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Supplementary Material for

Chimeric spike mRNA vaccines protect against Sarbecoviru*s* **challenge in mice**

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> > Published 22 June 2021 as *Science* First Release DOI: 10.1126/science.abi4506

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Other Supplementary Material for this manuscript includes the following: (available at science.sciencemag.org/content/science.abi4506/DC1)

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Materials and Methods

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Chimeric spike vaccine design and formulation

 Chimeric spike vaccines were designed with RBD and NTD swaps to increase coverage of epidemic (SARS-CoV), pandemic (SARS-CoV-2), and high-risk pre-emergent bat CoVs (bat SARS-like HKU3-1, and bat SARS-like RsSHC014). Chimeric and monovalent spike mRNA- LNP vaccines were designed based on SARS-CoV-2 spike (S) protein sequence (Wuhan-Hu-1, GenBank: MN908947.3), SARS-CoV (urbani GenBank: AY278741), bat SARS-like CoV HKU3-1 (GenBank: DQ022305), and Bat SARS-like RsSHC014 (GenBank: KC881005). Coding sequences of full-length SARS-CoV-2 furin knockout (RRAR furin cleavage site abolished between amino acids 682-685), the four chimeric spikes, and the norovirus capsid negative control were codon-optimized, synthesized and cloned into the mRNA production plasmid mRNAs were encapsulated with LNP (*41*). Briefly, mRNAs were transcribed to contain 101 nucleotide-long poly(A) tails. mRNAs were modified with m1Ψ-5′-triphosphate (TriLink #N-1081) instead of UTP and the *in vitro* transcribed mRNAs capped using the trinucleotide cap1 analog, CleanCap (TriLink #N-7413). mRNA was purified by cellulose (Sigma-Aldrich # 11363-250G) purification. All mRNAs were analyzed by agarose gel electrophoresis and were 20 stored at -20°C. Cellulose-purified m1Ψ-containing RNAs were encapsulated in proprietary LNPs containing adjuvant (Acuitas) using a self-assembly process as previously described wherein an ethanolic lipid mixture of ionizable cationic lipid, phosphatidylcholine, cholesterol and polyethylene glycol-lipid was rapidly mixed with an aqueous solution containing mRNA at

24 acidic pH. The RNA-loaded particles were characterized and subsequently stored at -80° C at a 25 concentration of 1 mg/ml. The mean hydrodynamic diameter of these mRNA-LNP was ~ 80 nm with a polydispersity index of 0.02-0.06 and an encapsulation efficiency of ~95%.

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Animals, immunizations, and challenge viruses

 Eleven-month-old female BALB/c mice were purchased from Envigo (#047) and were used for all experiments. The study was carried out in accordance with the recommendations for care and use of animals by the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), National Institutes of Health and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of University of North Carolina (UNC permit no. A-3410-01). mRNA-LNP vaccines were kept frozen until right before the vaccination. Mice were immunized with a total 1μ g in the prime and 35 boost. Briefly, chimeric vaccines were mixed at 1:1 ratio for a total of 1μ g when more than one 36 chimeric spike was used or 1μ g of a single spike diluted in sterile 1XPBS in a 50 μ l volume and 37 were given 25 µ intramuscularly in each hind leg. Equal amounts of vaccines were used to more compare the vaccines groups head-to-head. Prime and boost immunizations were given three weeks apart. Three weeks post boost, mice were bled, sera was collected for analysis, and mice were moved into the BSL3 facility for challenge experiments. Animals were housed in groups of five and fed standard chow diets. Virus inoculations were performed under anesthesia and all efforts were made to minimize animal suffering. All mice were anesthetized and infected 43 intranasally with 1×10^4 PFU/ml of SARS-CoV MA15, 1×10^4 PFU/ml of SARS-CoV-2 MA10, 1×10^4 PFU/ml RsSHC014, 1×10^4 PFU/ml RsSHC014-MA15, 1×10^5 PFU/ml WIV-1, and 1×10^4 ⁴ PFU/ml SARS-CoV-2 B.1.351-MA10 which have been described previously (*42, 43*). Mice were weighted daily and monitored for signs of clinical disease. Each challenge virus challenge

 experiment encompassed 50 mice with 10 mice per vaccine group to obtain statistical power. Mouse vaccinations and challenge experiments were independently repeated twice to ensure reproducibility. **Measurement of mouse CoV spike binding antibodies by ELISA** Mouse serum samples from pre-immunization (pre-prime), 2 weeks post prime (pre- boost), and 3 weeks post boost were tested. A binding ELISA panel that included SARS-CoV spike Protein DeltaTM, SARS-CoV-2 (2019-nCoV) spike Protein (S1+S2 ECD, His tag), MERS-CoV, Coronavirus spike S1+S2 (Baculovirus-Insect Cells, His), HKU1 (isolate N5) spike Protein (S1+S2 ECD, His Tag), OC43 spike Protein (S1+S2 ECD, His Tag), 229E spike Protein (S1+S2 ECD, His tag) Human coronavirus (HCoV-NL63) spike Protein (S1+S2 ECD, His Tag), Pangolin CoV_GXP4L_spikeEcto2P_3C8HtS2/293F, bat CoV RsSHC014_spikeEcto2P_3C8HtS2/293F, RaTG13_spikeEcto2P_3C8HtS2/293F, and bat CoV HKU3-1 spike were tested. Indirect binding ELISAs were conducted in 384 well ELISA plates 61 (Costar #3700) coated with 2 μ g/ml antigen in 0.1M sodium bicarbonate overnight at 4^oC, washed and blocked with assay diluent (1XPBS containing 4% (w/v) whey protein/ 15% Normal Goat Serum/ 0.5% Tween-20/ 0.05% Sodium Azide). Serum samples were incubated for 60 minutes in three-fold serial dilutions beginning at 1:30 followed by washing with PBS/0.1% Tween-20. HRP conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG secondary antibody (SouthernBiotech 1030-05) was diluted to 1:10,000 in assay diluent without azide, incubated at for 1 hour at room temperature, washed and detected with 20µl SureBlue Reserve (KPL 53-00-03) for 15 minutes. Reactions were stopped via the addition of 20µl HCL stop solution. Plates were read at 450nm. Area under the curve (AUC) measurements were determined from binding of serial dilutions.

ACE2 blocking ELISAs.

72 Plates were coated with 2µg/ml recombinant ACE2 protein, then washed and blocked with 3% BSA in PBS. While assay plates blocked, and sera was diluted 1:25 in 1%BSA/0.05% Tween-20. Then SARS-CoV-2 spike protein was mixed with equal volumes of each sample at a final spike concentration equal to the EC⁵⁰ at which it binds to ACE2. The mixture was allowed to incubate at room temperature for 1 hour. Blocked assay plates were washed, and the serum- spike mixture was added to the assay plates for a period of 1 hour at room temperature. Plates were washed and Strep-Tactin HRP, (IBA GmbH, Cat# 2-1502-001) was added at a dilution of 1:5000 followed by TMB substrate. The extent to which antibodies were able to block the binding of spike protein to ACE2 was determined by comparing the OD of antibody samples at 450nm to the OD of samples containing spike protein only with no antibody. The following formula was used to calculate percent blocking (100-(OD sample/OD of spike only) *100).

Measurement of neutralizing antibodies against live viruses

 Full-length SARS-CoV-2 Seattle, SARS-CoV-2 D614G, SARS-CoV-2 B.1.351, SARS- CoV-2 B.1.1.7, SARS-CoV-2 mink cluster 5, SARS-CoV, WIV-1, and RsSHC014 viruses were designed to express nanoluciferase (nLuc) and were recovered via reverse genetics. Virus titers were measured in Vero E6 USAMRIID cells, as defined by plaque forming units (PFU) per ml, in a 6-well plate format in quadruplicate biological replicates for accuracy. For the 96-well neutralization assay, Vero E6 USAMRID cells were plated at 20,000 cells per well the day prior in clear bottom black walled plates. Cells were inspected to ensure confluency on the day of assay. Serum samples were tested at a starting dilution of 1:20 and were serially diluted 3-fold up

 to nine dilution spots. Serially diluted serum samples were mixed in equal volume with diluted 94 virus. Antibody-virus and virus only mixtures were then incubated at 37° C with 5% CO₂ for one hour. Following incubation, serially diluted sera and virus only controls were added in duplicate to the cells at 75 PFU at 37°C with 5% CO2. After 24 hours, cells were lysed, and luciferase activity was measured via Nano-Glo Luciferase Assay System (Promega) according to the manufacturer specifications. Luminescence was measured by a Spectramax M3 plate reader (Molecular Devices, San Jose, CA). Virus neutralization titers were defined as the sample dilution at which a 50% reduction in RLU was observed relative to the average of the virus control wells.

Eosinophilic lung infiltrates staining

 To detect eosinophils, chromogenic immunohistochemistry (IHC) was performed on paraffin- embedded lung tissues that were sectioned at 4 microns. Lung tissues from vaccine groups 1-5 were analyzed for lung eosinophilic infiltration. N=8-10 lung tissues per group were analyzed. This IHC was carried out using the Leica Bond III Autostainer system. Slides were dewaxed in Bond Dewax solution (AR9222) and hydrated in Bond Wash solution (AR9590). Heat induced antigen retrieval was performed for 20 min at 100ºC in Bond-Epitope Retrieval solution 2, pH- 9.0 (AR9640). After pretreatment, slides were incubated with an Eosinophil Peroxidase antibody (PA5-62200, Invitrogen) at 1:1,000 for 1h followed with Novolink Polymer (RE7260-K) secondary. Antibody detection with 3,3'-diaminobenzidine (DAB) was performed using the Bond Intense R detection system (DS9263). Stained slides were dehydrated and coverslipped with Cytoseal 60 (8310-4, Thermo Fisher Scientific). Two positive controls (one with high and

 another with low eosinophil reactivity) and a negative control (no primary antibody) were included in all staining runs.

Lung pathology scoring

 Lung discoloration is the gross manifestation of various processes of acute lung damage, including congestion, edema, hyperemia, inflammation, and protein exudation. We used a macroscopic scoring scheme to visually score mouse lungs at the time of harvest. Acute lung injury was quantified via two separate lung pathology scoring scales: Matute-Bello and Diffuse Alveolar Damage (DAD) scoring systems. Analyses and scoring were performed by a board certified veterinary pathologist who was blinded to the treatment groups. Lung pathology slides were read and scored at 600X total magnification.

 The lung injury scoring system used is from the American Thoracic Society (Matute- Bello) in order to help quantitate histological features of ALI observed in mouse models to relate this injury to human settings. In a blinded manner, three random fields of lung tissue were 129 chosen and scored for the following: (A) neutrophils in the alveolar space (none $= 0$, $1 - 5$ cells $=$ 130 1, > 5 cells = 2), (B) neutrophils in the interstitial septa (none = 0, $1-5$ cells = 1, > 5 cells = 2), 131 (C) hyaline membranes (none = 0, one membrane = $1,$ > 1 membrane = 2), (D) Proteinaceous 132 debris in air spaces (none = 0, one instance = 1, > 1 instance = 2), (E) alveolar septal thickening 133 $($2x \text{ mock thickness} = 0, 2-4x \text{ mock thickness} = 1, > 4x \text{ mock thickness} = 2)$. To obtain a lung$ 134 injury score per field, A–E scores were put into the following formula score = $[(20x A) + (14x)$ 135 B) + (7 x C) + (7 x D) + (2 x E)]/100. This formula contains multipliers that assign varying levels of importance for each phenotype of the disease state. The scores for the three fields per mouse were averaged to obtain a final score ranging from 0 to and including 1. This lung

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Figure S1. Chimeric and wild type spike Sarbecovirus constructs.

- (**A**) Mouse vaccination strategy using mRNA-LNPs: group 1 received chimeric spike 1, 2, 3, and 4 as the prime and boost, group 2 received chimeric spike 1, 2 as the prime and chimeric spikes 3 and 4 as the boost, group 3 received chimeric spike 4 as the prime and boost, group 4 received SARS-CoV-2 furin KO prime and boost, and group 5 received a norovirus capsid prime and boost. Different vaccine groups were separately challenged with 1) SARS-CoV MA15, 2) SARS-CoV-2 MA10, 3) RsSHC014 full-length virus, 4) RsSHC014-MA15, 5) WIV-1, and 6) SARS-CoV-2 B.1.351 MA10. (**B**) Protein expression of chimeric spikes, SARS-CoV-2 furin KO, and norovirus mRNA vaccines. The extra band between 100-150 kDa corresponds to S1. GAPDH was used as the loading control. (**C**) Nanoluciferase expression of RsSHC014/SARS- CoV-2 chimeric spike live viruses. **Figure S2. Human common-cold CoV ELISA binding responses in chimeric and monovalent SARS-CoV-2 spike mRNA-LNP-vaccinated mice.** Pre-immunization, post prime,
	- and post boost binding to (**A**) HCoV-HKU1 spike, (**B**) HCoV-OC43 spike, (**C**) HCoV-229E
	- spike, and (**D**) HCoV-NL63 spike. Statistical significance for the binding and blocking responses
	- 200 is reported from a Kruskal-Wallis test after Dunnett's multiple comparison correction. *p <
	- 201 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001, and ****p < 0.0001.
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Figure S3. Comparison of neutralizing antibody activity of CoV mRNA-LNP vaccines

- **against Sarbecoviruses.** (**A**) Group 1 neutralizing antibody responses against SARS-CoV-2,
- SARS-CoV, RsSHC014, and WIV-1 and (**B**) fold-change of SARS-CoV, RsSHC014, and WIV-
- 1 neutralizing antibodies relative to SARS-CoV-2. (**C**) Group 2 neutralizing antibody responses

- RsSHC014, and WIV-1 neutralizing antibodies relative to SARS-CoV-2. (**E**) Group 3
- neutralizing antibody responses against SARS-CoV-2, SARS-CoV, RsSHC014, and WIV-1 and
- (**F**) fold-change of SARS-CoV, RsSHC014, and WIV-1 neutralizing antibodies relative to
- SARS-CoV-2. (**G**) Group 4 neutralizing antibody responses against SARS-CoV-2, SARS-CoV,
- RsSHC014, and WIV-1 and (**H**) fold-change of SARS-CoV, RsSHC014, and WIV-1
- neutralizing antibodies relative to SARS-CoV-2.
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Figure S4. *In vivo* **protection against Bt-CoV challenge by chimeric spikes mRNA-vaccines.**

- (**A**) Percent starting weight from the different vaccine groups of mice challenged with full-length
- RsSHC014. (**B**) RsSHC014 lung viral titers in mice from the distinct vaccine groups. (**C**)
- RsSHC014 nasal turbinate titers in mice from the different immunization groups. (**D**) Percent
- starting weight from the different vaccine groups of mice challenged with RsSHC014-MA15.
- (**E**) RsSHC014-MA15 lung viral titers in mice from the distinct vaccine groups. (**F**) RsSHC014-
- MA15 nasal turbinate titers in mice from the different immunization groups. Statistical
- significance is reported from a one-way ANOVA after Tukey's multiple comparison correction.
- 223 $*p < 0.05$, $*p < 0.01$, $**p < 0.001$, and $***p < 0.0001$.
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Figure S5. Survival analysis of immunized mice challenged with Sarbecoviruses. (**A**)

- Survival analysis at day 4 post infection from immunized mice infected with SARS-CoV MA15,
- (**B**) SARS-CoV-2 MA10, (**C**) Survival analysis at day 7 post infection from immunized mice
- infected with SARS-CoV-2 MA10, and (**D**) RsSHC014-MA15. Statistical significance is
- reported from a Mantel-Cox test.

Figure S1 $\overline{\mathsf{A}}$ Immunization strategy and challenge viruses in the different vaccine groups.

Vaccination group	Day 0 prime	Day 21 boost	Day 55 post prime challenge viruses
Group 1	Chimera 1, 2, 3, 4	Chimera 1, 2, 3, 4	1) SARS-CoV MA15, 2) SARS-CoV-2 MA10 3) RsSHC014, 4) RsSHC014-MA15 5) WIV-1, 6) SARS-CoV-2 B.1.351-MA10
Group 2	Chimera 1, 2	Chimera 3, 4	1) SARS-CoV MA15, 2) SARS-CoV-2 MA10 3) RsSHC014, 4) RsSHC014-MA15 5) WIV-1, 6) SARS-CoV-2 B.1.351-MA10
Group 3	Chimera 4	Chimera 4	1) SARS-CoV MA15, 2) SARS-CoV-2 MA10 3) RsSHC014, 4) RsSHC014-MA15 5) WIV-1, 6) SARS-CoV-2 B.1.351-MA10
Group 4	SARS-CoV-2 furin knockout	SARS-CoV-2 furin knockout	1) SARS-CoV MA15, 2) SARS-CoV-2 MA10 3) RsSHC014, 4) RsSHC014-MA15 5) WIV-1, 6) SARS-CoV-2 B.1.351-MA10
Group 5	Norovirus capsid	Norovirus capsid	1) SARS-CoV MA15, 2) SARS-CoV-2 MA10 3) RsSHC014, 4) RsSHC014-MA15 5) WIV-1, 6) SARS-CoV-2 B.1.351-MA10

- Group 4: SARS-CoV-2 spike furin KO prime/boost \bullet
- Group 5: Norovirus capsid prime/boost $\overline{\mathcal{F}}$

Figure S4

Group 3: chimera 4 prime/boost $\overline{\Delta}$

Group 4: SARS-CoV-2 spike furin KO prime/boost

Group 5: Norovirus capsid prime/boost \rightarrow

 \rightarrowtail Group 5: Norovirus capsid prime/boost Figure S6

SARS-CoV challenge

mRNA vaccine group

- -D-Group 1: chimeras 1-4 prime/boost
- → Group 2: chimeras 1-2 prime and 3-4 boost
- -A-Group 3: chimera 4 prime/boost
- → Group 4: SARS-CoV-2 spike furin KO prime/boost
- Group 5: Norovirus capsid prime/boost

mRNA vaccine group

- -¹ Group 1: chimeras 1-4 prime/boost
- \rightarrow Group 2: chimeras 1-2 prime and 3-4 boost
- Group 3: chimera 4 prime/boost \leftarrow
- Group 4: SARS-CoV-2 spike furin KO prime/boost \rightarrow
- Group 5: Norovirus capsid prime/boost

Table S1: Amino acid sequences of chimeric spikes

Chimera 4: FNFNGLTGTGVLTESNKKFLPFQQFGRDIADTTDAVRDPQTLEILDITPCSFGGVSVITPGTNTSNQVAVLYQDVNCTE VPVAIHADQLTPTWRVYSTGSNVFQTRAGCLIGAEHVNNSYECDIPIGAGICASYQTQTNSPRRARSVASQSIIAYTMSL GAENSVAYSNNSIAIPTNFTISVTTEILPVSMTKTSVDCTMYICGDSTECSNLLLQYGSFCTQLNRALTGIAVEQDKNTQ EVFAQVKQIYKTPPIKDFGGFNFSQILPDPSKPSKRSFIEDLLFNKVTLADAGFIKQYGDCLGDIAARDLICAQKFNGLT VLPPLLTDEMIAQYTSALLAGTITSGWTFGAGAALQIPFAMQMAYRFNGIGVTQNVLYENQKLIANQFNSAIGKIQDS LSSTASALGKLQDVVNQNAQALNTLVKQLSSNFGAISSVLNDILSRLDKVEAEVQIDRLITGRLQSLQTYVTQQLIRAA EIRASANLAATKMSECVLGQSKRVDFCGKGYHLMSFPQSAPHGVVFLHVTYVPAQEKNFTTAPAICHDGKAHFPREG VFVSNGTHWFVTQRNFYEPQIITTDNTFVSGNCDVVIGIVNNTVYDPLQPELDSFKEELDKYFKNHTSPDVDLGDISGI NASVVNIQKEIDRLNEVAKNLNESLIDLQELGKYEQYIKWPWYIWLGFIAGLIAIVMVTIMLCCMTSCCSCLKGCCSCG SCCKFDEDDSEPVLKGVKLHYT

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