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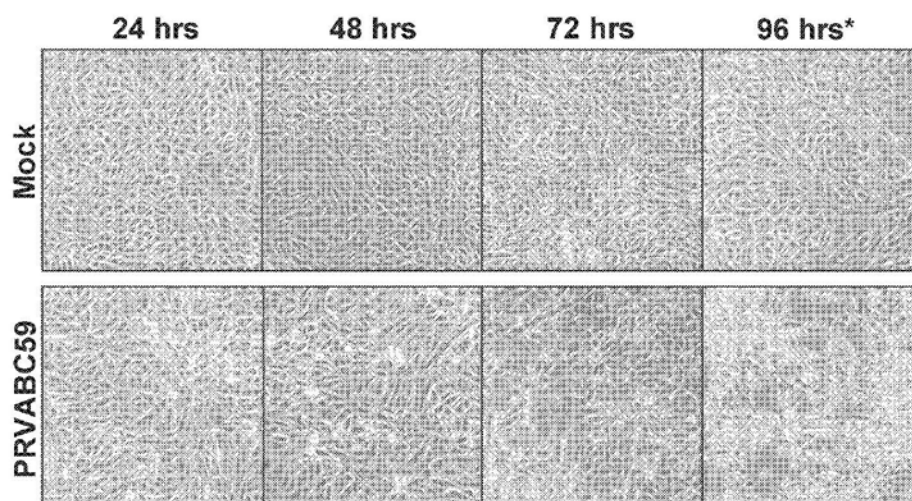
(71) Applicants: **TAKEDA VACCINES, INC.** [US/US]; 75 Sidney Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 (US). **THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AS REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** [US/US]; Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 5601 Fishers Lane, Rm. 2G36, MSC 9804, Rockville, Maryland 20892 (US).

(72) Inventors: **LIVENGOOD, Jill A.**; c/o Takeda Vaccines, Inc., 75 Sidney Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 (US). **DEAN, Hansi**; Vaccine Business Unit, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, 40 Landsdowne Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 (US). **HAN, Htay Htay**; c/o Takeda Vaccines, Inc., 40 Landsdowne Street, Cambridge, MA 02139 (US). **RAO, Raman**; c/o Takeda Vaccines Pte Ltd., 21 Biopolis Road; Nucleos North Tower, Level 4, 138567 Singapore (SG). **MARKS, Jackie**; c/o Takeda Vaccines, Inc., 40 Landsdowne Street, Cambridge, MA 02139 (US). **DUBIN, Gary**; c/o Takeda Pharmaceutical International AG, Thurgauerstrasse 130, 8152 Glattpark-Opfikon, Zurich (CH). **DE MOERLOOZE, Laurence**; c/o Takeda Pharmaceutical International AG, Thurgauerstrasse 130, 8152 Glattpark-Opfikon, Zurich (CH). **PATEL, Hetal**; c/o Takeda Vaccines, Inc., 40 Landsdowne Street, Cambridge, MA 02139 (US). **KOMMAREDDY, Sushma**; c/o Takeda Vaccines, Inc., 40 Landsdowne Street, Cambridge, MA 02139 (US).

(74) Agent: **SCHUBERT, Michael J.**; Leydig, Voit & Mayer, Ltd., Two Prudential Plaza — Suite 4900, 180 North Stetson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60601-6731 (US).

(54) Title: **ZIKA VACCINES AND IMMUNOGENIC COMPOSITIONS, AND METHODS OF USING THE SAME**

FIG. 1



(57) Abstract: The present disclosure relates to Zika virus vaccines and immunogenic compositions having one or more antigens from a Zika virus (e.g., a Zika virus clonal isolate, a non-human cell adapted Zika virus, etc.), and methods of treatments and uses thereof.

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ZIKA VACCINES AND IMMUNOGENIC COMPOSITIONS, AND METHODS OF USING THE SAME

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY-SPONSORED RESEARCH

[0001] This invention was made with government support under Contract No. HHSO100201600015C with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority. This invention was created in the performance of a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an Agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. The Government of the United States has certain rights in the invention.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present disclosure relates to Zika virus vaccines and immunogenic compositions having one or more antigens from a Zika virus (e.g., a Zika virus clonal isolate, a non-human cell adapted Zika virus, etc.) and methods of treatment and uses thereof.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Zika virus, a flavivirus classified with other mosquito-borne viruses (e.g., yellow fever, dengue, West Nile, and Japanese encephalitis viruses) within the Flaviviridae family has spread rapidly in a hemispheric-wide epidemic since the virus was introduced into Brazil in 2013. The virus has reached the Central and North Americas, including territories of the United States, consequently now threatening the continental US. Indeed, Zika virus strain PRVABC59 was isolated from serum from a person who had traveled to Puerto Rico in 2015. The genome of this strain has been sequenced at least three times (See Lanciotti et al. *Emerg. Infect. Dis.* 2016 May;22(5):933-5 and GenBank Accession Number KU501215.1; GenBank Accession Number KX087101.3; and Yun et al. *Genome Announc.* 2016 Aug 18;4(4) and GenBank Accession Number ANK57897.1).

[0004] Initially isolated in 1947 in Uganda, the virus was first linked to human disease in 1952, and has been recognized sporadically as a cause of mild, self-limited febrile illness in Africa and Southeast Asia (Weaver *et al.* (2016) *Antiviral Res.* 130:69-80; Faria *et al.* (2016) *Science.* 352(6283):345-349). However, in 2007, an outbreak appeared in the North

Pacific island of Yap, and then disseminated from island to island across the Pacific, leading to an extensive outbreak in 2013-2014 in French Polynesia, spreading then to New Caledonia, the Cook Islands, and ultimately, to Easter Island. An Asian lineage virus was subsequently transferred to the Western Hemisphere by routes that remain undetermined (Faria *et al.* (2016) *Science*. 352(6283):345-349). The virus may be transmitted zoonotically by *Aedes aegypti*, *A. albopictus*, and possibly by *A. hensilli* and *A. polynesiensis* (Weaver *et al.* (2016) *Antiviral Res.* 130:69-80). Additionally, it is thought that other vectors for transmitting the virus may exist, and the virus may be transmitted by blood transfusion, transplacentally, and/or through sexual transmission.

[0005] In late 2015, a significant increase in fetal abnormalities (e.g., microcephaly) and Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) in areas of widespread Zika virus infection raised alarm that Zika virus might be much more virulent than originally thought, prompting the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) (Heymann *et al.* (2016) *Lancet* 387(10020): 719-21). Although the WHO has since declared an end to the PHEIC, Zika continues to pose in particular a significant threat for pregnant women and their unborn babies.

[0006] While Zika virus poses a substantial public health threat, no FDA-approved vaccine or treatment currently exists, and the only preventative measures for controlling Zika virus involve managing mosquito populations.

[0007] In recent efforts to characterize a recombinant Zika virus for the development of a potential vaccine, a non-human cell adapted Zika virus was identified that harbors a mutation in the viral Envelope protein at position 330 (Weger-Lucarelli *et al.* (2017) *Journal of Virology* 91(1): 1-10). The authors of this study found that full-length infectious cDNA clones of Zika virus strain PRVABC59 were genetically unstable when amplified during cloning, and opted to split the viral genome to address the observed instability, developing and applying a two plasmid system. However, a two plasmid system for the development of a Zika vaccine is less desirable.

BRIEF SUMMARY

[0008] Thus, there is a need to develop vaccines and immunogenic compositions for treating and/or preventing Zika virus. Accordingly, certain aspects of the present disclosure

relate a vaccine or immunogenic composition comprising a dose of 1 μ g to 40 μ g of one antigen from a Zika virus, wherein the antigen is an inactivated whole virus.

[0009] Accordingly, certain aspects of the present disclosure relate a vaccine or immunogenic composition comprising a dose of 1 μ g to 40 μ g of one antigen from a Zika virus, wherein the Zika virus comprises at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation.

[0010] Accordingly, certain aspects of the present disclosure relate a vaccine or immunogenic composition comprising a dose of 1 μ g to 40 μ g of one antigen from a Zika virus, the Zika virus having a mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

[0011] To meet the above and other needs, the present disclosure is directed, at least in part, to a genetically stable non-human cell adapted Zika virus harboring an adaptation in the Non-structural protein 1 (with a wild-type Envelope protein), allowing for the use of a single virus/viral genome system for vaccine production. The present disclosure is also directed, at least in part, to a Zika virus clonal isolate that is genetically homogenous and/or has been purified away from one or more adventitious agents. Accordingly, the present disclosure provides vaccines and immunogenic compositions useful for treating and/or preventing Zika virus infection (e.g., in humans) that include one or more Zika virus antigens (e.g., one or more antigens from a whole inactivated Zika virus) from a Zika virus harboring at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation (e.g., a mutation in Zika virus Non-structural protein 1) and/or a Zika virus clonal isolate.

[0012] The present disclosure is based, at least in part, on the surprising finding that both high and low dose vaccines comprising one or more antigens from separately derived clonal virus populations of non-human cell adapted Zika virus were able to induce robust immune responses and provide significant protection from Zika virus infection (See Examples 2 and Example 4 below). Clonal isolation of the Zika virus strains also allowed for: 1) the successful purification of the virus away from contaminating agents (e.g., adventitious agents that may be co-purified with the parental strain), and 2) the production of a genetically homogeneous viral population. Moreover, the present disclosure is based, at least in part, on the finding that clonal isolated Zika viruses harboring an adaptation mutation in protein NS1 grew well and predictably in Vero cells to high titer, and surprisingly, were genetically stable/genetically homogenous without any detectable

mutations in the viral envelope protein (See Examples 1 and 2 below). While a similar mutation in Zika virus Non-structural protein 1 may have been observed in the genomic sequencing analysis of 1 out of 3 published sequences of Zika virus strain PRVABC59 (Yun et al. Genome Announc. 2016 Aug 18;4(4)), this reference fails to teach or suggest that a mutation in NS1 may improve stability of the virus; fails to teach or suggest that a virus harboring the mutation may be used in the development of an effective vaccine against Zika virus; and fails to teach or suggest that such a vaccine may be effective in inducing a robust immune response and providing significant protection from Zika virus infection when used at both low and high doses. Thus, without wishing to be bound by theory, the inventors of the present disclosure have determined that the adaptation mutation in protein NS1 appeared to enhance genetic stability within the Zika virus, resulting in increased/enhanced replication efficiency. Further, the Zika strain harboring an adaptation mutation in protein NS1 was able to be passaged multiple times without developing further mutations. Such a stable Zika virus strain is advantageous as a master virus seed (MVS), or subsequent seeds derived from the MVS, for vaccine production and manufacturing, as the risk of the master virus seed developing undesirable mutations is reduced. Moreover, without wishing to be bound by theory, the adaptation mutation in protein NS1 of the Zika strain of the present disclosure may also reduce or otherwise inhibit the occurrence of undesirable mutations, such as a mutation within the envelope protein E (Env) of the Zika virus strain.

[0013] Accordingly, certain aspects of the present disclosure relate to a vaccine or immunogenic composition containing one or more antigen from a Zika virus, where the Zika virus contains at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation. In some embodiments, the at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation is in Zika virus Non-structural protein 1 (NS1). In some embodiments, the at least one adaptation mutation occurs at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the at least one adaptation mutation is a Trp98Gly mutation.

[0014] Accordingly, certain aspects of the present disclosure relate a vaccine or immunogenic composition comprising a dose of 1µg to 40µg of one antigen from a Zika virus, wherein the Zika virus comprises at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation.

[0015] Accordingly, certain aspects of the present disclosure relate a vaccine or immunogenic composition comprising a dose of 1µg to 40µg of one antigen from a Zika

virus, the Zika virus having a mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

[0016] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the at least one adaptation mutation enhances genetic stability as compared to a Zika virus lacking the at least one adaptation mutation. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the at least one adaptation mutation enhances viral replication as compared to a Zika virus lacking the at least one adaptation mutation. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the Zika virus does not comprise a mutation in Envelope protein E (Env).

[0017] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the non-human cell is a mammalian cell. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the non-human cell is a monkey cell. In some embodiments, the monkey cell is from a Vero cell line. In some embodiments, the Vero cell line is a WHO Vero 10-87 cell line.

[0018] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the Zika virus is an African lineage virus or an Asian lineage virus. In some embodiments, the Zika virus is an Asian lineage virus. In some embodiments, the Zika virus is from strain PRVABC59.

[0019] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition is a purified antigen vaccine or immunogenic composition, a subunit vaccine or immunogenic composition, an inactivated whole virus vaccine or immunogenic composition, or an attenuated virus vaccine or immunogenic composition. In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition is an inactivated whole virus vaccine or immunogenic composition. In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition comprises a purified inactivated whole Zika virus. In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition comprises a purified inactivated whole Zika virus comprising a mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition comprises a purified inactivated whole Zika virus comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the vaccine

or immunogenic composition comprises a purified inactivated whole Zika virus comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59. In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition comprises a purified inactivated whole Zika virus comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59 comprising the genomic sequence according to SEQ ID NO:2. In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition comprises a purified inactivated whole Zika which differs from strain PRVABC59 in a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

[0020] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the virus was chemically inactivated. In some embodiments, the virus was chemically inactivated with one or more of a detergent, formalin, beta-propiolactone (BPL), binary ethylamine (BEI), acetyl ethyleneimine, methylene blue, and psoralen. In some embodiments, the virus was chemically inactivated with formalin.

[0021] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition further contains an adjuvant. In some embodiments, the adjuvant is selected from aluminum salts, toll-like receptor (TLR) agonists, monophosphoryl lipid A (MLA), synthetic lipid A, lipid A mimetics or analogs, MLA derivatives, cytokines, saponins, muramyl dipeptide (MDP) derivatives, CpG oligos, lipopolysaccharide (LPS) of gram-negative bacteria, polyphosphazenes, emulsions, virosomes, cochleates, poly(lactide-co-glycolides) (PLG) microparticles, poloxamer particles, microparticles, liposomes, Complete Freund's Adjuvant (CFA), and/or Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant (IFA). In some embodiments, the adjuvant is an aluminum salt. In some embodiments, the adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of alum, aluminum phosphate, aluminum hydroxide, potassium aluminum sulfate, and Alhydrogel 85. In some embodiments, at least 75%, at least 85%, at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100% of the one or more antigens are adsorbed to the adjuvant.

[0022] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition is a low or medium dose vaccine or immunogenic composition (e.g., containing from about 1 µg to about 5 µg antigen or 5 µg

or antigen 2µg antigen or 5µg antigen). In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition is a high dose vaccine or immunogenic composition (e.g., containing about 10µg antigen). In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition contains from about 1 µg to about 25 µg of the one or more antigens, in particular 2 µg, 5 µg or 10 µg, or in particular 10 µg of the one or more antigens. In certain such embodiments the antigen is a purified inactivated whole virus, such as a Zika virus with a mutation which is a tryptophan to glycine substitution at position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1 or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1 as described herein. In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition comprises a purified inactivated whole Zika virus comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59. In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition comprises a purified inactivated whole Zika virus comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59 comprising the genomic sequence according to SEQ ID NO:2. In certain such embodiments the Zika virus is a plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition contains from about 0.1 µg to about 100 µg Zika virus antigen or Env. In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition is unadjuvanted. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the Zika virus is a clonal isolate. In some embodiments, the clonal isolate is substantially free of one or more adventitious agents (e.g., free of one or more adventitious agents that may be co-purified with the parental strain).

[0023] Other aspects of the present disclosure relate to a vaccine comprising a Zika virus having a mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the vaccine comprises a purified inactivated whole Zika virus comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59. In some embodiments, the vaccine comprises a purified inactivated whole Zika virus comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the

Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59 comprising the genomic sequence according to SEQ ID NO:2. In certain such embodiments the Zika virus is a plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate.

[0024] Other aspects of the present disclosure relate to a vaccine or immunogenic composition containing: a) an aluminum salt adjuvant; and b) a purified inactivated whole Zika virus, where the Zika virus contains a non-human cell adaptation mutation, and where the non-human cell adaptation mutation is a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

[0025] Other aspects of the present disclosure relate to a method of treating or preventing, in particular preventing Zika virus infection in a subject in need thereof, including administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of any of the vaccines or immunogenic compositions described herein.

[0026] Other aspects of the present disclosure relate to a method for inducing an immune response in a subject in need thereof, including administering to the subject an immunogenic amount of any of the vaccines or immunogenic compositions described herein.

[0027] In one aspect the present disclosure relates to a method of treating or preventing, in particular preventing Zika virus infection in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to the subject the vaccine or immunogenic composition.

[0028] In one aspect the present disclosure relates to a method for inducing an immune response against a Zika virus antigen in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to the subject the vaccine or immunogenic composition.

[0029] In one aspect the present disclosure relates to a method of preventing Zika virus disease in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to the subject the vaccine or immunogenic composition. In this case the disease relates to mild fever, maculopapular rash, conjunctivitis and arthralgia. Furthermore the Zika virus is a neurotropic flavivirus that can potentially cause disease within the central nervous system and Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS).

[0030] In one aspect the present disclosure relates to a method of preventing Zika virus disease in a fetus or newborn in need thereof, comprising administering to the pregnant subject or a subject that intends to become pregnant or woman of childbearing potential the vaccine or immunogenic composition. The Zika disease in this case relates to serious outcomes for the fetus and newborn. The spectrum of congenital anomalies associated with Zika virus infection, known as Congenital Zika Syndrome (CZS), consists of severe microcephaly with partially collapsed skull, cerebral cortices with subcortical calcifications, macular scarring and focal pigmentary retinal mottling, congenital contractures, and marked early hypertonia with symptoms of extrapyramidal involvement.

[0031] In one aspect the present disclosure relates to a vaccine or immunogenic composition of for use in a method of treating or preventing, in particular preventing Zika virus infection in a subject in need thereof, in a method for inducing an immune response against a Zika virus antigen in a subject in need thereof, and in a method of preventing Zika virus disease in a subject, fetus or newborn in need thereof.

[0032] In one aspect the present disclosure relates to the use of the vaccine or immunogenic composition in the manufacture of a medicament for a method of treating or preventing, in particular preventing Zika virus infection in a subject in need thereof, a method for inducing an immune response in a subject in need thereof, and for a method of preventing Zika virus disease in a subject fetus or newborn in need thereof.

[0033] Accordingly, certain aspects of the present disclosure relates to a method of treating or preventing, in particular preventing Zika virus infection in a subject population in need thereof, comprising administering to individual subjects of said subject population a vaccine or immunogenic composition comprising a Zika antigen, wherein the vaccine or immunogenic composition is administered as a first (prime) and a second (boost) administration about 1 to about 16 weeks apart, and wherein the administration of the vaccine or immunogenic composition induces 14 and/or 28 days after the boost administration geometric mean neutralizing antibodies titers in a population of at least 20 flavivirus naïve subjects and/or at least 20 Zika virus seronegative subjects of greater than 300, or greater than 500, or greater than 1000, or greater than 1500, or greater than 2000, or greater than 3000, as determined by the plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT).

[0034] Accordingly, certain aspects of the present disclosure relates to a method of treating or preventing, in particular preventing Zika virus infection in a subject population in need thereof, comprising administering to individual subjects of said subject population a vaccine or immunogenic composition comprising one antigen from a Zika virus, wherein the vaccine or immunogenic composition is administered as a first (prime) and a second (boost) administration about 1 to about 16 weeks apart, and wherein the administration of the vaccine or immunogenic composition induces 28 days after the boost administration geometric mean neutralizing antibodies titers in a population of at least 20 flavivirus naïve subjects and/or at least 20 Zika virus seronegative subjects, which are at least 10 times, or at least 15 times, or at least 20 times, or at least 25 times higher than the geometric mean neutralizing antibodies titers induces 28 days after the prime administration, as determined by the plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT). The boost administration thus provides for very high geometric mean neutralizing antibodies titers responsible for a long term protection

[0035] Accordingly, certain aspects of the present disclosure relate a method of treating or preventing, in particular preventing Zika virus infection in a subject population in need thereof, comprising administering to individual subjects of said subject population a vaccine or immunogenic composition comprising one antigen from a Zika virus, wherein the vaccine or immunogenic composition is administered as a single dose or prime administration, and wherein the administration of the vaccine or immunogenic composition induces 14 and/or 28 days after the single dose or prime administration geometric mean neutralizing antibodies titers in a population of at least 20 flavivirus naïve subjects and/or at least 20 Zika virus seronegative subjects of greater than 10, or greater than 50, or greater than 100, or greater than 200, or greater than 250, as determined by the plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT). The high geometric mean neutralizing antibodies titers indicate an early onset of protection which is beneficial in an outbreak situation or a traveler visiting an endemic area within a short period of time from the administration of the vaccine or immunogenic composition.

[0036] Within the meaning of this disclosure PRNT refers to Zika virus Neutralizing antibody titers determined by a plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT) as described previously (See Sun, W. et al. Protection of Rhesus monkeys against dengue virus challenge after tetravalent live attenuated dengue virus vaccination. J. Infect. Dis. 193,

1658–1665 (2006). Muthumani K, Griffin BD, Agarwal S, et al. In vivo protection against ZIKV infection and pathogenesis through passive antibody transfer and active immunisation with a prMEnv DNA vaccine. *NPJ Vaccines* 2016; 1: 16021). The Zika strain used for PRNT assay development was PRVABC59.

[0037] Within the meaning of this disclosure seropositivity is defined as titer ≥ 10 as determined by the plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT); Zika virus seronegative subjects (titer <10) as determined by the plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT), Seroconversion is defined as: Zika virus seronegative subjects (titer <10) have titer ≥ 10 post-vaccination as determined by the plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT); Results < 10 as determined by the plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT) are assigned a titer of 5; Titers ≥ 10 (limit of detection) and < 26 (lower limit of quantification) as determined by the plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT) are assigned a value of 13.

[0038] Flavivirus naïve subjects for the present disclosure are defined to be subjects without detectable serum antibodies against a panel of flaviviruses, as measured by a reactive antibody based assay (Luminex). Flavivirus screening assay is based on a luminex platform to simultaneously detect multiple target antigens in the same sample. This bead based assay is sensitive, specific and reproducible. For ZIK101, the antigens targeted are Zika, Dengue, Yellow fever, JEV, USUV, SLEV and WNV. Due to cross reactivity among Flaviviruses, the current antigen set would help detect any prior Flavivirus exposure. References for luminex concept are: Dias D, Van Doren J, Schlottmann S, Kelly S, Puchalski D, Ruiz W, Boerckel P, Kessler J, Antonello JM, Green T, Brown M, Smith J, Chirmule N, Barr E, Jansen KU, Esser MT. 2005. Optimization and validation of a multiplexed Luminex assay to quantify antibodies to neutralizing epitopes on human papillomaviruses 6, 11, 16, and 18. *Clin. Diagn. Lab. Immunol.* 12:959–969 [PMC free article] [PubMed]. Ayoub A et al Development of a Sensitive and Specific Serological Assay Based on Luminex Technology for Detection of Antibodies to Zaire Ebola Virus. *J Clin Microbiol.* 2017 Dec 28;55(1):165-176. doi: 10.1128/JCM.01979-16.

[0039] Within the meaning of this disclosure endemic is defined as areas with risk of infection as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, such as for example as of March 2018, namely: Asia: Bangladesh, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-

Leste (East Timor), Vietnam. The Pacific Islands: Fiji, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga. The Caribbean: Anguilla; Antigua and Barbuda; Aruba; Barbados; Bonaire; British Virgin Islands; Cuba; Curaçao; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Grenada; Haiti; Jamaica; Montserrat; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a US territory; Saba; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Saint Martin; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Sint Eustatius; Sint Maarten; Trinidad and Tobago; Turks and Caicos Islands; US Virgin Islands. North America: Mexico Central America: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama South America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela Africa: Angola, Benin, Burkina-Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Congo-Brazzaville), Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo (Congo-Kinshasa), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda. This areas may change.

[0040] Accordingly, certain aspects of the present disclosure relate to a method for inducing an immune response in a subject population in need thereof, comprising administering to individual subjects of said subject population a vaccine or immunogenic composition comprising a Zika antigen, wherein the vaccine or immunogenic composition is administered as a first (prime) and a second (boost) administration about 1 to about 16 weeks apart, and wherein the administration of the vaccine or immunogenic composition induces 14 and/or 28 days after the boost administration geometric mean neutralizing antibodies titers in a subject population of at least 20 flavivirus naïve subjects and/or at least 20 Zika virus seronegative subjects of greater than 300, or greater than 500, or greater than 1000, or greater than 1500, or greater than 2000, or greater than 3000, or greater than 5000, or greater than 10,000, as determined by the reporter virus particle neutralization assay (RVP).

[0041] Accordingly, certain aspects of the present disclosure relate to a method of treating or preventing, in particular preventing Zika virus infection in a subject population in need thereof, comprising administering to individual subjects of said subject population a vaccine or immunogenic composition comprising one antigen from a Zika virus, wherein the vaccine or immunogenic composition is administered as a single dose or prime administration, and wherein the administration of the vaccine or immunogenic composition

induces 14 and/or 28 days after the single dose or prime administration geometric mean neutralizing antibodies titers in a population of at least 20 flavivirus naïve subjects and/or at least 20 Zika virus seronegative subjects of greater than 300, or greater than 500, greater than 1000, or greater than 2000, as determined by the reporter virus particle neutralization assay (RVP). The high geometric mean neutralizing antibodies titers indicate an early onset of protection which is beneficial in an outbreak situation or a traveler visiting an endemic area within a short period of time from the administration of the vaccine or immunogenic composition.

[0042] Within the meaning of this disclosure Reporter virus particle (RVP) neutralization assay refers to Zika Neutralizing antibody titers were analyzed by titration of serum samples with a constant amount of Zika RVPs in Vero cells grown in 96-well plates. RVPs contained the prME proteins of Zika (strain SPH2012) and a Dengue-based Renilla luciferase reporter. Briefly, sera were heat inactivated at 56°C for 30 min, diluted, and then incubated at 37°C with RVPs. The serum/RVP mixture was then mixed with Vero cells and incubated for 72 hours at 37°C $\pm$ 2°C/ 5% CO₂ before detection with luciferase substrate. Data was analyzed using JMP11 non-linear 4 parameter analysis, normalized to a positive tracking control and effective dose 50% (EC₅₀) was reported.

[0043] Accordingly, certain aspects of the present disclosure relate a method of treating or preventing, in particular preventing Zika virus infection in a subject population in need thereof, comprising administering to individual subjects of said subject population a vaccine or immunogenic composition comprising a Zika antigen, wherein the vaccine or immunogenic composition is administered as a first (prime) and a second (boost) administration about 1 to about 16 weeks apart and wherein the administration of the vaccine or immunogenic composition induces 14 and/or 28 days after the boost administration a seroconversion rate of 100% in a population of at least 20 seronegative subjects.

[0044] Accordingly, certain aspects of the present disclosure relate to a method of treating or preventing, in particular preventing Zika virus infection in a subject population in need thereof, comprising administering to individual subjects of said subject population a vaccine or immunogenic composition comprising one antigen from a Zika virus, wherein the vaccine or immunogenic composition is administered as single dose or prime administration and wherein the administration of the vaccine or immunogenic composition

induces 14 and/or 28 days after the single dose or prime administration a seroconversion rate of 60%, 70%, 80% or 90% in a population of at least 20 Zika virus seronegative subjects. The high seroconversion rate indicates an early onset of protection, which is beneficial in an outbreak situation or a traveler visiting an endemic area within a short period of time from the administration of the vaccine or immunogenic composition.

[0045] The above methods are to be understood to also relate to corresponding uses of a vaccine or immunogenic composition comprising one antigen from a Zika virus as disclosed herein for the manufacture of a medicament for the treating or preventing Zika virus infection.

[0046] The above methods are to be understood to also relate to a vaccine or immunogenic composition comprising one antigen from a Zika virus as disclosed herein for use the treating or preventing Zika virus infection.

[0047] In some embodiments the administration is intramuscular or subcutaneous. In some embodiments the administration includes the administration of two doses of the vaccine or immunogenic composition as described herein (e.g. 10 µg purified inactivated whole virus, such as a Zika virus with a mutation which is a tryptophan to glycine substitution at position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1 or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1 as described herein) given about 1 to about 16 weeks apart (first (prime) and a second (boost) administration). In certain such embodiments the Zika virus is a plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate.

[0048] Other aspects of the present disclosure relate to the vaccines or immunogenic compositions as described herein for use in treating or preventing Zika virus infection in a subject in need thereof, for use in inducing an immune response in a subject in need thereof and for use in preventing Zika virus disease in a subject, fetus or newborn in need thereof. In some embodiments the administration is intramuscular or subcutaneous. In some embodiments the administration includes the administration of two doses of the vaccine or immunogenic composition as described herein (e.g. 10 µg purified inactivated whole virus, such as a Zika virus with a mutation which is a tryptophan to glycine substitution at position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1 or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1 as described herein) given about 1 to about 16 weeks apart (first (prime) and a second

(boost) administration). In certain such embodiments the Zika virus is a plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate.

[0049] Other aspects of the present disclosure relate to the use of the vaccines or immunogenic compositions as described herein in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing Zika virus infection in a subject in need thereof for inducing an immune response in a subject in need thereof and in preventing Zika virus disease in a subject, fetus or newborn in need thereof. In some embodiments the administration is intramuscular or subcutaneous. In some embodiments the administration includes the administration of two doses of the vaccine or immunogenic composition as described herein (e.g. 10 µg purified inactivated whole virus, such as a Zika virus with a mutation which is a tryptophan to glycine substitution at position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1 or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1 as described herein) given about 1 to about 16 weeks apart (first (prime) and a second (boost) administration). In certain such embodiments the Zika virus is a plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate.

[0050] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the subject is a human. In some embodiments, the subject is pregnant or intends to become pregnant or woman of childbearing potential.

[0051] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, administration of the vaccine or immunogenic composition induces a protective immune response in the subject. In some embodiments, the protective immune response induced in the subject is greater than a protective immune response induced in a corresponding subject administered a vaccine or immunogenic composition containing one or more antigens from a Zika virus lacking the at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, administration of the vaccine or immunogenic composition induces the generation of neutralizing antibodies to Zika virus in the subject. In some embodiments, the concentration of neutralizing antibodies generated in the subject is higher than a concentration of neutralizing antibodies generated in a corresponding subject administered a vaccine or immunogenic composition comprising one or more antigens from a Zika virus lacking the at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation.

[0052] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition is administered by a route selected from subcutaneous administration, transcutaneous administration, intradermal administration, subdermal administration, intramuscular administration, peroral administration, intranasal administration, buccal administration, intraperitoneal administration, intravaginal administration, anal administration and/or intracranial administration. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition is administered one or more times. In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition is administered as a first (prime) and a second (boost) administration. In some embodiments, the second (boost) administration is administered at least 28 days after the first (prime) administration. In some embodiments the administration includes the administration of two doses of the vaccine or immunogenic composition as described herein (e.g. 10 µg purified inactivated whole virus, such as a Zika virus with a mutation which is a tryptophan to glycine substitution at position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1 or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1 as described herein) given about 1 to about 16 weeks apart (first (prime) and a second (boost) administration). In certain such embodiments the Zika virus is a plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate.

[0053] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the virus preparation is mixed with an adjuvant. In some embodiments, the adjuvant is selected from aluminum salts, toll-like receptor (TLR) agonists, monophosphoryl lipid A (MLA), synthetic lipid A, lipid A mimetics or analogs, MLA derivatives, cytokines, saponins, muramyl dipeptide (MDP) derivatives, CpG oligos, lipopolysaccharide (LPS) of gram-negative bacteria, polyphosphazenes, emulsions, virosomes, cochleates, poly(lactide-co-glycolides) (PLG) microparticles, poloxamer particles, microparticles, liposomes, Complete Freund's Adjuvant (CFA), and/or Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant (IFA). In some embodiments, the adjuvant is an aluminum salt. In some embodiments, the adjuvant is selected from alum, aluminum phosphate, aluminum hydroxide, potassium aluminum sulfate, and/or Alhydrogel 85. In some embodiments, at least 75%, at least 85%, at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100% of one or more antigens in the virus preparation are adsorbed to the adjuvant.

[0054] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation is in Zika virus NS1. In some embodiments, the at least one adaptation mutation occurs at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the at least one adaptation mutation is a Trp98Gly mutation. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the at least one adaptation mutation enhances genetic stability as compared to a Zika virus lacking the at least one adaptation mutation. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the at least one adaptation mutation enhances viral replication as compared to a Zika virus lacking the at least one adaptation mutation. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the Zika virus does not comprise a mutation in Envelope protein E (Env).

[0055] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the population of Zika viruses is heterogeneous. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the population of Zika viruses comprises a Zika virus clinical isolate. In some embodiments, the Zika virus clinical isolate is from strain PRVABC59. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the population of Zika viruses comprises a Zika virus that has been previously passaged one or more times in cell culture. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the inoculum comprises human serum. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the inoculum comprises one or more adventitious agents. In some embodiments, the Zika virus clonal isolate is substantially free of the one or more adventitious agents.

[0056] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the methods further include one or more additional plaque purifications of the Zika virus clonal isolate. In some embodiments, the Zika virus clonal isolate is further plaque purified two or more times. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the methods further include passaging the Zika virus clonal isolate one or more times in cell culture. In some embodiments, the Zika virus clonal isolate is passaged two or more times.

[0057] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the methods further include formulating a vaccine or immunogenic

composition comprising one or more antigens from the Zika virus clonal isolate. In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition is a purified antigen vaccine or immunogenic composition, a subunit vaccine or immunogenic composition, an inactivated whole virus vaccine or immunogenic composition, or an attenuated virus vaccine or immunogenic composition. In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition is a purified inactivated whole virus vaccine or immunogenic composition. In some embodiments, the Zika virus clonal isolate was chemically inactivated. In some embodiments, the Zika virus clonal isolate was chemically inactivated with one or more of a detergent, formalin, beta-propiolactone (BPL), binary ethylamine (BEI), acetyl ethyleneimine, methylene blue, and psoralen. In some embodiments, the Zika virus clonal isolate was chemically inactivated with formalin.

[0058] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the methods further include admixing the vaccine or immunogenic composition with an adjuvant. In some embodiments, the adjuvant is selected from aluminum salts, toll-like receptor (TLR) agonists, monophosphoryl lipid A (MLA), synthetic lipid A, lipid A mimetics or analogs, MLA derivatives, cytokines, saponins, muramyl dipeptide (MDP) derivatives, CpG oligos, lipopolysaccharide (LPS) of gram-negative bacteria, polyphosphazenes, emulsions, virosomes, cochleates, poly(lactide-co-glycolides) (PLG) microparticles, poloxamer particles, microparticles, liposomes, Complete Freund's Adjuvant (CFA), and Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant (IFA). In some embodiments, the adjuvant is an aluminum salt. In some embodiments, the adjuvant is selected from alum, aluminum phosphate, aluminum hydroxide, potassium aluminum sulfate, and Alhydrogel 85. In some embodiments, at least 75%, at least 85%, at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100% of the one or more antigens are adsorbed to the adjuvant. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition comprises 1 μ g to about 40 μ g of the purified inactivated whole virus, or 1 μ g to about 30 μ g of the purified inactivated whole virus, or 1 μ g to about 20 μ g of the purified inactivated whole virus, in particular 2 μ g, or 5 μ g, or 10 μ g, or 15 μ g or 20 μ g or in particular 10 μ g purified inactivated whole virus, such as a Zika virus with a mutation which is a tryptophan to glycine substitution at position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1 or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1 as described herein. In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition comprises 1 μ g to about 30 μ g of the purified inactivated whole

virus, in particular 2 μ g, 5 μ g or 10 μ g, or in particular 10 μ g of a purified inactivated whole Zika virus comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59. In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition comprises 1 μ g to about 30 μ g of the purified inactivated whole virus, in particular 2 μ g, 5 μ g or 10 μ g, or in particular 10 μ g of a purified inactivated whole Zika virus comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59 comprising the genomic sequence according to SEQ ID NO:2.

[0059] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition comprises from about 0.1 μ g Env to about 100 μ g Env. In certain such embodiments the Zika virus is a plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate. In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition is unadjuvanted.

[0060] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the Zika virus clonal isolate is a homogenous genetic population. In some embodiments, the Zika virus clonal isolate does not contain a mutation in Envelope protein E (Env). In some embodiments, the Zika virus clonal isolate contains at least one mutation. In some embodiments, the at least one mutation is in Zika virus Non-structural protein 1 (NS1). In some embodiments, the at least one mutation occurs at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the at least one mutation is a Trp98Gly mutation. In some embodiments the at least one mutation is not in Envelope protein E (Env). In some embodiments, the at least one mutation enhances genetic stability as compared to a Zika virus lacking the at least one mutation. In some embodiments, the at least one mutation enhances viral replication as compared to a Zika virus lacking the at least one mutation.

[0061] Other aspects of the present disclosure relate to a vaccine or immunogenic composition containing one or more antigens from a plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate. In some embodiments, the plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate was plaque purified from cells contacted with an inoculum comprising a population of Zika viruses. In some embodiments, the cells are non-human cells. In some embodiments, the cells are insect cells. In some embodiments, the insect cells are mosquito cells. In some

embodiments, the cells are mammalian cells. In some embodiments, the mammalian cells are monkey cells. In some embodiments, the monkey cells are from a Vero cell line. In some embodiments, the Vero cell line is a WHO Vero 10-87 cell line.

[0062] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the population of Zika viruses was heterogeneous. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the population of Zika viruses comprised a Zika virus clinical isolate. In some embodiments, the Zika virus clinical isolate is from strain PRVABC59. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the population of Zika viruses comprised a Zika virus that had been previously passaged one or more times in cell culture. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the inoculum comprised human serum. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the inoculum comprised one or more adventitious agents. In some embodiments, the plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate is substantially free of the one or more adventitious agents.

[0063] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate is modified as compared to a wild-type Zika virus. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate is a homogenous genetic population. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate does not include a mutation in Envelope protein E (Env). In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate comprises at least one mutation. In some embodiments, the at least one mutation is in Zika virus Non-structural protein 1 (NS1). In some embodiments, the at least one mutation occurs at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the at least one mutation is a Trp98Gly mutation. In some embodiments, the at least one mutation is not in Zika virus Envelope protein E (Env). In some embodiments, the at least one mutation enhances genetic stability as compared to a Zika virus lacking the at least one mutation. In some embodiments, the at least one mutation enhances viral replication as compared to a Zika virus lacking the at least one mutation. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the plaque

purified clonal Zika virus isolate is an African lineage virus or an Asian lineage virus. In some embodiments, the plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate is an Asian lineage virus.

[0064] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition is a purified antigen vaccine or immunogenic composition, a subunit vaccine or immunogenic composition, an inactivated whole virus vaccine or immunogenic composition, or an attenuated virus vaccine or immunogenic composition. In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition is an inactivated whole virus vaccine or immunogenic composition. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate was chemically inactivated. In some embodiments, the plaque purified Zika virus was chemically inactivated with one or more of a detergent, formalin, beta-propiolactone (BPL), binary ethylamine (BEI), acetyl ethyleneimine, methylene blue, and psoralen. In some embodiments, the plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate was chemically inactivated with formalin.

[0065] In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition further comprises an adjuvant. In some embodiments, the adjuvant is selected from aluminum salts, toll-like receptor (TLR) agonists, monophosphoryl lipid A (MLA), synthetic lipid A, lipid A mimetics or analogs, MLA derivatives, cytokines, saponins, muramyl dipeptide (MDP) derivatives, CpG oligos, lipopolysaccharide (LPS) of gram-negative bacteria, polyphosphazenes, emulsions, virosomes, cochleates, poly(lactide-co-glycolides) (PLG) microparticles, poloxamer particles, microparticles, liposomes, Complete Freund's Adjuvant (CFA), and Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant (IFA). In some embodiments, the adjuvant is an aluminum salt. In some embodiments, the adjuvant is selected from alum, aluminum phosphate, aluminum hydroxide, potassium aluminum sulfate, and Alhydrogel 85. In some embodiments, at least 75%, at least 85%, at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100% of the one or more antigens are adsorbed to the adjuvant. In some embodiments that may be combined with any of the preceding embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition contains from 0.1 µg to about 25 µg of the purified inactivated whole virus, such as a Zika virus with a mutation which is a tryptophan to glycine substitution at position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1 as described herein, in particular 2 µg, 5 µg or 10 µg, or in particular 10 µg purified inactivated whole virus or about 0.1 µg Env to about

100 µg Env. In certain such embodiments the Zika virus is a plaque purified clonal Zika virus isolate. In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition is unadjuvanted.

[0066] It is to be understood that one, some, or all of the properties of the various embodiments described above and herein may be combined to form other embodiments of the present disclosure. These and other aspects of the present disclosure will become apparent to one of skill in the art. These and other embodiments of the present disclosure are further described by the detailed description that follows.

Brief description of The drawings

[0067] FIG. 1 shows bright field microscopy images of Vero cell monolayers mock infected (top) or infected with ZIKAV strain PRVABC59 (bottom).

[0068] FIG. 2 shows growth kinetics of ZIKAV PRVABC59 P1 on Vero cell monolayers, as determined by TCID₅₀.

[0069] FIG. 3 shows potency assay testing (TCID₅₀) of Zika virus PRVABC59 P5 clones a-f.

[0070] FIG. 4 shows bright-field microscopy images depicting the cytopathic effect (CPE) of growth of Zika virus PRVABC59 P6 clones a-f on Vero cell monolayers.

[0071] FIG. 5 shows potency assay testing (TCID₅₀) of Zika virus PRVABC59 P6 clones a-f

[0072] FIG. 6 shows an amino acid sequence alignment comparing the envelope glycoprotein sequence of Zika virus near residue 330 from Zika virus strains PRVABC59 P6e (SEQ ID NO: 8) and PRVABC59 (SEQ ID NO: 9) with several other flaviviruses (WNV (SEQ ID NO: 10); JEV (SEQ ID NO: 11); SLEV (SEQ ID NO: 12); YFV (SEQ ID NO: 13); DENV 1 16007 (SEQ ID NO: 14); DENV 2 16681 (SEQ ID NO: 15); DENV 3 16562 (SEQ IDNO: 16); and DENV 4 1036 (SEQ ID NO: 17)).

[0073] FIG. 7 shows an amino acid sequence alignment comparing the NS1 protein sequence of Zika virus near residue 98 from Zika virus strains PRVABC59 P6e (SEQ ID NO: 18) and PRVABC59 (SEQ ID NO: 19) with several other flaviviruses (WNV (SEQ ID

NO: 20); JEV (SEQ ID NO: 21); SLEV (SEQ ID NO: 22); YFV (SEQ ID NO: 23); DENV 1 16007 (SEQ ID NO: 24); DENV 2 16681 (SEQ ID NO: 25); DENV 3 16562 (SEQ IDNO: 26); and DENV 4 1036 (SEQ ID NO: 27)).

[0074] FIG. 8 shows the plaque phenotype of ZIKAV PRVABC59 P6 virus clones a-f compared to ZIKAV PRVABC59 P1 virus.

[0075] FIG. 9 shows the mean plaque size of ZIKAV PRVABC59 P6 virus clones compared to ZIKAV PRVABC59 P1 virus.

[0076] FIG. 10 shows the growth kinetics of ZIKAV PRVABC59 P6 clones a-f in Vero cells under serum-free growth conditions.

[0077] FIG. 11 shows a schematic of the steps taken to prepare PRVABC59 P6b and P6e formulated drug product for the immunization experiments.

[0078] FIG. 12A shows the schedule of dosing of CD-1 mice with vaccine formulations derived from the ZIKAV PRVABC59 P6b and P6e clones. PBS was used as placebo.

[0079] FIG. 12B shows the serum ZIKAV neutralizing antibody titers of CD-1 mice immunized as described in FIG. 12A using vaccine formulations derived from ZIKAV PRVABC59 P6b and P6e clones. ZIKAV neutralizing antibody titers were determined by Reporter Virus Particle (RVP) neutralization assay. Solid lines represent the geometric mean of a group. The limit of detection ($1.93 \log_{10}$) is represented by a dashed line.

[0080] FIG. 13A shows the schedule of dosing of AG129 mice with vaccine formulations derived from the ZIKAV PRVABC59 P6b and P6e clones. PBS was used as a placebo.

[0081] FIG. 13B shows the serum ZIKAV neutralizing antibody titers of AG129 mice immunized as described in FIG. 13A using vaccine formulations derived from ZIKAV PRVABC59 P6b and P6e clones. Solid lines represent the geometric mean of a group. The limit of detection ($1.30 \log_{10}$) is represented by a dashed line. Animals with no detectable titer (<1.30) were assigned a titer of 0.5.

[0082] FIG. 14 shows the mean weight of AG129 test groups post-challenge, represented as a percentage of starting weight. Error bars represent standard deviation.

[0083] FIG. 15 shows the serum viremia of individual AG129 mice two days post-challenge, reported as PFU/mL. Solid lines represent the mean of a group. The limit of detection ($2.0 \log_{10}$) is represented by a dashed line.

[0084] FIG. 16 shows the survival analysis of AG129 test groups post-challenge.

[0085] FIG. 17 shows the pre-challenge serum circulating ZIKAV neutralizing antibody (Nab) titers following passive transfer of pooled sera from vaccinated and challenged AG129 mice.

[0086] FIG. 18 shows the mean body weight of passive transfer and control mice challenged with Zika virus.

[0087] FIG. 19 shows the serum viremia of individual AG129 mice three days post-challenge, reported as PFU/mL.

[0088] FIG. 20 shows the survival analysis of passive transfer and control mice challenged with Zika virus.

[0089] FIG. 21 shows the correlation between ZIKAV neutralizing antibody titers and viremia observed in passive transfer mice.

[0090] FIG. 22 shows the survival analysis of AG129 mice after challenge with preMVS stocks of P6a and P6e using a Kaplan Meier survival curve.

[0091] FIG. 23 shows the mean body weight as expressed in percentage of starting weight at time of invention after challenge with preMVS stocks of P6a and P6e. The dashed line represents 100% of starting weight for reference.

[0092] FIG. 24 shows the serum viremia of individual AG129 mice three days post-challenge with preMVS stocks of P6a and P6e, reported as PFU/mL. The dashed line represents the limit of detection of the assay.

[0093] FIG. 25 shows a summary of the Clinical Study Design for Example 4.

[0094] FIG. 26 shows the Geometric Mean Titers (GMTs) determined using PRNT of the Subjects in Example 4

[0095] FIG. 27 shows the percentage of subjects achieving seroconversion determined using PRNT at Day 29 (day 28 after prime dose) and Day 57 (28 days after boost dose) of the study described in Example 4.

[0096] FIG. 28 shows the plot of the percentage of subjects achieving a particular Geometric Mean Titer (determined using PRNT) on day 29 (day 28 after prime dose) of the study described in Example 4.

[0097] FIG. 29 shows the plot of the percentage of subjects achieving a particular Geometric Mean Titer (determined using PRNT) on day 57 (day 56 after prime dose) of the study described in Example 4.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

General Techniques

[0098] The techniques and procedures described or referenced herein are generally well understood and commonly employed using conventional methodology by those skilled in the art, such as, for example, the widely utilized methodologies described in Sambrook et al., *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual* 3d edition (2001) Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.; *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology* (F.M. Ausubel, et al. eds., (2003)); the series *Methods in Enzymology* (Academic Press, Inc.): *PCR 2: A Practical Approach* (M.J. MacPherson, B.D. Hames and G.R. Taylor eds. (1995)), *Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual* (Harlow and Lane, eds. (1988), and *Animal Cell Culture* (R.I. Freshney, ed. (1987)); *Oligonucleotide Synthesis* (M.J. Gait, ed., 1984); *Methods in Molecular Biology* (J. M. Walker, ed. Humana Press (1983)); *Cell Biology: A Laboratory Notebook* (J.E. Celis, ed., Academic Press (1998)) Academic Press; *Animal Cell Culture* (R.I. Freshney), ed., 1987); *Introduction to Cell and Tissue Culture* (J.P. Mather and P.E. Roberts, eds. Plenum Press (1998)); *Cell and Tissue Culture: Laboratory Procedures* (A. Doyle, J.B. Griffiths, and D.G. Newell, eds., J. Wiley and Sons (1993-8)); *Handbook of Experimental Immunology* (D.M. Weir and C.C. Blackwell, eds.); *Gene Transfer Vectors for Mammalian Cells* (J.M. Miller and M.P. Calos, eds., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1987)); *PCR: The Polymerase Chain Reaction*, (Mullis et al., eds., Springer (1994)); *Current Protocols in Immunology* (J.E. Coligan et al., eds., Wiley (1991)); *Short Protocols in Molecular Biology* (Wiley and Sons, 1999); *Immunobiology* (C.A. Janeway and P. Travers, (1997)); *Antibodies* (P. Finch, 1997); *Antibodies: A*

Practical Approach (D. Catty., ed., IRL Press, (1988-1989)); *Monoclonal Antibodies: A Practical Approach* (P. Shepherd and C. Dean, eds., Oxford University Press, (2000)); *Using Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual* (E. Harlow and D. Lane (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, (1999)); and *The Antibodies* (M. Zanetti and J. D. Capra, eds., Harwood Academic Publishers, (1995)).

Zika virus

[0099] Certain aspects of the present disclosure relate to at least one Zika virus (e.g., a Zika virus clonal isolate, a Zika virus purified by the methods described herein, a Zika virus comprising one or more non-human cell adaptation mutations, etc.) that may be useful in vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions including, without limitation, purified viruses, inactivated viruses, attenuated viruses, recombinant viruses, or purified and/or recombinant viral proteins for subunit vaccines.

[00100] Zika virus (ZIKV) is a mosquito-borne flavivirus first isolated from a sentinel rhesus monkey in the Zika Forest in Uganda in 1947. Since that time, isolations have been made from humans in both Africa and Asia, and more recently, the Americas. ZIKV is found in two (possibly three) lineages: an African lineage (possibly separate East and West African lineages) and an Asian lineage. Accordingly, examples of suitable Zika viruses of the present disclosure include, without limitation, viruses from the African and/or Asian lineages. In some embodiments, the Zika virus is an African lineage virus. In some embodiments, the Zika virus is an Asian lineage virus. Additionally, multiple strains within the African and Asian lineages of Zika virus have been previously identified. Any one or more suitable strains of Zika virus known in the art may be used in the present disclosure, including, for examples, strains Mr 766, ArD 41519, IbH 30656, P6-740, EC Yap, FSS13025, ArD 7117, ArD 9957, ArD 30101, ArD 30156, ArD 30332, HD 78788, ArD 127707, ArD 127710, ArD 127984, ArD 127988, ArD 127994, ArD 128000, ArD 132912, 132915, ArD 141170, ArD 142623, ArD 149917, ArD 149810, ArD 149938, ArD 157995, ArD 158084, ArD 165522, ArD 165531, ArA 1465, ArA 27101, ArA 27290, ArA 27106, ArA 27096, ArA 27407, ArA 27433, ArA 506/96, ArA 975-99, Ara 982-99, ArA 986-99, ArA 2718, ArB 1362, Nigeria68, Malaysia66, Kedougou84, Suriname, MR1429, PRVABC59, ECMN2007, DakAr41524, H/PF/2013, R103451, 103344, 8375, JMB-185, ZIKV/H, sapiens/Brazil/Natal/2015, SPH2015, ZIKV/Hu/Chiba/S36/2016, and/or Cuba2017. In some embodiments, strain PRVABC59 is used in the present disclosure.

[00101] In some embodiments, an example of a Zika virus genome sequence is set forth below as SEQ ID NO: 2:

1 gttgttgatc tgtgtgaatc agactgcgac agttcgagtt tgaagcgaaa
gctagcaaca

61 gtatcaacag gttttatattt ggatttggaa acgagagttt ctgggtcatga aaaacccaaa
121 aaagaaatcc ggaggattcc ggattgtcaa tatgctaaaa cgcggagtag cccgtgtgag
181 cccctttggg ggcttgaaga ggctgccagc cggacttctg ctgggtcatg ggcccatcag
241 gatgggtcttg gcgattctag cctttttgag attcacggca atcaagccat cactgggtct
301 catcaataga tggggttcag tggggaaaaa agaggctatg gaaacaataa agaagttcaa
361 gaaagatctg gctgccatgc tgagaataat caatgctagg aaggagaaga agagacgagg
421 cgcagatact agtgtcggaa ttgttggcct cctgctgacc acagctatgg cagcggaggt
481 cactagacgt gggagtgcac actatatgta cttggacaga aacgatgctg gggaggccat
541 atcttttcca accacattgg ggatgaataa gtgttatata cagatcatgg atcttggaca
601 catgtgtgat gccaccatga gctatgaatg cctatgctg gatgaggggg tggaaccaga
661 tgacgtcgat tgttgggtgca acacgacgac aacttgggtt gtgtacggaa cctgccatca
721 caaaaaaggt gaagcacgga gatctagaag agctgtgacg ctccccctcc attccaccag
781 gaagctgcaa acgcggctgc aaacctgggt ggaatcaaga gaatacacia agcacttgat
841 tagagtcgaa aattggatat tcaggaaacct tggcttcgag ttagcagcag ctgccatcgc
901 ttggcttttg ggaagctcaa cgagccaaaa agtcatatac ttgggtcatga tactgctgat
961 tgccccggca tacagcatca ggtgcatagg agtcagcaat agggactttg tggaaggat
1021 gtcaggtggg acttgggttg atgttgtctt ggaacatgga ggttgtgtca ccgtaatggc
1081 acaggacaaa ccgactgtcg acatagagct ggttacaaca acagtcagca acatggcgga
1141 ggtaagatcc tactgctatg aggcacat atcagacatg gcttctgaca gccgctgcc
1201 aacacaaggt gaagcctacc ttgacaagca atcagacact caatatgtct gcaaaagaac
1261 gttagtggac agaggctggg gaaatggatg tggacttttt ggcaaaggga gcctgggtgac
1321 atgcgctaag tttgcatgct ccaagaaaat gaccgggaag agcatccagc cagagaatct
1381 ggagtacogg ataattgtgt cagttcatgg ctcccagcac agtgggatga tcgttaatga
1441 cacaggacat gaaactgatg agaatatagc gaaagttgag ataacgcccc attcaccgag
1501 agccgaagcc accctggggg gttttggaag cctaggactt gattgtgaac cgaggacagg
1561 ccttgacttt tcagatttgt attacttgac tatgaataac aagcactggg tggttcacia
1621 ggagtgggtc cagcacatc cattacottg gcacgctggg gcagacaccg gaactccaca
1681 ctggaacaac aaagaagcac tggtagagtt caaggacgca catgccaaaa ggcaactgt
1741 cgtgggttcta gggagtcaag aaggagcagt tcacacggcc cttgctggag ctctggaggc
1801 tgagatggat ggtgcaaagg gaaggctgtc ctctggccac ttgaaatgtc gcctgaaaat
1861 ggataaaact agattgaagg gcgtgtcata ctcttgtgt actgcagcgt tcacattcac
1921 caagatcccg gctgaaacac tgcacgggac agtcacagt gaggtacagt acgcagggac
1981 agatggacct tgcaaggttc cagctcagat ggcggtggac atgcaaaact tgacccag
2041 tgggaggttg ataaccgcta accccgtaat cactgaaagc actgagaact ctaagatgat
2101 gctggaactt gatccaccat ttggggactc ttacattgtc ataggagtgc gggagaagaa
2161 gatcaccac cactggcaca ggagtggcag caccattgga aaagcatttg aagccactgt
2221 gagaggtgcc aagagaatgg cagtcttggg agacacagcc tgggactttg gatcagttgg
2281 aggcgctctc aactcattgg gcaagggcac ccatcaaatt tttggagcag ctttcaaate

2341 attgttttga ggaatgtcct ggttctcaca aattctcatt ggaacgttgc tgatgtggtt
 2401 ggggtctgaac acaaagaatg gatctatctt ccttatgtgc ttggccttag ggggagtgtt
 2461 gatctttctta tccacagccg tctctgctga tgtgggtgct tcggtggact tctcaaagaa
 2521 ggagacgaga tgcggtacag ggggtgttct ctataacgac gttgaagcct ggagggacag
 2581 gtacaagtac catcctgact ccccccgtag attggcagca gcagtcaagc aagcctggga
 2641 agatggtatc tgcgggatct cctctgtttc aagaatggaa aacatcatgt ggagatcagt
 2701 agaaggggag ctcaacgcaa tcctggaaga gaatggagt ttcaactgacgg tcgttgtggg
 2761 atctgtaaaa aaccccatgt ggagaggtcc acagagattg cccgtgcctg tgaacgagct
 2821 gccccacggc tggaaggctt gggggaaatc gtatttctgc agagcagcaa agacaaataa
 2881 cagctttgtc gtggatggtg acacactgaa ggaatgcca ctcaaacata gagcatggaa
 2941 cagctttctt gtggaggatc atgggttcgg ggtatttcac actagtgtct ggctcaaggt
 3001 tagagaagat tattcattag agtgtgatcc agccgttatt ggaacagctg ttaagggaaa
 3061 ggaggctgta cacagtgatc taggctactg gattgagagt gagaagaatg acacatggag
 3121 gctgaagagg gcccatctga tcgagatgaa aacatgtgaa tggccaaagt cccacacatt
 3181 gtggacagat ggaatagaag agagtgatct gatcataccc aagtctttag ctgggccact
 3241 cagccatcac aataccagag agggctacag gacccaaatg aaagggccat ggacagtgta
 3301 agagcttgaa attcggtttg aggaatgcc aggactaag gtccacgtgg aggaaacatg
 3361 tggaacaaga ggaccatctc tgagatcaac cactgcaagc ggaagggtga tcgaggaatg
 3421 gtgctgcagg gagtgcaaaa tggcccccact gtcgttccgg gctaaagatg gctgttggtta
 3481 tggaatggag ataaggccca ggaaagaacc agaaagcaac ttagtaaggt caatggtgac
 3541 tgcaggatca actgatcaca tggaccactt ctcccttga gtgcttgta tcctgctcat
 3601 ggtgcaggaa gggctgaaga agagaatgac cacaaagatc atcataagca catcaatggc
 3661 agtgctggta gctatgatcc tgggaggatt ttcaatgagt gacctggcta agcttgcaat
 3721 tttgatgggt gccacctcg cggaaatgaa cactggagga gatgtagctc atctggcgct
 3781 gatagcggca ttcaaagtca gaccagcgtt gctggtatct ttcatcttca gagctaattg
 3841 gacaccccggt gaaagcatgc tgcctggcctt ggcctcgtgt cttttgcaaa ctgcgatctc
 3901 cgccttgga ggcgacctga tggttctcat caatgggtttt gctttggcct ggttggcaat
 3961 acgagcgatg gttgttccac gcactgataa catcaccttg gcaatcctgg ctgctctgac
 4021 accactggcc cggggcacac tgcctgtggc gtggagagca ggccttgcta ctgcggggg
 4081 gtttatgctc ctctctctga agggaaaagg cagtgtgaag aagaacttac catttgtcat
 4141 ggccttgga ctaaccgctg tgaggctggt cgaccccatc aacgtgggtg gactgctgtt
 4201 gctcacaagg agtgggaagc ggagctggcc ccctagcgaa gtactcacag ctgttggcct
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 4321 cgcggtcgg ctgctaattg tcagttacgt ggtctcagga aagagtgtgg acatgtacat
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 5161 gctgaagaag aagcagctaa ctgtcttaga cttgcatcct ggagctggga aaaccaggag
 5221 agttcttctt gaaatagtcc gtgaagccat aaaaacaaga ctccgtactg tgatcttagc
 5281 tccaaccagg gttgtcgtct ctgaaatgga ggaggccctt agagggcttc cagtgcgtta
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 5401 tgccaccttc acttcacgtc tactacagcc aatcagagtc cccaactata atctgtatat
 5461 tatggatgag gcccaacttc cagatccctc aagtatagca gcaagaggat acatttcaac
 5521 aaggggttag atgggagagg cggtgccat cttcatgacc gccacgccac caggaacccg
 5581 tgacgcattt ccggactcca actcaccaat tatggacacc gaagtggaag tcccagagag
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 5701 tccaagcgtg aggaacggca atgagatcgc agcttgtctg acaaaggctg gaaaacgggt
 5761 catacagctc agcagaaaga cttttgagac agagtccag aaaacaaaac atcaagagtg
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 6121 catagcctcg ctctatcgac ctgaggccga caaagtagca gccattgagg gagagttaa
 6181 gcttaggacg gagcaaagga agaccttgtt ggaactcatg aaaagaggag atcttctgt
 6241 ttggttgcc tatcagggtt catctgccgg aataacctac acagatagaa gatggtgctt
 6301 tgatggcacg accaacaaca ccataatgga agacagtgtg ccggcagagg tgtggaccag
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 6421 tgcggccctg aagtcattca aggagtttgc cgctgggaaa agaggagcgg cttttggagt
 6481 gatggaagcc ctgggaacac tgccaggaca catgacagag agattccagg aagccattga
 6541 caacctcgct gtgctcatgc gggcagagac tggaagcagg ccttacaagg ccgcgccggc
 6601 ccaattgccg gagaccctag agaccataat gcttttgggg ttgctgggaa cagtctcgct
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 6961 aatgggaagg agagaggagg gggcaaccat aggattctca atggacattg acctgcggcc
 7021 agcctcagct tgggccatct atgctgcctt gacaactttc attaccccag ccgtccaaca
 7081 tgcagtgacc acctcataca acaactactc cttaatggcg atggccacgc aagctggagt
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 7321 gaagagaacg gcagctggca tcatgaagaa cctgttgtg gatggaatag tgggtactga
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 7441 agcagtagcc gtctccagcg ccatactgtc gcggaccgcc tgggggtggg gggaggctgg
 7501 ggctctgatc acagccgcaa cttccacttt gtgggaaggc tctccgaaca agtactggaa
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7621 tctaattctac acagtaacaa gaaacgctgg cttgggtcaag agacgtgggg gtggaacagg
 7681 agagaccctg ggagagaaat ggaaggcccg cttgaaccag atgtcggccc tggagttcta
 7741 ctctacaaa aagtcaggca tcaccgaggt gtgcagagaa gagggccgcc gcgccctcaa
 7801 ggacggtgtg gcaacgggag gccatgctgt gtcccagga agtgcaaagc tgagatggtt
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 8161 ctccatggtg ggggattggc ttgaaaaaag accaggagcc ttttgtataa aagtgttgtg
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 8281 actggtcaga gtgccactct cccgcaactc tacacatgag atgtactggg tctctggagc
 8341 gaaaagcaac accataaaaa gtgtgtccac cagagccag ctctcttgg ggcgcatgga
 8401 cgggcctagg aggccagtga aatatgagga ggatgtgaat ctcggtctg gcacgcgggc
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 8761 agaccccaaa gaaggcactc gtcaggttat gagcatggtc tcttctggt tgtggaaaga
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 8881 tagcaatgca gcattagggg caatatgtga agaggaaaaa gagtggaaaga ctgcagtgga
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 9001 aggagagtgc cagagctgtg tgtacaacat gatgggaaaa agagaaaaga aacaagggga
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 9121 agagtctgaa gcccttggat tcttgaacga ggatcactgg atggggagag agaactcagg
 9181 aggtggtgtt gaagggtgg gattacaaag actcggatat gtcttagaag agatgagtcg
 9241 tataccagga ggaaggatgt atgcagatga cactgctggc tgggacaccc gcattagcag
 9301 gtttgatctg gagaatgaag ctctaatac caaccaaagtg gagaaagggc acagggcctt
 9361 ggcattggcc ataatacagt acacatacca aaacaaagtg gtaaagggtc ttagaccagc
 9421 tgaaaaaggg aaaacagtta tggacattat ttcgagacaa gaccaaaggg ggagcggaca
 9481 agttgtcact tacgctctta acacatttac caacctagt gtgcaactca ttcggaatat
 9541 ggaggctgag gaagttctag agatgcaaga cttgtggctg ctgaggaggt cagagaaagt
 9601 gaccaactgg ttgcagagca acggatggga taggctcaaa cgaatggcag tcagtggaga
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 9721 tatgggaaaa gtttaggaag acacacaaga gtggaaaacc tcaactggat gggacaactg
 9781 ggaagaagtt ccgttttgc cccaccactt caacaagctc catctcaagg acgggaggtc
 9841 cattgtggtt cctgcccgc accaagatga actgattggc cgggcccgcg tctctccagg
 9901 ggcgggatgg agcatccggg agactgcttg cctagcaaaa tcatatgcgc aatgtggca
 9961 gctcctttat ttccacagaa gggacctccg actgatggcc aatgccattt gttcatctgt
 10021 gccagttgac tgggttccaa ctgggagaac tacctggtca atccatggaa agggagaatg
 10081 gatgaccact gaagacatgc ttgtggtgtg gaacagagtg tggattgagg agaacgacca
 10141 catggaagac aagacccag ttacgaaatg gacagacatt ccctatttgg gaaaaagggg
 10201 agacttgtgg tgtggatctc tcatagggca cagaccgcgc accacctggg ctgagaacat

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10261 taaaaaacaca gtcaacatgg tgcgcaggat cataggtgat gaagaaaagt acatggacta
10321 cctatccacc caagttcgct acttgggtga agaaggggtct acacctggag tgctgtaagc
10381 accaatctta atgttgctcag gcctgctagt cagccacagc ttggggaaag ctgtgcagcc
10441 tgtgaccccc ccaggagaag ctgggaaacc aagcctatag tcaggccgag aacgccatgg
10501 cacggaagaa gccatgctgc ctgtgagccc ctgagaggac actgagtcaa aaaacccccac
10561 gcgcttgagg gcgcaggatg ggaaaagaag gtggcgacct tccccacct tcaatctggg
10621 gcctgaactg gagatcagct gtggatctcc agaagaggga ctagtggtta gagga

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[00102] In some embodiments, the Zika virus may comprise the genome sequence of GenBank Accession number KU501215.1. In some embodiments, the Zika virus is from strain PRVABC59. In some embodiments the genome sequence of GenBank Accession number KU501215.1 comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2. In some embodiments, the Zika virus may comprise a genomic sequence that has at least 70%, at least 71%, at least 72%, at least 73%, at least 74%, at least 75%, at least 76%, at least 77%, at least 78%, at least 79%, at least 80%, at least 81%, at least 82%, at least 83%, at least 84%, at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100% sequence identity with the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

[00103] In some embodiments, the Zika virus may comprise at least one polypeptide encoded by the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2. In some embodiments, the Zika virus may comprise at least one polypeptide having an amino acid sequence that has at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100% sequence identity with an amino acid sequence encoded by the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

[00104] Accordingly, in some embodiments, Zika viruses of the present disclosure may be used in any of the vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions disclosed herein. For example, Zika viruses of the present disclosure may be used to provide one or more antigens useful for treating or preventing Zika virus infection in a subject in need thereof and/or for inducing an immune response, such as a protective immune response, against Zika virus in a subject in need thereof.

Viral Antigens

[00105] In some embodiments, the present disclosure relates to one or more antigens from any Zika virus described herein useful in vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions including, without limitation, purified viruses, inactivated viruses, attenuated viruses, recombinant viruses, or purified and/or recombinant viral proteins for subunit vaccines. In some embodiments, the vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions include inactivated whole viruses.

[00106] Antigens of the present disclosure may be any substance capable of eliciting an immune response. Examples of suitable antigens include, but are not limited to, whole virus, attenuated virus, inactivated virus, proteins, polypeptides (including active proteins and individual polypeptide epitopes within proteins), glycopolypeptides, lipopolypeptides, peptides, polysaccharides, polysaccharide conjugates, peptide and non-peptide mimics of polysaccharides and other molecules, small molecules, lipids, glycolipids, and carbohydrates.

[00107] Antigens of the present disclosure may be from any Zika virus (e.g., a Zika virus clonal isolate) produced from one or more cells in cell culture (e.g., via plaque purification). Any suitable cells known in the art for producing Zika virus may be used, including, for example, insect cells (e.g., mosquito cells such as CCL-125 cells, Aag-2 cells, RML-12 cells, C6/36 cells, C7-10 cells, AP-61 cells, A.t. GRIP-1 cells, A.t. GRIP-2 cells, A.t. GRIP-3 cells, UM-AVE1 cells, Mos.55 cells, Sua1B cells, 4a-3B cells, Mos.42 cells, MSQ43 cells, LSB-AA695BB cells, NIID-CTR cells, TRA-171, cells, and additional cells or cell lines from mosquito species such as *Aedes aegypti*, *Aedes albopictus*, *Aedes pseudoscutellaris*, *Aedes triseriatus*, *Aedes vexans*, *Anopheles gambiae*, *Anopheles stephensi*, *Anopheles albimus*, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, *Culex theileri*, *Culex tritaeniorhynchus*, *Culex bitaeniorhynchus*, and/or *Toxorhynchites amboinensis*), and mammalian cells (e.g., VERO cells (from monkey kidneys), LLC-MK2 cells (from monkey kidneys), MDBK cells, MDCK cells, ATCC CCL34 MDCK (NBL2) cells, MDCK 33016 (deposit number DSM ACC 2219 as described in WO97/37001) cells, BHK21-F cells, HKCC cells, or Chinese hamster ovary cells (CHO cells)). In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure are from a Zika virus (e.g., a Zika virus clonal isolate) produced from a non-human cell (e.g., via plaque purification). In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure are from a Zika virus (e.g., a Zika virus clonal isolate) produced from an

insect cell (e.g., via plaque purification). In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure are from a Zika virus (e.g., a Zika virus clonal isolate) produced from a mosquito cell (e.g., via plaque purification). In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure are from a Zika virus (e.g., a Zika virus clonal isolate) produced from a mammalian cell (e.g., via plaque purification). In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure are from a Zika virus (e.g., a Zika virus clonal isolate) produced from a VERO cell (e.g., via plaque purification). Methods of purifying a virus by performing plaque purification are known to one of ordinary skill in the art (See e.g., Example 1 below).

[00108] Antigens of the present disclosure may include at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation. Adaptation mutations may be generated by adapting a virus to growth in a particular cell line. For example, a cell may be transfected or electroporated with a virus, RNA transcribed from a virus (e.g., an infectious virus, or infectious clone), and/or RNA purified from a whole virus and passaged such that the virus and/or viral RNA replicates and its nucleic acid mutates. Nucleic acid mutations may be point mutations, insertion mutations, or deletion mutations. Nucleic acid mutations may lead to amino acid changes within viral proteins that facilitate growth of the virus in a non-human cell. Adaptation mutations may facilitate phenotypic changes in the virus, including altered plaque size, growth kinetics, temperature sensitivity, drug resistance, virulence, and virus yield in cell culture. These adaptive mutations may be useful in vaccine manufacture by increasing the speed, yield, and consistency of virus cultured in a cell line. Adaptive mutations may change (e.g., enhance or decrease) immunogenicity of viral antigens by altering the structure of immunogenic epitopes. In addition, adaptive mutations may also increase the genetic stability of the virus and/or reduce or otherwise inhibit the development of undesirable mutations in the virus through multiple (e.g., at least five, at least six, at least seven, at least eight, at least nine, at least 10, at least 11, at least 12, at least 13, at least 14, at least 15, at least 16, at least 17, at least 18, at least 19, at least 20, or more) passages.

[00109] Accordingly, in certain embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure include at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation. In certain embodiments, the adaptation mutation is a mutation of a viral antigen to a non-human cell. In some embodiments, the non-human cell is a mammalian cell. Any suitable mammalian cell known in the art may be used, including, without limitation, VERO cells (from monkey kidneys), LLC-MK2 cells (from monkey kidneys), MDBK cells, MDCK cells, ATCC

CCL34 MDCK (NBL2) cells, MDCK 33016 (deposit number DSM ACC 2219 as described in WO97/37001) cells, BHK21-F cells, HKCC cells, or Chinese hamster ovary cells (CHO cells). In some embodiments, the non-human cell is a monkey cell. In some embodiments, the monkey cell is from a Vero cell line. Any suitable Vero cell line known in the art may be used, including, without limitation, WHO Vero 10-87, ATCC CCL-81, Vero 76 (ATCC Accession No. CRL-1587), or Vero C1008 (ATCC Accession No. CRL-1586). In some embodiments, the Vero cell line is WHO Vero 10-87.

[00110] Zika viruses possess a positive sense, single-stranded RNA genome encoding both structural and nonstructural polypeptides. The genome also contains non-coding sequences at both the 5'- and 3'- terminal regions that play a role in virus replication. Structural polypeptides encoded by these viruses include, without limitation, capsid (C), precursor membrane (prM), and envelope (E). Non-structural (NS) polypeptides encoded by these viruses include, without limitation, NS1, NS2A, NS2B, NS3, NS4A, NS4B, and NS5.

[00111] In certain embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure may contain at least one (e.g., at least one, at least two, at least three, at least four, at least five, at least six, at least seven, at least eight, at least nine, at least 10, at least 11, at least 12, at least 13, at least 14, at least 15, at least 16, at least 17, at least 18, at least 19, at least 20, etc.) non-human cell adaptation mutations within one or more (e.g., one or more, two or more, three or more, four or more, five or more, six or more, seven or more, eight or more, nine or more, or all ten) viral antigens/polypeptides, including, without limitation, C, prM, E, NS1, NS2A, NS2B, NS3, NS4A, NS4B, and NS5. In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure include at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation in Zika virus Non-structural protein 1 (NS1). In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure include whole, inactivated virus that may contain at least one (e.g., at least one, at least two, at least three, at least four, at least five, at least six, at least seven, at least eight, at least nine, at least 10, etc.) non-human cell adaptation mutations. In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure include whole, inactivated virus that may contain at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation in Zika virus Non-structural protein 1 (NS1).

[00112] In some embodiments, the at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation is within the NS1 polypeptide. The amino acid sequence of a wild-type, non-cell adapted NS1 polypeptide from an exemplary Zika virus strain is set forth as:

[00113] DVGCSVDFSKKETRCGTGVFVYNDVEAWRDRYKYHPDSPRRLAAA
 VKQAWEDGICGISSVSRMENIMWRSVEGELNAILEENGVLTVVVGSVKNPMWR
 GPQRLPVPVNELPHGWKAWGKSYFVRAAKTNNFVVDGDTLKECPLKHRAWNSF
 LVEDHGFGVFHTSVWLKVREDYSLECDPAVIGTAVKGKEAVHSDLGYWIESEKND
 TWRLKRAHLIEMKTCEWPKSHTLWTDGIEESDLIIPKSLAGPLSHHNTREGYRTQM
 KGPWHSEELIRFEECPGTVHVEETCGTRGPSLRSTTASGRVIEEWCCRECTMPPL
 SFRAKDGCWYGMEIRPRKEPESNLVRSMVT (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[00114] In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence of the NS1 polypeptide has at least 80%, at least 81%, at least 82%, at least 83%, at least 84%, at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100% sequence identity with the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence of the NS1 polypeptide may be from the amino acid sequence encoded by the sequence of GenBank Accession number KU501215.1 (SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence of the NS1 polypeptide may be amino acid positions 795 to 1145 of the amino acid sequence encoded by the sequence of GenBank Accession number KU501215.1. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence of the NS1 polypeptide may be from Zika virus strain PRVABC59.

[00115] “Sequence Identity”, “% sequence identity”, “% identity”, “% identical” or “sequence alignment” means a comparison of a first amino acid sequence to a second amino acid sequence, or a comparison of a first nucleic acid sequence to a second nucleic acid sequence and is calculated as a percentage based on the comparison. The result of this calculation can be described as “percent identical” or “percent ID.”

[00116] Generally, a sequence alignment can be used to calculate the sequence identity by one of two different approaches. In the first approach, both mismatches at a single position and gaps at a single position are counted as non-identical positions in final sequence identity calculation. In the second approach, mismatches at a single position are counted as non-identical positions in final sequence identity calculation; however, gaps at a single position are not counted (ignored) as non-identical positions in final sequence identity calculation. In other words, in the second approach gaps are ignored in final sequence identity calculation. The difference between these two approaches, i.e. counting

gaps as non-identical positions vs ignoring gaps, at a single position can lead to variability in the sequence identity value between two sequences.

[00117] A sequence identity is determined by a program, which produces an alignment, and calculates identity counting both mismatches at a single position and gaps at a single position as non-identical positions in final sequence identity calculation. For example program Needle (EMBOS), which has implemented the algorithm of Needleman and Wunsch (Needleman and Wunsch, 1970, J. Mol. Biol. 48: 443-453), and which calculates sequence identity per default settings by first producing an alignment between a first sequence and a second sequence, then counting the number of identical positions over the length of the alignment, then dividing the number of identical residues by the length of an alignment, then multiplying this number by 100 to generate the % sequence identity [% sequence identity = (# of Identical residues / length of alignment) x 100)].

[00118] A sequence identity can be calculated from a pairwise alignment showing both sequences over the full length, so showing the first sequence and the second sequence in their full length ("Global sequence identity"). For example, program Needle (EMBOSS) produces such alignments; % sequence identity = (# of identical residues / length of alignment) x 100)].

[00119] A sequence identity can be calculated from a pairwise alignment showing only a local region of the first sequence or the second sequence ("Local Identity"). For example, program Blast (NCBI) produces such alignments; % sequence identity = (# of Identical residues / length of alignment) x 100)].

[00120] The sequence alignment is preferably generated by using the algorithm of Needleman and Wunsch (J. Mol. Biol. (1979) 48, p. 443-453). Preferably, the program "NEEDLE" (The European Molecular Biology Open Software Suite (EMBOSS)) is used with the programs default parameter (gap open=10.0, gap extend=0.5 and matrix=EBLOSUM62 for proteins and matrix=EDNAFULL for nucleotides). Then, a sequence identity can be calculated from the alignment showing both sequences over the full length, so showing the first sequence and the second sequence in their full length ("Global sequence identity"). For example: % sequence identity = (# of identical residues / length of alignment) x 100)].

[00121] In some embodiments, the at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation occurs at one or more amino acid positions within the NS1 polypeptide. In some embodiments, the mutation occurs at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1 when aligned to SEQ ID NO: 1 using a pairwise alignment algorithm. In some embodiments, the mutation at position 98 is a tryptophan to glycine substitution.

[00122] In some embodiments, the Zika virus comprises a mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1. A position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1 can be determined by aligning the amino acid sequence of an NS-1 protein to SEQ ID NO: 1 using a pairwise alignment algorithm. Amino acid residues in viruses other than Zika virus which correspond to the tryptophan residue at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1 are shown in Figure 7 of the present application where these residues are boxed. In some embodiments, the mutation at position 98 is a tryptophan to glycine substitution. In some embodiments, the mutation at position 98 is a tryptophan to glycine substitution at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

[00123] In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure contain at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation within the NS1 protein, and contain at least one mutation (e.g., at least one adaptation mutation) within one or more of the C, prM, E, NS1, NS2A, NS2B, NS3, NS4A, NS4B, and NS5 viral proteins. In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure contain one or more non-human cell adaptation mutations within the NS1 protein, and do not contain at least one mutation (e.g., at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation) within one or more of the C, prM, E, NS1, NS2A, NS2B, NS3, NS4A, NS4B, and NS5 viral proteins. In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure contain at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation within the NS1 protein and do not contain at least one mutation (e.g., at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation) within the envelope protein E. In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure include whole, inactivated virus that contains at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation in Zika virus Non-structural protein 1 (NS1), and do not include a mutation in Zika virus envelope protein E (Env). In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure contain a mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and do not contain any mutation within the envelope protein E. In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure include whole, inactivated virus that

contains a mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and do not include a mutation in Zika virus envelope protein E (Env). In some embodiments, whole, inactivated virus contains at least one mutation in Zika virus Non-structural protein 1 (NS1) and the sequence encoding the envelope protein is the same as the corresponding sequence in SEQ ID No. 2. In some embodiments, the Zika virus contains a mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and the sequence encoding the envelope protein is the same as the corresponding sequence in SEQ ID No. 2. In some embodiments, whole, inactivated Zika virus contains a mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and the sequence encoding the envelope protein is the same as the corresponding sequence in SEQ ID No. 2.

[00124] In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure, such as Zika virus, contain at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation that enhances genetic stability as compared to a Zika virus lacking the at least one adaptation mutation. In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure, such as Zika virus, contain at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation that enhances viral replication as compared to a Zika virus lacking the at least one adaptation mutation. In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure, such as Zika virus, contain at least one non-human cell adaptation mutation reduces or otherwise inhibits the occurrence of undesirable mutations, such as within the envelope protein E (Env) of the Zika virus.

[00125] In the above embodiments of the present disclosure, an exemplary pairwise alignment algorithm is the Needleman-Wunsch global alignment algorithm, using default parameters (e.g. with Gap opening penalty=10.0, and with Gap extension penalty=0.5, using the EBLOSUM62 scoring matrix). This algorithm is conveniently implemented in the needle tool in the EMBOSS package.

[00126] In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure from a Zika virus may be used in any of the vaccines and immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure. For example, the antigens of the present disclosure may be useful for treating or preventing Zika virus infection in a subject in need thereof and/or inducing an immune response, such as a protective immune response, against Zika virus in a subject in need thereof.

Production of Vaccines and Immunogenic Compositions

[00127] Other aspects of the present disclosure relate to Zika virus vaccines and immunogenic compositions containing one or more antigens of the present disclosure from at least one Zika virus. Such vaccines and immunogenic compositions may be useful, for example, for treating or preventing Zika virus infection in a subject in need thereof and/or inducing an immune response, such as a protective immune response, against Zika virus in a subject in need thereof. Vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure may include, without limitation, purified viruses, inactivated viruses, attenuated viruses, recombinant viruses, purified and/or recombinant viral proteins for subunit vaccines. Vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure may further include a purified antigen vaccine or immunogenic composition, a subunit vaccine or immunogenic composition, an inactivated whole virus vaccine or immunogenic composition, or a purified inactivated whole virus vaccine or immunogenic composition or an attenuated virus vaccine or immunogenic composition.

[00128] Production of vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure includes growth of Zika virus, with antigens being prepared from the grown virus. Growth in cell culture is a method for preparing vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure. Cells for viral growth may be cultured in suspension or in adherent conditions.

[00129] Cell lines suitable for growth of the at least one virus of the present disclosure are preferably of mammalian origin, and include, but are not limited to: insect cells (e.g., mosquito cells as described herein, VERO cells (from monkey kidneys), horse, cow (e.g. MDBK cells), sheep, dog (e.g. MDCK cells from dog kidneys, ATCC CCL34 MDCK (NBL2) or MDCK 33016, deposit number DSM ACC 2219 as described in WO97/37001), cat, and rodent (e.g. hamster cells such as BHK21-F, HKCC cells, or Chinese hamster ovary cells (CHO cells)), and may be obtained from a wide variety of developmental stages, including for example, adult, neonatal, fetal, and embryo. In certain embodiments, the cells are immortalized (e.g. PERC.6 cells, as described in WO 01/38362 and WO 02/40665, and as deposited under ECACC deposit number 96022940). In preferred embodiments, mammalian cells are utilized, and may be selected from and/or derived from one or more of the following non-limiting cell types: fibroblast cells (e.g. dermal, lung), endothelial cells (e.g. aortic, coronary, pulmonary, vascular, dermal microvascular,

umbilical), hepatocytes, keratinocytes, immune cells (e.g. T cell, B cell, macrophage, NK, dendritic), mammary cells (e.g. epithelial), smooth muscle cells (e.g. vascular, aortic, coronary, arterial, uterine, bronchial, cervical, retinal pericytes), melanocytes, neural cells (e.g. astrocytes), prostate cells (e.g. epithelial, smooth muscle), renal cells (e.g. epithelial, mesangial, proximal tubule), skeletal cells (e.g. chondrocyte, osteoclast, osteoblast), muscle cells (e.g. myoblast, skeletal, smooth, bronchial), liver cells, retinoblasts, and stromal cells. WO97/37000 and WO97/37001 describe production of animal cells and cell lines that are capable of growth in suspension and in serum free media and are useful in the production and replication of viruses.

[00130] Culture conditions for the above cell types are known and described in a variety of publications. Alternatively culture medium, supplements, and conditions may be purchased commercially, such as for example, described in the catalog and additional literature of Cambrex Bioproducts (East Rutherford, N.J.).

[00131] In certain embodiments, the cells used in the methods described herein are cultured in serum free and/or protein free media. A medium is referred to as a serum-free medium in the context of the present disclosure in which there are no additives from serum of human or animal origin. Protein-free is understood to mean cultures in which multiplication of the cells occurs with exclusion of proteins, growth factors, other protein additives and non-serum proteins, but can optionally include proteins such as trypsin or other proteases that may be necessary for viral growth. The cells growing in such cultures naturally contain proteins themselves.

[00132] Known serum-free media include Iscove's medium, Ultra-CHO medium (BioWhittaker) or EX-CELL (JRH Bioscience). Ordinary serum-containing media include Eagle's Basal Medium (BME) or Minimum Essential Medium (MEM) (Eagle, Science, 130, 432 (1959)) or Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM or EDM), which are ordinarily used with up to 10% fetal calf serum or similar additives. Optionally, Minimum Essential Medium (MEM) (Eagle, Science, 130, 432 (1959)) or Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM or EDM) may be used without any serum containing supplement. Protein-free media like PF-CHO (JHR Bioscience), chemically-defined media like ProCHO 4CDM (BioWhittaker) or SMIF 7 (Gibco/BRL Life Technologies) and mitogenic peptides like Primactone, Peptibase or HyPep.TM. (all from Quest International) or lactalbumin hydrolysate (Gibco and other manufacturers) are also adequately known in the prior art.

The media additives based on plant hydrolysates have the special advantage that contamination with viruses, mycoplasma or unknown infectious agents can be ruled out.

[00133] Cell culture conditions (temperature, cell density, pH value, etc.) are variable over a very wide range owing to the suitability of the cell line employed according to the present disclosure and can be adapted to the requirements of particular viral strains.

[00134] The method for propagating virus in cultured cells generally includes the steps of inoculating the cultured cells with the strain to be cultured, cultivating the infected cells for a desired time period for virus propagation, such as for example as determined by virus titer or antigen expression (e.g. between 24 and 168 hours after inoculation) and collecting the propagated virus. In some embodiments, the virus is collected via plaque purification. The cultured cells are inoculated with a virus (measured by PFU or TCID₅₀) to cell ratio of 1:500 to 1:1, preferably 1:100 to 1:5. The virus is added to a suspension of the cells or is applied to a monolayer of the cells, and the virus is absorbed on the cells for at least 10 minutes, at least 20 minutes, at least 30 minutes, at least 40 minutes, at least 50 minutes, at least 60 minutes but usually less than 300 minutes at 25°C to 40°C, preferably 28°C to 38°C. The infected cell culture (e.g. monolayers) may be removed either by freeze-thawing or by enzymatic action to increase the viral content of the harvested culture supernatants. The harvested fluids are then either inactivated or stored frozen. Cultured cells may be infected at a multiplicity of infection ("MOI") of about 0.0001 to 10, preferably 0.002 to 5, more preferably to 0.001 to 2. Still more preferably, the cells are infected at an MOI of about 0.01. Infected cells may be harvested from 30 to 60 hours post infection, or 3 to 10 days post infection. In certain preferred embodiments, the cells are harvested 3 to 7 days post infection. More preferably, the cells are harvested 3 to 5 days post infection. In some embodiments, proteases (e.g., trypsin) may be added during cell culture to allow viral release, and the proteases may be added at any suitable stage during the culture. Alternatively, in certain embodiments, the supernatant of infected cell cultures may be harvested and the virus may be isolated or otherwise purified from the supernatant.

[00135] The viral inoculum and the viral culture are preferably free from (i.e. will have been tested for and given a negative result for contamination by) herpes simplex virus, respiratory syncytial virus, parainfluenza virus 3, SARS coronavirus, adenovirus, rhinovirus, reoviruses, polyomaviruses, birnaviruses, circoviruses, and/or parvoviruses [WO2006/027698].

[00136] Where virus has been grown on a cell line then it is standard practice to minimize the amount of residual cell line DNA in the final vaccine, in order to minimize any oncogenic activity of the host cell DNA. Contaminating DNA can be removed during vaccine preparation using standard purification procedures e.g. chromatography, etc. Removal of residual host cell DNA can be enhanced by nuclease treatment e.g. by using a DNase. A convenient method for reducing host cell DNA contamination disclosed in references (Lundblad (2001) *Biotechnology and Applied Biochemistry* 34:195-197, Guidance for Industry: Bioanalytical Method Validation. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Food and Drug Administration Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM). May 2001.) involves a two-step treatment, first using a DNase (e.g. Benzonase), which may be used during viral growth, and then a cationic detergent (e.g. CTAB), which may be used during virion disruption. Removal by β -propiolactone treatment can also be used. In one embodiment, the contaminating DNA is removed by benzonase treatment of the culture supernatant.

Production of Antigens

[00137] Antigens of the present disclosure for use in vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions including, without limitation, purified viruses, inactivated viruses, inactivated whole viruses, attenuated viruses, recombinant viruses, or purified and/or recombinant viral proteins for subunit vaccines to treat and/or prevent Zika virus infection and/or induce an immune response, such as a protective immune response, against Zika virus, may be produced and/or purified or otherwise isolated by any suitable method known in the art. Antigens of the present disclosure may include, without limitation, whole virus, attenuated virus, inactivated virus, inactivated whole viruses, proteins, polypeptides (including active proteins and individual polypeptide epitopes within proteins), glycopolypeptides, lipopolypeptides, peptides, polysaccharides, polysaccharide conjugates, peptide and non-peptide mimics of polysaccharides and other molecules, small molecules, lipids, glycolipids, and carbohydrates produced, derived, purified, and/or otherwise isolated from a Zika virus. For example, suitable antigens may include, without limitation, structural polypeptides such as C, prM, and/or E, and non-structural polypeptides, such as NS1, NS2A, NS2B, NS3, NS4A, NS4B, and/or NS5 from Zika virus.

[00138] In one embodiment, the antigen of the present disclosure is a purified inactivated whole Zika virus.

[00139] Antigen of the present disclosure may be synthesized chemically or enzymatically, produced recombinantly, isolated from a natural source, or a combination of the foregoing. In certain embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure are produced, purified, isolated, and/or derived from at least one Zika virus of the present disclosure. Antigens of the present disclosure may be purified, partially purified, or a crude extract. In some embodiments, antigens of the present disclosure are viruses, such as inactivated viruses, produced as described in the above section entitled “Production of Vaccines and Immunogenic Compositions.”

[00140] In certain embodiments, one or more antigens of the present disclosure may be produced by culturing a non-human cell. Cell lines suitable for production of the one or more antigens of the present disclosure may include insect cells (e.g., any of the mosquito cells described herein). Cell lines suitable for production of the one or more antigens of the present disclosure may also be cells of mammalian origin, and include, but are not limited to: VERO cells (from monkey kidneys), horse, cow (e.g. MDBK cells), sheep, dog (e.g. MDCK cells from dog kidneys, ATCC CCL34 MDCK (NBL2) or MDCK 33016, deposit number DSM ACC 2219 as described in WO97/37001), cat, and rodent (e.g. hamster cells such as BHK21-F, HKCC cells, or Chinese hamster ovary cells (CHO cells)), and may be obtained from a wide variety of developmental stages, including for example, adult, neonatal, fetal, and embryo. In certain embodiments, the cells are immortalized (e.g. PERC.6 cells, as described in WO01/38362 and WO02/40665, and as deposited under ECACC deposit number 96022940). In preferred embodiments, mammalian cells are utilized, and may be selected from and/or derived from one or more of the following non-limiting cell types: fibroblast cells (e.g. dermal, lung), endothelial cells (e.g. aortic, coronary, pulmonary, vascular, dermal microvascular, umbilical), hepatocytes, keratinocytes, immune cells (e.g. T cell, B cell, macrophage, NK, dendritic), mammary cells (e.g. epithelial), smooth muscle cells (e.g. vascular, aortic, coronary, arterial, uterine, bronchial, cervical, retinal pericytes), melanocytes, neural cells (e.g. astrocytes), prostate cells (e.g. epithelial, smooth muscle), renal cells (e.g. epithelial, mesangial, proximal tubule), skeletal cells (e.g. chondrocyte, osteoclast, osteoblast), muscle cells (e.g. myoblast, skeletal, smooth, bronchial), liver cells, retinoblasts, and stromal cells. WO97/37000 and WO97/37001 describe production of animal cells and cell lines that capable of growth in suspension and in serum free media and are useful in the production of viral antigens. In certain embodiments, the non-human cell is cultured in serum-free media.

[00141] Polypeptide antigens may be isolated from natural sources using standard methods of protein purification known in the art, including, but not limited to, liquid chromatography (e.g., high performance liquid chromatography, fast protein liquid chromatography, etc.), size exclusion chromatography, gel electrophoresis (including one-dimensional gel electrophoresis, two-dimensional gel electrophoresis), affinity chromatography, or other purification technique. In many embodiments, the antigen is a purified antigen, e.g., from about 50% to about 75% pure, from about 75% to about 85% pure, from about 85% to about 90% pure, from about 90% to about 95% pure, from about 95% to about 98% pure, from about 98% to about 99% pure, or greater than 99% pure. The purity of the purified antigen can be determined by size exclusion chromatography and the %-purity corresponds to the % of the main peak to the total area under the curve. The main peak of the purified antigen in the size exclusion chromatography may be more than 85% of the total area under the curve in the size exclusion chromatography, or more than 90% of the total area under the curve in the size exclusion chromatography, or more than 95%, or more than 98% or more than 99% of the total area under the curve in the size exclusion chromatography. Such results are considered as "purified" antigen within the meaning of this invention.

[00142] In accordance with the above disclosure regarding purity, the term "purified Zika virus" means that the main peak of the purified Zika virus in the size exclusion chromatography is more than 85% of the total area under the curve in the size exclusion chromatography, or more than 90% of the total area under the curve in the size exclusion chromatography, or more than 95%, more than 98% or more than 99% of the total area under the curve in the size exclusion chromatography.

[00143] In accordance with the above disclosure regarding purity, the term "purified inactivated whole Zika virus" means that the main peak of the purified inactivated whole Zika virus in the size exclusion chromatography is more than 85% of the total area under the curve in the size exclusion chromatography, or more than 90% of the total area under the curve in the size exclusion chromatography, or more than 95%, more than 98% or more than 99% of the total area under the curve in the size exclusion chromatography.

[00144] One may employ solid phase peptide synthesis techniques, where such techniques are known to those of skill in the art. See Jones, *The Chemical Synthesis of Peptides* (Clarendon Press, Oxford) (1994). Generally, in such methods a peptide is

produced through the sequential addition of activated monomeric units to a solid phase bound growing peptide chain.

[00145] Well-established recombinant DNA techniques can be employed for production of polypeptides, where, e.g., an expression construct comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide is introduced into an appropriate host cell (e.g., a eukaryotic host cell grown as a unicellular entity in in vitro cell culture, e.g., a yeast cell, an insect cell, a mammalian cell, etc.) or a prokaryotic cell (e.g., grown in in vitro cell culture), generating a genetically modified host cell; under appropriate culture conditions, the protein is produced by the genetically modified host cell.

[00146] Besides killed and attenuated virus immunogenic compositions, one can use a subunit immunogenic composition or other type of immunogenic composition which presents to the animal the antigenic components of Zika virus. The antigenic component may be a protein, glycoprotein, lipid-conjugated protein or glycoprotein, a modified lipid moiety, or other viral component which, when injected into a human, stimulates an immune response in the human such that the human develops protective immunity against Zika virus. For a subunit immunogenic composition, the virus can be cultured on mammalian cells, as described above. The cell culture can be homogenized and an immunogenic composition can be isolated by passage of the cell culture homogenate over the appropriate column or through the appropriate pore size filter or via centrifugation of the cell culture homogenate.

[00147] If the antigenic component is a protein, then one can isolate the nucleic acid which encodes that protein and generate an immunogenic composition that contains that isolated nucleic acid. The nucleic acid encoding the antigenic component can be placed on a plasmid downstream of a signal sequence of a eukaryotic promoter. That plasmid can contain one or more selectable markers and be transfected into an attenuated prokaryotic organism, such as *Salmonella* spp., *Shigella* spp., or other suitable bacteria. The bacteria can then be administered to the human so that the human can generate a protective immune response to the antigenic component. Alternatively, the nucleic acid encoding the antigenic component can be placed downstream of a prokaryotic promoter, have one or more selectable markers, and be transfected into an attenuated prokaryotic organism such as *Salmonella* spp., *Shigella* spp., or other suitable bacteria. The bacteria can then be

administered to the eukaryotic subject for which immune response to the antigen of interest is desired. See, for example, U.S. Pat. No. 6,500,419.

[00148] For a subunit immunogenic composition, the nucleic acid encoding a proteinaceous antigenic component of a Zika virus can be cloned into a plasmid such as those described in International Patent Application Publication Number WO 00/32047 (Galen) and International Patent Application Publication Number WO 02/083890 (Galen). Then the plasmid can be transfected into bacteria and the bacteria can produce the desired antigenic protein. One can isolate and purify the desired antigenic protein by a variety of methods described in both patent applications.

Virus Inactivation

[00149] Certain aspects of the present disclosure relate to Zika virus vaccines and immunogenic compositions containing one or more antigens from a Zika virus. Vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure may include a purified virus, a whole virus, a recombinant virus, a live attenuated whole virus or, preferably, an inactivated whole virus, or subunits, polypeptides, and/or antigens from an inactivated virus. As such, certain embodiments of the present disclosure relate to Zika virus vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions containing one or more antigens from at least one inactivated Zika virus.

[00150] Methods of inactivating or killing viruses to destroy their ability to infect mammalian cells but do not destroy the structure of the virus are known in the art. Such methods include both chemical and physical means. Suitable means for inactivating a virus include, without limitation, treatment with an effective amount of one or more agents selected from detergents, formalin (also referred to herein as “formaldehyde”), beta-propiolactone (BPL), binary ethylamine (BEI), acetyl ethyleneimine, heat, electromagnetic radiation, x-ray radiation, gamma radiation, ultraviolet radiation (UV radiation), UV-A radiation, UV-B radiation, UV-C radiation, methylene blue, psoralen, carboxyfullerene (C60) and any combination of any thereof.

[00151] In certain embodiments of the present disclosure the at least one virus is chemically inactivated. Agents for chemical inactivation and methods of chemical inactivation are well-known in the art and described herein. In some embodiments, the at least one virus is chemically inactivated with one or more of BPL, formalin, or BEI. In

certain embodiments where the at least one virus is chemically inactivated with BPL, the virus may contain one or more modifications. In some embodiments, the one or more modifications may include a modified nucleic acid. In some embodiments, the modified nucleic acid is an alkylated nucleic acid. In other embodiments, the one or more modifications may include a modified polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modified polypeptide contains a modified amino acid residue including one or more of a modified cysteine, methionine, histidine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, tyrosine, lysine, serine, and threonine.

[00152] In certain embodiments where the at least one virus is chemically inactivated with formalin, the inactivated virus may contain one or more modifications. In some embodiments, the one or more modifications may include a modified polypeptide. In some embodiments, the one or more modifications may include a cross-linked polypeptide. In some embodiments where the at least one virus is chemically inactivated with formalin, the vaccine or immunogenic composition further includes formalin. In certain embodiments where the at least one virus is chemically inactivated with BEI, the virus may contain one or more modifications. In some embodiments, the one or more modifications may include a modified nucleic acid. In some embodiments, the modified nucleic acid is an alkylated nucleic acid.

[00153] In some embodiments where the at least one virus is chemically inactivated with formalin, any residual unreacted formalin may be neutralized with sodium metabisulfite, may be dialyzed out, and/or may be buffer exchanged to remove the residual unreacted formalin. In some embodiments, the sodium metabisulfite is added in excess. In some embodiments, the solutions may be mixed using a mixer, such as an in-line static mixer, and subsequently filtered or further purified (e.g., using a cross flow filtrations system).

[00154] Certain embodiments of the present disclosure relate to a method for inactivating a Zika virus preparation. In some embodiments, the method involves (a) isolating, followed by purification the Zika virus preparation from one or more non-human cells that are used to produce the virus preparation and (b) treating the virus preparation with an effective amount of formalin. In certain embodiments, treating with an effective amount of formalin includes, without limitation, treating with formalin in an amount that ranges from about 0.001% v/v to about 3.0% v/v. For example, treating with an effective

amount of formalin may include treating with formalin in an amount that ranges from about 0.001% to about 3.0% v/v, about 0.005% to about 2.0% v/v, or about 0.01% to about 1.0% v/v, or in an amount of about 0.001%, about 0.0025%, about 0.005%, about 0.0075%, about 0.01%, about 0.02%, about 0.03%, about 0.04%, about 0.05%, about 0.06%, about 0.07%, about 0.08%, about 0.09%, about 0.1%, about 0.2%, about 0.3%, about 0.4%, about 0.5%, about 0.6%, about 0.7%, about 0.8%, about 0.9%, about 1.0%, about 1.25%, about 1.5%, about 1.75%, about 2.0%, about 2.25%, about 2.5%, about 2.75%, or about 3.0% v/v.

[00155] In certain embodiments of the method, the Zika virus preparation is treated with formalin at a temperature that ranges from about 2°C to about 42°C. For example, the Zika virus preparation may be treated with formalin at a temperature that ranges from about 2°C to about 42°C, about 2°C to about 8°C, about 15°C to about 37°C, about 17°C to about 27°C, about 20°C to about 25°C, or at a temperature of about 2°C, about 4°C, about 8°C, about 10°C, about 15°C, about 17°C, about 18°C, about 19°C, about 20°C, about 21°C, about 22°C, about 23°C, about 24°C, about 25°C, about 26°C, about 27°C, about 28°C, about 29°C, about 30°C, about 37°C, or about 42°C. In some embodiments, the Zika virus preparation is treated with formalin at room temperature.

[00156] In some embodiments, the Zika virus preparation is treated with formalin for at least about 1 day. For example, the Zika virus preparation may be treated with formalin for at least about 1 day, at least about 2 days, at least about 3 days, at least about 4 days, at least about 5 days, at least about 6 days, and e.g. for no more than 15 days, e.g. from 5 to 15 days. For example, the Zika virus preparation may be treated with formalin for at least about 7 days, at least about 8 days, at least about 9 days, at least about 10 days, at least about 11 days, at least about 12 days, at least about 13 days, at least about 14 days, at least about 15 days, at least about 16 days, at least about 17 days, at least about 18 days, at least about 19 days, at least about 20 days, at least about 21 days, at least about 22 days, at least about 23 days, at least about 24 days, at least about 25 days, at least about 26 days, at least about 27 days, at least about 28 days, at least about 29 days, at least about 30 days, or more. In some embodiments, the Zika virus preparation is treated with formalin for at least about 9 days. In some embodiments, the Zika virus preparation is treated with formalin for at least about 11 days. In some embodiments, the Zika virus preparation is treated with formalin for at least about 14 days. In some embodiments, the Zika virus preparation is treated with

formalin for at least about 20 days. In some embodiments, the Zika virus preparation is treated with formalin for at least about 30 days.

[00157] In some embodiments, the method further involves neutralizing unreacted formalin with an effective amount of sodium metabisulfite. In some embodiments, the effective amount of sodium metabisulfite ranges from about 0.01 mM to about 100 mM. For example, the sodium metabisulfite may be added at an effective concentration of from about 0.01 mM to about 100 mM, from about 0.1 mM to about 50 mM, from about 0.5 mM to about 20mM, or from about 1 mM to about 10 mM, or at a concentration of about 0.01mM, about 0.05mM, about 0.1mM, about 0.25mM, about 0.5mM, about 0.75mM, about 1mM, about 2mM, about 3mM, about 4mM, about 5mM, about 6mM, about 7mM, about 8mM, about 9mM, about 10mM, about 20mM, about 30mM about 40mM, about 50mM, about 75mM or about 100mM. In some embodiments, the formalin is neutralized with about 2mM sodium metabisulfite.

[00158] In some embodiments, the method involves (a) isolating followed by purification the Zika virus preparation from one or more non-human cells that are used to produce the virus preparation; (b) treating the virus preparation with an effective amount of formalin; (c) neutralizing the virus preparation with an effective amount of sodium metabisulfite; and (d) purifying the neutralized virus preparation. Any method of purifying a virus preparation known in the art may be employed, including, without limitation, using cross flow filtration (CFF), multimodal chromatography, size exclusion chromatography, cation exchange chromatography, and/or anion exchange chromatography. In some embodiments, the neutralized virus preparation is purified by cross flow filtration (CFF). In some embodiments, the virus preparation is purified to a high degree in an amount that is about 70%, about 75%, about 80%, about 85%, about 90%, about 91%, about 92%, about 93%, about 94%, about 95% about 96%, about 97%, about 98%, about 99%, or more.

[00159] Certain embodiments of the present disclosure relate thus to Zika virus vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions containing a purified inactivated whole Zika virus. The term "inactivated whole Zika virus" as used herein is intended to comprise a Zika virus which has been treated with an inactivating method such as treatment with an effective amount of formalin. Such a treatment is considered not to destroy the structure of the virus, i.e. do not destroy the secondary, tertiary or quaternary structure and immunogenic epitopes of the virus, but the inactivated Zika virus is no longer able to infect

host cells which can be infected with a Zika virus which has not been inactivated. In one embodiment, the inactivated Zika virus is no longer able to infect VERO cells and exert a cytopathic effect on the VERO cells.

[00160] The method for determining the completeness of inactivation of an arbovirus preparation comprises the steps of:

- (i) inoculating insect cells with an arbovirus preparation which was subjected to an inactivation step and incubating the insect cells for a first period of time, thereby producing an insect cell supernatant;
- (ii) inoculating mammalian cells with the insect cell supernatant produced in (i) and incubating the mammalian cells for a second period of time; and
- (iii) determining whether the virus preparation contains a residual replicating virus that produces a cytopathic effect on the mammalian cells.

Inactivation is considered complete in case no residual replication virus can be detected such as by plaques.

[00161] For the present disclosure the term “inactivated whole Zika virus” thus refers to a Zika virus obtainable from a method wherein the Zika virus is treated with formalin in an amount that ranges from about 0.001% v/v to about 3.0% v/v from 5 to 15 days at a temperature that ranges from about 15°C to about 37°C, in particular 0.02 % v/v formaldehyde for 10 days at 22 °C or in particular 0.01 % v/v formaldehyde for 10 days at 22 °C. The definition is meant to encompass Zika virus obtained from a method wherein the Zika virus is treated with formalin in an amount that ranges from about 0.001% v/v to about 3.0% v/v from 5 to 15 days at a temperature that ranges from about 15°C to about 37°C, in particular 0.02 % v/v formaldehyde for 10 days at 22 °C or in particular 0.01 % v/v formaldehyde for 10 days at 22 °C, but is not to be understood to be limited to those, since other methods may lead to the same inactivated whole Zika virus. In certain such embodiments, however, the Zika virus is obtained from a method wherein the Zika virus is treated with formalin in an amount that ranges from about 0.001% v/v to about 3.0% v/v from 5 to 15 days at a temperature that ranges from about 15°C to about 37°C, in particular 0.02 % v/v formaldehyde for 10 days at 22 °C or in particular 0.01 % v/v formaldehyde for 10 days at 22 °C.

[00162] Alternatively, within the present disclosure “inactivated whole Zika virus” thus refers to a Zika virus that has been tested by the method comprising the steps (i) to (iii) and does not show any plaque formation in step (iii):

- (i) inoculating insect cells with an arbovirus preparation which was subjected to an inactivation step and incubating the insect cells for a first period of time, thereby producing an insect cell supernatant;
- (ii) inoculating mammalian cells with the insect cell supernatant produced in (i) and incubating the mammalian cells for a second period of time; and
- (iii) determining whether the virus preparation contains a residual replicating virus that produces a cytopathic effect on the mammalian cells.

[00163] The term “purified inactivated whole Zika virus” thus refers to a Zika virus obtainable or obtained from a method wherein the Zika virus is treated with formalin in an amount that ranges from about 0.001% v/v to about 3.0% v/v from 5 to 15 days at a temperature that ranges from about 15°C to about 37°C, in particular 0.02 % v/v formaldehyde for 10 days at 22 °C or in particular 0.01 % v/v formaldehyde for 10 days at 22 °C, or alternatively by the above mentioned method for determining the completeness of inactivation and, if required, has been subjected to a purification process. The purified Zika virus has therefore a lower content of host cell proteins such as Vero cell proteins and host cell DNA such as Vero cell DNA than a non-purified Zika virus. The term “purified inactivated whole Zika virus” thus refers to a Zika virus obtainable or obtained from a method wherein the Zika virus is treated with formalin in an amount that ranges from about 0.001% v/v to about 3.0% v/v from 5 to 15 days at a temperature that ranges from about 15°C to about 37°C, in particular 0.02 % v/v formaldehyde for 10 days at 22 °C or in particular 0.01 % v/v formaldehyde for 10 days at 22 °C, or alternatively by the above mentioned method for determining the completeness of inactivation and, provides a main peak of at least 85% of the total area under the curve in the size exclusion chromatography.

[00164] In certain such embodiments the purified inactivated whole Zika virus is furthermore a clonal isolate obtained or obtainable by plaque purification.

[00165] In certain such embodiments the purified inactivated whole Zika virus, which is optionally furthermore a clonal isolate obtained or obtainable by plaque

purification, contains a mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and does not contain any mutation within the envelope protein E. In certain such embodiments the mutation is a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1. In certain such embodiments the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59. In certain such embodiments the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59 comprising the genomic sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2.

[00166] The vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure containing one or more antigens from at least one inactivated Zika virus may be useful for treating or preventing Zika virus infection in a subject in need thereof and/or inducing an immune response, such as a protective immune response, against Zika virus in a subject in need thereof.

Adjuvants

[00167] Other aspects of the present disclosure relate to Zika virus vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions containing one or more antigens from at least one Zika virus described herein in combination with one or more adjuvants. Such adjuvanted vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure may be useful for treating or preventing Zika virus infection in a subject in need thereof and/or inducing an immune response, such as a protective immune response, against Zika virus in a subject in need thereof.

[00168] Various methods of achieving an adjuvant effect for vaccines are known and may be used in conjunction with the Zika virus vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions disclosed herein. General principles and methods are detailed in "The Theory and Practical Application of Adjuvants", 1995, Duncan E. S. Stewart-Tull (ed.), John Wiley & Sons Ltd, ISBN 0-471-95170-6, and also in "Vaccines: New Generation Immunological Adjuvants", 1995, Gregoriadis G et al. (eds.), Plenum Press, New York, ISBN 0-306-45283-9.

[00169] In some embodiments, a Zika virus vaccine or immunogenic composition includes the antigens and an adjuvant. Antigens may be in a mixture with at least one adjuvant, at a weight-based ratio of from about 10:1 to about 10^{10} :1 antigen:adjuvant, e.g., from about 10:1 to about 100:1, from about 100:1 to about 10^3 :1, from about 10^3 :1 to about 10^4 :1, from about 10^4 :1 to about 10^5 :1, from about 10^5 :1 to about 10^6 :1, from about 10^6 :1 to

about $10^7:1$, from about $10^7:1$ to about $10^8:1$, from about $10^8:1$ to about $10^9:1$, or from about $10^9:1$ to about $10^{10}:1$ antigen:adjuvant. One of skill in the art can readily determine the appropriate ratio through information regarding the adjuvant and routine experimentation to determine optimal ratios.

[00170] Exemplary adjuvants may include, but are not limited to, aluminum salts, calcium phosphate, toll-like receptor (TLR) agonists, monophosphoryl lipid A (MLA), MLA derivatives, synthetic lipid A, lipid A mimetics or analogs, cytokines, saponins, muramyl dipeptide (MDP) derivatives, CpG oligos, lipopolysaccharide (LPS) of gram-negative bacteria, polyphosphazenes, emulsions (oil emulsions), chitosan, vitamin D, stearyl or octadecyl tyrosine, virosomes, cochleates, poly(lactide-co-glycolides) (PLG) microparticles, poloxamer particles, microparticles, liposomes, Complete Freund's Adjuvant (CFA), and Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant (IFA). In some embodiments, the adjuvant is an aluminum salt.

[00171] In some embodiments, the adjuvant includes at least one of alum, aluminum phosphate, aluminum hydroxide, potassium aluminum sulfate, and Alhydrogel 85. In some embodiments, aluminum salt adjuvants of the present disclosure have been found to increase adsorption of the antigens of the Zika virus vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure. Accordingly, in some embodiments, at least about 75%, at least about 80%, at least about 85%, at least about 90%, at least about 91%, at least about 92%, at least about 93%, at least about 94%, at least about 95%, at least about 96%, at least about 97%, at least about 98%, at least about 99%, or about 100% of the antigen is adsorbed to the aluminum salt adjuvant.

[00172] In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition includes an aluminum salt adjuvant (e.g., alum) from about 100 μg to about 600 μg , from about 100 μg to about 500 μg , from about 125 μg to about 500 μg , from about 150 μg to about 500 μg , from about 175 μg to about 500 μg , from about 100 μg to about 450 μg , from about 125 μg to about 450 μg , from about 150 μg to about 450 μg , from about 175 μg to about 450 μg , from about 100 μg to about 400 μg , from about 125 μg to about 400 μg , from about 150 μg to about 400 μg , from about 175 μg to about 400 μg , from about 100 μg to about 350 μg , from about 125 μg to about 350 μg , from about 150 μg to about 350 μg , from about 175 μg to about 350 μg , from about 100 μg to about 300 μg , from about 125 μg to about 300 μg , from about 150 μg to about 300 μg , from about 175 μg to about 300 μg , from about 100 μg

to about 250 μ g, from about 125 μ g to about 250 μ g, from about 150 μ g to about 250 μ g, from about 175 μ g to about 250 μ g, from about 100 μ g to about 225 μ g, from about 125 μ g to about 225 μ g, from about 150 μ g to about 225 μ g, from about 175 μ g to about 225 μ g, or about 200 μ g. In some embodiments the vaccine or immunogenic composition includes an aluminum salt adjuvant (e.g., alum such as aluminum hydroxide) at about 100 μ g to about 600 μ g at about 100 μ g to about 300 μ g or about 150 μ g to about 250 μ g or about 200 μ g.

[00173] In some embodiments, the vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions contains a dose of 1 μ g to 15 μ g, or 2 μ g, 5 μ g or 10 μ g of a purified inactivated whole Zika virus such as a Zika virus with a mutation which is a tryptophan to glycine substitution at position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1 or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1 as described herein in combination with one or more adjuvants, such as 100 μ g to about 600 μ g or about 150 μ g to about 250 μ g or about 200 μ g alum, such as aluminum hydroxide.

[00174] In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition contains a dose of 1 μ g to 15 μ g, or 2 μ g, 5 μ g or 10 μ g of a purified inactivated whole Zika virus comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59 in combination with one or more adjuvants, such as 100 μ g to about 600 μ g or about 150 μ g to about 250 μ g or about 200 μ g alum, such as aluminum hydroxide.

[00175] In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition contains a dose of 1 μ g to 15 μ g, or 2 μ g, 5 μ g or 10 μ g of a purified inactivated whole Zika virus comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59 comprising the genomic sequence according to SEQ ID NO:2 in combination with one or more adjuvants, such as 100 μ g to about 600 μ g or about 150 μ g to about 250 μ g or about 200 μ g alum, such as aluminum hydroxide.

[00176] In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition contains a dose of 1 μ g to 15 μ g, or 2 μ g, 5 μ g or 10 μ g of a purified inactivated whole plaque purified Zika virus isolate comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59 comprising the genomic sequence according to SEQ ID NO:2 in

combination with one or more adjuvants, such as 100 µg to about 600µg or about 150µg to about 250µg or about 200 µg alum, such as aluminum hydroxide.

[00177] Certain embodiments of the present disclosure include a method for preparing an adjuvanted Zika virus vaccine or immunogenic composition, which involves (a) mixing the vaccine or immunogenic composition with an aluminum salt adjuvant, with the vaccine or immunogenic composition including one or more antigens from at least one Zika virus described herein and (b) incubating the mixture under suitable conditions for a period of time that ranges from about 1 hour to about 24 hours (e.g., about 16 hours to about 24 hours), with at least about 75%, at least about 80%, at least about 85%, at least about 90%, at least about 91%, at least about 92%, at least about 93%, at least about 94%, at least about 95%, at least about 96%, at least about 97%, at least about 98%, at least about 99%, or about 100% of the antigen adsorbed to the aluminum salt adjuvant. In certain embodiments of the method, the at least one Zika virus is a Zika virus comprising a non-human cell adaptation mutation (e.g., a non-human cell adaptation mutation in protein NS1 such as a Trp98Gly mutation).

[00178] In some embodiments of the method, the mixture is incubated at a temperature that ranges from about 2°C to about 8°C. In some embodiments of the method, the mixture is incubated under constant mixing using any suitable mixer known in the art. In some embodiments of the method, the mixture is incubated at pH that ranges in value from about 6.5 to about 8.5, from about 6.5 to about 8, from about 6.8 to about 7.8, from about 6.9 to about 7.6, from about 7 to about 7.5, from about 6.8 to about 8.5, from about 6.9 to about 8.5, or from about 7 to about 8.5. In certain preferred embodiments, the mixture is incubated at a neutral pH. In some embodiments of the method, the aluminum salt adjuvant is selected from alum, aluminum phosphate, aluminum hydroxide, potassium aluminum sulfate, and Alhydrogel 85.

[00179] Monophosphoryl Lipid A (MLA), a non-toxic derivative of lipid A from *Salmonella*, is a potent TLR-4 agonist that has been developed as a vaccine adjuvant (Evans et al. (2003) *Expert Rev. Vaccines* 2(2): 219-229). In pre-clinical murine studies intranasal MLA has been shown to enhance secretory, as well as systemic, humoral responses (Baldrige et al. (2000) *Vaccine* 18(22): 2416-2425; Yang et al. (2002) *Infect. Immun.* 70(7): 3557-3565). It has also been proven to be safe and effective as a vaccine adjuvant in clinical studies of greater than 120,000 patients (Baldrick et al. (2002) *Regul. Toxicol.*

Pharmacol. 35(3): 398-413; Baldrick et al. (2004) J. Appl. Toxicol. 24(4): 261-268). MLA stimulates the induction of innate immunity through the TLR-4 receptor and is thus capable of eliciting nonspecific immune responses against a wide range of infectious pathogens, including both gram negative and gram positive bacteria, viruses, and parasites (Baldrick et al. (2004) J. Appl. Toxicol. 24(4): 261-268; Persing et al. (2002) Trends Microbiol. 10(10 Suppl): S32-37). Inclusion of MLA in intranasal formulations should provide rapid induction of innate responses, eliciting nonspecific immune responses from viral challenge while enhancing the specific responses generated by the antigenic components of the vaccine.

[00180] Accordingly, in one embodiment, the present disclosure provides a composition comprising monophosphoryl lipid A (MLA), 3 De-O-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A (3D-MLA), or a derivative thereof as an enhancer of adaptive and innate immunity. Chemically 3D-MLA is a mixture of 3 De-O-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A with 4, 5 or 6 acylated chains. A preferred form of 3 De-O-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A is disclosed in European Patent 0 689 454 B1 (SmithKline Beecham Biologicals SA). In another embodiment, the present disclosure provides a composition comprising synthetic lipid A, lipid A mimetics or analogs, such as BioMira's PET Lipid A, or synthetic derivatives designed to function like TLR-4 agonists.

[00181] Additional exemplary adjuvants include, without limitation, polypeptide adjuvants that may be readily added to the antigens described herein by co-expression with the polypeptide components or fusion with the polypeptide components to produce chimeric polypeptides. Bacterial flagellin, the major protein constituent of flagella, is an adjuvant which has received increasing attention as an adjuvant protein because of its recognition by the innate immune system by the toll-like receptor TLR5. Flagellin signaling through TLR5 has effects on both innate and adaptive immune functions by inducing DC maturation and migration as well as activation of macrophages, neutrophils, and intestinal epithelial cells resulting in production of pro-inflammatory mediators.

[00182] TLR5 recognizes a conserved structure within flagellin monomers that is unique to this protein and is required for flagellar function, precluding its mutation in response to immunological pressure. The receptor is sensitive to a 100 fM concentration but does not recognize intact filaments. Flagellar disassembly into monomers is required for binding and stimulation.

[00183] As an adjuvant, flagellin has potent activity for induction of protective responses for heterologous antigens administered either parenterally or intranasally and adjuvant effects for DNA vaccines have also been reported. A Th2 bias is observed when flagellin is employed which would be appropriate for a respiratory virus such as influenza but no evidence for IgE induction in mice or monkeys has been observed. In addition, no local or systemic inflammatory responses have been reported following intranasal or systemic administration in monkeys. The Th2 character of responses elicited following use of flagellin is somewhat surprising since flagellin signals through TLR5 in a MyD88-dependent manner and all other MyD88-dependent signals through TLRs have been shown to result in a Th1 bias. Importantly, pre-existing antibodies to flagellin have no appreciable effect on adjuvant efficacy making it attractive as a multi-use adjuvant.

[00184] A common theme in many recent intranasal vaccine trials is the use of adjuvants and/or delivery systems to improve vaccine efficacy. In one such study an influenza H3 vaccine containing a genetically detoxified *E. coli* heat-labile enterotoxin adjuvant (LT R192G) resulted in heterosubtypic protection against H5 challenge but only following intranasal delivery. Protection was based on the induction of cross neutralizing antibodies and demonstrated important implications for the intranasal route in development of new vaccines.

[00185] Cytokines, colony-stimulating factors (e.g., GM-CSF, CSF, and the like); tumor necrosis factor; interleukin-2, -7, -12, interferons and other like growth factors, may also be used as adjuvants as they may be readily included in the Zika virus vaccines or immunogenic compositions by admixing or fusion with the polypeptide component.

[00186] In some embodiments, the Zika virus vaccine and/or immunogenic compositions disclosed herein may include other adjuvants that act through a Toll-like receptor such as a nucleic acid TLR9 ligand comprising a 5'-TCG-3' sequence; an imidazoquinoline TLR7 ligand; a substituted guanine TLR7/8 ligand; other TLR7 ligands such as Loxoribine, 7-deazadeoxyguanosine, 7-thia-8-oxodeoxyguanosine, Imiquimod (R-837), and Resiquimod (R-848).

[00187] Certain adjuvants facilitate uptake of the vaccine molecules by APCs, such as dendritic cells, and activate these. Non-limiting examples are selected from the group consisting of an immune targeting adjuvant; an immune modulating adjuvant such as a

toxin, a cytokine, and a mycobacterial derivative; an oil formulation; a polymer; a micelle forming adjuvant; a saponin; an immunostimulating complex matrix (ISCOM matrix); a particle; DDA; aluminum adjuvants; DNA adjuvants; MLA; and an encapsulating adjuvant.

[00188] Additional examples of adjuvants include agents such as aluminum salts such as hydroxide or phosphate (alum), commonly used as 0.05 to 0.1 percent solution in buffered saline (see, e.g., Nicklas (1992) *Res. Immunol.* 143:489-493), admixture with synthetic polymers of sugars (e.g. Carbopol®) used as 0.25 percent solution, aggregation of the protein in the vaccine by heat treatment with temperatures ranging between 70° to 101°C for 30 second to 2 minute periods respectively and also aggregation by means of cross-linking agents are possible. Aggregation by reactivation with pepsin treated antibodies (Fab fragments) to albumin, mixture with bacterial cells such as *C. parvum* or endotoxins or lipopolysaccharide components of gram-negative bacteria, emulsion in physiologically acceptable oil vehicles such as mannide mono-oleate (Aracel A) or emulsion with 20 percent solution of a perfluorocarbon (Fluosol-DA) used as a block substitute may also be employed. Admixture with oils such as squalene and IFA may also be used.

[00189] DDA (dimethyldioctadecylammonium bromide) is an interesting candidate for an adjuvant, but also Freund's complete and incomplete adjuvants as well as quillaja saponins such as QuilA and QS21 are interesting. Further possibilities include poly[di(earboxylatophenoxy)phosphazene (PCPP) derivatives of lipopolysaccharides such as monophosphoryl lipid A (MLA), muramyl dipeptide (MDP) and threonyl muramyl dipeptide (tMDP). The lipopolysaccharide based adjuvants may also be used for producing a predominantly Th1-type response including, for example, a combination of monophosphoryl lipid A, such as 3-de-O-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A, together with an aluminum salt.

[00190] Liposome formulations are also known to confer adjuvant effects, and therefore liposome adjuvants may be used in conjunction with the Zika virus vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions.

[00191] Immunostimulating complex matrix type (ISCOM® matrix) adjuvants may also be used with the Zika virus vaccine antigens and immunogenic compositions, especially since it has been shown that this type of adjuvants are capable of up-regulating

MHC Class II expression by APCs. An ISCOM matrix consists of (optionally fractionated) saponins (triterpenoids) from *Quillaja saponaria*, cholesterol, and phospholipid. When admixed with the immunogenic protein such as the Zika virus vaccine or immunogenic composition antigens, the resulting particulate formulation is what is known as an ISCOM particle where the saponin may constitute 60-70% w/w, the cholesterol and phospholipid 10-15% w/w, and the protein 10-15% w/w. Details relating to composition and use of immunostimulating complexes can for example be found in the above-mentioned textbooks dealing with adjuvants, but also Morein B et al. (1995) Clin. Immunother. 3: 461-475 as well as Barr I G and Mitchell G F (1996) Immunol. and Cell Biol. 74: 8-25 provide useful instructions for the preparation of complete immunostimulating complexes.

[00192] The saponins, whether or not in the form of iscoms, that may be used in the adjuvant combinations with the Zika virus vaccines and immunogenic compositions disclosed herein include those derived from the bark of *Quillaja Saponaria* Molina, termed Quil A, and fractions thereof, described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,057,540 and "Saponins as vaccine adjuvants", Kensil, C. R. (1996) Crit Rev Ther Drug Carrier Syst 12 (1-2):1-55; and EP 0 362 279 B1. Exemplary fractions of Quil A are QS21, QS7, and QS17.

[00193] β -Escin is another hemolytic saponins for use in the adjuvant compositions of the Zika virus vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions. Escin is described in the Merck index (12th ed: entry 3737) as a mixture of saponins occurring in the seed of the horse chestnut tree, Lat: *Aesculus hippocastanum*. Its isolation is described by chromatography and purification (Fiedler, *Arzneimittel-Forsch.* 4, 213 (1953)), and by ion-exchange resins (Erbring et al., U.S. Pat. No. 3,238,190). Fractions of escin have been purified and shown to be biologically active (Yoshikawa M, et al. (*Chem Pharm Bull* (Tokyo) 1996 August; 44(8):1454-1464)). β -escin is also known as aescin.

[00194] Another hemolytic saponin for use in the Zika virus vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions is Digitonin. Digitonin is described in the Merck index (12th Edition, entry 3204) as a saponin, being derived from the seeds of *Digitalis purpurea* and purified according to the procedure described Gisvold et al. (1934) *J. Am. Pharm. Assoc.* 23: 664; and Ruhenstroth-Bauer (1955) *Physiol. Chem.*, 301, 621. Its use is described as being a clinical reagent for cholesterol determination.

[00195] Another interesting possibility of achieving adjuvant effect is to employ the technique described in Gosselin et al., 1992. In brief, the presentation of a relevant antigen such as an antigen in a Zika virus vaccine and/or immunogenic composition of the present disclosure can be enhanced by conjugating the antigen to antibodies (or antigen binding antibody fragments) against the FC receptors on monocytes/macrophages. Especially conjugates between antigen and anti-FCRI have been demonstrated to enhance immunogenicity for the purposes of vaccination. The antibody may be conjugated to the Zika virus vaccine or immunogenic composition antigens after generation or as a part of the generation including by expressing as a fusion to any one of the polypeptide components of the Zika virus vaccine and/or immunogenic composition antigens. Other possibilities involve the use of the targeting and immune modulating substances (e.g., cytokines). In addition, synthetic inducers of cytokines such as poly I:C may also be used.

[00196] Suitable mycobacterial derivatives may be selected from the group consisting of muramyl dipeptide, complete Freund's adjuvant, RIBI, (Ribi ImmunoChem Research Inc., Hamilton, Mont.) and a diester of trehalose such as TDM and TDE.

[00197] Examples of suitable immune targeting adjuvants include CD40 ligand and CD40 antibodies or specifically binding fragments thereof (cf. the discussion above), mannose, a Fab fragment, and CTLA-4.

[00198] Examples of suitable polymer adjuvants include a carbohydrate such as dextran, PEG, starch, mannan, and mannose; a plastic polymer; and latex such as latex beads.

[00199] Yet another interesting way of modulating an immune response is to include the immunogen (optionally together with adjuvants and pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and vehicles) in a "virtual lymph node" (VLN) (a proprietary medical device developed by ImmunoTherapy, Inc., 360 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017-6501). The VLN (a thin tubular device) mimics the structure and function of a lymph node. Insertion of a VLN under the skin creates a site of sterile inflammation with an upsurge of cytokines and chemokines. T- and B-cells as well as APCs rapidly respond to the danger signals, home to the inflamed site and accumulate inside the porous matrix of the VLN. It has been shown that the necessary antigen dose required to mount an immune response to an antigen is reduced when using the VLN, and that immune protection conferred by

vaccination using a VLN surpassed conventional immunization using Ribi as an adjuvant. The technology is described briefly in Gelber C et al., 1998, "Elicitation of Robust Cellular and Humoral Immune Responses to Small Amounts of Immunogens Using a Novel Medical Device Designated the Virtual Lymph Node", in: "From the Laboratory to the Clinic, Book of Abstracts, Oct. 12-15, 1998, Seascape Resort, Aptos, Calif."

[00200] Oligonucleotides may be used as adjuvants in conjunction with the Zika virus vaccine and/or immunogenic composition antigens and may contain two or more dinucleotide CpG motifs separated by at least three or more or even at least six or more nucleotides. CpG-containing oligonucleotides (in which the CpG dinucleotide is unmethylated) induce a predominantly Th1 response. Such oligonucleotides are well known and are described, for example, in WO 96/02555, WO 99/33488 and U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,008,200 and 5,856,462.

[00201] Such oligonucleotide adjuvants may be deoxynucleotides. In certain embodiments, the nucleotide backbone in the oligonucleotide is phosphorodithioate, or a phosphorothioate bond, although phosphodiester and other nucleotide backbones such as PNA including oligonucleotides with mixed backbone linkages may also be used. Methods for producing phosphorothioate oligonucleotides or phosphorodithioate are described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,666,153, U.S. Pat. No. 5,278,302 and WO 95/26204.

[00202] Exemplary oligonucleotides have the following sequences. The sequences may contain phosphorothioate modified nucleotide backbones:

[00203] (SEQ ID NO: 3) OLIGO 1: TCC ATG ACG TTC CTG ACG TT (CpG 1826);

[00204] (SEQ ID NO: 4) OLIGO 2: TCT CCC AGC GTG CGC CAT (CpG 1758);

[00205] (SEQ ID NO: 5) OLIGO 3: ACC GAT GAC GTC GCC GGT GAC GGC ACC ACG;

[00206] (SEQ ID NO: 6) OLIGO 4: TCG TCG TTT TGT CGT TTT GTC GTT (CpG 2006); and

[00207] (SEQ ID NO: 7) OLIGO 5: TCC ATG ACG TTC CTG ATG CT (CpG 1668)

[00208] Alternative CpG oligonucleotides include the above sequences with inconsequential deletions or additions thereto. The CpG oligonucleotides as adjuvants may be synthesized by any method known in the art (e.g., EP 468520). For example, such oligonucleotides may be synthesized utilizing an automated synthesizer. Such oligonucleotide adjuvants may be between 10-50 bases in length. Another adjuvant system involves the combination of a CpG-containing oligonucleotide and a saponin derivative particularly the combination of CpG and QS21 is disclosed in WO 00/09159.

[00209] Many single or multiphase emulsion systems have been described. One of skill in the art may readily adapt such emulsion systems for use with a Zika virus vaccine and/or immunogenic composition antigens so that the emulsion does not disrupt the antigen's structure. Oil in water emulsion adjuvants per se have been suggested to be useful as adjuvant compositions (EP 399 843B), also combinations of oil in water emulsions and other active agents have been described as adjuvants for vaccines (WO 95/17210; WO 98/56414; WO 99/12565; WO 99/11241). Other oil emulsion adjuvants have been described, such as water in oil emulsions (U.S. Pat. No. 5,422,109; EP 0 480 982 B2) and water in oil in water emulsions (U.S. Pat. No. 5,424,067; EP 0 480 981 B).

[00210] The oil emulsion adjuvants for use with the Zika virus vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions described herein may be natural or synthetic, and may be mineral or organic. Examples of mineral and organic oils will be readily apparent to one skilled in the art.

[00211] In order for any oil in water composition to be suitable for human administration, the oil phase of the emulsion system may include a metabolizable oil. The meaning of the term metabolizable oil is well known in the art. Metabolizable can be defined as "being capable of being transformed by metabolism" (Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary, W.B. Sanders Company, 25th edition (1974)). The oil may be any vegetable oil, fish oil, animal oil or synthetic oil, which is not toxic to the recipient and is capable of being transformed by metabolism. Nuts (such as peanut oil), seeds, and grains are common sources of vegetable oils. Synthetic oils may also be used and can include commercially available oils such as NEOBEE® and others. Squalene (2,6,10,15,19,23-Hexamethyl-2,6,10,14,18,22-tetracosahexaene) is an unsaturated oil which is found in large quantities in shark-liver oil, and in lower quantities in olive oil, wheat germ oil, rice bran oil, and yeast, and may be used with the Zika virus vaccine and/or immunogenic

compositions. Squalene is a metabolizable oil virtue of the fact that it is an intermediate in the biosynthesis of cholesterol (Merck index, 10th Edition, entry no.8619).

[00212] Exemplary oil emulsions are oil in water emulsions, and in particular squalene in water emulsions.

[00213] In addition, the oil emulsion adjuvants for use with the Zika virus vaccine and/or immunogenic compositions may include an antioxidant, such as the oil α -tocopherol (vitamin E, EP 0 382 271 B1).

[00214] WO 95/17210 and WO 99/11241 disclose emulsion adjuvants based on squalene, α -tocopherol, and TWEEN 80 (TM), optionally formulated with the immunostimulants QS21 and/or 3D-MLA. WO 99/12565 discloses an improvement to these squalene emulsions with the addition of a sterol into the oil phase. Additionally, a triglyceride, such as tricaprylin (C27H50O6), may be added to the oil phase in order to stabilize the emulsion (WO 98/56414).

[00215] The size of the oil droplets found within the stable oil in water emulsion may be less than 1 micron, may be in the range of substantially 30-600 nm, substantially around 30-500 nm in diameter, or substantially 150-500 nm in diameter, and in particular about 150 nm in diameter as measured by photon correlation spectroscopy. In this regard, 80% of the oil droplets by number may be within these ranges, more than 90% or more than 95% of the oil droplets by number are within the defined size ranges. The amounts of the components present in oil emulsions are conventionally in the range of from 2 to 10% oil, such as squalene; and when present, from 2 to 10% alpha tocopherol; and from 0.3 to 3% surfactant, such as polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate. The ratio of oil: alpha tocopherol may be equal or less than 1 as this provides a more stable emulsion. SPAN 85 (TM) may also be present at a level of about 1%. In some cases it may be advantageous that the Zika virus vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions disclosed herein will further contain a stabilizer.

[00216] The method of producing oil in water emulsions is well known to one skilled in the art. Commonly, the method includes the step of mixing the oil phase with a surfactant such as a PBS/TWEEN80® solution, followed by homogenization using a homogenizer, it would be clear to one skilled in the art that a method comprising passing the mixture twice through a syringe needle would be suitable for homogenizing small volumes of liquid.

Equally, the emulsification process in microfluidizer (M110S microfluidics machine, maximum of 50 passes, for a period of 2 minutes at maximum pressure input of 6 bar (output pressure of about 850 bar)) could be adapted by one skilled in the art to produce smaller or larger volumes of emulsion. This adaptation could be achieved by routine experimentation comprising the measurement of the resultant emulsion until a preparation was achieved with oil droplets of the required diameter.

[00217] Alternatively the Zika virus vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions may be combined with vaccine vehicles composed of chitosan (as described above) or other polycationic polymers, polylactide and polylactide-coglycolide particles, poly-N-acetyl glucosamine-based polymer matrix, particles composed of polysaccharides or chemically modified polysaccharides, liposomes and lipid-based particles, particles composed of glycerol monoesters, etc. The saponins may also be formulated in the presence of cholesterol to form particulate structures such as liposomes or ISCOMs. Furthermore, the saponins may be formulated together with a polyoxyethylene ether or ester, in either a non-particulate solution or suspension, or in a particulate structure such as a paucilamellar liposome or ISCOM.

[00218] Additional illustrative adjuvants for use in the Zika virus vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions as described herein include SAF (Chiron, Calif., United States), MF-59 (Chiron, see, e.g., Granoff et al. (1997) *Infect Immun.* 65 (5):1710-1715), the SBAS series of adjuvants (e.g., SB-AS2 (an oil-in-water emulsion containing MLA and QS21); SBAS-4 (adjuvant system containing alum and MLA), available from SmithKline Beecham, Rixensart, Belgium), Detox (Enhancyn®) (GlaxoSmithKline), RC-512, RC-522, RC-527, RC-529, RC-544, and RC-560 (GlaxoSmithKline) and other aminoalkyl glucosaminide 4-phosphates (AGPs), such as those described in pending U.S. patent application Ser. Nos. 08/853,826 and 09/074,720.

[00219] Other examples of adjuvants include, but are not limited to, Hunter's TiterMax® adjuvants (CytRx Corp., Norcross, Ga.); Gerbu adjuvants (Gerbu Biotechnik GmbH, Gaiberg, Germany); nitrocellulose (Nilsson and Larsson (1992) *Res. Immunol.* 143:553-557); alum (e.g., aluminum hydroxide, aluminum phosphate) emulsion based formulations including mineral oil, non-mineral oil, water-in-oil or oil-in-water emulsions, such as the Seppic ISA series of Montamide adjuvants (e.g., ISA-51, ISA-57, ISA-720, ISA-151, etc.; Seppic, Paris, France); and PROVAX® (IDEC Pharmaceuticals); OM-174 (a

glucosamine disaccharide related to lipid A); Leishmania elongation factor; non-ionic block copolymers that form micelles such as CRL 1005; and Syntex Adjuvant Formulation. See, e.g., O'Hagan et al. (2001) *Biomol Eng.* 18(3):69-85; and "Vaccine Adjuvants: Preparation Methods and Research Protocols" D. O'Hagan, ed. (2000) Humana Press.

[00220] Other exemplary adjuvants include adjuvant molecules of the general formula: $\text{HO}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n\text{-A-R}$, (I) where, n is 1-50, A is a bond or $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, R is C1-50 alkyl or Phenyl C1-50 alkyl.

[00221] One embodiment consists of a vaccine formulation comprising a polyoxyethylene ether of general formula (I), where n is between 1 and 50, 4-24, or 9; the R component is C1-50, C4-C20 alkyl, or C12 alkyl, and A is a bond. The concentration of the polyoxyethylene ethers should be in the range 0.1-20%, from 0.1-10%, or in the range 0.1-1%. Exemplary polyoxyethylene ethers are selected from the following group: polyoxyethylene-9-lauryl ether, polyoxyethylene-9-stearyl ether, polyoxyethylene-8-stearyl ether, polyoxyethylene-4-lauryl ether, polyoxyethylene-35-lauryl ether, and polyoxyethylene-23-lauryl ether. Polyoxyethylene ethers such as polyoxyethylene lauryl ether are described in the Merck index (12th edition: entry 7717). These adjuvant molecules are described in WO 99/52549.

[00222] The polyoxyethylene ether according to the general formula (I) above may, if desired, be combined with another adjuvant. For example, an adjuvant combination may include the CpG as described above.

[00223] Further examples of suitable pharmaceutically acceptable excipients for use with the Zika virus vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions disclosed herein include water, phosphate buffered saline, isotonic buffer solutions.

Virus purification

[00224] Further aspects of the present disclosure relate to methods of purifying Zika virus. In some embodiments, the method includes inoculating a plurality of cells with an inoculum containing a population of Zika viruses, and obtaining from one or more of the inoculated cells a Zika virus clonal isolate by plaque purification. In some embodiments, the cells are non-human cells (e.g., insect cells, mammalian cells, etc.). In some embodiments, the cells are insect cells (such as any of the mosquito cells/cell lines

described herein). In some embodiments, the cells are mammalian cells (such as any of the mammalian cells/cell lines described herein). In some embodiments, the mammalian cells are monkey cells.

[00225] In some embodiments, the population of Zika virus is heterogeneous (e.g., comprising two or more genotypes). In some embodiments, the population of Zika viruses comprises a Zika virus clonal isolate (e.g., from strain PRVABC59) and/or one or more Zika viruses that have been previously passaged in cell culture. In some embodiments, plaque purification (e.g., as described herein) allows for the substantial and/or complete separation of a (genetically homogenous) clonal isolate from a heterogeneous viral population. In some embodiments, the monkey cells are from a VERO cell line (e.g., VERO 10-87 cells). In some embodiments, the inoculum comprises human serum. In some embodiments, the inoculum comprises one or more adventitious agents (e.g., one or more contamination viruses). In some embodiments, plaque purification (e.g., as described herein) allows for the substantial and/or complete purification of a (genetically homogenous) clonal isolate away from one or more adventitious agents.

[00226] In some embodiments, the methods described for isolating and/or purifying a Zika virus clonal includes one or more (e.g., one or more, two or more, three or more, four or more, five or more, etc.) additional plaque purifications of the Zika virus clonal isolate. In some embodiments, the methods described for isolating and/or purifying a Zika virus clonal isolate includes passaging the Zika virus clonal isolate one or more (e.g., one or more, two or more, three or more, four or more, five or more, etc.) times in cell culture (e.g., in insect cells such as a mosquito cell line and/or in mammalian cells such as a VERO cell line).

[00227] Further aspects of the present disclosure relate to methods of purifying Zika virus for the preparation of a vaccine or immunogenic composition. In some embodiments, the methods include one or more (e.g., one or more, two or more, three or more, four or more, five or more, or six) steps of (in any order, including the following order): performing depth filtration of a sample or preparation containing a Zika virus; buffer exchanging and/or diluting a sample containing a Zika virus (e.g., by cross flow filtration (CFF)) to produce a retentate; binding a sample comprising a Zika virus to an ion exchange membrane (e.g., an anion exchange membrane, a cation exchange membrane) to produce a bound fraction, where the bound fraction comprises the Zika virus, and eluting the bound

fraction from the ion exchange membrane; treating a sample containing a Zika virus with an effective amount of any of the chemical inactivators described herein; neutralizing a sample containing a chemically inactivated Zika virus with sodium metabisulfite; and/or purifying a neutralized sample comprising a chemically inactivated Zika virus (e.g., by cross flow filtration (CFF)). In some embodiments, the method includes the steps of (a) passing a sample containing a Zika virus through a first depth filter to produce a first eluate, where the first eluate contains the Zika virus; (b) buffer exchanging and/or diluting the first eluate by cross flow filtration (CFF) to produce a first retentate, where the first retentate contains the Zika virus; (c) binding the first retentate to an ion exchange membrane to produce a first bound fraction, where the first bound fraction contains the Zika virus, and eluting the first bound fraction from the ion exchange membrane to produce a second eluate, where the second eluate contains the Zika virus; (d) passing the second eluate through a second depth filter to produce a second retentate, wherein the second retentate contains the Zika virus; (e) treating the second retentate with an effective amount of a chemical inactivator; (f) neutralizing the treated second retentate with sodium metabisulfite; and (g) purifying the neutralized second retentate by cross flow filtration (CFF).

[00228] Depth filters may be applied in a cartridge or capsule format, such as with the SUPRACAP™ series of depth filter capsules (Pall Corporation) using a Bio 20 SEITZ® depth filter sheet. Other suitable depth filtration techniques and apparatuses are known in the art and include Sartorius PP3 filters. In some embodiments, the depth filter has a pore size of between about 0.2 μ m and about 3 μ m. In some embodiments, the pore size of the depth filter is less than about any of the following pore sizes (in μ m): 3, 2.8, 2.6, 2.4, 2.2, 2.0, 1.8, 1.6, 1.4, 1.2, 1.0, 0.8, 0.6, and 0.4. In some embodiments, the pore size of the depth filter is greater than about any of the following pore sizes (in μ m): 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1.0, 1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 2.0, 2.2, 2.4, 2.6, or 2.8. That is, the pore size of the depth filter can be any of a range of pore sizes (in μ m) having an upper limit of 3, 2.8, 2.6, 2.4, 2.2, 2.0, 1.8, 1.6, 1.4, 1.2, 1.0, 0.8, 0.6, and 0.4 and an independently selected lower limit of 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1.0, 1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 2.0, 2.2, 2.4, 2.6, or 2.8; wherein the lower limit is less than the upper limit.

[00229] As described herein, cation exchange and anion exchange chromatography may be used in the methods of the present disclosure to purify a Zika virus harvested from a cell of the present disclosure. For example, clarified viral harvest may be basified, loaded

onto an anion exchange membrane, eluted by salt or pH, filtered, and inactivated. This is only an exemplary scheme, and one of skill in the art may readily contemplate variants thereof with substituted, deleted, inserted, or reordered steps.

[00230] Anion and cation exchange chromatography both rely on the attraction of charged macromolecules of interest (e.g., a virus) in a mobile phase to a substrate having an opposite charge. In cation exchange chromatography, the negatively charged substrate or membrane attracts positively charged macromolecules. In anion exchange chromatography, the positively charged substrate or membrane attracts negatively charged macromolecules. Once macromolecules are bound or loaded onto the substrate, they may be eluted in linear or step-wise fashion from the substrate in a manner dependent on their characteristics, thereby enacting a separation of differently charged molecules. This principle may be used to purify viruses from other macromolecules. Elution may be effected by varying pH or salt content of the mobile phase buffer. Elution may be gradient or step-wise. As described herein, elution may be effected using a change in pH of the mobile phase or by using a change in ionic strength of the mobile phase (e.g., through addition of a salt). A variety of salts are used for elution, including without limitation sodium chloride, potassium chloride, sodium sulphate, potassium sulphate, ammonium sulphate, sodium acetate, potassium phosphate, calcium chloride, and magnesium chloride. In certain embodiments, the salt is NaCl. A variety of suitable buffers are known in the art and described herein. Viral purification methods using ion exchange chromatography are also generally known; see, e.g., purification of influenza virus available online at www.pall.com/pdfs/Biopharmaceuticals/MustangQXT_AcroPrep_USD2916.pdf.

[00231] A variety of devices known in the art are suitable for cation exchange chromatography (optionally including filtration), such as the Mustang® S system (Pall Corporation), which uses a cation exchange membrane with a 0.65µm pore size. A variety of functional groups are used for cation exchange membranes, including without limitation pendant sulfonic functional groups in a cross-linked, polymeric coating. A variety of buffers may be used to bind an eluate containing a Zika virus of the present disclosure to a cation exchange membrane. Exemplary buffers include, without limitation, citrate and phosphate buffers (additional buffers are described infra). In some embodiments, a buffer used in cation exchange chromatography (e.g., in loading and/or elution) contains polysorbate (e.g., TWEEN®-80 at 0.05%, 0.1%, 0.25%, or 0.5%).

[00232] A variety of devices known in the art are suitable for anion exchange chromatography (optionally including filtration), such as the Mustang® Q system (Pall Corporation), which uses an anion exchange membrane with a 0.8µm pore size. Another suitable anion exchange membrane is SartobindQ IEXNano. A variety of functional groups are used for anion exchange membranes, including without limitation pendant quaternary amine functional groups in a cross-linked, polymeric coating. A variety of buffers may be used to bind an eluate containing a Zika virus of the present disclosure to an anion exchange membrane. Exemplary buffers include, without limitation, phosphate buffer (additional buffers are described infra). In some embodiments, a buffer used in anion exchange chromatography (e.g., in loading and/or elution) contains polysorbate (e.g., TWEEN®-80 at 0.05%, 0.1%, 0.25%, or 0.5%). In some embodiments, the virus is eluted by step elution, e.g. using 250 mM NaCl, 500 mM NaCl and 750 mM NaCl.

Formulations and dose of Vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions

[00233] Further aspects of the present disclosure relate to formulations of vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure containing one or more antigens from a Zika virus described herein.

[00234] Such vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure containing one or more antigens from a Zika virus described herein may be useful for treating or preventing Zika virus infection in a subject in need thereof and/or inducing an immune response, such as a protective immune response, against Zika virus in a subject in need thereof.

[00235] Typically, vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure are prepared as injectables either as liquid solutions or suspensions; solid forms suitable for solution in, or suspension in, liquid prior to injection may also be prepared. Such preparations may also be emulsified or produced as a dry powder. The active immunogenic ingredient is often mixed with excipients which are pharmaceutically acceptable and compatible with the active ingredient. Suitable excipients are, for example, water, saline, dextrose, sucrose, glycerol, ethanol, or the like, and combinations thereof. In addition, if desired, the vaccine or immunogenic composition may contain auxiliary substances such as wetting or emulsifying agents, pH buffering agents, or adjuvants which enhance the effectiveness of the vaccine or immunogenic composition.

[00236] Vaccines or immunogenic compositions may be conventionally administered parenterally, by injection, for example, either subcutaneously, transcutaneously, intradermally, subdermally or intramuscularly. In certain embodiments the composition is administered intramuscular or subcutaneously. Additional formulations which are suitable for other modes of administration include suppositories and, in some cases, oral, peroral, intranasal, buccal, sublingual, intraperitoneal, intravaginal, anal and intracranial formulations. For suppositories, traditional binders and carriers may include, for example, polyalkylene glycols or triglycerides; such suppositories may be formed from mixtures containing the active ingredient in the range of 0.5% to 10%, or even 1-2%. In certain embodiments, a low melting wax, such as a mixture of fatty acid glycerides or cocoa butter is first melted and the Zika virus vaccine and/or immunogenic composition described herein is dispersed homogeneously, for example, by stirring. The molten homogeneous mixture is then poured into conveniently sized molds and allowed to cool and to solidify.

[00237] Formulations suitable for intranasal delivery include liquids (e.g., aqueous solution for administration as an aerosol or nasal drops) and dry powders (e.g. for rapid deposition within the nasal passage). Formulations include such normally employed excipients as, for example, pharmaceutical grades of mannitol, lactose, sucrose, trehalose, xylitol, and chitosan. Mucosadhesive agents such as chitosan can be used in either liquid or powder formulations to delay mucociliary clearance of intranasally-administered formulations. Sugars such as mannitol, sorbitol, trehalose, and/or sucrose can be used as stability agents in liquid formulations and as stability, bulking, or powder flow and size agents in dry powder formulations. In addition, adjuvants such as monophosphoryl lipid A (MLA), or derivatives thereof, or CpG oligonucleotides can be used in both liquid and dry powder formulations as an immunostimulatory adjuvant.

[00238] Formulations suitable for oral delivery include liquids, solids, semi-solids, gels, tablets, capsules, lozenges, and the like. Formulations suitable for oral delivery include tablets, lozenges, capsules, gels, liquids, food products, beverages, nutraceuticals, and the like. Formulations include such normally employed excipients as, for example, pharmaceutical grades of mannitol, sorbitol, trehalose, polyols such as sugars such as sucrose, lactose, starch, magnesium stearate, sodium saccharine, cellulose, magnesium carbonate, and the like. Other Zika virus vaccines and immunogenic compositions may take the form of solutions, suspensions, pills, sustained release formulations or powders and

contain 10-95% of active ingredient, or 25-70%. For oral formulations, cholera toxin is an interesting formulation partner (and also a possible conjugation partner).

[00239] The Zika virus vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions when formulated for vaginal administration may be in the form of pessaries, tampons, creams, gels, pastes, foams or sprays. Any of the foregoing formulations may contain agents in addition to Zika virus vaccine and/or immunogenic compositions, such as carriers, known in the art to be appropriate.

[00240] In some embodiments, the Zika virus vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure may be formulated for systemic or localized delivery. Such formulations are well known in the art. Parenteral vehicles include sodium chloride solution, Ringer's dextrose, dextrose and sodium chloride, lactated Ringer's or fixed oils. Intravenous vehicles include fluid and nutrient replenishers, electrolyte replenishers (such as those based on Ringer's dextrose), and the like. Systemic and localized routes of administration include, e.g., intradermal, topical application, intravenous, intramuscular, etc.

[00241] The vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure may be administered in a manner compatible with the dosage formulation, and in such amount as will be therapeutically effective and immunogenic. The dosage of the antigen may range in particular from , about 1 μg to about 100 μg , about 1 μg to about 40 μg , about 1 μg to about 30 μg , about 1 μg to about 20 μg , about 1 μg to about 15 μg , or from about 2 μg to about 15 μg , or from about 5 μg to about 15 μg , or from about 10 μg to about 15 μg . The dosage may in particular be about 2 μg , about 5 μg , about 10 μg , about 15 μg or about 20 μg , in particular about 10 μg .The amount of the antigen, i.e. the purified inactivated Zika virus, can be determined by a Bradford assay (Bradford et al. (1976) Anal. Biochem. 72: 248-254) using defined amounts of recombinant Zika envelope protein to establish the standard curve. Thus the dosage of the antigen may thus also be referred to as micrograms (μg) of Zika Envelope protein E (μg Env). μg Antigen and μg Env thus mean the same within the meaning of this disclosure. In some embodiments, the vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions contains a dose of 1 μg to 15 μg , or 2 μg , 5 μg or 10 μg of antigen in the form of a purified inactivated whole Zika virus such as a Zika virus with a mutation which is a tryptophan to glycine substitution at position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1 or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1 as described herein.

[00242] In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition contains a dose of 1µg to 15µg, or 2µg, 5µg or 10µg of antigen in the form of a purified inactivated whole Zika virus comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59.

[00243] In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition contains a dose of 1µg to 15µg, or 2µg, 5µg or 10µg of antigen in the form of a purified inactivated whole Zika virus comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59 comprising the genomic sequence according to SEQ ID NO:2.

[00244] In some embodiments, the vaccine or immunogenic composition contains a dose of 1µg to 15µg, or 2µg, 5µg or 10µg of antigen in the form of a purified inactivated whole plaque purified Zika virus isolate comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59 comprising the genomic sequence according to SEQ ID NO:2.

[00245] In certain such embodiments the vaccine or immunogenic composition comprises

- a dose of about 10µg of purified inactivated whole virus
- about 200 µg aluminum hydroxide,
- a buffer; and optionally
- a sugar such as sucrose.

[00246] Suitable regimens for initial administration and booster shots are also variable but are typified by an initial administration followed by subsequent inoculations or other administrations.

[00247] The manner of application may be varied widely. Any of the conventional methods for administration of a vaccine or immunogenic composition are applicable. These include oral application on a solid physiologically acceptable base or in a physiologically acceptable dispersion, parenterally, by injection or the like for e.g. intramuscular or subcutaneous administration. The dosage of the vaccine or immunogenic composition will depend on the route of administration and may vary according to the age of the person to be

vaccinated and the formulation of the antigen. The vaccine or immunogenic composition can have a unit dosage volume of more than 0.5mL, of 0.5mL or of less than 0.5mL, as described herein. For instance, it can be administered at a volume of 0.25mL. A volume of 0.5mL are suitable for intramuscular or subcutaneous administration.

[00248] Delivery agents that improve mucoadhesion can also be used to improve delivery and immunogenicity especially for intranasal, oral or lung based delivery formulations. One such compound, chitosan, the N-deacetylated form of chitin, is used in many pharmaceutical formulations. It is an attractive mucoadhesive agent for intranasal vaccine delivery due to its ability to delay mucociliary clearance and allow more time for mucosal antigen uptake and processing. In addition, it can transiently open tight junctions which may enhance transepithelial transport of antigen to the NALT. In a recent human trial, a trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine administered intranasally with chitosan but without any additional adjuvant yielded seroconversion and HI titers that were only marginally lower than those obtained following intramuscular inoculation.

[00249] Chitosan can also be formulated with adjuvants that function well intranasally such as the genetically detoxified *E. coli* heat-labile enterotoxin mutant LTK63. This adds an immunostimulatory effect on top of the delivery and adhesion benefits imparted by chitosan resulting in enhanced mucosal and systemic responses.

[00250] Finally, it should be noted that chitosan formulations can also be prepared in a dry powder format that has been shown to improve vaccine stability and result in a further delay in mucociliary clearance over liquid formulations. This was seen in a recent human clinical trial involving an intranasal dry powder diphtheria toxoid vaccine formulated with chitosan in which the intranasal route was as effective as the traditional intramuscular route with the added benefit of secretory IgA responses. The vaccine was also very well tolerated. Intranasal dry powdered vaccines for anthrax containing chitosan and MLA, or derivatives thereof, induce stronger responses in rabbits than intramuscular inoculation and are also protective against aerosol spore challenge.

[00251] Intranasal vaccines represent an exemplary formulation as they can affect the upper and lower respiratory tracts in contrast to parenterally administered vaccines which are better at affecting the lower respiratory tract. This can be beneficial for inducing tolerance to allergen-based vaccines and inducing immunity for pathogen-based vaccines.

[00252] In addition to providing protection in both the upper and lower respiratory tracts, intranasal vaccines avoid the complications of needle inoculations and provide a means of inducing both mucosal and systemic humoral and cellular responses via interaction of particulate and/or soluble antigens with nasopharyngeal-associated lymphoid tissues (NALT).

[00253] Vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure are pharmaceutically acceptable. They may include components in addition to the antigen and adjuvant, e.g. they will typically include one or more pharmaceutical carrier(s) and/or excipient(s). A thorough discussion of such components is available in Gennaro (2000) Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy. 20th edition, ISBN: 0683306472.

[00254] To control tonicity, it is preferred to include a physiological salt, such as a sodium salt. Sodium chloride (NaCl) is preferred, which may be present at between 1 and 20 mg/ml. Other salts that may be present include potassium chloride, potassium dihydrogen phosphate, disodium phosphate dehydrate, magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, etc.

[00255] Vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure may include one or more buffers. Typical buffers include: a phosphate buffer; a Tris buffer; a borate buffer; a succinate buffer; a histidine buffer (particularly with an aluminum hydroxide adjuvant); or a citrate buffer. Buffers will typically be included in the 5-20mM range.

[00256] The pH of a vaccine or immunogenic composition will generally be between 5.0 and 8.5 or 5.0 and 8.1, and more typically between 6.0 and 8.5 e.g. between 6.0 and 8.0, between 6.5 and 8.0, between 6.5 and 7.5, between 7.0 and 8.5, between 7.0 and 8.0, or between 7.0 and 7.8. A manufacturing process of the present disclosure may therefore include a step of adjusting the pH of the bulk vaccine prior to packaging.

[00257] The vaccine or immunogenic composition is preferably sterile. It is preferably non pyrogenic, e.g. containing <1 EU (endotoxin unit, a standard measure) per dose, and preferably <0.1 EU per dose. It is preferably gluten free.

[00258] In certain embodiments, the vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure may include a detergent in an effective concentration. In some

embodiments, an effective amount of detergent may include without limitation, about 0.00005% v/v to about 5% v/v or about 0.0001% v/v to about 1% v/v. In certain embodiments, an effective amount of detergent is about 0.001% v/v, about 0.002% v/v, about 0.003% v/v, about 0.004% v/v, about 0.005% v/v, about 0.006% v/v, about 0.007% v/v, about 0.008% v/v, about 0.009% v/v, or about 0.01% v/v. Without wishing to be bound by theory, detergents help maintain the vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions of the present disclosure in solution and help to prevent the vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions from aggregating.

[00259] Suitable detergents include, for example, polyoxyethylene sorbitan ester surfactant (known as 'Tweens'), octoxynol (such as octoxynol-9 (Triton X 100) or t-octylphenoxypolyethoxyethanol), cetyl trimethyl ammonium bromide ('CTAB'), and sodium deoxycholate, particularly for a split or surface antigen vaccine. The detergent may be present only at trace amounts. Other residual components in trace amounts could be antibiotics (e.g. neomycin, kanamycin, polymyxin B). In some embodiments, the detergent contains polysorbate. In some embodiments, the effective concentration of detergent includes ranges from about 0.00005% v/v to about 5% v/v.

[00260] The vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions are preferably stored at between 2°C and 8°C. They should ideally be kept out of direct light. The antigen and emulsion will typically be in admixture, although they may initially be presented in the form of a kit of separate components for extemporaneous admixing. Vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions will generally be in aqueous form when administered to a subject.

Methods of the Present Disclosure

[00261] The present invention is in particular also directed to a method of treating or preventing, in particular preventing Zika virus infection and/or preventing Zika virus disease in a subject in need thereof comprising administering to a subject or a subject population a therapeutically effective amount of a vaccine or immunogenic composition as described herein.

[00262] The disease is in general mild and of short duration. Some clinical manifestations include, but are not limited to, mild fever, maculopapular rash, conjunctivitis and arthralgia. Despite mild clinical symptoms in the pregnant woman, Zika virus infection

during pregnancy has been associated with serious outcomes for the fetus and newborn. The severity of the disease is related to the consequences in the fetus and newborn child from women with Zika virus infection during pregnancy. The spectrum of congenital anomalies associated with Zika virus infection, known as Congenital Zika Syndrome (CZS), consists of severe microcephaly with partially collapsed skull, cerebral cortices with subcortical calcifications, macular scarring and focal pigmentary retinal mottling, congenital contractures, and marked early hypertonia with symptoms of extrapyramidal involvement. Furthermore the Zika virus is a neurotropic flavivirus that can potentially cause disease within the central nervous system. There is additionally a Worldwide concern over Zika virus causing Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS).

[00263] The prevention of the Zika virus disease thus does not only concern the subject being treated but extends to the fetus and newborn in case the subject being treated is or will be pregnant. The method according to the invention thus comprises treating the subject by administering to the subject the vaccine or immunogenic composition and the treating of the fetus and newborn by administering to a pregnant subject or a subject that intends to become pregnant or woman of childbearing potential the vaccine or immunogenic composition. In particular the subject is human.

[00264] Further aspects of the present disclosure relate to methods for using vaccines and/or or immunogenic compositions described herein containing one or more antigens from at least one Zika virus (e.g., a clonal Zika virus isolate, a Zika virus comprising a non-human cell adaptation mutation such as a non-human cell adaptation mutation in protein NS1) to treat or prevent Zika virus in a subject in need thereof and/or to induce an immune response to Zika virus in a subject in need thereof.

[00265] In certain such methods, the vaccines and/or immunogenic compositions contains a dose of 1µg to 15µg, or 2µg, or 5µg, or 10µg of a purified inactivated whole Zika virus such as a Zika virus with a mutation which is a tryptophan to glycine substitution at position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1 or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1 as described herein optionally in combination with one or more adjuvants, such as 100 µg to about 300µg or about 150µg to about 250µg or about 200 µg alum, such as aluminum hydroxide.

[00266] In certain such methods, the vaccine or immunogenic composition contains a dose of 1µg to 15µg, or 2µg, 5µg or 10µg of a purified inactivated whole Zika virus comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59 optionally in combination with one or more adjuvants, such as 100 µg to about 600µg or about 150µg to about 250µg or about 200 µg alum, such as aluminum hydroxide.

[00267] In certain such methods, the vaccine or immunogenic composition contains a dose of 1µg to 15µg, or 2µg, 5µg or 10µg of a purified inactivated whole Zika virus comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59 comprising the genomic sequence according to SEQ ID NO:2 optionally in combination with one or more adjuvants, such as 100 µg to about 600µg or about 150µg to about 250µg or about 200 µg alum, such as aluminum hydroxide.

[00268] In certain such methods, the vaccine or immunogenic composition contains a dose of 1µg to 15µg, or 2µg, 5µg or 10µg of a purified inactivated whole plaque purified Zika virus isolate comprising a Trp98Gly mutation at position 98 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or at a position corresponding to position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the Zika virus is derived from strain PRVABC59 comprising the genomic sequence according to SEQ ID NO:2 optionally in combination with one or more adjuvants, such as 100 µg to about 600µg or about 150µg to about 250µg or about 200 µg alum, such as aluminum hydroxide.

[00269] In some embodiments, the present disclosure relates to methods for treating or preventing Zika virus infection in a subject in need thereof by administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a vaccine and/or immunogenic composition of the present disclosure containing one or more antigens from at least one Zika virus (e.g., a clonal Zika virus isolate, a Zika virus comprising a non-human cell adaptation mutation such as a non-human cell adaptation mutation in protein NS1). In some embodiments, the present disclosure relates to methods for inducing an immune response to Zika virus in a subject in need thereof by administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a vaccine and/or immunogenic composition of the present disclosure containing one or more antigens from at least one Zika (e.g., a clonal Zika virus isolate, a Zika virus comprising a non-human cell adaptation mutation such as a non-human cell adaptation