing human mAbs. Mean ± SD of triplicates of one experiment is shown. Antibodies CR3022 and 2D22 served as controls.

FIGS. 26A-B. ELISA binding of anti-SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing human mAbs to trimeric SRBD, S2Pecto, or SARS-CoV S2Pecto antigen. Mean ± SD of triplicates and representative of two experiments are shown. Antibodies CR3022 and 2D22 served as controls.

FIG. 27A-B. Mapping of mAb critical contact residues by alanine and arginine mutagenesis and bio-layer interferometry. (FIG. 27A) Left: Response values for mAb binding to wt or mutant SRBD constructs normalized to wt. Asterisks denote residues where increased dissociation of mAb was observed, likely indicating the residue is proximal to mAb epitope. Right: full response curves for mAb association and dissociation with wt or mutant SRBD constructs. (FIG. 27B) Structure of the RBD highlighting the critical contact residues for several mAbs and their location on the structure.

DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

[0035] As discussed above, SARS-CoV-2 is a major health concern with active cases increasing daily. Therefore, understanding the biology of this virus and the nature and extent of the human immune response to the virus is of paramount importance. The inventors have identified the sequences of human antibodies to SARS-CoV-2. Those sequences and uses for such antibodies are disclosed herein.

[0036] Moreover, by studying the interaction of one antibody (COV2-2196) with RBD in detail, the inventors identify the molecular basis for selection of a public clonotype for SARS-CoV-2 that is driven by a complex structural configuration involving both heavy and light chains. The shared structural features of this clonotype contribute to the formation of a paratope comprising residues in both the heavy and light chains, but remarkably are independent of the HCDR3 that usually dominates antigen-antibody interactions. The inventors show this public clonotype is one of the more frequently shared types of potent neutralizing antibodies made by humans to the SARS-CoV-2 S protein RBD. Detailed structural studies revealed that the commonly formed antibody paratope contributes an "aromatic cage" formed by five aromatic residues in the paratope surrounding the interface of the heavy and light chains. This cage structure coordinates an aromatic residue on the SARS-CoV-2 S protein, accounting for the high specificity and affinity of these antibodies. Remarkably, although both the heavy and light chains are required to form this public clonotype (thus defining canonicalIGHV, IGHJ, IGLV and IGLJ genes in the clonotype), the HCDR3 minimally affects the interaction. Since theseIGHV1-55IGHJ3 heavy chain and IGHV3-20IGJ1 light chain recombinations are common in the pre-immune B cell repertoire, many individuals likely make such clones during the response to SARS-CoV-2 infection or vaccination. The antigenic site recognized by the complex pre-configured structure of this public clonotype likely is an important component of a protective vaccine for COVID-19 because of the frequency of the B cell clone in the human population and the neutralizing and protective potency of the antibodies encoded by the variable gene segments.

[0037] These and other aspects of the disclosure are described in detail below.

I. Coronavirus 2019 (SARS-CoV-2)

[0038] SARS-CoV-2 is a contagious virus that causes the acute respiratory disease designated coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), a respiratory infection. It is the cause of the ongoing 2019-20 coronavirus outbreak, a global health emergency. Genomic sequencing has shown that it is a positive-sense, single-stranded RNA coronavirus.

[0039] During the ongoing outbreak, the virus has often been referred to in common parlance as "the coronavirus", "the new coronavirus" and "the Wuhan coronavirus", while the WHO recommends the designation "SARS-CoV-2". The International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) announced that the official name for the virus is SARS-CoV-2.

[0040] Many early cases were linked to a large seafood and animal market in the Chinese city of Wuhan, and the virus is thought to have a zoonotic origin. Comparisons of the genetic sequences of this virus and other virus samples have shown similarities to SARS-CoV (79.5%) and bat coronaviruses (96%). This finding makes an ultimate origin in bats likely, although an intermediate host, such as a pangolin, cannot be ruled out. The virus could be a recombinant virus formed from two or more coronaviruses.

[0041] Human-to-human transmission of the virus has been confirmed. Coronaviruses are primarily spread through close contact, in particular through respiratory droplets from coughs and sneezes within a range of about 6 feet (1.8 m). Viral RNA has also been found in stool samples from infected patients. It is possible that the virus can be infectious even during the incubation period.

[0042] Animals sold for food were originally suspected to be the reservoir or intermediary hosts of SARS-CoV-2 because many of the first individuals found to be infected by the virus were workers at the Huanan Seafood Market. A market selling live animals for food was also blamed in the SARS outbreak in 2003; such markets are considered to be incubators for novel pathogens. The outbreak has prompted a temporary ban on the trade and consumption of wild animals in China. However, some researchers have suggested that the Huanan Seafood Market may not be the original source of viral transmission to humans.

[0043] With a sufficient number of sequenced genomes, it is possible to reconstruct a phylogenetic tree of the mutation history of a family of viruses. Research into the origin of the 2003 SARS outbreak has resulted in the discovery of many SARS-like bat coronaviruses, most originating in the *Rhinolophus* genus of horseshoe bats. SARS-CoV-2 falls into this category of SARS-related coronaviruses. Two genome sequences from *Rhinolophus sinicus* published in 2015 and 2017 show a resemblance of 80% to SARS-CoV-2. A third virus genome from *Rhinolophus affinis*, "RaTG13" collected in Yunnan province, has a 96% resemblance to SARS-CoV-2.^{[29][30]} For comparison, this amount of variation among viruses is similar to the amount of mutation observed over ten years in the H3N2 human influenza virus strain.

[0044] SARS-CoV-2 belongs to the broad family of viruses known as coronaviruses; "nCoV" is the standard term used to refer to novel coronaviruses until the choice of a more specific designation. It is a positive-sense single-stranded RNA (+ssRNA) virus. Other coronaviruses are capable of causing illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). It is the seventh known coronavirus to infect people, after 229E, NL63, CC43, HKU1, MERS-CoV, and SARS-CoV.

[0045] Like SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 is a member of the subgenus Sarbecovirus (Beta-CoV lineage B). Its RNA sequence is approximately 30,000 bases in length. By 12 January, five genomes of SARS-CoV-2 had been isolated from Wuhan and reported by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CCDC) and other institutions; the number of genomes increased to 28 by 26 January. Except for the earliest GenBank genome, the genomes are under an embargo at GISAID. A phylogenetic analysis for the samples is available through Nextstrain.

[0046] Publication of the SARS-CoV-2 genome led to several protein modeling experiments on the receptor binding protein (RBD) of the spike (S) protein of the virus. Results suggest that the S protein retains sufficient affinity to the Angiotensin converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) receptor to use it as a mechanism of cell entry. On 22 January, a group in China working with the full virus and a group in the U.S. working with reverse genetics independently and experimentally demonstrated human ACE2 as the receptor for SARS-CoV-2.

[0047] To look for potential protease inhibitors, the viral 3C-like protease (Mpro) from the ORF1a polyprotein has also been modeled for drug docking experiments. Innophore has produced two computational models based on SARS protease, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences has produced an unpublished experimental structure of a recombinant SARS-CoV-2 protease. In addition, researchers at the University of Michigan have modeled the structures of all mature peptides in the SARS-CoV-2 genome using I-TASSER.

[0048] The first known human infection occurred in early December 2019. An outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 was first detected in Wuhan, China, in mid-December 2019, likely originating from a single infected animal. The virus subsequently spread to all provinces of China and to more than two dozen other countries in Asia, Europe, North America, and Oceania. Human-to-human spread of the virus has been confirmed in all of these regions. On 30 January 2020, SARS-CoV-2 was designated a global health emergency by the WHO.

[0049] As of 10 February 2020 (17:15 UTC), there were 40,645 confirmed cases of infection, of which 40,196 were within mainland China. Initially, nearly all cases outside China occurred in people who either traveled from Wuhan, or were in direct contact with someone who traveled from the area. Later, spread from travelers to other countries resulted in transmission in many countries in the world. While the proportion of infections that result in confirmed infection or progress to diagnosable SARS-CoV-2 acute respiratory disease remains unclear, the total number of deaths attributed to the virus was over 19,000 as of 25 March 2020.

[0050] The basic reproduction number (R-zero) of the virus has been estimated to be between 1.4 and 3.9. This means that, when unchecked, the virus typically results in 1.4 to 3.9 new cases per established infection. It has been established that the virus is able to transmit along a chain of at least four people.

[0051] In January 2020, multiple organizations and institutions began work on creating vaccines for SARS-CoV-2 based on the published genome. In China, the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention is developing a vaccine against the novel coronavirus. The University of Hong Kong has also announced that a vaccine is under development there. Shanghai East Hospital is also developing a vaccine in partnership with the biotechnology company Stemira Therapeutics.

[0052] Elsewhere, three vaccine projects are being supported by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), including projects by the biotechnology companies Moderna and Inovio Pharmaceuticals and another by the University of Queensland. The United States National Institutes of Health (NIH) is cooperating with Moderna to create an RNA vaccine matching a spike of the coronavirus surface. Phase I clinical trials began in March 2020. Inovio Pharmaceuticals is developing a DNA-based vaccination and collaborating with a Chinese firm in order to speed its acceptance by regulatory authorities in China, hoping to perform human trials of the vaccine in the summer of 2020. In Australia, the University of Queensland is investigating the potential of a molecular damp vaccine that would genetically modify viral proteins to make them mimic the coronavirus and stimulate an immune reaction.

[0053] In an independent project, the Public Health Agency of Canada has granted permission to the International Vaccine Centre (VICO-InterVac) at the University of Saskatchewan to begin work on a vaccine. VICO-InterVac aims to start production and animal testing in March 2020, and human testing in 2021. The Imperial College Faculty of Medicine in London is now at the stage of testing a vaccine on animals.

[0054] COVID-19 acute respiratory disease is a viral respiratory disease caused by SARS-CoV-2. It was first detected during the 2019-20 Wuhan coronavirus outbreak. Symptoms may include fever, dry cough, and shortness of breath. There is no specific licensed treatment available as of March 2020, with efforts focused on lessening symptoms and supporting functioning.

[0055] Those infected may either be asymptomatic or have mild to severe symptoms, like fever, cough, shortness of breath. Diarrhoea or upper respiratory symptoms (e.g., sneezing, runny nose, sore throat) are less frequent. Cases of severe infection can progress to severe pneumonia, multi-organ failure, and death. The time from exposure to onset of symptoms is estimated at 2 to 10 days by the World Health Organization, and 2 to 14 days by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

[0056] Global health organizations have published preventive measures individuals can take to reduce the chances of SARS-CoV-2 infection. Recommendations are similar to those previously published for other coronaviruses and include: frequent washing of hands with soap and water, not touching the eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands; and practicing good respiratory hygiene.

[0057] The WHO has published several testing protocols for SARS-CoV-2. Testing uses real time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). The test can be done on respiratory or blood samples. Results are generally available within a few hours to days.

[0058] Research into potential treatments for the disease were initiated in January 2020. The Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention started testing existing pneumonia treatments in coronavirus-related pneumonia in late January. There has also been examination of the RNA polymerase inhibitor remdesivir, and interferon beta. In late January 2020, Chinese medical researchers expressed an intent to start clinical testing on remdesivir, chloroquine, and lopinavir/ritonavir, all of which seemed to have "fairly good inhibitory effects" on SARS-CoV-2 at the cellular level in exploratory research. On 5 February 2020, China started patenting use of remdesivir for the disease.

[0059] Overall mortality and morbidity rates due to infection with SARS-CoV-2 are unknown, both because the case fatality rate may be changing over time in the current outbreak, and because the proportion of infections that progress to diagnosable disease remains unclear. However, preliminary research into SARS-CoV-2 acute respiratory disease has yielded case fatality rate numbers between 2% and 3%, and in January 2020 the WHO suggested that the case fatality rate was approximately 3%. An unresolved Imperial College preprint study among 55 fatal cases noted that early estimates of mortality may be too high as asymptomatic infections are missed. They estimated a mean infection fatality rate (the mortality among infected) ranging from 0.5% when including asymptomatic carriers to 15% when including only symptomatic cases from Hubei province.

[0060] Early data indicates that among the first 41 confirmed cases admitted to hospitals in Wuhan, 13 (32%) individuals required intensive care, and 6 (15%) individuals died. Of those who died, many were in unsound health to begin with, exhibiting conditions like hypertension, diabetes, or cardiovascular disease that impeded their immune systems. In early cases of SARS-CoV-2 acute respiratory disease that resulted in death, the median time of disease was found to be 14 days, with a total range from six to 41 days.

II. Monoclonal Antibodies and Production Thereof

[0061] An "isolated antibody" is one that has been separated and/or recovered from a component of its natural environment. Contaminant components of its natural environment are materials that would interfere with diagnostic or therapeutic uses for the antibody, and may include enzymes, hormones, and other proteinaceous or non-proteinaceous solutes. In particular embodiments, the antibody is purified: (1) to greater than 95% by weight of antibody as determined by the Lowry method, and most particularly more than 99% by weight; (2) to a degree sufficient to obtain at least 15 residues of N-terminal or internal amino acid sequence by use of a spinning cup sequencer; or (3) to homogeneity by SDS-PAGE under reducing or non-reducing conditions using Coomassie blue or silver stain. Isolated antibody includes the antibody *in situ* within recombinant cells since at least one component of the antibody's natural environment will not be present. Ordinarily, however, isolated antibody will be prepared by at least one purification step.

[0062] The basic four-chain antibody unit is a heterotetrameric glycoprotein composed of two identical light (L) chains and two identical heavy (H) chains. An IgM antibody consists of 5 basic heterotetramer units along with an additional polypeptide called J chain, and therefore contain 10 antigen binding sites, while secreted IgA antibodies can polymerize to form polyvalent assemblies comprising 2-5 of the basic 4-chain units along with J chain. In the case of IgGs, the 4-chain unit is generally about 150,000 daltons. Each L chain is linked to an H chain by one covalent disulfide bond, while the two H chains are linked to each other by one or more disulfide bonds depending on the H chain isotype. Each H and L chain also has regularly spaced intrachain disulfide bridges. Each H chain has at the N-terminus, a variable region (V_H) followed by three constant domains (C_H) for each of the alpha and gamma chains and four C_H domains for mu and lambda. Each L chain has at the N-terminus, a variable region (V_L) followed by a constant domain (C_L) at its other end. The

V_L is aligned with the V_H and the C_L is aligned with the first constant domain of the heavy chain (C_{H1}). Particular amino acid residues are believed to form an interface between the light chain and heavy chain variable regions. The pairing of a V_H and V_L together forms a single antigen-binding site. For the structure and properties of the different classes of antibodies, see, e.g., Basic and Clinical Immunology, 8th edition, Daniel P. Sittes, Abba I. Tarr and Tristram G. Parslow (eds.), Appleton & Lange, Norwalk, Conn., 1994, page 71, and Chapter 6.

[0065] The L chain from any vertebrate species can be assigned to one of two clearly distinct types, called kappa and lambda based on the amino acid sequences of their constant domains (C_L). Depending on the amino acid sequence of the constant domain of their heavy chains (C_H), immunoglobulins can be assigned to different classes or isotypes. There are five classes of immunoglobulins: IgA, IgD, IgE, IgG, and IgM, having heavy chains designated alpha, delta, epsilon, gamma and mu, respectively. They gamma and alpha classes are further divided into subclasses on the basis of relatively minor differences in C_H sequence and function; humans express the following subclasses: IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, IgA1, and IgA2.

[0064] The term "variable" refers to the fact that certain segments of the V domains differ extensively in sequence among antibodies. The V domain mediates antigen binding and defines specificity of a particular antibody for its particular antigen. However, the variability is not evenly distributed across the 110- amino acid span of the variable regions. Instead, the V regions consist of relatively invariant stretches called framework regions (FRs) of 15-30 amino acids separated by shorter regions of extreme variability called "hypervariable regions" that are each 9-12 amino acids long. The variable regions of native heavy and light chains each comprise four FRs, largely adopting a beta-sheet configuration, connected by three hypervariable regions, which form loops connecting, and in some cases forming part of, the beta-sheet structure. The hypervariable regions in each chain are held together in close proximity by the FRs and, with the hypervariable regions from the other chain, contribute to the formation of the antigen-binding site of antibodies (see Kabat et al., Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest, 5th Ed. Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. (1991)). The constant domains are not involved directly in binding an antibody to an antigen, but exhibit various effector functions, such as participation of the antibody in antibody dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC), antibody-dependent cellular phagocytosis (ADCP), antibody-dependent neutrophil phagocytosis (ADNP), and antibody-dependent complement deposition (ADCC).

[0065] The term "hypervariable region" when used herein refers to the amino acid residues of an antibody that are responsible for antigen binding. The hypervariable region generally comprises amino acid residues from a "complementarily determining region" or "CDR" (e.g., around about residues 24-34 (L1), 50-56 (L2) and 89-97 (L3) in the V_L, and around about 31-35 (H1), 50-65 (H2) and 95-102 (H3) in the V_H when numbered in accordance with the Kabat numbering system; Kabat et al., Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest, 5th Ed. Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. (1991)); and/or those residues from a "hypervariable loop" (e.g., residues 24-34 (L1), 50-56 (L2) and 89-97 (L3) in the V_L, and 26-32 (H1), 52-56 (H2) and 95-101 (H3) in the V_H when numbered in accordance with the Chothia numbering system; Chothia and Lesk, J. Mol. Biol. 196:901-917 (1987)); and/or those residues from a "hypervariable loop/CDR" (e.g., residues 27-38 (L1), 56-65 (L2) and 105-120 (L3) in the V_L, and 27-38 (H1), 56-65 (H2) and 105-120 (H3) in the V_H when numbered in accordance with the IMGT numbering system; Lefranc, M. P. et al. Nucl. Acids Res. 27:209-212 (1999), Ruiz, M. et al. Nucl. Acids Res. 28:219-221 (2000)). Optionally the antibody has symmetrical insertions at one or more of the following points 25, 36 (L1), 63, 74-75 (L2) and 123 (L3) in the V_L, and 28, 36 (H1), 63, 74-75 (H2) and 123 (H3) in the V_H when numbered in accordance with Aho, Honneger, A. and Plunkhurn, A. J. Mol. Biol. 309:657-670 (2001)).

[0066] By "germline nucleic acid residue" is meant the nucleic acid residue that naturally occurs in a germline gene encoding a constant or variable region. "Germline gene" is the DNA found in a germ cell (i.e., a cell destined to become an egg or in the sperm). A "germline mutation" refers to a heritable change in a particular DNA that has occurred in a germ cell or the zygote at the single-cell stage, and when transmitted to offspring, such a mutation is incorporated in every cell of the body. A germline mutation is in contrast to a somatic mutation which is acquired in a single body cell. In some cases, nucleotides in a germline DNA sequence encoding for a variable region are mutated (i.e., a somatic mutation) and replaced with a different nucleotide.

[0067] The term "monoclonal antibody" as used herein refers to an antibody obtained from a population of substantially homogeneous antibodies, i.e., the individual antibodies comprising the population are identical except for possible naturally occurring mutations that may be present in minor amounts. Monoclonal antibodies are highly specific, being directed against a single epitope site. Furthermore, in contrast to polyclonal antibody preparations that include different antibodies directed against different determinants (epitopes), each monoclonal antibody is directed against a single determinant on the antigen. In addition to their specificity, the monoclonal antibodies are advantageous in that they may be synthesized uncontaminated by other antibodies. The modifier "monoclonal" is not to be construed as requiring production of the antibody by any particular method. For example, the monoclonal antibodies useful in the present disclosure may be prepared by the hybridoma methodology first described by Kohler et al., Nature, 256:495 (1975), or may be made using recombinant DNA methods in bacterial, eukaryotic animal or plant cells (see, e.g., U.S. Patent 4,516,567) after single cell sorting of an antigen specific B cell, an antigen specific plasmablast responding to an infection or immunization, or capture of linked heavy and light chains from single cells in a bulk sorted antigen specific collection. The "monoclonal antibodies" may also be isolated from phage antibody libraries using the techniques described in Clackson et al., Nature, 352:624-628 (1991) and Marks et al., J. Mol. Biol., 222:581-597 (1991), for example.

A. General Methods

[0068] It will be understood that monoclonal antibodies binding to SARS-CoV-2 will have several applications. These include the production of diagnostic kits for use in detecting and diagnosing SARS-CoV-2 infection, as well as for treating the same. In these contexts, one may link such antibodies to diagnostic or therapeutic agents, use them as capture agents or competitors in competitive assays, or use them individually without additional agents being attached thereto. The antibodies may be mutated or modified, as discussed further below. Methods for preparing and characterizing antibodies are well known in the art (see, e.g., Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1988; U.S. Patent 4,196,265).

[0069] The methods for generating monoclonal antibodies (MAbs) generally begin along the same lines as those for preparing polyclonal antibodies. The first step for both these methods is immunization of an appropriate host or identification of subjects who are immune due to prior natural infection or vaccination with a licensed or experimental vaccine. As is well known in the art, a given composition for immunization may vary in its immunogenicity. It is often necessary therefore to boost the host immune system, as may be achieved by coupling a peptide or polypeptide immunogen to a carrier. Exemplary and preferred carriers are keyhole limpet hemocyanin (KLH) and bovine serum albumin (BSA). Other albumins such as ovalbumin, mouse serum albumin or rabbit serum albumin can also be used as carriers. Means for conjugating a polypeptide to a carrier protein are well known in the art and include glutaraldehyde, m-maleimido-benzoyl-N-hydroxysuccinimide ester, carbodiimide and bis-bisazotized benzidine. As is also well known in the art, the immunogenicity of a particular immunogen composition can be enhanced by the use of non-specific stimulators of the immune response, known as adjuvants. Exemplary and preferred adjuvants in animals include complete Freund's adjuvant (anon-specific stimulator of the immune response containing killed *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*), incomplete Freund's adjuvants and aluminum hydroxide adjuvant and in humans include alum. CpG, MFPS9 and combinations of immunostimulatory molecules ("Adjuvant Systems", such as AS01 or AS03). Additional experimental forms of inoculation to induce SARS-CoV-2-specific B cells is possible, including nanoparticle vaccines, or gene-encoded antigens delivered as DNA or RNA genes in a physical delivery system (such as lipid nanoparticle or on a gold biolistic bead), and delivered with needle, gene gun, transcutaneous electroporation device. The antigen gene also can be carried as encoded by a replication competent or defective viral vector such as adenovirus, adeno-associated virus, poxvirus, herpesvirus, or alphavirus replicon, or alternatively a virus like particle.

[0070] In the case of human antibodies against natural pathogens, a suitable approach is to identify subjects that have been exposed to the pathogens, such as those who have been diagnosed as having contracted the disease, or those who have been vaccinated to generate protective immunity against the pathogen or to test the safety or efficacy of an experimental vaccine. Circulating anti-pathogen antibodies can be detected, and antibody encoding or producing B cells from the antibody-positive subject may then be obtained.

[0071] The amount of immunogen composition used in the production of polyclonal antibodies varies upon the nature of the immunogen as well as the animal used for immunization. A variety of routes can be used to administer the immunogen (subcutaneous, intramuscular, intradermal, intravenous and intraperitoneal). The production of polyclonal antibodies may be monitored by sampling blood of the immunized animal at various points following immunization. A second, booster injection, also may be given. The process of boosting and titrating is repeated until a suitable titer is achieved. When a desired level of immunogenicity is obtained, the immunized animal can be bled and the serum isolated and stored, and/or the animal can be used to generate MAbs.

[0072] Following immunization, somatic cells with the potential for producing antibodies, specifically B lymphocytes (B cells), are selected for use in the MAb generating protocol. These cells may be obtained from biopsied spleens, lymph nodes, tonsils or adenoids, bone marrow aspirates or biopsies, tissue biopsies from mucosal organs like lung or GI tract, or from circulating blood. The antibody-producing B lymphocytes from the immunized animal or immune human are then fused with cells of an immortal myeloma cell, generally one of the same species as the animal that was immunized or human or human/mouse chimeric cells. Myeloma cell lines suited for use in hybridoma-producing fusion procedures preferably are non-antibody-producing, have high fusion efficiency, and enzyme deficiencies that render them incapable of growing in certain selective media which support the growth of only the desired fused cells (hybridomas). Any one of a number of myeloma cells may be used, as are known to those of skill in the art (Goding, pp. 65-66, 1986; Campbell, pp. 75-83, 1984). H1MA2.5 cells or MFP-2 cells are particularly useful examples of such cells.

[0073] Methods for generating hybrids of antibody-producing spleen or lymph node cells and myeloma cells usually comprise mixing somatic cells with myeloma cells in a 2:1 proportion, though the proportion may vary from about 20:1 to about 1:1, respectively, in the presence of an agent or agents (chemical or electrical) that promote the fusion of cell membranes. In some cases, transformation of human B cells with Epstein Barr virus (EBV) as an initial step increases the size of the B cells, enhancing fusion with the relatively large-sized myeloma cells. Transformation efficiency by EBV is enhanced by using CpG and a Chk2 inhibitor drug in the transforming medium. Alternatively, human B cells can be activated by co-culture with transfected cell lines expressing CD40 Llgand (CD154) in medium containing additional soluble factors, such as IL-21 and human B cell Activating Factor (BAFF), a Type II member of the TNF superfamily. Fusion methods using Sendai virus have been described by Kohler and Milstein (1975, 1976), and those using polyethylene glycol (PEG), such as 37% (w/v) PEG, by Gofter et al. (1977). The use of electrically induced fusion methods also is appropriate (Goding, pp. 71-74, 1986) and there are processes for better efficiency (Yu et al., 2008). Fusion procedures usually produce viable hybrids at low frequencies, about 1 × 10⁻⁶ to 1 × 10⁻⁸, but with optimized procedures one can achieve fusion efficiencies close to 1 in 200 (Yu et al., 2008). However, relatively low efficiency of fusion does not pose a problem, as the viable, fused hybrids are differentiated from the parental, infused cells (particularly the infused myeloma cells that would normally continue to divide indefinitely) by culturing in a selective medium. The selective medium is generally one that contains an agent that blocks the *de novo* synthesis of nucleosides in the tissue culture medium. Exemplary and preferred agents are aminopterin, methotrexate, and azaserine. Aminopterin and methotrexate block *de novo* synthesis of both purines and pyrimidines, whereas azaserine blocks only purine synthesis. Where aminopterin or methotrexate is used, the medium is supplemented with hypoxanthine and thymidine as a source of nucleosides (HAT medium). Where azaserine is used, the medium is supplemented with hypoxanthine. Ousbain is added if the B cell source is an EBV-transformed human B cell line, in order to eliminate EBV-transformed lines that have not fused to the myeloma.

[0074] The preferred selection medium is HAT or HAT with ouabain. Only cells capable of operating nucleotide salvage pathways are able to survive in HAT medium. The myeloma cells are defective in key enzymes of the salvage pathway, e.g., hypoxanthine phosphoribosyl transferase (HPRF), and they cannot survive. The B cells can operate this pathway, but they have a limited life span in culture and generally die within about two weeks. Therefore, the only cells that can survive in the selective media are those hybrids formed from myeloma and B cells. When the source of B cells used for fusion is a line of EBV-transformed B cells, as here, ouabain may also be used for drug selection of hybrids as EBV-transformed B cells are susceptible to drug killing, whereas the myeloma partner used is chosen to be ouabain resistant.

[0075] Culturing provides a population of hybridomas from which specific hybridomas are selected. Typically, selection of hybridomas is performed by culturing the cells by single-clone dilution in microtiter plates, followed by testing the individual donor supernatants (after about two to three weeks) for the desired reactivity. The assay should be sensitive, simple and rapid, such as radioimmunoassays, enzyme immunoassays, cytotoxicity assays, plaque assays or immunobinding assays, and the like. The selected hybridomas are then serially diluted or single-cell sorted by flow cytometric sorting and cloned into individual antibody-producing cell lines, which clones can then be propagated indefinitely to provide mAbs. The cell lines may be exploited for MAB production in two basic ways. A sample of the hybridomas can be injected (often into the peritoneal cavity) into an animal (e.g., a mouse). Optionally, the animals are primed with a hydrocarbon, especially oils such as pristane (tetramethylpentadecane) prior to injection. When human hybridomas are used in this way, it is optimal to inject immunocompromised mice, such as SCID mice, to prevent tumor rejection. The injected animal develops tumors secreting the specific monoclonal antibody produced by the fused cell hybrid. The body fluids of the animal, such as serum or ascites fluid, can then be tapped to provide mAbs in high concentration. The individual cell lines could also be cultured *in vitro*, where the mAbs are naturally secreted into the culture medium from which they can be readily obtained in high concentrations. Alternatively, human hybridoma cells lines can be used *in vitro* to produce immunoglobulins in cell supernatant. The cell lines can be adapted for growth in serum-free medium to optimize the ability to recover human monoclonal immunoglobulins of high purity.

[0076] MAbs produced by either means may be further purified, if desired, using filtration, centrifugation and various chromatographic methods such as FPLC or affinity chromatography. Fragments of the monoclonal antibodies of the disclosure can be obtained from the purified monoclonal antibodies by methods which include digestion with enzymes, such as pepsin or papain, and/or by cleavage of disulfide bonds by chemical reduction. Alternatively, monoclonal antibody fragments encompassed by the present disclosure can be synthesized using an automated peptide synthesizer.

[0077] It also is contemplated that a molecular cloning approach may be used to generate monoclonal antibodies. Single B cells identified as responding to infection or vaccination because of plasmablast or activated B cell markers, or memory B cells labelled with the antigen of interest, can be sorted physically using paramagnetic bead selection or flow cytometric sorting, then RNA can be isolated from the single cells and antibody genes amplified by RT-PCR. Various single-cell RNA-seq methods are available to obtain antibody variable genes from single cells. Alternatively, antigen-specific bulk sorted populations of cells can be segregated into microvesicles and the matched heavy and light chain variable genes recovered from single cells using physical linkage of heavy and light chain amplicons, or common barcoding of heavy and light chain genes from a vesicle. Matched heavy and light chain genes from single cells also can be obtained from populations of antigen specific B cells by treating cells with cell-penetrating nanoparticles bearing RT-PCR primers and barcodes for marking transcripts with one barcode per cell. The antibody variable genes also can be isolated by RNA extraction of a hybridoma line and the antibody genes obtained by RT-PCR and cloned into an immunoglobulin expression vector. Alternatively, combinatorial immunoglobulin phage(m) libraries are prepared from RNA isolated from the cell lines and phagemids expressing appropriate antibodies are selected by panning using viral antigens. The advantages of this approach over conventional hybridoma techniques are that approximately 10⁴ times as many antibodies can be produced and screened in a single round, and that new specificities are generated by H and L chain combination which further increases the chance of finding appropriate antibodies.

[0078] Other U.S. patents that teach the production of antibodies useful in the present disclosure include U.S. Patent 5,565,332, which describes the production of chimeric antibodies using a combinatorial approach; U.S. Patent 4,816,567 which describes recombinant immunoglobulin preparations; and U.S. Patent 4,867,973 which describes antibody-therapeutic agent conjugates.

B. Antibodies of the Present Disclosure

[0079] Antibodies according to the present disclosure may be defined, in the first instance, by their binding specificity. Those of skill in the art, by assessing the binding specificity/affinity of a given antibody using techniques well known to those of skill in the art, can determine whether such antibodies fall within the scope of the instant claims. For example, the epitope to which a given antibody binds may consist of a single contiguous sequence of 3 or more (e.g., 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20) amino acids located within the antigen molecule (e.g., a linear epitope in a domain). Alternatively, the epitope may consist of a plurality of non-contiguous amino acids (or amino acid sequences) located within the antigen molecule (e.g., a conformational epitope).

[0080] Two main categories of SARS-CoV-2 antigens are the surface spike (S) protein and the internal proteins, especially the nucleocapsid (N) protein. Antibodies to the S protein will be useful for prophylaxis, or therapy, or diagnostics, or for characterizing vaccines. S protein antibodies will have additional binding specificity with that protein, with particular antibodies binding to the full-length ectodomain of the SARS-CoV-2 S protein (presented as a monomer or oligomer such as a trimer; with our without conformation stabilizing mutations such as introduction of prolines at critical sites ("2P mutation")) and (a) anti-S protein antibodies that binds to the receptor binding domain (RBD), (b) anti-S protein antibodies that bind to domains other than the RBD. Some of the subset that bind to domains other than the RBD bind to the N terminal domain (NTD), while others bind to an epitope other than the NTD or RBD, and (c) S protein antibodies may further be found to neutralize SARS-CoV-2 by blocking binding of the SARS-CoV-2 S protein to its receptor, human angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (hACE2), with others that neutralize but do not block receptor binding. Finally, antibodies can cross-react with both SARS-CoV-2 S protein and the S protein of other coronaviruses such as SARS-CoV, MERS-CoV, HCoV-229E, HCoV-OC43, HCoV-NL63 and/or HCoV-HKU1, as well as cross-neutralize both SARS-CoV-2 and these other coronaviruses.

[0081] Another specificity will be antibodies that bind to N antibodies (or other internal targets) which will have primarily diagnostics uses. For example, antibodies to N or other internal proteins of SARS-CoV-2 that specifically recognize SARS-CoV-2 or that cross-reactively recognize SARS-CoV-2 and other coronaviruses such as SARS-CoV, MERS-CoV, HCoV-229E, HCoV-OC43, HCoV-NL63 and/or HCoV-HKU1.

[0082] Various techniques known to persons of ordinary skill in the art can be used to determine whether an antibody "interacts with one or more amino acids" within a polypeptide or protein. Exemplary techniques include, for example, routine cross-blocking assays, such as that described in Antibodies, Harlow and Lane (Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.). Cross-blocking can be measured in various binding assays such as ELISA, biolayer interferometry, or surface plasmon resonance. Other methods include alanine scanning mutational analysis, peptide blot analysis (Reinke, Methods Mol. Biol. 248: 443-63, 2004), peptide cleavage analysis, high-resolution electron microscopy techniques using single particle reconstruction, cryoEM, or tomography, crystallographic studies and NMR analysis. In addition, methods such as epitope excision, epitope extraction and chemical modification of antigens can be employed (Tomer Prot. Sci. 9: 487-496, 2000). Another method that can be used to identify the amino acids within a polypeptide with an antibody interacting is hydrogen/deuterium exchange detected by mass spectrometry. In general terms, the hydrogen/deuterium exchange method involves deuterium-labeling the protein of interest, followed by binding the antibody to the deuterium-labeled protein. Next, the protein/antibody complex is transferred to water and exchangeable protons within amino acids that are protected by the antibody complex undergo deuterium-to-hydrogen back-exchange at a slower rate than exchangeable protons within amino acids that are not part of the interface. As a

result, amino acids that form part of the protein/antibody interface may retain deuterium and therefore exhibit relatively higher mass compared to amino acids not included in the interface. After dissociation of the antibody, the target protein is subjected to protease cleavage and mass spectrometry analysis, thereby revealing the deuterium-labeled residues which correspond to the specific amino acids with which the antibody interacts. See, e.g., Ehling, *Analytical Biochemistry* 267: 252-259 (1999); Engen and Smith, *Anal. Chem.* 73: 256A-265A (2001). When the antibody neutralizes SARS-CoV-2, antibody escape mutant variant organisms can be isolated by propagating SARS-CoV-2 *in vitro* or in animal models in the presence of high concentrations of the antibody. Sequence analysis of the SARS-CoV-2 gene encoding the antigen targeted by the antibody reveals the mutation(s) conferring resistance to the epitope or the epitope or that affect the structure of the epitope allosterically.

[0083] The term "epitope" refers to a site on an antigen to which B and/or T cells respond. B-cell epitopes can be formed both from contiguous amino acids or noncontiguous amino acids juxtaposed by tertiary folding of a protein. Epitopes formed from contiguous amino acids are typically retained on exposure to denaturing solvents, whereas epitopes formed by tertiary folding are typically lost on treatment with denaturing solvents. An epitope typically includes at least 3, and more usually, at least 5 or 8-10 amino acids in a unique spatial conformation.

[0084] Modification-Assisted Profiling (MAP), also known as Antigen Structure-based Antibody Profiling (ASAP) is a method that categorizes large numbers of monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) directed against the same antigen according to the similarities of the binding profile of each antibody to chemically or enzymatically modified antigen surfaces (see U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0101920). Each category may reflect a unique epitope either distinctly different from or partially overlapping with epitope represented by another category. This technology allows rapid filtering of genetically identical antibodies, such that characterization can be focused on genetically distinct antibodies. When applied to hybridoma screening, MAP may facilitate identification of rare hybridoma clones that produce mAbs having the desired characteristics. MAP may be used to sort the antibodies of the disclosure into groups of antibodies binding different epitopes.

[0085] The present disclosure includes antibodies that may bind to the same epitope, or a portion of the epitope. Likewise, the present disclosure also includes antibodies that compete for binding to a target or a fragment thereof with any of the specific exemplary antibodies described herein. One can easily determine whether an antibody binds to the same epitope as, or competes for binding with, a reference antibody by using routine methods known in the art. For example, to determine if a test antibody binds to the same epitope as a reference, the reference antibody is allowed to bind to target under saturating conditions. Next, the ability of a test antibody to bind to the target molecule is assessed. If the test antibody is able to bind to the target molecule following saturation binding with the reference antibody, it can be concluded that the test antibody binds to a different epitope than the reference antibody. On the other hand, if the test antibody is not able to bind to the target molecule following saturation binding with the reference antibody, then the test antibody may bind to the same epitope as the epitope bound by the reference antibody.

[0086] To determine if an antibody competes for binding with a reference anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibody, the above-described binding methodology is performed in two orientations: In a first orientation, the reference antibody is allowed to bind to the SARS-CoV-2 antigen under saturating conditions followed by assessment of binding of the test antibody to the SARS-CoV-2 molecule. In a second orientation, the test antibody is allowed to bind to the SARS-CoV-2 antigen molecule under saturating conditions followed by assessment of binding of the reference antibody to the SARS-CoV-2 molecule. If, in both orientations, only the first (saturating) antibody is capable of binding to SARS-CoV-2, then it is concluded that the test antibody and the reference antibody compete for binding to SARS-CoV-2. As will be appreciated by a person of ordinary skill in the art, an antibody that competes for binding with a reference antibody may not necessarily bind to the identical epitope as the reference antibody but may sterically block binding of the reference antibody by binding an overlapping or adjacent epitope.

[0087] Two antibodies bind to the same or overlapping epitope if each competitively inhibits (blocks) binding of the other to the antigen. That is, a 1-, 5-, 10-, 20- or 100-fold excess of one antibody inhibits binding of the other by at least 50% but preferably 75%, 90% or even 99% as measured in a competitive binding assay (see, e.g., Jungkahn et al., *Cancer Res.* 1990 50:1495-1502). Alternatively, two antibodies have the same epitope if essentially all amino acid mutations in the antigen that reduce or eliminate binding of one antibody reduce or eliminate binding of the other. Two antibodies have overlapping epitopes if some amino acid mutations that reduce or eliminate binding of one antibody reduce or eliminate binding of the other. In some aspects an antibody or antibody fragment that binds to the same or overlapping epitope as COV2-21-96 is used in combination with an antibody or antibody fragment that binds to the same or overlapping epitope as COV2-21-30.

[0088] Additional routine experimentation (e.g., peptide mutation and binding analyses) can then be carried out to confirm whether the observed lack of binding of the test antibody is in fact due to binding to the same epitope as the reference antibody or if steric blocking (or another phenomenon) is responsible for the lack of observed binding. Experiments of this sort can be performed using ELISA, RIA, surface plasmon resonance, flow cytometry or any other quantitative or qualitative antibody-binding assay available in the art. Structural studies with EM or crystallography also can demonstrate whether or not two antibodies that compete for binding recognize the same epitope.

[0089] In another aspect, there are provided monoclonal antibodies having clone-paired CDRs from the heavy and light chains as illustrated in Tables 3 and 4, respectively. Such antibodies may be produced by the clones discussed below in the Examples section using methods described herein.

[0090] In another aspect, the antibodies may be defined by their variable sequence, which include additional "framework" regions. Furthermore, the antibodies sequences may vary from these sequences, optionally using methods discussed in greater detail below. For example, nucleic acid sequences may vary from those set out above in that (a) the variable regions may be segregated away from the constant domains of the light and heavy chains, (b) the nucleic acids may vary from those set out above while not affecting the residues encoded therein, (c) the nucleic acids may vary from those set out above by a given percentage, e.g., 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% homology, (d) the nucleic acids may vary from those set out above by virtue of the ability to hybridize under high stringency conditions, as exemplified by low salt and/or high temperature conditions, such as provided by about 0.02 M to about 0.15 M NaCl at temperatures of about 50°C to about 70°C, (e) the amino acids may vary from those set out above by a given percentage, e.g., 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% homology, or (f) the amino acids may vary from those set out above by permitting conservative substitutions (discussed below). Each of the foregoing applies to the nucleic acid sequences and the amino acid sequences.

[0091] When comparing polynucleotide and polypeptide sequences, two sequences are said to be "identical" if the sequence of nucleotides or amino acids in the two sequences is the same when aligned for maximum correspondence, as described below. Comparisons between two sequences are typically performed by comparing the sequences over a comparison window to identify and compare local regions of sequence similarity. A "comparison window" as used herein, refers to a segment of at least about 20 contiguous positions, usually 30 to about 75, 40 to about 50, in which a sequence may be compared to a reference sequence of the same number of contiguous positions after the two sequences are optimally aligned.

[0092] Optimal alignment of sequences for comparison may be conducted using the Megalign program in the Lasergene suite of bioinformatics software (DNASTAR, Inc., Madison, Wis.), using default parameters. This program embodies several alignment schemes described in the following references: Dayhoff, M. O. (1978) A model of evolutionary change in proteins—Matrices for detecting distant relationships. In: Dayhoff, M. O. (ed.) *Atlas of Protein Sequence and Structure*, National Biomedical Research Foundation, Washington D.C. Vol. 5, Suppl. 3, pp. 345-358; Hein J. (1990) Unified Approach to Alignment and Phylogeny pp. 626-645 *Methods in Enzymology* vol. 183, Academic Press, Inc., San Diego, Calif.; Higgins, D. G. and Sharp, P. M. (1988) CABIOS 5:151-153; Myers, E. W. and Miller W. (1988) CABIOS 4:11-17; Robinson, E. D. (1971) *Comb. Theor* 11:105; Saitou, N. Nes, M. (1987) *Mol. Biol. Evol.* 4:406-425; Sneath, P. H. A. and Sokal, R. R. (1973) *Numerical Taxonomy—the Principles and Practice of Numerical Taxonomy*, Freeman Press, San Francisco, Calif.; Wilbur, W. J. and Lipman, D. J. (1983) *Proc. Natl. Acad., Sci. USA* 80:726-730.

[0093] Alternatively, optimal alignment of sequences for comparison may be conducted by the local identity algorithm of Smith and Waterman (1981) *Adv. APL. Math.* 2:482, by the identity alignment algorithm of Needleman and Wunsch (1970) *J. Mol. Biol.* 48:443, by the search for similarity methods of Pearson and Lipman (1988) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85: 2644, by computerized implementations of these algorithms (GAR, BESTFIT, BLAST, FASTA, and TFASTA in the Wisconsin Genetics Software Package, Genetics Computer Group (GCG), 575 Science Dr., Madison, Wis.), or by inspection.

[0094] One particular example of algorithms that are suitable for determining percent sequence identity and sequence similarity are the BLAST and BLAST 2.0 algorithms, which are described in Altschul et al. (1977) *Nucl. Acids Res.* 25:3389-3402 and Altschul et al. (1990) *J. Mol. Biol.* 215:403-410, respectively. BLAST and BLAST 2.0 can be used, for example, with the parameters described herein, to determine percent sequence identity for the polynucleotides and polypeptides of the disclosure. Software for performing BLAST analyses is publicly available through the National Center for Biotechnology Information. The rearranged nature of an antibody sequence and the variable length of each gene requires multiple rounds of BLAST searches for a single antibody sequence. Also, manual assessment of different genes is difficult and error-prone. The sequence analysis tool IgBLAST (world-wide-web at nclim.nih.gov/igblast) identifies matches to the germline V, D and J genes, details at rearrangement junctions, the delineation of Ig V domain framework regions and complementarily determining regions. IgBLAST can analyze nucleotide or protein sequences and can process sequences in batches and allows searches against the germline gene databases and other sequence databases simultaneously to minimize the chance of missing possibly the best matching germline V gene.

[0095] In one illustrative example, cumulative scores can be calculated using, for nucleotide sequences, the parameters M (reward score for a pair of matching residues; always >0) and N (penalty score for mismatching residues; always <0). Extension of the word hits in each direction are halted when: the cumulative alignment score falls off by the quantity X from its maximum achieved value; the cumulative score goes to zero or below, due to the accumulation of one or more negative-scoring residue alignments; or the end of either sequence is reached. The BLAST algorithm parameters W, T and X determine the sensitivity and speed of the algorithm. The BLASTN program (for nucleotide sequences) uses as defaults a wordlength (W) of 11, and expectation (E) of 10, and the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix (see Henikoff and Henikoff (1989) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89:10915) alignments, (B) of 50, expectation (E) of 10, M=5, N=-4 and a comparison of both strands.

[0096] For amino acid sequences, a scoring matrix can be used to calculate the cumulative score. Extension of the word hits in each direction are halted when: the cumulative alignment score falls off by the quantity X from its maximum achieved value; the cumulative score goes to zero or below, due to the accumulation of one or more negative-scoring residue alignments; or the end of either sequence is reached. The BLAST algorithm parameters W, T and X determine the sensitivity and speed of the alignment.

[0097] In one approach, the "percentage of sequence identity" is determined by comparing two optimally aligned sequences over a window of comparison of at least 20 positions, wherein the portion of the polynucleotide or polypeptide sequence in the comparison window may comprise additions or deletions (i.e., gaps) of 20 percent or less, usually 5 to 15 percent, or 10 to 12 percent, as compared to the reference sequences (which does not comprise additions or deletions) for optimal alignment of the two sequences. The percentage is calculated by determining the number of positions at which the identical nucleic acid bases or amino acid residues occur in both sequences to yield the number of matched positions, dividing the number of matched positions by the total number of positions in the reference sequence (i.e., the window size) and multiplying the results by 100 to yield the percentage of sequence identity.

[0098] Yet another way of defining an antibody is as a "derivative" of any of the below-described antibodies and their antigen-binding fragments. The term "derivative" refers to an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that immunospecifically binds to an antigen but which comprises, one, two, three, four, five or more amino acid substitutions, additions, deletions or modifications relative to a "parental" (or wild-type) molecule. Such amino acid substitutions or additions may introduce naturally occurring (i.e., DNA-encoded) or non-naturally occurring amino acid residues. The term "derivative" encompasses, for example, as variants having altered CH1, hinge, CH2, CH3 or CH4 regions, so as to form, for example, antibodies, etc. having variant Fc regions that exhibit enhanced or impaired effector or binding characteristics. The term "derivative" additionally encompasses non-amino acid modifications, for example, amino acids that may be glycosylated (e.g., have altered mannose, 2-N-acetylglucosamine, galactose, fucose, glucose, sialic acid, 5-N-acetylneuraminic acid, etc. content), acetylated, pegylated, phosphorylated, amidated, derivatized by known protecting/blocking groups, proteolytic cleavage, linked to a cellular ligand or other protein, etc. In some embodiments, the altered carbohydrate modifications modulate one or more of the following: solubilization of the antibody, facilitation of subcellular transport and secretion of the antibody, promotion of antibody assembly, conformational integrity, and antibody-mediated effector function. In a specific embodiment, the altered carbohydrate modifications enhance antibody mediated effector function relative to the antibody lacking the carbohydrate modification. Carbohydrate modifications that lead to altered antibody mediated effector function are well known in the art (for example, see Shields, R. L. et al. (2002) "Lack Of Fucose On Human IgG N-Linked Oligosaccharide Improves Binding To Human FcγR1 And Antibody-Dependent Cellular Toxicity," *J. Biol. Chem.* 277(30): 26733-26740; Davies J. et al. (2001) "Expression Of GcTIII In A Recombinant Anti-CD20 CHO Production Cell Line: Expression Of Antibodies With Altered Glycoforms Leads To An Increase In ADCC Through Higher Affinity For FC γR1," *Biotechnology & Bioengineering* 74(4): 288-294). Methods of altering carbohydrate contents are known to those skilled in the art, see, e.g., Wellick, S. C. et al. (1988) "Glycosylation Of A VH Residue Of A Monoclonal Antibody Against Alpha 1(—6) Dextran Increases Its Affinity For Antigen," *J. Exp. Med.* 168(3): 1099-1109.; Tao, M. H. et al. (1989) "Studies Of Glycosylation Chemical Structure-Human IgG. Role Of Carbohydrate In The Structure And Effector Functions Mediated By The Human IgG Constant Region," *J. Immunol.* 143(8): 2595-2601; Rutledge, E. G. et al. (1995) "The Effect Of Glycosylation On The Immunogenicity Of A Humanized Therapeutic CD3 Monoclonal Antibody," *Transplantation* 60(8): 847-63; Ellott, S. et al. (2003) "Enhancement Of Therapeutic Protein *In Vivo* Activities Through Glycoengineering," *Nature Biotechnol.* 21:414-21; Shields, R. L. et al. (2002) "Lack of Fucose on Human IgG N-Linked Oligosaccharide Improves Binding to Human FcγR1 And Antibody-Dependent Cellular Toxicity," *J. Biol. Chem.* 277(30): 26733-26740).

[0099] A derivative antibody or antibody fragment can be generated with an engineered sequence or glycosylation state to confer preferred levels of activity in antibody dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC), antibody-dependent cellular phagocytosis (ADCP), antibody-dependent neutrophil phagocytosis (ADNP), or antibody-dependent complement deposition (ADCP) functions as measured by bead-based or cell-based assays or *in vivo* studies in animal models.

[0100] A derivative antibody or antibody fragment may be modified by chemical modifications using techniques known to those of skill in the art, including, but not limited to, specific chemical cleavage, acetylation, formulation, metabolic synthesis of tunicamycin, etc. In one embodiment, an antibody derivative will possess a similar or identical function as the parental antibody. In another embodiment, an antibody derivative will exhibit an altered activity relative to the parental antibody. For example, a derivative antibody (or fragment thereof) can bind to its epitope more tightly or be more resistant to proteolysis than the parental antibody.

C. Engineering of Antibody Sequences

[0101] In various embodiments, one may choose to engineer sequences of the identified antibodies for a variety of reasons, such as improved expression, improved cross-reactivity or diminished off-target binding. Modified antibodies may be made by any technique known to those of skill in the art, including expression through standard molecular biological techniques, or the chemical synthesis of polypeptides. Methods for recombinant expression are addressed elsewhere in this document. The following is a general discussion of relevant goals/techniques for antibody engineering.

[0102] Hybridomas may be cultured, then cells lysed, and total RNA extracted. Random hexamers may be used with RT to generate cDNA copies of RNA, and then PCR performed using a multiplex mixture of PCR primers expected to amplify all human variable gene sequences. PCR product can be cloned into pGEM-T Easy vector, then sequenced by automated DNA sequencing using standard vector primers. Assay of binding and neutralization may be performed using antibodies collected from hybridoma supernatants and purified by FPLC, using Protein G columns.

[0103] Recombinant full-length IgG antibodies can be generated by subcloning heavy and light chain Fv DNAs from the cloning vector into an IgG plasmid vector, transfected into 293 (e.g., Freestyle) cells or CHO cells, and antibodies can be collected and purified from the 293 or CHO cell supernatant. Other appropriate host cell systems include bacteria, such as *E. coli*, insect cells (S2, S9, S29, High Five), plant cells (e.g., tobacco, with or without engineering for human-like glycans), algae, or in a variety of non-human transgenic contacts, such as mice, rats, goats or cows.

[0104] Expression of nucleic acids encoding antibodies, both for the purpose of subsequent antibody purification, and for immunization of a host, is also contemplated. Antibody coding sequences can be RNA, such as native RNA or modified RNA. Modified RNA encompasses certain chemical modifications that confer increased stability and low immunogenicity to mRNAs, thereby facilitating expression of therapeutically important proteins. For instance, N1-methyl-pseudouridine (N1mP) outperforms several other nucleoside modifications and their combinations in terms of translation capacity. In addition to turning off the immunelike 2'OH phosphorylation-dependent inhibition of translation, incorporated N1mP nucleotides dramatically alter the dynamics of the translation process by increasing ribosome pausing and density on the mRNA. Increased ribosome loading of modified mRNAs renders them more permissive for initiation by favoring either ribosome recycling on the same mRNA or de novo ribosome recruitment. Such modifications could be used to enhance antibody expression *in vivo* following inoculation with RNA. The RNA, whether native or modified, may be delivered as naked RNA or in a delivery vehicle, such as a lipid nanoparticle.

[0105] Alternatively, DNA encoding the antibody may be employed for the same purposes. The DNA is included in an expression cassette comprising a promoter active in the host cell for which it is designed. The expression cassette is advantageously included in a replicable vector, such as a conventional plasmid or minivector. Vectors include viral vectors, such as poxviruses, adenoviruses, herpesviruses, adeno-associated viruses, and lentiviruses are contemplated. Replicons encoding antibody genes such as alphavirus replicons based on VEE virus or Sindbis virus are also contemplated. Delivery of such vectors can be performed by needle through intramuscular, subcutaneous, or intradermal routes, or by transcutaneous electroporation when *in vivo* expression is desired.

[0106] The rapid availability of antibody produced in the same host cell and cell culture process as the final cGMP manufacturing process has the potential to reduce the duration of process development programs. Lonza has developed a generic method using pooled transfectants grown in CDACF medium, for the rapid production of small quantities (up to 50 g) of antibodies in CHO cells. Although slightly slower than a true transient system, the advantages include a higher product concentration and use of the same host and process as

the production cell line. Example of growth and productivity of GS-CHO pools, expressing a model antibody, in a disposable bioreactor: in a disposable bag bioreactor culture (5 L working volume) operated in fed-batch mode, a harvest antibody concentration of 2 g/L was achieved within 9 weeks of transfection.

[0107] Antibody molecules will comprise fragments (such as F(ab), F(ab)₂) that are produced, for example, by the proteolytic cleavage of the mAbs, or single-chain immunoglobulins producible, for example, via recombinant means. F(ab) antibody derivatives are monovalent, while F(ab)₂ antibody derivatives are bivalent. In one embodiment, such fragments can be combined with one another, or with other antibody fragments or receptor ligands to form "chimeric" binding molecules. Significantly, such chimeric molecules may contain substituents capable of binding to different epitopes of the same molecule.

[0108] In related embodiments, the antibody is a derivative of the disclosed antibodies, e.g., an antibody comprising the CDR sequences identical to those in the disclosed antibodies (e.g., a chimeric, or CDR-grafted antibody). Alternatively, one may wish to make modifications, such as introducing conservative changes into an antibody molecule. In making such changes, the hydrophobic index of amino acids may be considered. The importance of the hydrophobic amino acid index in conferring interactive biologic function on a protein is generally understood in the art (Kyte and Doolittle, 1952). It is accepted that the relative hydrophobic character of the amino acid contributes to the secondary structure of the resultant protein, which in turn defines the interaction of the protein with other molecules, for example, enzymes, substrates, receptors, DNA, antibodies, antigens, and the like.

[0109] It also is understood in the art that the substitution of like amino acids can be made effectively on the basis of hydrophobicity. U.S. Patent 4,554,101, states that the greatest local average hydrophobicity of a protein, as governed by the hydrophobicity of its adjacent amino acids, correlates with a biological property of the protein. As detailed in U.S. Patent 4,554,101, the following hydrophobicity values have been assigned to amino acid residues: basic amino acids: arginine (+3.0), lysine (+3.0), and histidine (+0.5); acidic amino acids: aspartate (+3.0 ± 1), glutamate (+3.0 ± 1), asparagine (+0.2), and glutamine (+0.2); hydrophilic, nonionic amino acids: serine (+0.3), asparagine (+0.2), glutamine (+0.2), and threonine (-0.4), sulfur containing amino acids: cysteine (-1.0) and methionine (-1.3); hydrophobic, nonaromatic amino acids: valine (-1.5), leucine (-1.8), isoleucine (-1.5), proline (-0.5 ± 1), alanine (-0.5), and glycine (0); hydrophobic, aromatic amino acids: tryptophan (-3.4), phenylalanine (-2.5), and tyrosine (-2.3).

[0110] It is understood that an amino acid can be substituted for another having a similar hydrophobicity and produce a biologically or immunologically modified protein. In such changes, the substitution of amino acids whose hydrophobicity values are within ± 2 is preferred, those that are within ± 1 are particularly preferred, and those within +0.5 are even more particularly preferred.

[0111] As outlined above, amino acid substitutions generally are based on the relative similarity of the amino acid side-chain substituents, for example, their hydrophobicity, hydrophobicity, charge, size, and the like. Exemplary substitutions that take into consideration the various foregoing characteristics are well-known to those of skill in the art and include: arginine and lysine; glutamate and aspartate; serine and threonine; glutamine and asparagine; and valine, leucine and isoleucine.

[0112] The present disclosure also contemplates isotype modification. By modifying the Fc region to have a different isotype, different functionalities can be achieved. For example, changing to IgG₁ can increase antibody dependent cell cytotoxicity, switching to class A can improve tissue distribution, and switching to class M can improve valency.

[0113] Alternatively or additionally, it may be useful to combine amino acid modifications with one or more further amino acid modifications that alter C1q binding and/or the complement dependent cytotoxicity (CDC) function of the Fc region of an IL-23p19 binding molecule. The binding polypeptide of particular interest may be one that binds to C1q and displays complement dependent cytotoxicity. Polypeptides with pre-existing C1q binding activity, optionally further having the ability to mediate CDC may be modified such that one or both of these activities are enhanced. Amino acid modifications that alter C1q and/or modify its complement dependent cytotoxicity function are described, for example, in WO0042072.

[0114] One can design an Fc region of an antibody with altered effector function, e.g., by modifying C1q binding and/or FcγR binding and thereby changing CDC activity and/or ADCC activity. "Effector functions" are responsible for activating or diminishing a biological activity (e.g., in a subject). Examples of effector functions include, but are not limited to: C1q binding; complement dependent cytotoxicity (CDC); Fc receptor binding; antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC); phagocytosis; down regulation of cell surface receptors (e.g., B cell receptor; BCR); etc. Such effector functions may require the Fc region to be combined with a binding domain (e.g., an antibody variable domain) and can be assessed using various assays (e.g., Fc binding assays, ADCC assays, CDC assays, etc.).

[0115] For example, one can generate a variant Fc region of an antibody with improved C1q binding and improved FcγRIII binding (e.g., having both improved ADCC activity and improved CDC activity). Alternatively, if it is desired that effector function be reduced or ablated, a variant Fc region can be engineered with reduced CDC activity and/or reduced ADCC activity. In other embodiments, only one of these activities may be increased, and, optionally, also the other activity reduced (e.g., to generate an Fc region variant with improved ADCC activity, but reduced CDC activity and vice versa).

[0116] FcRn binding. Fc mutations can also be introduced and engineered to alter their interaction with the neonatal Fc receptor (FcRn) and improve their pharmacokinetic properties. A collection of human Fc variants with improved binding to the FcRn have been described (Sheels et al., (2001). High resolution mapping of the binding site on human IgG1 for FcγR1, FcγRII, FcγRIII, and FcRn and design of IgG1 variants with improved binding to the FcγR, (J. Biol. Chem. 276:6591-6604). A number of methods are known that can result in increased half-life (Kuo and Aweon, (2011)). Inducing amino acid modifications may be generated through techniques including alanine scanning mutagenesis, random mutagenesis and screening to assess the binding to the neonatal Fc receptor (FcRn) and/or the *in vivo* behavior. Computational strategies followed by mutagenesis may also be used to select one of amino acid mutations to mutate.

[0117] The present disclosure therefore provides a variant of an antigen binding protein with optimized binding to FcRn. In a particular embodiment, the said variant of an antigen binding protein comprises at least one amino acid modification in the Fc region of said antigen binding protein, wherein said modification is selected from the group consisting of 226, 227, 228, 230, 231, 233, 234, 239, 241, 243, 246, 250, 252, 256, 259, 264, 265, 267, 269, 270, 276, 284, 285, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 294, 297, 298, 299, 301, 302, 303, 305, 307, 308, 309, 311, 315, 317, 320, 322, 325, 327, 330, 332, 334, 335, 338, 340, 342, 343, 345, 347, 350, 352, 354, 355, 356, 359, 360, 361, 362, 369, 370, 371, 375, 378, 380, 382, 384, 385, 386, 387, 389, 390, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 403, 404, 408, 411, 412, 414, 415, 416, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 424, 426, 428, 433, 434, 438, 439, 440, 443, 444, 445, 446 and 447 of the Fc region as compared to said parent polypeptide, wherein the numbering of the amino acids in the Fc region is that of the EU index in Kabat. In a further aspect of the disclosure the modifications are M252Y/S254T/T256E.

[0118] Additionally, various publications describe methods for obtaining physiologically active molecules whose half-lives are modified, see for example Kontermann (2009) either by introducing an FcRn-binding polypeptide into the molecules or by fusing the molecules with antibodies whose FcRn-binding affinities are preserved but affinities for other Fc receptors have been greatly reduced or fusing with FcRn binding domains of antibodies.

[0119] Derivatized antibodies may be used to alter the half-lives (e.g., serum half-lives) of parental antibodies in a mammal, particularly a human. Such alterations may result in a half-life of greater than 15 days, preferably greater than 20 days, greater than 25 days, greater than 30 days, greater than 35 days, greater than 40 days, greater than 45 days, greater than 2 months, greater than 3 months, greater than 4 months, or greater than 5 months. The increased half-lives of the antibodies or the present disclosure or fragments thereof in a mammal, preferably a human, results in a higher serum titer of said antibodies or antibody fragments in the mammal, and thus reduces the frequency of the administration of said antibodies or antibody fragments and/or reduces the concentration of said antibodies or antibody fragments to be administered. Antibodies or fragments thereof having increased *in vivo* half-lives can be generated by techniques known to those of skill in the art. For example, antibodies or fragments thereof with increased *in vivo* half-lives can be generated by modifying (e.g., substituting, deleting or adding) amino acid residues identified as involved in the interaction between the Fc domain and the FcRn receptor.

[0120] Beltrame et al. (2010) previously reported the modification of neutralizing mAbs, due to their tendency to enhance dengue virus infection, by generating in which leucine residues at positions 1.3 and 1.2 of CH2 domain (according to the IMGT unique numbering for C-domain) were substituted with alanine residues. This modification, also known as "LALA" mutation, abolishes antibody binding to FcγRI, FcγRII and FcγRIIIa, as described by Hessel et al. (2007). The variant and unmodified recombinant mAbs were compared for their capacity to neutralize and enhance infection by the four dengue virus serotypes. LALA variants retained the same neutralizing activity as unmodified mAb but were completely devoid of enhancing activity. LALA mutations of this nature are therefore contemplated for the context of the presently disclosed antibodies.

[0121] Altered Glycosylation. A particular embodiment of the present disclosure is an isolated monoclonal antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, containing a substantially homogeneous glycan without sialic acid, galactose, or fucose. The monoclonal antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region and a light chain variable region, both of which may be attached to heavy chain or light chain constant regions respectively. The aforementioned substantially homogeneous glycan may be covalently attached to the heavy chain constant region.

[0122] Another embodiment of the present disclosure comprises a mAb with a novel Fc-glycosylation pattern. The isolated monoclonal antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, is present in a substantially homogenous composition represented by the GNGN or G1/G2 glycoform. Fc glycosylation plays a significant role in anti-viral and anti-cancer properties of therapeutic mAbs. The disclosure is in line with a recent study that shows increased anti-leukemic cell-mediated viral inhibition of a fucose free anti-HIV mAb *in vitro*. This embodiment of the present disclosure with homogenous glycans lacking a core fucose, showed increased protection against specific viruses by a factor greater than two-fold. Elimination of core fucose dramatically improves the ADCC activity of mAbs mediated by natural killer (NK) cells but appears to have the opposite effect on the ADCC activity of polymorphonuclear cells (PMNs).

[0123] The isolated monoclonal antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprising a substantially homogenous composition represented by the GNGN or G1/G2 glycoform exhibits increased binding affinity for Fc gamma RI and Fc gamma RII compared to the same antibody without the substantially homogenous GNGN glycoform and with G0, G1F, G2F, GNF, GNGNF or GNGNFX containing glycoforms. In one embodiment of the present disclosure, the antibody dissociates from Fc gamma RI with a K_d of 1 × 10⁻⁶ M or less and from Fc gamma RII with a K_d of 1 × 10⁻⁷ M or less.

[0124] Glycosylation of an Fc region is typically either N-linked or O-linked. N-linked refers to the attachment of the carbohydrate moiety to the side chain of an asparagine residue. O-linked glycosylation refers to the attachment of one of the sugars N-acetylglucosamine, galactose, or xylose to a hydroxy amino acid, most commonly serine or threonine, although 5-hydroxyproline or 5-hydroxylysine may also be used. The recognition sequences for enzymatic attachment of the carbohydrate moiety to the asparagine side chain peptide sequences are asparagine-X-serine and asparagine-X-threonine, where X is any amino acid except proline. Thus, the presence of either of these peptide sequences in a polypeptide creates a potential glycosylation site.

[0125] The glycosylation pattern may be altered, for example, by deleting one or more glycosylation site(s) found in the polypeptide, and/or adding one or more glycosylation site(s) that are not present in the polypeptide. Addition of glycosylation sites to the Fc region of an antibody is conveniently accomplished by altering the amino acid sequence such that it contains one or more of the above-described tripeptide sequences (for N-linked glycosylation sites). An exemplary glycosylation variant has an amino acid substitution of residue Asn 297 of the heavy chain. The alteration may also be made by the addition of, or substitution by, one or more serine or threonine residues to the sequence of the original polypeptide (for O-linked glycosylation sites). Additionally, a change of Asn 297 to Ala can remove one of the glycosylation sites.

[0126] In certain embodiments, the antibody is expressed in cells that express beta (1,4)-N-acetylglucosaminyltransferase III (GnT III), such that GnT III adds GlcNAc to the IL-23p19 antibody. Methods for producing antibodies in such a fashion are provided in WO/9954342, WO/03011875, patent publication 2003003037A1, and Umans et al., Nature Biotechnology, 17:176-180, February 1999. Cell lines can be used to enhance or reduce or eliminate certain post-translational modifications, such as glycosylation, using genome editing technology such as Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR). For example, CRISPR technology can be used to eliminate genes encoding glycosylating enzymes in 293 or CHO cells used to express recombinant monoclonal antibodies.

[0127] Elimination of monoclonal antibody protein sequence liabilities. It is possible to engineer the antibody variable gene sequences obtained from human B cells to enhance their manufacturability and safety. Potential protein sequence liabilities can be identified by searching for sequence motifs associated with sites containing:

1. 1) Unpaired Cys residues,
2. 2) N-linked glycosylation,
3. 3) Asn deamidation,
4. 4) Asp isomerization,
5. 5) SVE truncation,
6. 6) Met oxidation,
7. 7) Trp oxidation,
8. 8) N-terminal glutamate,
9. 9) Integrin binding,
10. 10) CD11c/CD15 binding, or
11. 11) Fragmentation

Such motifs can be eliminated by altering the synthetic gene for the cDNA encoding recombinant antibodies.

[0128] Protein engineering efforts in the field of development of therapeutic antibodies clearly reveal that certain sequences or residues are associated with solubility differences (Fernandez-Escamilla et al., Nature Biotech., 22 (10), 1302-1306, 2004; Chenningsetty et al., PNAS, 106 (29), 11937-11942, 2009; Voytov et al., Biocon. Chem., 21 (2), 355-392, 2010). Evidence from solubility-altering mutations in the literature indicate that some hydrophilic residues such as aspartic acid, glutamic acid, and serine contribute significantly more favorably to protein solubility than other hydrophilic residues, such as asparagine, glutamine, threonine, lysine, and arginine.

[0129] Stability. Antibodies can be engineered for enhanced biophysical properties. One can use elevated temperature to unfold antibodies to determine relative stability, using average apparent melting temperatures. Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) measures the heat capacity, C_p, of a molecule (the heat required to warm it, per degree) as a function of temperature. One can use DSC to study the thermal stability of antibodies. DSC data for mAbs is particularly interesting because it sometimes resolves the unfolding of individual domains within the mAb structure, producing up to three peaks in the thermogram (from unfolding of the Fab, C₁2, and C₁3 domains). Typically unfolding of the Fab domain produces the strongest peak. The DSC profiles and relative stability of the Fc portion show characteristic differences for the human IgG₁, IgG₂, IgG₃, and IgG₄ subclasses (Garber and Demarest, Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun. 355, 751-757, 2007). One also can determine average apparent melting temperature using circular dichroism (CD), performed with a CD spectrometer. Far-UV CD spectra will be measured for antibodies in the range of 200 to 260 nm at increments of 0.5 nm. The final spectra can be determined as averages of 20 accumulations. Residue ellipticity values can be calculated after background subtraction. Thermal unfolding of antibodies (0.1 mg/mL) can be monitored at 235 nm from 25-95 °C and a heating rate of 1 °C/min. One can use dynamic light scattering (DLS) to assess for propensity for aggregation. DLS is used to characterize size of various particles including proteins. If the system is not disperse in size, the mean effective diameter of the particles can be determined. This measurement depends on the size of the particle core, the size of surface structures, and particle concentration. Since DLS essentially measures fluctuations in scattered light intensity due to particles, the diffusion coefficient of the particles can be determined. DLS software in commercial DLA instruments displays the particle population at different diameters. Stability studies can be done conveniently using DLS. DLS measurements of a sample can show whether the particles aggregate over time or with temperature variation by determining whether the hydrodynamic radius of the particle increases. If particles aggregate, one can see a larger population of particles with a larger radius. Stability depending on temperature can be analyzed by controlling the temperature *in situ*. Capillary electrophoresis (CE) techniques include proven methodologies for determining features of antibody stability. One can use an ICE approach to resolve antibody protein charge variants due to deamidation, C-terminal lysines, silylation, oxidation, glycosylation, and any other change to the protein that can result in a change in pI of the protein. Each of the expressed antibody proteins can be evaluated by high throughput, free solution isoelectric focusing (IEF) in a capillary column (CEP), using a Protein Simple Maurice instrument. Whole-column UV absorbance detection can be performed every 30 seconds for real-time monitoring of molecules focusing at the isoelectric points (pIs). This approach combines the high resolution of traditional gel IEF with the advantages of quantitation and automation found in column-based separations while eliminating the need for a mobilization step. The technique yields reproducible, quantitative analysis of identity, purity, and heterogeneity profiles for the expressed antibodies. The results identify charge heterogeneity and molecular sizing on the antibodies, with both absorbance and native fluorescence detection modes and with sensitivity of detection down to 0.7 µg/mL.

[0130] Solubility. One can determine the intrinsic solubility score of antibody sequences. The intrinsic solubility scores can be calculated using CamSol Intrinsic (Sommani et al., J Mol Biol 427, 478-490, 2015). The amino acid sequences for residues 95-102 (Kabat numbering) in HCDRs of each antibody fragment such as a scFv can be evaluated via the online program to calculate the solubility scores. One also can determine solubility using laboratory techniques. Various techniques exist, including addition of lyophilized protein to a

solution until the solution becomes saturated and the solubility limit is reached, or concentration by ultrafiltration in a microconcentrator with a suitable molecular weight cut-off. The most straightforward method is induction of amorphous precipitation, which measures protein solubility using a method involving protein precipitation using ammonium sulfate (Trevino et al., J Mol Biol. 366: 449-460, 2007). Ammonium sulfate precipitation gives quick and accurate information on relative solubility values. Ammonium sulfate precipitation produces precipitated solutions with well-defined aqueous and solid phases and requires relatively small amounts of protein. Solubility measurements performed using induction of amorphous precipitation by ammonium sulfate also can be done easily at different pH values. Protein solubility is highly pH dependent, and pH is considered the most important extrinsic factor that affects solubility.

[0131] Autoreactivity. Generally, it is thought that autoreactive clones should be eliminated during ontogeny by negative selection, however it has become clear that many human naturally occurring antibodies with autoreactive properties persist in adult mature repertoires, and the autoreactivity may enhance the antiviral function of many antibodies to pathogens. It has been noted that HCDR3 loops in antibodies during early B cell development are often rich in positive charge and exhibit autoreactive patterns (Wardemann et al., Science 301, 1374-1377, 2003). One can test a given antibody for autoreactivity by assessing the level of binding to human origin cells in microscopy (using adherent HeLa or HEP-2 epithelial cells) and flow cytometric cell surface staining (using suspension Jurkat T cells and 293S human embryonic kidney cells). Autoreactivity also can be surveyed using assessment of binding to tissues in tissue arrays.

[0132] Preferred residues ("Human Likeness"). B cell repertoire deep sequencing of human B cells from blood donors is being performed on a wide scale in many recent studies. Sequence information about a significant portion of the human antibody repertoire facilitates statistical assessment of antibody sequence features common in healthy humans. With knowledge about the antibody sequence features in a human recombinant antibody variable gene reference database, the position specific degree of "Human Likeness" (HL) of an antibody sequence can be estimated. HL has been shown to be useful for the development of antibodies in clinical use, like therapeutic antibodies or antibodies as vaccines. The goal is to increase the human likeness of antibodies to reduce potential adverse effects and anti-antibody immune responses that will lead to significantly decreased efficacy of the antibody drug or can induce serious health implications. One can assess antibody characteristics of the combined antibody repertoire of three healthy human blood donors of about 400 million sequences in total and created a novel "Relative Human Likeness" (HL) score that focuses on the hypervariable region of the antibody. The HL score allows one to easily distinguish between human (positive score) and non-human sequences (negative score). Antibodies can be engineered to eliminate residues that are not common in human repertoires.

D. Single Chain Antibodies

[0133] A single chain variable fragment (scFv) is a fusion of the variable regions of the heavy and light chains of immunoglobulins, linked together with a short (usually serine, glycine) linker. This chimeric molecule retains the specificity of the original immunoglobulin, despite removal of the constant regions and the introduction of a linker peptide. This modification usually leaves the specificity unaltered. These molecules were created historically to facilitate phage display where it is highly convenient to express the antigen binding domain as a single peptide. Alternatively, scFv can be created directly from subunit heavy and light chains derived from a hybridoma or B cell. Single chain variable fragments lack the constant Fc region found in complete antibody molecules, and thus, the common binding sites (e.g., protein A/G) used to purify antibodies. These fragments can often be purified/immobilized using Protein L since Protein L interacts with the variable region of kappa light chains.

[0134] Flexible linkers generally are comprised of helix- and turn-promoting amino acid residues such as alanine, serine and glycine. However, other residues can function as well. Tang et al. (1996) used phage display as a means of rapidly selecting tailored linkers for single-chain antibodies (scFvs) from protein linker libraries. A random linker library was constructed in which the genes for the heavy and light chain variable domains were linked by a segment encoding an 18-amino acid polypeptide of variable composition. The scFv repertoire (approx. 5×10^6 different members) was displayed on filamentous phage and subjected to affinity selection with hapten. The population of selected variants exhibited significant increases in binding ability but retained considerable sequence diversity. Screening 1054 individual variants subsequently yielded a catalytically active scFv that was produced efficiently in soluble form. Sequence analysis revealed a conserved proline in the linker two residues after the V_L C terminus and an abundance of arginines and prolines at other positions as the only common features of the selected linkers.

[0135] The recombinant antibodies of the present disclosure may also involve sequences or moieties that permit dimerization or multimerization of the receptors. Such sequences include those derived from IgA, which permit formation of multimers in conjunction with the J-chain. Another multimerization domain is the GaII dimerization domain. In other embodiments, the chains may be modified with agents such as biotin/avidin, which permit the combination of two antibodies.

[0136] In a separate embodiment, a single-chain antibody can be created by joining receptor light and heavy chains using a non-peptide linker or chemical unit. Generally, the light and heavy chains will be produced in distinct cells, purified, and subsequently linked together in an appropriate fashion (i.e., the N-terminus of the heavy chain being attached to the C-terminus of the light chain via an appropriate chemical bridge).

[0137] Cross-linking reagents are used to form molecular bridges that tie functional groups of two different molecules, e.g., a stabilizing and coagulating agent. However, it is contemplated that dimers or multimers of the same analog or heteromeric complexes comprised of different analogs can be created. To link two different compounds in a step-wise manner, hetero-bifunctional cross-linkers can be used that eliminate unwanted homopolymer formation.

[0138] An exemplary hetero-bifunctional cross-linker contains two reactive groups: one reacting with primary amine group (e.g., N-hydroxy succinimide) and the other reacting with a thiol group (e.g., pyridyl disulfide, maleimides, halogens, etc.). Through the primary amine reactive group, the cross-linker may react with the lysine residue(s) of one protein (e.g., the selected antibody or fragment) and through the thiol reactive group, the cross-linker, already tied up to the first protein, reacts with the cysteine residue (free sulphydryl group) of the other protein (e.g., the selective agent).

[0139] It is preferred that a cross-linker having reasonable stability in blood will be employed. Numerous types of disulfide-bond containing linkers are known that can be successfully employed to conjugate targeting and therapeutic/preventative agents. Linkers that contain a disulfide bond that is sterically hindered may prove to give greater stability in vivo, preventing release of the targeting peptide prior to reaching the site of action. These linkers are thus one group of linking agents.

[0140] Another cross-linking reagent is SMPT, which is a bifunctional cross-linker containing a disulfide bond that is "sterically hindered" by an adjacent benzene ring and methyl groups. It is believed that steric hindrance of the disulfide bond serves a function of protecting the bond from attack by thiolate anions such as glutathione which can be present in tissues and blood, and thereby help in preventing decoupling of the conjugate prior to the delivery of the attached agent to the target site.

[0141] The SMPT cross-linking reagent, as with many other known cross-linking reagents, lends the ability to cross-link functional groups such as the SH of cysteine or primary amines (e.g., the epsilon amino group of lysine). Another possible type of cross-linker includes the hetero-bifunctional photoactive phenylazides containing a cleavable disulfide bond such as sulfosuccinimidy-2-(p-azido salicylamido) ethyl-1,3-dithiopropionate. The N-hydroxy-succinimyl group reacts with primary amino groups and the phenylazide (upon photolysis) reacts non-selectively with any amino acid residue.

[0142] In addition to hindered cross-linkers, non-hindered linkers also can be employed in accordance herewith. Other useful cross-linkers, not considered to contain or generate a protected disulfide, include SATA, SPDP and 2-iminothiolane (Wawrzyniak & Thorpe, 1987). The use of such cross-linkers is well understood in the art. Another embodiment involves the use of flexible linkers.

[0143] U.S. Patent 4,680,338, describes bifunctional linkers useful for producing conjugates of ligands with amine-containing polymers and/or proteins, especially for forming antibody conjugates with chelators, drugs, enzymes, detectable labels and the like. U.S. Patents 5,141,648 and 5,563,250 disclose cleavable conjugates containing a labile bond that is cleavable under a variety of mild conditions. This linker is particularly useful in that the agent of interest may be bonded directly to the linker, with cleavage resulting in release of the active agent. Particular uses include adding a free amino or free sulphydryl group to a protein, such as an antibody, or a drug.

[0144] U.S. Patent 5,556,456 provides peptide linkers for use in connecting polypeptide constituents to make fusion proteins, e.g., single chain antibodies. The linker is up to about 50 amino acids in length, contains at least one occurrence of a charged amino acid (preferably arginine or lysine) followed by a proline, and is characterized by greater stability and reduced aggregation. U.S. Patent 5,880,270 discloses aminoxy-containing linkers useful in a variety of immunodiagnostic and separative techniques.

E. Multispecific Antibodies

[0145] In certain embodiments of the disclosure but not part of the invention, antibodies of the present disclosure are bispecific or multispecific. Bispecific antibodies are antibodies that have binding specificities for at least two different epitopes. Exemplary bispecific antibodies may bind to two different epitopes of a single antigen. Other such antibodies may combine a first antigen binding site with a binding site for a second antigen. Alternatively, an anti-pathogen arm may be combined with an arm that binds to a bispecific molecule or a leukocyte, such as a T-cell receptor molecule (e.g., CD3), or Fc receptors for IgG (FcγR), such as FcγRI (CD64), FcγRII (CD32) and Fcγ gamma RIII (CD16), so as to focus and localize cellular defense mechanisms to the infected cell. Bispecific antibodies may also be used to localize cytotoxic agents to infected cells. These antibodies possess a pathogen-binding arm and an arm that binds the cytotoxic agent (e.g., saporin, anti-interferon-α, vinca alkaloid, ricin A chain, methotrexate or radioactive isotope hapten). Bispecific antibodies can be prepared as full-length antibodies or antibody fragments (e.g., Fab₂ antibodies). WO 96/16673 discloses a bispecific anti-ErbB2/anti-Fc gamma RIII antibody and U.S. Patent 5,837,234 discloses a bispecific anti-ErbB2/anti-Fc gamma RII antibody. A bispecific anti-ErbB2/Fc alpha antibody is shown in WO 98/02463. U.S. Patent 5,821,337 teaches a bispecific anti-ErbB2/anti-CD3 antibody.

[0146] Methods for making bispecific antibodies are known in the art. Traditional production of full-length bispecific antibodies is based on the co-expression of two immunoglobulin heavy chain-light chain pairs, where the two chains have different specificities (Milstein et al., Nature, 305:537-539 (1983)). Because of the random assortment of immunoglobulin heavy and light chains, these hybridomas (quaternions) produce a potential mixture often different antibody molecules, of which only one has the correct bispecific structure. Purification of the correct molecule, which is usually done by affinity chromatography steps, is rather cumbersome, and the product yields are low. Similar procedures are disclosed in WO 93/08829, and in Trautnscker et al., EMBO J., 10:3655-3659 (1991).

[0147] According to a different approach, antibody variable regions with the desired binding specificities (antibody-antigen combining sites) are fused to immunoglobulin constant domain sequences. Preferably, the fusion is with an Ig heavy chain constant domain, comprising at least part of the hinge, C_{H2}, and C_{H3} regions. It is preferred to have the first heavy-chain constant region (C_{H1}) containing the site necessary for light chain bonding, present in at least one of the fusions. DNAs encoding the immunoglobulin heavy chain fusions and, if desired, the immunoglobulin light chain, are inserted into separate expression vectors, and are co-transfected into a suitable host cell. This provides for greater flexibility in adjusting the mutual proportions of the three polypeptide fragments in embodiments when unequal ratios of the three polypeptide chains used in the construction provide the optimum yield of the desired bispecific antibody. It is, however, possible to insert the coding sequences for two or all three polypeptide chains into a single expression vector when the expression of at least two polypeptide chains in equal ratios results in high yields or when the ratios have no significant effect on the yield of the desired chain combination.

[0148] In a particular embodiment of this approach, the bispecific antibodies are composed of a hybrid immunoglobulin heavy chain with a first binding specificity in one arm, and a hybrid immunoglobulin heavy chain-light chain pair (providing a second binding specificity) in the other arm. It was found that this asymmetric structure facilitates the separation of the desired bispecific compound from unwanted immunoglobulin chain combinations, as the presence of an immunoglobulin light chain in only one half of the bispecific molecule provides for a facile way of separation. This approach is disclosed in WO 94/04690. For further details of generating bispecific antibodies see, for example, Suresh et al., Methods in Enzymology, 121:210 (1986).

[0149] According to another approach described in U.S. Patent 5,731,165, the interface between a pair of antibody molecules can be engineered to maximize the percentage of heterodimers that are recovered from recombinant cell culture. The preferred interface comprises at least a part of the C_{H3} domain. In this method, one or more small amino acid side chains from the interface of the first antibody molecule are replaced with larger side chains (e.g., tyrosine or tryptophan). Compensatory "cavities" of identical or similar size to the large side chain(s) are created on the interface of the second antibody molecule by replacing large amino acid side chains with smaller ones (e.g., alanine or threonine). This provides a mechanism for increasing the yield of the heterodimer over other unwanted end-products such as homodimers.

[0150] Bispecific antibodies include cross-linked or "heteroconjugate" antibodies. For example, one of the antibodies in the heteroconjugate can be coupled to avidin, the other to biotin. Such antibodies have, for example, been proposed to target immune system cells to unwanted cells (U.S. Patent 4,676,980), and for treatment of HIV infection (WO 91/03060, WO 92/200373, and EP 030589). Heteroconjugate antibodies may be made using any convenient cross-linking methods. Suitable cross-linking agents are well known in the art, and are disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,676,980, along with a number of cross-linking techniques.

[0151] Techniques for generating bispecific antibodies from antibody fragments have also been described in the literature. For example, bispecific antibodies can be prepared using chemical linkage. Brennan et al., Science, 229: 81 (1985) describe a procedure wherein intact antibodies are proteolytically cleaved to generate F(ab)₂ fragments. These fragments are reduced in the presence of the dithiol complexing agent, sodium arsenite, to stabilize vicinal dithiols and prevent intermolecular disulfide formation. The Fab' fragments generated are then converted to thionitrobenzoates (TNB) derivatives. One of the Fab'-TNB derivatives is then reconverted to the Fab'-thiol by reduction with mercaptoethylamine and is mixed with an equimolar amount of the other Fab'-TNB derivative to form the bispecific antibody. The bispecific antibodies produced can be used as agents for the selective immobilization of enzymes.

[0152] Techniques exist that facilitate the direct recovery of Fab'-SH fragments from E. coli, which can be chemically coupled to form bispecific antibodies. Shalaby et al., J. Exp. Med., 175: 217-225 (1992) describe the production of a humanized bispecific antibody F(ab)₂ molecule. Each Fab' fragment was separately secreted from E. coli and subjected to directed chemical coupling in vitro to form the bispecific antibody. The bispecific antibody thus formed was able to bind to cells overexpressing the ErbB2 receptor and normal human T cells, as well as trigger the lytic activity of human cytotoxic lymphocytes against human breast tumor targets.

[0153] Various techniques for making and isolating bispecific antibody fragments directly from recombinant cell cultures have also been described (Merchant et al., Nat. Biotechnol. 16, 677-681 (1998), doi:10.1038/nbt0798-677pmi9661204). For example, bispecific antibodies have been produced using leucine zippers (Kostisky et al., J. Immunol., 148(9):1547-1553, 1992). This leucine zipper populates from the Fos and Jun proteins were linked to the Fab' portions of two different antibodies by gene fusion. The antibody homodimers were reduced at the hinge region to form monomers and then re-oxidized to form the antibody heterodimers. This method can also be utilized for the production of antibody homodimers. The "disubody" technology described by Hollinger et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 90:6444-6448 (1993) has provided an alternative mechanism for making bispecific antibody fragments. The fragments comprise a V_H connected to a V_L by a linker that is too short to allow pairing between the two domains on the same chain. Accordingly, the V_H and V_L domains of one fragment are forced to pair with the complementary V_L and V_H domains of another fragment, thereby forming two antigen-binding sites. Another strategy for making bispecific antibody fragments by the use of single-chain Fv (scFv) dimers has also been reported. See Gruber et al., J. Immunol., 152:5365 (1994).

[0154] In a particular embodiment of the disclosure but not part of the invention, a bispecific or multispecific antibody may be formed as a DOCK-AND-LOCK™ ("DNL") complex (see, e.g., U.S. Patents 7,521,066; 7,527,787; 7,534,866; 7,550,143 and 7,666,400). Generally, the technique takes advantage of the specific and high-affinity binding interactions that occur between a dimerization and docking domain (DDD) sequence of the regulatory (R) subunits of cAMP-dependent protein kinase (PKA) and an anchor domain (AD) sequence derived from any of a variety of AKAP proteins (Edlitz et al., FEBS Letters 2005, 579:3264; Wong and Scott, Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol. 2004, 5: 959). The DDD and AD peptides may be attached to any protein, peptide or other molecule. Because the DDD sequences spontaneously dimerize and bind to the AD sequence, the technique allows the formation of complexes between any selected molecules that may be attached to DDD or AD sequences.

[0155] Antibodies with more than two valencies are contemplated. For example, trispecific antibodies can be prepared (Tuff et al., J. Immunol. 147: 60, 1991; Xu et al., Science, 355(6359):85-90, 2017). A multivalent antibody may be internalized (and/or catabolized) faster than a bivalent antibody by a cell expressing an antigen to which the antibodies bind. The antibodies of the present disclosure can be multivalent antibodies with three or more antigen binding sites (e.g., trivalent antibodies), which can be readily produced by recombinant expression of nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide chains of the antibody. The multivalent antibody can comprise a dimerization domain and three or more antigen binding sites. The preferred dimerization domain comprises (or consists of) an Fc region or a hinge region. In this scenario, the antibody will comprise an Fc region and three or more antigen binding sites amino-terminal to the Fc region. The preferred multivalent antibody herein comprises (or consists of) three to about eight, but preferably four, antigen binding sites. The multivalent antibody comprises at least one polypeptide chain (and preferably two polypeptide chains), wherein the polypeptide chain(s) comprise two or more variable regions. For instance, the polypeptide chain(s) may comprise VD1-(X)₁-VD2-(X)₂-Fc, wherein VD1 is a first variable region, VD2 is a second variable region, Fc is one polypeptide chain of an Fc region, X1 and X2 represent an amino acid or polypeptide, and n is 0 or 1. For instance, the polypeptide chain(s) may comprise: VH-CH1-flexible linker-VH-CH1-Fc region chain; or VH-CH1-VH-CH1-Fc region chain. The multivalent antibody herein preferably further comprises at least two (and preferably four) amino

light chain variable region polypeptides. The multivalent antibody herein may, for instance, comprise from about two to about eight light chain variable region polypeptides. The light chain variable region polypeptides contemplated here comprise a light chain variable region and, optionally, further comprise a C₁ domain.

[0156] Charge modifications are particularly useful in the context of a multispecific antibody, where amino acid substitutions in Fab molecules result in reducing the mispairing of light chains with non-matching heavy chains (Bence-Jones-type side products), which can occur in the production of Fab-based bi-multispecific antigen binding molecules with a VH-VL exchange in one (or more, in case of molecules comprising more than two antigen-binding Fab molecules) of their binding arms (see also PCT publication no. WO 2015/150447, particularly the examples therein).

[0157] Accordingly, in particular embodiments of the disclosure but not part of the invention, an antibody comprised in the therapeutic agent comprises

1. (a) a first Fab molecule which specifically binds to a first antigen
 2. (b) a second Fab molecule which specifically binds to a second antigen, and wherein the variable domains VL and VH of the Fab light chain and the Fab heavy chain are replaced by each other,
- wherein the first antigen is an activating T cell antigen and the second antigen is a target cell antigen, or the first antigen is a target cell antigen and the second antigen is an activating T cell antigen; and
- wherein

1. *h*) in the constant domain CL of the first Fab molecule under a) the amino acid at position 124 is substituted by a positively charged amino acid (numbering according to Kabat), and wherein in the constant domain CH1 of the first Fab molecule under a) the amino acid at position 147 or the amino acid at position 213 is substituted by a negatively charged amino acid (numbering according to Kabat EU index); or
2. *i*) in the constant domain CL of the second Fab molecule under b) the amino acid at position 124 is substituted by a positively charged amino acid (numbering according to Kabat), and wherein in the constant domain CH1 of the second Fab molecule under b) the amino acid at position 147 or the amino acid at position 213 is substituted by a negatively charged amino acid (numbering according to Kabat EU index).

The antibody may not comprise both modifications mentioned under *h*) and *i*). The constant domains CL and CH1 of the second Fab molecule are not replaced by each other (*i.e.*, remain unexchanged).

[0158] In another embodiment of the disclosure but not part of the invention, the antibody in the constant domain CL of the first Fab molecule under a) the amino acid at position 124 is substituted independently by lysine (K), arginine (R) or histidine (H) (numbering according to Kabat) (in one preferred embodiment independently by lysine (K) or arginine (R)), and in the constant domain CH1 of the first Fab molecule under a) the amino acid at position 147 or the amino acid at position 213 is substituted independently by glutamic acid (E), or aspartic acid (D) (numbering according to Kabat EU index).

[0159] In a further embodiment of the disclosure but not part of the invention, in the constant domain CL of the first Fab molecule under a) the amino acid at position 124 is substituted independently by lysine (K), arginine (R) or histidine (H) (numbering according to Kabat), and in the constant domain CH1 of the first Fab molecule under a) the amino acid at position 147 is substituted independently by glutamic acid (E), or aspartic acid (D) (numbering according to Kabat EU index).

[0160] In a particular embodiment of the disclosure but not part of the invention, in the constant domain CL of the first Fab molecule under a) the amino acid at position 124 is substituted independently by lysine (K), arginine (R) or histidine (H) (numbering according to Kabat) (in one preferred embodiment independently by lysine (K) or arginine (R)) and the amino acid at position 123 is substituted independently by lysine (K), arginine (R) or histidine (H) (numbering according to Kabat) (in one preferred embodiment independently by lysine (K) or arginine (R)), and in the constant domain CH1 of the first Fab molecule under a) the amino acid at position 147 is substituted independently by glutamic acid (E), or aspartic acid (D) (numbering according to Kabat EU index) and the amino acid at position 213 is substituted independently by glutamic acid (E), or aspartic acid (D) (numbering according to Kabat EU index).

[0161] In a more particular embodiment of the disclosure but not part of the invention, in the constant domain CL of the first Fab molecule under a) the amino acid at position 124 is substituted by lysine (K) (numbering according to Kabat) and the amino acid at position 123 is substituted by lysine (K) or arginine (R) (numbering according to Kabat), and in the constant domain CH1 of the first Fab molecule under a) the amino acid at position 147 is substituted by glutamic acid (E) (numbering according to Kabat EU index) and the amino acid at position 213 is substituted by glutamic acid (E) (numbering according to Kabat EU index).

[0162] In an even more particular embodiment of the disclosure but not part of the invention, in the constant domain CL of the first Fab molecule under a) the amino acid at position 124 is substituted by lysine (K) (numbering according to Kabat) and the amino acid at position 123 is substituted by arginine (R) (numbering according to Kabat), and in the constant domain CH1 of the first Fab molecule under a) the amino acid at position 147 is substituted by glutamic acid (E) (numbering according to Kabat EU index) and the amino acid at position 213 is substituted by glutamic acid (E) (numbering according to Kabat EU index).

F. Chimeric Antigen Receptors

[0163] Artificial T cell receptors (also known as chimeric T cell receptors, chimeric immunoreceptors, chimeric antigen receptors (CARs)) are engineered receptors, which graft an arbitrary specificity onto an immune effector cell. Typically, these receptors are used to graft the specificity of a monoclonal antibody onto a T cell, with transfer of their coding sequence facilitated by retroviral vectors. In this way, a large number of target-specific T cells can be generated for adoptive cell transfer. Phase I clinical studies of this approach show efficacy.

[0164] The most common form of these molecules are fusions of single-chain variable fragments (scFv) derived from monoclonal antibodies, fused to CD3-zeta transmembrane and endodomain. Such molecules result in the transmission of a zeta signal in response to recognition by the scFv of its target. An example of such a construct is 14g2a-Zeta, which is a fusion of a scFv derived from hybridomas 14g2a (which recognizes disialoganglioside GD2). When T cells express this molecule (usually achieved by oncoretroviral vector transduction), they recognize and kill target cells that express GD2 (*e.g.*, neuroblastoma cells). To target malignant B cells, investigators have redirected the specificity of T cells using a chimeric immunoreceptor specific for the B-lineage molecule, CD19.

[0165] The variable portions of an immunoglobulin heavy and light chain are fused by a flexible linker to form a scFv. This scFv is preceded by a signal peptide to direct the nascent protein to the endoplasmic reticulum and subsequent surface expression (this is cleaved). A flexible spacer allows the scFv to orient in different directions to enable antigen binding. The transmembrane domain is a typical hydrophobic alpha helix usually derived from the original molecule of the signaling endodomain which protrudes into the cell and transmits the desired signal.

[0166] Type I proteins are in fact two protein domains linked by a transmembrane alpha helix in between. The cell membrane lipid bilayer, through which the transmembrane domain passes, acts to isolate the inside portion (endodomain) from the external portion (ectodomain). It is not so surprising that attaching an ectodomain from one protein to an endodomain of another protein results in a molecule that combines the recognition of the former to the signal of the latter.

[0167] Ectodomain. A signal peptide directs the nascent protein into the endoplasmic reticulum. This is essential if the receptor is to be glycosylated and anchored in the cell membrane. Any eukaryotic signal peptide sequence usually works fine. Generally, the signal peptide natively attached to the amino-terminal most component is used (*e.g.*, in a scFv with orientation light chain - linker - heavy chain, the native signal of the light-chain is used).

[0168] The antigen recognition domain is usually an scFv. There are however many alternatives. An antigen recognition domain from native T-cell receptor (TCR) alpha and beta single chains have been described, as have simple ectodomains (*e.g.*, CD4 ectodomain to recognize HIV infected cells) and more exotic recognition components such as a linked cytokine (which leads to recognition of cells bearing the cytokine receptor). In fact, almost anything that binds a given target with high affinity can be used as an antigen recognition region.

[0169] A spacer region links the antigen binding domain to the transmembrane domain. It should be flexible enough to allow the antigen binding domain to orient in different directions to facilitate antigen recognition. The simplest form is the hinge region from IgG1. Alternatives include the CH2CH3 region of immunoglobulin and portions of CD3. For most scFv based constructs, the IgG1 hinge suffices. However, the best spacer often has to be determined empirically.

[0170] Transmembrane domain. The transmembrane domain is a hydrophobic alpha helix that spans the membrane. Generally, the transmembrane domain from the most membrane proximal component of the endodomain is used. Interestingly, using the CD3-zeta transmembrane domain may result in incorporation of the artificial TCR into the native TCR a factor that is dependent on the presence of the native CD3-zeta transmembrane charged aspartic acid residue. Different transmembrane domains result in different receptor stability. The CD25 transmembrane domain results in a highly expressed, stable receptor.

[0171] Endodomain. This is the "business-end" of the receptor. After antigen recognition, receptors cluster and a signal is transmitted to the cell. The most commonly used endodomain component is CD3-zeta which contains 3 ITAMs. This transmits an activation signal to the T cell after antigen is bound. CD3-zeta may not provide a fully competent activation signal and additional co-stimulatory signaling is needed.

[0172] "First-generation" CARs typically had the intracellular domain from the CD3 ζ -chain, which is the primary transmitter of signals from endogenous TCRs. "Second-generation" CARs add intracellular signaling domains from various costimulatory protein receptors (*e.g.*, CD28, 41BB, ICOS) to the cytoplasmic tail of the CAR to provide additional signals to the T cell. Preclinical studies have indicated that the second generation of CAR designs improves the antitumor activity of T cells. More recent, "third-generation" CARs combine multiple signaling domains, such as CD3 ζ -CD28-41BB or CD3 ζ -CD28- α X40, to further augment potency.

G. ADCs

[0173] Antibody Drug Conjugates or ADCs are a new class of highly potent biopharmaceutical drugs designed as a targeted therapy for the treatment of people with infectious disease. ADCs are complex molecules composed of an antibody (a whole mAb or an antibody fragment such as a single-chain variable fragment, or scFv) linked, via a stable chemical linker with labile bonds, to a biological active cytotoxic/anti-viral payload or drug. Antibody Drug Conjugates are examples of bioconjugates and immunconjugates.

[0174] By combining the unique targeting capabilities of monoclonal antibodies with the cancer-killing ability of cytotoxic drugs, antibody-drug conjugates allow sensitive discrimination between healthy and diseased tissue. This means that, in contrast to traditional systemic approaches, antibody-drug conjugates target and attack the infected cell so that healthy cells are less severely affected.

[0175] In the development ADC-based anti-tumor therapies, an anticancer drug (*e.g.*, a cell toxin or cytotoxin) is coupled to an antibody that specifically targets a certain cell marker (*e.g.*, a protein that, ideally, is only to be found in or on infected cells). Antibodies track these proteins down in the body and attach themselves to the surface of cancer cells. The biochemical reaction between the antibody and the target protein (antigen) triggers a signal in the tumor cell, which then absorbs or internalizes the antibody together with the cytotoxin. After the ADC is internalized, the cytotoxic drug is released and kills the cell or impairs viral replication. Due to this targeting, ideally the drug has lower side effects and gives a wider therapeutic window than other agents.

[0176] A stable link between the antibody and cytotoxic/anti-viral agent is a crucial aspect of an ADC. Linkers are based on chemical motifs including disulfides, hydrazones or peptides (cleavable), or thioethers (noncleavable) and control the distribution and delivery of the cytotoxic agent to the target cell. Cleavable and noncleavable types of linkers have been proven to be safe in preclinical and clinical trials. Genentech vector includes an enzyme-sensitive cleavable linker that delivers the potent and highly toxic antitubercule agent Monomethyl auristatin E or MMAE, a synthetic antineoplastic agent, to human specific CD30-positive malignant cells. Because of its high toxicity MMAE, which inhibits cell division by blocking the polymerization of tubulin, cannot be used as a single-agent chemotherapeutic drug. However, the combination of MMAE linked to an anti-CD30 monoclonal antibody (AC10, a cell membrane protein of the tumor necrosis factor or TNF receptor) proved to be stable in extracellular fluid, cleavable by cathepsin and safe for therapy. Trastuzumab emtansine, the other approved ADC, is a combination of the microtubule-formation inhibitor mertansine (DM-1), a derivative of the Maytansine, and antibody trastuzumab (Herceptin[®]/Genentech/Roche) attached by a stable, non-cleavable linker. The availability of better and more stable linkers has changed the function of the chemical bond. The type of linker, cleavable or noncleavable, lends specific properties to the cytotoxic (anti-cancer) drug. For example, a non-cleavable linker keeps the drug within the cell. As a result, the entire antibody, linker and cytotoxic agent enter the targeted cancer cell where the antibody is degraded to the level of an amino acid. The resulting complex - amino acid, linker and cytotoxic agent - now becomes the active drug. In contrast, cleavable linkers are catalyzed by enzymes in the host cell where it releases the cytotoxic agent.

[0177] Another type of cleavable linker, currently in development, adds an extra molecule between the cytotoxic/anti-viral drug and the cleavage site. This linker technology allows researchers to create ADCs with more flexibility without worrying about changing cleavage kinetics. Researchers are also developing a new method of peptide cleavage based on Edman degradation, a method of sequencing amino acids in a peptide. Future direction in the development of ADCs also include the development of site-specific conjugation (TDCs) to further improve stability and therapeutic index and a emitting immunconjugates and antibody-conjugated nanoparticles.

H. BITES

[0178] Bi-specific T-cell engagers (BITEs) are a class of artificial bispecific monoclonal antibodies that are investigated for the use as anti-cancer drugs. They direct a host's immune system, more specifically the T cells' cytotoxic activity, against infected cells. *BiTE* is a registered trademark of Micromet AG.

[0179] BITEs are fusion proteins consisting of two single-chain variable fragments (scFvs) of different antibodies, or amino acid sequences from four different genes, on a single peptide chain of about 55 kilodaltons. One of the scFvs binds to T cells via the CD3 receptor, and the other to an infected cell via a specific molecule.

[0180] Like other bispecific antibodies, and unlike ordinary monoclonal antibodies, BITEs form a link between T cells and target cells. This causes T cells to exert cytotoxic/anti-viral activity on infected cells by producing proteins like perforin and granzymes, independently of the presence of MHC I or co-stimulatory molecules. These proteins enter infected cells and initiate the cell's apoptosis. This action mimics physiological processes observed during T cell attacks against infected cells.

I. Intrabodies

[0181] In a particular embodiment, the antibody is a recombinant antibody that is suitable for action inside of a cell - such antibodies are known as "intrabodies." These antibodies may interfere with target function by a variety of mechanism, such as by altering intracellular protein trafficking, interfering with enzymatic function, and blocking protein-protein or protein-DNA interactions. In many ways, their structures mimic or parallel those of single chain and single domain antibodies, discussed above. Indeed, single-transcript/single-chain is an important feature that permits intracellular expression in a target cell, and also makes protein transit across cell membranes more feasible. However, additional features are required.

[0182] The two major issues impacting the implementation of intrabody therapeutic are delivery, including cell/tissue targeting, and stability. With respect to delivery, a variety of approaches have been employed, such as tissue-directed delivery, use of cell-type specific promoters, virus-based delivery and use of cell-permeability/membrane translocating peptides. With respect to the stability, the approach is generally to either screen by brute force, including methods that involve phage display and may include sequence maturation or

development of consensus sequences, or more directed modifications such as insertion stabilizing sequences (e.g., Fc regions, chaperone protein sequences, leucine zippers) and disulfide replacement/modification.

[0183] An additional feature that intrabodies may require is a signal for intracellular targeting. Vectors that can target intrabodies (or other proteins) to subcellular regions such as the cytoplasm, nucleus, mitochondria and ER have been designed and are commercially available (Invitrogen Corp.; Parsic *et al.*, 1997).

[0184] By virtue of their ability to enter cells, intrabodies have additional uses that other types of antibodies may not achieve. In the case of the present antibodies, the ability to interact with the MUC 1 cytoplasmic domain in a living cell may interfere with functions associated with the MUC 1 CD, such as signaling functions (binding to other molecules) or oligomer formation. In particular, it is contemplated that such antibodies can be used to inhibit MUC 1 dimer formation.

J. Purification

[0185] In certain embodiments, the antibodies of the present disclosure may be purified. The term "purified," as used herein, is intended to refer to a composition, isolatable from other components, wherein the protein is purified to any degree relative to its naturally-obtainable state. A purified protein therefore also refers to a protein, free from the environment in which it may naturally occur. Where the term "substantially purified" is used, this 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 proteins in the composition.

[0186] Protein purification techniques are well known to those of skill in the art. These techniques involve, at one level, the crude fractionation of the cellular milieu to polypeptide and non-polypeptide fractions. Having separated the polypeptide from other proteins, the polypeptide of interest may be further purified using chromatographic and electrophoretic techniques to achieve partial or complete purification (or purification to homogeneity). Analytical methods particularly suited to the preparation of a pure peptide are ion-exchange chromatography, exclusion chromatography, polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, isoelectric focusing. Other methods for protein purification include, precipitation with ammonium sulfate, PEG, antibodies and the like or by heat denaturation, followed by centrifugation; gel filtration, reverse phase, hydroxylapatite and affinity chromatography; and combinations of such and other techniques.

[0187] In purifying an antibody of the present disclosure, it may be desirable to express the polypeptide in a prokaryotic or eukaryotic expression system and extract the protein using denaturing conditions. The polypeptide may be purified from other cellular components using an affinity column, which binds to a tagged portion of the polypeptide. As is generally known in the art, it is believed that the order of conducting the various purification steps may be changed, or that certain steps may be omitted, and still result in a suitable method for the preparation of a substantially purified protein or peptide.

[0188] Commonly, complete antibodies are fractionated utilizing agents (*i.e.*, protein A) that bind the Fc portion of the antibody. Alternatively, antigens may be used to simultaneously purify and select appropriate antibodies. Such methods often utilize the selection agent bound to a support, such as a column, filter or bead. The antibodies are bound to a support, contaminants removed (e.g., washed away), and the antibodies released by applying conditions (salt, heat, etc.).

[0189] Various methods for quantifying the degree of purification of the protein or peptide will be known to those of skill in the art in light of the present disclosure. These include, for example, determining the specific activity of an active fraction, or assessing the amount of polypeptides within a fraction by SDS/PAGE analysis. Another method for assessing the purity of a fraction is to calculate the specific activity of the fraction, to compare it to the specific activity of the initial extract, and to thus calculate the degree of purity. The actual units used to represent the amount of activity will, of course, be dependent upon the particular assay technique chosen to follow the purification and whether or not the expressed protein or peptide exhibits a detectable activity.

[0190] It is known that the migration of a polypeptide can vary, sometimes significantly, with different conditions of SDS/PAGE (Capakli *et al.*, 1977). It will therefore be appreciated that under differing electrophoresis conditions, the apparent molecular weights of purified or partially purified expression products may vary.

III. Active/Passive Immunization and Treatment/Prevention of SARS-CoV-2 Infection

A. Formulation and Administration

[0191] The present disclosure provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising anti-SARS-CoV-2 virus antibodies and antigens for generating the same. Such compositions comprise a prophylactically or therapeutically effective amount of an antibody or a fragment thereof, or a peptide immunogen, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In a specific embodiment, the term "pharmaceutically acceptable" means approved by a regulatory agency of the Federal or a state government or listed in the U.S. Pharmacopeia or other generally recognized pharmacopeia for use in animals, and more particularly in humans. The term "carrier" refers to a diluent, excipient, or vehicle with which the therapeutic is administered. Such pharmaceutical carriers can be sterile liquids, such as water and oils, including those of petroleum, animal, vegetable or synthetic origin, such as peanut oil, soybean oil, mineral oil, sesame oil and the like. Water is a particular carrier when the pharmaceutical composition is administered intravenously. Saline solutions and aqueous dextrose and glycerol solutions can also be employed as liquid carriers, particularly for injectable solutions. Other suitable pharmaceutical excipients include starch, glucose, lactose, sucrose, gelatin, malt, rice, flour, chalk, silica gel, sodium stearate, glycerol monostearate, talc, sodium chloride, dried skim milk, glycerol, propylene, glycol, water, ethanol and the like.

[0192] The composition, if desired, can also contain minor amounts of wetting or emulsifying agents, or pH buffering agents. These compositions can take the form of solutions, suspensions, emulsion, tablets, pills, capsules, powders, sustained-release formulations and the like. Oral formulations can include standard carriers such as pharmaceutical grades of mannitol, lactose, starch, magnesium stearate, sodium saccharine, cellulose, magnesium carbonate, etc. Examples of suitable pharmaceutical agents are described in "Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences." Such compositions will contain a prophylactically or therapeutically effective amount of the antibody or fragment thereof, preferably in purified form, together with a suitable amount of carrier so as to provide the form for proper administration to the patient. The formulation should suit the mode of administration, which can be oral, intravenous, intraarterial, intracubal, intranasal, nebulized, bronchial inhalation, intra-rectal, vaginal, topical or delivered by mechanical ventilation.

[0193] Active vaccines are also envisioned where antibodies like those disclosed are produced *in vivo* in a subject at risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection. Such vaccines can be formulated for parenteral administration, e.g., formulated for injection via the intradermal, intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, or even intraperitoneal routes. Administration by intradermal and intramuscular routes are contemplated. The vaccine could alternatively be administered by a topical route directly to the mucosa, for example, by nasal drops, inhalation, by nebulizer, or via intrarectal or vaginal delivery. Pharmaceutically acceptable salts include the acid salts and those which are formed with inorganic acids such as, for example, hydrochloric or phosphoric acids, or such organic acids as acetic, oxalic, tartaric, mandelic, and the like. Salts formed with the free carboxyl groups may also be derived from inorganic bases such as, for example, sodium, potassium, ammonium, calcium, or ferric hydroxides, and such organic bases as isopropylamine, trimethylamine, 2-ethylamine ethanol, histidine, procaine, and the like.

[0194] Passive transfer of antibodies, known as artificially acquired passive immunity, generally will involve the use of intravenous or intramuscular injections. The forms of antibody can be human or animal blood plasma or serum, as pooled human immunoglobulin for intravenous (IVIG) or intramuscular (IG) use, as high-titer human IVIG or IG from immunized or from donors recovering from disease, and as monoclonal antibodies (MAb). Such immunity generally lasts for only a short period of time, and there is also a potential risk for hypersensitivity reactions, and serum sickness, especially from gamma globulin of non-human origin. However, passive immunity provides immediate protection. The antibodies will be formulated in a carrier suitable for injection, *i.e.*, sterile and syringable.

[0195] Generally, the ingredients of compositions of the disclosure are supplied either separately or mixed together in unit dosage form, for example, as a dry lyophilized powder or water-free concentrate in a hermetically sealed container such as an ampoule or sachette indicating the quantity of active agent. Where the composition is to be administered by infusion, it can be dispensed with an infusion bottle containing sterile pharmaceutical grade water or saline. Where the composition is administered by injection, an ampoule of sterile water for injection or saline can be provided so that the ingredients may be mixed prior to administration.

[0196] The compositions of the disclosure can be formulated as neutral or salt forms. Pharmaceutically acceptable salts include those formed with anions such as those derived from hydrochloric, phosphoric, acetic, oxalic, tartaric acids, etc., and those formed with cations such as those derived from sodium, potassium, ammonium, calcium, ferric hydroxides, isopropylamine, triethylamine, 2-ethylamine ethanol, histidine, procaine, etc.

2. ADCC

[0197] Antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC) is an immune mechanism leading to the lysis of antibody-coated target cells by immune effector cells. The target cells are cells to which antibodies or fragments thereof comprising an Fc region specifically bind, generally via the protein part that is N-terminal to the Fc region. By "antibody having increased/reduced antibody dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC)" is meant an antibody having increased/reduced ADCC as determined by any suitable method known to those of ordinary skill in the art.

[0198] As used herein, the term "increased/reduced ADCC" is defined as either an increase/reduction in the number of target cells that are lysed in a given time, at a given concentration of antibody in the medium surrounding the target cells, by the mechanism of ADCC defined above, and/or a reduction/increase in the concentration of antibody in the medium surrounding the target cells, required to achieve the lysis of a given number of target cells in a given time, by the mechanism of ADCC. The increase/reduction in ADCC is relative to the ADCC mediated by the same antibody produced by the same type of host cells, using the same standard production, purification, formulation and storage methods (which are known to those skilled in the art), but that has not been engineered. For example, the increase in ADCC mediated by an antibody produced by host cells engineered to have an altered pattern of glycosylation (e.g., to express the glycosyltransferase, GnTIII, or other glycosyltransferases) by the methods described herein, is relative to the ADCC mediated by the same antibody produced by the same type of non-engineered host cells.

3. CDC

[0199] Complement-dependent cytotoxicity (CDC) is a function of the complement system. It is the processes in the immune system that kill pathogens by damaging their membranes without the involvement of antibodies or cells of the immune system. There are three main processes. All three insert one or more membrane attack complexes (MAC) into the pathogen which cause lethal colloid-osmotic swelling, *i.e.*, CDC. It is one of the mechanisms by which antibodies or antibody fragments have an anti-viral effect.

IV. Antibody Conjugates

[0200] Antibodies of the present disclosure may be linked to at least one agent to form an antibody conjugate. In order to increase the efficacy of antibody molecules as diagnostic or therapeutic agents, it is conventional to link or covalently bind or complex at least one desired molecule or moiety. Such a molecule or moiety may be, but is not limited to, at least one effector or reporter molecule. Effector molecules comprise molecules having a desired activity, e.g., cytotoxic activity. Non-limiting examples of effector molecules which have been attached to antibodies include toxins, anti-tumor agents, therapeutic enzymes, radionuclides, antiviral agents, chelating agents, cytokines, growth factors, and oligo- or polynucleotides. By contrast, a reporter molecule is defined as any moiety which may be detected using an assay. Non-limiting examples of reporter molecules which have been conjugated to antibodies include enzymes, radiolabels, haptens, fluorescent labels, phosphorescent molecules, chemiluminescent molecules, chromophores, photoaffinity molecules, colored particles or ligands, such as biotin.

[0201] Antibody conjugates are generally preferred for use as diagnostic agents. Antibody diagnostics generally fall within two classes, those for use *in vitro* diagnostics, such as in a variety of immunoassays, and those for use *in vivo* diagnostic protocols, generally known as "antibody-directed imaging." Many appropriate imaging agents are known in the art, as are methods for their attachment to antibodies (see, for e.g., U.S. Patents 5,021,236, 4,935,048, and 4,472,509). The imaging moieties used can be paramagnetic ions, radioactive isotopes, fluorochromes, NMR-detectable substances, and X-ray imaging agents.

[0202] In the case of paramagnetic ions, one might mention by way of example ions such as chromium (III), manganese (II), iron (III), iron (II), cobalt (II), nickel (II), copper (II), neodymium (III), samarium (III), ytterbium (III), gadolinium (III), vanadium (II), terbium (III), dysprosium (III), holmium (III) and/or erbium (III), with gadolinium being particularly preferred. Ions useful in other contexts, such as X-ray imaging, include but are not limited to lanthanum (III), gadolinium (III), lead (II), and especially bismuth (III).

[0203] In the case of radioactive isotopes for therapeutic and/or diagnostic application, one might mention isotopes such as ²¹¹At, ¹⁴C, ³¹P, ³²P, ³³P, ³⁵S, ³⁶S, ⁴⁵Ca, ⁴⁷Ca, ⁴⁸Ca, ⁴⁹Ca, ⁵¹Cr, ⁵²Cr, ⁵⁴Co, ⁵⁵Co, ⁵⁷Co, ⁵⁹Co, ⁶⁰Co, ⁶³Co, ⁶⁴Co, ⁶⁵Co, ⁶⁷Co, ⁶⁸Co, ⁶⁹Co, ⁷⁰Co, ⁷¹Co, ⁷²Co, ⁷³Co, ⁷⁴Co, ⁷⁵Co, ⁷⁶Co, ⁷⁷Co, ⁷⁸Co, ⁷⁹Co, ⁸⁰Co, ⁸¹Co, ⁸²Co, ⁸³Co, ⁸⁴Co, ⁸⁵Co, ⁸⁶Co, ⁸⁷Co, ⁸⁸Co, ⁸⁹Co, ⁹⁰Co, ⁹¹Co, ⁹²Co, ⁹³Co, ⁹⁴Co, ⁹⁵Co, ⁹⁶Co, ⁹⁷Co, ⁹⁸Co, ⁹⁹Co, ¹⁰⁰Co, ¹⁰¹Co, ¹⁰²Co, ¹⁰³Co, ¹⁰⁴Co, ¹⁰⁵Co, ¹⁰⁶Co, ¹⁰⁷Co, ¹⁰⁸Co, ¹⁰⁹Co, ¹¹⁰Co, ¹¹¹Co, ¹¹²Co, ¹¹³Co, ¹¹⁴Co, ¹¹⁵Co, ¹¹⁶Co, ¹¹⁷Co, ¹¹⁸Co, ¹¹⁹Co, ¹²⁰Co, ¹²¹Co, ¹²²Co, ¹²³Co, ¹²⁴Co, ¹²⁵Co, ¹²⁶Co, ¹²⁷Co, ¹²⁸Co, ¹²⁹Co, ¹³⁰Co, ¹³¹Co, ¹³²Co, ¹³³Co, ¹³⁴Co, ¹³⁵Co, ¹³⁶Co, ¹³⁷Co, ¹³⁸Co, ¹³⁹Co, ¹⁴⁰Co, ¹⁴¹Co, ¹⁴²Co, ¹⁴³Co, ¹⁴⁴Co, ¹⁴⁵Co, ¹⁴⁶Co, ¹⁴⁷Co, ¹⁴⁸Co, ¹⁴⁹Co, ¹⁵⁰Co, ¹⁵¹Co, ¹⁵²Co, ¹⁵³Co, ¹⁵⁴Co, ¹⁵⁵Co, ¹⁵⁶Co, ¹⁵⁷Co, ¹⁵⁸Co, ¹⁵⁹Co, ¹⁶⁰Co, ¹⁶¹Co, ¹⁶²Co, ¹⁶³Co, ¹⁶⁴Co, ¹⁶⁵Co, ¹⁶⁶Co, ¹⁶⁷Co, ¹⁶⁸Co, ¹⁶⁹Co, ¹⁷⁰Co, ¹⁷¹Co, ¹⁷²Co, ¹⁷³Co, ¹⁷⁴Co, ¹⁷⁵Co, ¹⁷⁶Co, ¹⁷⁷Co, ¹⁷⁸Co, 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⁶⁰⁸Co, ⁶⁰⁹Co, ⁶¹⁰Co, ⁶¹¹Co, ⁶¹²Co, ⁶¹³Co, ⁶¹⁴Co, ⁶¹⁵Co, ⁶¹⁶Co, ⁶¹⁷Co, ⁶¹⁸Co, ⁶¹⁹Co, ⁶²⁰Co, ⁶²¹Co, ⁶²²Co, ⁶²³Co, ⁶²⁴Co, ⁶²⁵Co, ⁶²⁶Co, ⁶²⁷Co, ⁶²⁸Co, ⁶²⁹Co, ⁶³⁰Co, ⁶³¹Co, ⁶³²Co, ⁶³³Co, ⁶³⁴Co, ⁶³⁵Co, ⁶³⁶Co, ⁶³⁷Co, ⁶³⁸Co, ⁶³⁹Co, ⁶⁴⁰Co, ⁶⁴¹Co, ⁶⁴²Co, ⁶⁴³Co, ⁶⁴⁴Co, ⁶⁴⁵Co, ⁶⁴⁶Co, ⁶⁴⁷Co, ⁶⁴⁸Co, ⁶⁴⁹Co, ⁶⁵⁰Co, ⁶⁵¹Co, ⁶⁵²Co, ⁶⁵³Co, ⁶⁵⁴Co, ⁶⁵⁵Co, ⁶⁵⁶Co, ⁶⁵⁷Co, ⁶⁵⁸Co, ⁶⁵⁹Co, ⁶⁶⁰Co, ⁶⁶¹Co, ⁶⁶²Co, ⁶⁶³Co, ⁶⁶⁴Co, ⁶⁶⁵Co, ⁶⁶⁶Co, ⁶⁶⁷Co, ⁶⁶⁸Co, ⁶⁶⁹Co, ⁶⁷⁰Co, ⁶⁷¹Co, ⁶⁷²Co, ⁶⁷³Co, ⁶⁷⁴Co, ⁶⁷⁵Co, ⁶⁷⁶Co, ⁶⁷⁷Co, ⁶⁷⁸Co, ⁶⁷⁹Co, ⁶⁸⁰Co, ⁶⁸¹Co, ⁶⁸²Co, ⁶⁸³Co, ⁶⁸⁴Co, ⁶⁸⁵Co, ⁶⁸⁶Co, ⁶⁸⁷Co, ⁶⁸⁸Co, ⁶⁸⁹Co, ⁶⁹⁰Co, ⁶⁹¹Co, ⁶⁹²Co, ⁶⁹³Co, ⁶⁹⁴Co, ⁶⁹⁵Co, ⁶⁹⁶Co, ⁶⁹⁷Co, ⁶⁹⁸Co, ⁶⁹⁹Co, ⁷⁰⁰Co, ⁷⁰¹Co, ⁷⁰²Co, ⁷⁰³Co, ⁷⁰⁴Co, ⁷⁰⁵Co, ⁷⁰⁶Co, ⁷⁰⁷Co, ⁷⁰⁸Co, ⁷⁰⁹Co, ⁷¹⁰Co, ⁷¹¹Co, ⁷¹²Co, ⁷¹³Co, ⁷¹⁴Co, ⁷¹⁵Co, ⁷¹⁶Co, ⁷¹⁷Co, ⁷¹⁸Co, ⁷¹⁹Co, ⁷²⁰Co, ⁷²¹Co, ⁷²²Co, ⁷²³Co, ⁷²⁴Co, ⁷²⁵Co, ⁷²⁶Co, ⁷²⁷Co, ⁷²⁸Co, ⁷²⁹Co, ⁷³⁰Co, ⁷³¹Co, ⁷³²Co, ⁷³³Co, ⁷³⁴Co, ⁷³⁵Co, ⁷³⁶Co, ⁷³⁷Co, ⁷³⁸Co, ⁷³⁹Co, ⁷⁴⁰Co, ⁷⁴¹Co, ⁷⁴²Co, ⁷⁴³Co, ⁷⁴⁴Co, ⁷⁴⁵Co, ⁷⁴⁶Co, ⁷⁴⁷Co, ⁷⁴⁸Co, ⁷⁴⁹Co, ⁷⁵⁰Co, ⁷⁵¹Co, ⁷⁵²Co, ⁷⁵³Co, ⁷⁵⁴Co, ⁷⁵⁵Co, ⁷⁵⁶Co, ⁷⁵⁷Co, ⁷⁵⁸Co, ⁷⁵⁹Co, ⁷⁶⁰Co, ⁷⁶¹Co, ⁷⁶²Co, ⁷⁶³Co, ⁷⁶⁴Co, ⁷⁶⁵Co, ⁷⁶⁶Co, ⁷⁶⁷Co, ⁷⁶⁸Co, ⁷⁶⁹Co, ⁷⁷⁰Co, ⁷⁷¹Co, <

[0208] Several methods are known in the art for the attachment or conjugation of an antibody to its conjugate moiety. Some attachment methods involve the use of a metal chelate complex employing, for example, an organic chelating agent such as diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid anhydride (DTPA); ethylenetriaminetetraacetic acid; N-chloro-p-toluenesulfonamide; and/or tetrachloro-3o-6o-diphenylglycoul-3 attached to the antibody (U.S. Patents 4,472,509 and 4,935,948). Monoclonal antibodies may also be reacted with an enzyme in the presence of a coupling agent such as glutaraldehyde or periodate. Conjugates with fluorescent markers are prepared in the presence of these coupling agents or by reaction with an isothiocyanate. In U.S. Patent 4,938,948, imaging of breast tumors is achieved using monoclonal antibodies and the detectable imaging moieties are bound to the antibody using linkers such as methyl-p-hydroxybenzimidate or N-succinimidyl-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionate.

[0209] In other embodiments, derivatization of immunoglobulins by selectively introducing sulfhydryl groups in the Fc region of an immunoglobulin, using reaction conditions that do not alter the antibody combining site are contemplated. Antibody conjugates produced according to this methodology are disclosed to exhibit improved longevity, specificity and sensitivity (U.S. Patent 5,196,066). Site-specific attachment of effector or reporter molecules, wherein the reporter or effector molecule is conjugated to a carbohydrate residue in the Fc region have also been disclosed in the literature (O'Shannessy *et al.*, 1987). This approach has been reported to produce diagnostically and therapeutically promising antibodies which are currently in clinical evaluation.

V. Immunodetection Methods

[0210] In still further embodiments of the disclosure but not part of the invention, the present disclosure concerns immunodetection methods for binding, purifying, removing, quantifying and otherwise generally detecting SARS-CoV-2 and its associated antigens. While such methods can be applied in a traditional sense, another use will be in quality control and monitoring of vaccine and other virus stocks, where antibodies according to the present disclosure can be used to assess the amount or integrity (*i.e.*, long term stability) of antigens in viruses. Alternatively, the methods may be used to screen various antibodies for appropriate/desired reactivity profiles.

[0211] Other immunodetection methods include specific assays for determining the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in a subject. A wide variety of assay formats are contemplated, but specifically those that would be used to detect SARS-CoV-2 in a fluid obtained from a subject, such as saliva, blood, plasma, sputum, semen or urine. In particular, semen has been demonstrated as a viable sample for detecting SARS-CoV-2 (Purpus *et al.*, 2016; Mansuy *et al.*, 2016; Barzon *et al.*, 2016; Gorrat *et al.*, 2016; Duffy *et al.*, 2009; CDC, 2016; Hallon *et al.*, 2010; Ekier *et al.*, 2005). The assays may be advantageously formatted for non-healthcare (home) use, including lateral flow assays (see below) analogous to home pregnancy tests. These assays may be packaged in the form of a kit with appropriate reagents and instructions to permit use by the subject of a family member.

[0212] Some immunodetection methods include enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), radioimmunoassay (RIA), immunorelometric assay, fluorimmunoassay, chemiluminescent assay, bioluminescent assay, and Western blot to mention a few. In particular, a competitive assay for the detection and quantitation of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies directed to specific parasite epitopes in samples also is provided. The steps of various useful immunodetection methods have been described in the scientific literature, such as, *e.g.*, Doolittle and Ben-Zeev (1999), Gultis and Galand (1993), De Jager *et al.* (1993), and Nakamura *et al.* (1987). In general, the immunobinding methods include obtaining a sample suspected of containing SARS-CoV-2, and contacting the sample with a first antibody in accordance with the present disclosure, as the case may be, under conditions effective to allow the formation of immunocomplexes.

[0213] These methods include methods for purifying SARS-CoV-2 or related antigens from a sample. The antibody will preferably be linked to a solid support, such as in the form of a column matrix, and the sample suspected of containing the SARS-CoV-2 or antigenic component will be applied to the immobilized antibody. The unwanted components will be washed from the column, leaving the SARS-CoV-2 antigen immunocomplexed to the immobilized antibody, which is then collected by removing the organism or antigen from the column.

[0214] The immunobinding methods also include methods for detecting and quantifying the amount of SARS-CoV-2 or related components in a sample and the detection and quantification of any immune complexes formed during the binding process. Here, one would obtain a sample suspected of containing SARS-CoV-2 or its antigens and contact the sample with an antibody that binds SARS-CoV-2 or components thereof, followed by detecting and quantifying the amount of immune complexes formed under the specific conditions. In terms of antigen detection, the biological sample analyzed may be any sample that is suspected of containing SARS-CoV-2 or SARS-CoV-2 antigen, such as a tissue section or specimen, a homogenized tissue extract, a biological fluid, including blood and serum, or a secretion, such as feces or urine.

[0215] Contacting the chosen biological sample with the antibody under effective conditions and for a period of time sufficient to allow the formation of immune complexes (primary immune complexes) is generally a matter of simply adding the antibody composition to the sample and incubating the mixture for a period of time long enough for the antibodies to form immune complexes with, *i.e.*, to bind to SARS-CoV-2 or antigens present. After this time, the sample-antibody composition, such as a tissue section, ELISA plate, dot blot or Western blot, will generally be washed to remove any non-specifically bound antibody species, allowing only those antibodies specifically bound within the primary immune complexes to be detected.

[0216] In general, the detection of immunocomplex formation is well known in the art and may be achieved through the application of numerous approaches. These methods are generally based upon the detection of a label or marker, such as any of those radioactive, fluorescent, biological and enzymatic tags. Patents concerning the use of such labels include U.S. Patents 3,817,537, 3,850,752, 3,939,350, 3,996,345, 4,277,437, 4,275,149 and 4,366,241. Of course, one may find additional advantages through the use of a secondary binding ligand such as a second antibody and/or a biotin/avidin ligand binding arrangement, as is known in the art.

[0217] The antibody employed in the detection may itself be linked to a detectable label, wherein one would then simply detect this label, thereby allowing the amount of the primary immune complexes in the composition to be determined. Alternatively, the first antibody that becomes bound within the primary immune complexes may be detected by means of a second binding ligand that has binding affinity for the antibody. In these cases, the second binding ligand may be linked to a detectable label. The second binding ligand is itself often an antibody, which may thus be termed a "secondary" antibody. The primary immune complexes are contacted with the labeled, secondary binding ligand, or antibody, under effective conditions and for a period of time sufficient to allow the formation of secondary immune complexes. The secondary immune complexes are then generally washed to remove any non-specifically bound labeled secondary antibodies or ligands, and the remaining label in the secondary immune complexes is then detected.

[0218] Further methods include the detection of primary immune complexes by a two-step approach. A second binding ligand, such as an antibody that has binding affinity for the antibody, is used to form secondary immune complexes, as described above. After washing, the secondary immune complexes are contacted with a third binding ligand or antibody that has binding affinity for the second antibody, again under effective conditions and for a period of time sufficient to allow the formation of immune complexes (tertiary immune complexes). The third ligand or antibody is linked to a detectable label, allowing detection of the tertiary immune complexes thus formed. This system may provide for signal amplification if this is desired.

[0219] One method of immunodetection uses two different antibodies. A first biotinylated antibody is used to detect the target antigen, and a second antibody is then used to detect the biotin attached to the complexed biotin. In that method, the sample to be tested is first incubated in a solution containing the first step antibody. If the target antigen is present, some of the antibody binds to the antigen to form a biotinylated antibody/antigen complex. The antibody/antigen complex is then amplified by incubation in successive solutions of streptavidin (or avidin), biotinylated streptavidin, and/or complementary biotinylated DNA, with each step adding additional biotin sites to the antibody/antigen complex. The amplification steps are repeated until a suitable level of amplification is achieved, at which point the sample is incubated in a solution containing the second step antibody against biotin. This second step antibody is labeled, for example, with an enzyme that can be used to detect the presence of the antibody/antigen complex by histochemistry using a chromogen substrate. With suitable amplification, a conjugate can be produced which is microscopically visible.

[0220] Another known method of immunodetection takes advantage of the immuno-PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) methodology. The PCR method is similar to the Cantor method up to the incubation with biotinylated DNA, however, instead of using multiple rounds of streptavidin and biotinylated DNA incubation, the DNA/biotin/streptavidin/antibody complex is washed out with a low pH or high salt buffer that releases the antibody. The resulting wash solution is then used to carry out a PCR reaction with suitable primers with appropriate controls. At least in theory, the enormous amplification capability and specificity of PCR can be utilized to detect a single antigen molecule.

A. ELISAs

[0221] Immunoassays, in their most simple and direct sense, are binding assays. Certain preferred immunoassays are the various types of enzyme linked immunosorbent assays (ELISAs) and radioimmunoassays (RIA) known in the art. Immunohistochemical detection using tissue sections is also particularly useful. However, it will be readily appreciated that detection is not limited to such techniques, and western blotting, dot blotting, FACS analyses, and the like may also be used.

[0222] In one exemplary ELISA, the antibodies of the disclosure are immobilized onto a selected surface exhibiting protein affinity, such as a well in a polystyrene microtiter plate. Then, a test composition suspected of containing the SARS-CoV-2 or SARS-CoV-2 antigen is added to the wells. After binding and washing to remove non-specifically bound immune complexes, the bound antigen may be detected. Detection may be achieved by the addition of another anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibody that is linked to a detectable label. This type of ELISA is a simple "sandwich ELISA." Detection may also be achieved by the addition of a second anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibody, followed by the addition of a third antibody that has binding affinity for the second antibody, with the third antibody being linked to a detectable label.

[0223] In another exemplary ELISA, the samples suspected of containing the SARS-CoV-2 or SARS-CoV-2 antigen are immobilized onto the well surface and then contacted with the anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies of the disclosure. After binding and washing to remove non-specifically bound immune complexes, the bound anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies are detected. Where the initial anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies are linked to a detectable label, the immune complexes may be detected directly. Again, the immune complexes may be detected using a second antibody that has binding affinity for the first anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibody, with the second antibody being linked to a detectable label.

[0224] Irrespective of the format employed, ELISAs have certain features in common, such as coating, incubating and binding, washing to remove non-specifically bound species, and detecting the bound immune complexes. These are described below.

[0225] In coating a plate with either antigen or antibody, one will generally incubate the wells of the plate with a solution of the antigen or antibody, either overnight or for a specified period of hours. The wells of the plate will then be washed to remove incompletely adsorbed material. Any remaining available surfaces of the wells are then "coated" with a nonspecific protein that is antigenically neutral with regard to the test antigens. These include bovine serum albumin (BSA), casein or solutions of milk powder. The coating allows for blocking of nonspecific adsorption sites on the immobilizing surface and thus reduces the background caused by nonspecific binding of antisera onto the surface.

[0226] In ELISAs, it is probably more customary to use a secondary or tertiary detection means rather than a direct procedure. Thus, after binding of a protein or antibody to the well, coating with a non-reactive material to reduce background, and washing to remove unbound material, the immobilizing surface is contacted with the biological sample to be tested under conditions effective to allow immune complex (antigen/antibody) formation. Detection of the immune complex then requires a labeled secondary binding ligand or antibody, and a secondary binding ligand or antibody in conjunction with a labeled tertiary antibody or a third binding ligand.

[0227] "Under conditions effective to allow immune complex (antigen/antibody) formation" means that the conditions preferably include diluting the antigens and/or antibodies with solutions such as BSA, bovine gamma globulin (GGG) or phosphate buffered saline (PBS)/Tween. These added agents also tend to assist in the reduction of nonspecific background.

[0228] The "suitable" conditions also mean that the incubation is at a temperature or for a period of time sufficient to allow effective binding. Incubation steps are typically from about 1 to 2 to 4 hours or so, at temperatures preferably on the order of 25°C to 27°C, or may be overnight at about 4°C or so.

[0229] Following all incubation steps in an ELISA, the contacted surface is washed so as to remove non-complexed material. A preferred washing procedure includes washing with a solution such as PBS/Tween, or borate buffer. Following the formation of specific immune complexes between the test sample and the originally bound material, and subsequent washing, the occurrence of even minute amounts of immune complexes may be determined.

[0230] To provide a detecting means, the second or third antibody will have an associated label to allow detection. Preferably, this will be an enzyme that will generate color development upon incubating with an appropriate chromogenic substrate. Thus, for example, one will desire to contact or incubate the first and second immune complex with a urease, glucose oxidase, alkaline phosphatase or hydrogen peroxidase-conjugated antibody for a period of time and under conditions that favor the development of further immune complex formation (*e.g.*, incubation for 2 hours at room temperature in a PBS-containing solution such as PBS-Tween).

[0231] After incubation with the labeled antibody, and subsequent to washing to remove unbound material, the amount of label is quantified, *e.g.*, by incubation with a chromogenic substrate such as urea, or bromocresol purple, or 2,2'-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) (ABTS), or H₂O₂, in the case of peroxidase as the enzyme label. Quantification is then achieved by measuring the degree of color generated, *e.g.*, using a visible spectra spectrophotometer.

[0232] In another embodiment of the disclosure but not part of the invention, the present disclosure contemplates the use of competitive formats. This is particularly useful in the detection of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in sample. In competition-based assays, an unknown amount of analyte or antibody is determined by its ability to displace a known amount of labeled antibody or analyte. Thus, the quantifiable loss of a signal is an indication of the amount of unknown antibody or analyte in a sample.

[0233] Here, the inventor proposes the use of labeled SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies to determine the amount of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in a sample. The basic format would include contacting a known amount of SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibody (linked to a detectable label) with SARS-CoV-2 antigen or particle. The SARS-CoV-2 antigen or organism is preferably attached to a support. After binding of the labeled monoclonal antibody to the support, the sample is added and incubated under conditions permitting any unlabeled antibody in the sample to compete with, and hence displace, the labeled monoclonal antibody. By measuring either the lost label or the label remaining (and subtracting that from the original amount of bound label), one can determine how much non-labeled antibody is bound to the support, and thus how much antibody was present in the sample.

B. Western Blot

[0234] The Western blot (alternatively, protein immunoblot) is an analytical technique used to detect specific proteins in a given sample of tissue homogenate or extract. It uses gel electrophoresis to separate native or denatured proteins by the length of the polypeptide (constraining conditions) or by the 3-D structure of the protein (native/non-denaturing conditions). The proteins are then transferred to a membrane (typically nitrocellulose or PVDF), where they are probed (detected) using antibodies specific to the target protein.

[0235] Samples may be taken from whole tissue or from cell culture. In most cases, solid tissues are first broken down mechanically using a blender (for larger sample volumes), using a homogenizer (smaller volumes), or by sonication. Cells may also be broken open by one of the above mechanical methods. However, it should be noted that bacteria, virus or environmental samples can be the source of protein and thus Western blotting is not restricted to cellular studies only. Assorted detergents, salts, and buffers may be employed to encourage lysis of cells and to solubilize proteins. Protease and phosphatase inhibitors are often added to prevent the digestion of the sample by its own enzymes. Tissue preparation is often done at cold temperatures to avoid protein denaturing.

[0236] The proteins of the sample are separated using gel electrophoresis. Separation of proteins may be by isoelectric point (pI), molecular weight, electric charge, or a combination of these factors. The nature of the separation depends on the treatment of the sample and the nature of the gel. This is a very useful way to determine a protein. It is also possible to use a two-dimensional (2-D) gel which spreads the proteins from a single sample out in two dimensions. Proteins are separated according to isoelectric point (pH at which they have neutral net charge) in the first dimension, and according to their molecular weight in the second dimension.

[0237] In order to make the proteins accessible to antibody detection, they are moved from within the gel onto a membrane made of nitrocellulose or polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF). The membrane is placed on top of the gel, and a stack of filter papers placed on top of that. The entire stack is placed in a buffer solution which moves up the paper by capillary action, bringing the proteins with it. Another method for transferring the proteins is called electroblotting and uses an electric current to pull proteins from the gel into the PVDF or

nitrocellulose membrane. The proteins move from within the gel onto the membrane while maintaining the organization they had within the gel. As a result of this blotting process, the proteins are exposed on a thin surface layer for detection (see below). Both varieties of membrane are chosen for their non-specific protein binding properties (*i.e.*, binds all proteins equally well). Protein binding is based upon hydrophobic interactions, as well as charged interactions between the membrane and protein. Nitrocellulose membranes are cheaper than PVDF but are far more fragile and do not stand up well to repeated probeds. The uniformity and overall effectiveness of transfer of protein from the gel to the membrane can be checked by staining the membrane with Coomassie Brilliant Blue or Ponceau S dyes. Once transferred, proteins are detected using labeled primary antibodies, or unlabeled primary antibodies followed by indirect detection using labeled protein A or secondary labeled antibodies binding to the Fc region of the primary antibodies.

C. Lateral Flow Assays

[0233] Lateral flow assays, also known as lateral flow immunochromatographic assays, are simple devices intended to detect the presence (or absence) of a target analyte in sample (matrix) without the need for specialized and costly equipment, though many laboratory-based applications exist that are supported by reading equipment. Typically, these tests are used as low resources medical diagnostics, either for home testing, point of care testing, or laboratory use. A widely spread and well-known application is the home pregnancy test.

[0233] The technology is based on a series of capillary beds, such as pieces of porous paper or sintered polymer. Each of these elements has the capacity to transport fluid (e.g., urine) spontaneously. The first element (the sample pad) acts as a sponge and holds an excess of sample fluid. Once soaked, the fluid migrates to the second element (conjugate pad) in which the manufacturer has stored the so-called conjugate, a dried format of bio-active particles (see below) in a salt-sugar matrix that contains everything to guarantee an optimized chemical reaction between the target molecule (e.g., an antigen) and its chemical partner (e.g., antibody) that has been immobilized on the particle's surface. While the sample fluid dissolves the salt-sugar matrix, it also dissolves the particles and in one combined transport action the sample and conjugate mix while flowing through the porous structure. In this way, the analyte binds to the particles while migrating further through the third capillary bed. This material has one or more areas (often called stripes) where a third molecule has been immobilized by the manufacturer. By the time the sample-conjugate mix reaches these stripes, analyte has been bound on the particle and the third 'capture' molecule binds the complex. After a while, when more and more fluid has passed the stripes, particles accumulate and the stripe-area changes color. Typically there are at least two stripes: one (the control) that captures any particle and thereby shows that reaction conditions and technology worked fine, the second contains a specific capture molecule and only captures those particles onto which an analyte molecule has been immobilized. After passing these reaction zones, the fluid enters the final porous material - the wick - that simply acts as a waste container. Lateral Flow Tests can operate as either competitive or sandwich assays. Lateral flow assays are disclosed in U.S. Patent 6,455,982.

D. Immunohistochemistry

[0240] The antibodies of the present disclosure may also be used in conjunction with both fresh-frozen and/or formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue blocks prepared for study by immunohistochemistry (IHC). The method of preparing tissue blocks from these particulate specimens has been successfully used in previous IHC studies of various prognostic factors and is well known to those of skill in the art (Brown *et al.*, 1990; Abbondanzo *et al.*, 1990; Altred *et al.*, 1990).

[0241] Briefly, frozen-sections may be prepared by rehydrating 50 ng of frozen "pulverized" tissue at room temperature in phosphate buffered saline (PBS) in small plastic capsules; pelleting the particles by centrifugation; resuspending them in a viscous embedding medium (COT); inverting the capsule and/or pelleting again by centrifugation; snap-freezing in -70°C isopentane; cutting the plastic capsule and/or removing the frozen cylinder of tissue; securing the tissue cylinder on a cryostat microtome chuck; and/or cutting 25-50 serial sections from the capsule. Alternatively, whole frozen tissue samples may be used for serial section cuttings.

[0242] Permanent-sections may be prepared by a similar method involving rehydration of the 50 mg sample in a plastic microfuge tube; pelleting; resuspending in 10% formalin for 4 hours fixation; washing/pelleting; resuspending in warm 2.5% agar; pelleting; cooling in ice water to harden the agar; removing the tissue/agar block from the tube; infiltrating and/or embedding the block in paraffin; and/or cutting up to 50 serial permanent sections. Again, whole tissue samples may be substituted.

E. Immunodetection Kits

[0243] In still further embodiments of the disclosure but not part of the invention, the present disclosure concerns immunodetection kits for use with the immunodetection methods described above. As the antibodies may be used to detect SARS-CoV-2 or SARS-CoV-2 antigens, the antibodies may be included in the kit. The immunodetection kits will thus comprise, in suitable container means, a first antibody that binds to SARS-CoV-2 or SARS-CoV-2 antigen, and optionally an immunodetection reagent.

[0244] In certain embodiments of the disclosure but not part of the invention, the SARS-CoV-2 antibody may be pre-bound to a solid support, such as a column matrix and/or well of a microtiter plate. The immunodetection reagents of the kit may take any one of a variety of forms, including those detectable labels that are associated with or linked to the given antibody. Detectable labels that are associated with or attached to a secondary binding ligand are also contemplated. Exemplary secondary ligands are those secondary antibodies that have binding affinity for the first antibody.

[0245] Further suitable immunodetection reagents for use in the present kits include the two-component reagent that comprises a secondary antibody that has binding affinity for the first antibody, along with a third antibody that has binding affinity for the second antibody, the third antibody being linked to a detectable label. As noted above, a number of exemplary labels are known in the art and all such labels may be employed in connection with the present disclosure.

[0246] The kits may further comprise a suitably aliquoted composition of the SARS-CoV-2 or SARS-CoV-2 antigens, whether labeled or unlabeled, as may be used to prepare a standard curve for a detection assay. The kits may contain antibody-label conjugates either in fully conjugated form, in the form of intermediates, or as separate moieties to be conjugated by the user of the kit. The components of the kits may be packaged either in aqueous media or in lyophilized form.

[0247] The container means of the kits will generally include at least one vial, test tube, flask, bottle, syringe or other container means, into which the antibody may be placed, or preferably, suitably aliquoted. The kits of the present disclosure will also typically include a means for containing the antibody, antigen, and any other reagent containers in close confinement for commercial sale. Such containers may include injection or blow-molded plastic containers into which the desired vials are retained.

F. Vaccine and Antigen Quality Control Assays

[0248] The present disclosure also contemplates the use of antibodies and antibody fragments as described herein for use in assessing the antigenic integrity of a viral antigen in a sample. Biological medicinal products like vaccines differ from chemical drugs in that they cannot normally be characterized molecularly; antibodies are large molecules of significant complexity and have the capacity to vary widely from preparation to preparation. They are also administered to healthy individuals, including children at the start of their lives, and thus a strong emphasis must be placed on their quality to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that they are efficacious in preventing or treating life-threatening diseases, without themselves causing harm.

[0249] The increasing globalization in the production and distribution of vaccines has opened new possibilities to better manage public health concerns but has also raised questions about the equivalence and interchangeability of vaccines procured across a variety of sources. International standardization of starting materials, of production and quality control testing, and the setting of high expectations for regulatory oversight on the way these products are manufactured and used, have thus been the cornerstones for continued success. But it remains a field in constant change, and continuous technical advances in the field offer a promise of developing potent new weapons against the oldest public health threats, as well as new ones - malaria, pandemic influenza, and HIV, to name a few - but also put a great pressure on manufacturers, regulatory authorities, and the wider medical community to ensure that products continue to meet the highest standards of quality attainable.

[0250] Thus, one may obtain an antigen or vaccine from any source or at any point during a manufacturing process. The quality control processes may therefore begin with preparing a sample for an immunoassay that identifies binding of an antibody or fragment disclosed herein to a viral antigen. Such immunoassays are disclosed elsewhere in this document, and any of these may be used to assess the structural/antigenic integrity of the antigen. Standards for finding the sample to contain acceptable amounts of antigenically correct and intact antigen may be established by regulatory agencies.

[0251] Another important embodiment of the disclosure but not part of the invention where antigen integrity is assessed is in determining shelf-life and storage stability. Most medicines, including vaccines, can deteriorate over time. Therefore, it is critical to determine whether, over time, the degree to which an antigen, such as in a vaccine, degrades or destabilizes such that it is no longer antigenic and/or capable of generating an immune response when administered to a subject. Again, standards for finding the sample to contain acceptable amounts of antigenically intact antigen may be established by regulatory agencies.

[0252] In certain embodiments of the disclosure but not part of the invention, viral antigens may contain more than one protective epitope. In these cases, it may prove useful to employ assays that look at the binding of more than one antibody, such as 2, 3, 4, 5 or even more antibodies. These antibodies bind to closely related epitopes, such that they are adjacent or even overlap each other. On the other hand, they may represent distinct epitopes from disparate parts of the antigen. By examining the integrity of multiple epitopes, a more complete picture of the antigen's overall integrity, and hence ability to generate a protective immune response, may be determined.

[0253] Antibodies and fragments thereof as described in the present disclosure may also be used in a kit for monitoring the efficacy of vaccination procedures by detecting the presence of protective SARS-CoV-2 antibodies. Antibodies, antibody fragment, or variants and derivatives thereof, as described in the present disclosure may also be used in a kit for monitoring vaccine manufacture with the desired immunogenicity.

G. Examples

[0254] The following examples are included to demonstrate preferred embodiments. It should be appreciated by those of skill in the art that the techniques disclosed in the examples that follow represent techniques discovered by the inventor to function well in the practice of embodiments, and thus can be considered to constitute preferred modes for its practice. However, those of skill in the art should, in light of the present disclosure, appreciate that many changes can be made in the specific embodiments which are disclosed and still obtain a like or similar result.

Example 1 - Antibody Synergy

[0255] Synergy is defined herein as higher neutralizing activity mediated by a cocktail of two mAbs when compared to that mediated by individual mAbs at the same total concentration (*in vitro*) or dose (*in vivo*) of antibodies. To assess if two mAbs synergize in a cocktail to neutralize SARS-CoV-2, the inventor used a previously reported approach to quantitate synergy (Iarseski A, He L, Altokkalla T, Tang J. *Bioinformatics*. 33, 2413-2415, 2017). To evaluate the significance of the beneficial effect from combining mAbs, the observed combination responses (dose-response matrix) were compared with the expected responses calculated by means of synergy scoring models (Iarseski A, He L, Altokkalla T, Tang J. *Bioinformatics*. 33, 2413-2415, 2017). Virus neutralization was measured in a conventional focus reduction neutralization test (FRNT) assay using wild-type SARS-CoV-2 and Vero-E2 cell culture monolayers. Individual mAbs COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 were mixed at different concentrations to assess neutralizing activity of different mAb ratios in the cocktail. Specifically, each of seven-fold dilutions of mAb COV2-2130 (starting from 500 ng/mL) were mixed with each of nine dilutions of mAb COV2-2196 (starting from 500 ng/mL) in total volume 50 μ L of per each condition and then incubated with 50 μ L of live SARS-CoV-2 in cell culture medium (RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 2% FBS) before applying to confluent Vero-E2 cells grown in 96-well plates. The control values included those for dose-response of the neutralizing activity measured separately for individual mAbs COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 that were assessed at the same doses as in the cocktail (see FIGS. 1-3). Each measurement was performed in duplicate. The inventor next calculated percent virus neutralization for each condition and then calculated the synergy score value, which defined interaction between these two mAbs in the cocktail as synergistic (synergy score = 17.4). Note, a synergy score of less than -10 indicates antagonism, a score from -10 to 10 indicates an additive effect, and a score greater than 10 indicates a synergistic effect. The example in FIGS. 1-3 shows the dose-response matrix and demonstrates that a combined mAb dose of 78 ng/mL in the cocktail (16 ng/mL of COV2-2196 and 63 ng/mL of COV2-2130) had the same activity as 250 ng/mL of each individual mAb. This finding shows that in the cocktail the dose can be reduced by more than 3 times to achieve the same potency in virus neutralization.

[0256] To assess therapeutic efficacy of treatment, the inventors first tested mAb COV2-2196 or COV2-2130 or their 1:1 combination using MA-SARS-CoV-2 challenge model. All treatments reduced infectious virus in the lung as measured by plaque titer of lung tissue at 2 days after virus inoculation. The cocktail treatment delivered at a dose of 400 μ g/mouse (~20 mg/kg) was the most efficient, as it significantly reduced lung burden up to 3×10^5 f.u.t; 4 of 5 animals from this treatment group no longer had infectious virus in the lung (FIG. 4A). Similarly, treatment of mice with lungs transduced with a recombinant adenovirus to express the SARS-CoV-2 receptor human ACE2 (AdV-hACE2) with 400 μ g/mouse of the mAb cocktail 12 hrs after authentic SARS-CoV-2 virus challenge revealed full neutralization of infectious virus in the lungs *in vivo* (FIG. 4B). The expression of INF- γ , IL-6, CXCL10 and CCL2 cytokine and chemokine genes, which are indicators of inflammation, also were reduced in the lungs of mAb cocktail-treated mice when compared to the lungs of isotype control-treated mice (FIG. 4C). Together these results suggested a post-exposure treatment efficacy mediated by the cocktail of COV2-2196 + COV2-2130 in mouse SARS-CoV-2 challenge models.

Example 2 - Nonhuman primate challenge studies

[0257] MAb production and purification. Sequences of mAbs that had been synthesized (Twist Bioscience) and cloned into an IgG1 monoclonal expression vector (designated as pTwist-mChs_G1) were used for mammalian cell culture mAb secretion. This vector contains an enhanced 2A sequence and GSG linker that allows simultaneous expression of mAb heavy and light chain genes from a single construct upon transfection¹. The inventors previously described microscale expression of mAbs in 1 mL ExpICHO cultures in 96-well plates². For larger scale mAb expression, the inventors performed transfection (1 to 300 mL per antibody) of CHO cell cultures using the GibcoTM ExpressCHOTM Expression System and protocol for 50 mL mini bioreactor tubes (Corning) as described by the vendor. Culture supernatants were purified using HiTrap MabSelect SuRe (Cytiva, formerly GE Healthcare Life Sciences) on a 24-column parallel protein chromatography system (Protein BioSolutions). Purified mAbs were buffer-exchanged into PBS, concentrated using Amicon[®] Ultra-4 50kDa Centrifugal Filter Units (Millipore Sigma) and stored at 4°C until use. Purified mAbs were tested routinely for endotoxin levels that found to be <1 EU/mg IgG for NHP studies. Endotoxin testing was performed using the PT5201F centrifuge (Charles River), with sensitivity range from 10 to 0.1 EU/mL, and an Endosafe Neogen-MCS instrument (Charles River).

[0258] The inventors tested the protective efficacy of mAbs using a recently described SARS-CoV-2 non-human primate (NHP) challenge model³⁴. For this model, the inventors tested as monotherapy COV2-2196 a neutralizing mAb encoded by the same variable gene segments as COV2-2196 but using a number of notable amino acid differences in the HCDR3 and LCDR3. Animals received one 50 mg/kg dose of mAb COV2-2196 or isotype control mAb intravenously on day -3 and then were challenged intranasally and intratracheally on day 0 with a dose of 1.1×10^4 PFU SARS-CoV-2. Following challenge, the inventors assessed viral RNA by RT-qPCR in bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) and nasal swabs. High levels of subgenomic viral RNA were observed in the isotype control mAb-treated NHPs, with a median peak of 7.53 (range 5.37 to 8.23) log₁₀ RNA copies/swab in nasal swab and a median peak of 4.97 (range 3.81 to 5.24) log₁₀ RNA copies/mL in BAL. Subgenomic viral RNA was not detected in samples from the mAb treatment group (LOD = 50 [1.7 log₁₀ RNA copies/swab or per mL) showing protection. A pharmacokinetics analysis revealed stable concentrations of circulating human mAbs in NHPs.

[0259] NHP challenge study. The NHP research studies adhered to principles stated in the eighth edition of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The facility where this research was conducted (Bioxcell Inc., Rockville, MD) is fully accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC) and has an approved Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare. NHP studies were conducted in compliance with all relevant local, state, and federal regulations and were approved

by the relevant Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

[0260] Eight healthy adult rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) of Indian origin (5 to 15 kg body weight) were studied. Animals were allocated randomly to the anti-SARS-CoV-2 mAb treatment group ($n = 4$ per group) and one control (isotype-treated) group ($n = 4$ per group). Animals received one 50 mg/kg dose of mAb COV2-2196 or isotype control mAb intravenously on day -3 and then were challenged in three days with 1.1×10^6 PFU SARS-CoV-2, administered as 1 mL by the In route and 1 mL by the intratracheal route. Following challenge, viral RNA was assessed by RT-qPCR in bronchoalveolar lavage and nasal swabs at multiple time points as described⁵⁶. All animals were given physical examinations. In addition, all animals were monitored daily with an internal scoring protocol approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. These studies were not blinded.

[0261] Detection of circulating human mAbs in NHP serum. ELISA plates were coated overnight at 4°C with 1 µg/mL of goat anti-human IgG (H+L) secondary antibody (monkey pre-adsorbed) (Novus Biological) and then blocked for 2 hrs. The serum samples were assayed at 3-fold dilutions starting at a 1:3 dilution in Blocker Casein in PBS (ThermoFisher) diluent. Samples were incubated for 1 hr at ambient temperature and then removed, and plates were washed. Wells then were incubated for 1 hr with HRP-conjugated goat anti-human IgG (monkey pre-adsorbed) (Southern Biotech) at $\leq 1:4,000$ dilution. Wells were washed and then incubated with SureBlue Reserve TMB Microwell Peroxidase Substrate (Seracore) (100 µL/well) for 3 min followed by TMB Stop Solution (Seracore) to stop the reaction (100 µL/well). Microplates were read at 450 nm. The concentrations of the human mAbs were interpolated from the linear range of purified human IgG (Sigma) standard curves using Prism software, version 5.0 (GraphPad).

Example 3 - Materials and Methods for Example 4

[0262] Expression and purification of recombinant receptor binding domain (RBD) of SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. The DNA segments corresponding to the S protein RBD (residues 319 - 528) was sequence optimized for expression, synthesized, and cloned into the pTwist-CMV expression DNA plasmid downstream of the IL-2 signal peptide (MYRMQLLSIALSLALVTNS) (Twist Bioscience). A three amino acid linker (GSG) and a His-tag were incorporated at the C-terminus of the expression constructs to facilitate protein purification. Expi293F cells were transfected transiently with the plasmid encoding RBD, and culture supernatants were harvested after 5 days. RBD was purified from the supernatants by nickel affinity chromatography with HisTrap Excel columns (GE Healthcare Life Sciences). For protein production used in crystallization trials, 5 µM dithiothreitol was included in the culture medium to produce RBD with high mannose glycans. The high mannose glycoproteins subsequently were treated with endoglycosidase F1 (Millipore) to obtain homogeneously deglycosylated RBD.

[0263] Expression and purification of recombinant COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 Fabs. The DNA fragments corresponding to the COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 heavy chain variable domains with human IgG1 C_H1 domain and light chain variable domains with human kappa chain constant domain were synthesized and cloned into the pTwist vector (Twist Bioscience). This vector includes the heavy chain of each Fab, followed by a GGGGS linker, a furin cleavage site, a T2A ribosomal cleavage site, and the light chain of each Fab. Expression of the heavy and light chain are driven by the same CMV promoter. COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 Fabs were expressed in Expi293F cells by transient transfection with the expression plasmid. The recombinant Fab was purified from culture supernatant using an anti-CH1 CaptureSelect column (Thermo Fisher Scientific). For the RBD/COV2-2196 complex, the wt sequence of COV2-2196 was used for expression. For the RBD/COV2-2196/COV2-2130 complex, a modified version of COV2-2196 Fab was used in which the first two amino acids of the variable region were mutated from QM to EV.

[0264] Crystallization and structural determination of antibody-antigen complexes. Purified COV2-2196 Fab was mixed with deglycosylated RBD in a molar ratio of 1:1.5, and the mixture was purified further by size-exclusion chromatography with a Superdex-200 Increase column (GE Healthcare Life Sciences) to obtain the antibody-antigen complex. To obtain RBD/COV2-2196/COV2-2130 triple complex, purified and deglycosylated RBD was mixed with both COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 Fabs in a molar ratio of 1:1.5:1.5, and the triple complex was purified with a Superdex-200 Increase column. The complexes were concentrated to about 10 mg/mL and subjected to crystallization trials. The RBD/COV2-2196 complex was crystallized in 16% - 18% PEG 3350, 0.2 Tris-HCl pH 8.0 - 8.5, and the RBD/COV2-2196/COV2-2130 complex was crystallized in 5% (w/v) PEG 1000, 100 mM sodium phosphate dibasic/tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane pH 4.2, 40% (v/v) reagent alcohol. Cryo-protection solution was made by mixing crystallization solution with 100% glycerol in a volume ratio of 20:7 for crystals of both complexes. Protein crystals were flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen after a quick soaking in the cryo-protection solution. Diffraction data were collected at the beamline 21-ID-F for RBD/COV2-2196 complex and 21-ID-G for RBD/COV2-2196/COV2-2130 complex at the Advanced Photon Source. The diffraction data were processed with XD5⁵⁸ and CCP4 suite⁵⁹. The crystal structures were solved by molecular replacement using the structure of RBD in complex with Fab CC12.1 (PDB ID 6XC2) and Fab structure of MR75 (PDB ID 5JRP) with the program Phaser⁶⁰. The structures were refined and rebuilt manually with Phenix⁶¹ or Coot⁶², respectively. The models have been deposited into the Protein Data Bank. FyMOL software⁶³ was used to make all of the structural figures.

[0265] Hydrogen deuterium mass spectrometry (HDX-MS) experiments. HDX-MS experiments were conducted using an automated sample handling robot (LEAP technologies, Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA) coupled to an M-Class Acuity LC system and HDX manager (Waters Ltd., Wilmislow, UK). 7.6 µL of 4.3 µM SARS-CoV-2 S2P spike trimer either alone, or with a 1:1.12 molar ratio of AZD1061 or AZD8895 was added to 52.4 µL label buffer (50 mM potassium phosphate pH 6.2) and incubated for 1 min at 20°C. After incubation, 50 µL of this sample was added to 50 µL quench solution (50 mM potassium phosphate, 200 mM TCEP, 2 M Gdn-HCl, pH 2.3) at 1°C. 50 µL of quenched sample was passed through an immobilized BEH pepsin column (Waters Ltd., Wilmislow, UK) at 20°C at 100 µL min⁻¹ (~4,000 psi) for 4 min before the resulting peptides were trapped using a Vanguard pre-column Acuity UPLC BEH C18 trap column (1.7 µm, 2.1 mm × 5 mm, Waters Ltd., Wilmislow, UK). After valve switching, peptides were separated at 1°C by gradient elution of 0 to 35% MeCN (0.2% v/v formic acid) in H₂O (0.2% v/v formic acid) over 6 minutes at 40 µL min⁻¹ using an Acuity UPLC BEH C18 analytical column (1.7 µm, 1 mm × 100 mm). Peptides were analysed using an Orbitrap Fusion mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher, Bremen, Germany) operating in either orbitrap detection mode at a resolution of 120K (deuterated samples) or orbitrap-lontrap DDA mode (i=0 samples). Peptide MS/MS data used to identify peptides was analysed using BioPharma Finder v.0 (Thermo Fisher, Bremen, Germany) and deuterium uptake was quantified using HDExaminer v2.0 (Sierra Analytics). Peptide plot results and uptake summary table csv exports from HDExaminer were reformatted using an in-house R script in order to generate uptake plot figures and structural heat maps using PAVED (University of Leeds)⁶⁴.

[0266] ELISA binding of COV2-2196 mutants. Wells of 384-well microtiter plates were coated with purified recombinant SARS-CoV-2 S 6P protein at 4°C overnight. Plates were blocked with 2% non-fat dry milk and 2% normal goat serum in DPBS containing 0.05% Tween-20 (DPBS-T) for 1 h. Antibodies were diluted to 10 µg/mL and titrated two-fold 23 times in DPBS-T and added to the wells, followed by an incubation for 1 h at room temperature. The bound antibodies were detected using goat anti-human IgG conjugated with horseradish peroxidase (Southern Biotech) and TMB substrate (Thermo Fischer Scientific). Reactions were quenched with 1 N hydrochloric acid and absorbance was measured at 450 nm using a spectrophotometer (Biotek).

[0267] Mapping of all mutations that escape antibody binding. All mutations that escape antibody binding were mapped via a DMS approach⁴¹. The inventors used previously described yeast-display RBD mutant libraries^{41,42}. Briefly, duplicate mutant libraries were constructed in the spike receptor binding domain (RBD) from SARS-CoV-2 (isolate Wuhan-Hu-1, Genbank accession number MN059474, residues N331-T331) and contain 3,804 of the 3,819 possible amino acid mutations, with >95% present as single mutants. Each RBD variant was linked to a unique 16-nucleotide barcode sequence to facilitate downstream sequencing. As previously described, libraries were sorted for RBD expression and ACE2 binding to eliminate RBD variants that are completely misfolded or non-functional (*i.e.*, lacking modest ACE2 binding affinity)⁴³.

[0268] Antibody escape mapping experiments were performed in biological duplicate using two independent mutant RBD libraries, as previously described⁴¹, with minor modifications. Briefly, mutant yeast libraries induced to express RBD were washed and incubated with antibody at 400 ng/mL for 1 h at room temperature with gentle agitation. After the antibody incubations, the libraries were secondarily labeled with 1:100 FITC-conjugated anti-MYC antibody (Immunology Consultants Lab, CPMC-45F) to label for RBD expression and 1:200 PE-conjugated goat anti-human IgG (Jackson ImmunoResearch 109-115-095) to label for bound antibody. Flow cytometric sorting was used to enrich for cells expressing RBD variants with reduced antibody binding via a selection gate drawn to capture unmutated SARS-CoV-2 cells labeled at 1% the antibody concentration of the library samples. For each sample, approximately 10 million RBD⁺ cells were processed on the cytometer. Antibody-escaped cells were grown overnight in SD-CAY (6.7 g/L Yeast Nitrogen Base, 5.0 g/L Casamino acids, 1.065 g/L MES acid, and 2% w/v dextrose) to expand cells prior to plasmid extraction.

[0269] Plasmid samples were prepared from pre-selection and overnight cultures of antibody-escaped cells (ZymoPrep Yeast Plasmid Miniprep II) as previously described⁴¹. The 16-nucleotide barcode sequences identifying each RBD variant were amplified by PCR and sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq 2500 with 50 bp single-end reads as described^{41,42}.

[0270] Escape fractions were computed as described⁴¹, with minor modifications as noted below. The inventors used the dms_variants package ([jblombab.github.io/dms_variants/](https://github.com/jblombab/dms_variants/), version 0.5.2) to process Illumina sequences into counts of each barcoded RBD variant in each pre-sort and antibody-escape population using the barcode/RBD look-up table previously described⁴⁵.

[0271] For each antibody selection, the inventors computed the "escape fraction" for each barcoded variant using the deep sequencing counts for each variant in the original and antibody-escape populations and the total fraction of the library that escaped antibody binding via a previously described formula⁴¹. These escape fractions represent the estimated fraction of cells expressing that specific variant that fall in the antibody escape bin, such that a value of 0 means the variant is always bound by serum and a value of 1 means that it always escapes antibody binding. The inventors then applied a computational filter to remove variants with low sequencing counts or highly deleterious mutations that might cause antibody escape simply by leading to poor expression of properly folded RBD on the yeast cell surface^{41,42}. Specifically, they removed variants that had (or contained mutations with) ACE2 binding scores < -2.35 or expression scores < -1, using residue- and mutation-level deep mutational scanning scores as previously described⁴². Note that these filtering criteria are slightly more stringent than those previously used to map a panel of human antibodies⁴¹ but are identical to those used in recent studies defining RBD residues that impact the binding of mAbs⁴⁶ and polyclonal serum⁴⁴.

[0272] The inventors next deconvolved variant-level escape scores into escape fraction estimates for single mutations using global epitasis models⁴⁶ implemented in the dms_variants package, as detailed at ([jblombab.github.io/dms_variants/dms_variants_globalEpitasis.html](https://github.com/jblombab/dms_variants/dms_variants_globalEpitasis.html)) and described⁴¹. The reported escape fractions throughout the paper are the average across the libraries (correlations shown in FIGS. 15A-B); these scores are also in Table B. Sites of strong escape from each antibody for highlighting in log plots were determined heuristically as sites whose summed mutational escape scores were at least 10 times the median site-wide sum of selection, and within 10-fold of the site-wide sum of the most strongly selected site. Full documentation of the computational analysis is at github.com/jblombab/SARS-CoV-2-RBD_MAP_AZ_Abs. These results are also available in an interactive form at https://jblombab.github.io/SARS-CoV-2-RBD_MAP_AZ_Abs/.

[0273] Antibody escape selection experiments with VSV-SARS-CoV-2. For escape selection experiments with COV2-2196 and COV2-2130, the inventors used a replication competent recombinant VSV virus encoding the spike protein from SARS-CoV-2 with a 21 amino-acid C-terminal deletion⁴⁷. The spike-expressing VSV virus was propagated in MA104 cells (African green monkey, ATCC CRL-2375.1) as described previously⁴⁷, and viral stocks were titrated on Vero E6 cell monolayer cultures. Plaques were visualized using neutral red staining. To screen for escape mutations selected in the presence of COV2-2196, COV2-2130, or a cocktail composed of a 1:1 mixture of COV2-2196 and COV2-2130, the inventors used a real-time cell analysis assay (RTCA) and xCELLigence RTCA MP Analyzer (ACEA Biosciences Inc.) and a previously described escape selection scheme⁴¹. Briefly, 50 µL of cell culture medium (DMEM supplemented with 2% FBS) was added to each well of a 96-well E-plate to obtain a background reading. Eighteen thousand (18,000) Vero E6 cells (ACEA Biosciences Inc.) and a previously described escape selection scheme⁴¹. Briefly, 50 µL of cell culture medium (DMEM supplemented with 2% FBS) was added to each well of a 96-well E-plate to obtain a background reading. Eighteen thousand (18,000) Vero E6 cells (ACEA Biosciences Inc.) were seeded per well, and plates were placed on the analyzer. Measurements were taken automatically every 15 min and the sensorgrams were visualized using RTCA software version 2.1.0 (ACEA Biosciences Inc.). VSV-SARS-CoV-2 virus (653 plaque forming units (PFU) per well, ~0.3 MOI) was mixed with a saturating neutralizing concentration of COV2-2196, COV2-2130, or a 1:1 mixture of COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 antibody (5 µg/mL total concentration of antibodies) in a total volume of 100 µL and incubated for 1 h at 37°C. At 16-20 h after seeding the cells, the virus-antibody mixtures were added to cell monolayers. Wells containing only virus in the absence of antibody and wells containing only Vero E6 cells in medium were included on each plate as controls. Plates were measured continuously (every 15 min) for 72 h. Escape mutations were identified by monitoring the cell index for a drop in cellular viability. To verify escape from antibody selection, wells where cytopathic effect was observed in the presence of COV2-2130 were assessed in a subsequent RTCA experiment in the presence of 10 µg/mL of COV2-2130 or COV2-2196. After confirmation of resistance of selected viruses to neutralization by COV2-2130, viral isolates were expanded on Vero E6 cells in the presence of 10 µg/mL of COV2-2130. Viral RNA was isolated using a QIAmp Viral RNA extraction kit (QIAGEN) according to manufacturer protocol, and the SARS-CoV-2 spike gene was reverse-transcribed and amplified with a SuperScript IV One-Step RT-PCR kit (ThermoFisher Scientific) using primers flanking the S gene. The amplified PCR product was purified using SPRI magnetic beads (Beckman Coulter) at a 1:1 ratio and sequenced by the Sanger method, using primers giving forward and reverse reads of the RBD.

[0274] Serial passaging and testing of SARS-CoV-2 to select for mAb resistant mutations. SARS-CoV-2 strain USA-WA1/2020 was passaged serially in Vero cell monolayer cultures with AZD8895, AZD1061 or AZD7442, at concentrations beginning at their respective IC₅₀ values and increased stepwise to their IC₅₀ value with each passage. As a control, virus was passaged in the absence of antibody. Following the final passage, viruses were evaluated for susceptibility against the reciprocal antibody at a final concentration of 10 times the IC₅₀ concentration by plaque assay. Plaques ($n=6$) were selected randomly for AZD1061 cultures, and their virus spike-encoding gene was sequenced.

[0275] Isolation or generation of authentic SARS-CoV-2 viruses, including viruses with variant residues. The UK B.1.1.7-OXF isolate was obtained from a nasopharyngeal swab from an infected individual in Kent, England. The clinical studies to obtain specimens after written informed consent were approved by John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, UK. The sample was diluted in DMEM with 2% FBS and passed through a 0.45 µm filter before adding to monolayers of Vero-hACE2-TMPRSS2 cells (a gift of A. Creanga and B. Graham). Two days later, supernatant was harvested to establish a passage zero (p0) stock. The 2019n-CoV/USA_WA1/2019 isolates of SARS-CoV-2 was obtained from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and passaged on Vero E6 cells. Individual point mutations in the spike gene (D614G and E484K/D614G) were introduced into an infectious cDNA clone of the 2019n-CoV/USA_WA1/2019 strain as described previously⁴⁷. Nucleotide substitutions were introduced into a subclone puc57-CoV-2-P6 containing the spike gene of the SARS-CoV-2 wild-type infectious clone⁴⁸. The full-length infectious cDNA clones of the variant SARS-CoV-2 viruses were assembled by *in vitro* ligation of seven contiguous cDNA fragments following the previously described protocol⁴⁹. *In vitro* transcription then was performed to synthesize full-length genomic RNA. To recover the mutant viruses, the RNA transcripts were electroporated into Vero E6 cells. The viruses from the supernatant of cells were collected 40 h later and served as p0 stocks. All virus stocks were confirmed by sequencing.

[0276] Focus reduction neutralization test. Serial dilutions of mAbs or serum were incubated with 10⁵ focus-forming units (FFU) of different strains or variants of SARS-CoV-2 for 1 h at 37°C. Antibody-virus complexes were added to Vero-hACE2-TMPRSS2 cell monolayer cultures in 96-well plates and incubated at 37°C for 1 h. Subsequently, cells were overlaid with 1% (w/v) methylcellulose in MEM supplemented with 2% FBS. Plates were harvested 20 h later by removing overlays and fixed with 4% PFA in PBS for 20 min at room temperature. Plates were washed and sequentially incubated with an octagonal pool of anti-S mAbs and HRP-conjugated goat anti-human IgG in PBS supplemented with 0.1% saponin and 0.1% bovine serum albumin. SARS-CoV-2-infected cell foci were visualized using TrueBlue peroxidase substrate (NPL) and quantitated on an ImmunoSpot microanalyzer (Cellular Technologies).

[0277] Multiple sequence alignments. The inventors searched for antibody variable gene sequences originating with the same features as those encoding COV2-2196 and retrieved the matching sequences from the repertoires of each individual examined. They searched for similar sequences in the publicly available large-scale antibody sequence repositories for three healthy individuals and cord blood repertoires (deposited at SRP174305). The search parameters for the heavy chain were sequences with IGHV1-58 and IGHJ3 with the P59, D108, and F110 residues. Additionally, the search parameters for the light chain were sequences with Y92 and V98 residues. Sequences from a matching clonotype that belonged to each individual were aligned with either ClustalO (heavy chains) or with MUSCLE (light chains). Then, LOGOS plots of aligned sequences were generated using WebLogo.

[0278] Data and materials availability. The crystal structures reported in this paper have been deposited to the Protein Data Bank under the accession numbers 7L7D, 7L7E. Sequence Read Archive deposition for the aligned human antibody gene repertoire data set is deposited at the NCBI. PRJNA511481. All other data are available in the main text or the supplementary materials.

[0279] Software availability. The computational pipeline for the deep mutational scanning analysis of antibody escape mutations is available on GitHub: github.com/jblombab/SARS-CoV-2-RBD_MAP_AZ_Abs. The FASTQ files are available on the NCBI Sequence Read Archive under BioSample SAMN17532001 as part of BioProject PRJNA639556. Per-mutation escape fractions are available on GitHub: github.com/jblombab/SARS-CoV-2-RBD_MAP_AZ_Abs/blob/main/results/supp_data/AZ_cocktail_raw_data.csv and in Table B.

Example 4 - Result and Discussion

[0280] An antibody based on COV2-2196 is being investigated for prophylaxis or therapy in combination with an antibody based on the non-competing RBD-specific antibody COV2-2130. To understand the molecular details of the recognition of RBD by COV2-2196 and COV2-2130, and possible structural mechanisms underlying the synergy shown in the prophylactic protection of the two noncompeting mAbs in animal models⁴, the inventors determined the crystal structures of the S protein RBD in complex with COV2-2196 at 2.50 Å (FIGS.

SA-E, Table B) and in complex with both COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 at 3.00 Å (FIGS. 9A-F, Table B). The substructure of RED-COV2-2196 in the RED-COV2-2196-2130 complex is superimposable with the structure of the RED-COV2-2196 complex (FIG. 12). The buried surface area of the interface between COV2-2196 and the RED is about 650 Å² in both crystal structures, and that of the interface between COV2-2130 and RED is about 740 Å². COV2-2196 binds to the receptor-binding ridge of RED, and COV2-2130 binds to one site of the RED edge around residue K444 and the saddle region of the receptor binding motif (RBM), overlapping the ACE2 binding site (FIGS. 9A-B, FIGS. 9A-B). These features explain the competition between the antibodies and ACE2 for RED binding from our previous study, e.g., both COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 neutralize the virus by blocking RED access to the human receptor ACE2. Aromatic residues from the COV2-2196 heavy and light chains form a hydrophobic pocket that surrounds RED residue F486 and adjacent residues (G485, N487) (FIG. 5A, 5D and 5E; FIGS. 13A-C). This mode of Ab-Ag interaction is unusual in that the formation of the antibody pocket is caused by wide spatial separation of the HCDR3 and LCDR3. In addition, although the antigenic site recognized by COV2-2196 is not buried at the interface between proteins of S trimer *per se*, COV2-2196 is not able to bind RED in the "down" conformation due to steric clashes with RED in an adjacent S protomer. Therefore, COV2-2196 only binds to RED in the "up" conformation (FIG. 8C). Overlays of the substructure of RED in complex with COV2-2130 (FIG. 9C) and the structure of RED in complex with both COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 (FIG. 9D) indicate that COV2-2130 is able to bind RED in both "up" and "down" conformations of the S trimer. These structural findings are consistent with our previous lower resolution results for the complex using negative stain electron microscopy¹.

[0291] Structural analysis of COV2-2196 in complex with RED reveals how COV2-2196 recognizes the receptor-binding ridge on the RED. One of the major contact residues, F486, sits at the center of the binding site, interacting extensively with the hydrophobic pocket (residue P99 of heavy chain and an "aromatic cage" formed by 5 aromatic side chains) between COV2-2196 heavy/light chains via a hydrophobic effect and van der Waals interactions (FIGS. 5D-E, FIGS. 13A-E). A hydrogen bond (H-bond) network, constructed with 4 direct Ab-Ag H-bonds and 16 water-mediated H-bonds, surround residue F486 and strengthen the Ab-Ag interaction (FIG. 13C). Importantly, for all residues except one (residue P99 of the heavy chain) that interact extensively with the epitope, they are encoded by germline sequences (IGHV1-58*01 and IGHA3*02 for the heavy chain, IGKY3-20*01 and IGKV1*01 for the light chain) (FIG. 10A) or only their backbone atoms are involved in the Ab-Ag interactions, such as heavy chain N107 and G99 and light chain S94. The inventors noted another antibody in the literature, S2E12, that is encoded by the same IGHV1GHJ and IGKV1GKG recombinations, with similar but most likely different IGHG genes to those of COV2-2196 (IGHD2-15 vs IGHG2-2)³⁸. A comparison of the cryo-EM structure of S2E12 in complex with S protein (PDB 7K4N) suggests that the mAb S2E12 likely uses nearly identical Ab-Ag interactions as those of COV2-2196, although variations in conformations of interface residue side-chains can be seen (FIG. 13D). For example, for light chain residue Y92, the phenyl ring in the crystal structure is perpendicular to that ring in the EM structure as fitted.

[0292] The inventors searched genetic databases to determine if these structural features are present in additional SARS-CoV-2 mAbs isolated by others and found additional members of the clonotype (FIG. 10A). Two other studies reported the same or a similar clonotype of antibodies isolated from multiple COVID-19 convalescent patients^{38,39}, and one study found three antibodies with the same IGHV1-58 and IGKV3-20 pairing, without providing information on D or J gene usage³⁹. All of these antibodies are reported to bind SARS-CoV-2 RED avidly and to neutralize virus with high potency^{14,38,39}. So far, there are only two atomic resolution structures of antibodies encoded by these V_HD_H3J_H1 and V_KJ_K1 recombinations available, the structure for COV2-2196 presented here and that for S2E12³⁹. The inventors performed homology modeling for two additional antibodies of this clonotype from our own panel of anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, designated COV2-2072 and COV2-2351. As expected, given that these antibodies are members of a shared genetic clonotype, the modeled structures of COV2-2072/RED and COV2-2351/RED complexes are visually superimposable with those of COV2-2196/RED and S2E12/RED at the Ab-Ag interfaces (FIGS. 14A-E). Additionally, COV2-2072 encodes an N-linked glycosylation sequon in the HCDR3 (FIG. 14D), an unusual feature for antibodies, given that glycosylation of CDRs might adversely affect antigen recognition. However, the COV2-2196 structure shows that the disulfide-stapled HCDR3 in this clonotype is angled away from the binding site, explaining how this unusual HCDR3 glycosylation in COV2-2072 can be tolerated without compromising binding (FIG. 14E).

[0293] The inventors next determined whether they could identify potential precursors of this public clonotype in the antibody variable gene repertoires of circulating B cells from SARS-CoV-2-naïve individuals. The inventors searched for the V(D)J and VJ genes in previously described comprehensive repertoire datasets originating from 3 healthy human donors, without a history of SARS-CoV-2 infection, and in datasets from cord blood collected prior to the COVID-19 pandemic⁴⁰. A total of 386, 193, 47, or 7 heavy chain sequences for this SARS-CoV-2 reactive public clonotype was found in each donor or cord blood repertoire, respectively (FIG. 15A). Additionally, the inventors found 516,735 human antibody sequences with the same light chain V-J recombination (IGKV3-20-IGKJ1*01). A total of 103,534, 191,039, or 222,165 light chain sequences was found for this public clonotype in each donor respectively. Due to the large number of sequences, the top five abundant sequences were aligned with each donor. Multiple sequence alignments were generated for each donor's sequences using ClustalOmega, and logo plots were generated. The top 5 sequences with the same recombination event in each donor were identical, resulting in the same logo plots (FIGS. 15A-B).

[0294] The inventors noted that 5 of the 9 common residues important for binding in the antibody were encoded by germline gene sequences, and all were present all 14 members of the public clonotype listed here from four different antibody-discovery teams (FIG. 10A). To validate the importance of these features, they expressed variant antibodies with point mutations in the paratope to determine the effect of variation at conserved residues (FIG. 10B). Altering the D105 residue to A, N, or E had little effect, but removing the disulfide bond in the HCDR3 that rigidifies that loop reduced binding. The P99 residue that orients the HCDR3 loop away from the interaction site with antigen also was important, as a P99G mutant exhibited reduced binding, and the germline revertant form of COV2-2196 with P99 bound to antigen, but P99G in the germline revertant background did not (FIG. 10B).

[0295] An antibody based on the COV2-2196 variable region is being tested in combination with an antibody based on the COV2-2130 variable region in clinical trials. The COV2-2130 HCDR3, with 22 amino acid residues, is relatively long for human antibodies, and highly mutated from the inferred germline IGHG gene. The HCDR3 forms a loop, structured loop made up of small loops, is stabilized by short-ranged hydrogen bonds and hydrophobic interactions/aromatic stackings within the HCDR3, and is further strengthened by its interactions (hydrogen bonds and aromatic stackings) with residues of the light chain (FIGS. 16A-B). The COV2-2130 heavy and light chains are encoded by the germline genes IGHV3-15 and IGKV4-1, respectively, and the two genes encode the longest germline-encoded HCDR2 (10 aa) and LCDR1 (12 aa) loops, which are used in COV2-2130. The heavy chain V(D)J recombination, HCDR3 mutations, and the packing of heavy and light chains result in a binding cleft between the heavy and light chains, matching the shape of the RED region centered at S443-Y449 loop (FIG. 9A, FIG. 16C). Closely related to these structural features, only HCDR3, LCDR1, HCDR2, and LCDR2 are involved in the formation of the paratope (FIGS. 9E-F, FIGS. 13E-F). Inspection of the Ab-Ag interface reveals a region that likely drives much of the energy of interaction. The RED residue K444 sidechain is surrounded by subloop Y104-V109 of the HCDR3 loop, and the positive charge on the side chain NZ atom is neutralized by the HCDR3 residue D17 side chain, three mainchain carbonyl oxygen atoms from Y105, D107, and V109, and the electron-rich face of the Y104 phenyl ring (cation- π interaction) (FIG. 13E). Since the interacting atoms are completely protected from solvent, the highly concentrated interactions within such a restricted space are energetically favorable. Furthermore, this "hotspot" of the Ab-Ag interface is surrounded by or protected from the solvent by Ab-Ag interactions with lesser free energy gains, including salt bridge between the RED residue R346 and HCDR2 D56, electrostatic interaction between RED R346 and the mainchain oxygen of HCDR3 Y106, a hydrogen bond between RED N450 and HCDR3 Y105 mainchain oxygen, a hydrogen bond between RED V445 mainchain oxygen and HCDR3 Y104 sidechain, a hydrophobic interaction between V445 sidechain and sidechains of HCDR3 L113 and F118 (FIG. 13E). Also, aromatic stacking between the HCDR3 residue Y105 and LCDR2 residue W56 participates in the shielding of the "hotspot" from solvent (FIG. 13E). In addition, COV2-2130 light chain LCDR1 and LCDR2 make extensive contacts with the RED. Among them, the LCDR1 S32 sidechain, S33 mainchain oxygen, N34 sidechain, and LCDR2 Y55 sidechain form hydrogen bonds with RED E484 sidechain, S494 mainchain nitrogen, Y449 mainchain oxygen, and G446 mainchain nitrogen (FIG. 13F). Residues LCDR1 K36, Y35, and LCDR2 W56 interact with the RED Y449 via aromatic stackings and cation- π interactions, forming an "interaction cluster" (FIG. 13F), although these interactions are likely not energetically as strong as the case of RED K444.

[0296] In the crystal structure of the RED in complex with both COV2-2196 and COV2-2130, the inventors noted an interaction between the closely spaced COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 Fab's (FIG. 17). It is possible that the interactions between the two Fab's in the RED-bound state could contribute to the synergistic neutralization of SARS-CoV-2 observed previously¹. However, it is not clear how much of the synergy effect could be attributed to this Fab-Fab interaction.

[0297] To better understand the RED sites critical for binding of COV2-2196 and COV2-2130, the inventors used a deep mutational scanning (DMS) approach to map all mutations to the RED that escape antibody binding⁴¹. (FIG. 18). For both antibodies, they identified several key sites, all in the antibody structural footprint, where RED mutations strongly disrupted binding (FIGS. 11A-D). The inventors leveraged our previous work quantifying the effects of RED mutations on ACE2 binding⁴² to overlay the effect on ACE2 binding for mutations that abrogated antibody binding to RED (FIGS. 11A-B). For COV2-2196, many mutations to F486 and N487 had escape fractions approaching 1 (i.e., those RED variants completely escaped antibody binding under the conditions tested), reinforcing the importance of the contributors of these two residues to antibody binding. Similarly, for COV2-2130, mutation site K444 to any of the other 19 amino acids abrogated antibody binding, indicating that the lysine at this position is critical to the Ab-Ag interaction.

[0298] Nevertheless, not all antibody contact residues were identified as sites where mutations greatly reduced binding. Several explanations are possible: 1) some binding site residues may be not critical for binding, 2) some residues may be on their backbones atoms to interact with their side chain pointing away from the binding interface, or 3) mutations to some sites may not be tolerated⁴². For instance, residues L455, F456, and Q493 are part of the structurally-defined binding site for COV2-2196 (FIG. 5D), but mutations to these sites did not impact antibody binding detectably (FIGS. 11A and 11C), suggesting that these residues do not make critical binding contributions. Superimposition of the COV2-2196/RED structure onto the S2E12/RED structure clearly demonstrates a flexible hinge region between the RED ridge and the rest of the RED that is maintained when antibody is bound (FIG. 13D). This finding indicates that mutations at these three positions could be well tolerated for Ab-Ag binding and supports the non-essential nature of these particular residues for COV2-2196 or S2E12 binding.

[0299] Importantly, COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 do not compete for binding to the RED¹, suggesting they could comprise an escape-resistant cocktail for prophylactic or therapeutic use. Indeed, the structural binding sites and escape variant maps for these two antibodies are nonoverlapping. To test whether there were single mutants that could escape binding of both antibodies, the inventors performed escape variant mapping experiments with a 1:1 mixture of the COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 antibodies, but they did not detect any mutation that had an escape fraction of greater than 0.2, whereas the mutations with the largest effects for each of the single antibodies was approximately 1 (FIG. 18D).

[0290] Although these experiments map all mutations that escape antibody binding to the RED, the inventors also sought to determine which mutations have the potential to arise during viral growth. To address this question, they first attempted to select escape mutations using a recombinant VSV expressing the SARS-CoV-2 S glycoprotein (VSV-SARS-CoV-2)⁴³. (FIG. 11E). The inventors expected that the only amino acid mutations that would be selected during viral growth were those 1) arising by single-nucleotide (SN) changes, 2) causing minimal deleterious effects on ACE2 binding and expression, and 3) substantially impacting antibody binding^{41,42}. Indeed, the inventors did not detect any COV2-2196-induced mutations that were both single-nucleotide accessible and relatively well-tolerated with respect to effects on ACE2 binding (FIG. 11B), which may explain why escape mutants were not selected in any of the 58 independent replicates of recombinant VSV growth in the presence of antibody (FIG. 11E, FIG. 15G). For COV2-2130, mutations to site K444, a site that is relatively tolerant to mutation⁴², demonstrated the most frequent escape of antibody binding in the high-throughput antibody escape selection with the VSV climeric virus. In 40% of the antibody selection experiments, two of the single-nucleotide mutations with the greatest effects on antibody binding, K444E (selected in 6 out of 20 replicates) and K444E (selected in 2 out of 20 replicates) emerged during viral growth (FIG. 11E, FIG. 15G).

[0291] To explore resistance with authentic infectious virus, SARS-CoV-2 strain USA-WA1/2020 was passaged serially in Vero cell monolayer cultures with the clinical antibodies based on COV2-2196 (AZD5895), COV2-2130 (AZD1061) or their 1:1 combination (AZD7442), at concentrations beginning at their respective IC₅₀ values and increased step-wise to their IC₅₀ value with each passage (FIG. 19). As a control, virus was passaged in the absence of antibody. Following the final passage, viruses were evaluated for susceptibility against the reciprocal antibody at a final concentration of 10 times the IC₅₀ concentration by plaque assay. The inventors did not detect any plaques resistant to neutralization by AZD5895 (based on COV2-2196) or the AZD7442 cocktail. Virus that was passaged serially in AZD1061 formed plaques to a titer of 1.2 × 10⁶ pfu/ml in the presence of 10 times the IC₅₀ value concentration of AZD1061, but plaques were not formed with AZD7442. Plaques (n=6) were selected randomly, and their virus spike-encoding gene was sequenced, revealing the same 3 amino acid changes in all 6 of the independently selected and sequenced plaques: N74K, R346I and S696G (FIG. 11F). The S696G change has been reported previously to be associated with serial passaging of SARS-CoV-2 in Vero cells⁴⁴, isolated from challenge studies in ferrets⁴⁵ or NHPs⁴⁶, and is predicted to decrease furin activity⁴⁷. The N74K residue is located in the N-terminal domain outside of the AZD1061 binding site and results in the loss of a glycan⁴⁷. The R346I residue is located in the binding site of AZD1061 and may be associated with AZD1061-resistance. The impact of the R346I changes on AZD1061 (COV2-2130) binding to S protein is shown in FIG. 11G. The K444R and K444E substitutions selected in the VSV-SARS-CoV-2 system and the R346I substitution selected by passage with authentic SARS-CoV-2 are accessible by single nucleotide substitution and preserve ACE2 binding activity (FIG. 11G), indicating that our DMS analysis predicted the mutations selected in the presence of COV2-2130 antibody. Taken together, these results comprehensively map the effects of all amino acid substitutions on the binding of COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 and identify sites of possible concern for viral evolution. That said, variants containing mutations at residues K444 and R346 are rare among all sequenced viruses present in the GISAID databases (all ≤ 0.01% when accessed on 12/23/20).

[0292] Recently, viral variants with increased transmissibility and potential antigenic mutations have been reported in clinical isolates⁴⁸⁻⁵¹. The inventors tested whether some of the variant residues in these rapidly emerging strains would abrogate the activity of these potentially neutralizing antibodies. They tested a viral isolate from a nasal sample obtained at Oxford in the United Kingdom (a E.1.1.7 virus designated UK E.1.1.7-XXF), which contains E.1.1.7 lineage defining spike gene changes including the 69-70 and 144-145 deletions in the NTD, and substitutions at N501Y, A570D, D614G, and P681H⁴⁹. The inventors also tested isogenic D614G and E484K variants in the WA-1 strain background (2019-nCoV/USA_WA1/2019, [WA-1]), all prepared as authentic SARS-CoV-2 viruses and used in focus reduction neutralization tests⁴³. The E484K mutation was of special interest, since this residue is located within 4.5 Å of each of the mAbs in the complex of Fab's and RED, albeit at the very periphery of the Fab footprints, is present in emerging lineages E.1.351 (501Y/V)⁵⁰ and P.1 (501Y/V)⁵¹, and has been demonstrated to alter the binding of some monoclonal antibodies^{52,53} as well as human polyclonal serum antibodies⁵⁴. Variants containing E484K also have been shown to be neutralized less efficiently by convalescent serum and plasma from SARS-CoV-2 survivors^{55,56}. For COV2-2196, COV2-2130, and COV2-2050 (a third neutralizing antibody the inventors included for comparison as it interacts with the residue E484), they found virtually no impact of the D614G mutation or the suite of mutations present in the UK E.1.1.7-XXF strain; if anything, the inventors observed a trend toward slightly improved (2- to 3-fold) reduction in IC₅₀ values against the latter circulating virus (FIG. 11H). However, they did observe effects on neutralization with the D614G/E484K virus. COV2-2050 completely lost neutralization activity, consistent with our previous study defining E484K as a mutation abrogating COV2-2050 binding⁴¹. In contrast, COV2-2196, COV2-2130, and COV2-2196 + COV2-2130 showed only slightly less inhibitory capacity (2- to 5-fold increases in IC₅₀ values).

[0293] Discussion. These structural analyses define the molecular basis for the frequent selection of a public clonotype of human antibodies sharing heavy chain V-D-J and light chain V-J recombinations that target the same region of the SARS-CoV-2 S RED. Germline antibody gene-encoded residues in heavy and light chains play a vital role in antigen recognition, suggesting that few somatic mutations are required for antibody maturation of this clonotype. An IGHG2-gene-encoded disulfide bond provides additional restraint for the HCDR3 to adopt a conformation with shape and chemical complementarity to the antigenic site on RED. It appears that three different IGHG2 genes (IGHD2-8, IGHG2-8 and IGHG2-15) encode portions of the HCDR3 that can function in the context of this clonotype. The inventors suggest that this occurrence of common germline gene-encoded antibodies with preconfigured structural features enabling high specificity and potent neutralizing activity is an unanticipated and beneficial feature of the primary human immune response to SARS-CoV-2. The selection of B cells from this public clonotype enabled rapid isolation of ultra-potent neutralizing antibodies that resist escape and possibly could account in part for the remarkable efficacy of S protein-based vaccines that is being observed in the clinic. One might envision an opportunity to elicit serum neutralizing antibody using domain- or motif-based vaccine designs for this antigenic site to prime human immune responses to elicit this clonotype.

[0294] The structural analysis of RED-COV2-2196 and RED-COV2-2130 complexes presented here suggest that the two antibodies bind to the RED antigen by forming "rivet-like" interactions with a high energy density per unit of interface surface area, and this finding explains how such antibody complexes can have such relatively small (< 750 Å²) buried surface areas in the Ab-Ag interfaces. The mapping of escape mutations for the two antibodies studied here indicated the hot of escape mutations is consistent with the binding site determined by our Ab-Ag crystal structures, further confirming the precision of the DMS methodology. The inventors suggest that the escape fraction data could be used in future as restraints for computational docking of antibodies onto antigens or more generally for proteins onto proteins, since for example, the K444 or F486 residues with the highest escape fractions for COV2-2130 or COV2-2196, respectively, show the most intensive interactions with the antibodies in the structure of the antigen-antibody complex.

[0295] The recent emergence of variant virus lineages with increased transmissibility and altered sequences in many known sites of neutralization is concerning for the capacity of SARS-CoV-2 to evade current antibody countermeasures in development and testing. The inventors tested the activity of the antibodies and the cocktail of both and found sustained activity against several important variants, including a virus containing the E484K mutation and a E.1.1.7 virus with multiple S gene variations. The genetic and structural basis for this broad activity is revealed in the crystal structures and DMS studies the inventors present here. The central recognition of the relatively invariant F486 residue by an "aromatic cage" domain in COV2-2196 is beneficial, since variation of this residue is associated with reduced viral fitness. Targeting this binding site appears especially effective in the setting of synergistic neutralization in a combination with the mAb COV2-2130 that recognizes both "open" and "closed" S trimers. Thus, this combination appears to offer a broad and potent mechanism of inhibition that resists escape.

Extended Data Table 1. Data collection and refinement statistics for the crystals of RED-COV2-2196 and RED-COV2-2196-2130 complexes

[0296]		
Data collection		
Crystal	RED-COV2-2196	RED-COV2-2196-2130

Data collection		
POB ID	7/L7D	7/L7E
Wave Length (Å)	0.97872	0.97857
Space group	P2 ₁	P2 ₁
Unit cell dimensions		
a, b, c (Å)	44.1, 81.6, 101.2	97.2, 152.5, 199.2
α, β, γ	90.0, 96.6, 90.0	90.0, 94.7, 90.0
Resolution(Å)	43.96-2.50	35.21-3.00
Unique reflections	24896(13417)	115751 (16908)
Redundancy	3.7 (3.7)	7.7 (7.7)
Completeness (%)	99.9 (99.6)	99.9 (100)
R _{merge} (%)	4.6(24.5)	23.1 (81.0)
I/σ(I)	19.2 (4.6)	16.4 (2.3)
Refinement statistics		
R _{factor} (%)	18.5	21.5
R _{free} (%)	23.1	27.3
R.m.s.d (bond) (Å)	0.0030	0.0023
R.m.s.d (angle) (deg)	0.563	0.598
Ramachandran plot		
Favored (%)	95.82	95.34
Allowed (%)	4.18	4.37
Outliers (%)	0.00	0.09
R _{merge} = $\sum \sum I_{hkl} - \langle I_{hkl} \rangle / \sum I_{hkl}$, where I_{hkl} is the observed intensity and $\langle I_{hkl} \rangle$ is the final average intensity		
R _{work} = $\sum F_{obs} - F_{calc} / \sum F_{obs} $ and R _{free} = $\sum F_{obs} - F_{calc} / \sum F_{obs} $, where R _{free} and R _{work} are calculated using a randomly selected test set of 5% of the data and all reflections excluding the 5% test set, respectively. Numbers in parentheses are for the highest resolution shell		

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[0297]

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Table A - Activity Data

Clone ID (COV2-xxxx)	BINDING ASSAY RESULTS					NEUTRALIZATION ASSAY RESULTS				
	ELISA - Purified IgG (OD 450nm)					(Yes/No qualitative test, or IC50 value (ng/mL))				
	SARS-CoV-2 Spike Trimer	SARS-CoV-2 RBD	SARS-CoV-2 NTD	SARS-CoV Spike Trimer?	hACE2 blocking	SARS-CoV-2 xCelligence neutralization test (cell impedance)		SARS-CoV-2 focus reduction test	Nano-luciferase virus reduction test	
						Qualitative	Estimated IC50		SARS-CoV-2	SARS
2196	4.2	4.2	0.05	0.09	Yes	Yes	nt	29	<100	nt
2638	3.67	3.62	0.12	0.21	nt	Yes	<60	14	nt	nt
2952	3.54	3.55	0.1	0.15	nt	Yes	>304	69	NT	nt
2514	3.56	3.56	0.09	3.6	nt	Yes	<200	84	nt	nt
2165	4.2	4.2	0.05	0.17	nt	Yes	nt	185	<400	nt
2391	3.57	3.65	0.1	0.1	nt	Yes	<600	45	nt	nt
3025	3.70	3.70	NT	0.21	Yes	Yes	nt	31	nt	nt
2094	4.3	4.3	0.1	4.1	Yes	Yes	nt	151	<50	>1,000
2065	4.3	4.3	0.12	0.11	Yes	Yes	nt	290	<200	nt
2130	4.3	4.21	0.16	0.1	Yes	Yes	nt	121	<100	nt

Example 5: Potently neutralizing human antibodies that block SARS-CoV-2 receptor binding and protect animals

[0299] **AUTHORS:** Seth J. Zost^{1*}, Pavlo Glibchuk^{1*}, James Brett Case³, Elad Elashitai¹, Rita E. Cher^{2,3}, Joseph X. Reidy¹, Andrew Trivette¹, Rachel S. Nargi¹, Rachel E. Sutton¹, Naveenranchandra Suryadevara¹, Lauren E. Williamson⁴, Elaine C. Chan⁴, Chari A. Chan⁴, Taylor Jones¹, Samuel Day¹, Luke Myers¹, Ahmed O. Hassan¹, Natasha M. Kafri^{2,3}, Emma S. Winkler^{2,3}, Julie M. Fox², James J. Steinhardt⁶, Kuishu Ran⁷, Yush-Ming Loo⁷, Nicole L. Kalloway⁸, David R. Martinez⁹, Alexandra Schdler⁵, Lisa E. Gralinski⁵, Ralph S. Baric⁵, Larissa B. Thackray¹, Michael S. Diamond^{2,3,5,9}, Robert H. Camahan^{1,10**}, James E. Crowe, Jr.^{1,14,10**}

Affiliations:

[0300]

¹Vanderbilt Vaccine Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN, 37232, USA

²Department of Pathology & Immunology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, 63110, USA

³Department of Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, 63110, MO, USA ⁴Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN, 37232, USA

⁵Department of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, 27599, USA

⁶Antibody Discovery and Protein Engineering, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, AstraZeneca, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20878, USA

⁷Microbial Sciences, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, AstraZeneca, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20878, USA

⁸Department of Molecular Microbiology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, 63110, USA

⁹Andrew M. and Jane M. Busky Center for Human Immunology and Immunotherapy Programs, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, 63110, USA

¹⁴Department of Pediatrics, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN, 37232, USA

Contact information:

James E. Crowe, Jr., M.D. [J.EAO CONTACT]

Departments of Pediatrics, Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology, and the Vanderbilt Vaccine Center

Mail:

Vanderbilt Vaccine Center

11475 Medical Research Building IV

2213 Garland Avenue

Nashville, TN 37232-0417, USA

Telephone (615) 343-8064

Email james.crowe@vumc.org

Additional Title Page Footnotes

* These authors contributed equally

** Corresponding authors

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[0301] The COVID-19 pandemic is a major threat to global health for which there are only limited medical countermeasures, and we lack a thorough understanding of mechanisms of humoral immunity^{1,2}. From a panel of monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) targeting the spike

(S) glycoprotein isolated from the B cells of infected subjects, we identified several mAbs that exhibited potent neutralizing activity with IC50 values as low as 0.9 or 15 ng/mL in pseudovirus or wild-type (wt) SARS-CoV-2 neutralization tests, respectively. The most potent mAbs fully block the receptor-binding domain of S (SRBD) from interacting with human ACE2. Competition-binding, structural, and functional studies allowed clustering of the mAbs into defined classes recognizing distinct epitopes within major antigenic sites on the SRBD. Electron microscopy studies revealed that these mAbs recognize distinct conformational states of trimeric S protein. Potent neutralizing mAbs recognizing unique sites, COV2-2196 and COV2-2130, bound simultaneously to S and synergistically neutralized authentic SARS-CoV-2 virus. In two murine models of SARS-CoV-2 infection, passive transfer of either COV2-2196 or COV2-2130 alone or a combination of both mAbs protected mice from severe weight loss and reduced viral burden and inflammation in the lung. These results identify protective epitopes on the SRBD and provide a structure-based framework for rational vaccine design and the selection of robust immunotherapeutic cocktails.

[0302] The S protein of SARS-CoV-2 is the molecular determinant of viral attachment, fusion, and entry into host cells³. The cryo-EM structure of a prefusion-stabilized trimeric S protein ectodomain (S2P_{ectod}) for SARS-CoV-2 reveals similar features to that of the SARS-CoV S protein⁴. This type I integral membrane protein and class I fusion protein possesses an N-terminal subunit (S1) that mediates binding to receptor and a C-terminal subunit (S2) that mediates virus-cell membrane fusion. The S1 subunit contains an N-terminal domain (SNTD) and a receptor-binding domain (SRBD). SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV, which share approximately 75% sequence identity in their genomes¹ both use human angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (hACE2) as an entry receptor⁵⁻⁷. Previous studies of human immunity to other high-pathogenicity zoonotic betacoronaviruses including SARS-CoV⁸⁻¹² and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS)¹³⁻²² showed that Abs to the viral surface spike (S) glycoprotein mediate protective immunity. The most potent S protein-specific mAbs appear to neutralize betacoronaviruses by blocking attachment of virus to host cells by binding to the region on SRBD that directly mediates engagement of the receptor. It is likely that human Abs have promise for use in modifying disease during SARS-CoV-2 infection, when used for prophylaxis, post-exposure prophylaxis, or treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection²³. Many studies including randomized controlled trials evaluating convalescent plasma and one trial evaluating hyperimmune immunoglobulin are ongoing, but it is not yet clear whether such treatments can reduce morbidity or mortality²⁴.

[0303] We isolated a large panel of SARS-CoV-2 S protein-reactive mAbs from the B cells of two individuals who were previously infected with SARS-CoV-2 in Wuhan, China²⁵. A subset of those antibodies bound to the receptor-binding domain of S (SRBD) and exhibited neutralizing activity in a rapid screening assay using authentic SARS-CoV-2²⁵. Here, we defined the antigenic landscape of SARS-CoV-2 and determined which sites of SRBD are the target of protective mAbs. We tested a panel of 40 anti-S human mAbs we previously preselected by a rapid neutralization screening assay in a quantitative focus reduction neutralization test (FRNT) with SARS-CoV-2 strain WA1/2020. These assays revealed the panel exhibited a range of half-maximal inhibitory concentration (IC50) values, from 15 to over 4,000 ng/mL (visualized as a heatmap in FIG. 20a, values shown in Table E, and full curves shown in FIG. 24). We hypothesized that many of these SRBD-reactive mAbs neutralize virus infection by blocking SRBD binding to hACE2. Indeed, most neutralizing mAbs we tested inhibited the interaction of hACE2 with trimeric S protein directly (FIG. 20a, FIG. 25). Consistent with these results, these mAbs also bound strongly to a trimeric S ectodomain (S2P_{ectod}) protein or monomeric SRBD (FIG. 20a, FIG. 26). We evaluated whether S2P_{ectod} or SRBD binding or hACE2- blocking potency predicted binding neutralization potency independently, but none of these measurements correlated with neutralization potency (FIG. 20b-c). However, each of the mAbs in the highest neutralizing potency tier (IC50<150 ng/mL) also revealed strongest blocking activity against hACE2 (IC50< 150 ng/mL) and exceptional binding activity (EC50< 2 ng/mL) to S2P_{ectod} trimer and SRBD (FIG. 20b). Representative neutralization curves for two potentially neutralizing mAbs designated COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 are shown in (FIG. 20f). Potent neutralization was confirmed using pseudovirus neutralization assays, which revealed far more sensitive neutralization phenotypes than wt virus and demonstrated a requirement for the use of live virus assays for assessment of mAb potency (FIG. 20g). Both of these mAbs bound strongly to S2P_{ectod} trimer and fully blocked hACE2 binding (FIG. 20h-i).

[0304] We next defined the major antigenic sites on SRBD for neutralizing mAbs by competition-binding analysis. We first used a biolayer interferometry-based competition assay with a minimal SRBD domain to screen for mAbs that competed for binding with the potentially neutralizing mAb COV2- 2196 or a recombinant version of the previously described SARS-CoV mAb CR3022, which recognizes a conserved cryptic epitope^{10,26}. We identified three major groups of competing mAbs (FIG. 21a). The largest group of mAbs blocked COV2-2196 but not rCR3022, while some mAbs were blocked by rCR3022 but not COV2-2196. Two mAbs, including COV2-2130, were not blocked by either reference mAb. Most mAbs competed with hACE2 for binding, suggesting that they bound near the hACE2 binding site of the SRBD. We used COV2-2196, COV2-2130, and rCR3022 in an ELISA-based competition-binding assay with trimeric S2P_{ectod} protein and also found that SRBD contained three major antigenic sites, with some mAbs likely making contacts in more than one site (FIG. 21b). Most of the potentially neutralizing mAbs directly competed for binding with COV2-2196.

[0305] Since COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 did not compete for binding to SRBD, we assessed if these mAbs synergize for virus neutralization, a phenomenon previously observed for SARS-CoV mAbs¹⁰. We tested combination responses (see dose-response neutralization matrix, FIG. 21c) in the FRNT using SARS-CoV-2 and compared these experimental values with the expected responses calculated by synergy scoring models²⁷. The comparison revealed that the combination of COV2-2196 + COV2-2130 was synergistic (with a synergy score of 17.4, where any score of >10 indicates synergy). The data in FIG. 21c shows the dose-response synergy matrix and demonstrates that a combined mAb dose of 79 ng/mL in the cocktail (16 ng/mL of COV2-2196 and 63 ng/mL of COV2-2130) had the same activity as 250 ng/mL of each individual mAb (see FIG. 21c). This finding shows that using a cocktail the dose of each mAb can be reduced by more than three-fold to achieve the same potency of virus neutralization *in vitro*.

[0306] We next defined the epitopes recognized by representative mAbs in the two major competition- binding groups that synergize for neutralization. We performed mutagenesis studies of the SRBD using alanine or arginine substitution to determine critical residues for binding of neutralizing mAbs (FIG. 27). Loss of binding studies revealed F486A or N487A as critical residues for COV2-2196 and N487A as a critical residue for COV2-2165, which compete with one another for binding, and likewise mutagenesis studies for COV2-2130 using K444A and G447R mutants defined these residues as critical for recognition (FIG. 22a). Previous structural studies have defined the interaction between the SRBD and hACE2 (FIG. 22b)²⁸. Most of the interacting residues in the SRBD are contained within a 60-amino-acid linear peptide that defines the hACE2 recognition motif (FIG. 22c). We next tested binding of human mAbs to this minimal peptide and found that potent neutralizing members of the largest competition-binding group including COV2-2196, COV2-2165, and COV2-2832 recognized this peptide (FIG. 22c), suggesting these mAbs make critical contacts within the hACE2 recognition motif.

[0307] We used negative-stain electron microscopy of S2P_{ectod} trimer/Fab complexes to structurally determine the epitopes for these mAbs. The potentially neutralizing antibodies COV2-2196 and COV2-2165 bound to the hACE2 recognition motif of SRBD and recognized the 'open' conformational state of the S2P_{ectod} trimer (FIG. 22d). The mode of engagement of these two antibodies differed, however, as the binding pose and the angle relative to the spike 'body' for one was different compared to the other. COV2-2130, which represents the second competition- binding group, bound to the RBD in the S2P_{ectod} trimer in the 'closed' position (FIG. 22d). Since COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 did not compete for binding, we attempted to make complexes of both Fabs bound at the same time to the S2P_{ectod} trimer. We found that both Fabs bound simultaneously when the S2P_{ectod} trimer was in the open position, indicating that COV2-2130 can recognize the SRBD in both conformations (FIG. 22e). Overlaying the two-Fab complex with the structure of the RBD CR3022 complex²⁶, we

observed that these antibodies bind to three distinct sites on SRBD, as predicted based on our competition-binding studies (FIG. 22f).

[0308] Next, we tested the prophylactic efficacy of COV2-2196 or COV2-2130 monotherapy or a combination of COV2-2196 + COV2-2130 in a newly developed SARS-CoV-2 infection model in BALB/c mice in which HACE2 is expressed in the lung after intranasal adenovirus (AdV-HACE2) transduction. In this relatively stringent disease model, we also administered a single dose of anti-furin antibody to augment virus infection and pathogenesis, which results in a disseminated interstitial pneumonia (A. Hensen and M. Diamond, submitted for publication). We passively transferred a single dose of mAb COV2-2196 (10 mg/kg), COV2-2130 (10 mg/kg), a combination of COV2-2196 + COV2-2130 (5 mg/kg each), or an isotype control mAb (10 mg/kg) to AdV-HACE2-transduced mice one day before intranasal challenge with 4×10^5 PFU of SARS-CoV-2. Prophylaxis with COV2-2196 or COV2-2130 or their combination prevented severe SARS-CoV-2-induced weight loss through the first week of infection (FIG. 23a). Viral RNA levels were reduced significantly at 7 dpi in the lung and distant sites including the heart and spleen (FIG. 23b). The expression of interferon gamma (INF- γ), IL-6, CXCL10 and CCL2 cytokine and chemokine genes, which are indicators of inflammation, also was reduced in the lung of treated mice at 7 dpi after the peak of the disease (FIG. 23c).

[0309] We also tested COV2-2196 or COV2-2130 or their combination for prophylactic efficacy in an immunocompetent model using a mouse-adapted (MA) SARS-CoV-2 virus²⁹ (FIG. 23d). *In vitro* tests showed that the IC50 values for neutralization were comparable for the wt and MA SARS-CoV-2 viruses for these mAbs (data not shown). Each of the mAb treatments delivered at a dose of 200 μ g/mouse ($\sim$ 5 mg/kg) reduced viral RNA levels up to 10^5 -fold at 2 dpi in the lung when compared to the isotype control group (FIG. 23e, left). Concordantly, all animals from COV2-2196 and COV2-2196 + COV2-2130 treatment group and 5 of 10 animals from COV2-2130 treatment no longer had infectious virus at 2 dpi in the lung as measured by plaque titer of lung tissue (FIG. 23e, right). Collectively, these results in mice suggested that COV2-2196 or COV2-2130 alone or in combination are promising candidates for treatment or prevention of COVID-19.

[0310] Here, we defined the antigenic landscape for a large panel of highly potent mAbs against SARS-CoV-2. These detailed studies and the screening studies that identified this panel of mAbs from a larger panel of hundreds²⁵ demonstrate that although diverse human neutralizing antibodies are elicited by natural infection with SARS-CoV-2, only a small subset of those mAbs are of high potency (IC50<50 ng/ml, against live SARS-CoV-2 virus), and therefore, suitable for therapeutic development. Biochemical and structural analysis of these potent mAbs defined three principal antigenic sites of vulnerability to neutralization by human mAbs elicited by natural infection with SARS-CoV on the SRBD. Representative mAbs from the two most potent antigenic sites were shown to synergize *in vitro* and protect as an *in vivo* cocktail. This finding reveals critical features of effective humoral immunity to SARS-CoV-2 and suggests that the role of synergistic neutralization activity in polyclonal responses should be explored further. Moreover, as SARS-CoV-2 continues to circulate, population immunity elicited by natural infection may start to select for antigenic variants that escape from the selective pressure of neutralizing antibodies, reinforcing the need to target multiple epitopes of S protein in vaccines or immunotherapeutics.

[0311] The common S gene variants across the globe reported to date are located at positions D614G, V483A, L5F, Q675H, H655Y and S939F³⁰, far away from the amino acid variants at residues 456 or 487 identified in our mutation studies for the lead mAbs studied here. Rationally-selected therapeutic cocktails like the one described here might offer even greater resistance to SARS-CoV-2 escape. These studies set the stage for preclinical evaluation and development of the identified mAbs as candidates for use as COVID-19 immunotherapeutics in humans.

[0312] **Data availability.** The EM maps have been deposited at the Electron Microscopy Data Bank with accession codes EMD-21965 (S2P_{ecto} apo), EMD-21974 (S2P_{ecto} + Fab COV2-2165), EMD-21975 (S2P_{ecto} + Fab COV2-2196), EMD-21976 (S2P_{ecto} + Fab COV2-2130) and EMD-21977 (S2P_{ecto} + Fab COV2-2196 + Fab COV2-2130). Materials reported in this study will be made available but may require execution of a Materials Transfer Agreement.

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[0314] **Author contributions.** Conceived of the project: S.J.Z., P.G., R.H.C., L.B.T., M.S.D., J.E.C. Obtained funding: J.E.C. and M.S.D. Performed laboratory experiments: S.J.Z., P.G., J.B.C., E.B., R.E.C., J.X.R., A.T., R.S.N., R.E.S., N.S., L.E.W., A.O.H., N.M.K., E.W., J.M.F., L.B.T., J.J.S., K.R., Y.-M.L., A.S., L.E.G., D.R.M. Performed computational work: E.C.C., T.J., S.D., L.M.; Supervised research: N.L.K., M.S.D., L.B.T., R.S.B., R.H.C., J.E.C. Wrote the first draft of the paper: S.J.Z., P.G., R.H.C., J.E.C.; All authors reviewed and approved the final manuscript.

[0315] **Competing interests.** R.S.B. has served as a consultant for Takeda and Sanofi Pasteur on issues related to vaccines. M.S.D. is a consultant for Inhibio, Vir Biotechnology, NCM Biopharmaceuticals, Eli Lilly, and is on the Scientific Advisory Board of Moderna, a past recipient of unrelated research grant from Moderna and a current recipient of an unrelated research grant Emergent BioSolutions. J.E.C. has served as a consultant for Sanofi and is on the Scientific Advisory Boards of CompVex and Moderna Vaccines, is a recipient of previous unrelated research grants from Moderna and Sanofi and is Founder of IDBiologics, Inc. Vanderbilt University has applied for patents concerning SARS-CoV-2 antibodies that are related to this work. AstraZeneca has filed patents for materials/findings related to this work. J.J.S., K.R., Y.-M.L., and N.L.K. are employees of AstraZeneca and currently hold AstraZeneca stock or stock options. All other authors declared no competing interests.

Additional information

[0316] **Supplementary information** is available for this paper.

[0317] **Correspondence** and requests for materials should be addressed to J.E.C.

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Table B. Neutralization IC50, hACE2 blocking IC50, and EC50 values for binding to S2P _{ecto} or SRBD antigens for mAb panel						
MAb	Neutralization IC50, ng/mL	hACE2 blocking IC50, ng/mL	S2Pecto binding EC50, ng/mL	SRBD binding EC50, ng/mL	SARS-CoV S2Pecto binding EC50, ng/mL	
COV2-2094	154	53	1.8	1.4	11.7	
COV2-2096	59	67	1.0	1.0		
COV2-2130	107	61	1.5	0.7		
COV2-2165	332	62	1.4	0.6		
COV2-2196	15	48	1.2	1.1		
COV2-3025	37	41	1.1	1.1		
ICR3022			10.2	1.1	5.2	
ICD22						

Table C. Summary of electron microscopy data collection and statistics SARS-CoV-2 S2P _{ecto} protein apo or in complex with human Fabs						
		Structure of SARS-CoV-2 S2Pecto protein in complex with indicated Fab				
		No Fab*	Fab COV2-2165	Fab COV2-2196	Fab COV2-2130	Fab COV2-2196 + Fab COV2-2130
		EMD-21965	EMD-21974	EMD-21975	EMD-21976	EMD-21977
Microscope setting	EMDB #					
	Microscope	TF-20	TF-20	TF-20	TF-20	TF-20
	Voltage (kV)	200	200	200	200	200
	Detector	US-4000 CCD	US-4000 CCD	US-4000 CCD	US-4000 CCD	US-4000 CCD
	Magnification	50,000x	50,000x	50,000x	50,000x	50,000x
	Pixel size	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18
	Exposure (e-/Å ²)	25	25	25	30	38
	Defocus range (μm)	1.5 to 1.8	1.5 to 1.8	1.5 to 1.8	1.5 to 1.8	1.5 to 1.8
Data	Micrographs, #	122	83	190	550	466
	Particles, #	3,836	3,705	5,471	10,000	9,434
	Particles #, after 2D	2,718	1,868	3,595	2,684	4,231
	Final particles, #	2,188	1,057	2,737	1,385	3,016
	Symmetry	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1
	CoV-2 S CC	PDB: 6VXX 0.895	PDB: 6VYB 0.836	PDB: 6VYB 0.828	PDB: 6VXX 0.900	PDB: 6VYB 0.8952
Model docking	Fab (PDB: 1ZEB) CC	n.a.	0.916	0.905	0.91	0.8648 / 0.8929
	*Previously reported; Zost et al., 2020 (reference 25).					

Methods

[0319] Antibodies. The human antibodies studied in this paper were isolated from blood samples from two subjects in North America with previous laboratory-confirmed symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection that was acquired in China. The original clinical studies to obtain specimens after written informed consent were previously described¹ and had been approved by the Institutional Review Board of Vanderbilt University Medical Center and the Research Ethics Board of the University of Toronto. The subjects (a 56-year-old male and a 56-year-old female) are a married couple and residents of Wuhan, China who traveled to Toronto, Canada, where PBMCs were obtained by leukopheresis 50 days after symptom onset. The antibodies were isolated using diverse tools for isolation and cloning of single antigen-specific B cells and the antibody variable genes encoding monoclonal antibodies¹.

[0320] Cell culture. Vero E6 (CRL-1586, American Type Culture Collection (American Type Culture Collection, ATCC), Vero CCL81 (ATCC), HEK293 (ATCC), and HEK293T (ATCC) were maintained at 37°C in 5% CO₂ in Dulbecco's minimal essential medium (DMEM) containing 10% (v/v) fetal-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS), 10 mM HEPES pH 7.3, 1 mM sodium pyruvate, 1× non-essential amino acids, and 100 U/mL of penicillin-streptomycin. Vero-furin cells were obtained from T. Pierson (NIH) and have been described previously². Expi293F cells (ThermoFisher Scientific, A1452) were maintained at 37°C in 5% CO₂ in Expi293F Expression Medium (ThermoFisher Scientific, A1435102). ExpiCHO cells (ThermoFisher Scientific, A29127) were maintained at 37°C in 5% CO₂ in ExpiCHO Expression Medium (ThermoFisher Scientific, A2910002). Mycoplasma testing of Expi293F and ExpiCHO cultures was performed on a monthly basis using a PCR-based mycoplasma detection kit (ATCC, 30-1012K).

[0321] Viruses. SARS-CoV-2 strain 2019 n-CoVUSA_WA1/2020 was obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (a gift from Natalie Thornburg). Virus was passaged in Vero CCL81 cells and titrated by plaque assay on Vero E6 cells. All work with infectious SARS-CoV-2 was approved by the Washington University School of Medicine or UNC-Chapel Hill Institutional Biosafety Committees and conducted in approved BSL3 facilities using appropriate powered air purifying respirators and personal protective equipment.

[0322] Recombinant antigens and proteins. A gene encoding the ectodomain of a prefusion conformation- stabilized SARS-CoV-2 spike (S2P_{ectd}) protein was synthesized and cloned into a DNA plasmid expression vector for mammalian cells. A similarly designed S protein antigen with two prolines and removal of the furin cleavage site for stabilization of the prefusion form of S was reported previously³. Briefly, this gene includes the ectodomain of SARS-CoV-2 (to residue 1,205), a T4 fibrin trimerization domain, an AviTag site-specific biotinylation sequence, and a C-terminal 8x-His tag. To stabilize the construct in the prefusion conformation, we included substitutions K96P and V687P and mutated the furin cleavage site at residues 682-685 from RRAR to ASVG. This recombinant spike 2P- stabilized protein (designated here as S2P_{ectd}) was isolated by metal affinity chromatography on HisTrap Excel columns (GE Healthcare), and protein preparations were purified further by size- exclusion chromatography on a Superose 6 increase 10/300 column (GE Healthcare). The presence of tetrameric, prefusion conformation S protein was verified by negative-stain electron microscopy⁴. For electron microscopy with S and Fabs, we expressed a variant of S2P_{ectd} lacking an AviTag but containing a C-terminal Twin-StrepTag, similar to that described previously⁵. Expressed protein was isolated by metal affinity chromatography on HisTrap Excel columns (GE Healthcare), followed by further purification on a StrepTrap HP column (GE Healthcare) and size-exclusion chromatography on TSKgel G4000SWXL (TOSOH). To express the S_{REB} subdomain of SARS-CoV-2 S protein, residues 319-541 were cloned into a mammalian expression vector downstream of an IL-2 signal peptide and upstream of a thrombin cleavage site, an AviTag, and a 6xHis tag. RBD protein fused to mouse IgG1 Fc domain (designated RBD-mFc), was purchased from Sino Biological (40592-V05H). For epitope mapping by alanine scanning, SARS-CoV-2 RBD (residues 334-526) or RBD single mutation variants were cloned with an N-terminal CD33 leader sequence and C-terminal GSGG linker, AviTag, GSGG linker, and 8xHisTag. Spike proteins were expressed in FreeStyle 293 cells (Thermo Fisher) and isolated by affinity chromatography using a HisTrap column (GE Healthcare), followed by size exclusion chromatography with a Superdex200 column (GE Healthcare). Purified proteins were analyzed by SDS-PAGE to ensure purity and appropriate molecular weights.

[0323] Electron microscopy (EM) stain grid preparation, imaging and processing of SARS-CoV-2 S2P_{ectd} protein or S2P_{ectd}/Fab complexes. To perform EM imaging, Fabs were produced by digesting recombinant chromatography-purified IgGs using resin-immobilized cysteine protease enzyme (FabALACTICA, Genovis). The digestion occurred in 100 mM sodium phosphate, 150 mM NaCl pH 7.2 for ~16 hrs at RT. In order to remove cleaved Fc and intact IgG, the digestion mix was incubated with CaptureSelect Fc resin (Genovis) for 30 min at RT in PBS buffer. If needed, the Fab was buffer exchanged into Tris buffer by centrifugation with a Zeba spin column (Thermo Scientific).

[0324] For screening and imaging of negatively-stained (NS) SARS-CoV-2 S2P_{ectd} protein in complex with human Fabs, the proteins were incubated for ~1 hr and approximately 3 µL of the sample at concentrations of about 10 to 15 µg/mL was applied to a glow discharged grid with continuous carbon film on 400 square mesh copper EM grids (Electron Microscopy Sciences). The grids were stained with 0.75% uranyl formate (UF)⁴. Images were recorded on a Gatan US4000 4k × 4k CCD camera using an FEI TF20 (TF) transmission electron microscope operated at 200 keV and control with SerialEM⁶. All images were taken at 50,000x magnification with a pixel size of 2.18 Å/pixel in low-dose mode at a defocus of 1.5 to 1.8 µm. Total dose for the micrographs was ~25 to 35 e⁻/Å². Image processing was performed using the cryoSPARC software package⁶. Images were imported, and particles were CTF estimated. The images then were denoised and picked with Topaz⁷. The particles were extracted with a box size of 256 pixels and binned to 128 pixels. 2D class averages were performed and good classes selected for ab-initio model and refinement without symmetry. For EM model docking of SARS-CoV-2 S2P_{ectd} protein, the closed model (PDB: 6V0X) was used in Chimera⁸ for docking to the EM map (see also Table C for details). For the SARS-CoV-2 S2P_{ectd}/Fab COV2-2165 and SARS-CoV-2 S2P_{ectd}/Fab COV2-2165 complexes, the open model of SARS-CoV-2 (PDB: 6V1B) and Fab (Fab: 12ES) was used in Chimera for docking to the EM maps (see also Table C for details). For the SARS-CoV-2 S2P_{ectd}/Fab COV2-2130 complex, the closed model and Fab (PDB: 12ES) were used in Chimera for docking to the EM map (see also Table C for details). All images were made with Chimera.

[0325] MAb production and purification. Sequences of mAbs that had been synthesized (Twist Bioscience) and cloned into an IgG1 monoclonal expression vector (designated as pTwist-mChs-G1) were used for mammalian cell culture mAb secretion. This vector contains an enhanced 2A sequence and GSGG linker that allows simultaneous expression of mAb heavy and light chain genes from a single construct upon transfection⁹. We previously described microscale expression of mAbs in 1 mL ExpiCHO cultures in 96-well plates¹. For larger scale mAb expression, we performed transfection (1 to 300 million per antibody) of CHO cell cultures using the Gibco™ ExpiCHO™ Expression System and protocol for 50 mL mini bioreactor tubes (Corning) as described by the vendor. Culture supernatants were purified using HisTrap Select Sure (Cytiva, formerly GE Healthcare Life Sciences) on a 24-column parallel protein chromatography system (Protein BioSolutions). Purified mAbs were buffer-exchanged into PBS, concentrated using Amicon® Ultra- 4 50kDa Centrifugal Filter Units (Millipore Sigma) and stored at 4°C until use.

[0326] ELISA binding assays. Wells of 96-well microtiter plates were coated with purified recombinant SARS-CoV-2 S protein or SARS-CoV-2 S_{REB} protein at 4°C overnight. Plates were blocked with 2% non-fat dry milk and 2% normal goat serum in DPBS containing 0.05% Tween-20 (DPBS-T) for 1 hr. The bound antibodies were detected using goat anti-human IgG conjugated with HRP (horseradish peroxidase) (Southern Biotech) and TMB (3,3',5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine) substrate (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Color development was monitored, 1N hydrochloric acid was added to stop the reaction, and the absorbance was measured at 450 nm using a spectrophotometer (Biotek). For dose-response assays, serial dilutions of purified mAbs were applied to the wells in triplicate, and mAb binding was detected as detailed above. Half-maximal effective concentration (EC50) values for binding were determined using Prism v5.0 software (GraphPad) after log transformation of mAb concentration using sigmoidal dose-response nonlinear regression analysis.

[0327] RBD minimal ACE2-binding motif peptide binding ELISA. Wells of 384-well microtiter plates were coated with 1 µg/mL streptavidin at 4°C overnight. Plates were blocked with 0.5% BSA in DPBS containing 0.05% Tween-20 (DPBS-T) for 1 hr. Plates were washed 4x with 1x PBST and 2 µg/mL biotinylated-ACE2 binding motif peptide (cat. # LT-5578, from LifeTein, LLC) was added to bind streptavidin for 1 hr at RT. Purified mAbs were diluted in blocking buffer, added to the wells, and incubated for 1 hr at RT. The bound antibodies were detected using goat anti-human IgG conjugated with HRP (horseradish peroxidase) (cat. # 2014-05, Southern Biotech) and TMB (3,3',5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine) substrate (ThermoFisher Scientific). Color development was monitored, 1N hydrochloric acid was added to stop the reaction, and the absorbance was measured at 450 nm using a spectrophotometer (Biotek). For dose-response assays, serial 3-fold dilutions starting at 10 µg/mL concentration of purified mAbs were applied to the wells in triplicate, and mAb binding was detected as detailed above.

[0328] Analysis of binding of antibodies to variant RBD proteins with alanine or arginine point mutations. Biotinylation light interferometry (BLI) was performed using an Octet RED96 instrument (FortiBio; Pall Life Sciences) and wild-type RBD protein or a mutant RBD protein with a single amino acid change at defined positions to alanine or arginine. Binding of the RBD proteins were confirmed by first capturing octa-His-tagged RBD wild-type or mutant protein from a 10 µg/mL (~200 nM) solution onto Penta-His biosensors for 300 sec. The biosensor tips then were submerged in binding buffer (PBS/0.2% TWEEN 20) for a 60 sec wash, followed by immersion in a solution containing 150 nM of mAb for 180 sec (association), followed by a subsequent immersion in binding buffer for 180 sec (dissociation). Response for each RBD reduction protein was normalized to that of the wild-type RBD protein.

[0329] Focus reduction neutralization test (FRNT). Serial dilutions of mAbs were incubated with 10² FFU of SARS-CoV-2 for 1 hr at 37°C. The mAb-virus complexes were added to Vero E6 cell culture monolayers in 96-well plates for 1 hr at 37°C. Subsequently, cells were overlaid with 1% (w/v) methylcellulose in Minimum Essential Medium (MEM) supplemented to contain 2% heat-inactivated FBS. Plates were fixed 30 hrs later by removing overlays and fixed with 4% PFA in PBS for 20 min at room temperature. The plates were incubated sequentially with 1 µg/mL of CR3022 anti-S antibody¹⁰ and horseradish-peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated goat anti-human IgG in PBS supplemented with 0.1% (w/v) saponin (Sigma) and 0.1% bovine serum albumin (BSA). SARS- CoV-2-infected cell foci were visualized using TrueBlue peroxidase substrate (KPL) and quantitated on an ImmunoSpot 5.0.37 Macro Analyzer (Cellular Technologies). Data were processed using Prism software version 5.0 (GraphPad).

[0330] Generation of 6 protein pseudotyped lentivirus. Suspension 293 cells were seeded and transfected with a third-generation HIV-based lentiviral vector expressing luciferase along with packaging plasmids encoding for the following: SARS-CoV-2 spike protein with a C-terminal 19 amino acid deletion, Rev, and Gag-pol. Medium was changed 16 to 20 hrs after transfection, and the supernatant containing virus was harvested 24 hrs later. Cell debris was removed by low- speed centrifugation, and the supernatant was passed through a 0.45 µm filter unit. The pseudovirus was pelleted by ultracentrifugation and resuspended in PBS for a 100-fold concentrated stock.

[0331] Pseudovirus neutralization assay. Serial dilutions of mAbs were prepared in a 384-well microtiter plate and pre-incubated with pseudovirus for 30 minutes at 37°C, to which 293 cells that stably express human ACE2 were added. The plate was returned to the 37°C incubator, and then 48 hrs later luciferase activity measured on an EnVision 2105 Multimode Plate Reader (Perkin Elmer) using the Bright-Glo™ Luciferase Assay System (Promega), according to manufacturer's recommendations. Percent inhibition was calculated relative to pseudovirus alone control. IC50 values were determined by nonlinear regression using the Prism software version 8.1.0 (GraphPad). The average IC50 value for each antibody was determined from a minimum of 3 independent experiments.

[0332] Measurement of synergistic neutralization by an antibody combination. Synergy was defined as higher neutralizing activity mediated by a cocktail of two mAbs when compared to that mediated by individual mAbs at the same total concentration of antibodies *in vitro*. To assess if two mAbs synergize in a cocktail to neutralize SARS-CoV-2, we used a previously reported approach to quantitate synergy¹¹. To evaluate the significance of the beneficial effect from combining mAbs, the observed combination responses (dose-response matrix) were compared with the expected responses calculated by means of synergy scoring models¹¹. Virus neutralization was measured in a conventional focus reduction neutralization test (FRNT) assay using wild-type SARS-CoV-2 and Vero E6 cell culture monolayers. Individual mAbs COV2-2196 and COV2-2130 were mixed at different concentrations to assess neutralizing activity of different ratios of mAbs in the cocktail. Specifically, each of seven-fold dilutions of mAb COV2- 2130 (starting from 500 ng/mL) was mixed with each of the nine dilutions of mAb COV2-2196 (starting from 500 ng/mL) in a total volume of 50 µL of per each condition and then incubated with 50 µL of live SARS-CoV-2 in cell culture medium (RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 2% FBS) before applying to confluent Vero E6 cells grown in 96-well plates. The control values included those for determining dose-response of the neutralizing activity measured separately for the individual mAb COV2-2196 or COV2-2130, which were assessed at the same doses as in the cocktail. Each measurement was performed in duplicate. We next calculated percent virus neutralization for each condition and then calculated the synergy score value, which defined interaction between these two mAbs in the cocktail. A synergy score of less than -10 indicates antagonism, a score from -10 to 10 indicates an additive effect, and a score greater than 10 indicates a synergistic effect¹¹.

[0333] MAb quantification. Quantification of purified mAbs was performed by UV spectrophotometry using a NanoDrop spectrophotometer and accounting for the extinction coefficient of human IgG.

[0334] Competition-binding analysis through biolayer interferometry. Anti-mouse IgG Fc capture biosensors (FortiBio 18-5089) on an Octet HTX biolayer interferometry instrument (FortiBio) were soaked for 10 minutes in 1x kinetics buffer (Molecular Devices 18-1105), followed by a baseline signal measurement for 60 seconds. Recombinant SARS-CoV-2 RBD fused to mouse IgG1 (RBD-mFc, Sino Biological 40592-V05H) was immobilized onto the biosensor tips for 180 seconds. After a wash step in 1x kinetics buffer for 30 seconds, the reference antibody (5 µg/mL) was incubated with the antigen- containing biosensor for 600 seconds. Reference antibodies included the SARS-CoV human mAb CR3022 and COV2-2196. After a wash step in 1x kinetics buffer for 30 seconds, the biosensor tips then were immersed into the second antibody (5 µg/mL) for 300 seconds. Maximal binding of each antibody was normalized to a buffer-only control. Self-to-self blocking was subtracted. Comparison between the maximal signal of each antibody was used to determine the percent binding of each antibody. A reduction in maximum signal to <33% of un-competed signal was considered full competition of binding for the second antibody in the presence of the reference antibody. A reduction in maximum signal between 33 to 67% of un-competed was considered intermediate competition of binding for the second antibody in the presence of the reference antibody. Percent binding of the maximum signal >67% was considered absence of competition of binding for the second antibody in the presence of the reference antibody.

[0335] High-throughput ACE2-binding inhibition analysis. Wells of 384-well microtiter plates were coated with purified recombinant SARS-CoV-2 S2P_{ectd} protein at 4°C overnight. Plates were blocked with 2% non-fat dry milk and 2% normal goat serum in DPBS-T for 1 hr. Purified mAbs from microscale expression were diluted ten-fold in blocking buffer starting from 10 µg/mL in triplicate, added to the wells (20 µL/well), and incubated for 1 hr at ambient temperature. Recombinant human ACE2 with a C-terminal FLAG tag protein was added to wells at 2 µg/mL in a 5 µL/well volume (final 0.4 µg/mL concentration of ACE2) without washing of antibody and then incubated for 40 min at ambient temperature. Plates were washed, and bound ACE2 was detected using HRP-conjugated anti-FLAG antibody (Sigma) and TMB substrate. ACE2 binding without antibody served as a control. The signal obtained for binding of the ACE2 in the presence of each dilution of tested antibody was expressed as a percentage of the ACE2 binding without antibody after subtracting the background signal. Half-maximal inhibitory concentration (IC50) values for inhibition by mAb of S2P_{ectd} protein binding to ACE2 was determined after log transformation of antibody concentration using sigmoidal dose-response nonlinear regression analysis (Prism software, GraphPad Prism version 8.0).

[0336] ACE2 blocking assay using biolayer interferometry biosensor. Anti-mouse IgG biosensors on an Octet HTX biolayer interferometry instrument (FortiBio) were soaked for 10 minutes in 1x kinetics buffer, followed by a baseline signal measurement for 60 seconds. Recombinant SARS- CoV-2 RBD fused to mouse IgG1 (RBD-mFc, Sino Biological 40592-V05H) was immobilized onto the biosensor tips for 180 seconds. After a wash step in 1x kinetics buffer for 30 seconds, the antibody (5 µg/mL) was incubated with the antigen-coated biosensor for 600 seconds. After a wash step in 1x kinetics buffer for 30 seconds, the biosensor tips then were immersed into the ACE2 receptor (20 µg/mL) (Sigma-Aldrich SAE0064) for 300 seconds. Maximal binding of ACE2 was normalized to a buffer-only control. Percent binding of ACE2 in the presence of antibody was compared to ACE2 maximal binding. A reduction in maximal signal to <30% was considered ACE2 blocking.

[0337] High-throughput competition-binding analysis. Wells of 384-well microtiter plates were coated with purified recombinant SARS-CoV-2 S protein at 4°C overnight. Plates were blocked with 2% BSA in DPBS containing 0.05% Tween-20 (DPBS-T) for 1 hr. Microscale purified unlabeled mAbs were diluted ten-fold in blocking buffer, added to the wells (20 µL/well) in quadruplicate, and incubated for 1 hr at ambient temperature. A biotinylated preparation of a recombinant mAb based on the variable gene sequence of the previously described mAb CR3022¹² and also newly identified mAbs COV2-2096, -2130, and -2196 that recognized distinct antigenic regions of the SARS-CoV-2 S protein were added to each of four wells with the respective mAb at 2.5 µg/mL in a 5 µL/well volume (final 0.5 µg/mL concentration of biotinylated mAb) without washing of unlabeled antibody and then incubated for 1 hr at ambient temperature. Plates were washed, and bound antibodies were detected using HRP-conjugated avidin (Sigma) and TMB substrate. The signal obtained for binding of the biotin-labeled reference antibody in the presence of the unlabeled tested antibody was expressed as a percentage of the binding of the reference antibody alone after subtracting the background signal. Tested mAbs were considered competing if their presence reduced the reference antibody binding to less than 47% of its maximal binding and non-competing if the signal was greater than 71%. A level of 40-70% was considered intermediate competition.

[0338] Binding analysis of mAbs to alanine or arginine RBD mutants. Biolayer light interferometry was performed using an Octet RED96 instrument (FortiBio; Pall Life Sciences). Binding was confirmed by first capturing octa-His-tagged RBD mutants 10 µg/mL (~200 nM) onto Penta-His biosensors for 300 s. The biosensors then were submerged in binding buffer (PBS/0.2% TWEEN 20) for a wash for 60 sec followed by immersion in a solution containing 150 nM of mAbs for 180 sec (association), followed by a subsequent immersion in binding buffer for 180 sec (dissociation). Response for each RBD mutant was normalized to that of wild-type RBD.

[0339] Mouse experiments using human hACE2-transduced mice. Animal studies were carried out in accordance with the recommendations in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals of the National Institutes of Health. The protocols were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at the Washington University School of Medicine (assurance number A3381-01). Virus inoculations were performed under anesthesia that was induced and maintained with ketamine hydrochloride and xylazine, and all efforts were made to minimize animal suffering.

[0340] BALB/c mice were purchased from Jackson Laboratories (strain 000651). Female mice (10-11- week-old) were given a single intraperitoneal injection of 2 mg of anti-His1r1 mAb (MAR1-5A3 ¹³, Lencio) one day before intranasal administration of 2.5 × 10⁶ PFU of AdV.

HACE2. Five days after AdV transduction, mice were inoculated with 4×10^5 PFU of SARS-CoV-2 by the intranasal route. Anti-SARS-CoV-2 human mAbs or isotype control mAbs were administered 24 hours prior to SARS-CoV-2 inoculation. Weights were monitored on a daily basis, and animals were sacrificed at days 5 or 7 post-infection, and tissues were harvested.

[0241] **Measurement of viral burden.** Tissues were weighed and homogenized with zirconium beads in a MagNA Lyser instrument (Roche Life Science) in 1 ml of DMMEM media supplemented with 2% heat-inactivated FBS. Tissue homogenates were clarified by centrifugation at 10,000 rpm for 5 min and stored at -50°C. RNA was extracted using MagMax mirvorna Total RNA isolation kit (Thermo Scientific) and a Kingfisher Flex 96 well extraction machine (Thermo Scientific). Tissue primers were designed to target a conserved region of the N gene using SARS-CoV-2 MN080847 sequence as a guide (1). Primer: ATGCTGCTACGCTGCTACAA. R primer: GACTGCCCCGCTGCTGC. probe: 56-FAMTCAAGAGAAC/ZEN/AACATTGCCAA/3IAEFQ. To establish an RNA standard curve, we generated concatenated segments of the N gene in a Gblocks fragment (IDT) and cloned this into the PCR-II topovector (Invitrogen). The vector was linearized, and *in vitro* T7-DNA-dependent RNA transcription was performed to generate materials for a quantitative standard curve.

[0342] Cytokine and chemokine mRNA measurements. RNA was isolated from lung homogenates at 7 dpi as described above. cDNA was synthesized from Dnase-treated RNA using the High-Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription kit (Thermo Scientific) with commercial primers/probe sets specific for IFN γ (ID: Mm.PT.58.41769224), IL-6 (Mm.PT.58.1005566), CXCL10 (Mm.PT.58.4375827), CCL2 (Mm.PT.58.42151692 and results were normalized to GAPDH (Mm.PT.39a.1) levels. Fold change was determined using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$ method comparing anti-RS-CoV-2 specific or isotype control mAb-treated mice to naive controls.

[0043] Mouse experiments using wild-type mice. Animal studies were carried out in accordance with the recommendations in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals of the National Institutes of Health. The protocols were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at the UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine (NIH/PHS Animal Welfare Assurance Number is D16-00256 (A3410-01)). Virus inoculations were performed under anesthesia that was induced and maintained with ketamine hydrochloride and xylazine, and all efforts were made to minimize animal suffering.

[0344] Mouse adapted SARS-CoV-2 (MA-SARS-CoV-2) virus. The virus was generated as described previously¹⁴. Virus was propagated in Vero E6 cells grown in DMEM with 10% Fetal Clone II and 1% Pen/Strep. Virus titer was determined by plaque assay. Briefly, virus was serially diluted and inoculated onto confluent monolayers of Vero E6 cells, followed by agarose overlay. Plaques were visualized on day 2 post-infection after staining with neutral red dye.

[3043] Wild-type mice. 12-month-old BALB/c mice from Envigo were used in experiments. Mice were acclimated in the BSL3 for at least 72 hours prior to start of experiments. At 6 hours prior to infection, mice were prophylactically treated with 200 µg of human monoclonal antibodies via intraperitoneal injection. The next day, mice were anesthetized with a mixture of ketamine and xylazine and intranasally infected with 10⁵ PFU of MA-SARS-CoV-2 diluted in PBS. Daily weight loss was measured, and at two days post-infection mice were euthanized by isoflurane overdose prior to tissue harvest.

[0346] **Plaque assay of lung tissue homogenates.** The lower lobe of the right lung was homogenized in 1 mL PBS using a MagnaLysor (Roche). Serial dilutions of virus were filtered on Vero E6 cell culture monolayers, and virus plaques were visualized by neutral red staining at two days after inoculation. The limit of detection for the assay is 100 PFU per lung.

[0347] **Quantification and statistical analysis.** The descriptive statistics mean $\pm$ SEM or mean $\pm$ SD were determined for continuous variables as noted. Technical and biological replicates are described in the figure legends. In the mouse studies, analysis of weight change and viral burden *in vivo* were determined by two-way ANOVA and Mann-Whitney tests, respectively. Statistical analyses were performed using Prism v8.0 (GraphPad).

References for Online Methods

[0348]

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TABLE 1 - NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCES FOR ANTIBODY VARIABLE REGION

[illegible]

[illegible]

TABLE 2 - PROTEIN SEQUENCES FOR ANTIBODY VARIABLE REGION

Clone	SeqID %	Chain	Variable Sequence Region
COV2-2165	21	heavy	EVQLVESGGGVGQPGISRLQASGAEIIVRASDTICWYQTGGSGSRVAVIC TSGSTITADIVSGFPIRISGRSTVYCGSLRAELTAVTTCARLLVTY CLOPKQCTTVVSS
	22	light	IQGITGQFTLSAIGSGGVSTTCSAQGGTGYLAPYQDFGAPFCLVAA SLQSGVRSSTSCSGSTGCTMTSSIQGDPATFDGLCSHLEITDGGT ALEEK
COV2-2838	23	heavy	QVQVQSAIPDQKPRFVVSQSGSGPFRHSAVGGPQVAGQRIETGRV VIGSGVTHAGTQKQVTHRMISSTAHYSSASHFAYTCAAVYCS RISCHQDFIRGGGRTVSS
	24	light	EVVLQGPQTLSLSPCRALISGRASGQVSSSLAPGCGFGAPFLITVC ASRSAPFLLASDGAISLDTPLTSLRLEPDAVFLCQVGSRRGRTGQ GRTSTK
COV2-2952	25	heavy	WQIVPSTCAQKQPSLHISQASGIPKSNVWWRQPTQSGAGGV SGQCLSLAPVITPELIDRSDSLTVYGGSLRALTAVTGGARLLVTY CINVSQSPVTVSS
	26	light	LSLDTGPRFASAVGVRVPLCSAGSGIRSLAAVQGRVAPFLLSAA TSLQGVKQVSGSGSTVPLHPSLQGLHAPVATQKLSRPRFSGD RTSTK
COV	27	heavy	FVQVYESGGVTFEGGSLSCAASTTFSDYHNTWFGAGQGLKRTSGC WWSGGSTVACVSGSGTIGRDAKMSLIDQMLASRDLATCAVLEKSP DRTSCIDKALRAFCTMGCGRTVSS
	28	light	SGNIGQVAVYVAHQVLSGGPSSGVYASMGQWGGPFLVLYHA NRDSTIPRFSSTGNTASLITGAGKILZADYVONSLSGSGAVVGGG SKLLVL
COV2-2391	29	heavy	QVQLVSGGAEVTFGQVYVQVSGASTPFRGFTQWFGATGQGLSKRGR FRRSGSTVAVASVSGSTIGRDAKMSLIDQMLASRDLATCAVLEKSP DRTSCIDKALRAFCTMGCGRTVSS
	30	light	QSTVQVPLASSTFQGRITTSQDAKQVAGVITFQVQFQTAFLITVYS WVQVSTVTHRPSGSGTSGATSLCQSPRPVTVYCAVRRMSVGLVFG QVCTHVF
COV2-3025	31	heavy	FVQVQSAIPDQKPRFVVSQSGSGPFRHSAVGGPQVAGQRIETGRV VIGSGVTHAGTQKQVTHRMISSTAHYSSASHFAYTCAAVYCS RISCHQDFIRGGGRTVSS
	32	light	EVVLQGPQTLSLSPCRVLSGRASGQVSSSLAPGCGFGAPFLITVC ASRSAPFLLASDGAISLDTPLTSLRLEPDAVFLCQVGSRRGRTGQ GRTSTK
COV2-2196	33	heavy	QQLVQSGFLSAGFQVAVVSGSGAGPFIHSAVGGPQVAGQRIETGRV VIGSGVTHAGTQKQVTHRMISSTAHYSSASHFAYTCAAVYCS RISCHQDFIRGGGRTVSS
	34	light	SLVLQSTPTLSLSPCRALISGRASGQVSSSLAPGCGFGAPFLITVC SGQGVTHVSTSGAGSTDTPLTSLRLEPDAVFLCQVGSRRGRTGQ GRTSTK
COV2-	35	heavy	FVQVYESGGVTFEGGSLSCAASTTFSDYHNTWFGAGQGLKRTSGC WWSGGSTVACVSGSGTIGRDAKMSLIDQMLASRDLATCAVLEKSP DRTSCIDKALRAFCTMGCGRTVSS
2094	36	light	LSLDTGPRFASAVGVRVPLCSAGSGIRSLAAVQGRVAPFLLSAA TSLQGVKQVSGSGSTVPLHPSLQGLHAPVATQKLSRPRFSGD SKLLVL
COV2-2096	37	heavy	QVQLVSGGAEVTFGQVYVQVSGASTPFRGFTQWFGATGQGLSKRGR FRRSGSTVAVASVSGSTIGRDAKMSLIDQMLASRDLATCAVLEKSP DRTSCIDKALRAFCTMGCGRTVSS

Clone	SeqID's	Chain	Variable Sequence Region
	38	light	38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100
	39	heavy	39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100
COV2-2130	40	light	40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

TABLE 3 - HEAVY CHAIN SEQUENCES

Clone	CDRH1	CDRH2	CDRH3
COV2-2165	GLTVRSNY	IYSGGST	ARDLVTYGLDV
COV2-2838	GFIFMSSA	IVIGSGNT	AAPYCSSISGNDGFDI
COV2-2952	GLTVRSNY	IYSGGST	ARDLVTYGLDV
COV2-2514	GFIFDDYD	INWNGGST	AVIMSPIPRYSGYDWAGDAFDI
COV2-2391	GYTFGSFD	MNSNSGNT	ARMRSGWPTHGRPDDF
COV2-3025	GFIFMSSA	IVIGSGNT	AAPYCSSISGNDGFDI
COV2-2196	GFIFMSSA	IVIGSGNT	AAPYCSSISGNDGFDI
COV2-2094	GFIFDDYD	INWNGGST	AVIMSPIPRYSGYDWAGDAFDI
COV2-2096	GYTFGSFD	MNSNSGNT	ARMRSGWPTHGRPDDF
COV2-2130	GFIFRDVW	IKSKIDGGTT	TIAGSYYYDTVGPGLPGKFDY

TABLE 4 - LIGHT CHAIN SEQUENCES

Clone	CDRL1	CDRL2	CDRL3
COV2-2165	QGISNY	AAS	QLLNSHPLT
COV2-2838	QSVSSSY	GAS	QHYGSSRGWT
COV2-2952	QGISNY	AAS	QLLNSHPLT
COV2-2514	SURSY	DKN	NSRDSGNAW
COV2-2391	NSNIGSYT	GND	AWDDSLNGLV
COV2-3025	QSVSSSY	GAS	QHYGSSRGWT
COV2-2196	QSVSSSY	GAS	QHYGSSRGWT
COV2-2094	SURSY	DKN	NSRDSGNAW
COV2-2096	NSNIGSYT	GND	AWDDSLNGLV
COV2-2130	QSVLYSSNNKINY	WAS	QQYYSTLT

[0348] All of the compositions and methods disclosed and claimed herein can be made and executed without undue experimentation in light of the present disclosure. While the compositions and methods of this disclosure have been described in terms of preferred embodiments, it will be apparent to those of skill in the art that variations may be applied to the compositions and methods and in the steps or in the sequence of steps of the method described herein. More specifically, it will be apparent that certain agents which are both chemically and physiologically related may be substituted for the agents described herein while the same or similar results would be achieved.

VII. REFERENCES

[0350] The following references, to the extent that they provide exemplary procedural or other details supplementary to those set forth herein, are disclosed below.

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Patentkrav

1. Antistof eller antistoffragment, der binder til et SARS-CoV-2-overfladespikeprotein, hvor antistoffet eller
5 antistoffragmentet omfatter en CDRH1, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 59, en CDRH2, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 60, en CDRH3, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 61, en CDRL1, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 89, en CDRL2, der omfatter
10 aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 90, en CDRL3, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 91.
2. Antistof eller antistoffragment ifølge krav 1, hvor antistoffet eller antistoffragmentet omfatter variable
15 sekvenser af tung og let kæde, der har mindst 70 %, 80 %, 90 % eller 95 % identitet med aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 33 og aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 34.
3. Antistof eller antistoffragment ifølge krav 1, hvor
20 antistoffet eller antistoffragmentet omfatter en variabel sekvens af tung kæde, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 33, og en variabel sekvens af let kæde, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 34.
- 25 4. Antistof eller antistoffragment, der binder til et SARS-CoV-2-overfladespikeprotein, hvor antistoffet eller antistoffragmentet omfatter en CDRH1, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 68, en CDRH2, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 69, en CDRH3, der omfatter
30 aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 70, en CDRL1, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 98, en CDRL2, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 99, en CDRL3, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 100.
- 35 5. Antistof eller antistoffragment ifølge krav 4, hvor antistoffet eller antistoffragmentet omfatter variable sekvenser af tung og let kæde, der har mindst 70 %, 80 %, 90 % eller 95 % identitet med aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 39

og aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 40.

5 6. Antistof eller antistoffragment ifølge krav 4, hvor antistoffet eller antistoffragmentet omfatter en variabel sekvens af tung kæde, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 39, og en variabel sekvens af let kæde, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 40.

10 7. Antistof eller antistoffragment ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-6, hvor antistoffet eller antistoffragmentet omfatter en YTE-mutation.

15 8. Antistof eller antistoffragment ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-7, hvor antistoffet eller antistoffragmentet er et IgG-antistof eller -fragment.

9. Antistof eller antistoffragment ifølge krav 8, hvor IgG-antistoffet eller -fragmentet er et IgG1-antistof.

20 10. Farmaceutisk acceptabel sammensætning, som omfatter antistoffet eller antistoffragmentet ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-9, eventuelt hvor sammensætningen er formuleret til intravenøs administration.

25 11. Farmaceutisk acceptabel sammensætning, som omfatter et første antistof eller antistoffragment, som er antistoffet eller antistoffragmentet ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-3, og et andet antistof eller antistoffragment, som er antistoffet eller antistoffragmentet ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene
30 4-6.

12. Farmaceutisk acceptabel sammensætning ifølge krav 11, hvor det første antistof eller antistoffragment omfatter en YTE-mutation, og det andet antistof eller antistoffragment omfatter
35 en YTE-mutation.

13. Farmaceutisk acceptabel sammensætning ifølge krav 11 eller 12, hvor det første antistof eller antistoffragment er et IgG1-

antistof, og det andet antistof eller antistoffragment er et IgG1-antistof.

14. Kombination af et første antistof eller antistoffragment, der binder til et SARS-CoV-2-overfladespikeprotein, og et andet antistof eller antistoffragment, der binder til et SARS-CoV-2-overfladespikeprotein, til anvendelse i en fremgangsmåde til behandling eller forebyggelse af SARS-CoV-2-infektion hos et person, hvor

det første antistof eller antistoffragment omfatter en CDRH1, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 59, en CDRH2, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 60, en CDRH3, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 61, en CDRL1, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 89, en CDRL2, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 90, en CDRL3, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 91; og

det andet antistof eller antistoffragment omfatter en CDRH1, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 68, en CDRH2, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 69, en CDRH3, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 70, en CDRL1, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 98, en CDRL2, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 99, en CDRL3, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 100.

15. Kombination til anvendelse ifølge krav 14, hvor det første antistof eller antistoffragment omfatter en variabel sekvens af tung kæde, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 33, og en variabel sekvens af let kæde, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 34.

16. Kombination til anvendelse ifølge krav 14 eller 15, hvor det andet antistof eller antistoffragment omfatter en variabel sekvens af tung kæde, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 39, og en variabel sekvens af let kæde, der omfatter aminosyresekvensen ifølge SEQ ID NO: 40.

17. Kombination til anvendelse ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 14-16, hvor det første antistof eller antistoffragment

omfatter en YTE-mutation, og det andet antistof eller antistoffragment omfatter en YTE-mutation.

5 18. Kombination til anvendelse ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 14-17, hvor det første antistof eller antistoffragment er et IgG-antistof eller -fragment, og det andet antistof eller antistoffragment er et IgG-antistof eller -fragment.

10 19. Kombination til anvendelse ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 14-18, hvor det første antistof eller antistoffragment er et IgG1-antistof; og det andet antistof eller antistoffragment er et IgG1-antistof.

15 20. Kombination til anvendelse ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 14-19, hvor det første antistof eller antistoffragment er formuleret til intravenøs administration, og/eller det andet antistof eller antistoffragment er formuleret til intravenøs administration.

20 21. Kombination til anvendelse ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 14-20, hvor det første antistof eller antistoffragment og det andet antistof eller antistoffragment er i den samme farmaceutisk acceptable sammensætning.

25 22. Kombination til anvendelse ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 14-21, hvor personen:

(i) er 60 år eller ældre,
(ii) er immunkompromitteret eller
(iii) lider af en luftvejsforstyrrelse og/eller en
30 kardiovaskulær forstyrrelse.

DRAWINGS

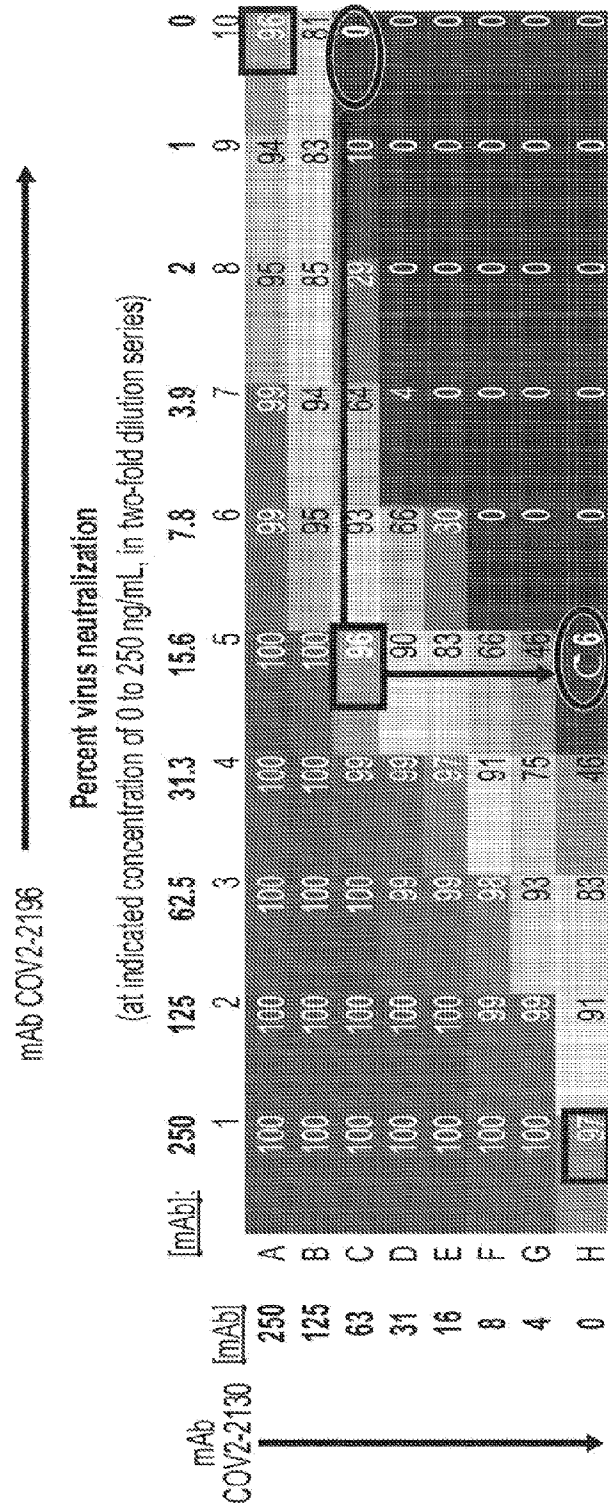


FIG. 1

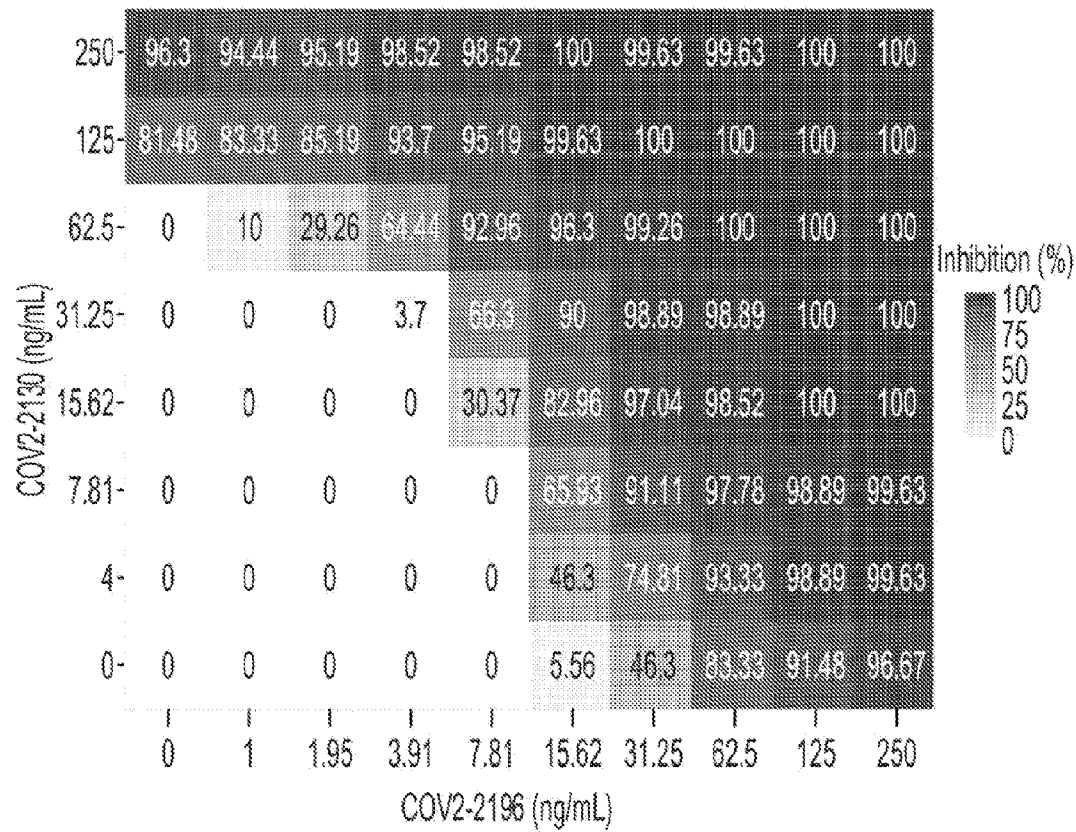


FIG. 2A

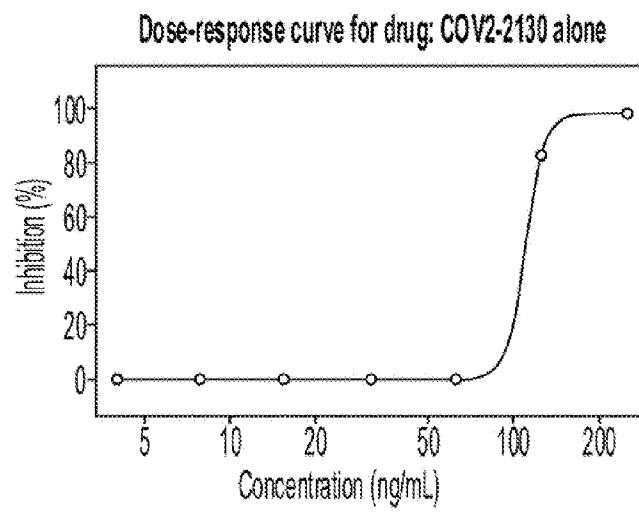
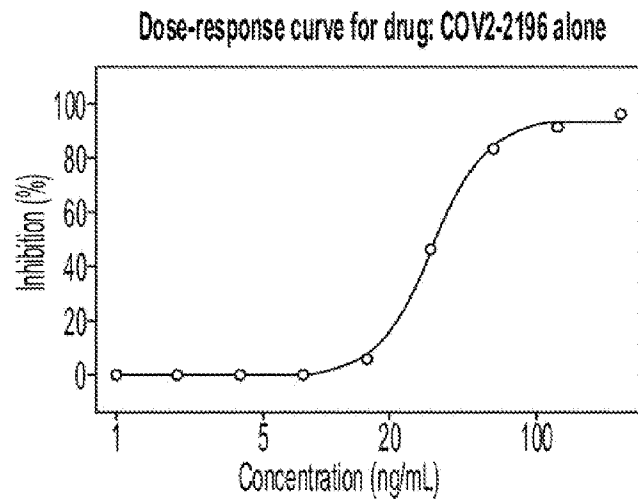


FIG. 2B

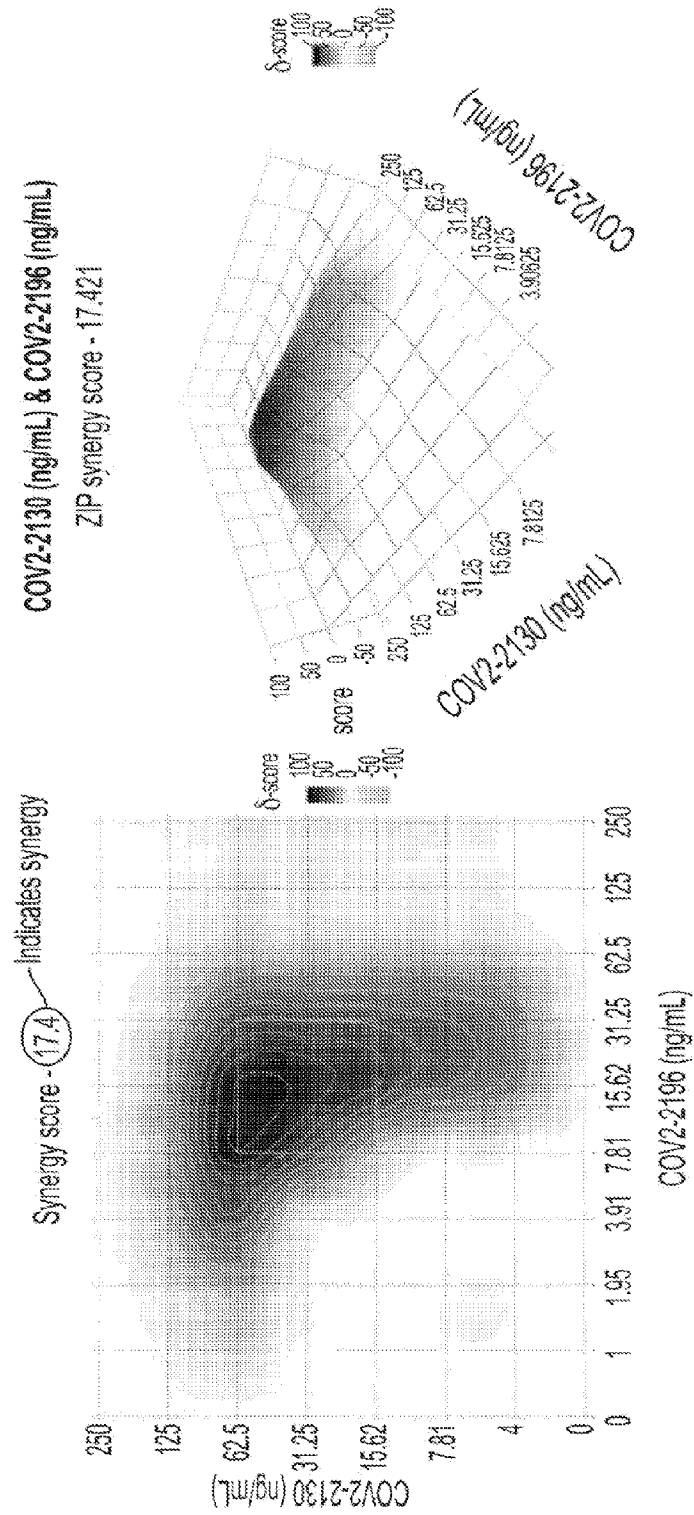


FIG. 3

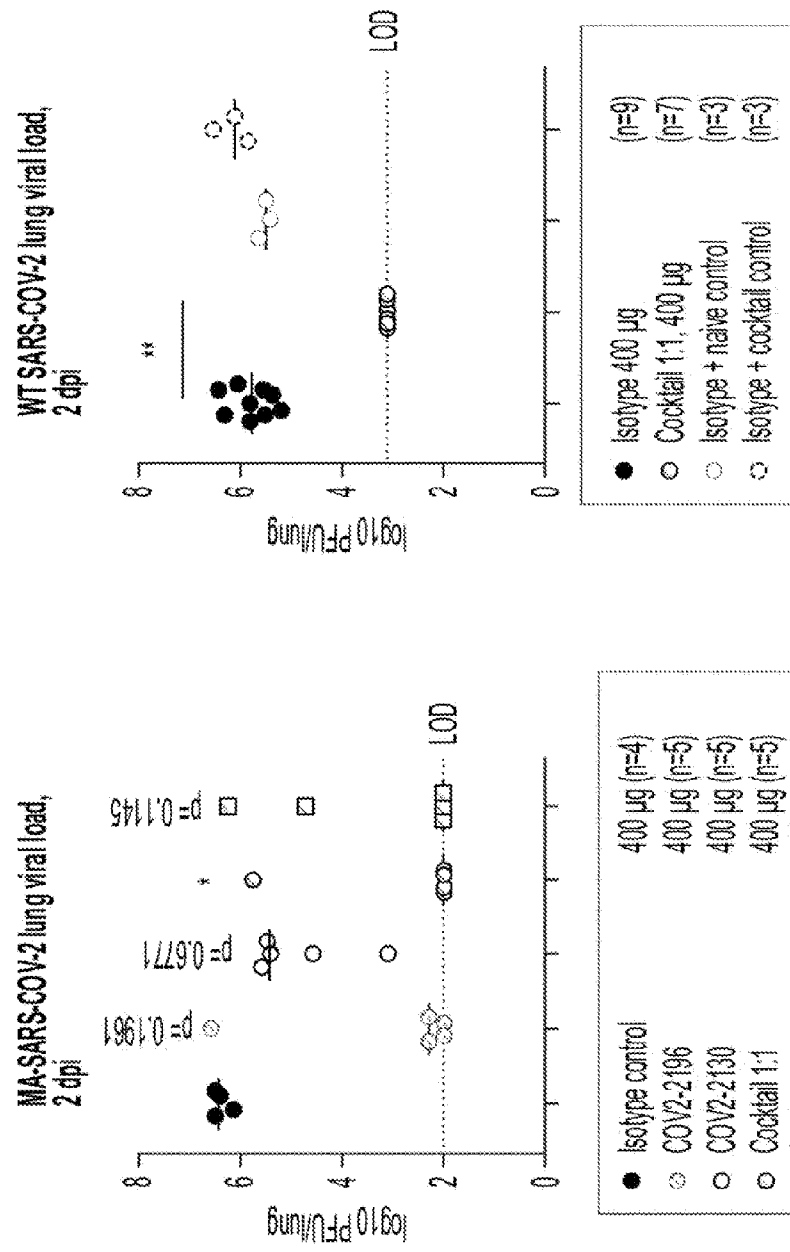


FIG. 4A

FIG. 4B

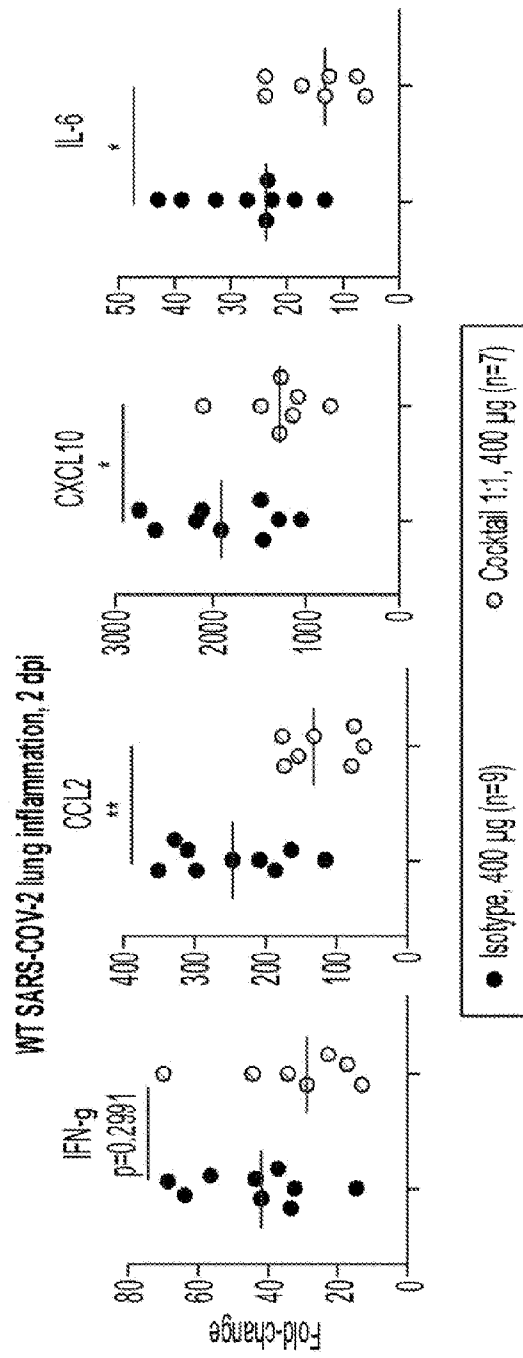


FIG. 4C

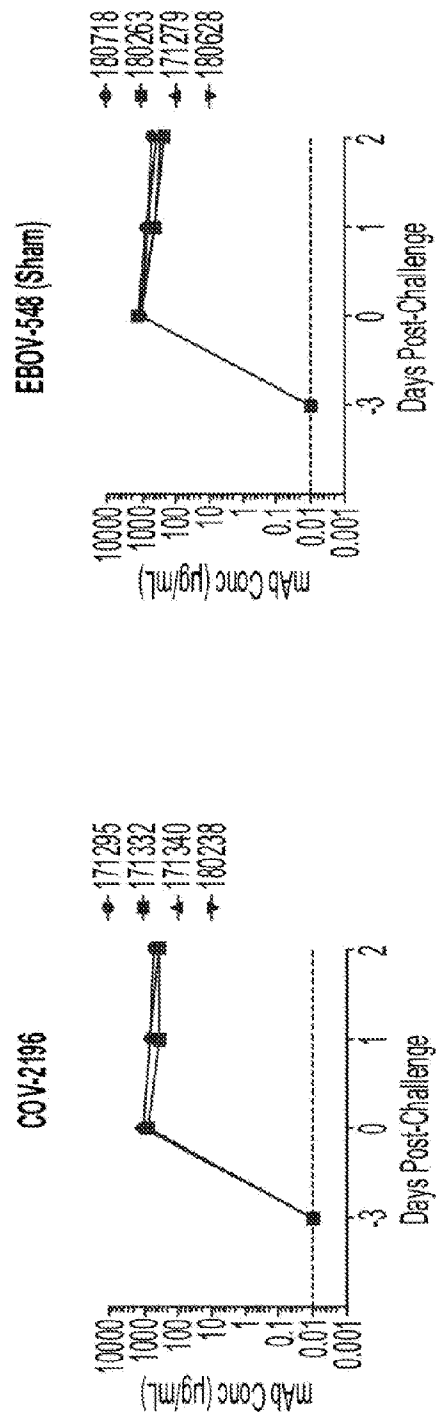


FIG. 5

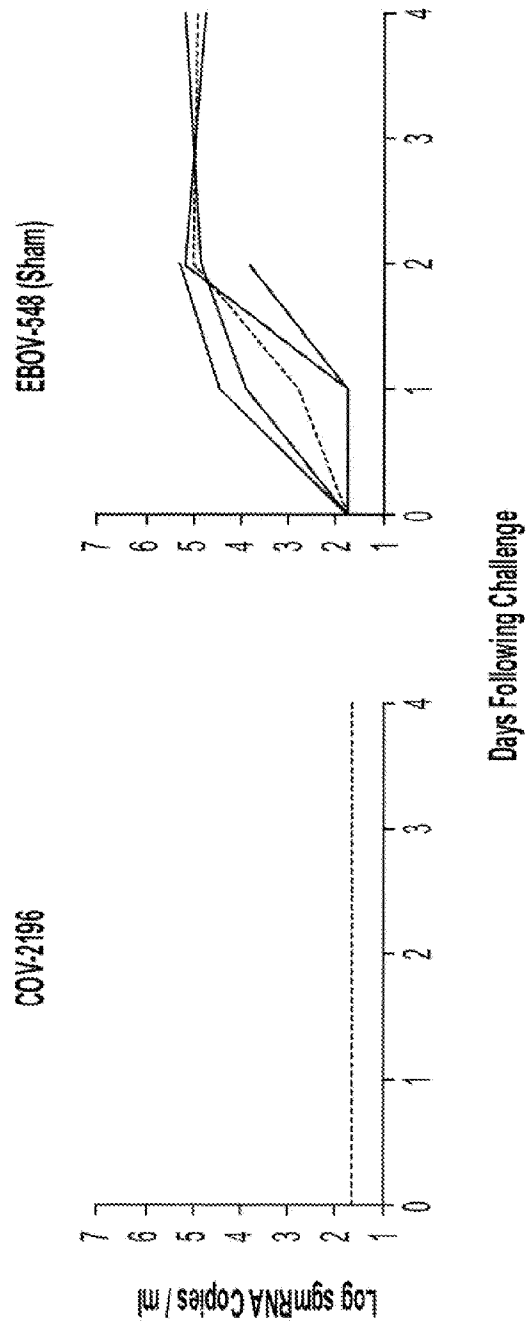


FIG. 6

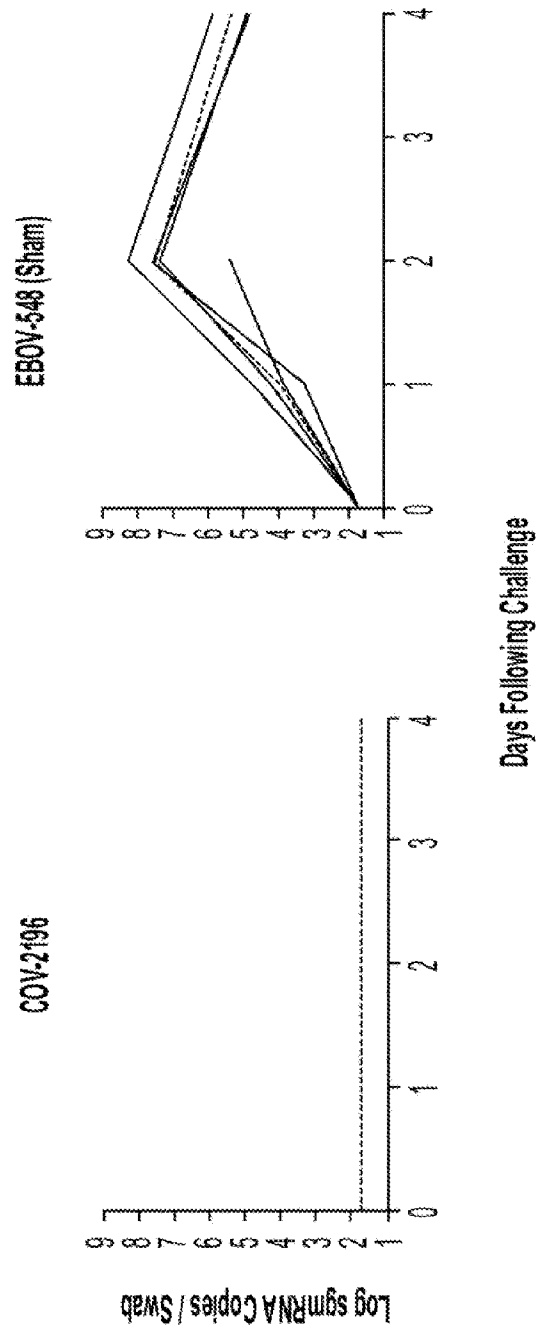
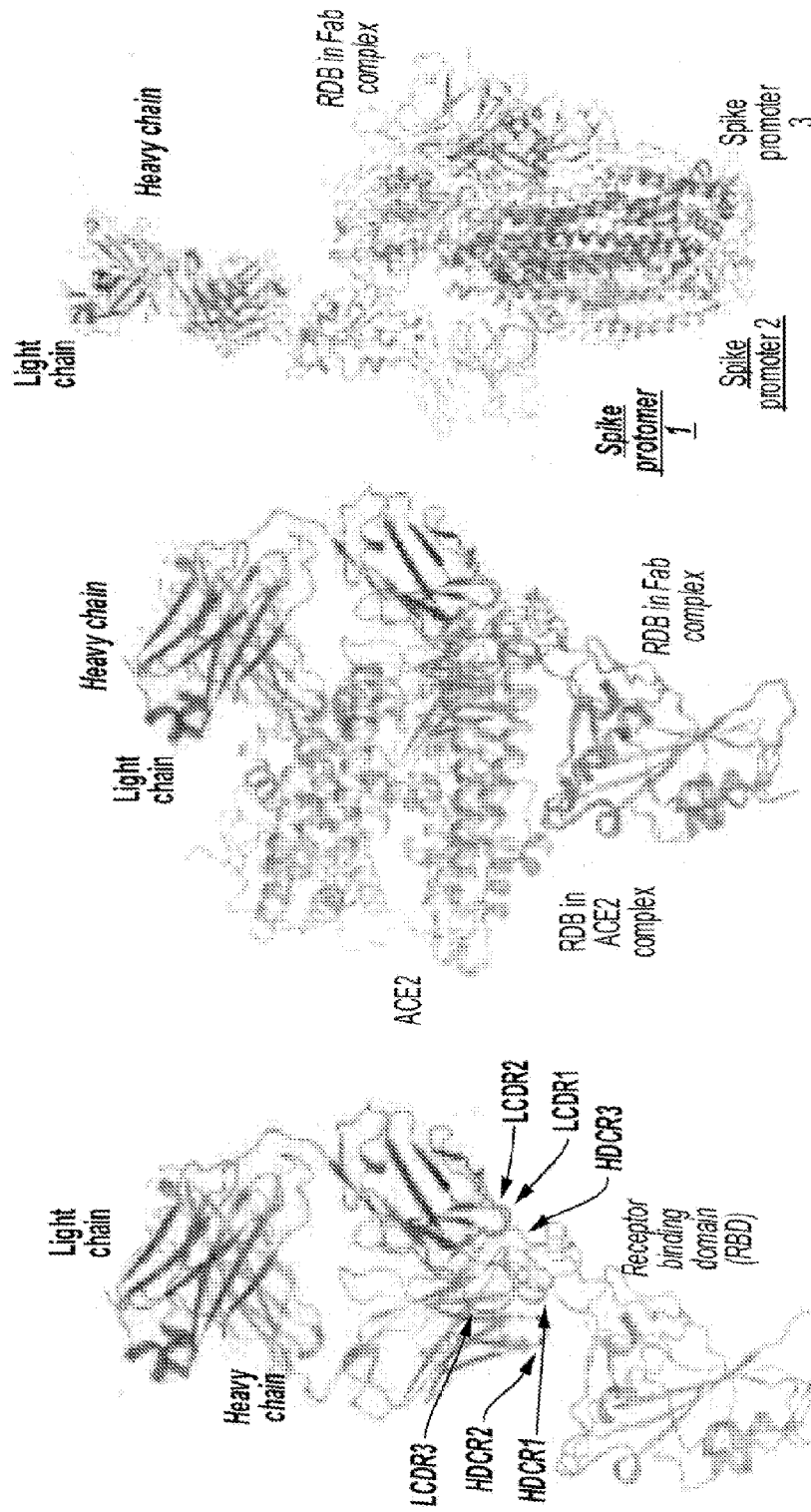


FIG. 7



COV2-2196 binding site

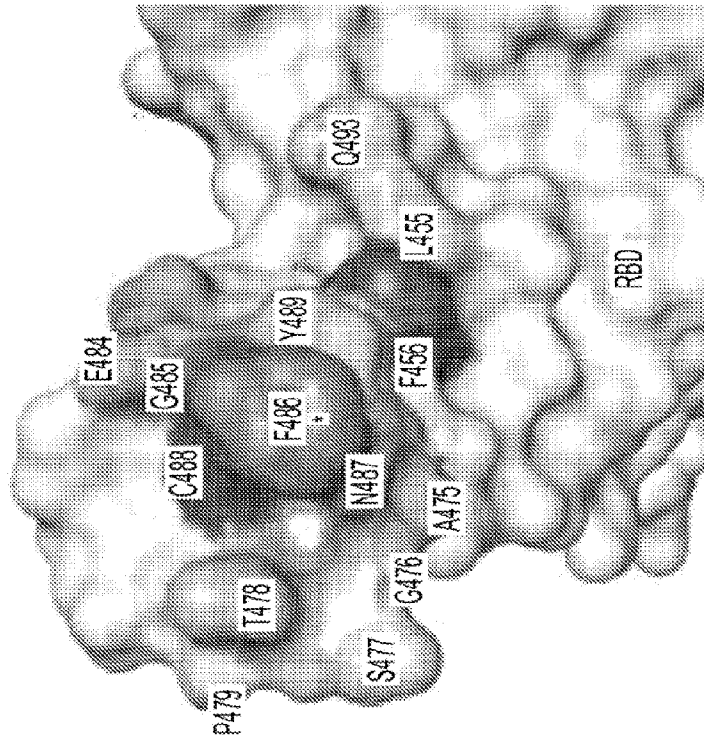


FIG. 8D

COV2-2196 CDRs on RBD

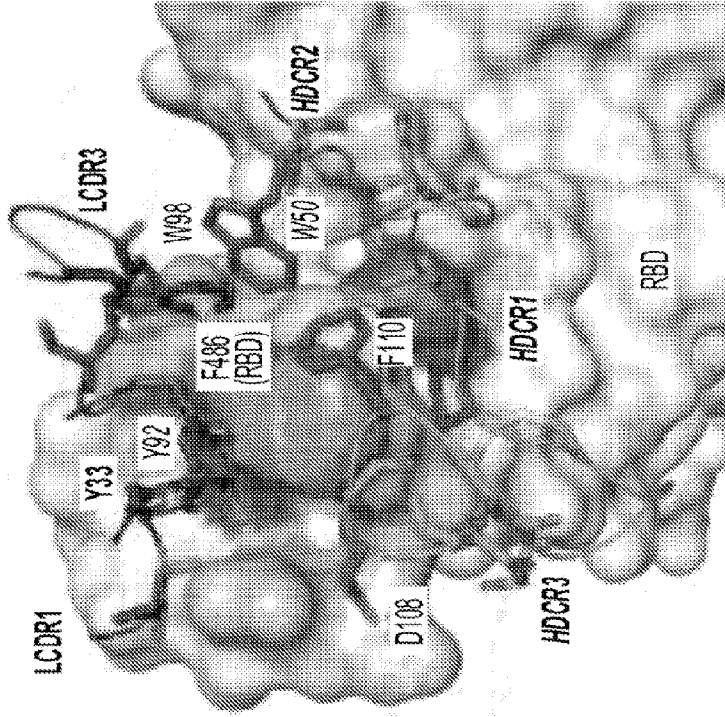


FIG. 8E

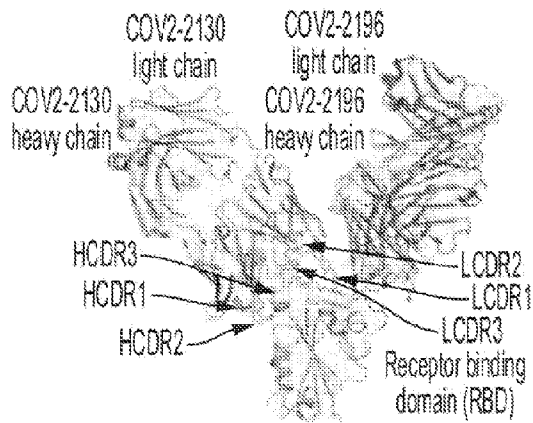


FIG. 9A

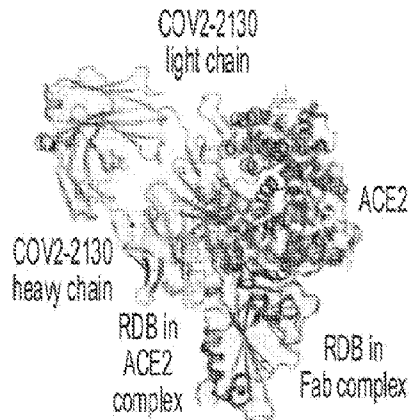


FIG. 9B

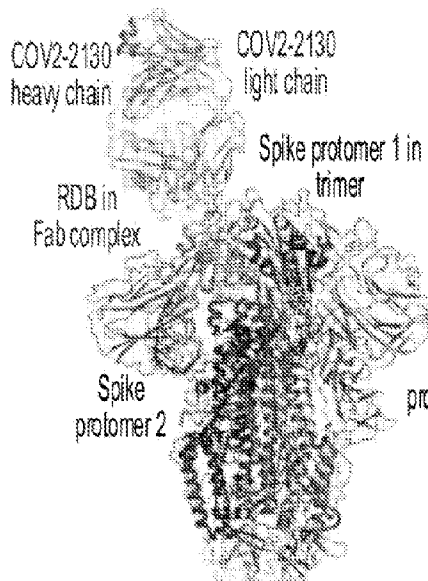


FIG. 9C

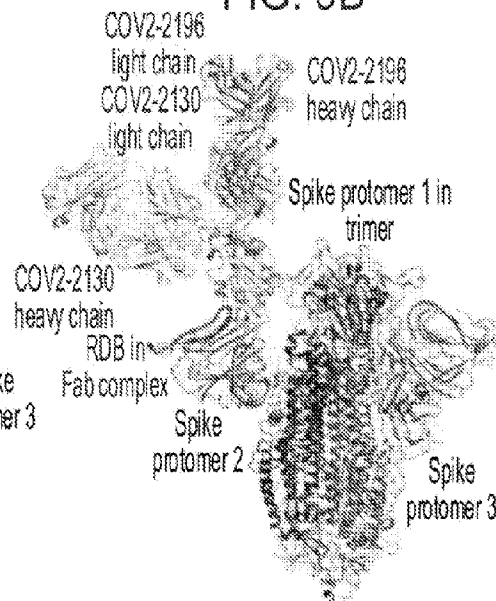


FIG. 9D

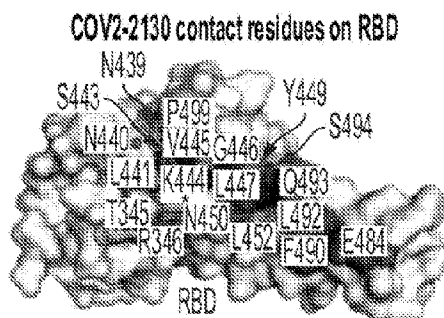


FIG. 9E

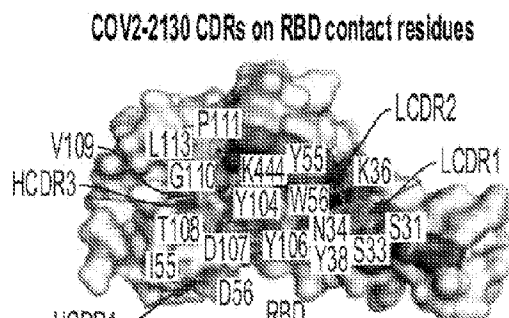


FIG. 9F

gene	Heavy chain		Light chain		Reference
	FR2-HCDR2	HCDR3-FR4	LCDR1-FR2	LCDR3-FR4	
IGHV1-58	IGWIV	CAA.....			
IGHD2-2		...GYCSSTSCVA.....			
IGHD2-8		...GYCTNGVCVA.....			
IGHD2-15		...GYCSGGSCYS.....	IGKV3-20 SSYLAW	QYGSSP.....	
IGHJ3*02		DAFDIW	IGKJ1*01	WTFG	
mAb					
	4A	9A	31	91	
COV2-2196	IGWIV	CAAPYCSSISCI D F DIW	SSYLAW	HYCSSRGWTFG	Zost et al., 2020
COV2-2381	IGWIA	CAAPYCSRTSCID A F DIW	SSYLAW	HFGSSSQWTFG	
COV2-2072	IGWIV	CAAPH C NR T SCID A F DIW	SSYLGW	QYGSSP.WTFG	
MnC512p1_G1	IGWIV	CAAPRC S Q S CI D F DIW	SSYLAW	QYGSSP.WTFG	Kreer et al., 2020
HbnC31p2_C6	IGWIV	CAAPYCSSTRCI D A F DIW	SSYLAW	QYGRSP.WTFG	
HbnC31p1_C6	IGWIV	CAAPHCSSTCI D C F DIW	SSYLAW	QYGSSP.WTFG	
S2E12	VGWIV	CASPYCSGGSCSD G F DIW	SSYLAW	QVGLTCWTFG	Tortolici et al., 2020
COV107_1	IGWIV	CAAPHCSSTSCID A F DIW	SSYLAW	QYGNSP.WTFG	Robbiani et al., 2020
COV107_2	IGWIV	CAAPYCSGGSCSD A F DIW	SSYLAW	QYGSSP.WTFG	
COV72	IGWIV	CAAVDCNSTSCID A F DIW	SSYLAW	QYDISP.WTFG	
COV21_1	IGWIV	CAAPHCSGGSCID A F DIW	SSYLAW	QYGSSP.WTFG	
COV21_2	IGWIV	CAAPHCSGGSCID A F DIW	SSYLAW	QYGSSP.WTFG	
COV57_1	IGWIV	CAANHCSGGSCID G F DIW	SSYLAW	QYGSSP.WTFG	
COV57_2	IGWIV	CAAPYCSGGSCID A F DIW	SSYLAW	QYGSSP.WTFG	

FIG. 10A

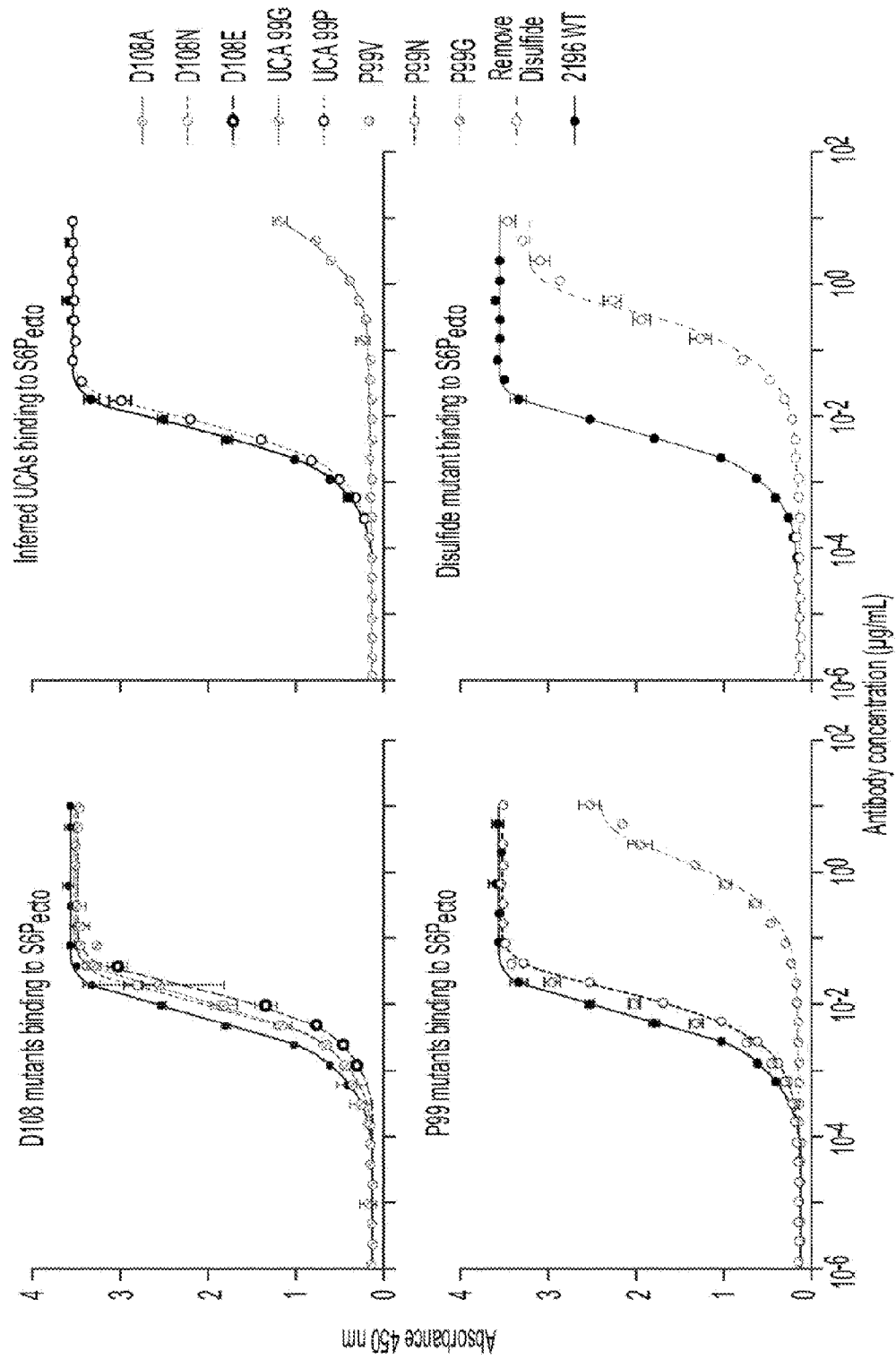


FIG. 10B

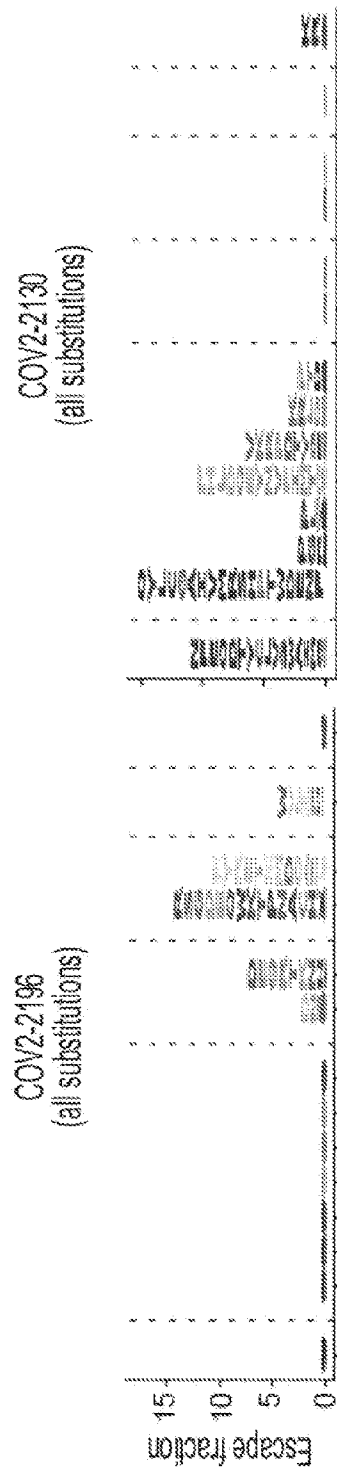


FIG. 11A

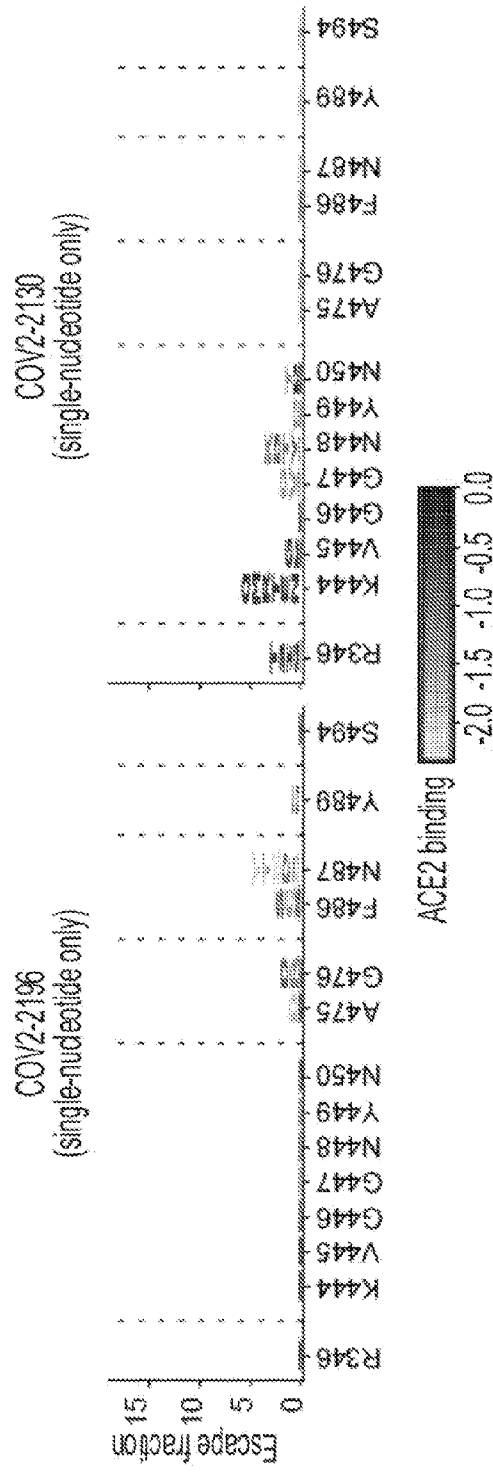


FIG. 11B

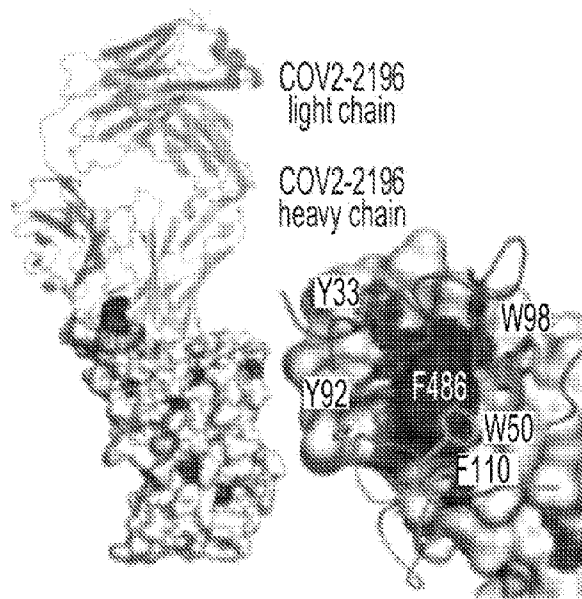


FIG. 11C

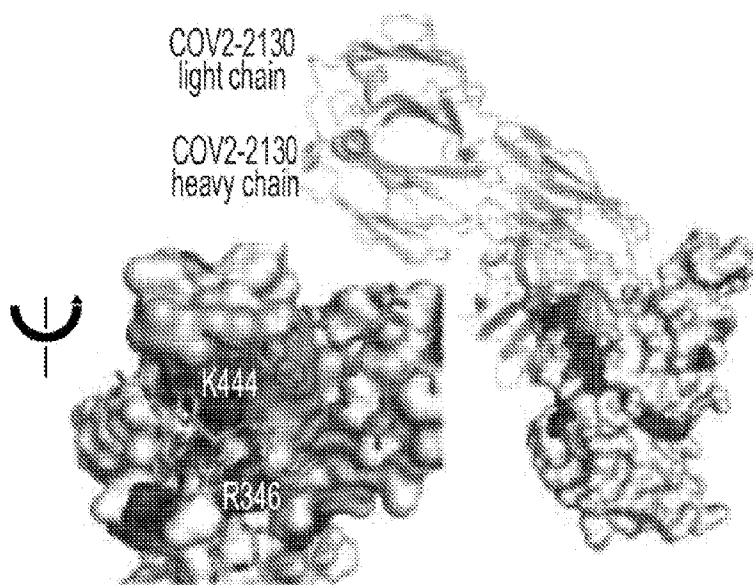


FIG. 11D

VSV-SARS-CoV-2 escape variant selection		
Selection condition	Replicates with escape/total	Mutations identified
COV2-2196	0/88 (0%)	N/A
COV2-2130	8/20 (40%)	K444R (6), K444E (2)
Cocktail (2196+2130)	0/104 (0%)	N/A

FIG. 11E

SARS-CoV-2 resistant variant selection			
Passaging condition	Test condition	Resistance detected	Mutations identified
AZD8895 (COV2-2196)	AZD8895	No	N/A
	AZD7442	No	
AZD1061 (COV2-2130)	AZD1061	Yes	N74K, R346I
	AZD7442	No	N/A
AZD7442 (Cocktail)	AZD7442	No	N/A

FIG. 11F

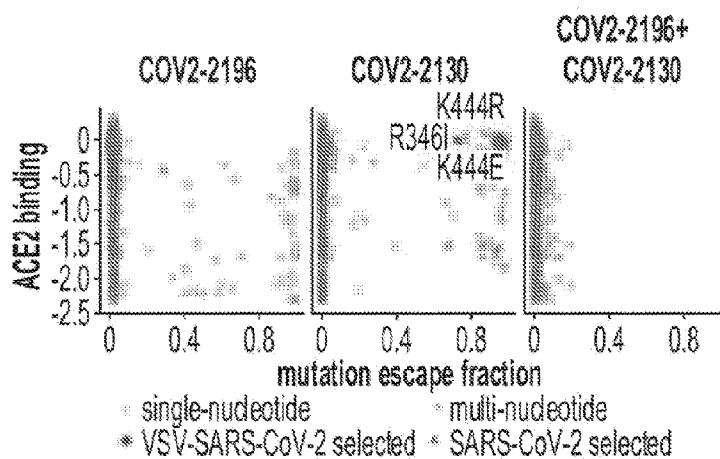


FIG. 11G

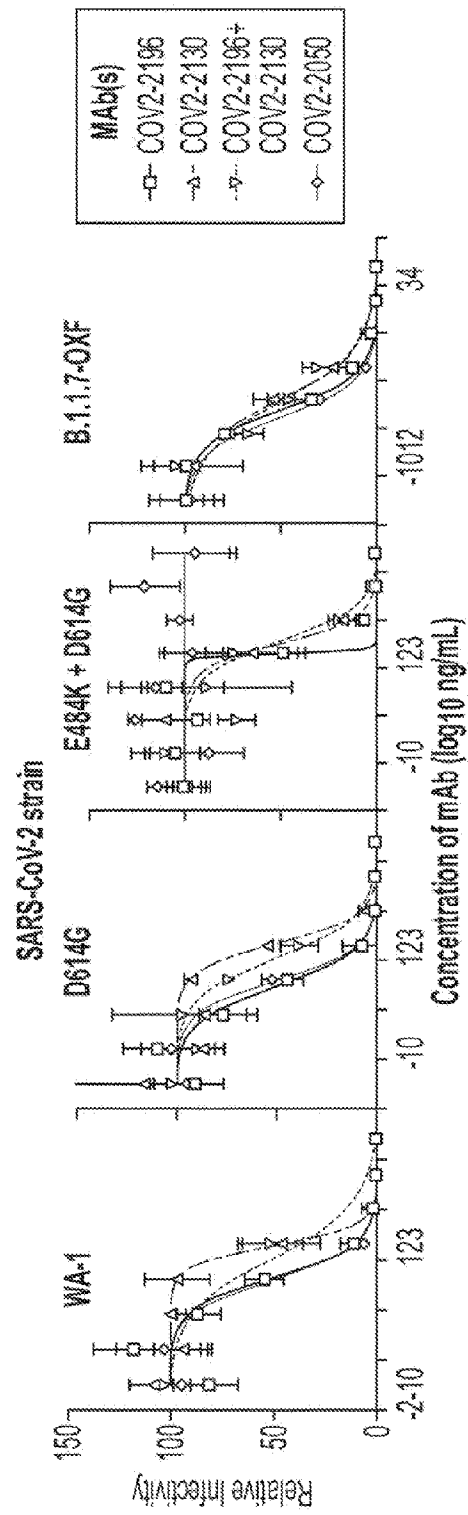


FIG. 11H

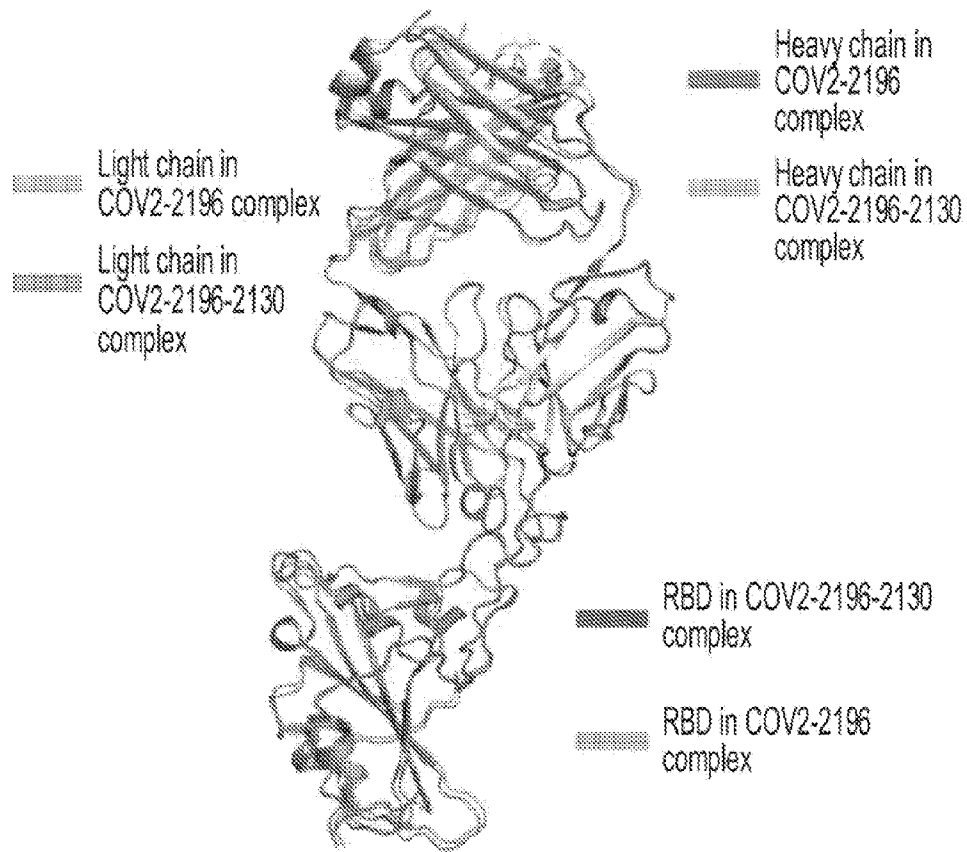


FIG. 12

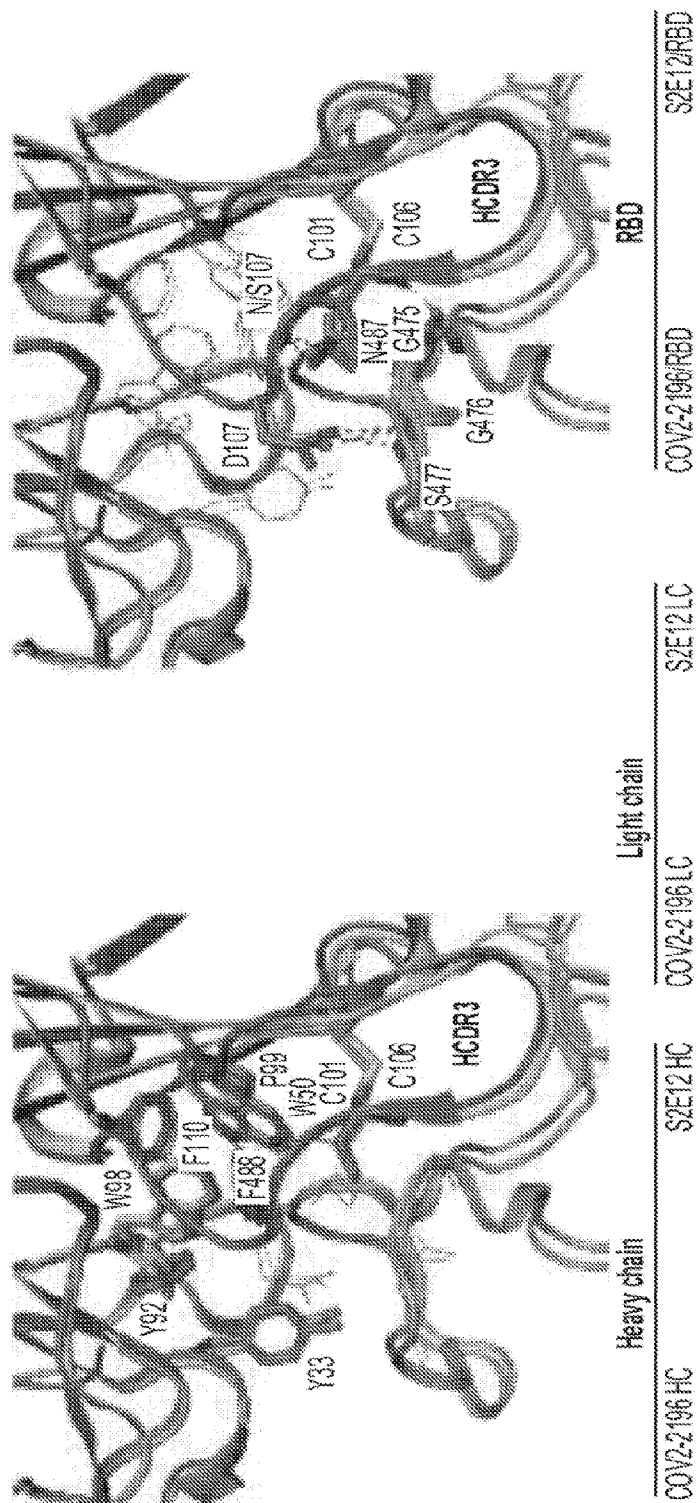


FIG. 13A

FIG. 13B

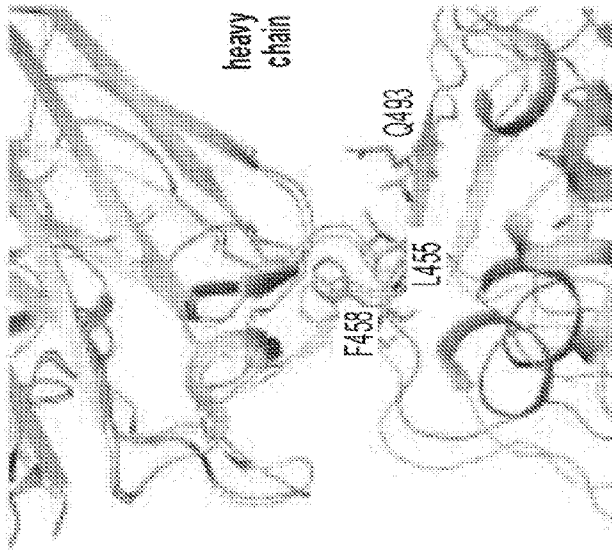


FIG. 13D

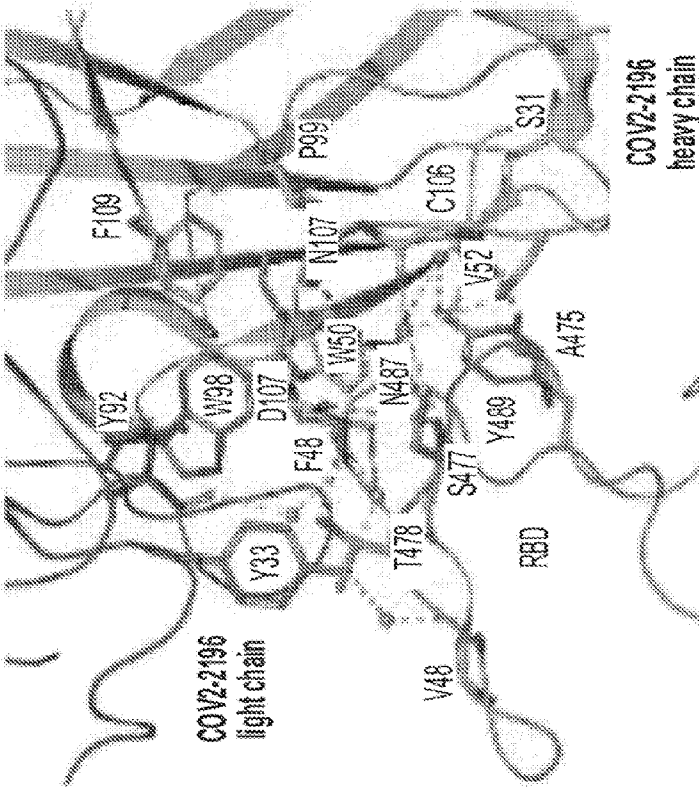


FIG. 13C

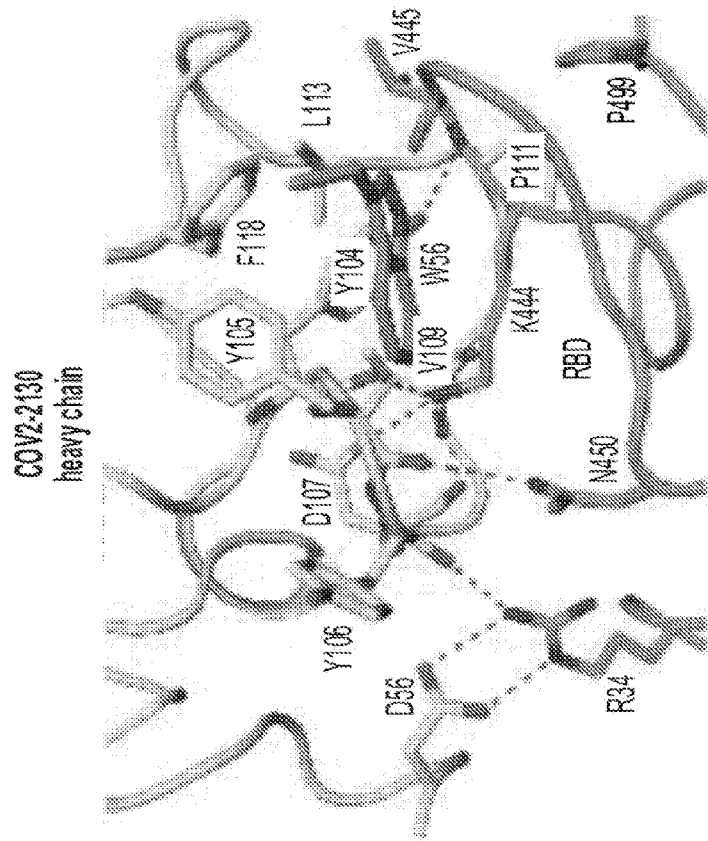


FIG. 13E

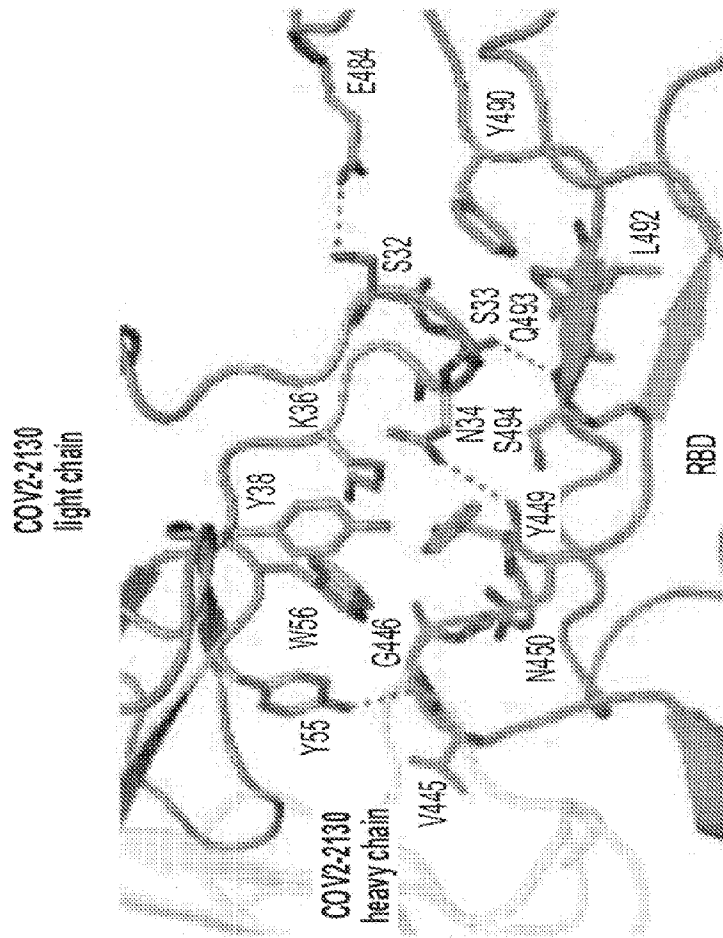


FIG. 13F



FIG. 14A



FIG. 14B



FIG. 14C

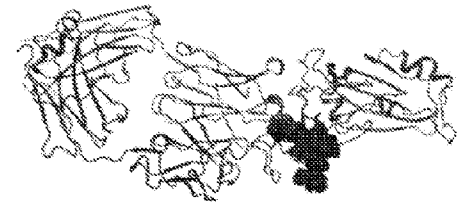


FIG. 14D

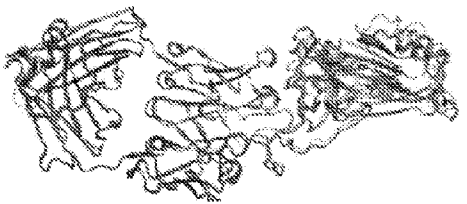


FIG. 14E

Heavy chain		Light chain		RBD	
COV2-2196 HC	S2E12 HC	COV2-2196 LC	S2E12 LC	RDB/COV2-2196	RDB/S2E12
COV2-2381 HC	COV2-2072 HC	COV2-2381 LC	COV2-2072 LC	RDB/COV2-2381	RBD/COV2-2072

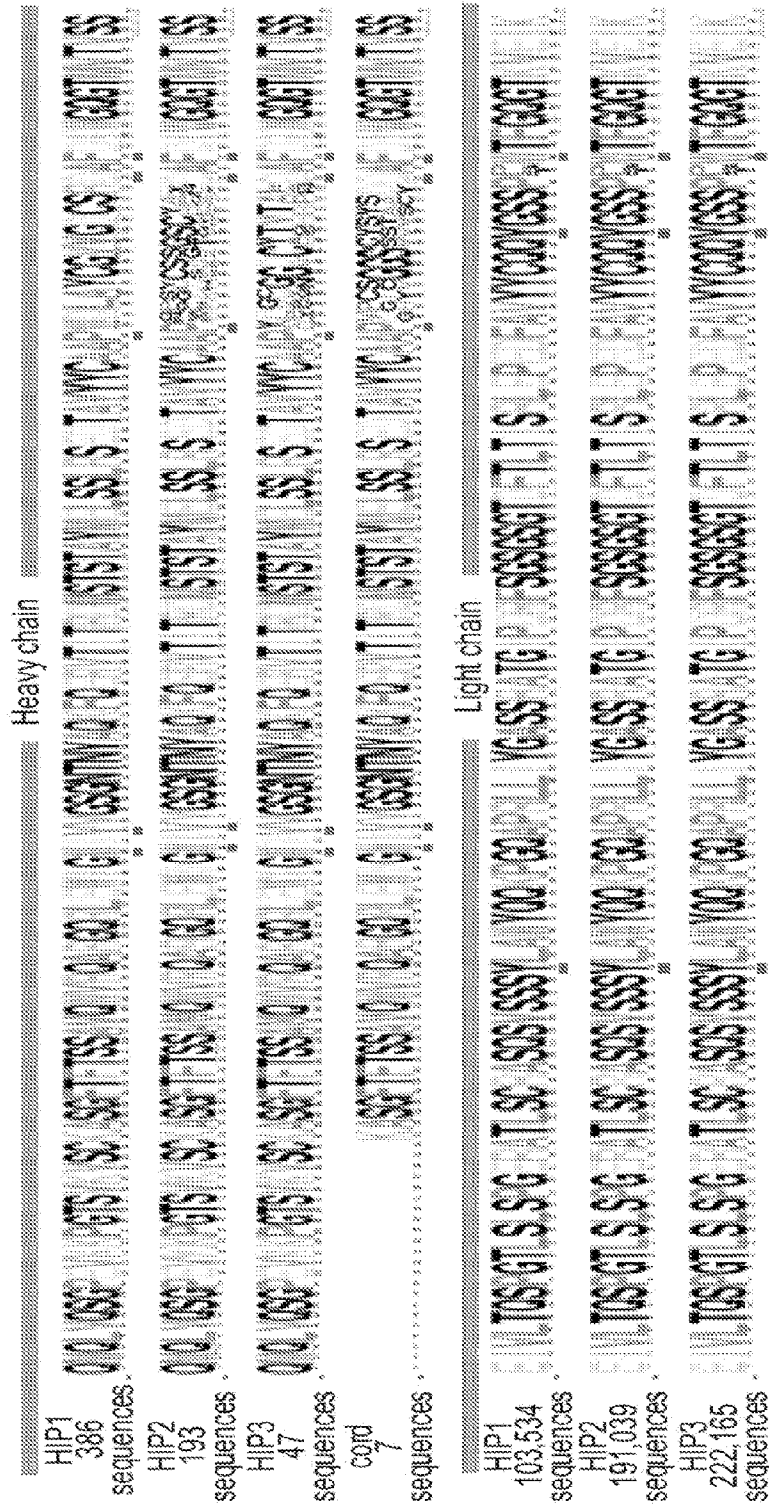
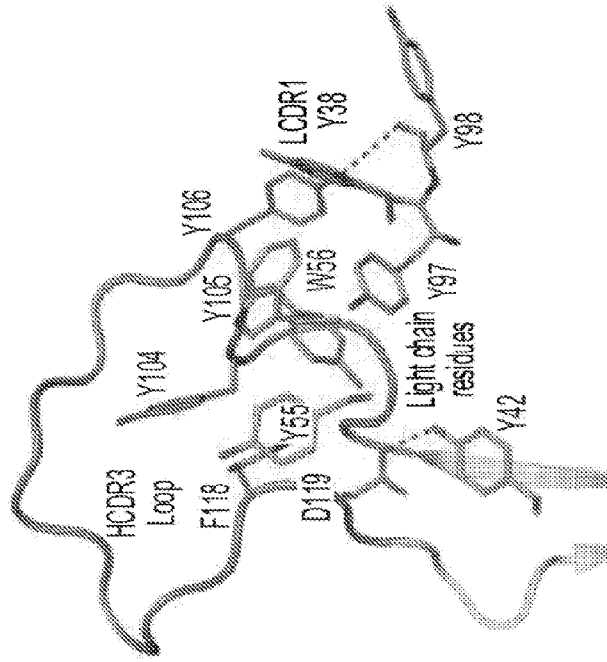
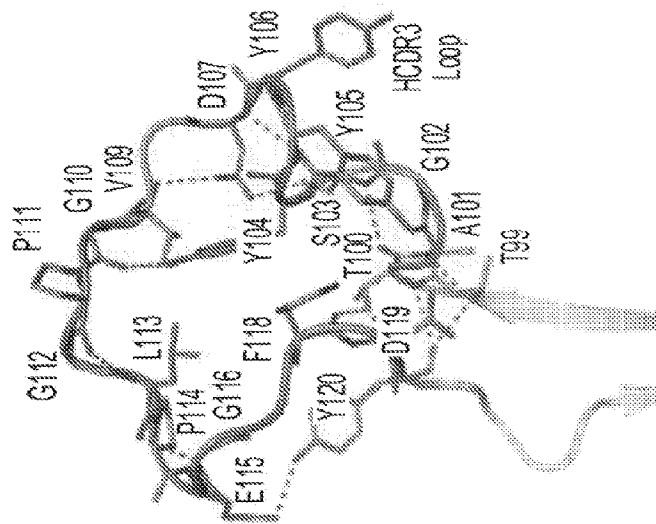


FIG. 15A

Subject	Light chain amino acid multiple sequence alignment	Number of occurrences
HIP1	EIVLTQS PGTLSLSPGERATLSRASQSVSSSYLAWIQKPGQAPRLIYGASSRATGIPRFSGSGSDTTLTISRLEPEDFAVYCCQYGSS-PWTFGGGKVEIK	2,323
	EIVLTQS PGTLSLSPGERATLSRASQSVSSSYLAWIQKPGQAPRLIYGASSRATGIPRFSGSGSDTTLTISRLEPEDFAVYCCQYGSS-PWTFGGGKVEIK	1,087
	EIVLTQS PGTLSLSPGERATLSRASQSVSSSYLAWIQKPGQAPRLIYGASSRATGIPRFSGSGSDTTLTISRLEPEDFAVYCCQYGSS-PWTFGGGKVEIK	1,086
	EIVLTQS PGTLSLSPGERATLSRASQSVSSSYLAWIQKPGQAPRLIYGASSRATGIPRFSGSGSDTTLTISRLEPEDFAVYCCQYGSS-SWTFGGGKVEIK	601
	EIVLTQS PGTLSLSPGERATLSRASQSVSSSYLAWIQKPGQAPRLIYGASSRATGIPRFSGSGSDTTLTISRLEPEDFAVYCCQYGSSPTWTFGGGKVEIK	539
HIP2	EIVLTQS PGTLSLSPGERATLSRASQSVSSSYLAWIQKPGQAPRLIYGASSRATGIPRFSGSGSDTTLTISRLEPEDFAVYCCQYGSS-PWTFGGGKVEIK	3,909
	EIVLTQS PGTLSLSPGERATLSRASQSVSSSYLAWIQKPGQAPRLIYGASSRATGIPRFSGSGSDTTLTISRLEPEDFAVYCCQYGSS-PWTFGGGKVEIK	2,205
	EIVLTQS PGTLSLSPGERATLSRASQSVSSSYLAWIQKPGQAPRLIYGASSRATGIPRFSGSGSDTTLTISRLEPEDFAVYCCQYGSS-PWTFGGGKVEIK	1,747
	EIVLTQS PGTLSLSPGERATLSRASQSVSSSYLAWIQKPGQAPRLIYGASSRATGIPRFSGSGSDTTLTISRLEPEDFAVYCCQYGSS-SWTFGGGKVEIK	1,246
	EIVLTQS PGTLSLSPGERATLSRASQSVSSSYLAWIQKPGQAPRLIYGASSRATGIPRFSGSGSDTTLTISRLEPEDFAVYCCQYGSSPTWTFGGGKVEIK	1,230
HIP3	EIVLTQS PGTLSLSPGERATLSRASQSVSSSYLAWIQKPGQAPRLIYGASSRATGIPRFSGSGSDTTLTISRLEPEDFAVYCCQYGSS-PWTFGGGKVEIK	3,908
	EIVLTQS PGTLSLSPGERATLSRASQSVSSSYLAWIQKPGQAPRLIYGASSRATGIPRFSGSGSDTTLTISRLEPEDFAVYCCQYGSS-PWTFGGGKVEIK	1,889
	EIVLTQS PGTLSLSPGERATLSRASQSVSSSYLAWIQKPGQAPRLIYGASSRATGIPRFSGSGSDTTLTISRLEPEDFAVYCCQYGSS-PWTFGGGKVEIK	1,809
	EIVLTQS PGTLSLSPGERATLSRASQSVSSSYLAWIQKPGQAPRLIYGASSRATGIPRFSGSGSDTTLTISRLEPEDFAVYCCQYGSS-SWTFGGGKVEIK	1,293
	EIVLTQS PGTLSLSPGERATLSRASQSVSSSYLAWIQKPGQAPRLIYGASSRATGIPRFSGSGSDTTLTISRLEPEDFAVYCCQYGSSPTWTFGGGKVEIK	953

FIG. 15B



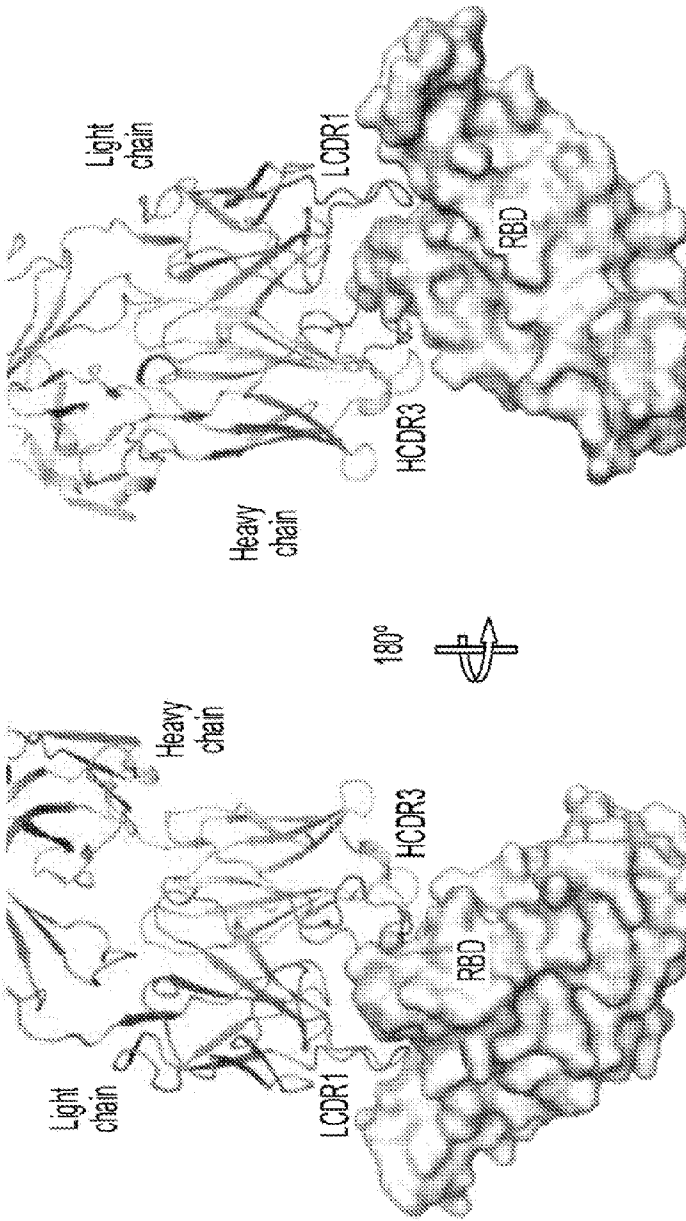


FIG. 16C

FIG. 16D

Interaction of Fab COV2-2130 and Fab
COV2-2196 when bound to RBD

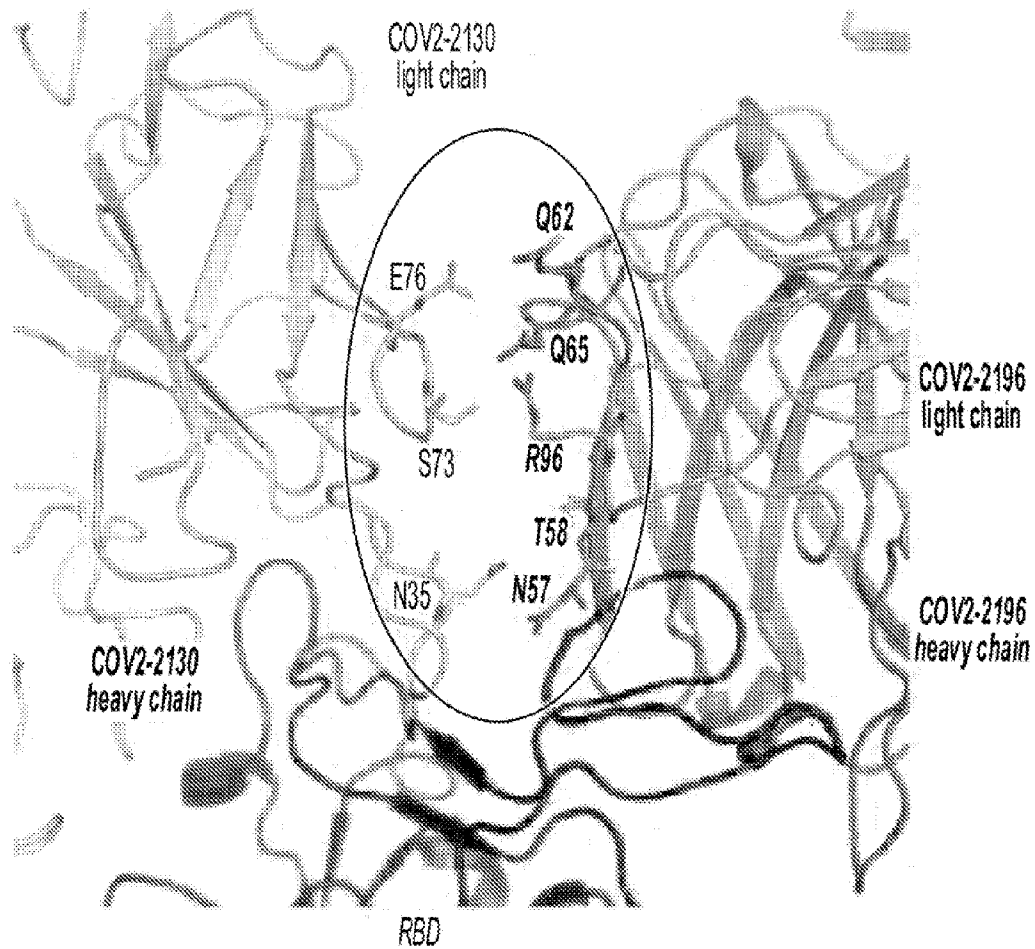


FIG. 17

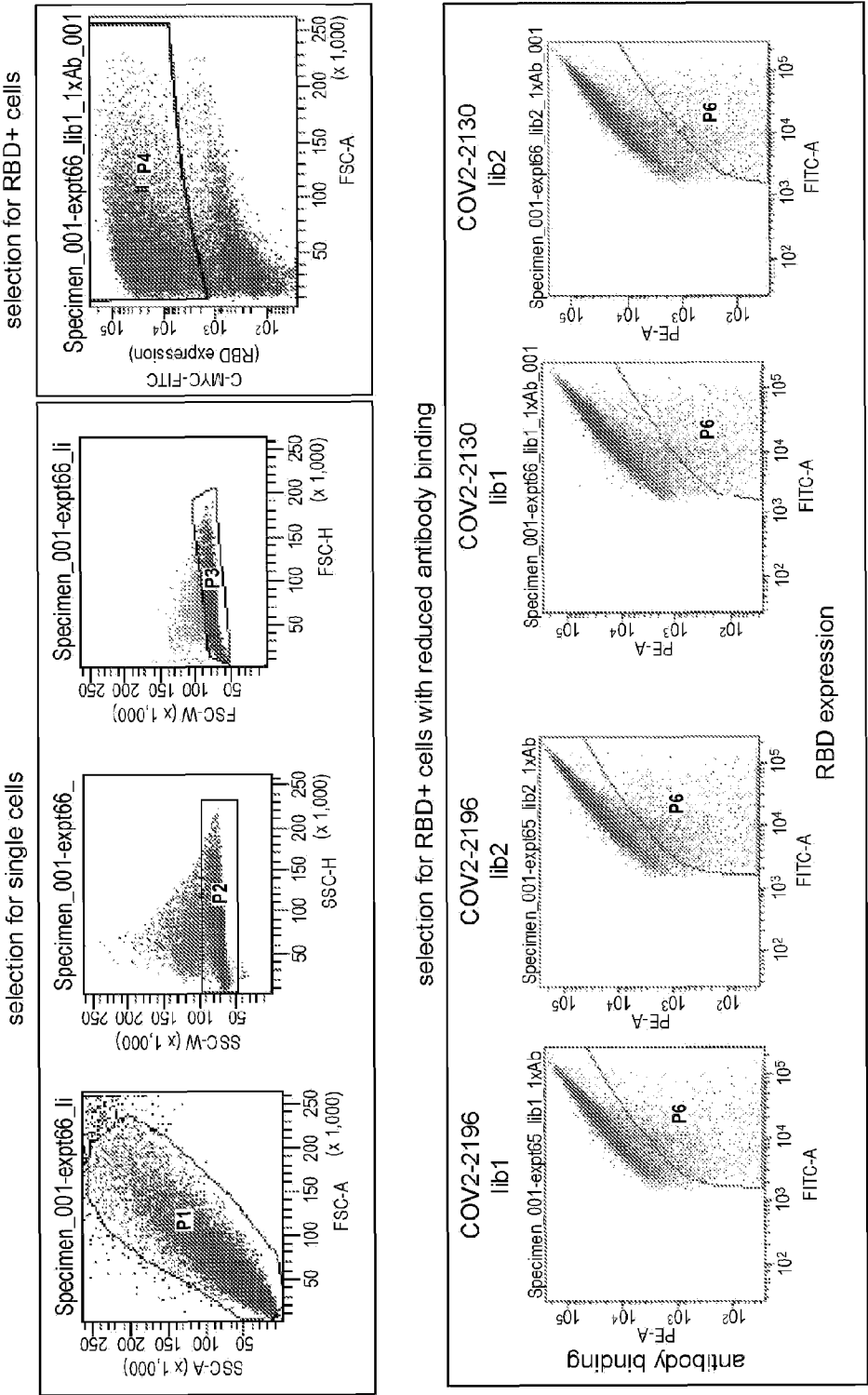


FIG. 18A

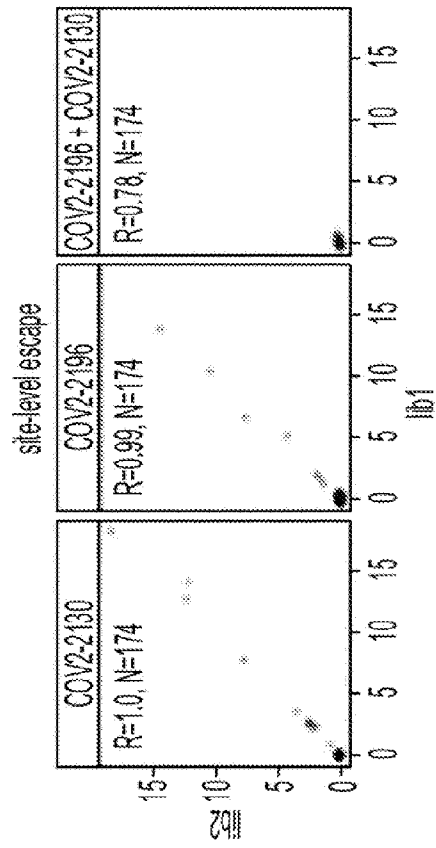


FIG. 18B

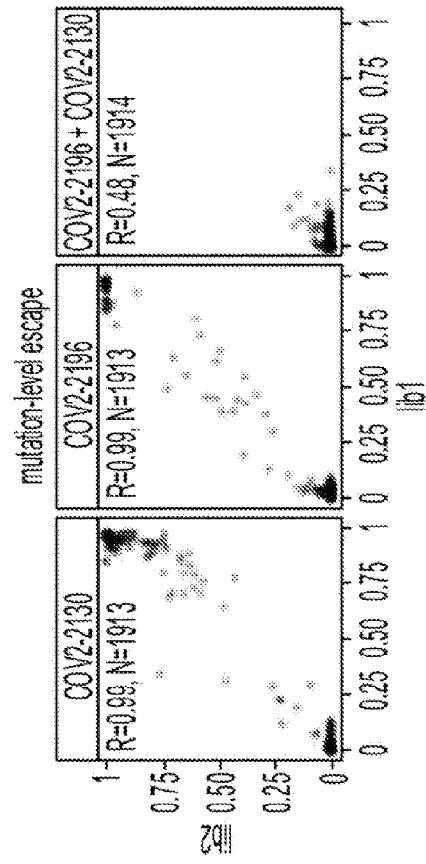
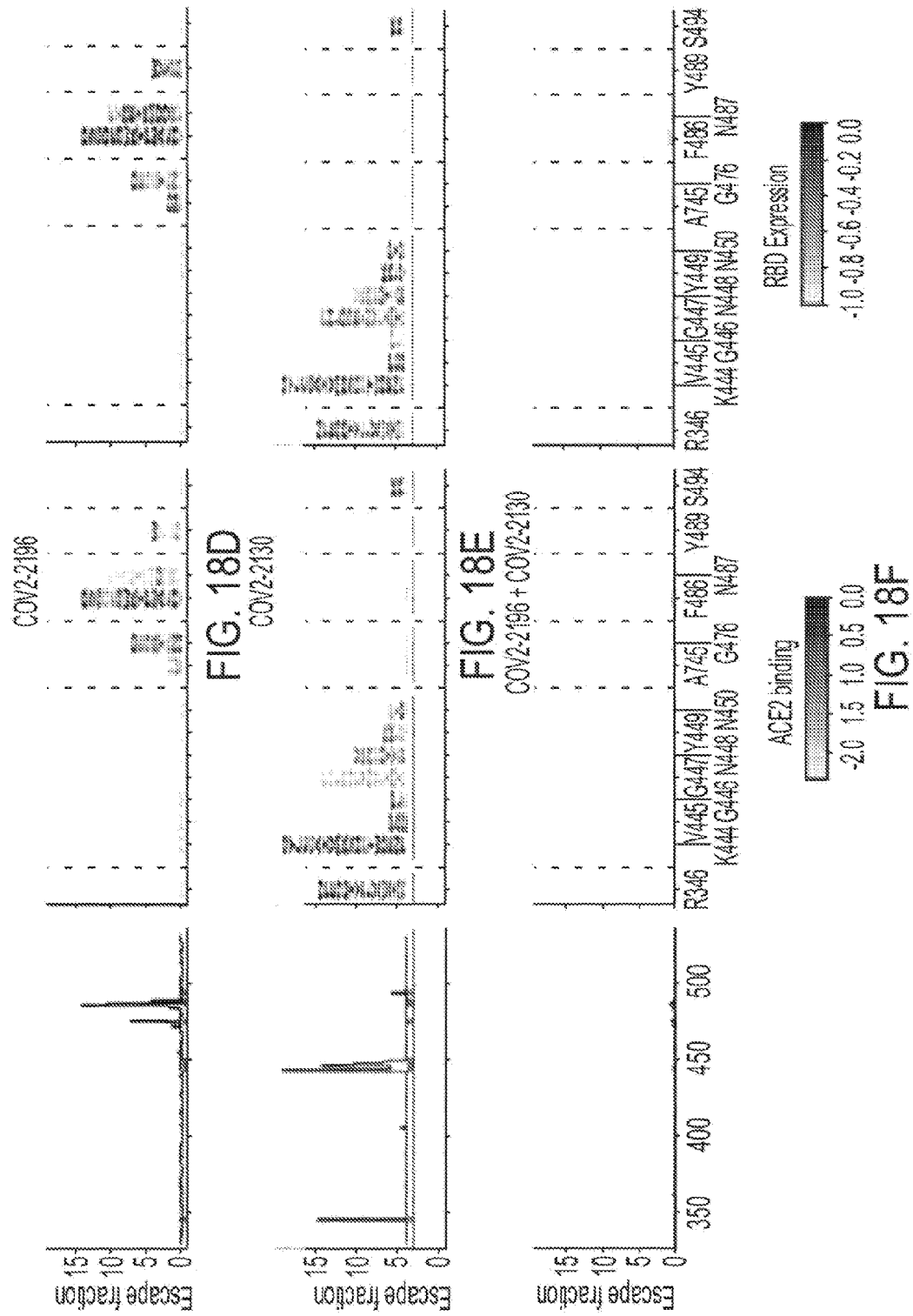


FIG. 18C



— Virus without antibody control
 - - - No infection control
 - - - - - COVID-2130 neutralization
 - - - - - COVID-2130 escape

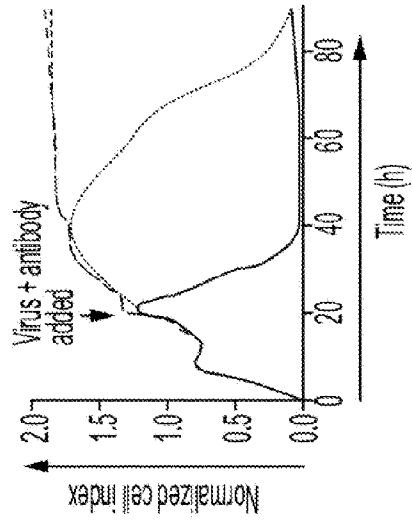


FIG. 18G

— COVID-2130 escape virus (no antibody)
 - - - No infection control
 - - - - - COVID-2130 escape virus + COVID-2196
 - - - - - COVID-2130 escape virus + COVID-2130

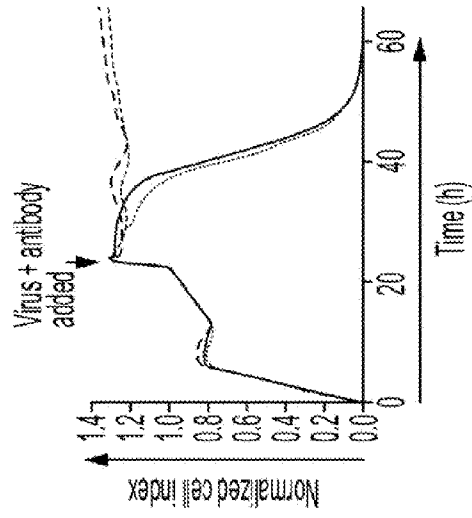


FIG. 18H

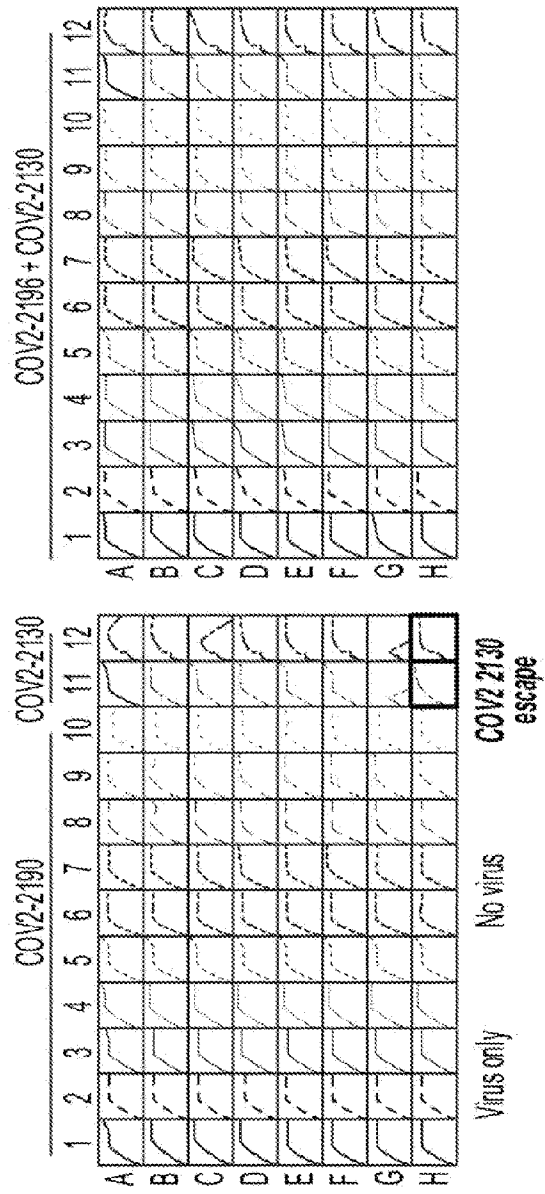


FIG. 18I

Method for serial passaging and testing of SARS-CoV-2 to select for mAb-resistant spike protein variants

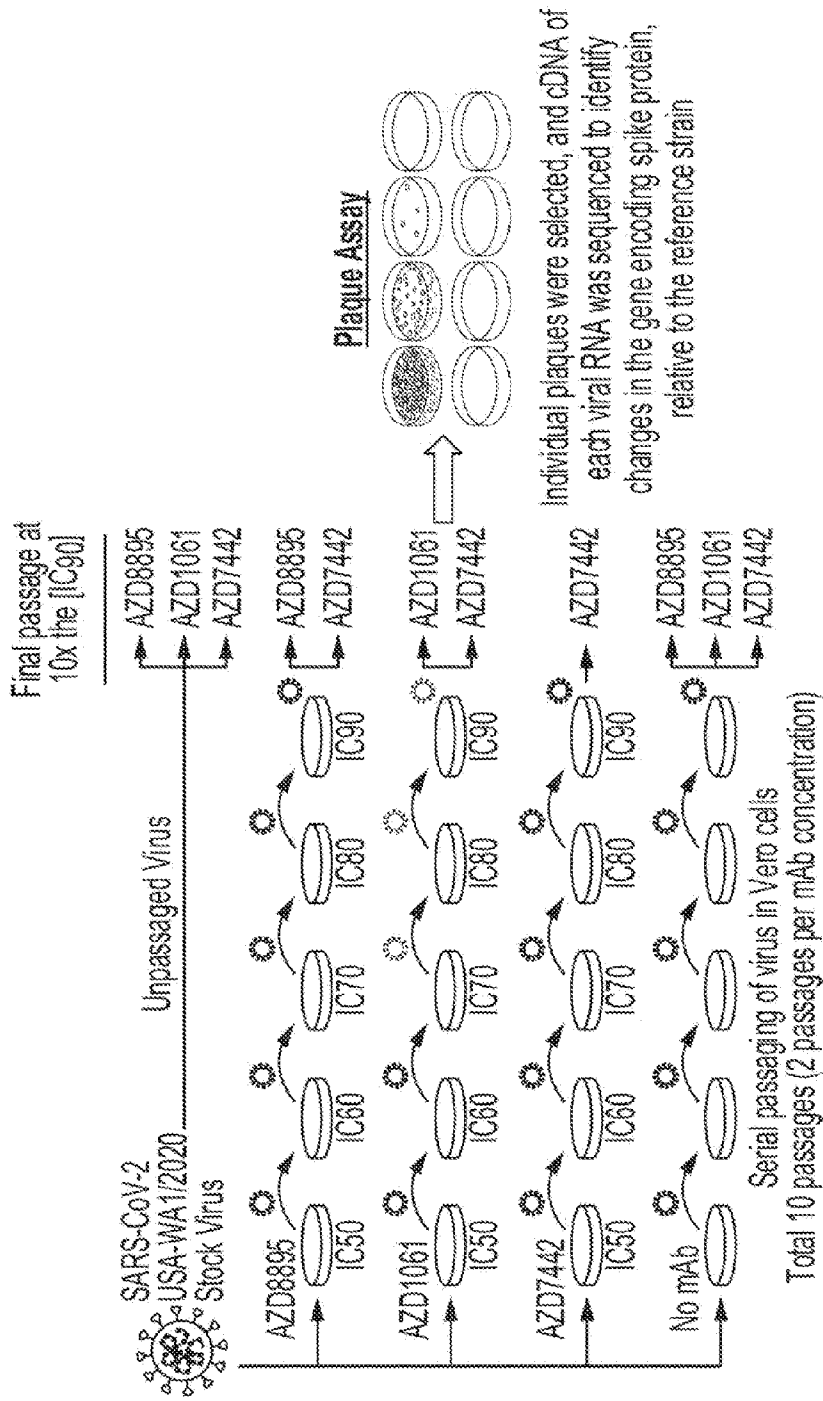


FIG. 19

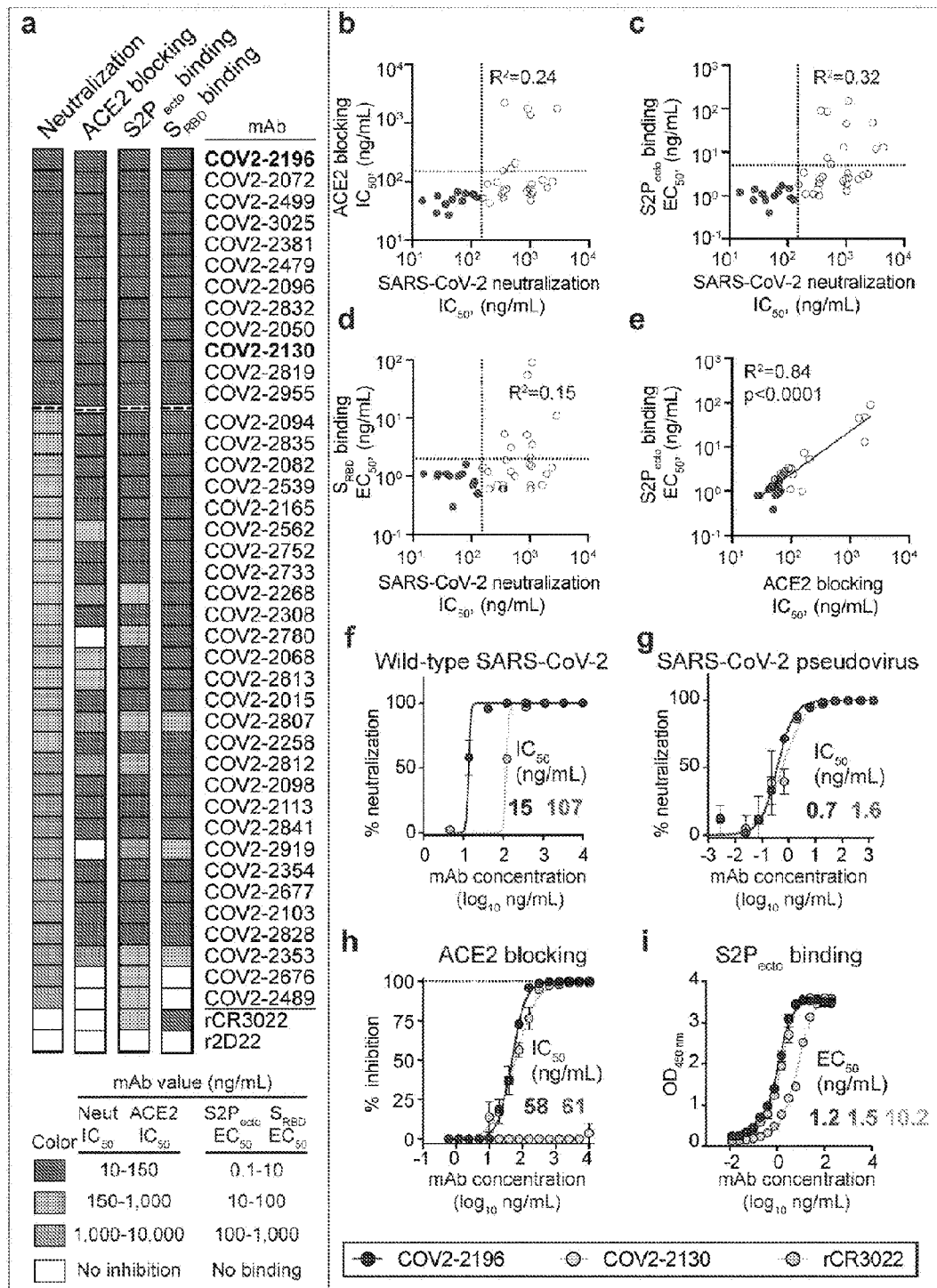


FIG. 20

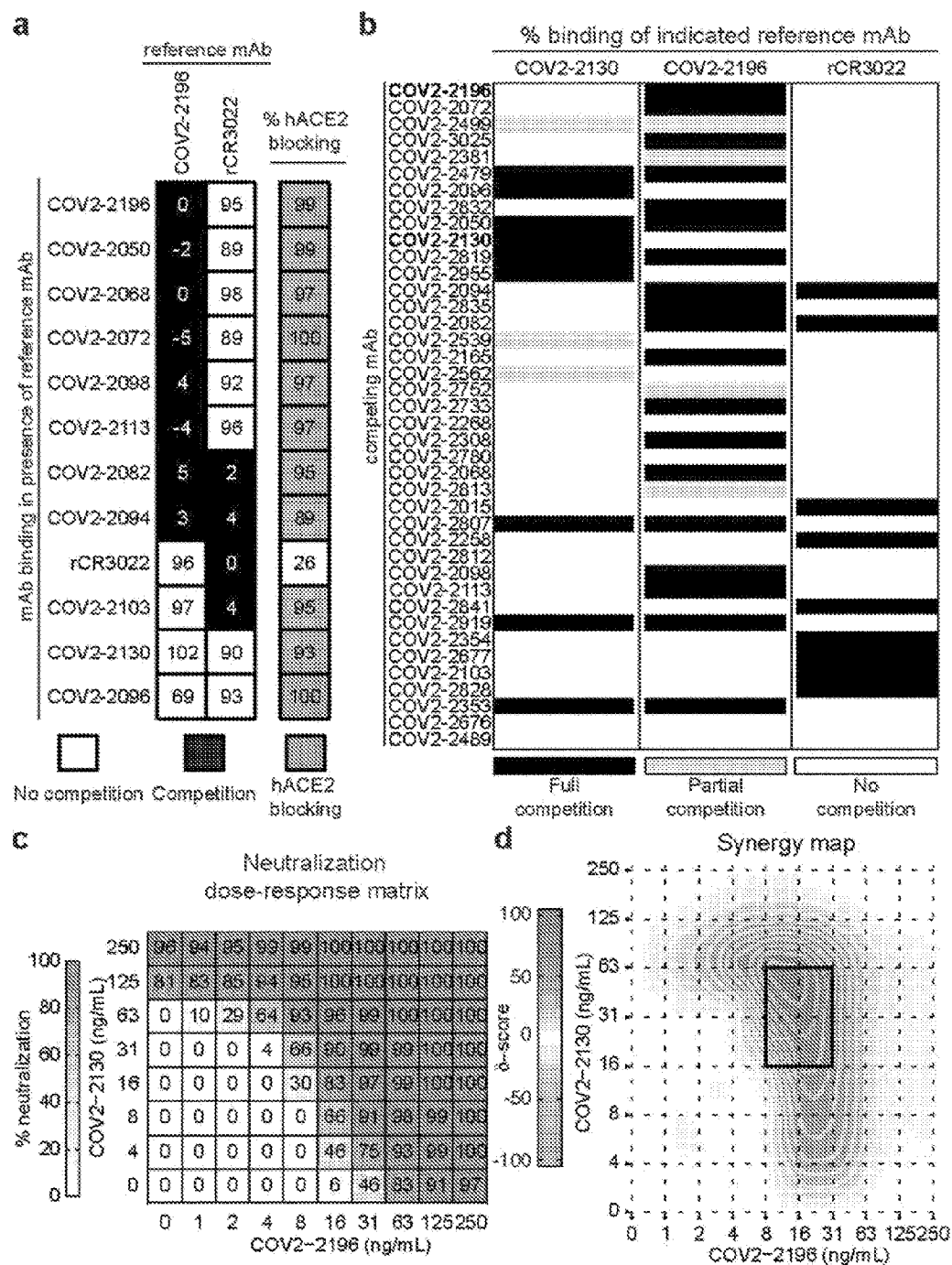


Fig. 21

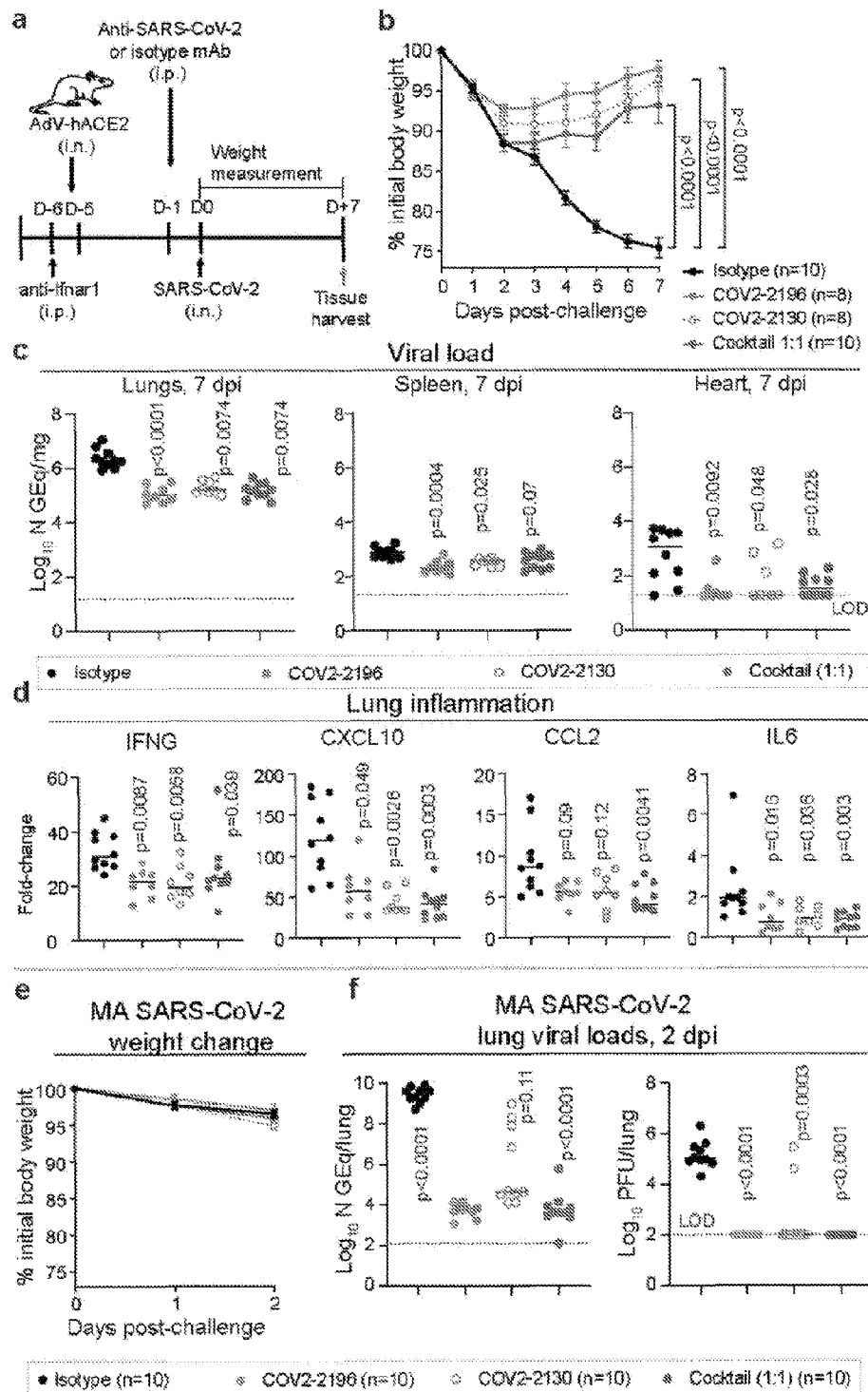


Fig. 23

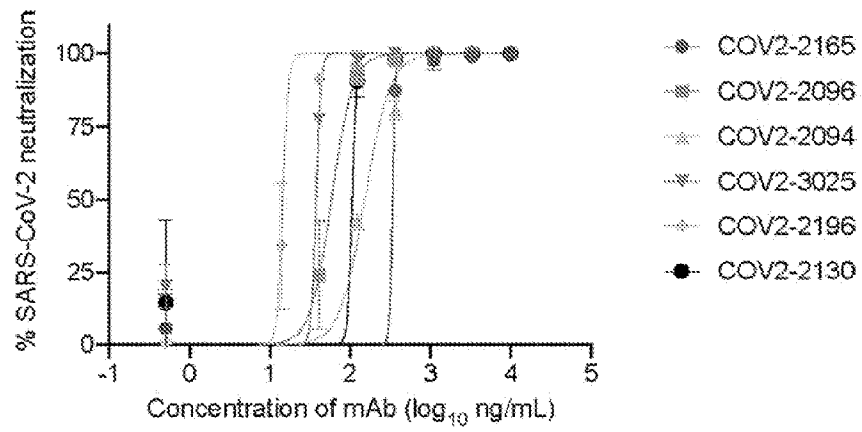


Fig. 24

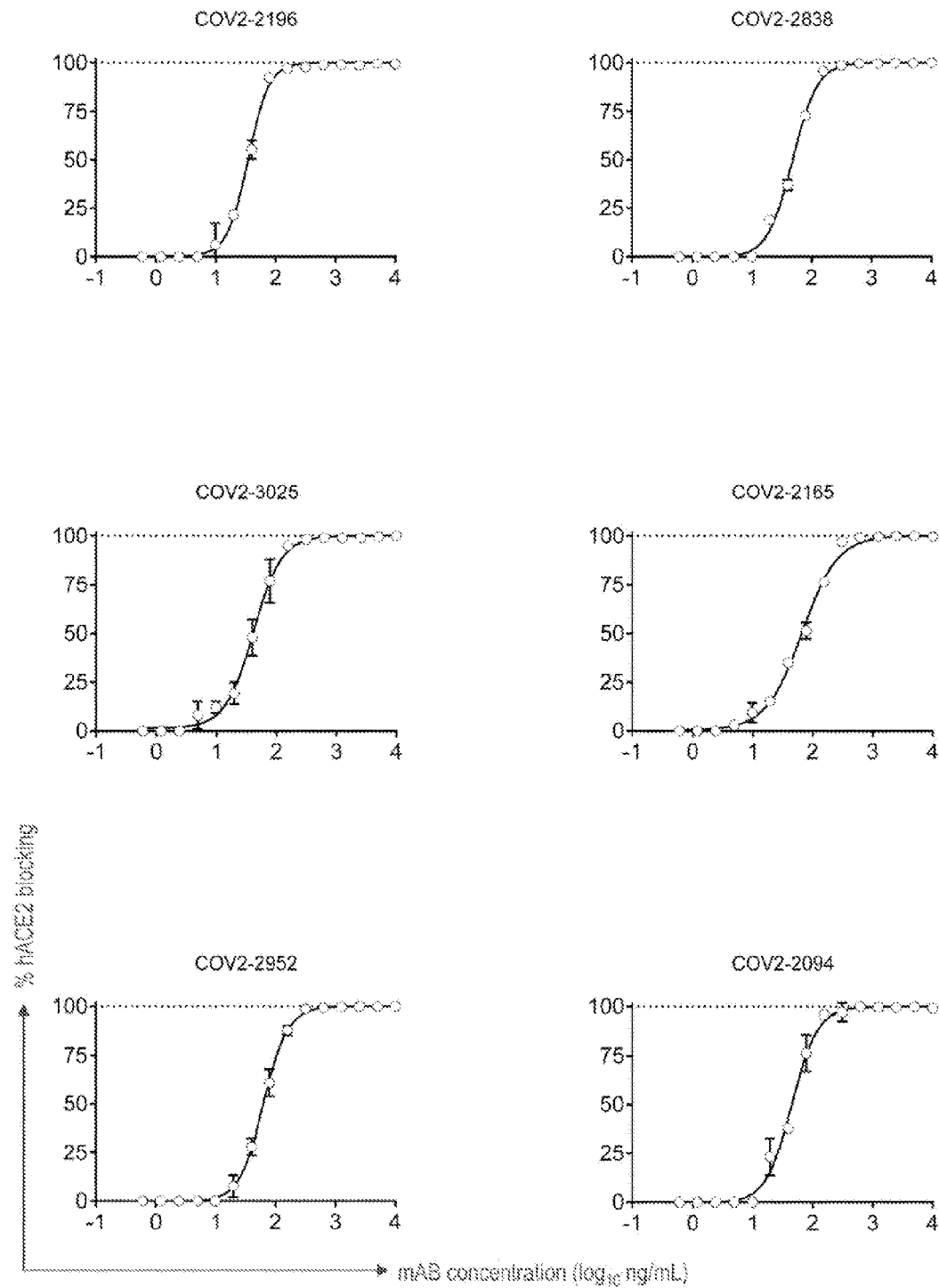


Fig. 25A

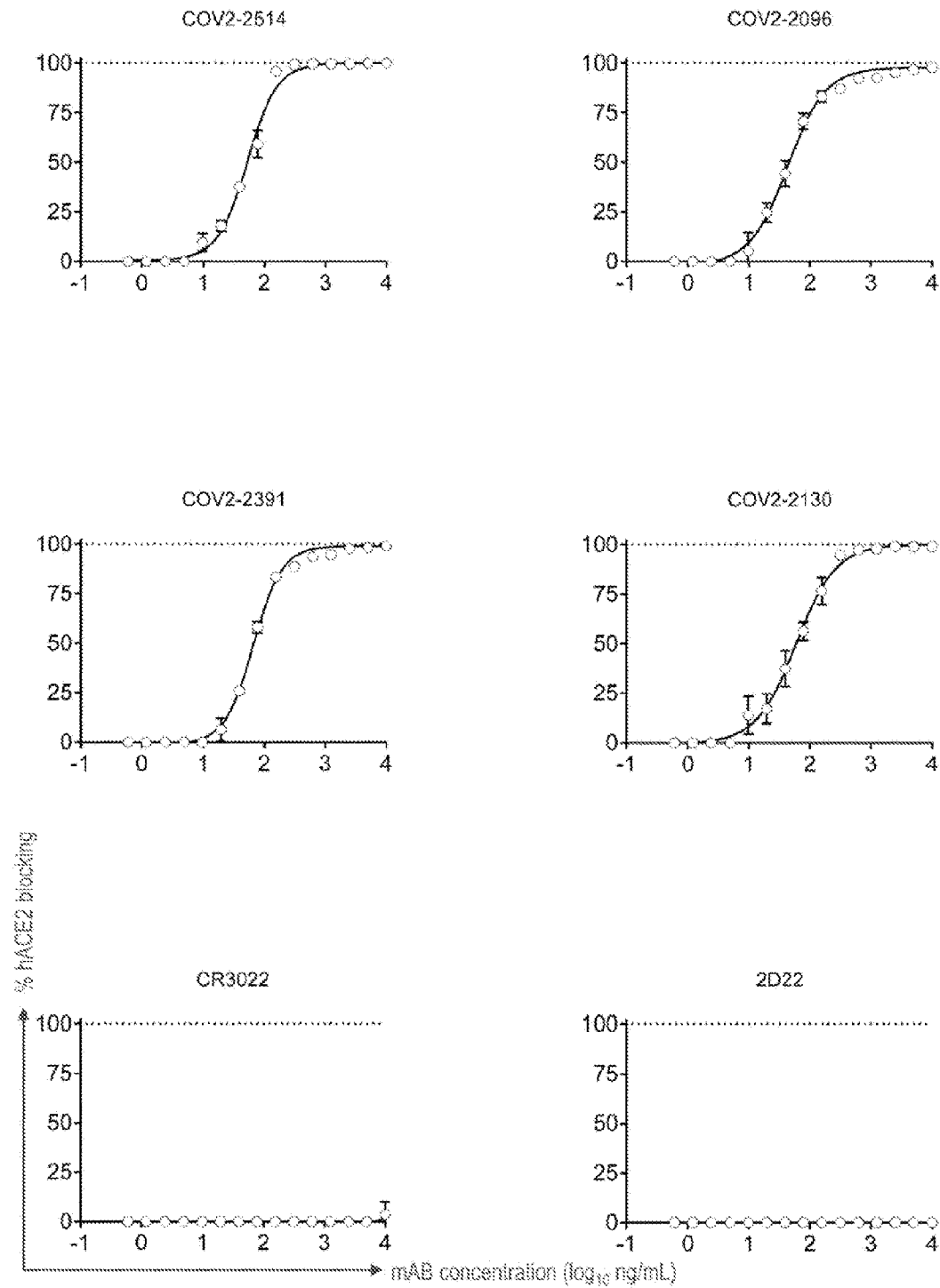


Fig. 25B

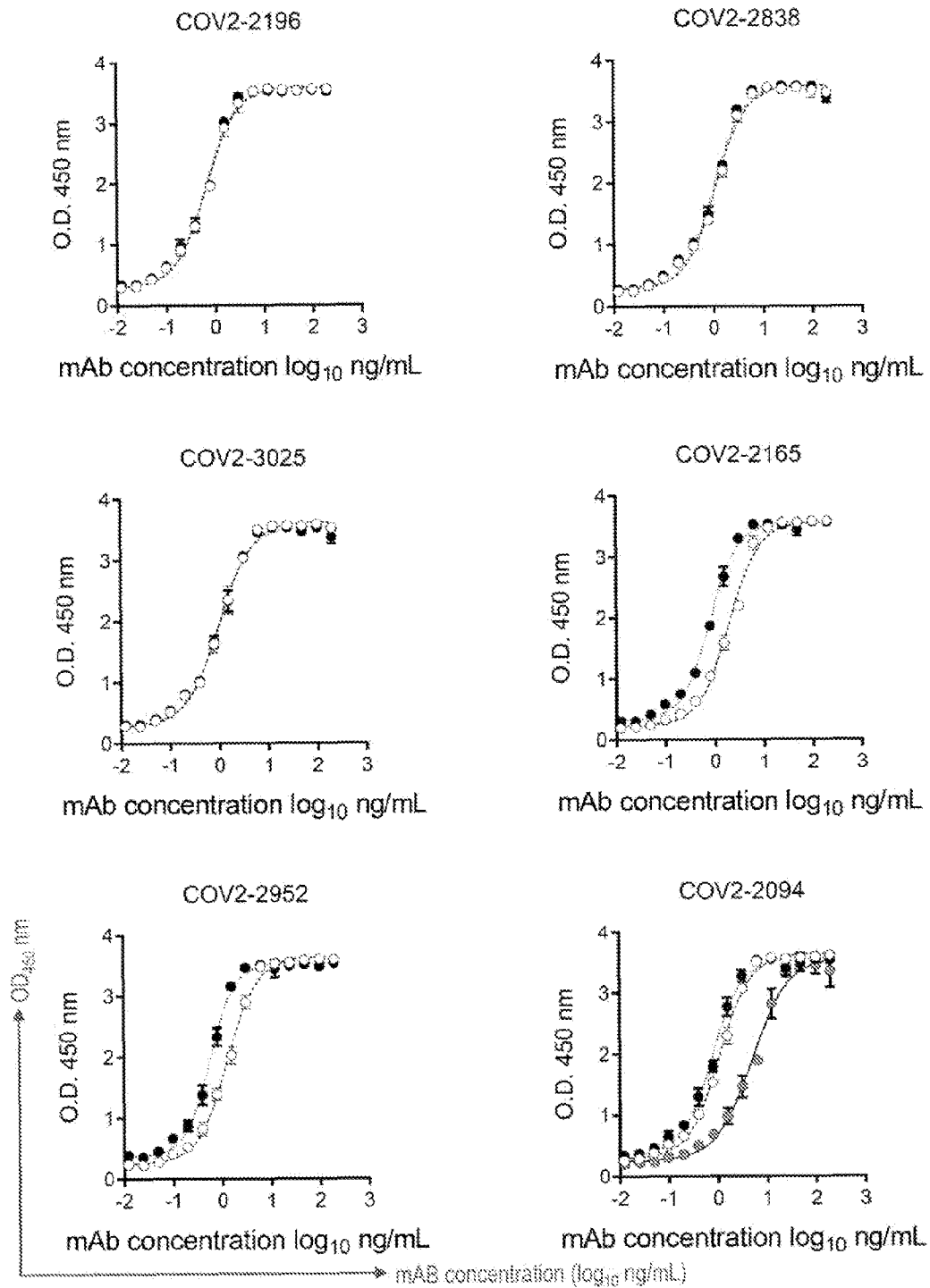


Fig. 26A

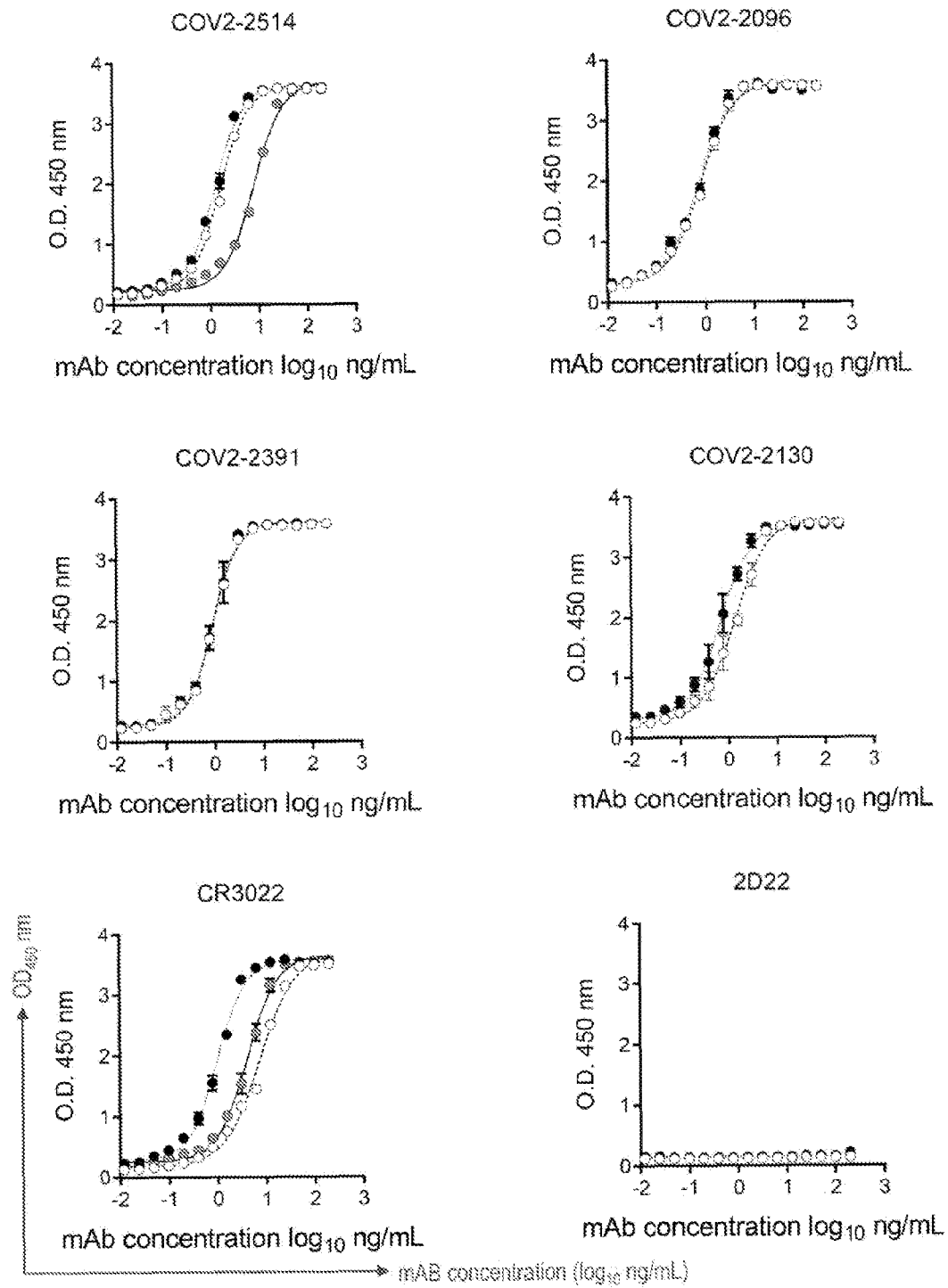


Fig. 26B

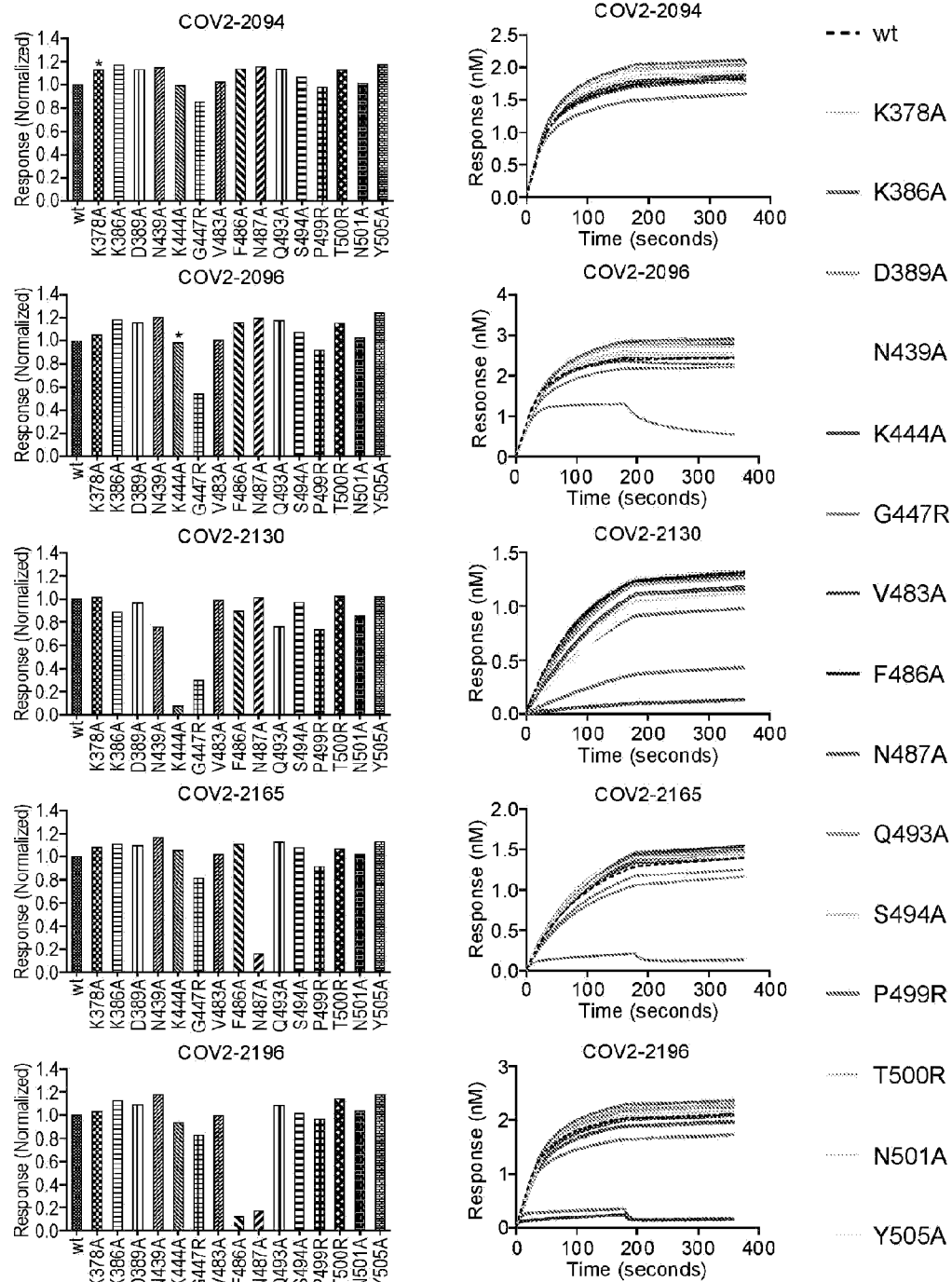


FIG. 27A

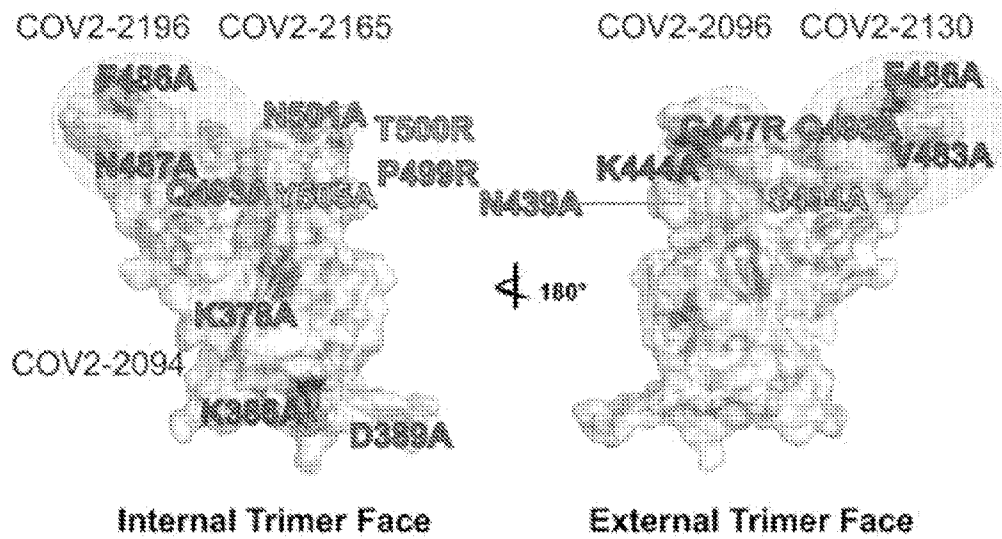


Fig. 27B