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(54) **COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS RELATED TO ANTIBODIES THAT NEUTRALIZE COAGULASE ACTIVITY DURING STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS DISEASE**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **C07K 16/1271** (2013.01); **C07K 2317/92** (2013.01); **C07K 2317/76** (2013.01); **C07K 2317/569** (2013.01); **A61K 38/00** (2013.01); **C07K 2317/33** (2013.01); **C07K 2317/24** (2013.01); **C07K 2317/565** (2013.01)

(21) Appl. No.: **15/627,670**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 20, 2017**

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 14/397,049, filed on Oct. 24, 2014, now Pat. No. 9,701,738, filed as application No. PCT/US2013/031927 on Mar. 15, 2013.

Embodiments concern methods and compositions for treating or preventing a bacterial infection, particularly infection by a *Staphylococcus* bacterium. Aspects include methods and compositions for providing a passive immune response against the bacteria. In certain embodiments, the methods and compositions involve an antibody that binds Coagulase (Coa).

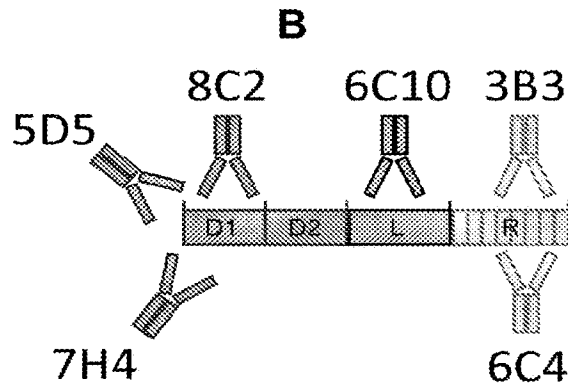
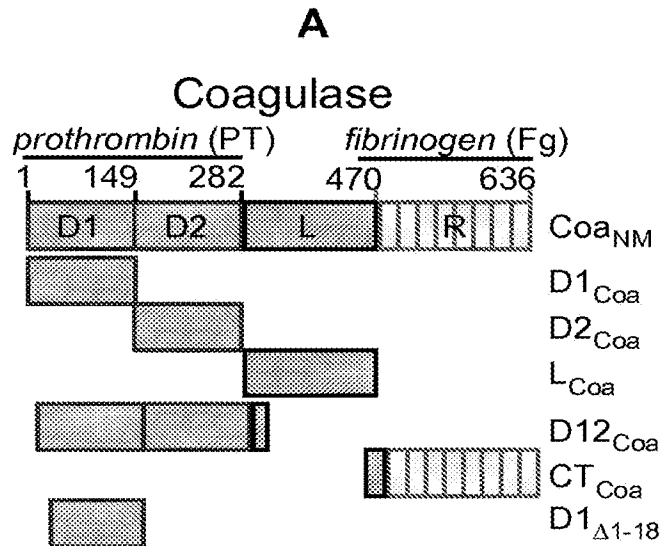


FIG. 1A-B

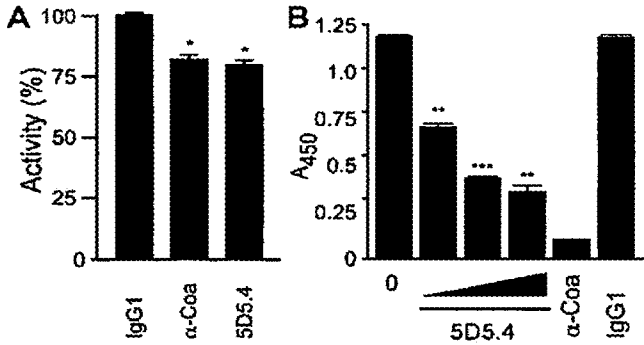


FIG. 2A-B

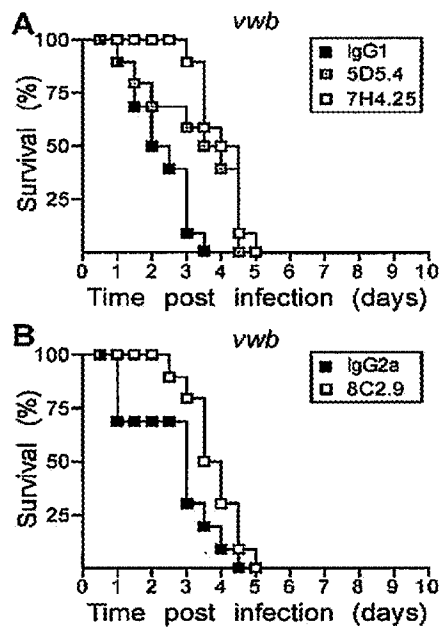


FIG. 3A-B

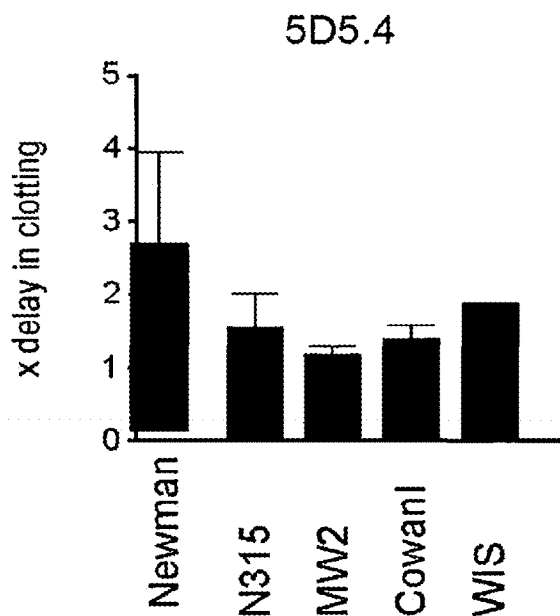


FIG. 4

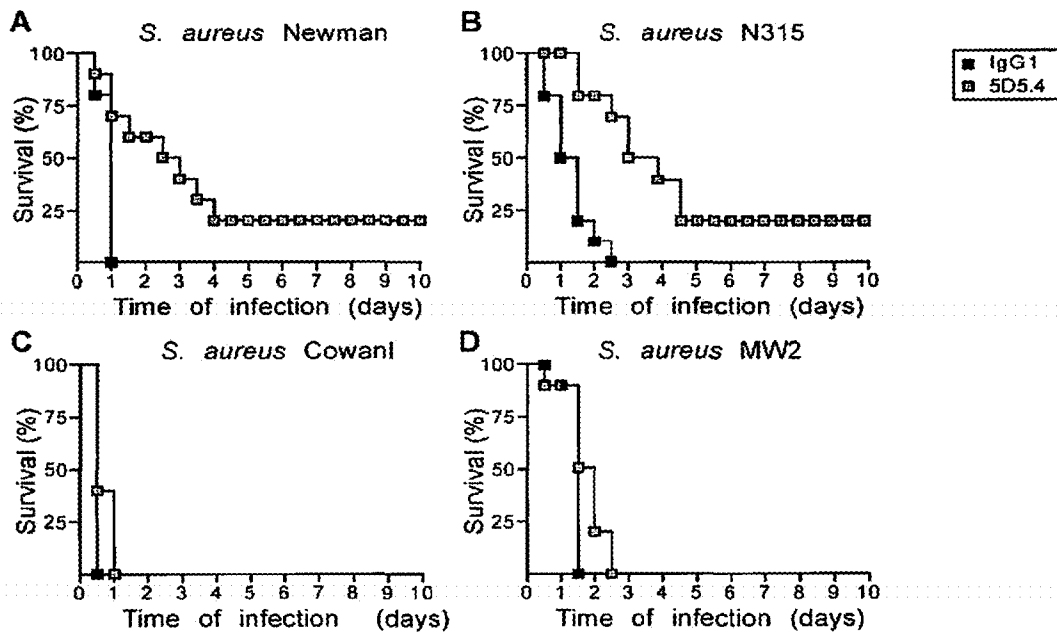


FIG. 5A-D

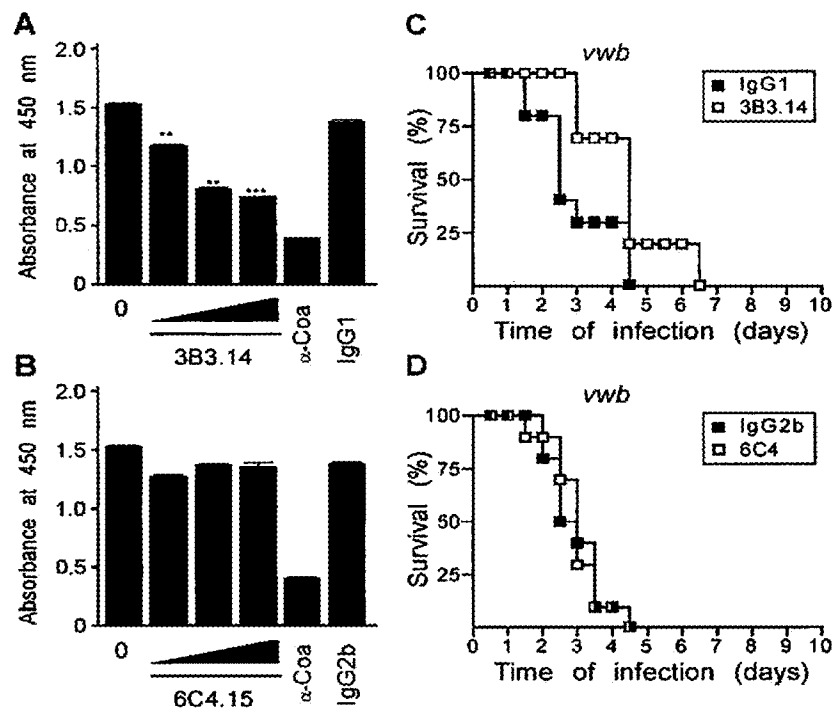


FIG. 6A-D

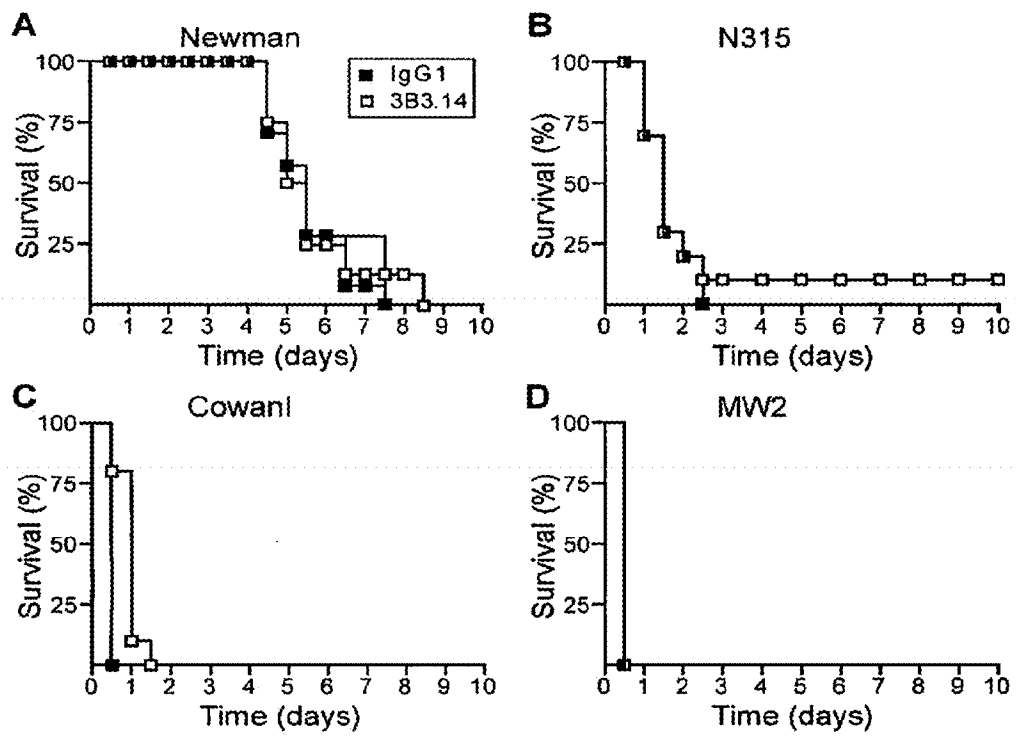


FIG. 7A-D

FIG. 8A

Alignment of Coa from five S. aureus strains

USA300_Coa ATGAAAAGCAAATAATTCGCTAGGCCGATTAGCAGTTGCATCTAGCTTATTTACATGG 60
N315_Coa ATGAAAAGCAAATAATTCGCTAGGCCGATTAGCAGTTGCATCTAGCTTATTTACATGG 60
MRSA252_Coa ATGAAAAGCAAATAATTCGCTAGGCCGATTAGCAGTTGCATCTAGCTTATTTACATGG 60
MW2_Coa ATGAAAAGCAAATAATTCGCTAGGCCGATTAGCAGTTGCATCTAGCTTATTTACATGG 60
WIS_Coa -----
GATAACAAAGCAGATGCGATAGTAACAAGGATTATAGTGGGAAATCACAGTTAATGCT 120
GATAACAAAGCAGATGCGATAGTAACAAGGATTATAGTAAAGAATCAAGAGTGAATGAG 120
MRSA252_Coa GATAACAAAGCAGATGCGATAGTAACAAGGATTATAGTAAAGAATCAAGAGTGAATGAG 120
MW2_Coa GATAACAAAGCAGATGCGATAGTAACAAGGATTATAGTGGGAAATCACAGTTAATGCT 120
WIS_Coa -----ATAGTAACAAGGATTATAGTGGGAAATCACAGTTAATGCT 42
***** ** ***** *
GGGAGTAAAAATGGGAC-ATTAAT--AGATAGCAGATATTTAAATTCAGCTCTATATTA 176
AAAAGTAAAAAGGGAGCTACTGTTTC-AGATTATTACTATTGGAAAATAATT---GATAG 176
AACAGTAAATACGATAC-ACCAATTCAGATTG---GTATCTAGGTAGTATTTAAACAG 176
GGGAGTAAAAATGGGAA-ACAAATTCAGATGGATATTATTGGGGAATAATT---GAAA 176
GGGAGTAAAAATGGGAA-ACAAATTCAGATGGATATTATTGGGGAATAATT---GAAA 98
***** * * * * * * * * * *
TTTGGAAAGACTATATAATTTAT---GCTATAGGATTAACATAAATATGAATATGGAG 232
TTTAGAGG---CACAAATTTACTGGAGCAATAGACTTATTGGAAAGATTATAAATATGGAG 232
ATTAGGGGATCAATATATCTAC---GCTAAGGAATTAACATAAATACGAATATGGT 232
TCTAGAAAACCA---GTTTTAC-AATATTTTTCATTTACTGGATCAGCATAAATATGCAG 232
WIS_Coa TCTAGAGAACCA---GTTTTAC-AATATTTTTCATTTATTGGATCAGCATAAATATGCAG 154
* * * * * * * * * * *
ATAATATTTATAAAGAAGCTAAAGATAGGTTGTTGGAAAAGTATTAAGGGAAGATCAAT 292
ATCCTATCTATAAAGAAGCGAAAGATAGATTGATGACAAGAGTATTAGGAGAAGACCAGT 292
AGAAAGAGTATAAGCAACCGATAGATAAATGGATGACTAGAGTTTGGGAGAAGATCATT 292
AAAAAGAAATATAAAGATGCAGTAGATAAATTA AAAACTAGAGTTT TAGAGGAAGACCAAT 292
WIS_Coa AAAAAGAAATATAAAGATGCATTAGATAAATTA AAAACTAGAGTTT TAGAGGAAGACCAAT 214
* * * * * * * * * * *
ATCTTTGGAGAGAAAAGAAATCTCAATATGAAGATTATAAACAATGGTATGCAAAATATA 352
ATTTATTAAGAAAAGATTTGATGAATATGAGCTTTATAAAAAGTGGTATAAAAAGTT-CA 351
ATCTATTAGAAAAAAGAAAAGCACAATATGAAGCATAAAAAAATGTTTGA AAAACATA 352
ACCTGCTAGAAAAGAAAAGAAAATACGAAATTTATAAAGAACTATATAAAAATATACA 352
WIS_Coa ACCTGCTAGAAAAGAAAAGAAAATACGAAATTTATAAAGAACTATATAAAAATATACA 274
* * * * * * * * * * *
AAAAAGAAATCCTCGTACAGATTAAAAATGGCTAATTTTCATAAATATAATTTAGAAG 412
AATAAGAACT-----AATATGCTTACTTTCCATAAATATAATCTTTACA 397
AAAGTAAAATCCACATTC TAGTTTAAAAAGATTAAATTTGACGATTTTGATTATATA 412
AAAAAGAGAATCCTAATACTCAAGTTAAAATGAAAGCATTTGATAAATACGATCTGGCG 412
WIS_Coa AAAAAGAGAATCCTAATACTCAGTTAAAATCAAAGCATTTGATAAATACGATCTGGCG 334
** ** * * * * * * * * * *
AATCTTCGATGAAAGAATACAATGAAGTACAGGATGCATTAAGAGAGCACTGGATGATT 472
ATTTAACAATGAATGAATAAAGCAGATATTTTAACTCTTTGAAAGATGCAGTTTATCAAT 457
GATTAACGAAGAAGAATACAATGAGTTACATCAATCATTAAAAGAAGCTGTGATGAGT 472
ATTTAACTATGGAAGAATACAATGACTTATCAAATTAATAACAAAAGCATTGGATAACT 472
WIS_Coa ATTTAACTATGGAAGAATACAATGACTTATCAAATTAATAACAAAAGCATTGGATAACT 394
* * * * * * * * * * *
TTCACAGAGAAGTTAAAGATATTAAGGATAAGAATTCAGACTTGAAAAC TTTAATGCAG 532
TTAATAAAGAGTTAAAGAATAGAGCATAAAATGTTGACTTGAAGCAGTTTGATAAAG 517
MRSA252_Coa TTAATAGTGAAGTAAAAATATTC AATCTAAAACAAAAGGATTTATACCTTATGATGAAG 532
MW2_Coa TTAAGTTAGAAGTAAAGAAAATGAATCAGAGAAATCCAGATTTAAAACCATATTCTGAAA 532
WIS_Coa TTAAGTTAGAAGTAAAGAAAATGAATCAGAGAAATCCAGATTTAAGACCATATTCTGAAA 454
** * * * * * * * * * *
CACAAGACATAAAGCAACTAAGGAAGTATACGATCTCGTATCTGAAATTGATACATTAG 592
ATGGAGAAGACAAGGCAACTAAAAGAAGTTTATGACCTTGTCTGAAATTCATACATTAG 577
MRSA252_Coa CAACTGAAAATCGAGTAACAATGGAATATATGATTTGTTGGCAGATTGACACATTAT 592
MW2_Coa CGGAAGAAAGAACAGCATATGGTAAAATAGATTTCAC TTGTTGATCAAGCATATAGTGTAT 592
WIS_Coa GTGAAGAGAGAACAGCATATGGTAAAATAGATTTCAC TTGTTGATCAAGCATATAGTGTAT 514
* * * * * * * * * * *
TTGTATCATATTATGGTGATAAGGATTATGGGGAGCAGCGAAAAGAGTTACGAGCAAAA 652
TTGTAAC TTTATGCTGATAAGGATTATGGGGAGCATGCGAAAAGAGTTACGAGCAAAA 637
MRSA252_Coa ACGCAGCATATTTAATCATAGCCAATATGGTCATAATGCTAAAAGAA TTAAGACAAAAGC 652
MW2_Coa ATTTGCTTACGTTACAGATGACAAACATAAAAACAGAAAGCATTAAATCTTAGGGCGAAA 652

FIG. 8B

WIS_Coa ATTTTGCCTACGTTACAGATGCTCAACATAAAAACAGAGCATTAAATCTTAGGGCAAAA 574
 * * * * *
 USA300_Coa TGGACTTAATCCTTGGAGATACAGACAATCCACATAAAATTACAAATGAACGTATTAAAA 712
 N315_Coa TGGACTTAATCCTTGGAGATACAGACAATCCACATAAAATTACAAATGAGCGTATAAAAA 697
 MRSA252_Coa TAGATATAAATCTTGGTGATGCTAAAGATCCTGTAGAATTACGAATGAAGAATAAGAA 712
 MW2_Coa TTAGTTTGATTTTAGGTGATGAAAAAGATCCAATTAGAGTTACGAATCAACGTACTGAAA 712
 WIS_Coa TAGATTTGATTTTAGGTGATGAAAAAGATCCAATTAGAGTGACGAATCAACGTACTGAAA 634
 * * * * *
 USA300_Coa AAGAAATGATTGATGACTTAAATTC AATTATTGATGATTTCTTTATGGAACTAAACA-A 771
 N315_Coa AAGAAATGATCGATGACTTAAATTC AATTATAGATGATTTCTTTATGGAGACTAAACA-A 756
 MRSA252_Coa AAGAAATGATGGATGATTAAATTC TATTATTGATGATTTCTTTATGGATAC-AAACATG 771
 MW2_Coa AAGAAATGATTAAGATTTAGAATCTATTATTGATGATTTCTTCATTGAAACCAAGTT-G 771
 WIS_Coa AAGAAATGATTAAGATTTAGAATCTATTATTGATGATTTCTTCATTGAAACCAAGTT-G 693
 * * * * *
 USA300_Coa AATAGACCGAAATCTATAACGAAATATAATCCTACAACACATAACTATAAAACAAATAGT 831
 N315_Coa AATAGACCGAATTC TATAACAAATATGATCCAACAAAACACAATTTTAAAGAGAAGAGT 816
 MRSA252_Coa AATAGACCATTAACATAACTAAATTTAATCCGAATATTCATGACTATACATAAGCCT 831
 MW2_Coa AATAGACCTAAACACATTTACTAGGTATGATGGAACCTAAACATGATTACCA-----T 822
 WIS_Coa AATAGACCTCAACACATTTACTAGATATGATGGAACCTAAACATGATTACCA-----T 744
 * * * * *
 USA300_Coa GATAATAAACCTAATTTTGATAAATTAGTTGAAGAAACGAAAAAGCAGTTAAAGAAGCA 891
 N315_Coa GAAAATAAACCTAATTTTGATAAATTAGTTGAAGAAACAAAAAAGCAGTTAAAGAAGCA 876
 MRSA252_Coa GAAAATAGAGATAACTTCGATAAATTAGTCAAAGAAACAAGAGAAGCAATCGCAAACGCT 891
 MW2_Coa AAACATAAAGATGGATTTGATGCTCTAGTTAAAGAAACAAGAGAAGCGGTTGCAAAGCT 882
 WIS_Coa AAACATAAAGATGGATTTGATGCTTTAGTTAAAGAAACAAGAGAAGCGGTTTCTAAGGCT 804
 * * * * *
 USA300_Coa GATGATCTTTGAAAAAGAAAACCTGTCAAAAAATACGGGAGAACTGAAACAAAATCGCCA 951
 N315_Coa GACGAATCTTTGAAAAATAAACTGTCAAAAAATACGAGGAACTGTAAACAAAATCTCCT 936
 MRSA252_Coa GACGAATCTTTGAAAAACAAGAACCCTCAAAAAATACGGTGAATCTGAAACAAAATCTCCT 951
 MW2_Coa GACGAATCTTTGAAAAATAAACTGTCAAAAAATACGAGGAACTGTAAACAAAATCTCCA 942
 WIS_Coa GACGAATCTTTGAAAAATAAACTGTCAAAAAATACGGGAACTGAAACAAAATCTCCT 864
 * * * * *
 USA300_Coa GTAGTAAAAGAAGAGAAGAAAGTTGAAGAACCTCAAGCACCTAAAGTTGATAACCAACAA 1011
 N315_Coa GTTGTAAAAGAAGAGAAGAAAGTTGAAGAACCTCAATTACCTAAAGTTGGAACACAGCAA 996
 MRSA252_Coa GTTGTAAAAGAAGAGAAGAAAGTTGAAGAACCTCAATTACCTAAAGTTGGAACACAGCAA 1011
 MW2_Coa GTTGTAAAAGAAGAGAAGAAAGTTGAAGAACCTCAATCACCTAAATTTGATAACCAACAA 1002
 WIS_Coa GTTGTAAAAGAAGAGAAGAAAGTTGAAGAACCTCAATCACCTAAAGTTTCTGAAAAAGTG 924
 * * * * *
 USA300_Coa GAGGTTAAAAC TACGGCTGGTAAAGCTGAAGAAACAACACAACCAGTTGCACACACCATTA 1071
 N315_Coa GAGGTTAAAAC TACGGCTGGTAAAGCTGAAGAAACAACACAACCAGTTGCACACACCATTA 1056
 MRSA252_Coa GAGGATAAAATTACAGTTGGTACAACTGAAGAACCACTTACCAATTGCGCAACCACTA 1071
 MW2_Coa GAGGTTAAAATTACAGTTGATAAAGCTGAAGAAACAACACAACCAGTTGCACACACCATTA 1062
 WIS_Coa GATGTTCAGGAAACGGTTGGTACAACCTGAAGAACCACTTACCAATTGCGCAACCACTA 984
 * * * * *
 USA300_Coa GTTAAAATCCACAGGGCACAATTACAGGTGAAATTTGAAAAGGTCCGGAATATCCAACG 1131
 N315_Coa GTAAAAATCCACAAAGAAACAATCTATGGTGAACCTGAAAAGGTCCAGAAATATCCAACG 1116
 MRSA252_Coa GTTAAAATCCACAGGGCACAATTCAAGGTGAAATTTGAAAAGGTCCGGAATATCTAACG 1131
 MW2_Coa GTTAAAATCCACAGGGCACAATTACAGGTGAAATTTGAAAAGGTCCGGAATATCCAACG 1122
 WIS_Coa GTTAAAATACCACAAATTTGGGACTCAAGGCGAAATTTGAAAAGGTCCGACTATCCAACCT 1044
 * * * * *
 USA300_Coa ATGGAAAATAAAACGGTACAAGGTGAAATCGTTCAAGGTCCCGATTTTCTAACAAATGGAA 1191
 N315_Coa ATGGAAAATAAAACGGTACAAGGTGAAATCGTTCAAGGTCCCGATTTTCTAACAAATGGAA 1176
 MRSA252_Coa ATGGAAAATAAAACGGTTACAAGGTGAAATCGTTCAAGGTCCAGATTTCCCAACAATGGAA 1191
 MW2_Coa ATGGAAAATAAAACGGTACAAGGTGAAATCGTTCAAGGTCCAGATTTCCCAACAATGGAA 1182
 WIS_Coa ATGGAAAATAAAACGGTACAAGGTGAAATCGTTCAAGGTCCAGATTTCCCAACAATGGAA 1104
 * * * * *
 USA300_Coa CAAAGCGGCCCATCATTAAAGCAATAATTATACAACCCA----- 1230
 N315_Coa CAAAACAGACCATCTTTAAGCGATAATTACTCAACCG----- 1215
 MRSA252_Coa CAAAACAGACCATCTTTAAGCGATAATTACTCAACCG----- 1230
 MW2_Coa CAAAACAGACCATCTTTAAGCGATAATTACTCAACCG----- 1221
 WIS_Coa CAAAACAGACCATCTTTAAGTGAACAATTATACAACCATCTGTGACTTTACCGTCAATT 1164
 * * * * *
 USA300_Coa -----CCGTTAACGAACCTATTTTAGAAGGTCTTGAAGGTAGCTCATCTAAA 1278
 N315_Coa -----ACGACACCGAACCTATTTTAGAAGGTCTTGAAGGTAGCTCATCTAAA 1263
 MRSA252_Coa -----ACGACACCGAACCTATTTTAAAAGGTATTGAAGGAACTCAACTAAA 1278

FIG. 8C

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MW2_Coa -----ACGACACCCAACCCCTATTTTGAAGGCTTGAAGGTAGCTCATCTAAA 1269
WIS_Coa ACAGGTGAAAGTACACCAACGAAACCCCTATTTTAAAAGGTATTGAAGGAAACTCATCTAAA 1224
          * * * * *

USA300_Coa CTTGAAATAAAACCACAAGGTAAGTGAATCAACGTTAAAAGGTAAGTCAAGGAGAATCAAGT 1338
N315_Coa CTTGAAATAAAACCACAAGGTAAGTGAATCAACGTTAAAAGGTAAGTCAAGGAGAATCAAGT 1323
MRSA252_Coa CTTGAAATAAAACCACAAGGTAAGTGAATCAACGTTAAAAGGTAAGTCAAGGAGAATCAAGT 1338
MW2_Coa CTTGAAATAAAACCACAAGGTAAGTGAATCAACGTTAAAAGGTAAGTCAAGGAGAATCAAGT 1329
WIS_Coa CTTGAAATAAAACCACAAGGTAAGTGAATCAACGTTAAAAGGTAAGTCAAGGAGAATCAAGT 1284
          * * * * *

USA300_Coa GATATTGAAGTTAAACCTCAAGCAACTGAAACAACAGAAGCTTCTCAATATGGTCCGAGA 1398
N315_Coa GATATTGAAGTTAAACCTCAAGCAACTGAAACAACAGAAGCTTCTCAATATGGTCCGAGA 1383
MRSA252_Coa GATATTGAAGTTAAACCTCAAGCAACTGAAACAACAGAAGCTTCTCAATATGGTCCGAGA 1398
MW2_Coa GATATTGAAGTTAAACCTCAAGCAACTGAAACAACAGAAGCTTCTCAATATGGTCCGAGA 1389
WIS_Coa GATATTGAAGTTAAACCTCAAGCAACTGAAACAACAGAAGCTTCTCAATATGGTCCGAGA 1344
          * * * * *

USA300_Coa CCGCAATTTAACAAAACACCTAATATGTTAAATATAGAGATGCTGGTACAGGTATCCGT 1458
N315_Coa CCGCAATTTAACAAAACACCTAAGTATGTGAAATATAGAGATGCTGGTACAGGTATCCGT 1443
MRSA252_Coa CCTCAATTTAACAAAACACCTAAGTATGTGAAATATAGAGATGCTGGTACAGGTATCCGT 1458
MW2_Coa CCTCAATTTAACAAAACACCTAATAATGTTAAATATAGAGATGCTGGTACAGGTATCCGT 1449
WIS_Coa CCGCAATTTAACAAAACACCTAATATGTTAAATATAGAGATGCTGGTACAGGTATCCGT 1404
          * * * * *

USA300_Coa GAATACAACGATGGAACATTTGGATATGAAGCGAGACCAAGATTCAATAAGCCA----- 1512
N315_Coa GAATACAACGATGGAACATTTGGATATGAAGCGAGACCAAGATTCAACAAGCCAAGTGA 1503
MRSA252_Coa GAATACAACGATGGAACATTTGGATATGAAGCGAGACCAAGATTCAACAAGCCAAG--- 1514
MW2_Coa GAATACAACGATGGAACATTTGGATATGAAGCGAGACCAAGATTCAATAAGCCATCAGAA 1509
WIS_Coa GAATACAACGATGGAACATTTGGATATGAAGCGAGACCAAGATTCAACAAGCCATCAGAA 1464
          * * * * *

USA300_Coa -----TCA----- 1515
N315_Coa ACAAATGCATACAACGTAACGACAAAATCAAGATGGCACAGTATCATACGGAGCTCGCCCA 1563
MRSA252_Coa -----C----- 1515
MW2_Coa ACAAACGCATACAACGTAACGACAAAATCAAGATGGCACAGTAAACATATGGCGCTCGCCCA 1569
WIS_Coa ACAAACGCATACAACGTAACGACAAAATCAAGATGGCACAGTATCATATGGCGCTCGCCCA 1524
          *

USA300_Coa -----GAAACAATGCATATAACGTTAACAAACACATGCAAAATGGTCAA 1557
N315_Coa ACACAAAACAAGCCAAGTGAACAAACGCATATAACGTTAACAAACACATGCAAAATGGTCAA 1623
MRSA252_Coa -----GAAACAATGCATATAACGTTAACAAACACATGCAAAATGGTCAA 1557
MW2_Coa ACACAAAACAAGCCAAGCAAAACAATGCATATAACGTTAACAAACACATGCAAAATGGTCAA 1629
WIS_Coa ACACAAAACAAGCCAAGCAAAACAATGCATATAACGTTAACAAACACATGCAAAACGGCCAA 1584
          * * * * *

USA300_Coa GTATCATACGGAGCTCGTCCGACA----- 1581
N315_Coa GTATCATACGGGTGCTCGCCCAACA----- 1647
MRSA252_Coa GTATCATATGGCGCTCGCCCGACA----- 1581
MW2_Coa GTATCATATGGCGCTCGCCCGACA----- 1653
WIS_Coa GTATCATATGGCGCTCGCCCGACATACAACAAGCCAAGTGAACAAATGCATACAACGTA 1644
          * * * * *

USA300_Coa -----CAAACAAGCCAAGC 1596
N315_Coa -----CAAAAAAGCCAAGC 1662
MRSA252_Coa -----CAAACAAGCCAAGC 1596
MW2_Coa -----CAAACAAGCCAAGC 1668
WIS_Coa ACGACAATCGAGATGGCACAGTATCATATGGCGCTCGCCCGACACAAAACAAGCCAAGC 1704
          * * * * *

USA300_Coa AAAACAACGCATATAACGTTAACAAACACATGGAACCGGCCAAGTATCATATGGCGCTCGC 1656
N315_Coa AAAACAATGCATATAACGTTAACAAACACATGCAAAATGGTCAAGTATCATATGGCGCTCGC 1722
MRSA252_Coa GAAACAACGCATATAACGTTAACAAACACATGCAAAACGGCCAAGTATCATACGGAGCTCGT 1656
MW2_Coa AAAACAATGCATATAACGTTAACAAACACATGCAAAATGGTCAAGTATCATACGGAGCTCGC 1728
WIS_Coa GAAACGAATGCATATAACGTTAACAAACACACGGAATGGCCAAGTATCATATGGCGCTCGT 1764
          * * * * *

USA300_Coa CCAACACAAAACAAGCCAAGCAAAACAATGCATACACGTTAACAAACACATGCAAAACGGT 1716
N315_Coa CCGACACAAAACAAGCCAAGCGAAACAAATGCATATAACGTTAACAAACACATGCAAAATGGT 1782
MRSA252_Coa CCGACACAAAACAAGCCAAGCAAAACAATGCATATAACGTTAACAAACACATGCAAAACGGT 1716
MW2_Coa CCGACACAAAACAAGCCAAGCAAAACAATGCATATAACGTTAACAAACACACGCAAAACGGT 1788
WIS_Coa CCGACACAAAAGAAGCCAAGCAAAACAATGCATATAACGTTAACAAACACATGCAAAACGGC 1824
          * * * * *

USA300_Coa CAAGTGCATACGGAGCTCGCCCGACATACAAGAAGCCAAGTAAAACAATGCATACAAT 1776
N315_Coa CAAGTATCATACGGAGCTCGCCCGACATACAAGAAGCCAAGCGAAACAATGCATACAAC 1842

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FIG. 8D

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MRSA252_Coa  CAAGTGTCATACGGAGCTCGCCCAACACAAAACAAGCCAAGTAAAACAAATGCATACAAT 1776
MW2_Coa      CAAGTGTCATACGGAGCTCGCCCGACATACAAGAAGCCAAGTAAAACAAATGCATACAAT 1848
WIS_Coa      CAAGTATCATATGGCGCTCGTCCGACATACAACAAGCCAAGTAAAACAAATGCATACAAT 1884
*****

USA300_Coa   GTAACAACACATGCA----- 1791
N315_Coa    GTAACAACACATGCAATGGTCAAGTATCATATGGCGCTCGCCCGACACAAAAAAGCCA 1902
MRSA252_Coa GTAACAACACATGCA----- 1791
MW2_Coa     GTAACAACACATGCA----- 1863
WIS_Coa     GTAACAACACATGCA----- 1899
*****

USA300_Coa   -----GATGGTACTGCGACATATGGGCCT 1815
N315_Coa    AGCGAAACAAACGCATATAACGTAAACAACACATGCAGATGGTACTGCGACATATGGGCCT 1962
MRSA252_Coa -----GATGGTACTGCGACATATGGTCCT 1815
MW2_Coa     -----GATGGTACTGCGACATATGGGCCT 1887
WIS_Coa     -----GATGGTACTGCGACATATGGTCCT 1923
*****

USA300_Coa   AGAGTAACAAAATAA 1830
N315_Coa    AGAGTAACAAAATAA 1977
MRSA252_Coa AGAGTAACAAAATAA 1830
MW2_Coa     AGAGTAACAAAATAA 1902
WIS_Coa     AGAGTAACAAAATAA 1938
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**COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS RELATED
TO ANTIBODIES THAT NEUTRALIZE
COAGULASE ACTIVITY DURING
STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS DISEASE**

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/397,049 filed Oct. 24, 2014, which is a national phase application under 35 U.S.C. §371 of International Application No. PCT/US2013/031927 filed Mar. 15, 2013, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/638,797 filed Apr. 26, 2012. The entire contents of each of the above-referenced disclosures are specifically incorporated herein by reference without disclaimer.

[0002] This invention was made with government support under AI057153 and AI092711 awarded by the National Institutes of Health. The government has certain rights in the invention.

I. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The present invention relates generally to the fields of immunology, microbiology, and pathology. More particularly, it concerns methods and compositions involving antibodies to bacterial proteins and bacterial peptides used to elicit such antibodies. The proteins include Coagulase (Coa).

II. BACKGROUND

[0004] North American hospitals are experiencing an epidemic of *Staphylococcus aureus*. This organism causes a wide range of diseases from minor skin infections to life-threatening sepsis, endocarditis, and pneumonia [2]. *S. aureus* is endowed with a wide range of virulence factors that enable its many disease manifestations. One of the defining characteristics of *S. aureus* that distinguishes it from less pathogenic species of staphylococci is its ability to clot anticoagulated blood [48,75]. This characteristic is due to two proteins, coagulase (Coa) and von Willebrand factor binding protein (vWbp). Coa and vWbp bind to and induce a conformational change in host prothrombin, which mimics the transition from the zymogen to activated thrombin, enabling the complex to cleave fibrinogen to fibrin [66,67, 71,72,133,146,188]. Fibrin forms the mesh network of a blood clot.

[0005] Coa and vWbp play an important role during the pathogenesis of *S. aureus* infection [212]. Infection with double mutants in coa and vwb results in delayed mortality in a murine sepsis model and nearly eliminates the ability of staphylococci to form abscesses (Cheng et al 2010). A humoral immune response against Coa and vWbp provides protection against staphylococcal infection (Cheng et al 2010). Pharmacologic inhibition of the coagulases with direct thrombin inhibitors neutralizes the activity of Coa and vWbp and provides prophylactic protection against staphylococcal sepsis [20,177,213].

[0006] *S. aureus* can survive on dry surfaces, increasing the chance of transmission. Any *S. aureus* infection can cause the staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome, a cutaneous reaction to exotoxin absorbed into the bloodstream. *S. aureus* can also cause a type of septicemia called pyaemia that can be life-threatening. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) has become a major cause of hospital-acquired infections.

[0007] *S. aureus* infections are typically treated with antibiotics, with penicillin being the drug of choice, but vanco-

mycin being used for methicillin resistant isolates. The percentage of staphylococcal strains exhibiting wide-spectrum resistance to antibiotics has increased, posing a threat to effective antimicrobial therapy. In addition, the recent appearance of vancomycin-resistant *S. aureus* strain has aroused fear that MRSA strains for which no effective therapy is available are starting to emerge and spread.

[0008] An alternative approach to antibiotics in the treatment of staphylococcal infections has been the use of antibodies against staphylococcal antigens in passive immunotherapy. Examples of this passive immunotherapy involves administration of polyclonal antisera (WO00/15238, WO00/12132) as well as treatment with monoclonal antibodies against lipoteichoic acid (WO98/57994).

[0009] The first generation of vaccines targeted against *S. aureus* or against the exoproteins it produces have met with limited success (Lee, 1996) and there remains a need to develop additional therapeutic compositions for treatment of *staphylococcus* infections.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] *Staphylococcus aureus* is the most frequent cause of bacteremia and hospital-acquired infection in the United States. An FDA approved vaccine that prevents staphylococcal disease is currently unavailable.

[0011] In certain embodiments there are antibody compositions that inhibit, ameliorate, and/or prevent Staphylococcal infection.

[0012] Certain embodiments are directed to methods of inhibiting *Staphylococcus* infection in a patient determined to have or be at risk for *Staphylococcus* infection comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a Coa binding polypeptide that specifically binds to Domain 1-2 of a Staphylococcal Coa polypeptide. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an effective amount of two or more Coa binding polypeptides. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an antibiotic or a Staphylococcal vaccine composition to the patient. In other embodiments, there are methods for treating a patient with or determined to have a *Staphylococcus* infection. In further embodiments, there are methods for preventing a *Staphylococcus* infection.

[0013] In some aspects, the Coa binding polypeptide specifically binds to Domain 1 of a Staphylococcal Coa polypeptide. In other aspects, the Coa binding polypeptide specifically binds to Domain 2 of a Staphylococcal Coa polypeptide. In further embodiments, the Coa binding polypeptide specifically binds to a region on both Domain 1 and Domain 2 of a Staphylococcal Coa polypeptide.

[0014] Certain embodiments are directed to a Coa binding polypeptide that specifically binds to an epitope in a polypeptide encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs: 1-8. In certain aspects, the Coa binding polypeptide specifically binds to an epitope in amino acids 1-149, 150-282, or 1-282 of a polypeptide encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs: 1-8. In certain aspects the epitope comprises at least, or has at most 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 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 or more contiguous amino acids (or any range derivable therein)

from any of the sequences provided herein or encoded by any of the sequences provided herein.

[0015] In particular embodiments, the Coa binding polypeptide competes for binding of Staphylococcal Coa polypeptide with the 5D5.4 or 7H4.25 monoclonal antibody. In further embodiments, the monoclonal antibody is 4H9.20, 4B10.44, 3B3.14, 2A3.1, 2H10.12, 6D1.22, 6C4.15, 6C10.19, 8C2.9, or 4F1.7. In some embodiments, the Coa binding polypeptide has an association constant for the Staphylococcal Coa polypeptide of between about 0.5 and 20 nM⁻¹, 1.0 and 10 nM⁻¹, or 1.0 and 6.0 nM⁻¹ as measured by ELISA. In certain embodiments, the Coa binding polypeptide has an association constant for the Staphylococcal Coa Domain 1-2 of between about 0.5 and 20 nM⁻¹ or 1.0 and 10 nM⁻¹ as measured by ELISA.

[0016] The Coa binding polypeptide may be any polypeptide that specifically binds Coa proteins from *staphylococcus* bacteria. In certain embodiments, the Coa binding polypeptide is a purified monoclonal antibody or a purified polyclonal antibody. The polypeptide may be, for example, an antibody that is single domain, humanized, or chimeric. In some embodiments, two or more Coa binding polypeptides (e.g., two or more purified monoclonal antibodies or purified polyclonal antibodies) may be administered to the patient. In certain aspects, the Coa binding polypeptide is recombinant. In other embodiments, there may be chemical modifications to the polypeptide, such as the addition of one or more chemical modifications or moieties.

[0017] Embodiments are provided in which the Coa binding polypeptide comprises one or more CDR domains from an antibody that specifically binds to Domains 1-2 of a Staphylococcal Coa polypeptide. In particular embodiments, the Coa binding polypeptide comprises one, two, three, four, five, six, or more CDR domains from among the VH or VL domain of the 5D5.4 and 7H4.25 monoclonal antibodies. In certain aspects, the Coa binding polypeptide comprises six CDR domains from among the VH or VL domains of the 5D5.4 and 7H4.25 monoclonal antibodies. In some embodiments, the Coa binding polypeptide comprises a sequence at least or at most 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or 99% (or any range derivable therein) identical to the VH or VL domain of the 5D5.4 or 7H4.25 monoclonal antibodies. Embodiments are provided in which the Coa binding polypeptide comprises the VH domain from the 5D5.4 or 7H4.25 monoclonal antibody and/or the VL domain the 5D5.4 or 7H4.25 monoclonal antibody. In further embodiments, the monoclonal antibody is 4H9.20, 4B10.44, 3B3.14, 2A3.1, 2H10.12, 6D1.22, 6C4.15, 6C10.19, 8C2.9, or 4F1.7.

[0018] In some embodiments the Coa binding polypeptide comprises one or more CDR domains from a Coa binding polypeptide that specifically binds to Domain 1-2 of a Staphylococcal Coa polypeptide and a scaffold from a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of an immunoglobulin, a fibronectin or a *S. aureus* protein Z.

[0019] The Coa binding polypeptide may be operatively coupled to a second Coa binding polypeptide. In some aspects, the first and second Coa binding peptides are operatively coupled recombinantly. In other aspects, the first and second Coa binding peptides are operatively coupled chemically.

[0020] Embodiments are provided in which the Coa binding polypeptide is administered at a dose of about, at least

about, or at most about 0.1 mg/kg to 5 mg/kg, 1 mg/kg to 5 mg/kg, 0.1 mg/kg to 1 mg/kg, or 2 mg/kg to 5 mg/kg (or any range derivable therein).

[0021] Embodiments also provide a purified polypeptide comprising one or more Coa binding polypeptide CDR domains from an antibody that specifically binds to Domain 1-2 of a Staphylococcal Coa polypeptide. In certain embodiments, the Coa binding polypeptide competes for binding of a Staphylococcal Coa polypeptide with the 4H9.20, 4B10.44, 3B3.14, 4F1.7, 6C4.15, 8C2.9, 2A3.1, 5C3.2, 2H10.12, 6D1.22, 6C10.19, 5D5.4 or 7H4.25 monoclonal antibody. In certain aspects, the polypeptide has an association constant for a Staphylococcal Coa polypeptide of between about 0.1 and 20 nM⁻¹, 0.5 and 10 nM⁻¹, or 1.0 and 10 nM⁻¹ as measured by ELISA. The polypeptide may comprise, for example, a single domain antibody Coa binding polypeptide, a humanized antibody, or a chimeric antibody.

[0022] In certain embodiments, the polypeptide is recombinant. In certain aspects, the recombinant polypeptide comprises at least 90%, 95%, or 99% of one or more CDR domains from the VH or VL domain of the 4H9.20, 4B10.44, 3B3.14, 4F1.7, 8C2.9, 2A3.1, 5C3.2, 2H10.12, 6D1.22, 6C4.15, 6C10.19, 5D5.4 or 7H4.25 monoclonal antibodies. In some embodiments, the recombinant polypeptide comprises two, three, four, five, six, or more CDR domains from the VH or VL domain of the 4H9.20, 4B10.44, 3B3.14, 4F1.7, 8C2.9, 2A3.1, 5C3.2, 2H10.12, 6D1.22, 6C4.15, 6C10.19, 5D5.4 and/or 7H4.25 monoclonal antibodies.

[0023] In some embodiments, a recombinant polypeptide comprises i) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable light chain of 4H9.20; and/or ii) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable heavy chain of 4H9.20. In some embodiments, a recombinant polypeptide comprises i) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable light chain of 5D5.4; and/or ii) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable heavy chain of 5D5.4. In some embodiments, a recombinant polypeptide comprises i) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable light chain of 4B10.44; and/or ii) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable heavy chain of 4B10.44. In some embodiments, a recombinant polypeptide comprises i) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable light chain of 3B3.14; and/or ii) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable heavy chain of 3B3.14. In some embodiments, a recombinant polypeptide comprises i) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable light chain of 7H4.25; and/or ii) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable heavy chain of 7H4.25. In some embodiments, a recombinant polypeptide comprises i) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable light chain of 2A3.1; and/or ii) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable heavy chain of 2A3.1. In some embodiments, a recombinant polypeptide comprises i) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable light chain of 2H10.12; and/or ii) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable heavy chain of 2H10.12. In some embodiments, a recombinant polypeptide comprises i) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable light chain of 6D1.22; and/or ii) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable heavy chain of 6D1.22. In some embodiments, a recombinant polypeptide comprises i) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable light chain of 6C4.15; and/or ii) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable heavy chain of 6C4.15. In some embodiments, a recombinant polypeptide comprises i) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable light chain of 6C10.19; and/or ii) CDR1, CDR2,

and/or CDR3 from the variable heavy chain of 6C10.19. In some embodiments, a recombinant polypeptide comprises i) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable light chain of 8C2.9; and/or ii) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable heavy chain of 8C2.9. In some embodiments, a recombinant polypeptide comprises i) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable light chain of 4F1.7; and/or ii) CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the variable heavy chain of 4F1.7. The sequences for these CDRs can be found in Table 5.

[0024] In some embodiments, there is a purified polypeptide comprising one or more Coa binding polypeptide CDR domains from an antibody that specifically binds to Domain 1-2 of a Staphylococcal Coa polypeptide. As indicated above, the polypeptide may comprise 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 CDRs from the light and/or heavy chain variable regions of a Coa antibody. Table 5 provides 12 different Coa antibodies and their CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 sequences from both the light and heavy chain variable regions. In certain embodiments, a polypeptide contains CDR1, CDR2, and/or CDR3 from the light chain variable region of a particular antibody. It is contemplated that while in some embodiments a polypeptide has a CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 from the variable region of a light chain and/or the variable region of a heavy chain that the CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 need not be from the same antibody. While some polypeptides have CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 from the same antibody or based on the same antibody, given the overlap in amino acid sequences, a CDR1 from one antibody may be substituted with a CDR from or based on another antibody. For example, a polypeptide may comprise a CDR1 from or based on the light chain variable region of 4F1.7, a CDR2 from or based on the light chain variable region of 4F1., but have a CDR3 from or based on the variable light chain region of 6C4.15. It is generally contemplated, however, that when a single set of CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 are employed together that they all be from a light chain variable region or from a heavy chain variable region, but not a mix from both.

[0025] Alternatively, the polypeptide may contain a CDR1 sequence that is, is at most or is at least 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100% identical (or any range derivable therein) to the entire sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOs:9, 15, 24, 33, 40, 44, 56, and 49, which are CDR1 sequences from the light chain variable region of a Coa antibody. Alternatively or additionally, the polypeptide may contain a CDR2 sequence that is, is at most or is at least 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100% identical (or any range derivable therein) to the entire sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOs:10, 16, 21, 25, and 34, which are CDR2 sequences from the light chain variable region of a Coa antibody. Alternatively or additionally, the polypeptide may contain a CDR3 sequence that is, is at most or is at least 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100% identical (or any range derivable therein) to the entire sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOs:11, 17, 22, 26, 30, 35, 36, 45, and 57, which are CDR3 sequences from the light chain variable region of a Coa antibody. Alternatively or additionally, the polypeptide may contain a CDR1 sequence that is, is at most or is at least 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100% identical (or any range derivable therein) to the entire sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOs:12, 18, 27, 37, 41, 46, 50, 53, and 58, which are CDR1 sequences from the heavy chain variable region of a Coa antibody. Alternatively or additionally, the polypeptide may contain a CDR2 sequence that is, is at most or is

at least 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100% identical (or any range derivable therein) to the entire sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOs:13, 19, 28, 31, 38, 43, 47, 51, 54, and 59, which are CDR2 sequences from the heavy chain variable region of a Coa antibody. Alternatively or additionally, the polypeptide may contain a CDR3 sequence that is, is at most or is at least 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100% identical (or any range derivable therein) to the entire sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOs:14, 20, 23, 29, 32, 39, 42, 48, 52, 55, and 60, which are CDR3 sequences from the heavy chain variable region of a Coa antibody. It is contemplated that in some embodiments, SEQ ID NO:61 is used in place of any of SEQ ID NOs:10, 16, 21, 25, and 34. In some embodiments, a CDR2 has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:61.

[0026] Other embodiments provide a recombinant polypeptide that comprises one or more CDR domain from an antibody that specifically binds to Domains 1-2 of a Staphylococcal Coa polypeptide and a scaffold from a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of an immunoglobulin, a fibronectin or a *S. aureus* protein Z. If it further contemplated that any polypeptide may be attached, fused or conjugated to an agent or substance, such a therapeutic moiety or a detectable moiety.

[0027] In certain aspects, the recombinant polypeptide is operatively coupled to a recombinant polypeptide that specifically binds to a second Staphylococcal protein.

[0028] In other embodiments, the polypeptide is an antibody comprising (a) a heavy chain comprising said VH region, and a human hinge, CH1, CH2, and CH3 regions from an IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 or IgG4 subtype; and (b) a light chain comprising said VL region, and either a human kappa CL or human lambda CL.

[0029] Certain embodiments provide a purified monoclonal antibody that specifically binds to a Staphylococcal Coa polypeptide, wherein the purified monoclonal antibody is the 5A10, 8E2, 3A6, 7E2, 3F6, 1F10, 6D11, 3D11, 5A11, 1B10, 4C1, 2F2, 8D4, 7D11, 2C3, 4C5, 6B2, 4D5, 2B8, 1H7, 6C10.19 or 6C4.15 monoclonal antibody.

[0030] In some aspects, the purified polypeptide does not consist of the mouse monoclonal antibody that is 4H9.20, 5D5.4, 4B10.44, 3B3.14, 7H4.25, 2A3.1, 2H10.12, 6D1.22, 6C4.15, 6C10.19, 8C2.9, and 4F1.7. In other embodiments the purified polypeptide is not an isolated mouse monoclonal antibody.

[0031] Other embodiments provide a pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more purified Coa binding polypeptide. In some embodiments, the pharmaceutical composition provides a single unit dose of the purified polypeptide in a sealed container. The pharmaceutical composition may comprise at least a second anti-bacterial agent including, but not limited to, an antibiotic, a Staphylococcal vaccine composition or a polypeptide that specifically binds to a second Staphylococcal protein.

[0032] Certain embodiments, provide a polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a Coa binding polypeptide.

[0033] Other embodiments provide an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a Coa binding polypeptide operably linked to an expression control sequence. Some embodiments provide a host cell comprising the expression vector.

[0034] Embodiments also provide a method manufacturing a Coa binding polypeptide comprising expressing a

nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide operably linked to an expression control sequence in a host cell.

[0035] Embodiments also provide for the use of Coa antibodies in methods and compositions for the treatment of bacterial and/or staphylococcal infection. In certain embodiments, compositions are used in the manufacture of medicaments for the therapeutic and/or prophylactic treatment of bacterial infections, particularly *staphylococcus* infections. Furthermore, in some embodiments there are methods and compositions that can be used to treat (e.g., limiting staphylococcal abscess formation and/or persistence in a subject) or prevent bacterial infection.

[0036] Certain aspects are directed to methods of reducing *Staphylococcus* infection or abscess formation comprising administering to a patient having or suspected of having a *Staphylococcus* infection an effective amount of one or more purified antibodies that specifically bind a Coa polypeptide. The antibody can be a purified polyclonal antibody, a purified monoclonal antibody, a recombinant polypeptide, or a fragment thereof. In certain aspects the antibody is humanized or human. In still further aspects the antibody is a recombinant antibody segment. In certain aspects a monoclonal antibody includes one or more of 5A10, 8E2, 3A6, 7E2, 3F6, 1F10, 6D11, 3D11, 5A11, 1B10, 4C1, 2F2, 8D4, 7D11, 2C3, 4C5, 6B2, 4D5, 2B8, 1H7, 6C10.19 or 6C4.15. An antibody can be administered at a dose of 0.1, 0.5, 1, 5, 10, 50, 100 mg or $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ to 5, 10, 50, 100, 500 mg or $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, or any range derivable therein. The recombinant antibody segment can be operatively coupled to a second recombinant antibody segment. In certain aspects the second recombinant antibody segment binds a second Staphylococcal protein. The method can further comprise administering a second antibody that binds a second Staphylococcal protein. In certain aspects the method further comprises administering an antibiotic.

[0037] Embodiments are directed to monoclonal antibody polypeptides, polypeptides having one or more segments thereof, and polynucleotides encoding the same. In certain aspects a polypeptide can comprise all or part of the heavy chain variable region and/or the light chain variable region of Coa-specific antibodies. In a further aspect, a polypeptide can comprise an amino acid sequence that corresponds to a first, second, and/or third complementary determining regions (CDRs) from the light variable chain and/or heavy variable chain of a Coa-specific antibody.

[0038] In still further aspects, embodiments provide a hybridoma cell line that produces a monoclonal antibody of the embodiments. In embodiments the hybridoma cell line is a line that produces the 5A10, 8E2, 3A6, 7E2, 3F6, 1F10, 6D11, 3D11, 5A11, 1B10, 4C1, 2F2, 8D4, 7D11, 2C3, 4C5, 6B2, 4D5, 2B8, 1H7, 6C10.19 or 6C4.15 monoclonal antibody. In a further aspect, 1, 2, and/or 3 CDRs from the light and/or heavy chain variable region of a MAb can be comprised in a humanized antibody or variant thereof.

[0039] Certain aspects are directed to methods of treating a subject having or suspected of having a *Staphylococcus* infection comprising administering to a patient having or suspected of having a *Staphylococcus* infection an effective amount of a purified antibody or polypeptide that specifically binds a Coa polypeptide.

[0040] In a further aspect methods are directed to treating a subject at risk of a *Staphylococcus* infection comprising administering to a patient at risk of a *Staphylococcus* infec-

tion an effective amount of an antibody that binds a Coa polypeptide prior to infection with *Staphylococcus*.

[0041] Certain embodiments are directed to an antibody or binding polypeptide composition comprising an isolated and/or recombinant antibody or polypeptide that specifically binds a peptide segment as described above. In certain aspects the antibody or polypeptide has a sequence that is, is at least, or is at most 80, 85, 90, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, or 100% identical (or any range derivable therein) to all or part of any monoclonal antibody provided herein.

[0042] In additional embodiments, there are pharmaceutical compositions comprising one or more polypeptides or antibodies or antibody fragments that are discussed herein. Such a composition may or may not contain additional active ingredients.

[0043] In certain embodiments there is a pharmaceutical composition consisting essentially of a polypeptide comprising one or more antibodies or antibody fragments discussed herein. It is contemplated that the composition may contain non-active ingredients.

[0044] Other aspects are directed to pharmaceutical compositions comprising an effective anti-bacterial amount of an antibody that specifically binds to a peptide described above and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

[0045] The term “providing” is used according to its ordinary meaning to indicate “to supply or furnish for use.” In some embodiments, the protein is provided directly by administering a composition comprising antibodies or fragments thereof that are described herein.

[0046] The subject typically will have (e.g., diagnosed with a persistent staphylococcal infection), will be suspected of having, or will be at risk of developing a staphylococcal infection. Compositions include Coa-binding polypeptides in amounts effective to achieve the intended purpose—treatment or protection of Staphylococcal infection. The term “binding polypeptide” refers to a polypeptide that specifically binds to a target molecule, such as the binding of an antibody to an antigen. Binding polypeptides may but need not be derived from immunoglobulin genes or fragments of immunoglobulin genes. More specifically, an effective amount means an amount of active ingredients necessary to provide resistance to, amelioration of, or mitigation of infection. In more specific aspects, an effective amount prevents, alleviates or ameliorates symptoms of disease or infection, or prolongs the survival of the subject being treated. Determination of the effective amount is well within the capability of those skilled in the art, especially in light of the detailed disclosure provided herein. For any preparation used in the methods described herein, an effective amount or dose can be estimated initially from in vitro, cell culture, and/or animal model assays. For example, a dose can be formulated in animal models to achieve a desired response. Such information can be used to more accurately determine useful doses in humans.

[0047] Compositions can comprise an antibody that binds Coa. An antibody can be an antibody fragment, a humanized antibody, a monoclonal antibody, a single chain antibody or the like. In certain aspects, the Coa antibody is elicited by providing a Coa peptide or antigen or epitope that results in the production of an antibody that binds Coa in the subject. The Coa antibody is typically formulated in a pharmaceutically acceptable composition. The Coa antibody composition can further comprise at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, or 19 for more staphylococcal

antigens or immunogenic fragments thereof. Staphylococcal antigens include, but are not limited to all or a segment of Eap, Ebh, Emp, EsaB, EsaC, EsxA, EsxB, IsdA, IsdB, SdrC, SdrD, SdrE, ClfA, CHB, Coa, Hla (e.g., H35 mutants), IsdC, SasF, vWa, SpA and variants thereof (See U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 61/166,432, filed Apr. 3, 2009; 61/170,779, filed Apr. 20, 2009; and 61/103,196, filed Oct. 6, 2009; each of which is incorporated herein by reference in their entirety), vWh, 52 kDa vitronectin binding protein (WO 01/60852), Aaa (GenBank CAC80837), Aap (GenBank accession AJ249487), Ant (GenBank accession NP_372518), autolysin glucosaminidase, autolysin amidase, Cna, collagen binding protein (U.S. Pat. No. 6,288,214), EFB (FIB), Elastin binding protein (EbpS), EPB, FbpA, fibrinogen binding protein (U.S. Pat. No. 6,008,341), Fibronectin binding protein (U.S. Pat. No. 5,840,846), FnbA, FnbB, GehD (US 2002/0169288), HarA, HBP, Immunodominant ABC transporter, IsaA/PisA, laminin receptor, Lipase GehD, MAP, Mg²⁺ transporter, MHC II analogue (U.S. Pat. No. 5,648,240), MRPII, Npase, RNA III activating protein (RAP), SasA, SasB, SasC, SasD, SasK, SBI, SdrF (WO 00/12689), SdrG/Fig (WO 00/12689), SdrH (WO 00/12689), SEA exotoxins (WO 00/02523), SEB exotoxins (WO 00/02523), SitC and Ni ABC transporter, SitC/MntC/saliva binding protein (U.S. Pat. No. 5,801,234), SsaA, SSP-1, SSP-2, and/or Vitronectin binding protein (see PCT publications WO2007/113222, WO2007/113223, WO2006/032472, WO2006/032475, WO2006/032500, each of which is incorporated herein by reference in their entirety). The staphylococcal antigen, or immunogenic fragment or segment can be administered concurrently with the Coa antibody. The staphylococcal antigen or immunogenic fragment and the Coa antibody can be administered in the same or different composition and at the same or different times. The composition may comprise multiple (e.g., 2, 3, 4, or more) Coa antibodies that bind Coa polypeptides from multiple strains of *S. aureus*.

[0048] The Coa antibody composition can further comprise antibodies, antibody fragments or antibody subfragments to at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, or 19 of more (or any range derivable therein) staphylococcal antigens or immunogenic fragments thereof. Staphylococcal antigens to which such antibodies, antibody fragments of antibody subfragments are directed include, but are not limited to all or a segment of Eap, Ebh, Emp, EsaB, EsaC, EsxA, EsxB, IsdA, IsdB, SdrC, SdrD, SdrE, ClfA, ClfB, Coa, Hla (e.g., H35 mutants), IsdC, SasF, vWa, SpA and variants thereof (See U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 61/166,432, filed Apr. 3, 2009; 61/170,779, filed Apr. 20, 2009; and 61/103,196, filed Oct. 6, 2009; each of which is incorporated herein by reference in their entirety), vWh, 52 kDa vitronectin binding protein (WO 01/60852), Aaa (GenBank CAC80837), Aap (GenBank accession AJ249487), Ant (GenBank accession NP 372518), autolysin glucosaminidase, autolysin amidase, Cna, collagen binding protein (U.S. Pat. No. 6,288,214), EFB (FIB), Elastin binding protein (EbpS), EPB, FbpA, fibrinogen binding protein (U.S. Pat. No. 6,008,341), Fibronectin binding protein (U.S. Pat. No. 5,840,846), FnbA, FnbB, GehD (US 2002/0169288), HarA, HBP, Immunodominant ABC transporter, IsaA/PisA, laminin receptor, Lipase GehD, MAP, Mg²⁺ transporter, MHC II analogue (U.S. Pat. No. 5,648,240), MRPII, Npase, RNA III activating protein (RAP), SasA, SasB, SasC, SasD, SasK, SBI, SdrF (WO 00/12689), SdrG/

Fig (WO 00/12689), SdrH (WO 00/12689), SEA exotoxins (WO 00/02523), SEB exotoxins (WO 00/02523), SitC and Ni ABC transporter, SitC/MntC/saliva binding protein (U.S. Pat. No. 5,801,234), SsaA, SSP-1, SSP-2, and/or Vitronectin binding protein (see PCT publications WO2007/113222, WO2007/113223, WO2006/032472, WO2006/032475, WO2006/032500, each of which is incorporated herein by reference in their entirety). The antibodies, antibody fragments or antibody subfragments to other staphylococcal antigens or immunogenic fragments thereof can be administered concurrently with the Coa antibody. The antibodies, antibody fragments or antibody subfragments to other staphylococcal antigens or immunogenic fragments thereof can be administered in the same or different composition to the Coa antibody and at the same or different times.

[0049] Embodiments include compositions that contain or do not contain a bacterium. A composition may or may not include an attenuated or viable or intact staphylococcal bacterium. In certain aspects, the composition comprises a bacterium that is not a Staphylococci bacterium or does not contain Staphylococci bacteria. In certain embodiments a bacterial composition comprises an isolated or recombinantly expressed Coa antibody or a nucleic acid encoding the same. In still further aspects, the Coa antibody is multimerized, e.g., a dimer, a trimer, a tetramer, etc.

[0050] In certain aspects, a peptide or an antigen or an epitope can be presented as multimers of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more peptide segments or peptide mimetics.

[0051] The term “isolated” can refer to a nucleic acid or polypeptide that is substantially free of cellular material, bacterial material, viral material, or culture medium (when produced by recombinant DNA techniques) of their source of origin, or chemical precursors or other chemicals (when chemically synthesized). Moreover, an isolated compound refers to one that can be administered to a subject as an isolated compound; in other words, the compound may not simply be considered “isolated” if it is adhered to a column or embedded in an agarose gel. Moreover, an “isolated nucleic acid fragment” or “isolated peptide” is a nucleic acid or protein fragment that is not naturally occurring as a fragment and/or is not typically in the functional state.

[0052] Compositions such as antibodies, peptides, antigens, or immunogens may be conjugated or linked covalently or noncovalently to other moieties such as adjuvants, proteins, peptides, supports, fluorescence moieties, or labels. The term “conjugate” or “immunoconjugate” is broadly used to define the operative association of one moiety with another agent and is not intended to refer solely to any type of operative association, and is particularly not limited to chemical “conjugation.” Recombinant fusion proteins are particularly contemplated.

[0053] The term “Coa antibody” refers to an antibody that specifically binds Coa proteins from *staphylococcus* bacteria. In certain embodiments the antibody may bind a specific Coa protein from a particular *staphylococcus* bacteria strain.

[0054] In further aspects a composition may be administered more than one time to the subject, and may be administered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 20 or more times (or any range derivable therein). The administration of the compositions include, but is not limited to oral, parenteral, subcutaneous and intravenous administration, or various combinations thereof, including inhalation or aspiration.

[0055] Compositions are typically administered to human subjects, but administration to other animals that are capable

of providing a therapeutic benefit against a *staphylococcus* bacterium are contemplated, particularly cattle, horses, goats, sheep, birds and other domesticated animals. In further aspects the *staphylococcus* bacterium is a *Staphylococcus aureus*. In still further aspects, the methods and compositions may be used to prevent, ameliorate, reduce, or treat infection of tissues or glands. Other methods include, but are not limited to prophylactically reducing bacterial burden in a subject not exhibiting signs of infection, particularly those subjects suspected of or at risk of being colonized by a target bacteria, e.g., patients that are or will be at risk or susceptible to infection during a hospital stay, treatment, and/or recovery.

[0056] Still further embodiments include methods for providing a subject a protective or therapeutic composition against a *staphylococcus* bacterium comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of a composition including (i) a Coa antibody; or, (ii) a nucleic acid molecule encoding the same, or (iii) administering an Coa antibody with any combination or permutation of bacterial proteins described herein.

[0057] The embodiments in the Example section are understood to be embodiments that are applicable to all aspects of the invention, including compositions and methods.

[0058] The use of the term “or” in the claims is used to mean “and/or” unless explicitly indicated to refer to alternatives only or the alternatives are mutually exclusive, although the disclosure supports a definition that refers to only alternatives and “and/or.” It is also contemplated that anything listed using the term “or” may also be specifically excluded.

[0059] Throughout this application, the term “about” is used to indicate that a value includes the standard deviation of error for the device or method being employed to determine the value.

[0060] Following long-standing patent law, the words “a” and “an,” when used in conjunction with the word “comprising” in the claims or specification, denotes one or more, unless specifically noted.

[0061] As used in this specification and claim(s), the words “comprising” (and any form of comprising, such as “comprise” and “comprises”), “having” (and any form of having, such as “have” and “has”), “including” (and any form of including, such as “includes” and “include”) or “containing” (and any form of containing, such as “contains” and “contain”) are inclusive or open-ended and do not exclude additional, unrecited elements or method steps.

[0062] Other objects, features and advantages of the present invention 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 invention, are given by way of illustration only, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0063] So that the matter in which the above-recited features, advantages and objects of the invention as well as others which will become clear are attained and can be understood in detail, more particular descriptions and certain embodiments of the invention briefly summarized above are

illustrated in the appended drawings. These drawings form a part of the specification. It is to be noted, however, that the appended drawings illustrate certain embodiments of the invention and therefore are not to be considered limiting in their scope.

[0064] FIGS. 1A-1B: Illustrations of the primary structure of coagulase from *S. aureus* Newman (Coa_{NM}) and the regions of coagulase targeted by certain Coa-specific monoclonal antibodies. FIG. 1A shows an illustration of the primary structure of coagulase from *S. aureus* Newman (Coa_{NM}), which was purified via an N-terminal His₆ tag from *E. coli*. Coa_{NM} encompasses the D1 and D2 domains involved in prothrombin binding, the linker (L) domain and the Repeat (R) domain, which is comprised of tandem repeats of a 27 residue peptide sequence that binds to fibrinogen. In addition to Coa_{NM}, the D1_{Coa}, D2_{Coa}, D12_{Coa}, L_{Coa}, and R_{Coa} domains as well as a construct of D1_{Coa} without amino acids 1-18, D1_{A1-18}, were purified with N-terminal His₆ tags. FIG. 1B shows an illustration of the regions of coagulase targeted by Coa-specific monoclonal antibodies 5D5, 8C2, 6C10, 3B3 (produced by hybridoma cell line ATCC Accession number PTA-124060), 6C4, and 7H4.

[0065] FIGS. 2A-2B: Mab 5D5.4 disrupts Coa•prothrombin activity. (A) Coa•prothrombin enzymatic activity was measured with chromogenic substrate S-2238. Following pre-incubation with Mab 5D5.4 (produced by hybridoma cell line ATCC Accession number PTA-124061) polyclonal purified α-Coa, activity was reduced. Statistical analysis was assessed using 1-way ANOVA followed by a post-hoc Dunnett’s multiple comparison test. (B) The association of Coa_{NM} with human prothrombin was measured by ELISA and perturbed with increasing concentrations Mab 5D5.4 or control IgG1. Compared to isotype control, *P<0.05, **P<0.01.

[0066] FIGS. 3A-B: Protective value of coagulation-neutralizing antibodies. Monoclonal antibodies 5D5.4, 7H4.25, (ATCC Accession number _____) or IgG1 isotype control (A) or 8C2.9 or IgG2a isotype control (B) were injected at a concentration of 5 mg·kg⁻¹ body weight into the peritoneal cavity of naïve BALB/c mice. Passively immunized mice were challenged by intravenous injection with *S. aureus* Newman isogenic mutant vwb (2×10⁸ CFU) and survival of animals was monitored over 10 days.

[0067] FIG. 4: Cross-protection of Mab 5D5.4 toward infection by clinical isolates of different Coa serotypes. Monoclonal antibody 5D5.4 or IgG1 isotype control was injected at a concentration of 5 mg·kg⁻¹ body weight into the peritoneal cavity of naïve BALB/c mice. Passively immunized mice were challenged by intravenous injection with *S. aureus* strains (A) N315 (1×10⁸ CFU) or (B) MW2 (2×10⁸ CFU), and survival of animals was monitored over 10 days.

[0068] FIGS. 5A-D: Mice received intraperitoneal injections of 5D5.4 or an IgG1 isotype control, and were subsequently infected with a lethal dose of *S. aureus* strains Newman (Coa type III) (FIG. 5A), N315 (Coa type II) (FIG. 5B), CowanI (Coa type IV) (FIG. 5C), or MW2 (Coa type VII) (FIG. 5D), and were monitored over a ten-day observation period to assess their protective role. 5D5.4 treatment resulted in a delay in time-to-death for animals challenged with strains Newman (IgG1 vs 5D5.4, P<0.01), N315 (IgG1 vs. 5D5.4, P<0.05), CowanI (IgG1 vs. 5D5.4, P<0.05) or MW2 (IgG1 vs. 5D5.4, P<0.05).

[0069] FIGS. 6A-D: Monoclonal antibodies that recognize CT_{Coa}. (A-B) The association of CT_{Coa} with human fibrinogen was measured by ELISA and perturbed with increasing concentrations Mab 3B3.14 or control IgG1 (A) or Mab 6C4.15 or control IgG2b (B). Compared to isotype control, *P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001. (C-D) Monoclonal antibody 3B3.14 or IgG1 control (C) or 6C4.15 or IgG2b (D) was injected at a concentration of 5 mg·kg⁻¹ body weight into the peritoneal cavity of naïve BALB/c mice. Passively immunized mice were challenged by intravenous injection with *S. aureus* strain vwb and survival of animals was monitored over 10 days.

[0070] FIGS. 7A-D: Mice received intraperitoneal injections of 3B3.14 or IgG1 isotype control, and were subsequently infected with a lethal dose of *S. aureus* clinical isolate USA300 (Coa type III) (FIG. 7A), N315 (Coa type II) (FIG. 7B), CowanI (Coa type IV) (FIG. 7C), or MW2 (Coa type VII) (FIG. 7D), and were monitored over a ten-day observation period to assess their protective role. 3B3.14 did not protect mice against challenge with the wildtype Newman (IgG1 vs. 3B3.14 p>0.05 FIG. 7A), N315 (IgG1 vs. 3B3.14 p.0.05 FIG. 7B), or MW2 (IgG1 vs. 3B3.14 p.0.05 FIG. 7D). 3B3.14 provided a modest delay in time to death following challenge with strain CowanI (IgG1 vs. 3B3.14 p<0.001; FIG. 7C).

[0071] FIGS. 8A-D: Alignment of Coa sequences from USA300 (SEQ ID NO: 1), N315 (SEQ ID NO: 2), MRSA252 (SEQ ID NO: 4), MW2 (SEQ ID NO: 3), and WIS (SEQ ID NO: 5).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0072] *Staphylococcus aureus* is a commensal of the human skin and nares, and the leading cause of bloodstream, skin and soft tissue infections (Klevens et al., 2007). Recent dramatic increases in the mortality of staphylococcal diseases are attributed to the spread of methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) strains often not susceptible to antibiotics (Kennedy et al., 2008). In a large retrospective study, the incidence of MRSA infections was 4.6% of all hospital admissions in the United States (Klevens et al., 2007). The annual health care costs for 94,300 MRSA infected individuals in the United States exceed \$2.4 billion (Klevens et al., 2007). The current MRSA epidemic has precipitated a public health crisis that needs to be addressed by development of a preventive vaccine (Boucher and Corey, 2008). To date, an FDA licensed vaccine that prevents *S. aureus* diseases is not available.

[0073] Coagulase (Coa) is an important virulence factor in the pathogenesis of staphylococcal sepsis. The conversion of fibrinogen to fibrin by the Coa:prothrombin complex enables *Staphylococcus aureus* to evade immune defenses and disseminate throughout the body. Humoral immunity toward Coa is protective in a murine sepsis model. Previous work demonstrated that there are protective epitopes in both the N- and C-terminus and that there is type-specific immunity, attributable to the genetic variation in the N-terminus of Coa among strains.

[0074] The inventors describe here staphylococcal coagulase-binding antibodies and the antigen binding determinants thereof. In particular, a panel of monoclonal antibodies were generated against Coa and characterized based on their affinity for individual domains of the protein and their disturbance of clotting. Based on in vitro characteristics,

several monoclonal antibodies were tested for protection in a murine sepsis model resulting in the identification of a protective epitope in the conserved portion of the N-terminus. Importantly, antibodies targeting this epitope are able, when administered to animals, to reduce Staphylococcal sepsis following challenge with virulent *S. aureus*. Because these molecules are able to block the prothrombin-activating effects of Coa, such antibodies may also enhance host immune response following staphylococcal infection. Thus, the Coa-binding molecules of the embodiments offer a new and effective avenue to treat or prevent staphylococcal disease.

I. Coagulase Polypeptides

[0075] Certain aspects of the embodiments concern coagulase (Coa) polypeptides. An illustration of the primary structure of Coa from *S. Aureus* Newman (Coa_{NM}) is provided in FIG. 1A. Nucleic acid sequences for Coa from eight *S. aureus* strains are provided in SEQ ID NOs: 1-8 as follows: USA300 (SEQ ID NO: 1), N315 (SEQ ID NO: 2), MW2 (SEQ ID NO: 3), MRSA252 (SEQ ID NO: 4), WIS (SEQ ID NO: 5), MU50 (SEQ ID NO: 6), 85/2082 (SEQ ID NO: 7), and Newman (SEQ ID NO: 8). An alignment of Coa sequences from USA300 (SEQ ID NO: 1), N315 (SEQ ID NO: 2), MRSA252 (SEQ ID NO: 4), MW2 (SEQ ID NO: 3), and WIS (SEQ ID NO: 5) is provided in FIG. 6.

[0076] Coagulase interacts with host prothrombin through its N-terminal domains, D1 and D2. The three-helix bundles of D1 and D2 share structural similarity but are poorly conserved at the sequence level [66]. The first 150 amino acids comprise the D1 domain [68]. The amino-terminal tetrapeptide of Coa inserts into the activation pocket of prothrombin and forms a salt bridge with prothrombin Asp194 [66]. The first of two high-affinity binding interactions between Coa and prothrombin occurs through a hydrophobic surface groove in D1 with the 148 loop of prothrombin [66]. SC₁₅₀₋₂₈₂ comprises the D2 domain [68]. The second high-affinity binding interaction is between the side chain of Tyr76 of the prothrombin exosite I and D2 alpha helices [66]. Coa forms a dimer in solution, with each monomer binding one molecule of prothrombin [66]. A complex formed by prothrombin and a recombinant construct of the D1D2 domain (SC₁₋₃₂₃) is able to bind fibrinogen through a distinct interaction from the substrate binding exosite on prothrombin [133].

[0077] Two other domains of Coa are less well understood. Following D2, there is a highly conserved Linker (L) region with unknown function [77]. Near the C-terminus is a region of tandem repeats of a 27 amino acid peptide, and the number of repeats varies among strains [77]. The repeat region is thought to be responsible for high affinity binding to fibrinogen [133,214].

[0078] The gene encoding Coa (coa) is found on all *S. aureus* chromosomes, yet it is one of the most variable proteins, with twelve known types (Watanabe et al 2005, Watanabe et al 2009). The majority of variability among Coa alleles resides in the D1 and D2 domains. The linker region is relatively conserved with 86.7% identity among serotypes (Watanabe et al 2005). Of note, the amino terminal end of mature Coa, i.e. the first seven residues following the signal peptidase cleavage site, activate prothrombin and these residues are conserved among all strains analyzed [68]. The C-terminal tandem repeats of a 27 residue peptide vary in number from five to nine but have greater than 90% identity

among serotypes (Watanabe et al 2005). Antibodies that recognize epitopes in SC₁₋₂₈₂ are necessary to block the enzymatic activities of the Coa-prothrombin complex [215]. In vivo, antibodies against the C-terminal repeats also confer protection [215], though the mechanism of protection is not yet clear.

[0079] Coa polypeptides can be used as subunit vaccines and raise humoral immune responses and confer protective immunity against *S. aureus* challenge. In certain embodiments, polyvalent vaccines targeting Coa variation across multiple *S. aureus* strains are contemplated. This embodiment is discussed in a U.S. Provisional patent application filed on Apr. 26, 2012 entitled "STAPHYLOCOCCAL COAGULASE ANTIGENS AND METHODS OF THEIR USE" in the names of Molly McAdow, Andrea DeDent, Alice Cheng, Carla Emolo, Dominique Missiakas, Olaf Schneewind, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

II. Proteinaceous Compositions

[0080] Proteins may be recombinant, or synthesized in vitro. Alternatively, a non-recombinant or recombinant protein may be isolated from bacteria. It is also contemplated that a bacteria containing such a variant may be implemented in compositions and methods. Consequently, a protein need not be isolated.

[0081] The term "functionally equivalent codon" is used herein to refer to codons that encode the same amino acid, such as the six codons for arginine or serine, and also refers to codons that encode biologically equivalent amino acids (see Codon Table, below).

Codon Table			
Amino Acids		Codons	
Alanine	Ala	A	GCA GCC GCG GCU
Cysteine	Cys	C	UGC UGU
Aspartic acid	Asp	D	GAC GAU
Glutamic acid	Glu	E	GAA GAG
Phenylalanine	Phe	F	UUC UUU
Glycine	Gly	G	GGA GGC GGG GGU
Histidine	His	H	CAC CAU
Isoleucine	Ile	I	AUA AUC AUU
Lysine	Lys	K	AAA AAG
Leucine	Leu	L	UUA UUG CUA CUC CUG CUU
Methionine	Met	M	AUG
Asparagine	Asn	N	AAC AAU
Proline	Pro	P	CCA CCC CCG CCU
Glutamine	Gln	Q	CAA CAG
Arginine	Arg	R	AGA AGG CGA CGC CGG CGU
Serine	Ser	S	AGC AGU UCA UCC UCG UCU
Threonine	Thr	T	ACA ACC ACG ACU
Valine	Val	V	GUA GUC GUG GUU
Tryptophan	Trp	W	UGG
Tyrosine	Tyr	Y	UAC UAU

[0082] It also will be understood that amino acid and nucleic acid sequences may include additional residues, such as additional N- or C-terminal amino acids, or 5' or 3' sequences, respectively, and yet still be essentially as set forth in one of the sequences disclosed herein, so long as the sequence meets the criteria set forth above, including the maintenance of biological protein activity where protein expression is concerned. The addition of terminal sequences particularly applies to nucleic acid sequences that may, for

example, include various non-coding sequences flanking either of the 5' or 3' portions of the coding region.

[0083] Substitutional variants typically contain the exchange of one amino acid for another at one or more sites within the protein, and may be designed to modulate one or more properties of the polypeptide, with or without the loss of other functions or properties. Substitutions may be conservative, that is, one amino acid is replaced with one of similar shape and charge. Conservative substitutions are well known in the art and include, for example, the changes of: alanine to serine; arginine to lysine; asparagine to glutamine or histidine; aspartate to glutamate; cysteine to serine; glutamine to asparagine; glutamate to aspartate; glycine to proline; histidine to asparagine or glutamine; isoleucine to leucine or valine; leucine to valine or isoleucine; lysine to arginine; methionine to leucine or isoleucine; phenylalanine to tyrosine, leucine or methionine; serine to threonine; threonine to serine; tryptophan to tyrosine; tyrosine to tryptophan or phenylalanine; and valine to isoleucine or leucine. Alternatively, substitutions may be non-conservative such that a function or activity of the polypeptide is affected. Non-conservative changes typically involve substituting a residue with one that is chemically dissimilar, such as a polar or charged amino acid for a nonpolar or uncharged amino acid, and vice versa.

[0084] The following is a discussion based upon changing of the amino acids of a protein to create an equivalent, or even an improved, second-generation molecule. For example, certain amino acids may be substituted for other amino acids in a protein structure without appreciable loss of interactive binding capacity with structures such as, for example, antigen-binding regions of antibodies or binding sites on substrate molecules. Since it is the interactive capacity and nature of a protein that defines that protein's biological functional activity, certain amino acid substitutions can be made in a protein sequence, and in its underlying DNA coding sequence, and nevertheless produce a protein with like properties. It is thus contemplated by the inventors that various changes may be made in the DNA sequences of genes without appreciable loss of their biological utility or activity.

[0085] In making such changes, the hydrophobic index of amino acids may be considered. The importance of the hydrophobic amino acid index in conferring interactive biological function on a protein is generally understood in the art (Kyte and Doolittle, 1982). 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.

[0086] It also is understood in the art that the substitution of like amino acids can be made effectively on the basis of hydrophilicity. U.S. Pat. No. 4,554,101, incorporated herein by reference, states that the greatest local average hydrophilicity of a protein, as governed by the hydrophilicity of its adjacent amino acids, correlates with a biological property of the protein. It is understood that an amino acid can be substituted for another having a similar hydrophilicity value and still produce a biologically equivalent and immunologically equivalent protein.

[0087] As outlined above, amino acid substitutions generally are based on the relative similarity of the amino acid side-chain substituents, for example, their hydrophobicity,

hydrophilicity, charge, size, and the like. Exemplary substitutions that take into consideration the various foregoing characteristics are well known and include: arginine and lysine; glutamate and aspartate; serine and threonine; glutamine and asparagine; and valine, leucine and isoleucine.

[0088] It is contemplated that in compositions there is between about 0.001 mg and about 10 mg of total polypeptide, peptide, and/or protein per ml. Thus, the concentration of protein in a composition can be about, at least about or at most about 0.001, 0.010, 0.050, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, 6.0, 6.5, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0, 8.5, 9.0, 9.5, 10.0 mg/ml or more (or any range derivable therein). Of this, about, at least about, or at most about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 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% may be an antibody that binds Coa, and may be used in combination with other staphylococcal proteins or protein-binding antibodies described herein.

A. Polypeptides and Polypeptide Production

[0089] Embodiments involve polypeptides, peptides, and proteins and immunogenic fragments thereof for use in various aspects described herein. For example, specific antibodies are assayed for or used in neutralizing or inhibiting Staphylococcal infection. In specific embodiments, all or part of proteins described herein can also be synthesized in solution or on a solid support in accordance with conventional techniques. Various automatic synthesizers are commercially available and can be used in accordance with known protocols. See, for example, Stewart and Young, (1984); Tam et al., (1983); Merrifield, (1986); and Barany and Merrifield (1979), each incorporated herein by reference. Alternatively, recombinant DNA technology may be employed wherein a nucleotide sequence that encodes a peptide or polypeptide is inserted into an expression vector, transformed or transfected into an appropriate host cell and cultivated under conditions suitable for expression.

[0090] One embodiment includes the use of gene transfer to cells, including microorganisms, for the production and/or presentation of proteins. The gene for the protein of interest may be transferred into appropriate host cells followed by culture of cells under the appropriate conditions. A nucleic acid encoding virtually any polypeptide may be employed. The generation of recombinant expression vectors, and the elements included therein, are discussed herein. Alternatively, the protein to be produced may be an endogenous protein normally synthesized by the cell used for protein production.

[0091] In a certain aspects an immunogenic Coa fragment comprises substantially all of the D1 and/or D2 domains of a Coa protein isolatable from *S. aureus*.

[0092] Also included in immunogenic compositions are fusion proteins composed of Staphylococcal proteins, or immunogenic fragments of staphylococcal proteins (e.g., Coa). Alternatively, embodiments also include individual fusion proteins of Staphylococcal proteins or immunogenic fragments thereof, as a fusion protein with heterologous sequences such as a provider of T-cell epitopes or purification tags, for example: β -galactosidase, glutathione-S-transferase, green fluorescent proteins (GFP), epitope tags such

as FLAG, myc tag, poly histidine, or viral surface proteins such as influenza virus haemagglutinin, or bacterial proteins such as tetanus toxoid, diphtheria toxoid, CRM197.

B. Antibodies and Antibody-Like Molecules

[0093] In certain aspects, one or more antibodies or antibody-like molecules (e.g., polypeptides comprising antibody CDR domains) may be obtained or produced which have a specificity for an Coa. In particular embodiments, one or more antibodies or antibody-like molecules (e.g., polypeptides comprising antibody CDR domains) may be obtained or produced which have a specificity for the D1 and/or D2 domain of Coa. These antibodies may be used in various diagnostic or therapeutic applications described herein.

[0094] As used herein, the term "antibody" is intended to refer broadly to any immunologic binding agent such as IgG, IgM, IgA, IgD and IgE as well as polypeptides comprising antibody CDR domains that retain antigen binding activity. Thus, the term "antibody" is used to refer to any antibody-like molecule that has an antigen binding region, and includes antibody fragments such as Fab', Fab, F(ab')₂, single domain antibodies (DABs), Fv, scFv (single chain Fv), and polypeptides with antibody CDRs, scaffolding domains that display the CDRs (e.g., anticalins) or a nanobody. For example, the nanobody can be antigen-specific VHH (e.g., a recombinant VHH) from a camelid IgG2 or IgG3, or a CDR-displaying frame from such camelid Ig. The techniques for preparing and using various antibody-based constructs and fragments are well known in the art. Means for preparing and characterizing antibodies are also well known in the art (See, e.g., *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1988; incorporated herein by reference).

[0095] "Mini-antibodies" or "minibodies" are also contemplated for use with embodiments. Minibodies are sFv polypeptide chains which include oligomerization domains at their C-termini, separated from the sFv by a hinge region. Pack et al. (1992). The oligomerization domain comprises self-associating α -helices, e.g., leucine zippers, that can be further stabilized by additional disulfide bonds. The oligomerization domain is designed to be compatible with vectorial folding across a membrane, a process thought to facilitate in vivo folding of the polypeptide into a functional binding protein. Generally, minibodies are produced using recombinant methods well known in the art. See, e.g., Pack et al. (1992); Cumber et al. (1992).

[0096] Antibody-like binding peptidomimetics are also contemplated in embodiments. Liu et al. (2003) describe "antibody like binding peptidomimetics" (ABiPs), which are peptides that act as pared-down antibodies and have certain advantages of longer serum half-life as well as less cumbersome synthesis methods.

[0097] Alternative scaffolds for antigen binding peptides, such as CDRs are also available and can be used to generate Coa-binding molecules in accordance with the embodiments. Generally, a person skilled in the art knows how to determine the type of protein scaffold on which to graft at least one of the CDRs arising from the original antibody. More particularly, it is known that to be selected such scaffolds must meet the greatest number of criteria as follows (Skerra, 2000): good phylogenetic conservation; known three-dimensional structure (as, for example, by crystallography, NMR spectroscopy or any other technique

known to a person skilled in the art); small size; few or no post-transcriptional modifications; and/or easy to produce, express and purify.

[0098] The origin of such protein scaffolds can be, but is not limited to, the structures selected among: fibronectin and preferentially fibronectin type III domain 10, lipocalin, anticalin (Skerra, 2001), protein Z arising from domain B of protein A of *Staphylococcus aureus*, thioredoxin A or proteins with a repeated motif such as the “ankyrin repeat” (Kohl et al., 2003), the “armadillo repeat”, the “leucine-rich repeat” and the “tetratricopeptide repeat”. For example, anticalins or lipocalin derivatives are a type of binding proteins that have affinities and specificities for various target molecules and can be used as SpA binding molecules. Such proteins are described in US Patent Publication Nos. 20100285564, 20060058510, 20060088908, 20050106660, and PCT Publication No. WO2006/056464, incorporated herein by reference.

[0099] Scaffolds derived from toxins such as, for example, toxins from scorpions, insects, plants, mollusks, etc., and the protein inhibitors of neuronal NO synthase (PIN) may also be used in certain aspects.

[0100] Monoclonal antibodies (MAbs) are recognized to have certain advantages, e.g., reproducibility and large-scale production. Embodiments include monoclonal antibodies of the human, murine, monkey, rat, hamster, rabbit and chicken origin.

[0101] “Humanized” antibodies are also contemplated, as are chimeric antibodies from mouse, rat, or other species, bearing human constant and/or variable region domains, bispecific antibodies, recombinant and engineered antibodies and fragments thereof. As used herein, the term “humanized” immunoglobulin refers to an immunoglobulin comprising a human framework region and one or more CDR’s from a non-human (usually a mouse or rat) immunoglobulin. The non-human immunoglobulin providing the CDR’s is called the “donor” and the human immunoglobulin providing the framework is called the “acceptor”. A “humanized antibody” is an antibody comprising a humanized light chain and a humanized heavy chain immunoglobulin.

1. Methods for Generating Antibodies

[0102] Methods for generating antibodies (e.g., monoclonal antibodies and/or monoclonal antibodies) are known in the art. Briefly, a polyclonal antibody is prepared by immunizing an animal with a Coa polypeptide or a portion thereof in accordance with embodiments and collecting antisera from that immunized animal.

[0103] A wide range of animal species can be used for the production of antisera. Typically the animal used for production of antisera is a rabbit, a mouse, a rat, a hamster, a guinea pig or a goat. The choice of animal may be decided upon the ease of manipulation, costs or the desired amount of sera, as would be known to one of skill in the art. It will be appreciated that antibodies can also be produced transgenically through the generation of a mammal or plant that is transgenic for the immunoglobulin heavy and light chain sequences of interest and production of the antibody in a recoverable form therefrom. In connection with the transgenic production in mammals, antibodies can be produced in, and recovered from, the milk of goats, cows, or other mammals. See, e.g., U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,827,690, 5,756,687, 5,750,172, and 5,741,957.

[0104] 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. Suitable adjuvants include any acceptable immunostimulatory compound, such as cytokines, chemokines, cofactors, toxins, plasmodia, synthetic compositions or vectors encoding such adjuvants.

[0105] Adjuvants that may be used in accordance with embodiments include, but are not limited to, IL-1, IL-2, IL-4, IL-7, IL-12, -interferon, GMCSF, BCG, aluminum hydroxide, MDP compounds, such as thur-MDP and nor-MDP, CGP (MTP-PE), lipid A, and monophosphoryl lipid A (MPL). RIBI, which contains three components extracted from bacteria, MPL, trehalose dimycolate (TDM) and cell wall skeleton (CWS) in a 2% squalene/Tween 80 emulsion is also contemplated. MEW antigens may even be used. Exemplary adjuvants may include complete Freund’s adjuvant (a non-specific stimulator of the immune response containing killed *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*), incomplete Freund’s adjuvants and/or aluminum hydroxide adjuvant.

[0106] In addition to adjuvants, it may be desirable to coadminister biologic response modifiers (BRM), which have been shown to upregulate T cell immunity or down-regulate suppressor cell activity. Such BRMs include, but are not limited to, Cimetidine (CIM; 1200 mg/d) (Smith/Kline, PA); low-dose Cyclophosphamide (CYP; 300 mg/m²) (Johnson/Mead, NJ), cytokines such as -interferon, IL-2, or IL-12 or genes encoding proteins involved in immune helper functions, such as B-7.

[0107] The amount of immunogen composition used in the production of 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 including but not limited to subcutaneous, intramuscular, intradermal, intraepidermal, intravenous and intraperitoneal. The production of antibodies may be monitored by sampling blood of the immunized animal at various points following immunization.

[0108] A second, booster dose (e.g., provided in an injection), may also be given. The process of boosting and titering 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.

[0109] For production of rabbit polyclonal antibodies, the animal can be bled through an ear vein or alternatively by cardiac puncture. The removed blood is allowed to coagulate and then centrifuged to separate serum components from whole cells and blood clots. The serum may be used as is for various applications or else the desired antibody fraction may be purified by well-known methods, such as affinity chromatography using another antibody, a peptide bound to a solid matrix, or by using, e.g., protein A or protein G chromatography, among others.

[0110] MAbs may be readily prepared through use of well-known techniques, such as those exemplified in U.S. Pat. No. 4,196,265, incorporated herein by reference. Typically, this technique involves immunizing a suitable animal with a selected immunogen composition, e.g., a purified or partially purified protein, polypeptide, peptide or domain, be it a wild-type or mutant composition. The immunizing composition is administered in a manner effective to stimulate antibody producing cells.

[0111] The methods for generating monoclonal antibodies (MAbs) generally begin along the same lines as those for preparing polyclonal antibodies. In some embodiments, Rodents such as mice and rats are used in generating monoclonal antibodies. In some embodiments, rabbit, sheep or frog cells are used in generating monoclonal antibodies. The use of rats is well known and may provide certain advantages (Goding, 1986, pp. 60-61). Mice (e.g., BALB/c mice) are routinely used and generally give a high percentage of stable fusions.

[0112] The animals are injected with antigen, generally as described above. The antigen may be mixed with adjuvant, such as Freund's complete or incomplete adjuvant. Booster administrations with the same antigen or DNA encoding the antigen may occur at approximately two-week intervals.

[0113] 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, tonsils or lymph nodes, or from a peripheral blood sample. Generally, spleen cells are a rich source of antibody-producing cells that are in the dividing plasmablast stage. Typically, peripheral blood cells may be readily obtained, as peripheral blood is easily accessible.

[0114] In some embodiments, a panel of animals will have been immunized and the spleen of an animal with the highest antibody titer will be removed and the spleen lymphocytes obtained by homogenizing the spleen with a syringe. Typically, a spleen from an immunized mouse contains approximately 5×10^7 to 2×10^8 lymphocytes.

[0115] The antibody producing B lymphocytes from the immunized animal are then fused with cells of an immortal myeloma cell, generally one of the same species as the animal that was immunized. 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).

[0116] 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). For example, where the immunized animal is a mouse, one may use P3 X63/Ag8, X63 Ag8.653, NS1/1.Ag 4 1, Sp210 Ag14, FO, NSO/U, MPC 11, MPC11 X45 GTG 1.7 and 5194/5XX0 Bul; for rats, one may use R210.RCY3, Y3 Ag 1.2.3, IR983F and 4B210; and U 266, GM1500 GRG2, LICR LON HMy2 and UC729 6 are all useful in connection with human cell fusions. See Yoo et al. (2002), for a discussion of myeloma expression systems.

[0117] One murine myeloma cell is the NS-1 myeloma cell line (also termed P3-NS-1-Ag4-1), which is readily available from the NIGMS Human Genetic Mutant Cell Repository by requesting cell line repository number GM3573. Another mouse myeloma cell line that may be used is the 8 azaguanine resistant mouse murine myeloma SP2/0 non producer cell line.

[0118] 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. Fusion methods using Sendai

virus have been described by Kohler and Milstein (1975; 1976), and those using polyethylene glycol (PEG), such as 37% (v/v) PEG, by Geffer et al., (1977). The use of electrically induced fusion methods is also appropriate (Goding pp. 71-74, 1986).

[0119] Fusion procedures usually produce viable hybrids at low frequencies, about 1×10^{-6} to 1×10^{-8} . However, this does not pose a problem, as the viable, fused hybrids are differentiated from the parental, unfused cells (particularly the unfused 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 nucleotides in the tissue culture media. 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 media is supplemented with hypoxanthine and thymidine as a source of nucleotides (HAT medium). Where azaserine is used, the media is supplemented with hypoxanthine.

[0120] The preferred selection medium is HAT. 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 (HPRT), 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.

[0121] This 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 clonal 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, dot immunobinding assays, and the like.

[0122] The selected hybridomas would then be serially diluted 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. First, a sample of the hybridoma can be injected (often into the peritoneal cavity) into a histocompatible animal of the type that was used to provide the somatic and myeloma cells for the original fusion (e.g., a syngeneic mouse). Optionally, the animals are primed with a hydrocarbon, especially oils such as pristane (tetramethylpentadecane) prior to injection. 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. Second, the individual cell lines could be cultured in vitro, where the MAbs are naturally secreted into the culture medium from which they can be readily obtained in high concentrations.

[0123] Further, expression of antibodies (or other moieties therefrom) from production cell lines can be enhanced using a number of known techniques. For example, the glutamine synthetase and DHFR gene expression systems are common approaches for enhancing expression under certain conditions. High expressing cell clones can be identified using

conventional techniques, such as limited dilution cloning and Microdrop technology. The GS system is discussed in whole or part in connection with European Patent Nos. 0 216 846, 0 256 055, and 0 323 997 and European Patent Application No. 89303964.4.

[0124] MAbs produced by either means may be further purified, if desired, using filtration, centrifugation and various chromatographic methods such as HPLC or affinity chromatography. Fragments of the monoclonal antibodies can be obtained from the monoclonal antibodies so produced 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 can be synthesized using an automated peptide synthesizer.

[0125] It is also contemplated that a molecular cloning approach may be used to generate monoclonal antibodies. In one embodiment, combinatorial immunoglobulin phagemid libraries are prepared from RNA isolated from the spleen of the immunized animal, and phagemids expressing appropriate antibodies are selected by panning using cells expressing the antigen and control cells. 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.

[0126] Another embodiment concerns producing antibodies, for example, as is found in U.S. Pat. No. 6,091,001, which describes methods to produce a cell expressing an antibody from a genomic sequence of the cell comprising a modified immunoglobulin locus using Cre-mediated site-specific recombination is disclosed. The method involves first transfecting an antibody-producing cell with a homology-targeting vector comprising a lox site and a targeting sequence homologous to a first DNA sequence adjacent to the region of the immunoglobulin loci of the genomic sequence which is to be converted to a modified region, so the first lox site is inserted into the genomic sequence via site-specific homologous recombination. Then the cell is transfected with a lox-targeting vector comprising a second lox site suitable for Cre-mediated recombination with the integrated lox site and a modifying sequence to convert the region of the immunoglobulin loci to the modified region. This conversion is performed by interacting the lox sites with Cre in vivo, so that the modifying sequence inserts into the genomic sequence via Cre-mediated site-specific recombination of the lox sites.

[0127] Alternatively, monoclonal antibody fragments can be synthesized using an automated peptide synthesizer, or by expression of full-length gene or of gene fragments in *E. coli*.

C. Antibody and Polypeptide Conjugates

[0128] Embodiments provide antibodies and antibody-like molecules against Coa proteins, polypeptides and peptides that are linked to at least one agent to form an antibody conjugate or payload. 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, therapeutic enzymes, antibiotics, radio-labeled nucleotides and the like. 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, luminescent molecules, photoaffinity molecules, colored particles or ligands, such as biotin.

[0129] Certain examples of antibody conjugates are those conjugates in which the antibody is linked to a detectable label. "Detectable labels" are compounds and/or elements that can be detected due to their specific functional properties, and/or chemical characteristics, the use of which allows the antibody to which they are attached to be detected, and/or further quantified if desired.

[0130] Antibody conjugates are generally preferred for use as diagnostic agents. Antibody diagnostics generally fall within two classes, those for use in in vitro diagnostics, such as in a variety of immunoassays, and/or 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. Pat. Nos. 5,021,236; 4,938,948; and 4,472,509, each incorporated herein by reference). The imaging moieties used can be paramagnetic ions; radioactive isotopes; fluorochromes; NMR-detectable substances; X-ray imaging.

[0131] 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), gold (III), lead (II), and especially bismuth (III).

[0132] In the case of radioactive isotopes for therapeutic and/or diagnostic application, one might use astatine²¹¹, ¹⁴carbon, ⁵¹chromium, ³⁶chlorine, ⁵⁷cobalt, ⁵⁸cobalt, copper⁶⁷, ¹⁵²Eu, gallium⁶⁷, ³hydrogen, iodine¹²³, iodine¹²⁵, iodine¹³¹, indium¹¹¹, ⁵⁹iron, ³²phosphorus, rhenium¹⁸⁶, rhenium¹⁸⁸, ⁷⁵selenium, ³⁵sulphur, technetium^{99m} and/or yttrium⁹⁰. ¹²⁵I is often used in certain embodiments, and technetium^{99m} and/or indium¹¹¹ are also often used due to their low energy and suitability for long range detection. Radioactively labeled monoclonal antibodies may be produced according to well-known methods in the art. For instance, monoclonal antibodies can be iodinated by contact with sodium and/or potassium iodide and a chemical oxidizing agent such as sodium hypochlorite, or an enzymatic oxidizing agent, such as lactoperoxidase. Monoclonal antibodies may be labeled with technetium^{99m} by ligand exchange process, for example, by reducing pertechnetate with stannous solution, chelating the reduced technetium onto a Sephadex column and applying the antibody to this column. Alternatively, direct labeling techniques may be used, e.g., by incubating pertechnetate, a reducing agent such as SNCl₂, a buffer solution such as sodium-potassium phthalate solution, and the antibody. Intermediary functional groups which are often used to bind radioisotopes which

exist as metallic ions to antibody are diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA) or ethylene diaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA).

[0133] Among the fluorescent labels contemplated for use as conjugates include Alexa 350, Alexa 430, AMCA, BODIPY 630/650, BODIPY 650/665, BODIPY-FL, BODIPY-R6G, BODIPY-TMR, BODIPY-TRX, Cascade Blue, Cy3, Cy5,6-FAM, Fluorescein Isothiocyanate, HEX, 6-JOE, Oregon Green 488, Oregon Green 500, Oregon Green 514, Pacific Blue, REG, Rhodamine Green, Rhodamine Red, Renographin, ROX, TAMRA, TET, Tetramethylrhodamine, and/or Texas Red, among others.

[0134] Antibody conjugates include those intended primarily for use *in vitro*, where the antibody is linked to a secondary binding ligand and/or to an enzyme (an enzyme tag) that will generate a colored product upon contact with a chromogenic substrate. Examples of suitable enzymes include, but are not limited to, urease, alkaline phosphatase, (horseradish) hydrogen peroxidase or glucose oxidase. Preferred secondary binding ligands are biotin and/or avidin and streptavidin compounds. The use of such labels is well known to those of skill in the art and are described, for example, in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,817,837; 3,850,752; 3,939,350; 3,996,345; 4,277,437; 4,275,149 and 4,366,241; each incorporated herein by reference.

[0135] Yet another known method of site-specific attachment of molecules to antibodies comprises the reaction of antibodies with hapten-based affinity labels. Essentially, hapten-based affinity labels react with amino acids in the antigen binding site, thereby destroying this site and blocking specific antigen reaction. However, this may not be advantageous since it results in loss of antigen binding by the antibody conjugate.

[0136] Molecules containing azido groups may also be used to form covalent bonds to proteins through reactive nitrene intermediates that are generated by low intensity ultraviolet light (Potter & Haley, 1983). In particular, 2- and 8-azido analogues of purine nucleotides have been used as site-directed photoprobes to identify nucleotide binding proteins in crude cell extracts (Owens & Haley, 1987; Atherton et al., 1985). The 2- and 8-azido nucleotides have also been used to map nucleotide binding domains of purified proteins (Khatoun et al., 1989; King et al., 1989; and Dholakia et al., 1989) and may be used as antibody binding agents.

[0137] 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 a diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid anhydride (DTPA); ethylenetriaminetetraacetic acid; N-chloro-p-toluenesulfonamide; and/or tetrachloro-3-6-diphenylglycouril-3 attached to the antibody (U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,472,509 and 4,938,948, each incorporated herein by reference). Monoclonal antibodies may also be reacted with an enzyme in the presence of a coupling agent such as glutaraldehyde or periodate. Conjugates with fluorescein markers are prepared in the presence of these coupling agents or by reaction with an isothiocyanate. In U.S. Pat. No. 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.

[0138] In some 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. Pat. No. 5,196,066, incorporated herein by reference). 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.

[0139] In some embodiments, anti-Coa antibodies are linked to semiconductor nanocrystals such as those described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,048,616; 5,990,479; 5,690,807; 5,505,928; 5,262,357 (all of which are incorporated herein in their entireties); as well as PCT Publication No. 99/26299 (published May 27, 1999). In particular, exemplary materials for use as semiconductor nanocrystals in the biological and chemical assays include, but are not limited to, those described above, including group II-VI, III-V and group IV semiconductors such as ZnS, ZnSe, ZnTe, CdS, CdSe, CdTe, MgS, MgSe, MgTe, CaS, CaSe, CaTe, SrS, SrSe, SrTe, BaS, BaSe, BaTe, GaN, GaP, GaAs, GaSb, InP, InAs, InSb, AlS, AlP, AlSb, PbS, Pb Se, Ge and Si and ternary and quaternary mixtures thereof. Methods for linking semiconductor nanocrystals to antibodies are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,630,307 and 6,274,323.

III. NUCLEIC ACIDS

[0140] In certain embodiments, there are recombinant polynucleotides encoding the proteins, polypeptides, or peptides described herein. Polynucleotide sequences contemplated include those encoding antibodies to Coa or Coa-binding portions thereof.

[0141] As used in this application, the term "polynucleotide" refers to a nucleic acid molecule that either is recombinant or has been isolated free of total genomic nucleic acid. Included within the term "polynucleotide" are oligonucleotides (nucleic acids 100 residues or less in length), recombinant vectors, including, for example, plasmids, cosmids, phage, viruses, and the like. Polynucleotides include, in certain aspects, regulatory sequences, isolated substantially away from their naturally occurring genes or protein encoding sequences. Polynucleotides may be single-stranded (coding or antisense) or double-stranded, and may be RNA, DNA (genomic, cDNA or synthetic), analogs thereof, or a combination thereof. Additional coding or non-coding sequences may, but need not, be present within a polynucleotide.

[0142] In this respect, the term "gene," "polynucleotide," or "nucleic acid" is used to refer to a nucleic acid that encodes a protein, polypeptide, or peptide (including any sequences required for proper transcription, post-translational modification, or localization). As will be understood by those in the art, this term encompasses genomic sequences, expression cassettes, cDNA sequences, and smaller engineered nucleic acid segments that express, or may be adapted to express, proteins, polypeptides, domains, peptides, fusion proteins, and mutants. A nucleic acid encoding all or part of a polypeptide may contain a contiguous nucleic acid sequence encoding all or a portion of such a polypeptide. It also is contemplated that a particular polypeptide may be encoded by nucleic acids containing varia-

tions having slightly different nucleic acid sequences but, nonetheless, encode the same or substantially similar protein (see above).

[0143] In particular embodiments, there are isolated nucleic acid segments and recombinant vectors incorporating nucleic acid sequences that encode a polypeptide (e.g., an antibody or fragment thereof) that binds to Coa. The term “recombinant” may be used in conjunction with a polypeptide or the name of a specific polypeptide, and this generally refers to a polypeptide produced from a nucleic acid molecule that has been manipulated in vitro or that is a replication product of such a molecule.

[0144] The nucleic acid segments, regardless of the length of the coding sequence itself, may be combined with other nucleic acid sequences, such as promoters, polyadenylation signals, additional restriction enzyme sites, multiple cloning sites, other coding segments, and the like, such that their overall length may vary considerably. It is therefore contemplated that a nucleic acid fragment of almost any length may be employed, with the total length preferably being limited by the ease of preparation and use in the intended recombinant nucleic acid protocol. In some cases, a nucleic acid sequence may encode a polypeptide sequence with additional heterologous coding sequences, for example to allow for purification of the polypeptide, transport, secretion, post-translational modification, or for therapeutic benefits such as targeting or efficacy. As discussed above, a tag or other heterologous polypeptide may be added to the modified polypeptide-encoding sequence, wherein “heterologous” refers to a polypeptide that is not the same as the modified polypeptide.

[0145] In certain embodiments, there are polynucleotide variants having substantial identity to the sequences disclosed herein; those comprising at least 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% or higher sequence identity, including all values and ranges there between, compared to a polynucleotide sequence provided herein using the methods described herein (e.g., BLAST analysis using standard parameters). In certain aspects, the isolated polynucleotide will comprise a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that has at least 90%, preferably 95% and above, identity to an amino acid sequence described herein, over the entire length of the sequence; or a nucleotide sequence complementary to said isolated polynucleotide.

A. Vectors

[0146] Polypeptides may be encoded by a nucleic acid molecule. The nucleic acid molecule can be in the form of a nucleic acid vector. The term “vector” is used to refer to a carrier nucleic acid molecule into which a heterologous nucleic acid sequence can be inserted for introduction into a cell where it can be replicated and expressed. A nucleic acid sequence can be “heterologous,” which means that it is in a context foreign to the cell in which the vector is being introduced or to the nucleic acid in which is incorporated, which includes a sequence homologous to a sequence in the cell or nucleic acid but in a position within the host cell or nucleic acid where it is ordinarily not found. Vectors include DNAs, RNAs, plasmids, cosmids, viruses (bacteriophage, animal viruses, and plant viruses), and artificial chromosomes (e.g., YACs). One of skill in the art would be well equipped to construct a vector through standard recombinant techniques (for example Sambrook et al., 2001; Ausubel et

al., 1996, both incorporated herein by reference). Vectors may be used in a host cell to produce an antibody that binds Coa.

[0147] The term “expression vector” refers to a vector containing a nucleic acid sequence coding for at least part of a gene product capable of being transcribed. In some cases, RNA molecules are then translated into a protein, polypeptide, or peptide. Expression vectors can contain a variety of “control sequences,” which refer to nucleic acid sequences necessary for the transcription and possibly translation of an operably linked coding sequence in a particular host organism. In addition to control sequences that govern transcription and translation, vectors and expression vectors may contain nucleic acid sequences that serve other functions as well and are described herein.

[0148] A “promoter” is a control sequence. The promoter is typically a region of a nucleic acid sequence at which initiation and rate of transcription are controlled. It may contain genetic elements at which regulatory proteins and molecules may bind such as RNA polymerase and other transcription factors. The phrases “operatively positioned,” “operatively linked,” “under control,” and “under transcriptional control” mean that a promoter is in a correct functional location and/or orientation in relation to a nucleic acid sequence to control transcriptional initiation and expression of that sequence. A promoter may or may not be used in conjunction with an “enhancer,” which refers to a cis-acting regulatory sequence involved in the transcriptional activation of a nucleic acid sequence.

[0149] The particular promoter that is employed to control the expression of a peptide or protein encoding polynucleotide is not believed to be critical, so long as it is capable of expressing the polynucleotide in a targeted cell, preferably a bacterial cell. Where a human cell is targeted, it is preferable to position the polynucleotide coding region adjacent to and under the control of a promoter that is capable of being expressed in a human cell. Generally speaking, such a promoter might include either a bacterial, human or viral promoter.

[0150] A specific initiation signal also may be required for efficient translation of coding sequences. These signals include the ATG initiation codon or adjacent sequences. Exogenous translational control signals, including the ATG initiation codon, may need to be provided. One of ordinary skill in the art would readily be capable of determining this and providing the necessary signals.

[0151] Vectors can include a multiple cloning site (MCS), which is a nucleic acid region that contains multiple restriction enzyme sites, any of which can be used in conjunction with standard recombinant technology to digest the vector. (See Carbonelli et al., 1999, Levenson et al., 1998, and Cocea, 1997, incorporated herein by reference.)

[0152] Most transcribed eukaryotic RNA molecules will undergo RNA splicing to remove introns from the primary transcripts. Vectors containing genomic eukaryotic sequences may require donor and/or acceptor splicing sites to ensure proper processing of the transcript for protein expression. (See Chandler et al., 1997, incorporated herein by reference.)

[0153] The vectors or constructs will generally comprise at least one termination signal. A “termination signal” or “terminator” is comprised of the DNA sequences involved in specific termination of an RNA transcript by an RNA polymerase. Thus, in certain embodiments a termination

signal that ends the production of an RNA transcript is contemplated. A terminator may be necessary in vivo to achieve desirable message levels. In eukaryotic systems, the terminator region may also comprise specific DNA sequences that permit site-specific cleavage of the new transcript so as to expose a polyadenylation site. This signals a specialized endogenous polymerase to add a stretch of about 200 A residues (polyA) to the 3' end of the transcript. RNA molecules modified with this polyA tail appear to more stable and are translated more efficiently. Thus, in other embodiments involving eukaryotes, it is preferred that that terminator comprises a signal for the cleavage of the RNA, and it is more preferred that the terminator signal promotes polyadenylation of the message.

[0154] In expression, particularly eukaryotic expression, one will typically include a polyadenylation signal to effect proper polyadenylation of the transcript.

[0155] In order to propagate a vector in a host cell, it may contain one or more origins of replication sites (often termed "ori"), which is a specific nucleic acid sequence at which replication is initiated. Alternatively an autonomously replicating sequence (ARS) can be employed if the host cell is yeast.

B. Host Cells

[0156] As used herein, the terms "cell," "cell line," and "cell culture" may be used interchangeably. All of these terms also include their progeny, which is any and all subsequent generations. It is understood that all progeny may not be identical due to deliberate or inadvertent mutations. In the context of expressing a heterologous nucleic acid sequence, "host cell" refers to a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell, and it includes any transformable organism that is capable of replicating a vector or expressing a heterologous gene encoded by a vector. A host cell can, and has been, used as a recipient for vectors or viruses. A host cell may be "transfected" or "transformed," which refers to a process by which exogenous nucleic acid, such as a recombinant protein-encoding sequence, is transferred or introduced into the host cell. A transformed cell includes the primary subject cell and its progeny.

[0157] Some vectors may employ control sequences that allow it to be replicated and/or expressed in both prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells. One of skill in the art would further understand the conditions under which to incubate all of the above described host cells to maintain them and to permit replication of a vector. Also understood and known are techniques and conditions that would allow large-scale production of vectors, as well as production of the nucleic acids encoded by vectors and their cognate polypeptides, proteins, or peptides.

C. Expression Systems

[0158] Numerous expression systems exist that comprise at least a part or all of the compositions discussed above. Prokaryote- and/or eukaryote-based systems can be employed for use with an embodiment to produce nucleic acid sequences, or their cognate polypeptides, proteins and peptides. Many such systems are commercially and widely available.

[0159] The insect cell/baculovirus system can produce a high level of protein expression of a heterologous nucleic acid segment, such as described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,871,986,

4,879,236, both herein incorporated by reference, and which can be bought, for example, under the name MAXBAC® 2.0 from INVITROGEN® and BACPACK™ BACULOVIRUS EXPRESSION SYSTEM FROM CLONTECH®.

[0160] In addition to the disclosed expression systems, other examples of expression systems include STRATAGENE®'s COMPLETE CONTROL™ Inducible Mammalian Expression System, which involves a synthetic ecdysone-inducible receptor, or its pET Expression System, an *E. coli* expression system. Another example of an inducible expression system is available from INVITROGEN®, which carries the T-REX™ (tetracycline-regulated expression) System, an inducible mammalian expression system that uses the full-length CMV promoter. INVITROGEN® also provides a yeast expression system called the *Pichia methanolica* Expression System, which is designed for high-level production of recombinant proteins in the methylotrophic yeast *Pichia methanolica*. One of skill in the art would know how to express a vector, such as an expression construct, to produce a nucleic acid sequence or its cognate polypeptide, protein, or peptide.

D. Methods of Gene Transfer

[0161] Suitable methods for nucleic acid delivery to effect expression of compositions are believed to include virtually any method by which a nucleic acid (e.g., DNA, including viral and nonviral vectors) can be introduced into a cell, a tissue or an organism, as described herein or as would be known to one of ordinary skill in the art. Such methods include, but are not limited to, direct delivery of DNA such as by injection (U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,994,624, 5,981,274, 5,945,100, 5,780,448, 5,736,524, 5,702,932, 5,656,610, 5,589,466 and 5,580,859, each incorporated herein by reference), including microinjection (Harland and Weintraub, 1985; U.S. Pat. No. 5,789,215, incorporated herein by reference); by electroporation (U.S. Pat. No. 5,384,253, incorporated herein by reference); by calcium phosphate precipitation (Graham and Van Der Eb, 1973; Chen and Okayama, 1987; Rippe et al., 1990); by using DEAE dextran followed by polyethylene glycol (Gopal, 1985); by direct sonic loading (Fechheimer et al., 1987); by liposome mediated transfection (Nicolau and Sene, 1982; Fraley et al., 1979; Nicolau et al., 1987; Wong et al., 1980; Kaneda et al., 1989; Kato et al., 1991); by microprojectile bombardment (PCT Application Nos. WO 94/09699 and 95/06128; U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,610,042; 5,322,783, 5,563,055, 5,550,318, 5,538,877 and 5,538,880, and each incorporated herein by reference); by agitation with silicon carbide fibers (Kaeppler et al., 1990; U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,302,523 and 5,464,765, each incorporated herein by reference); by *Agrobacterium* mediated transformation (U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,591,616 and 5,563,055, each incorporated herein by reference); or by PEG mediated transformation of protoplasts (Omirulleh et al., 1993; U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,684,611 and 4,952,500, each incorporated herein by reference); by desiccation/inhibition mediated DNA uptake (Potrykus et al., 1985). Through the application of techniques such as these, organelle(s), cell(s), tissue(s) or organism(s) may be stably or transiently transformed.

IV. METHODS OF TREATMENT

[0162] As discussed above, the compositions and methods of using these compositions can treat a subject (e.g., limiting bacterial load or abscess formation or persistence) having,

suspected of having, or at risk of developing an infection or related disease, particularly those related to staphylococci. One use of the compositions is to prevent nosocomial infections by inoculating a subject prior to hospital treatment.

[0163] As used herein the phrase “immune response” or its equivalent “immunological response” refers to a humoral (antibody mediated), cellular (mediated by antigen-specific T cells or their secretion products) or both humoral and cellular response directed against a protein, peptide, or polypeptide of the invention in a recipient patient. Treatment or therapy can be an active immune response induced by administration of immunogen or a passive therapy effected by administration of antibody, antibody containing material, or primed T-cells.

[0164] As used herein “passive immunity” refers to any immunity conferred upon a subject by administration of immune effectors including cellular mediators or protein mediators (e.g., an polypeptide that binds to Coa protein). An antibody composition may be used in passive immunization for the prevention or treatment of infection by organisms that carry the antigen recognized by the antibody. An antibody composition may include antibodies or polypeptides comprising antibody CDR domains that bind to a variety of antigens that may in turn be associated with various organisms. The antibody component can be a polyclonal antiserum. In certain aspects the antibody or antibodies are affinity purified from an animal or second subject that has been challenged with an antigen(s). Alternatively, an antibody mixture may be used, which is a mixture of monoclonal and/or polyclonal antibodies to antigens present in the same, related, or different microbes or organisms, such as gram-positive bacteria, gram-negative bacteria, including but not limited to *staphylococcus* bacteria.

[0165] Passive immunity may be imparted to a patient or subject by administering to the patient immunoglobulins (Ig) or fragments thereof and/or other immune factors obtained from a donor or other non-patient source having a known immunoreactivity. In other aspects, an antigenic composition can be administered to a subject who then acts as a source or donor for globulin, produced in response to challenge from the composition (“hyperimmune globulin”), that contains antibodies directed against *Staphylococcus* or other organism. A subject thus treated would donate plasma from which hyperimmune globulin would then be obtained, via conventional plasma-fractionation methodology, and administered to another subject in order to impart resistance against or to treat *staphylococcus* infection. Hyperimmune globulins are particularly useful for immune-compromised individuals, for individuals undergoing invasive procedures or where time does not permit the individual to produce their own antibodies in response to vaccination. See U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,936,258, 6,770,278, 6,756,361, 5,548,066, 5,512,282, 4,338,298, and 4,748,018, each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, for exemplary methods and compositions related to passive immunity.

[0166] For purposes of this specification and the accompanying claims the terms “epitope” and “antigenic determinant” are used interchangeably to refer to a site on an antigen to which B and/or T cells respond or recognize. 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. Methods of determining spatial conformation of epitopes include those methods described in Epitope Mapping Protocols (1996). T cells recognize continuous epitopes of about nine amino acids for CD8 cells or about 13-15 amino acids for CD4 cells. T cells that recognize the epitope can be identified by in vitro assays that measure antigen-dependent proliferation, as determined by ³H-thymidine incorporation by primed T cells in response to an epitope (Burke et al., 1994), by antigen-dependent killing (cytotoxic T lymphocyte assay, Tigges et al., 1996) or by cytokine secretion.

[0167] The presence of a cell-mediated immunological response can be determined by proliferation assays (CD4 (+) T cells) or CTL (cytotoxic T lymphocyte) assays. The relative contributions of humoral and cellular responses to the protective or therapeutic effect of an immunogen can be distinguished by separately isolating IgG and T-cells from an immunized syngeneic animal and measuring protective or therapeutic effect in a second subject. As used herein and in the claims, the terms “antibody” or “immunoglobulin” are used interchangeably.

[0168] Optionally, an antibody or preferably an immunological portion of an antibody, can be chemically conjugated to, or expressed as, a fusion protein with other proteins. For purposes of this specification and the accompanying claims, all such fused proteins are included in the definition of antibodies or an immunological portion of an antibody.

[0169] In one embodiment a method includes treatment for a disease or condition caused by a *staphylococcus* pathogen. In certain aspects embodiments include methods of treatment of staphylococcal infection, such as hospital acquired nosocomial infections. In some embodiments, the treatment is administered in the presence of staphylococcal antigens. Furthermore, in some examples, treatment comprises administration of other agents commonly used against bacterial infection, such as one or more antibiotics.

[0170] The therapeutic compositions are administered in a manner compatible with the dosage formulation, and in such amount as will be therapeutically effective. The quantity to be administered depends on the subject to be treated. Precise amounts of active ingredient required to be administered depend on the judgment of the practitioner. Suitable regimes for initial administration and boosters are also variable, but are typified by an initial administration followed by subsequent administrations.

[0171] The manner of application may be varied widely. Any of the conventional methods for administration of a polypeptide therapeutic are applicable. These are believed to include oral application on a solid physiologically acceptable base or in a physiologically acceptable dispersion, parenterally, by injection and the like. The dosage of the composition will depend on the route of administration and will vary according to the size and health of the subject.

[0172] In certain instances, it will be desirable to have multiple administrations of the composition, e.g., 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or more administrations. The administrations can be at 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, to 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 twelve week intervals, including all ranges there between.

A. Antibodies And Passive Immunization

[0173] Certain aspects are directed to methods of preparing an antibody for use in prevention or treatment of staphylococcal infection comprising the steps of immunizing a recipient with a vaccine and isolating antibody from the recipient, or producing a recombinant antibody. An antibody prepared by these methods and used to treat or prevent a staphylococcal infection is a further aspect. A pharmaceutical composition comprising antibodies that specifically bind Coa and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a further aspect that could be used in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of staphylococcal disease. A method for treatment or prevention of staphylococcal infection comprising a step of administering to a patient an effective amount of the pharmaceutical preparation is a further aspect.

[0174] Inocula for polyclonal antibody production are typically prepared by dispersing the antigenic composition (e.g., a peptide or antigen or epitope of Coa or a consensus thereof) in a physiologically tolerable diluent such as saline or other adjuvants suitable for human use to form an aqueous composition. An immunostimulatory amount of inoculum is administered to a mammal and the inoculated mammal is then maintained for a time sufficient for the antigenic composition to induce protective antibodies. The antibodies can be isolated to the extent desired by well known techniques such as affinity chromatography (Harlow and Lane, *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual* 1988). Antibodies can include antiserum preparations from a variety of commonly used animals e.g., goats, primates, donkeys, swine, horses, guinea pigs, rats or man. The animals are bled and serum recovered.

[0175] An antibody can include whole antibodies, antibody fragments or subfragments. Antibodies can be whole immunoglobulins of any class (e.g., IgG, IgM, IgA, IgD or IgE), chimeric antibodies, human antibodies, humanized antibodies, or hybrid antibodies with dual specificity to two or more antigens. They may also be fragments (e.g., F(ab')₂,

humanized) reactive against at least two constituents of the immunogenic composition, which could be used to treat or prevent infection by Gram positive bacteria, preferably staphylococci, more preferably *S. aureus* or *S. epidermidis*.

B. Combination Therapy

[0178] The compositions and related methods, particularly administration of an antibody that binds Coa or a peptide or consensus peptide thereof to a patient/subject, may also be used in combination with the administration of traditional therapies. These include, but are not limited to, the administration of antibiotics such as streptomycin, ciprofloxacin, doxycycline, gentamycin, chloramphenicol, trimethoprim, sulfamethoxazole, ampicillin, tetracycline or various combinations of antibiotics.

[0179] In one aspect, it is contemplated that a therapy is used in conjunction with antibacterial treatment. Alternatively, the therapy may precede or follow the other agent treatment by intervals ranging from minutes to weeks. In embodiments where the other agents and/or a proteins or polynucleotides are administered separately, one would generally ensure that a significant period of time did not expire between the time of each delivery, such that the therapeutic composition would still be able to exert an advantageously combined effect on the subject. In such instances, it is contemplated that one may administer both modalities within about 12-24 h of each other and, more preferably, within about 6-12 h of each other. In some situations, it may be desirable to extend the time period for administration significantly, however, where several days (2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7) to several weeks (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8) lapse between the respective administrations.

[0180] Various combinations of therapy may be employed, for example antibiotic therapy is "A" and an antibody therapy that comprises an antibody that binds Coa or a peptide or consensus peptide thereof is "B":

A/B/A	B/A/B	B/B/A	A/A/B	A/B/B	B/A/A	A/B/B/B	B/A/B/B
BBB/A	B/B/A/B	A/A/B/B	A/B/A/B	A/B/B/A	B/B/A/A		
B/A/B/A	B/A/A/B	A/A/A/B	B/A/A/A	A/B/A/A	A/A/B/A		

Fab', Fab, Fv and the like including hybrid fragments). An antibody also includes natural, synthetic or genetically engineered proteins that act like an antibody by binding to specific antigens with a sufficient affinity.

[0176] A vaccine can be administered to a recipient who then acts as a source of antibodies, produced in response to challenge from the specific vaccine. A subject thus treated would donate plasma from which antibody would be obtained via conventional plasma fractionation methodology. The isolated antibody would be administered to the same or different subject in order to impart resistance against or treat staphylococcal infection. Antibodies are particularly useful for treatment or prevention of staphylococcal disease in infants, immune compromised individuals or where treatment is required and there is no time for the individual to produce a response to vaccination.

[0177] An additional aspect is a pharmaceutical composition comprising two or more antibodies or monoclonal antibodies (or fragments thereof; preferably human or

[0181] Administration of the antibody compositions to a patient/subject will follow general protocols for the administration of such compounds, taking into account the toxicity, if any, of the composition. It is expected that the treatment cycles would be repeated as necessary. It is also contemplated that various standard therapies, such as hydration, may be applied in combination with the described therapy.

C. General Pharmaceutical Compositions

[0182] In some embodiments, pharmaceutical compositions are administered to a subject. Different aspects may involve administering an effective amount of a composition to a subject. In some embodiments, an antibody that binds Coa or a peptide or consensus peptide thereof may be administered to the patient to protect against or treat infection by one or more bacteria from the *Staphylococcus* genus. Alternatively, an expression vector encoding one or more such antibodies or polypeptides or peptides may be given to

a patient as a preventative treatment. Additionally, such compositions can be administered in combination with an antibiotic. Such compositions will generally be dissolved or dispersed in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or aqueous medium.

[0183] The phrases “pharmaceutically acceptable” or “pharmacologically acceptable” refer to molecular entities and compositions that do not produce an adverse, allergic, or other untoward reaction when administered to an animal or human. As used herein, “pharmaceutically acceptable carrier” includes any and all solvents, dispersion media, coatings, antibacterial and antifungal agents, isotonic and absorption delaying agents, and the like. The use of such media and agents for pharmaceutical active substances is well known in the art. Except insofar as any conventional media or agent is incompatible with the active ingredients, its use in immunogenic and therapeutic compositions is contemplated. Supplementary active ingredients, such as other anti-infective agents and vaccines, can also be incorporated into the compositions.

[0184] The active compounds can be formulated for parenteral administration, e.g., formulated for injection via the intravenous, intramuscular, sub-cutaneous, or even intraperitoneal routes. Typically, such compositions can be prepared as either liquid solutions or suspensions; solid forms suitable for use to prepare solutions or suspensions upon the addition of a liquid prior to injection can also be prepared; and, the preparations can also be emulsified.

[0185] The pharmaceutical forms suitable for injectable use include sterile aqueous solutions or dispersions; formulations including sesame oil, peanut oil, or aqueous propylene glycol; and sterile powders for the extemporaneous preparation of sterile injectable solutions or dispersions. In all cases the form must be sterile and must be fluid to the extent that it may be easily injected. It also should be stable under the conditions of manufacture and storage and must be preserved against the contaminating action of microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi.

[0186] The proteinaceous compositions may be formulated into a neutral or salt form. Pharmaceutically acceptable salts, include the acid addition salts (formed with the free amino groups of the protein) and which are formed with inorganic acids such as, for example, hydrochloric or phosphoric acids, or such organic acids as acetic, oxalic, tartaric, mandelic, and the like. Salts formed with the free carboxyl groups can also be derived from inorganic bases such as, for example, sodium, potassium, ammonium, calcium, or ferric hydroxides, and such organic bases as isopropylamine, trimethylamine, histidine, procaine and the like.

[0187] A pharmaceutical composition can include a solvent or dispersion medium containing, for example, water, ethanol, polyol (for example, glycerol, propylene glycol, and liquid polyethylene glycol, and the like), suitable mixtures thereof, and vegetable oils. The proper fluidity can be maintained, for example, by the use of a coating, such as lecithin, by the maintenance of the required particle size in the case of dispersion, and by the use of surfactants. The prevention of the action of microorganisms can be brought about by various antibacterial and antifungal agents, for example, parabens, chlorobutanol, phenol, sorbic acid, thimerosal, and the like. In many cases, it will be preferable to include isotonic agents, for example, sugars or sodium chloride. Prolonged absorption of the injectable composi-

tions can be brought about by the use in the compositions of agents delaying absorption, for example, aluminum monostearate and gelatin.

[0188] Sterile injectable solutions are prepared by incorporating the active compounds in the required amount in the appropriate solvent with various of the other ingredients enumerated above, as required, followed by filtered sterilization or an equivalent procedure. Generally, dispersions are prepared by incorporating the various sterilized active ingredients into a sterile vehicle which contains the basic dispersion medium and the required other ingredients from those enumerated above. In the case of sterile powders for the preparation of sterile injectable solutions, the preferred methods of preparation are vacuum-drying and freeze-drying techniques, which yield a powder of the active ingredient, plus any additional desired ingredient from a previously sterile-filtered solution thereof.

[0189] Administration of the compositions will typically be via any common route. This includes, but is not limited to oral, nasal, or buccal administration. Alternatively, administration may be by orthotopic, intradermal, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, intranasal, or intravenous injection. In certain embodiments, a vaccine composition may be inhaled (e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 6,651,655, which is specifically incorporated by reference). Such compositions would normally be administered as pharmaceutically acceptable compositions that include physiologically acceptable carriers, buffers or other excipients.

[0190] An effective amount of therapeutic or prophylactic composition is determined based on the intended goal. The term “unit dose” or “dosage” refers to physically discrete units suitable for use in a subject, each unit containing a predetermined quantity of the composition calculated to produce the desired responses discussed above in association with its administration, i.e., the appropriate route and regimen. The quantity to be administered, both according to number of treatments and unit dose, depends on the protection desired.

[0191] Precise amounts of the composition also depend on the judgment of the practitioner and are peculiar to each individual. Factors affecting dose include physical and clinical state of the subject, route of administration, intended goal of treatment (alleviation of symptoms versus cure), and potency, stability, and toxicity of the particular composition.

[0192] Upon formulation, solutions will be administered in a manner compatible with the dosage formulation and in such amount as is therapeutically or prophylactically effective. The formulations are easily administered in a variety of dosage forms, such as the type of injectable solutions described above.

V. EXAMPLES

[0193] The following examples are given for the purpose of illustrating various embodiments and are not meant to limit the present invention in any fashion. One skilled in the art will appreciate readily that the present invention is well adapted to carry out the objects and obtain the ends and advantages mentioned, as well as those objects, ends and advantages inherent herein. The present examples, along with the methods described herein are presently representative of preferred embodiments, are exemplary, and are not intended as limitations on the scope of the invention. Changes therein and other uses which are encompassed

within the spirit of the invention as defined by the scope of the claims will occur to those skilled in the art.

Example 1

Monoclonal Antibodies that Neutralize Coagulase Activity During *Staphylococcus aureus* Disease

[0194] Coa Mab Specificity and Affinity.

[0195] Mabs were generated against Coa_{NM} and their affinity to Coa was measured (Table 1). The monoclonal antibodies were also tested for binding to an irrelevant protein (IsdA), and those that did not exhibit a specific interaction were eliminated from further study. Because vWbp has some homology to Coa in its N-terminal D1 and D2 domains (Bjerketorp et al 2004, Watanabe et al 2005), binding of Coa monoclonals to vWbp was also tested. None of the Mabs displayed specific binding vWbp.

[0196] In order to determine the binding site of each Mab on Coa, subdomains representing D1 (D1_{Coa}), D2 (D2_{Coa}), the first 329 residues including the entire DID2 domain and part of the linker domain (D12_{Coa}), linker (L_{Coa}), repeat region (CT_{Coa}), and a truncated form of D1 missing the first 18 amino acids (D1_{Δ1-18}) were cloned and expressed in *E. coli* (FIG. 1). Eleven Mabs bound D12_{Coa}, all of which specifically recognized D1_{Coa} (Table 1). Two Mabs bound L_{Coa} and none of the Mabs bound D2_{Coa}. Two Mabs bound CT_{Coa}.

TABLE 1

Biochemical attributes and biological values of Mabs raised against Coa								
Mab	Isotype	Affinity ^a						
		Coa _{NM}	D12 _{Coa}	D1 _{Coa}	D1 _{Δ1-18}	D2 _{Coa}	L _{Coa}	CT _{Coa}
4H9.20	IgG1	0.04	0.01	0.01	<	<	<	<
5D5.4	IgG1	4.06	2.55	3.94	1.03	<	<	<
6C10.19	IgG1	3.82	4.39	0.01	<	<	6.58	<
4B10.44	IgG1	0.03	0.01	0.02	<	<	<	<
3B3.14	IgG1	3.2	<	<	<	<	<	5.25
7H4.25	IgG1	1.64	1.42	1.02	0.28	<	0.01	<
4F1.7	IgG1	0.68	0.05	1.01	0.1	<	<	<
8C2.9	IgG2a	3.4	3.2	0.78	0.57	<	<	<
2A3.1	IgG2a	0.17	0.24	0.12	0	<	<	<
5C3.2	IgG2b	0.4	0.3	0.35	0.02	<	<	<
2H10.12	IgG2b	2.39	2.87	2.13	0.03	<	<	<
6D1.22	IgG2b	2.79	3.28	2.13	0.03	<	<	<
6C4.15	IgG2b	5.97	<	<	<	<	<	6.70

^aDetermined by ELISA as the association constant (K_a) in ×10⁻⁹M

[0197] Inhibition of Blood Coagulation by Monoclonal Antibodies.

[0198] Coa-specific Mabs were screened for their ability to inhibit clotting of calcium-chelated mouse blood by *S. aureus* isogenic mutant vwb, which coagulates blood more slowly than wild-type (Cheng et al). Isolated *S. aureus* Newman vwb mutants (1×10⁶ CFU) were mixed with Mabs (3 μM) and added to mouse blood. Samples were monitored at timed intervals for coagulation. Compared to blood incubated with isotype controls, several Mabs prolonged the coagulation time. Antibodies that generated the greatest delay in time to clotting were 5D5.4, 7H4.25, and 8C.9 (Table 2). All three of these antibodies recognize D1_{Coa} (Table 1), consistent with our previous observation that polyclonal rabbit serum that recognizes D12_{Coa}, but not those that recognize CT_{Coa}, delay clotting of whole mouse

blood [215]. Antibodies that recognized CT_{Coa} (6C4.15, 3B3.14) and the antibody that recognized L_{Coa} (6C10.27) did not cause delays in staphylococci coagulation (Table 2).

TABLE 2

Inhibition of clotting of whole blood by <i>S. aureus</i> mutant strain vwb in the presence of monoclonal antibodies generated against Coa		
Isotype	Antibody	Fold delay in clotting time (SEM) ^a
IgG1	IgG1 control	1.0
	4H9.20	0.65 (0.18)
	5D5.4	2.07 (0.58)
	6C10.19	1.00 (0.14)
	4B10.44	1.19 (0.15)
	3B3.14	1.22 (0.18)
	7H4.25	1.63 (0.16)
IgG2a	4F1.7	1.23 (0.14)
	IgG2a control	1.0
	8C2.9	1.30 (0.15)
IgG2b	2A3.11	0.83 (0.12)
	IgG2b control	1.0
	5C3.2	1.12 (0.22)
	2H10.12	1.43 (0.18)
	6D1.22	1.08 (0.19)
6C4.15	1.19 (0.15)	

^aSEM, standard error of the mean as compared to isotype control

[0199] Mab 5D5.4 Prevents the Formation of Coa•Prothrombin Complexes.

[0200] Mab 5D5.4, which caused the most pronounced delay in clotting of all Mabs tested, was examined for its ability to disrupt Coa•prothrombin activity. Mixture of recombinant Coa with 5D5.4 prior to the addition of purified human prothrombin and the S-2238 chromogenic substrate resulted in reduced enzymatic activity (IgG1 vs. 5D5.4, P<0.05) (FIG. 2A). Interestingly, treatment with 7H4.25 and 8C2.9, which caused delays in the coagulation of whole blood, did not significantly reduce the enzymatic activity in this assay (IgG1 vs. 7H4.25, P>0.05; IgG2a vs. 8C2.9, P>0.05) (data not shown).

[0201] To test whether 5D5.4 prevents the association of Coa to prothrombin, Maxisorb ELISA plates (Nunc) were coated with recombinant Coa and incubated with antibodies prior to incubation with human prothrombin. Prothrombin binding was detected by HRP-conjugated secondary anti-

body. 5D5.4 reduced the binding of prothrombin to Coa 3.3-fold at a concentration of 200 nM (IgG1 vs. 5D5.4, $P < 0.01$) (FIG. 2B). These results indicate that 5D5.4 prevents the formation of the Coa•prothrombin complex, resulting in reduced enzymatic activity.

[0202] Four amino acids at the N-terminal end of Coa activate prothrombin [66]. To investigate whether any of the monoclonal antibodies bind D1 in a manner dependent on the N-terminus, a recombinant construct consisting of the D1_{Coa} domain but lacking the first 18 amino acids (D1_{Δ1-18}) was expressed in *E. coli* and purified (FIG. 1). The association constant of each Mab that recognizes D1_{Coa} was measured for association with the truncated protein. All of the Mabs, with the exception of 8C2.9, had at least a one-log reduction in association constant for D1_{Δ1-18} (Table 1). Of note, 5D5.4 recognized D1_{Coa} with an affinity of 3.94 nM^{-1} but interacted with D1_{Δ1-18} with an affinity of 1.03 nM^{-1} . This observation, combined with its direct inhibition on the

[0205] Cross-Reactivity by Coa Mabs.

[0206] Type-specific immunity toward Coa is derived from neutralizing antibodies that recognize D1_{Coa} [215]. However, the N-terminal seven amino acids of Coa are conserved among Coa types [68]. To investigate whether the Mabs generated against recombinant Coa of strain Newman cross-react with Coa from other serotypes, Maxisorb ELISA plates (Nunc) were coated with Coa from epidemic strains USA300 (Coa type III), 85/2082 (Coa type IV), N315 (Coa type II), MRSA252 (Coa type IV), MW2 (Coa type VII), and WIS (Coa type VII). The association of Mabs to these alleles was measured (Table 3). The affinity of most antibodies to the other alleles of Coa is lower than the affinity to Coa_{NM}. 2H10.12, 5D5.4, 8C2.9, 4F1.7, and 7H4.25 recognize Coa_{USA300}, which is the same serotype as Coa_{NM}, albeit with lower affinity than Coa_{NM} (Table 3). Several antibodies also recognize the recombinant Coa of other *S. aureus* clinical isolates. 5D5.4 interacted with Coa_{N315}, Coa_{WIS} and Coa_{MW2} (Table 3), and 7H4.25 interacted with all serotypes of Coa albeit with low affinity (Table 3).

TABLE 3

Affinity of Mabs toward Coa of different strains								
Mab ^a	Domain ^b	Affinity ^c						
		Coa _{NM}	Coa _{USA300}	Coa _{85/2082}	Coa _{N315}	Coa _{MRSA}	Coa _{MW2}	Coa _{WIS}
3B3.14	R	3.20	2.11	2.40	4.86	4.60	2.61	3.62
2H10.12	D1	2.39	3.20	<	<	<	<	<
5D5.4	D1	4.06	4.20	<	0.21	<	5.89	6.16
8C2.9	D1	3.4	0.7	<	0.05	0.04	<	<
4F1.7	D1	0.68	0.1	<	0	<	<	<
6C10.19	L	3.82	6.66	<	7.13	<	<	<
6C4.15	R	5.97	2.96	4.71	4.79	4.94	4.99	5.78
7H4.25	D1	1.64	0.35	0.20	0.11	0.13	0.06	0.10

^aMouse monoclonal antibodies were purified from isolated hybridoma clones

^bCoa domain recognized by each Mab (Table 1)

^cAffinity was determined by ELISA as the association constant (K_a) in 10^9 M^{-1} for each protein.

enzymatic activity of Coa, supports the idea that 5D5.4 recognizes an epitope near the N-terminus that may conserved among various Coa serotypes of different strains of *S. aureus*

[0203] Reduction in Staphylococcal Sepsis by Coa Mabs.

[0204] Previous results have suggested that type-specific immunity results from antibodies that recognize D1_{Coa} and neutralize Coa activity [215]. To test whether Coa Mabs that delay clotting in vitro confer protective immunity against *S. aureus* in vivo, mice received intraperitoneal injections of monoclonal antibodies or an isotype control preparation. Six hours later, mice were infected by retro-orbital injection with *S. aureus* strain vwb (2×10^8 CFU). Mice were monitored for survival over a ten-day observation period, and protection was assessed by the Log rank test (FIG. 3). Two antibodies, Mab 5D5.4 and 7H4.25 conferred significant delay in time to death compared to the IgG1 control (IgG1 vs. 5D5.4, $P < 0.05$; IgG1 vs. 7H4.25, $P < 0.001$) (FIG. 3A). Monoclonal antibody 8C2.9, which delayed clotting in vitro, did not protect mice against a lethal dose of *S. aureus* strain vwb (IgG2a vs. 8C2.9, $P = 0.06$) (FIG. 3B). These data are consistent with the hypothesis that protective immunity toward the D1 domain correlates with neutralization of coagulation activity. However, perturbation of in vitro coagulation is not sufficient to garner protective efficacy.

[0207] To investigate whether mAb 5D5.4 has cross-protective effect in delaying the coagulation by strains of other coagulase serotypes, preparations of *S. aureus* strains Newman, N315, MW2, CowanI, and WIS (1×10^6 CFU) were mixed with mAbs (3 μM final) and added to citrate-treated rabbit plasma. Plasma was incubated at 37° C. and monitored over time. mAb 5D5.4 failed to delay clotting by strains of any other coagulase serotype (FIG. 4).

[0208] The possibility that candidate Mabs may recognize an epitope conserved by all Coa serotypes was investigated. For example, 5D5.4 provided broad protection in animals but not in the clotting assay. Indeed, mice received intraperitoneal injections of 5D5.4 or an IgG1 isotype control, and were subsequently infected with a lethal dose of *S. aureus* strains Newman (Coa type III), N315 (Coa type II), CowanI (Coa type IV), or MW2 (Coa type VII), and were monitored over a ten-day observation period to assess their protective role (FIG. 5). 5D5.4 treatment resulted in a delay in time-to-death for animals challenged with strains Newman (IgG1 vs 5D5.4, $P < 0.01$), N315 (IgG1 vs. 5D5.4, $P < 0.05$), CowanI (IgG1 vs. 5D5.4, $P < 0.05$) or MW2 (IgG1 vs. 5D5.4, $P < 0.05$). Together, these data suggest that by recognizing a conserved epitope within the Coa D1 domain, 5D5.4 provides protection against lethal disease by strains with the three most common Coa serotypes in North America [144].

[0209] Role of Coa_{CT} Monoclonal Antibodies in Immunity.

[0210] The C-terminal domains of Coa display less sequence variation among staphylococcal isolates [68]. We isolated two monoclonal antibodies that recognize CT_{Coa}, 3B3.14 and 6C4.15 (Table 1). ELISA was used to investigate whether the Mabs generated against CT_{Coa} of strain Newman cross-react with Coa from other strains (Table 3). Consistent with our expectations, 3B3.14 and 6C4.15 recognize Coa_{USA300}, Coa_{85/2082}, Coa_{N315}, Coa_{MW2}, and Coa_{WIS}.

[0211] Polyclonal antisera that recognize CT_{Coa} (α CT_{Coa}) block the interaction between CT_{Coa} and fibrinogen and confer protection against lethal staphylococcal disease [68, 215]. Therefore, it is of interest whether any of the Mabs possess these activities. To test whether 3B3.14 and 6C4.15 inhibit the association of CT_{Coa} with fibrinogen, Maxisorb ELISA plates (Nunc) were coated with CT_{Coa} and incubated with Mabs or isotype controls prior to incubation with human fibrinogen. Fibrinogen binding was detected by HRP-conjugated secondary antibody. 3B3.14 reduced the binding of fibrinogen to CT_{Coa} by 54% at a concentration of 1 μ M (IgG1 vs. 3B3.14, P<0.001) (FIG. 6A). 6C4.15 did not disrupt the association of CT_{Coa} to fibrinogen in this assay (FIG. 6B).

[0212] To investigate the effect of Mabs that recognize Coa_{CT} on survival during staphylococcal disease, mice received intraperitoneal injections of 3B3.14, 6C4.15, or their isotype controls, and were challenged with 2×10^8 CFU of the *S. aureus* Newman variant with a deletion of vwb (FIG. 6C-6D). Animals were monitored over a ten-day observation period to assess the contribution of antibody treatment on survival. Treatment with 3B3.14 or 6C4.15 did not result in a significant delay in time to death (P>0.05) (FIG. 6C-6D). Thus, neither of the Mabs generated here retain the protective value of the polyclonal α CT_{Coa} antibodies that had been raised in rabbits. CT_{Coa} is relatively conserved among strains of *S. aureus*, to investigate whether an antibody that neutralizes this portion of Coa would provide protection against staphylococcal infection by several *S. aureus* types, mice received intraperitoneal injections of 3B3.14 or IgG1 isotype control, and were subsequently infected with a lethal dose of *S. aureus* clinical isolate USA300 (Coa type III), N315 (Coa type II), CowanI (Coa type IV), or MW2 (Coa type VII), and were monitored over a ten-day observation period to assess their protective role (FIG. 7). 3B3.14 did not protect mice against challenge with the wildtype Newman (IgG1 vs. 3B3.14 p>0.05 FIG. 7A), N315 (IgG1 vs. 3B3.14 p.0.05 FIG. 7B), or MW2 (IgG1 vs. 3B3.14 p.0.05 FIG. 7D). 3B3.14 provided a modest delay in time to death following challenge with strain CowanI (IgG1 vs. 3B3.14 p<0.001 FIG. 7C)

[0213] Discussion.

[0214] Coagulase expression has been correlated with the virulence of *S. aureus* for nearly a century [212]. Recently, it was demonstrated that a humoral immune response generated against Coa and vWbp provides protection against challenge with *S. aureus* (Cheng et al 2010, McAdow et al 2011, [215]). Neutralization of Coa activity results in type-specific immune responses, while immune responses to CT_{Coa} also confer protection, presumably by removal of the antigen from circulation [215]. Here, we identify monoclonal antibodies that neutralize Coa activity and exhibit some cross-protection toward coagulases of other serotypes. In

this study, we generated monoclonal antibodies against Coa from strain Newman and mapped their binding to specific domains of the polypeptide.

[0215] Three Mabs (5D5.4, 8C2.9, and 7H4.25) bind D1_{Coa} and delay blood coagulation by strain Newman. Mab 5D5.4, which results in the greatest delay in coagulation, also disrupts the formation of the Coa•prothrombin complex, thereby diminishing assembly of the enzyme that converts fibrinogen to fibrin. Mabs 5D5.4 and 7H4.25 provide protection against lethal disease by *S. aureus* strain vwb.

[0216] Because the N-terminal amino acids of Coa are required for activation of prothrombin, we wondered whether any of the monoclonal antibodies recognize this domain. To address this question, we asked whether the first 18 amino acids of D1_{Coa} were required for Mabs to bind. 5D5.4 had greater than 1-log reduction in affinity to D1 $_{\Delta 1-18}$, and 7H4.25 failed to bind this construct. This finding supports the hypothesis that these two monoclonal antibodies disrupt coagulation by specifically interfering with the ability of the Coa N-terminus to insert into the prothrombin activation pocket.

[0217] If this hypothesis were true, Mabs 5D5.4 and 7H4.25 should recognize and neutralize recombinant Coa cloned from other strains of *S. aureus*. These antibodies do recognize recombinant Coa cloned from *S. aureus* strains that represent other common serotypes in the current epidemic, but they fail to delay clotting by strains of other Coa serotypes in our experiments. It therefore seems unlikely that these Mabs recognize specifically the amino terminus. Nevertheless, 5D5.4 provides protection against at least two other strains of *S. aureus*. This indicates that while the antibody does not specifically recognize the most conserved portion of Coa, its interaction with Coa does require the conserved residues.

[0218] Previously, we demonstrated that antibodies to the D1D2 domains of Coa generate type-specific immunity. The identification of a Mab that protects animals against several staphylococcal strains of distinct Coa serotypes provides evidence that it may be possible to generate protective immunity that neutralizes the Coa activity by an array of staphylococcal isolates.

[0219] Two monoclonal antibodies recognize CT_{Coa}. Neither has an effect on blood coagulation, consistent with previous observations [215]. One of these, 3B3.14 disrupted binding of fibrinogen to the C-terminal repeat region. A more refined mapping of the epitope recognized by Mab 3B3.14 could reveal how the Coa C-terminus binds fibrinogen, which has not been studied to date. Passive transfer of these Mabs did not protect mice against lethal challenge with staphylococci.

[0220] The monoclonal antibodies described here provide pharmacologic tools for the prevention of staphylococcal disease. They also can serve as tools for understanding the mechanisms of Coa during staphylococcal pathogenesis and immunity.

Example 2

Materials and Methods

[0221] Bacterial Strains and Growth of Cultures.

[0222] *S. aureus* strains were cultured on tryptic soy agar or broth at 37° C. Generation of strain vwb was described previously (Cheng et al 2010). *Escherichia coli* strains

DH5 α and BL21 (DE3) were cultured on Luria Bertani agar or broth at 37° C. Ampicillin (100 μ g/ml) was used for pET15b and pGEX6P-1 selection.

[0223] Protein Purification.

[0224] *E. coli* BL21(DE3) harboring expression vectors containing *coa* and its subdomains from *S. aureus* strain Newman were grown at 37° C. and induced with 100 mM IPTG overnight at room temperature. Because of degradation during the purification of Coa, pGEX6P-1 expression vectors in *E. coli* DH5a were used to express *coa* from USA300, N315, MW2, MRSA252, 85/2082, and WIS as GST-tagged constructs. Three hours following induction, cells were centrifuged at 7,000 \times g, suspended in 1 \times column buffer (0.1 M Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 0.5 M NaCl) and lysed in a French pressure cell at 14,000 lb/in². Lysates were subjected to ultracentrifugation at 40,000 \times g for 30 min. The supernatant of pET15b constructs was subjected to Ni-NTA chromatography, washed with column buffer containing 10 mM imidazole, and eluted with 500 mM imidazole. For GST-tagged proteins, culture supernatants were subjected to glutathione sepharose chromatography. To remove the GST tag, after washing with column buffer, PreScission protease cleavage buffer containing 1 mM DTT was flowed over the column, and the column was incubated with PreScission protease (GE Healthcare) overnight at the unit definition provided by the manufacturer. Liberated protein lacking the GST tag was then eluted with additional protease cleavage buffer. Eluates were desalted against phosphate buffered saline (PBS). For vaccine preparations, endotoxin was removed by the addition of 1:100 Triton-X114 was added and the solution was chilled for 10 min, incubated at 37° C. for 10 min, and centrifuged at 13,000 \times g. This was repeated twice. Supernatant was loaded onto a HiTrap desalting column to remove remnants of Triton-X114.

[0225] Production of Monoclonal Antibodies Against Coagulase.

[0226] Three eight-week-old BALB/c female mice (Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Me.) were immunized intraperitoneally with 100 μ g purified Coa, which was cloned from *S. aureus* strain Newman, in PBS emulsified 1:1 in Complete Freund's Adjuvant (DIFCO). On days 21 and 42, mice were boosted by intraperitoneal injection with 100 μ g purified Coa emulsified 1:1 in Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant (DIFCO). On days 31 and 52, mice were bled and screened by ELISA on Nunc MaxiSorp 96-well flat bottom plates coated with Coa. Seventy-nine days after the initial immunization, mice that showed strong immunoreactivity to antigen were boosted with 25 μ g Coa in PBS. Three days later splenocytes were harvested and fused, according to standard methods, with the mouse myeloma cell line SP2/mIL-6, an interleukin 6 secreting derivative of SP2/0 myeloma cell line. Hybridomas were screened by ELISA and antigen-specific clones were subcloned, by limiting dilution, to produce monoclonal antibody-secreting hybridomas arising from single cells. Antibodies were purified from the culture supernatant of cell lines and stored at a concentration of 1 mg ml⁻¹ in PBS.

[0227] Coa Affinity Mapping.

[0228] For the determination of binding affinity of Coa specific Mabs, Nunc MaxiSorp 96-well plates were coated with the Coa variants at a concentration of 20 nM in 0.1M sodium bicarbonate. Plates were blocked with 3% BSA in PBS, followed by incubation with variable concentrations of Mabs in PBS-Tween. The affinity of Mabs to bind each Coa

variant was measured as the ratio of the concentration of bound to free antibody using secondary antibody-HRP conjugates and chemiluminescence detection. Using this data, the association constant of antibody for antigen was calculated (Table 1). Moreover, in order to test the specificity of Mabs raised against Coa, ELISA plates (NUNC Maxisorp) were coated with affinity purified vWbp and IsdA

[0229] Blocking Protein Interactions by ELISA.

[0230] MaxSorb 96-well ELISA plates were coated with recombinant Coa variants (20 nM in 1 \times coating buffer) overnight. After blocking, wells were then incubated with Mabs ranging in concentration from 20 nM to 1 μ M. Wells were subsequently incubated with either 100 nM human fibrinogen or 20 nM human prothrombin. Sheep anti-human antibodies against the respective proteins were added at 1:1000 dilution followed by HRP-conjugated goat-anti-sheep antibody at 1:10,000. The wells were developed using OpEIA Kit (BD Lifesciences) and the absorbance at 450 nm was measured. Statistical analyses were performed using a two-tailed Student's t-test with GraphPad Prism.

[0231] Coagulation Assay.

[0232] Overnight cultures of staphylococcal strains were diluted 1:100 into fresh TSB and grown at 37° C. until they reached an OD₆₀₀ 0.4. One mL of culture was centrifuged, and staphylococci were washed and suspended in 1 mL of sterile PBS to generate a suspension of 1 \times 10⁸ CFU/mL. Whole blood from naïve BALB/c mice was collected and sodium citrate was added to a final concentration 1% (w/v). To assess bacterial blood coagulating activity in the presence of antibodies, 10 μ L of the stock bacterial culture was mixed with 10 μ L of PBS containing 30 μ M of antibodies in a sterile plastic test tube (BD Falcon) and incubated for fifteen minutes. To each tube, 80 μ L of anti-coagulated mouse blood in a sterile plastic test tube (BD falcon). Test tubes were incubated at 37° C. and blood coagulation was verified by tipping the tubes to 45° angles at timed intervals. All experiments were repeated in at least two independent experiments.

[0233] Measurement of Coagulase Activity.

[0234] 5 \times 10⁻⁸ M prothrombin (Innovative Research) was pre-incubated for 10 min with an equimolar amount of functional Coa at room temperature, followed by addition of S-2238 (a chromogenic substrate) to a final concentration of 1 mM in a total reaction buffer of 100 μ L PBS. The change in absorbance was measured at 450 nm for 10 minutes in a spectrophotometer, plotted as a function of time, and fit to a linear curve. The slope of the curve (dA/dt) was interpreted to be the rate of S-2238 hydrolysis, and thus reflective of enzymatic function. The assay was repeated in presence of monoclonal antibodies added at 5 \times 10⁻⁹ M and data were normalized to the average activity without inhibition. All experiments were performed in triplicate.

[0235] Murine Sepsis with Passive Immunization.

[0236] Affinity purified antibodies in PBS were injected at a concentration 5 mg \cdot kg⁻¹ of experimental animal weight into the peritoneal cavity of BALB/c mice (6 week old, female, Charles River Laboratories) 6 hours prior to challenge with *S. aureus*. An overnight culture of *S. aureus* strain vwb was diluted 1:100 into fresh TSB and grown for 2 hours at 37° C. Staphylococci were sedimented, washed and suspended in PBS to the desired concentration. The following inocula were used: vwb, 2 \times 10⁸ CFU; N315, 1 \times 10⁸ CFU; MW2, 2 \times 10⁸ CFU. Inocula were confirmed by spreading sample aliquots on TSA and enumerating colonies formed

on agar plates. Mice were anesthetized via intraperitoneal injection with 100 mg mL⁻¹ ketamine and 20 mg mL⁻¹ xylazine per kilogram of body weight. Mice were infected by retro-orbital injection with 100 μL of a staphylococcal suspension (vide supra). Mice were monitored for survival. Statistical analysis was performed using two-tailed Log Rank test using GraphPad Prism. All mouse experiments were performed in accordance with the institutional guidelines following experimental protocol review and approval by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at the University of Chicago.

Example 3

COA MAB Heavy and Light Chain Amino Acid Sequences Alignment and Analysis

[0237] The light and heavy chain variable regions of the different monoclonal antibodies were sequenced. The CDRs of these regions in the antibodies is provided in Table 5 below. Following alignment of mAb sequences via IMGT vquest, CDRs were identified and amino acid sequences of heavy and light CDRs 1,2, and 3 were aligned using Clustal

Omega. Following sequence alignment and analysis, a handful of informative themes were present. Based on the full sequences (both heavy and light chains) available, no mAbs appeared to be identical in sequence, though families of mAbs with similar sequences did emerge. One of these included 4F1.7, 2A3.1, 2H10.12, with the main sequence differences present in CDR3 of both heavy and light chain. 7H4.25, 4H9.20, 4B10.44 shared exact CDR sequence matches within the light chain, while their light chains were different. An interesting group to emerge based on sequence similarity was 3B3.14 and 6C4.15 which bind the C terminal region of the protein, shared the same CRD1 in the light chain, but the heavy chain are different. Instead 5D5.4 which bind the D1 domain, inhibit the binding of coa to prothrombin and is protective in “in vivo experiment” is very different in both light and heavy chain from all the others.

[0238] A biological deposit has been made under the Budapest treaty under Accession number PTA-124060 and PTA-124061, which are hybridoma cell lines that produce the 3B3.14 and 5D5.4 monoclonal antibodies disclosed herein, respectively. The deposits were made on Mar. 22, 2017 at the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC®), Manassas, Va., USA.

TABLE 5

Amino acid sequences of CDR regions of variable light chain of monoclonal antibodies							
Amino acid sequencing data of coagulase specific monoclonal antibodies							
“Antibody	Variable chain	CDR1	SEQ ID NO.	CDR2	SEQ ID NO.	CDR3	SEQ ID NO.
4H9.20	Light	QSVDYNGISY	9	AAS	10	QQSIEDPRT	11
5D5.4	Light	SSVSSSY	15	STS	16	QQYHRSPPT	17
4B10.44	Light	QSVDYNGISY	9	AAS	21	HQSIEDPRT	22
3B3.14	Light	QSIVHSNGNTY	24	KVS	25	FQGSHPVPLT	26
7H4.25	Light	QSVDYNGISY	9	AAS	21	HQSIEDPRT	30
2A3.1	Light	QSLNSRARKNY	33	WAS	34	KQSYNLWT	35
2H10.12	Light	QSLNSRARKNY	40	WAS	34	KQSYLLWT	36
6D1.22	Light	QSLNSRARKNY	40	WAS	34	KQSYNLWT	35
6C4.15	Light	QSLNSRTRKIY	44	WAS	34	KQSYLLYT	45
6C10.19	Light	QNIVHSNGNTY	56	KVS	25	LQGSNCSNH	57
8C2.9	Light	QSLNSRARKNY	40	WAS	34	KQSYNLWT	35
4F1.7	Light	QSLFNSRARKNY	49	WAS	34	KQSYNLWT	35
Amino acid sequences of CDR regions of variable heavy chain of monoclonal antibodies							
Amino acid sequencing data of coagulase specific monoclonal antibodies							
“Ab	Variable chain	CDR1	SEQ ID NO.	CDR2	SEQ ID NO.	CDR3	SEQ ID NO.
4H9.20	Heavy	GFNIKDIY	12	IDPANGNT	13	SRS GAY	14
5D5.4	Heavy	GASITTSY	18	ISYSGNT	19	AATYYDFNYDGYLDV	20

TABLE 5 -continued

4B10.44	Heavy	GFNIKDIY	12	IDPANGNT	13	SRSGAF	23
3B3.14	Heavy	GYTFTSFD	27	IFPGDGSS	28	VKNHGGWSFDV	29
7H4.25	Heavy	GFNIKDIY	12	IDPADGHS	31	SRSGAI	32
2A3.1	Heavy	YTLTDYS	37	INTETGEP	38	ARTARDY	39
2H10.12	Heavy	GYTLTDYS	41	INTETGEP	38	GRTARADY	42
6D1.22	Heavy	GYTLTDYS	41	INTETGDP	43	ARTARADY	38
6C4.15	Heavy	GFSFSNYW	46	IRLKSNDY	47	SAYGDYBYGT	48
6C10.19	Heavy	GYEFTDFE	50	FDPETGRS	51	SRPHYGYRTAY	52
8C2.9	Heavy	GFTFSNYY	53	IKSNGVST	54	VRHDGYFYFAY	55
4F1.7	Heavy	GFSIKDIT	58	IDPTDGHN	59	KQSYNLWT	60

^aAmplified PCR products from cDNA which was synthesized from total RNA extracted from hybridoma cells were sequenced and analyzed using IMGT Vquest.

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- [0239] The following references, to the extent that they provide exemplary procedural or other details supplementary to those set forth herein, are specifically incorporated herein by reference.
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- [0623] PCT Appln. WO 00/12689
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- [0625] PCT Appln. WO 01/60852
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- [0630] PCT Appln. WO 2007/113223
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- [0632] PCT Appln. WO 94/09699
- [0633] PCT Appln. WO 95/06128
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<213> ORGANISM: *Staphylococcus aureus*

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<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence

<220> FEATURE:

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<400> SEQUENCE: 10

Ala Ala Ser
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<210> SEQ ID NO 11
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<400> SEQUENCE: 11

Gln Gln Ser Ile Glu Asp Pro Arg Thr
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<210> SEQ ID NO 12
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<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
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<400> SEQUENCE: 12

Gly Phe Asn Ile Lys Asp Ile Tyr
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<210> SEQ ID NO 13
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<212> TYPE: PRT
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Ile Asp Pro Ala Asn Gly Asn Thr
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<400> SEQUENCE: 14

Ser Arg Ser Gly Ala Tyr
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<210> SEQ ID NO 15
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<212> TYPE: PRT
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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Synthetic Peptide

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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Synthetic Peptide

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<212> TYPE: PRT

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<210> SEQ ID NO 18

<211> LENGTH: 8

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<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
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<400> SEQUENCE: 21

Ala Ala Ser
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<210> SEQ ID NO 22
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His Gln Ser Ile Glu Asp Pro Arg Thr
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<210> SEQ ID NO 23
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<400> SEQUENCE: 23

Ser Arg Ser Gly Ala Phe
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<210> SEQ ID NO 24
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Gln Ser Ile Val His Ser Asn Gly Asn Thr Tyr
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<210> SEQ ID NO 25
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<210> SEQ ID NO 27

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<211> LENGTH: 8
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<400> SEQUENCE: 27

Gly Tyr Thr Phe Thr Ser Phe Asp
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<210> SEQ ID NO 28
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Ile Phe Pro Gly Asp Gly Ser Ser
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<210> SEQ ID NO 29
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<400> SEQUENCE: 29

Val Lys Asn His Gly Gly Trp Ser Phe Asp Val
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<210> SEQ ID NO 30
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<400> SEQUENCE: 30

His Gln Ser Ile Glu Asp Pro Arg Thr
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<210> SEQ ID NO 31
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<212> TYPE: PRT
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Ile Asp Pro Ala Asp Gly His Ser
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<210> SEQ ID NO 32
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<400> SEQUENCE: 32

Ser Arg Ser Gly Ala Ile
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<212> TYPE: PRT
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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Synthetic Peptide

<400> SEQUENCE: 33

Gln Ser Leu Leu Asn Ser Arg Ala Arg Lys Asn Tyr
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<210> SEQ ID NO 34
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<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Synthetic Peptide

<400> SEQUENCE: 34

Trp Ala Ser
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<210> SEQ ID NO 35
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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Synthetic Peptide

<400> SEQUENCE: 35

Lys Gln Ser Tyr Asn Leu Trp Thr
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<210> SEQ ID NO 36
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<400> SEQUENCE: 36

Lys Gln Ser Tyr Tyr Leu Trp Thr
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Ala Arg Thr Ala Arg Ala Asp Tyr

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<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Synthetic Peptide

<400> SEQUENCE: 39

Ala Arg Thr Ala Arg Asp Tyr
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<210> SEQ ID NO 40
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Gln Ser Leu Leu Asn Ser Arg Ala Arg Lys Asn Tyr
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<400> SEQUENCE: 41

Gly Tyr Thr Leu Thr Asp Tyr Ser
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<210> SEQ ID NO 42
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<212> TYPE: PRT
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Gly Arg Thr Ala Arg Ala Asp Tyr
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<210> SEQ ID NO 43
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Ile Asn Thr Glu Thr Gly Asp Pro
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Lys Gln Ser Tyr Tyr Leu Tyr Thr
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Gly Phe Ser Phe Ser Asn Tyr Trp
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<400> SEQUENCE: 47

Ile Arg Leu Lys Ser Asp Asn Tyr Gly Thr
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<210> SEQ ID NO 48
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Ser Ala Tyr Gly Asp Tyr Glu Tyr
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Gly Tyr Glu Phe Thr Asp Phe Glu
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Phe Asp Pro Glu Thr Gly Arg Ser
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Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Asn Tyr Tyr
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Ile Lys Ser Asn Gly Val Ser Thr
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Val Arg His Asp Gly Tyr Tyr Phe Ala Tyr
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Leu Gln Gly Ser Asn Cys Ser Asn His
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Gly Phe Ser Ile Lys Asp Thr Thr
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Ile Asp Pro Thr Asp Gly His Asn
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<210> SEQ ID NO 60
<211> LENGTH: 8
<212> TYPE: PRT
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<400> SEQUENCE: 60

Lys Gln Ser Tyr Asn Leu Trp Thr
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<210> SEQ ID NO 61
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<220> FEATURE:
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<220> FEATURE:

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<221> NAME/KEY: MISC_FEATURE
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Xaa Xaa Ser
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1.-128. (canceled)

129. A method of treating or preventing a *Staphylococcus* infection in a subject comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of a composition comprising a Coa binding antibody comprising the amino acid sequences of the CDR 1, 2, and 3 domains from both the heavy and light chains of the antibody from host cell ATCC Accession number PTA-124061.

130. The method of claim **129**, wherein the Coa binding antibody is a single chain antibody.

131. The method of claim **129**, wherein the Coa binding antibody is a recombinant fusion protein.

132. The method of claim **129**, wherein the Coa binding antibody is humanized.

133. The method of claim **129**, wherein the Coa binding antibody is chimeric.

134. The method of claim **129**, further comprising administering an antibiotic or a Staphylococcal vaccine composition.

135. The method of claim **129**, wherein the composition is administered intramuscularly or subcutaneously.

136. The method of claim **129**, wherein the composition is administered at least twice.

137. The method of claim **129**, wherein the subject has or is at risk for bacteremia or a hospital-acquired infection.

138. The method of claim **129**, wherein the *Staphylococcus* infection is methicillin-resistant.

139. A method of treating or preventing a *Staphylococcus* infection in a subject, the method comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of a composition comprising a Coa binding antibody comprising the amino acid sequences of the CDR 1, 2, and 3 domains from both the heavy and light chains of the antibody from host cell ATCC Accession number PTA-124060.

140. The method of claim **139**, wherein the Coa binding antibody is a single chain antibody.

141. The method of claim **139**, wherein the Coa binding antibody is a recombinant fusion protein.

142. The method of claim **139**, wherein the Coa binding antibody is humanized.

143. The method of claim **139**, wherein the Coa binding antibody is chimeric.

144. The method of claim **139**, wherein the composition is administered intramuscularly or subcutaneously.

145. The method of claim **139**, wherein the composition is administered at least twice.

146. The method of claim **139**, wherein the subject has or is at risk for bacteremia or a hospital-acquired infection.

147. The method of claim **139**, wherein the *Staphylococcus* infection is methicillin-resistant.

148. The method of claim **139**, further comprising administering an antibiotic or a Staphylococcal vaccine composition.

* * * * *