Supplementary Information for

Polyclonal Antibody Production for Membrane Proteins *via* **Genetic Immunization**

Debra T. Hansen, Mark D. Robida, Felicia M. Craciunescu, Andrey V. Loskutov, Katerina Dörner, John-Charles Rodenberry, Xiao Wang, Tien L. Olson, Hetal Patel, Petra Fromme, Kathryn F. Sykes

SUPPLEMENTARY METHODS

Storage of splenocytes. Monoclonal antibody production does not require specialized procedures when combined with genetic immunization, however, the use of the A/J mouse strain to generate hybridomas is addressed here. The A/J strain has been used previously to generate monoclonal antibodies upon splenocyte fusion with a BALB/c-derived myeloma cell line and propagation in ascites within BALB/c mice or hybrid (BALB/c X A/J) CAF₁ mice¹⁻³. For later monoclonal production, B cells were isolated from the mice described in Supplementary Figs. 2 and 3 and stored as follows, based on established protocols⁴⁻⁶. A freshlyisolated spleen was transferred to 15 mL of RPMI-1640 Medium (ATCC #30-2001). The following steps were done sterilely and at room temperature. The spleen was smashed in a small sterile petri dish with 5 mL of the medium and using the flat end of a plunger from a 10 mL syringe. Cells were passed through a cell strainer with 40 µm nylon mesh (BD #352340) that was set atop a 50 mL tube. The remaining medium was used to rinse the plunger and mesh. The cells were transferred to a 15 mL tube, debris was allowed to settle for 2 min, the supernatant was transferred back to the 50 mL tube, and the debris discarded. Cells were centrifuged at 800*g* for 5 min, and the supernatant was decanted and discarded. 10 mL of fresh medium was added, centrifugation was repeated, and the supernatant discarded. A 2 Ml volume of Red Blood Cell Lysing Buffer, Hybri-Max (Sigma #R7757), was used to completely suspend the cells by gentle pipetting, followed by incubation for 1 min, and then addition of 10 mL of medium. Cells were washed twice by centrifugation and suspension in 10 mL and then 5 mL of medium. Cells were passed through 40 µm mesh and maintained at 37 °C until use. Live cells counts used Trypan Blue Solution, 0.4% (w/v) in normal saline (CellGro #25-900- CI). Cells were adjusted to 107 cells/mL by centrifugation and suspension in 90% Fetal Bovine Serum, Heat Inactivated (Gibco #10438-026), and 10% tissue culture grade DMSO. 1 mL of cells was transferred to a 2 mL cryovial, which was placed in a room-temperature cryocooler and stored at -80 °C for 1-2 days until transfer to -150 °C.

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES

Supplementary Figure 1. Reactivity by ELISA and Western of sera from mice immunized with pCMVi-LSrCOMPTT constructs. Mice were immunized with pCMVi-LSrCOMPTT constructs that encode for 17 membrane proteins from *F. tularensis* and ASFV. (**a**) PilQ. (**b**) OMEP. (**c**) BamA. (**d**) TolC. (**e**) FopA. (**f**) FupA. (**g**) FupB. (**h**) FTT0759. (**i**) Flpp3 lipoprotein. (**j**) FTT1525. (**k**) CapA. (**l**) CapB. (**m**) CapC. (**n**) FTT1406. (**o**) p54 (Malawi). (**p**) CD2v. (**q**) C-type lectin. The total number of boosts by genetic immunization are listed. Immunization conditions are detailed in the Methods. Antigen with a C-terminal GFP was used in ELISAs and immunoblots and was generated by IVT-HMB using pRSET-natGFP constructs. Exceptions were the two partial-length targets (Fig. 1c): FTT0759 antigen fragments were derived from linear expression elements (LEEs)⁷ encompassing amino acids 1-158 and 149-250, and CD2v antigen fragments were from LEEs encompassing amino acids 10-202 and 170-355. The FTT0759 and CD2v LEEs generated target protein fusions containing thioredoxin and a His-tag (diagrams of these constructs are in Supplementary Fig. 5a,d). The numbers in the ELISA graphs and above the immunoblots indicate the corresponding mouse number. Reactivity was determined for individual mice or for a pool containing an equal volume of serum from each of the available mice. "Naïve" indicates serum from one untreated mouse. For the ELISAs, each well contained 100 ng of target protein. Antigen from mock IVT-HMB reactions was generated in the absence of template DNA. For immunoblots, each lane contained 125 ng of target protein. Lanes containing molecular weight marker are indicated (M). Red text indicates the expected molecular weight of the IVT-HMB membrane protein product; migration outside of the expected position is typical of membrane proteins due to partial denaturation by detergents^{8,9}. The serum dilution used in the immunoblots is listed in the immunoblot inset. Not shown are negative immunoblots, which were defined as blots that fulfilled any of the following criteria: (i) absence of a band within 20 kDa of the expected molecular weight; (ii) presence of the same apparent band in a lane containing 0.5 µg of total protein from *E. coli* BL21(DE3) that was not transformed with the target ORF; or (iii) presence of the same apparent band in a lane containing product from a comparable volume of an IVT-HMB reaction that lacked template DNA.

Serum dilution

S6

Supplementary Figure 1 (continued)

 h

MPID-032/FTT0759/hypothetical membrane protein 2 boosts

MPID-033/FTT1416/Flpp3 lipoprotein İ 2 boosts

j

MPID-034/FTT1525/hypothetical membrane protein 2 boosts

Serum dilution

 \mathbf{o}

Supplementary Figure 2. Sera reactivity for five targets upon immunization with pCMVi-LSrCOMPTT constructs, plus some IVT-HMB protein boosts. Adjuvants were altered from those in Supplementary Fig. 1 to replace Class C CpG with Class B, and to include pCMVi-LS-LTA-R192G and pCMVi-LTB in all immunization steps. Other details are as described in Supplementary Fig. 1. Numbering of mice is continued from Supplementary Fig. 1. To increase titers after 2 genetic boosts, IVT-HMB protein was injected intraperitoneally as 1 or 2 additional boosts. IVT-HMB protein was derived from pET-32b-TEV constructs (Supplementary Fig. 4), which yields different protein fusion tags from those used in the ELISA and immunoblot analyses. (**a**) PilQ following DNA boost #1. (**b**) OMEP following DNA boost #1, and (**c**) DNA boost #2. (**d**) BamA following DNA boost #1, (**e**) DNA boost #2, and (**f**) IVT-HMB boost #1. (**g**) Flpp3 lipoprotein following DNA boost #1. (**h**) FTT1406 following DNA boost #1, (**i**) DNA boost #2, (**j**) IVT-HMB boost #1, and (**k**) IVT-HMB boost #2. The immunoblot in (**j**) for FTT1406 mouse #10 lacked bands near the expected molecular weight and so was not shown.

MPID-051/FTT1406/hypothetical membrane protein $\mathbf h$ 1 boost by genetic immunization

MPID-051/FTT1406/hypothetical membrane protein j 2 boosts by genetic immunization + 1 boost with IVT-HMB

MPID-051/FTT1406/hypothetical membrane protein $\mathbf k$ 2 boosts by genetic immunization + 2 boosts with IVT-HMB

Supplementary Figure 3. Reactivity of sera from mice immunized with pCMVi-UB constructs that encode for nine membrane proteins. Details are as described in Supplementary Fig. 1. Membrane protein targets attempted were only those that yielded little or no sera reactivity upon immunization with pCMVi-LSrCOMPTT constructs (Fig. 2d). (**a**) ELISA results from sera following a single boost by genetic immunization. Sera were analyzed as a pool of equal volumes of serum from the available mice. The legend indicates the corresponding target used to immunize mice ("serum") or added to the ELISA wells in the form of IVT-HMB protein ("antigen"). "Mock" indicates IVT-HMB products from reactions that lacked template DNA. (**b**) Positive immunoblots from five mice immunized with a pCMVi-UB construct containing p54 from the Georgia isolate of ASFV. Sera were obtained following a single boost by genetic immunization. (**c**) Immunoblot from a pool of sera from these five mice following two additional boosts by intraperitoneal injection of p54 protein obtained from IVT-HMB reactions. Yellow triangles indicate recognition of likely irrelevant proteins. A serum dilution of 1:2000 was used for the immunoblots in (**b**,**c**).

MPID-021/E183L/p54 envelope protein (Georgia)

Supplementary Figure 4. Schematic of pET-32b-TEV. This vector was used to express full-length target proteins in IVT-HMB. RBS = ribosome binding site; TEV = Tobacco etch virus protease recognition site.

a

Supplementary Figure 5. Linear expression elements (LEEs) used to express fragments of target proteins. (**a**) General schematic of the LEE7 DNA constructs for expressing fragments of FTT0759. Colored lines with single and double arrowheads identify the corresponding primers (Supplementary Table 4) and template DNAs (Supplementary Table 2), respectively. RBS = ribosome binding site. Also shown are representative DNA (**b**) and protein (**c**) sequences of the LEE construct for the FTT0759 fragment corresponding to amino acids 59-128. (**d**) General schematic of the LEE DNA constructs for expressing fragments of CD2v. Also shown are representative DNA (**e**) and protein (**f**) sequences of the LEE construct for the CD2v fragment corresponding to amino acids 10-202. Colored DNA sequences in (**b**) and (**e**) correspond to colored protein sequences in (**c**) and (**f**), respectively.

Supplementary Figure 5 (continued)

d

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Supplementary Table 1. Target membrane proteins in this study: immunogenicity, physical characteristics, and role in pathogenesis.

Supplementary Table 1 (continued)

^a MPID number designation is according to the Protein Structure Initiative¹⁰.

 b FTT numbers and protein names are from¹¹.</sup>

- c FupA, FupB protein designations are from¹², Flpp3 is from¹³, and CapA is from¹⁴.
- ^d Malawi is the ASFV Malawi Lil 20/1 isolate¹⁵, and Georgia is the ASFV Georgia 2007/1 isolate¹⁶. p54 (Malawi) and p54 (Georgia) have 87% identity.
- *^e* This work. Polyclonal antibodies were produced by genetic immunization and were scored as follows: +, positive immunoblot obtained for 5 out of 5 mice at ≥1:500 dilution; ±, positive immunoblot obtained for less than 5 out of 5 mice or at ≤1:500 dilution; -, no reactivity by immunoblot.
- ^f Polyclonal antibodies were generated in rats injected with purified denatured recombinant protein¹⁷.
- *^g* The target protein was identified by mass spectrometry of a membrane-enriched protein fraction from the *F. tularensis* live vaccine strain (LVS) run on 2D-PAGE, upon probing with sera from mice immunized with *F. tularensis* LVS18.
- *^h* Proteome microarray signal suggested the presence of target-specific antibody in sera of mice immunized with killed *F. tularensis* LVS19.
- *i* Protein was identified in immunoblots of 2D-PAGE containing total protein from *F. tularensis* strain FSC033, using sera of mice immunized with *F. tularensis* LVS and subsequently challenged with *F. tularensis* FSC03320.
- *j* Protein was identified by mass spectrometry of a membrane-enriched protein fraction from *F. tularensis* LVS run on 2D-PAGE, upon probing with sera from patients diagnosed with tularemia 21 .
- *^k* Two-dimensional gel electrophoresis, immunoblotting, and mass spectrometry analyses revealed an antibody response to this protein in mice experimentally infected with *F. tularensis* LVS, and in human patients diagnosed with tularemia, but not in control sera from mice or humans²².
- *l* Monoclonal antibodies against FopA were isolated following sublethal infection with *F. tularensis* LVS plus boosting with sonicated bacteria²³.
- *^m* Protein was identified in immunoblots using sera from a lab assistant who was accidently infected with *F. tularensis* SCHU S424.
- *ⁿ* Polyclonal antibodies were raised upon immunization of guinea pigs with a recombinantly-expressed, GSTtagged fragment (amino acids $25-176$) of Fup A^{12} .
- *^o* Western analyses with sera from convalescent pigs indicate that p54 is one of the most highly antigenic proteins in the ASFV proteome^{25,26}.
- *^p* Evidence for immunogenicity of the post-translationally modified (glycosylated) CD2v is a ~75 kDa band that was detected in immunoblots of protein from baculovirus-infected Sf cells expressing CD2v from ASFV isolate E75CV₁ using pig sera following infection with ASFV strain 1207VR11²⁷. A similarly-sized band was also detected in protein from extracellular particles of ASFV strain BA71V that were isolated from an infected Vero cell line, using pig sera following immunizations with CD2v-expressing baculovirusinfected Sf cells²⁷. Host glycosylation of CD2v effectively doubles this protein's apparent molecular weight 28 .
- *^q* Rabbit serum with low reactivity (1:100 serum dilution) was reported following peptide immunization29.
- *r* Shown are the number of α-helical transmembrane domains as predicted using the programs TopPred³⁰, TMHMM³¹, SOSUI³², and TMpred³³.
- *^s* Percentage total by weight of amino acid residues A, F, I, L, V, and W.
- *t* Putative localization to the outer membrane (OM) or inner membrane (IM) is based on protein designations¹¹, predicted transmembrane domains (this work), and/or physical determinations^{17,34}. Localization of lipoproteins (lipo) to the inner or outer membrane is predicted by the second amino acid

following the lipidation site, as has been characterized in *E. col*³⁵. p54 localizes to the inner envelope (IE) of ASFV³⁶; CD2v to the outer envelope (OE) of ASFV³⁷; and the C-type lectin to the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) of an infected cell line³⁸.

- *^u* Lipoprotein designation was predicted by 17,39,40.
- ^v Deletion of *tolC* in *F. tularensis* LVS caused significant attenuation of virulence in a mouse model⁴¹ and led to increased secretion of proinflammatory cytokines. TolC delays activation of the intrinsic apoptotic pathway during infection of primary macrophages and during organ colonization in a mouse model⁴².
- *^w* The target protein was indicated as a virulence determinant in *F. tularensis* LVS by signature-tagged mutagenesis and subsequent infection of a mouse model⁴³.
- ^x Passive transfer of anti-FopA antibodies allowed 40% survival of mice infected with *F. tularensis* LVS²³.
- *y* FopA-specific antibodies protected against lethal intradermal and intranasal challenges with *F. tularensis* LVS but not *F. tularensis* SCHU S444.
- *z* Msutagenesis of FopA in *Francisella novicida* strain U11245 and in *F. tularensis* strain SCHU S446 led to attenuated growth in macrophages.
- *aa* Mutation of *fupA* attenuated mouse infection by *F. tularensis* SCHU S412. FupA is also required for highaffinity ferrous iron uptake¹².
- *bb* In a whole-genome screen of *F. novicida* strain U112, mutation of *capA* or *capC* led to loss of colonization of the spleen in an inhalation mouse model⁴⁷.
- *cc* Deletion of *capB* significantly attenuated infection in either *F. tularensis* SCHU S448 or *F. tularensis* LVS49.
- ^{dd} p54 mediates specific binding to macrophages⁵⁰, recruitment of the endoplasmic reticulum membrane^{36,51}, and binding to dynein, the light chain of the microtubule motor protein^{52,53}.
- ee CD2v has roles in hemadsorption^{54,55} and immunosuppression⁵⁶.
- $^{\textit{ff}}$ The C-type lectin is implicated in anti-apoptosis⁵⁷, hemadsorption²⁹, and interaction with the host MHC 1^{38} .

Supplementary Table 2. Plasmid vectors used in this study.

Supplementary Table 3. Representative oligonucleotide primers used to generate subclones.

^a Primers were designed for ligation-independent cloning as described in the Methods. Underlined sequence corresponds to the parent vector, italicized sequence corresponds to the membrane protein, and bold sequence indicates a stop codon.

Supplementary Table 4. Oligonucleotide primers used for construction of LEEs.

^a Coloring corresponds to that used in Supplementary Fig. 5a,d. The underlined protein sequences in the left column of the table correspond to the underlined primer sequences in the right column of the table. *^b* Italicized sequences correspond to FTT0759 or CD2v.

 c "C*" indicates modification from a T nucleotide in order to adjust the T_m of the primer. The protein sequence was not affected.

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