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Klein et al.

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(54) **PEPTIDE MHCII TETRAMERS TO DETECT ENDOGENOUS CALNEXIN SPECIFIC CD4 T CELLS**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 961 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

A61K 39/00 (2006.01)

C07K 14/74 (2006.01)

G01N 33/569 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC . **G01N 33/56972** (2013.01); **G01N 33/56961** (2013.01); **G01N 2333/70539** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

None

See application file for complete search history.

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(Continued)

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(57)

ABSTRACT

The present application discloses proteins or peptides and methods of using such proteins or peptides to evaluate the immune status of a patient. In one embodiment, proteins or peptides may be used to detect endogenous calnexin specific CD4 T cells. In one preferred embodiment, the proteins or peptides may comprise peptide-MHCII tetramers (pMHC tetramers).

10 Claims, 52 Drawing Sheets
(11 of 52 Drawing Sheet(s) Filed in Color)
Specification includes a Sequence Listing.

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The generation of Eluate 1

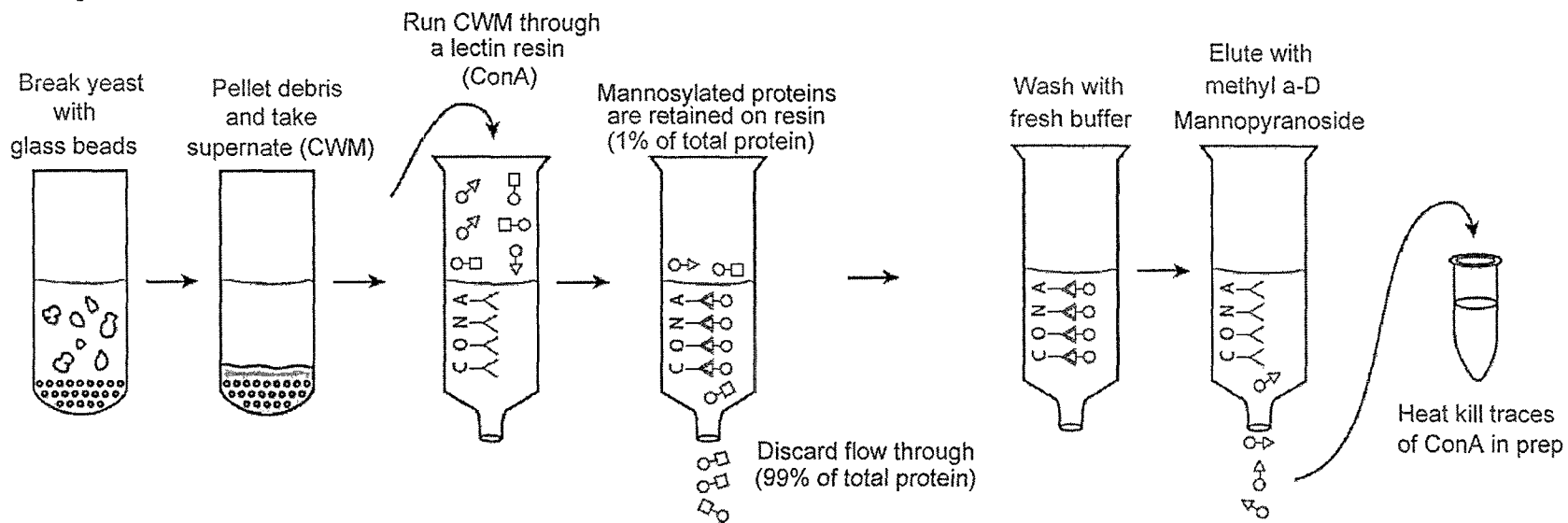


Figure 1A

Figure 1B

Crude Ags

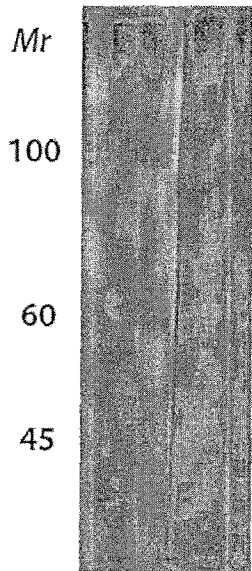


Figure 1C

Gel free fractions of Eluate#1

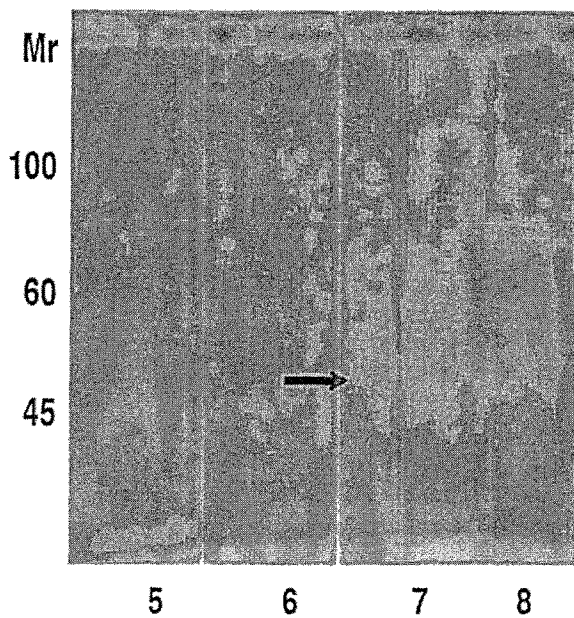
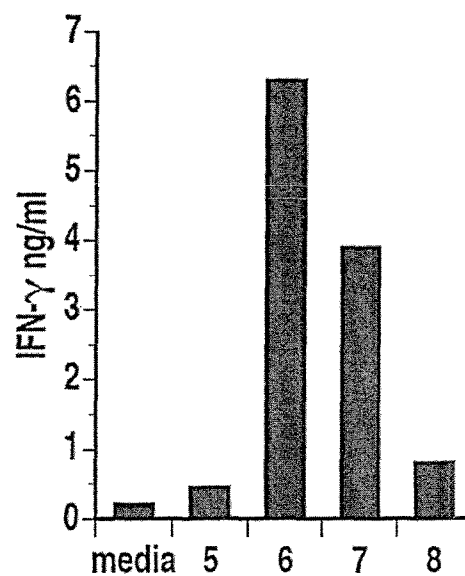


Figure 1D

CD4+ T cell responses



Gel free fraction number

Identification of Calnexin by Mass Spectrophotometry

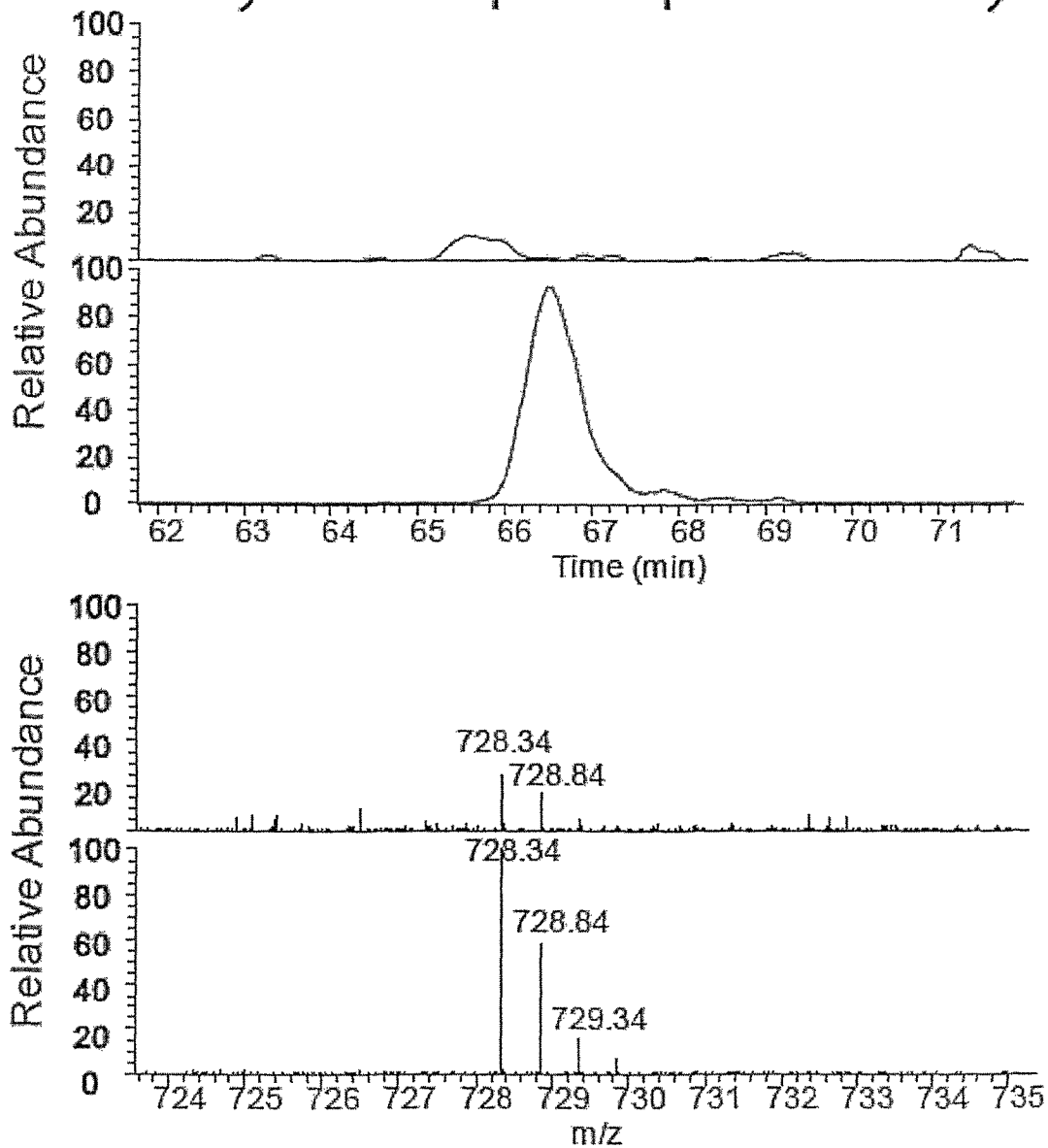


Figure 1E

Figure 2B

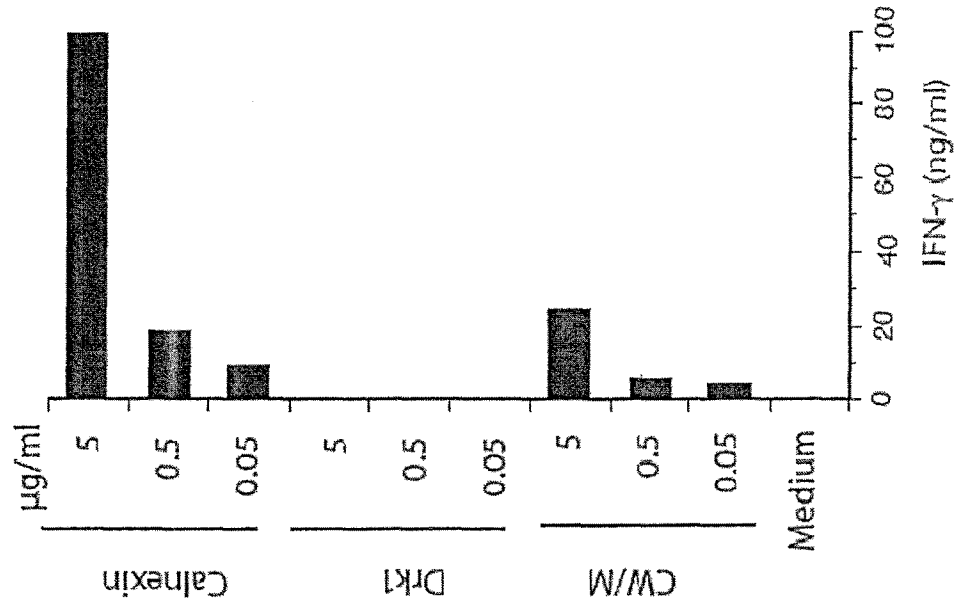
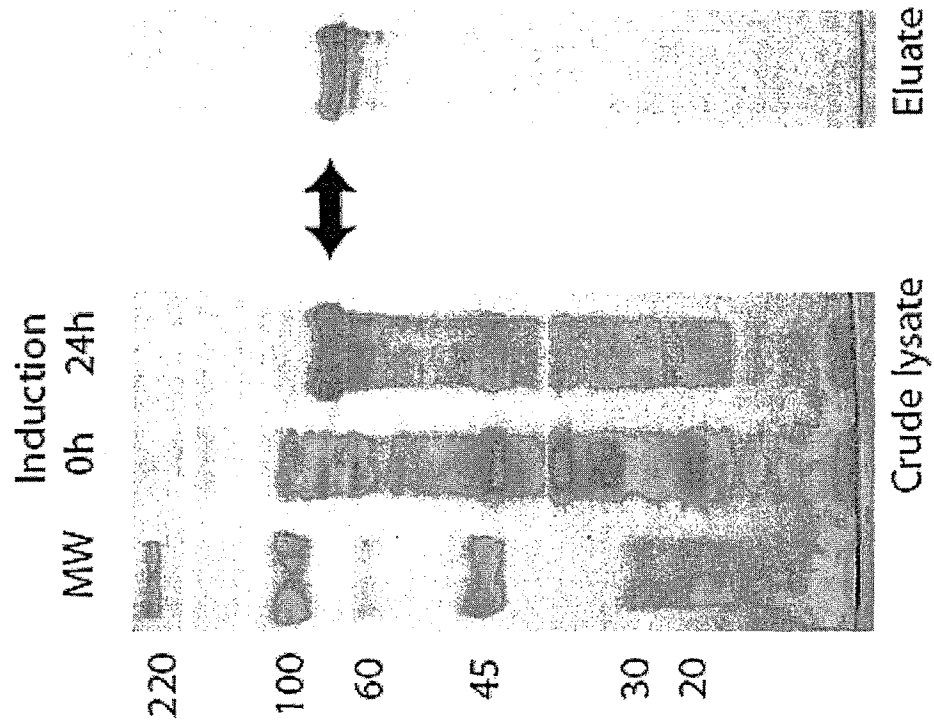


Figure 2A



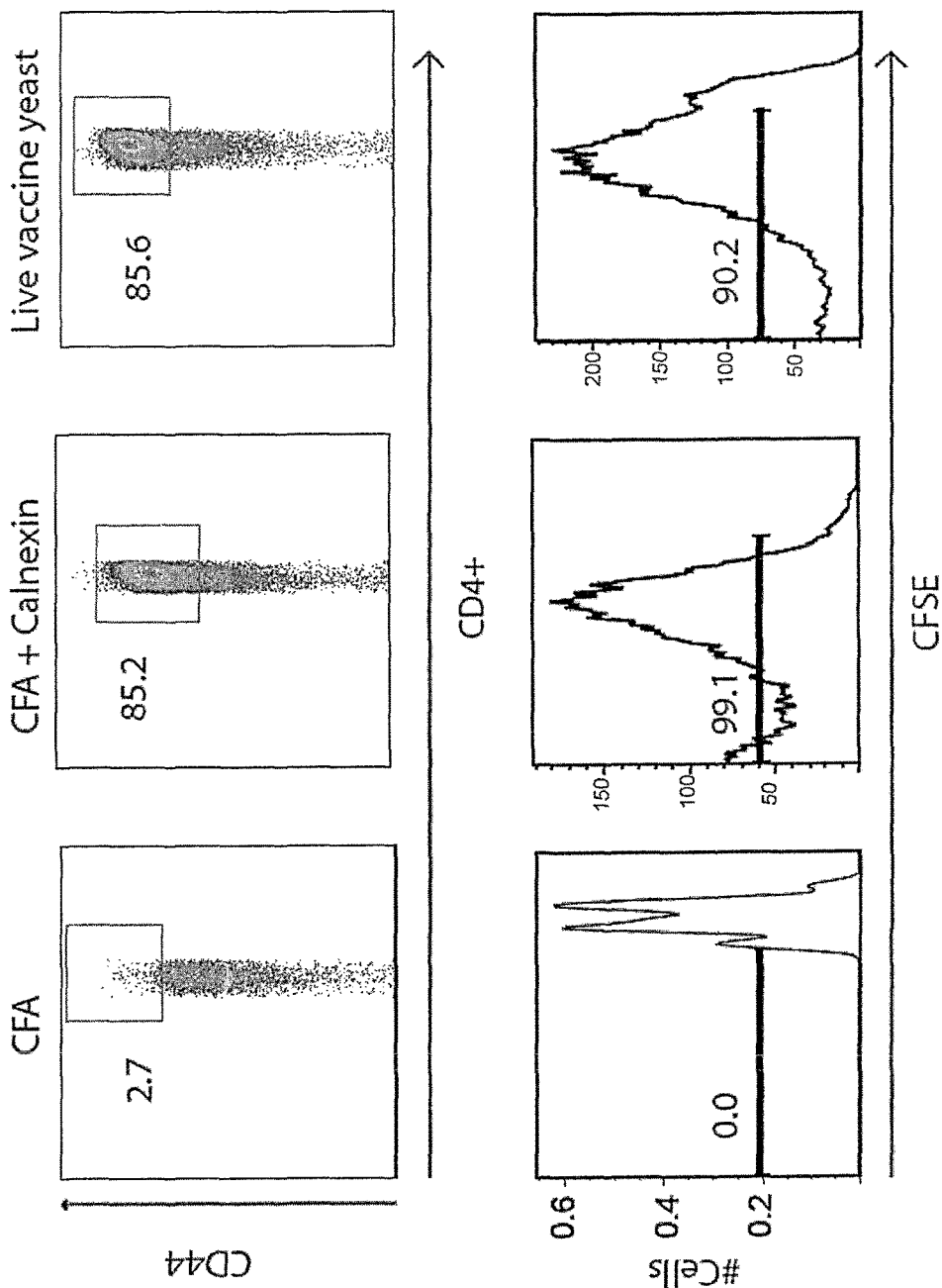


Figure 2C

In vitro activation of 1807 cells by Calnexin peptide #1

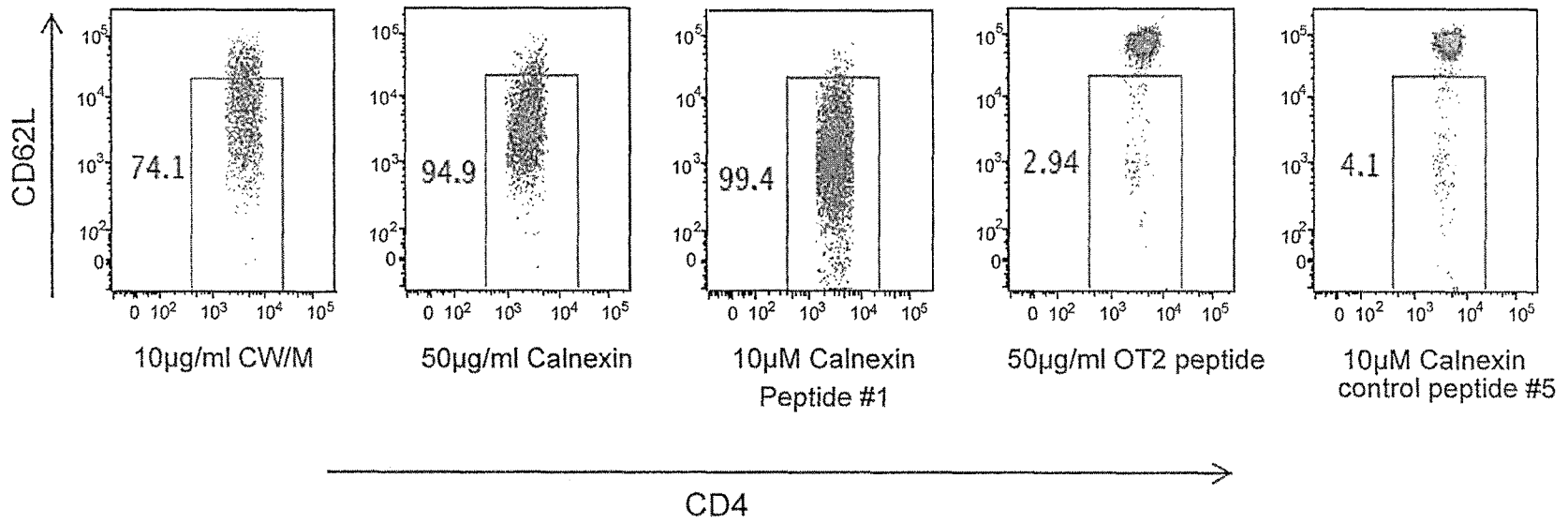


Figure 3A

In vitro IFN- γ by 1807 cells

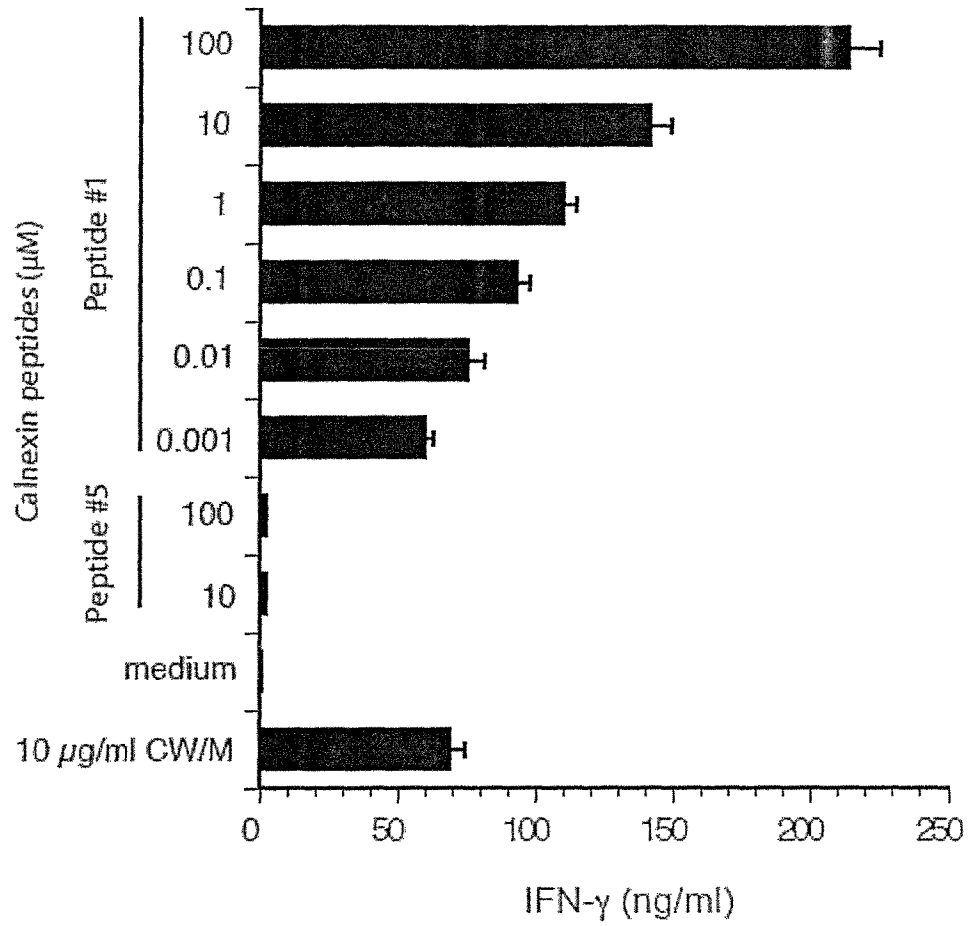


Figure 3B

In vivo activation of 1807 cells by Calnexin peptide #1

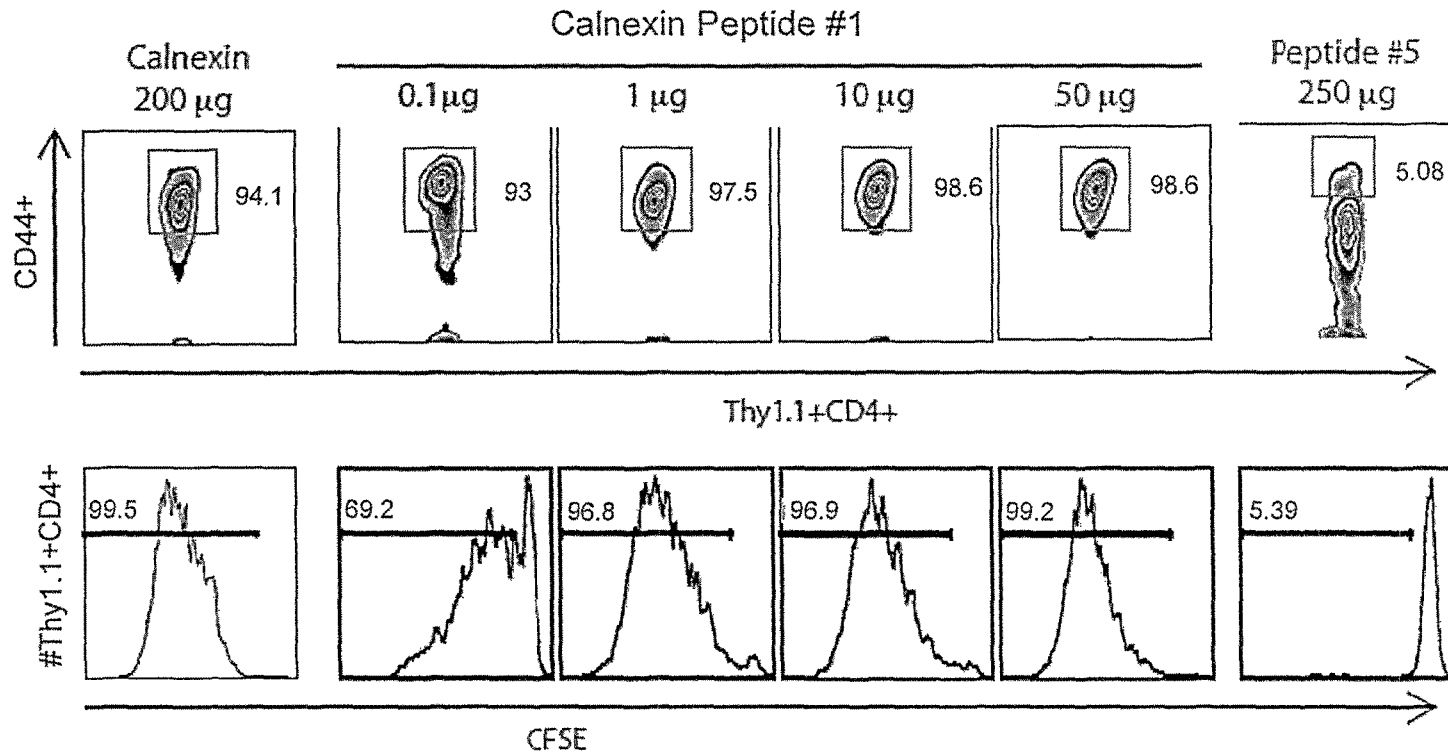


Figure 3C

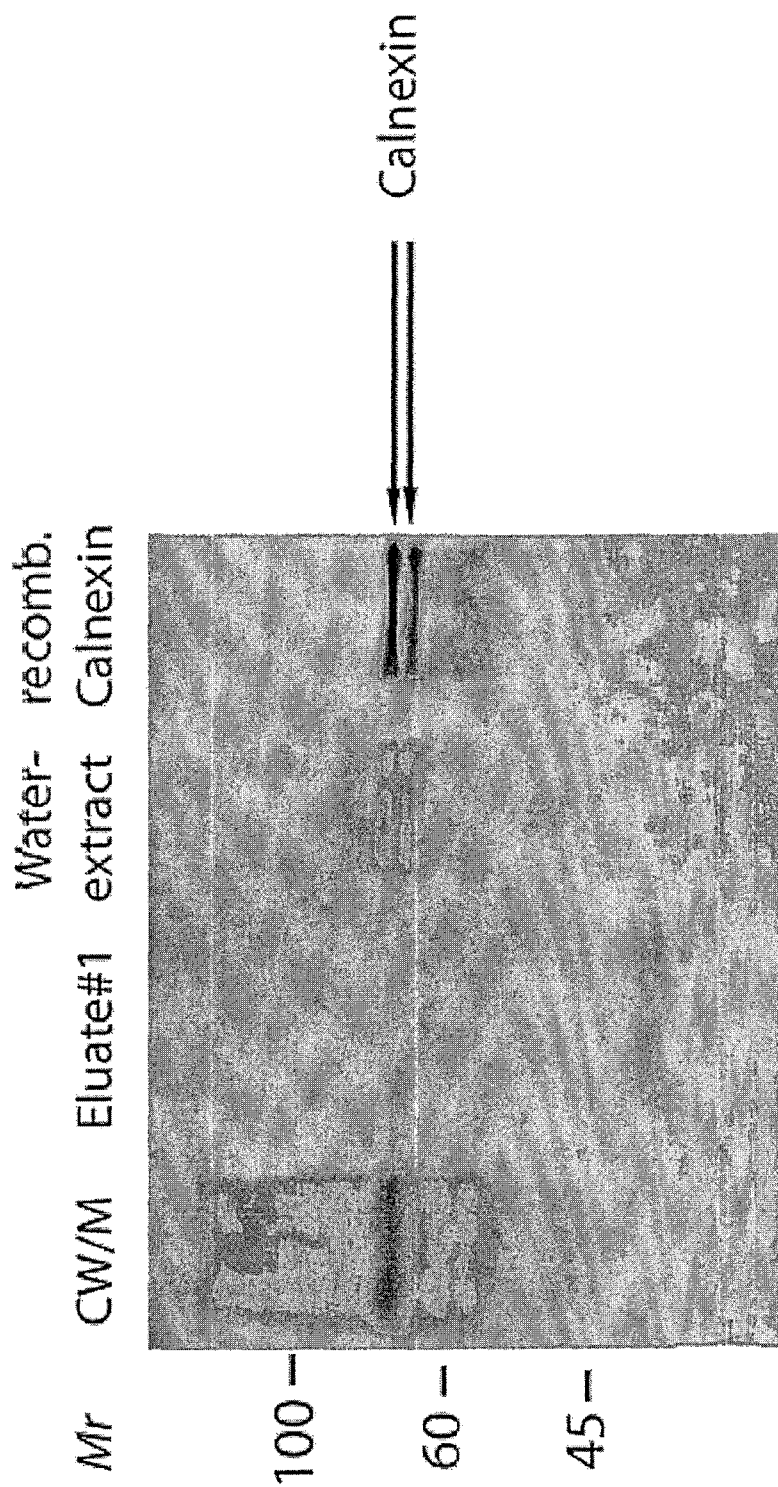
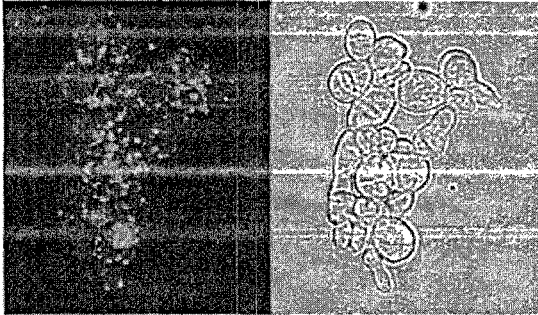


Figure 4A

Figure 4B

Expression of Calnexin in *B. dermatitidis* vaccine yeast #55

anti-Calnexin serum



non-immune serum

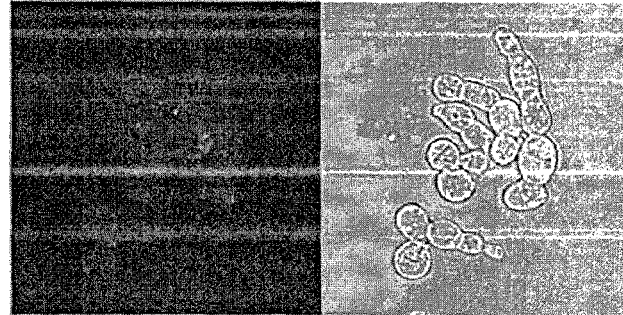
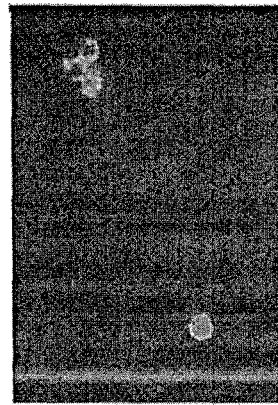
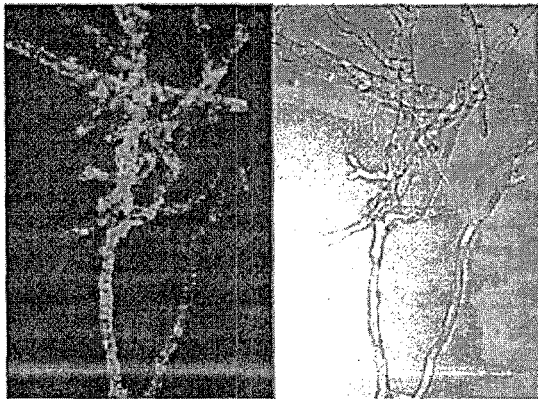


Figure 4C

Expression of Calnexin in *A. fumigatus* hyphae and spores



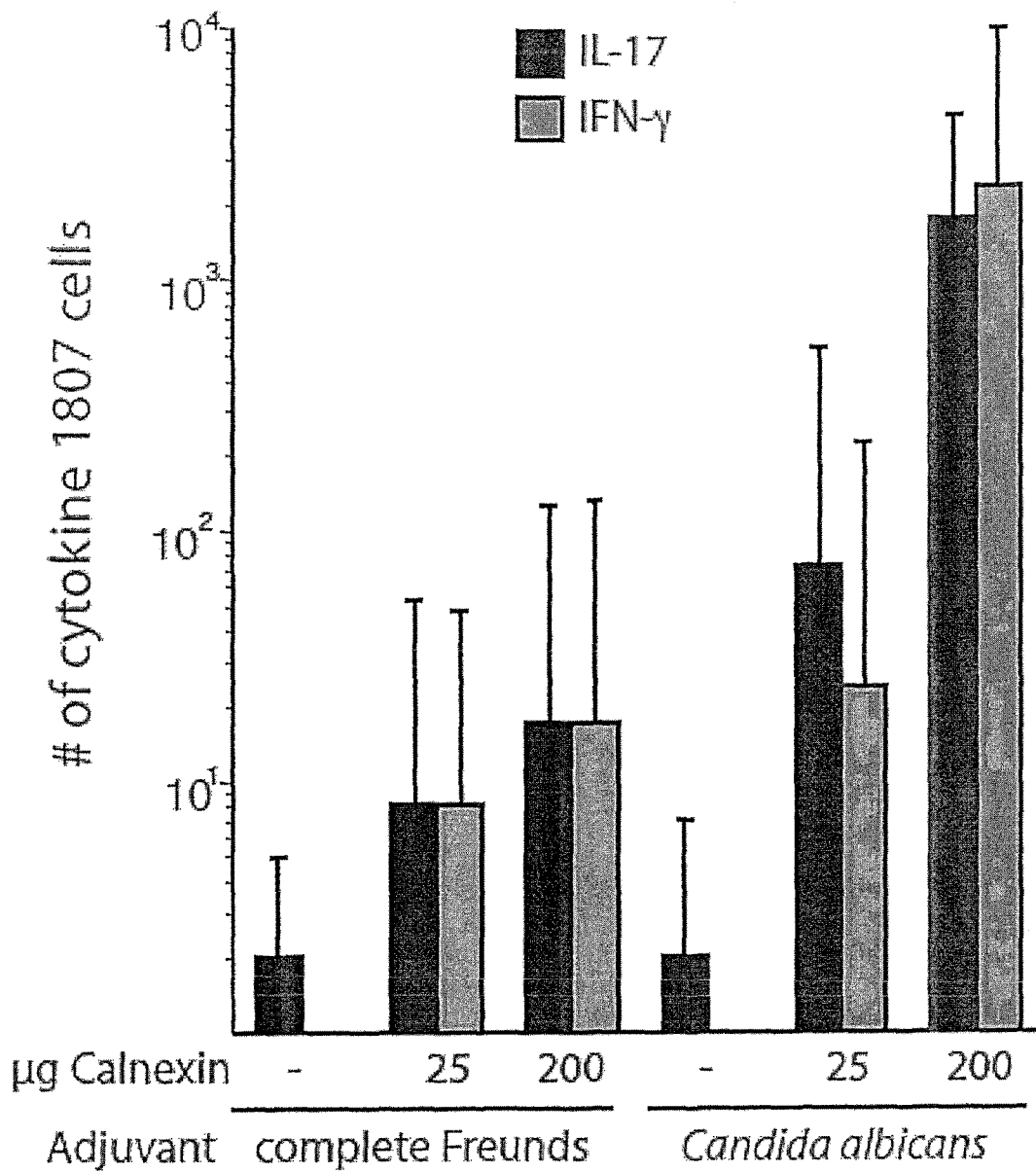


Figure 5A

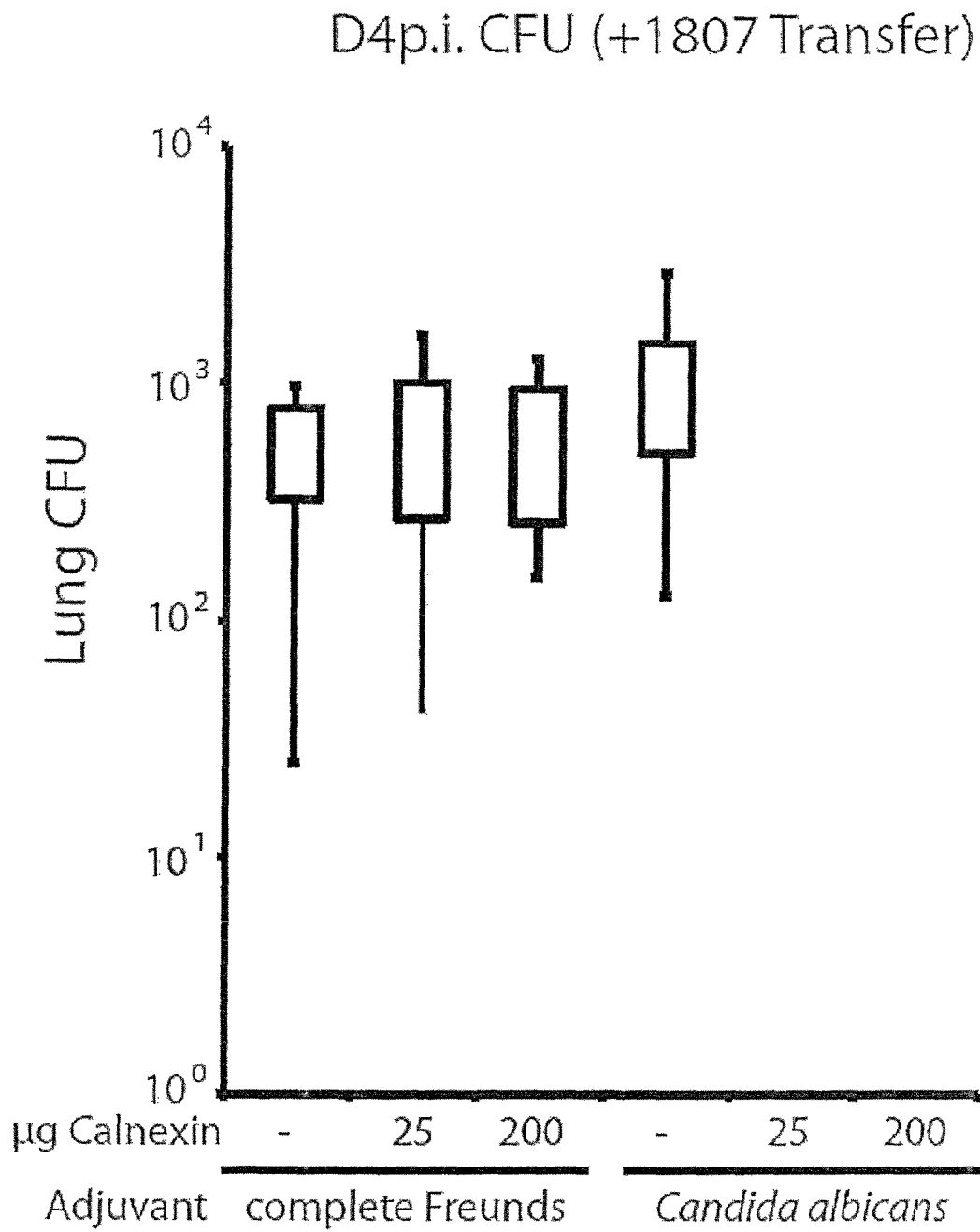


Figure 5B

-----310-----320-----330-----340-----350-----360-----370-----
 VDTDA TQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNPE YI
 YEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNP
 JAPYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMI
 JEDAPYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPP
 JAPYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMI
 EDAPYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPP
 EDAPYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPP
 JAPYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPM
 DAPYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPM
 DAPYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPM
 EIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNPE
 APYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKK
 EIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNPE
 APYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKK
 EIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNPE
 PYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKK
 DAPYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMK
 APYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMK
 YEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNF
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 EDAPYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMK
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 YEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNF
 PYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNI
 APYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKI
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 EDAPYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPP
 PYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNF
 EIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNPE
 PYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNF
 JDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNPE YKI
 IIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNPE Y
 EIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNPE
 PYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKN
 DTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNPE YK
 PYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKN
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 YEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNF
 .PYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKN
 PYEIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKN
 EIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNPE
 IIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNPE
 EIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNPE
 TDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNPE YKGI
 EIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNPE
 EIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNPE
 EIVDTDATQPEDWLVDEPTSIPDPE AQKPEDWDDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSE VSGCGMWEPPMKKNPE

Figure 7E

> B.d. 26199 calnexin (deduced from genomic sequence)

```
MRLNASLASLILSSIALIGNVHAEDVKE DATSTSSVIEKPTFTPTTLKAPFLEQFTD GWETR WTPSHAKKEDSKSEEDWAYVGTWAVEE  
PHVFNGMVGDKGLVVKNPAAHHAISAKFPKKIDNKGKTLVVQYEVKLQNSLNCGGAYMKLLQDNKKLHAEFSNTSPYVIMFGPDKC  
GVTNKVHFIFKHKNPKTGEYEEKHMKLPPAVRVSKLSTLYTLIVNPDQSFQIRIDGAAVKNGTLLEDFSPA VNPEKEIDDPEDKKPEDWV  
DEAHIPDPEATKPEDWDEDAPYEIVDTDATQPEDWL VDEPTSIPDPEAQKPEDWDEEDGDWIPPTIPNPKCSEVSGCGMWEPPMKKNP  
EYKGGKWTAPMIDNPA YKGPWAPRKIANPNYFEDKTPSNFEPMGAIGFEIWTM QNDILFDNIYIGHSVEDAEK LKAETWDLKHPVEVAEE  
EAARPKDEEKKEGTL SFKEAPVKYIRGKIELFISLALENPVEAVKAVPEVAGGLGALLVTLVLIIVGAVGLGSPSPAPAAKKQA EKGKEKT  
AEAVSTAADNVKGEAKKRSGKAGE
```

Links to Calnexin Protein sequence in GenBank:

-Note that these links are for a the Calnexin sequence for the strain 18188, but the protein sequence is identical to that in strain 26199

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/protein/327357651>

Protein database Accession number: EGE86508

Broad Institute predicted Gene name: BDDG_09453

Figure 8

simple calnexin pro Alignments
 Fri, Jan 25, 2013 2:17 PM

ClustalW (v1.83) multiple sequence alignment

7 Sequences Aligned Processing time: 0.7 seconds
 Gaps Inserted = 85 Conserved Identities = 152
 Score = 51436

Pairwise Alignment Mode: Fast
 Pairwise Alignment Parameters:
 ktup = 1 Gap Penalty = 3 Top Diagonals = 5 Window Size = 5
 Similarity Matrix: gonnet

Multiple Alignment Parameters:
 Open Gap Penalty = 10.0 Extend Gap Penalty = 0.2
 Delay Divergent = 40% Gap Distance = 8
 Similarity Matrix: gonnet

	Identity Scores (%)							
	B.d. 26199	P.b. Pb01	C.i. RS	H.c. G186AR	A flavus	C.a.5314	C. neoform.	
B.d. 26199	100.0	82.9	78.9	87.1	73.9	32.5	49.0	
P.b. Pb01	90.3	100.0	77.5	80.5	72.6	33.1	49.7	
C.i. RS	87.6	85.9	100.0	77.5	72.3	33.8	50.0	
H.c. G186AR	92.0	88.4	87.1	100.0	72.6	33.6	48.9	
A flavus	85.5	84.4	85.5	83.6	100.0	34.6	51.7	
C.a.5314	46.0	47.8	47.3	46.8	46.6	100.0	33.5	
C. neoform.	63.1	63.6	64.0	62.0	64.4	46.4	100.0	
	Similarity Scores (%)							

Figure 9

Formatted Alignments

B.d. 26199	1	MRLNA	SLASLILSS	IALLIGNV	HAED	EVKEDAT	STSS	SVIEK	40																																		
P.b. Pb01	1	MRLNA	SLASLILSS	IALLIGNV	HAED	EVKEDAT	STSS	SVIEK	40																																		
C.i. RS	1	MRLNART	ASLILSY	IALLIGNV	HAES	EATKEEP	-TAT	SI	SR	39																																	
H.c. G186AR	1	MRLNA	SLASLILSS	VALLIGNV	RAEE	EVKGDAP	SPSS	SAIEK	40																																		
A flavus	1	MRLNA	AVASALVSS	ATLMG	--Y	AHA	E	EAEKNP	DAT	SVIEK	38																																
C.a.5314	1	---	---	---	---	MKYALV	LLL	SLVNA	LKY	V	PF	D	K	22																													
C. neoform.	1	M	R	P	---	---	---	Q	N	V	A	G	V	A	G	T	G	A	L	I	M	A	A	G	A	L	A	D	R	25													
B.d. 26199	41	PTFTPTTL	LKAPFLEQ	FTD	GW	ETRWTP	SHAKK	EDSK	SEED	79																																	
P.b. Pb01	41	PLFTPTTL	LKAPFLEQ	FTDDW	---	ETRWTP	SHAKK	QDSS	SEED	79																																	
C.i. RS	40	PTFTPTTL	LKAPFLEQ	FTDDW	---	QTRWTP	SHAKK	EDSK	SEEE	78																																	
H.c. G186AR	41	PTFTPTTL	LKAPFLEQ	FTDDW	---	ETRWTP	SHAKK	EDSS	SD	ED	79																																
A flavus	39	PTFTPTTL	LKAPFLEQ	FTDDW	---	ESRWTP	SHAKK	DD	SQ	TE	ED	77																															
C.a.5314	23	TQLD	PSSVFEQ	FDYPS	LNSS	---	---	P	M	Q	V	S	T	A	K	K	F	D	E	G	R	D	E	I	59																		
C. neoform.	26	A	V	H	P	T	S	L	T	A	P	T	I	E	Q	F	L	E	S	I	P	E	S	R	W	T	V	S	R	A	T	K	Q	T	P	V	G	D	E	I	65		
B.d. 26199	80	WAYVGT	WAVEEPH	-V	F	N	G	M	V	G	D	K	G	L	V	V	K	N	P	A	A	H	H	A	I	S	A	K	F	118													
P.b. Pb01	80	WAYVGT	WAVEEPH	-V	F	N	G	M	K	G	D	K	G	L	V	V	K	N	A	A	A	H	H	A	I	S	A	K	F	118													
C.i. RS	79	WAYVGE	WAVEEPT	-V	F	K	G	I	D	G	D	K	G	L	V	V	K	N	A	A	A	H	H	A	I	S	A	K	F	117													
H.c. G186AR	80	WAYVGT	WAVEEPH	-V	L	N	G	M	V	G	D	K	G	L	V	V	K	N	P	A	A	H	H	A	I	S	A	K	F	118													
A flavus	78	WAYVGE	WAVEEPT	-V	F	K	G	I	D	G	D	K	G	L	V	V	K	N	P	A	A	H	H	A	I	S	A	K	F	116													
C.a.5314	60	V	R	Y	S	G	E	W	K	I	E	S	S	T	S	K	Y	P	G	L	E	G	D	L	G	L	V	M	K	S	R	A	S	H	Y	A	I	S	Y	K	L	99	
C. neoform.	66	F	S	Y	V	G	Q	W	E	I	E	E	P	D	-V	Y	P	G	I	S	G	D	K	G	L	V	L	K	T	K	A	A	H	H	A	I	S	T	L	F	104		
B.d. 26199	119	P	K	K	I	D	---	---	---	N	K	G	K	T	L	V	V	Q	Y	E	V	K	L	Q	N	S	L	N	C	G	G	A	Y	M	K	L	L	Q	152				
P.b. Pb01	119	P	K	K	I	D	---	---	---	N	K	G	N	T	L	V	V	Q	Y	E	V	K	L	Q	N	G	L	N	C	G	G	A	Y	M	K	L	L	Q	152				
C.i. RS	118	P	Q	K	I	D	---	---	---	N	K	G	K	T	L	V	V	Q	Y	E	V	K	L	Q	N	S	L	V	C	G	G	A	Y	M	K	L	L	Q	151				
H.c. G186AR	119	P	K	K	I	D	---	---	---	N	K	G	K	T	L	V	V	Q	Y	E	V	K	L	Q	N	S	L	V	C	G	G	A	Y	M	K	L	L	Q	152				
A flavus	117	P	K	K	I	D	---	---	---	N	K	G	K	T	L	V	V	Q	Y	E	V	K	P	O	N	S	L	V	C	G	G	A	Y	L	K	L	L	Q	150				
C.a.5314	100	P	H	E	V	T	N	T	N	P	N	N	K	T	O	D	L	V	L	Q	Y	E	V	K	L	Q	Q	G	L	T	C	G	G	A	Y	I	K	L	L	D	139		
C. neoform.	105	D	E	P	I	D	---	---	---	P	K	G	K	S	L	V	V	Q	Y	E	V	K	L	O	K	G	L	E	C	G	G	A	Y	I	K	L	L	T	138				
B.d. 26199	153	D	N	K	K	---	L	H	A	---	E	E	F	S	N	T	S	P	Y	V	I	M	F	G	P	D	K	C	G	V	T	N	K	V	H	F	I	F	K	H	189		
P.b. Pb01	153	D	N	K	K	---	L	H	A	---	E	E	F	S	N	A	S	P	Y	V	I	M	F	G	P	D	K	C	G	V	T	N	K	V	H	F	I	F	R	H	189		
C.i. RS	152	D	N	K	K	---	L	H	A	---	E	E	F	S	N	A	S	P	Y	V	I	M	F	G	P	D	K	C	G	A	T	N	K	V	H	F	I	F	K	H	188		
H.c. G186AR	153	D	N	K	K	---	L	H	A	---	E	E	F	S	N	A	S	P	Y	V	I	M	F	G	P	D	K	C	G	V	T	N	K	V	H	F	I	F	R	H	189		
A flavus	151	E	N	K	K	---	L	H	A	---	E	E	F	S	N	A	T	P	Y	V	I	M	F	G	P	D	K	C	G	A	T	N	K	V	H	F	I	F	R	H	187		
C.a.5314	140	S	S	P	S	---	---	---	---	---	G	Y	K	F	F	N	S	E	T	P	Y	Q	I	M	F	G	P	D	V	C	G	S	E	N	K	T	H	F	I	T	R	K	175
C. neoform.	139	D	Q	Q	D	E	G	L	R	A	G	E	D	Y	T	D	K	T	P	F	T	I	M	F	G	P	D	K	C	G	S	T	N	K	V	H	F	I	F	R	H	178	

Figure 10

B.d. 26199	190	KNPKTGEYEEKHMKLPPAVRVSKLSTLYTLIVN	-	PDQSF	227	
P.b. Pb01	190	KNPKTGEYEEKHLKNPPAARVSKLSTLYTLIVK	-	PDQSF	227	
C.i. RS	189	KNPKTGEYEEKHLNNAPTARI	SKLSTLYTLIVK	-	PDQTF	226
H.c. G186AR	190	KNPKTGEYEEKHMNAAPAAKIN	KLSTLYTLIVK	-	PDQSF	227
A flavus	188	KNPKTGEYEEKHLKAPPAARTNKVTS	LYTLIVR	-	PDQSF	225
C.a.5314	176	KLP-NGATIEEKHLKHKPMARTNEITN	LYTLITK	-	SNQDF	212
C. neoform.	179	KNPLTGEWEEKHLKNPPAPKITKTTA	LYTLITKT	SPDQTF	218	

B.d. 26199	228	QIRIDGAVKNGTLLLED	--	FSPAVNP	EKEIDDPEDKKPE	264			
P.b. Pb01	228	QILIDGAVKNGTLLLED	--	FSPAVNP	QKEIDDPEDKKPK	264			
C.i. RS	227	QIQINGEAVKNGTLLLED	--	FQPPVNP	PKKEIDDP	NDKKPA	263		
H.c. G186AR	228	QIRIDGKAVKNGTLLLED	--	FSPA	VNP	PKKEIDDPEDKKPE	264		
A flavus	226	QILIDGAVKNGTLLLED	--	FNP	PVNP	EKEIDDPKDKKPD	262		
C.a.5314	213	HIRVNGOVAKAGNLYKNQKLFNPP	FF	PPKEI	PDVD	DKKPD	252		
C. neoform.	219	EILINDESVVRKGSLLLED	--	F	DP	VNP	PKKEIDDPED	FKPE	255

B.d. 26199	265	DWVDEAHIPDP	EATKPEDWDEDAPY	-	EIVDT	DATQ	PEDWL	303			
P.b. Pb01	265	DWVDETRIPDPT	ATKPEDWDEDAPY	-	EITDT	EATK	PDWL	303			
C.i. RS	264	DWVDEAKIPDP	EAKKPEDWDEDAPF	-	EIVDT	EAKK	PDWL	302			
H.c. G186AR	265	DWVDEARIAADPD	ATKPEDWDEDAPY	-	EIVD	ADAV	QPEDWL	303			
A flavus	263	DWVDVVKIPDP	EATKPEDWDEEAPY	-	EIVDE	EATK	PEDWL	301			
C.a.5314	253	DWDRAYIPDP	NV	EK	PEDY	ELKHEY	POIRDP	NAV	KPD	EW	292
C. neoform.	256	TWVDEAEITDDVT	ATKPEDWDEDAP	I	MITDT	SAV	KPEDWL	294			

B.d. 26199	304	VDEPT	SIPDPEA	QKPEDW	DDEEDGDW	I	PPTIP	PNPKC	SEVS	343																			
P.b. Pb01	304	DSEPD	SIPDPEA	QKPEDW	DDEEDGDW	AA	PTIP	PNPKC	SEVS	343																			
C.i. RS	303	DDEP	SSIPDPEA	QKPEDW	DDEEDGDW	V	APT	V	PNPKC	EAS	342																		
H.c. G186AR	304	IDEP	T	SIPDPEA	EKPEDW	DDEEDGDW	T	PPTIP	PNPKC	SEVS	343																		
A flavus	302	EEPT	SIPDPEA	EKPEDW	DDEEDGDW	I	PPT	V	PNPKC	NDVS	341																		
C.a.5314	293	ESAPRY	I	PDPA	V	K	PD	DA	EK	-QW	EP	PL	V	PNPKC	-	AT	329												
C. neoform.	295	EEPE	ET	I	PDPEA	EK	PE	W	D	D	E	E	D	E	D	G	D	W	I	P	P	M	V	PNPKC	E	D	V	S	334

B.d. 26199	344	GCGM	W	E	P	PMKKNP	EY	KGKWT	A	P	M	I	D	N	P	A	Y	K	G	P	W	A	P	R	K	I	A	N	383										
P.b. Pb01	344	GCGK	W	E	A	P	M	K	K	N	P	D	Y	K	G	K	W	T	P	P	M	I	D	N	P	A	Y	K	G	P	W	T	P	R	K	I	P	N	383
C.i. RS	343	GCGK	W	E	P	PMK	R	N	P	D	Y	K	G	K	W	T	A	P	L	I	D	N	P	A	Y	K	G	P	W	S	P	R	K	I	A	N	382		
H.c. G186AR	344	GCGK	W	Q	P	M	K	K	N	P	D	Y	K	G	K	W	V	A	P	M	I	D	N	P	A	Y	K	G	P	W	A	P	R	K	I	P	N	383	
A flavus	342	GCGP	W	S	A	P	M	K	K	N	P	A	Y	K	G	K	W	T	A	P	M	I	D	N	P	A	Y	K	G	P	W	S	P	R	K	I	A	N	381
C.a.5314	330	GCGP	W	E	A	P	L	I	P	N	H	D	Y	I	G	P	W	F	P	D	I	K	N	P	N	Y	N	G	I	W	T	P	R	I	P	N	369		
C. neoform.	335	GCGP	W	T	A	P	K	V	R	N	P	A	Y	K	G	K	W	T	I	P	K	I	P	N	P	D	Y	K	G	P	W	A	P	R	K	I	A	N	374

B.d. 26199	384	P	N	Y	F	E	D	K	T	P	S	N	F	E	P	-	M	G	A	I	G	F	E	I	W	T	M	Q	N	D	I	L	F	D	N	I	Y	I	G	H	S	422
P.b. Pb01	384	P	N	Y	F	E	D	K	T	P	A	N	F	E	P	-	M	G	A	I	G	F	E	I	W	T	M	Q	N	D	I	L	F	N	N	I	Y	I	G	H	S	422
C.i. RS	383	P	D	F	F	E	D	K	K	P	A	N	F	E	P	-	M	G	A	I	G	F	E	I	W	T	M	Q	N	D	I	L	F	D	N	I	Y	I	G	H	S	421
H.c. G186AR	384	P	D	Y	F	E	D	K	T	P	A	N	F	E	P	-	M	G	A	I	G	F	E	I	W	T	M	Q	S	D	I	L	F	N	N	I	Y	I	G	H	S	422
A flavus	382	P	A	Y	F	E	D	K	T	P	S	N	F	E	P	-	M	G	A	I	G	F	E	I	W	T	M	Q	N	D	I	L	F	D	N	I	Y	I	G	H	S	420
C.a.5314	370	P	Y	Y	Y	Q	V	K	T	P	G	K	L	D	K	P	I	G	I	G	F	E	L	W	S	I	E	S	D	I	L	F	D	N	I	Y	I	G	N	S	409	
C. neoform.	375	P	A	F	E	D	L	H	P	S	D	F	T	K	-	I	G	G	V	G	T	E	L	W	T	M	T	E	D	I	L	F	D	N	I	Y	I	G	H	D	413	

Figure 10 - continued

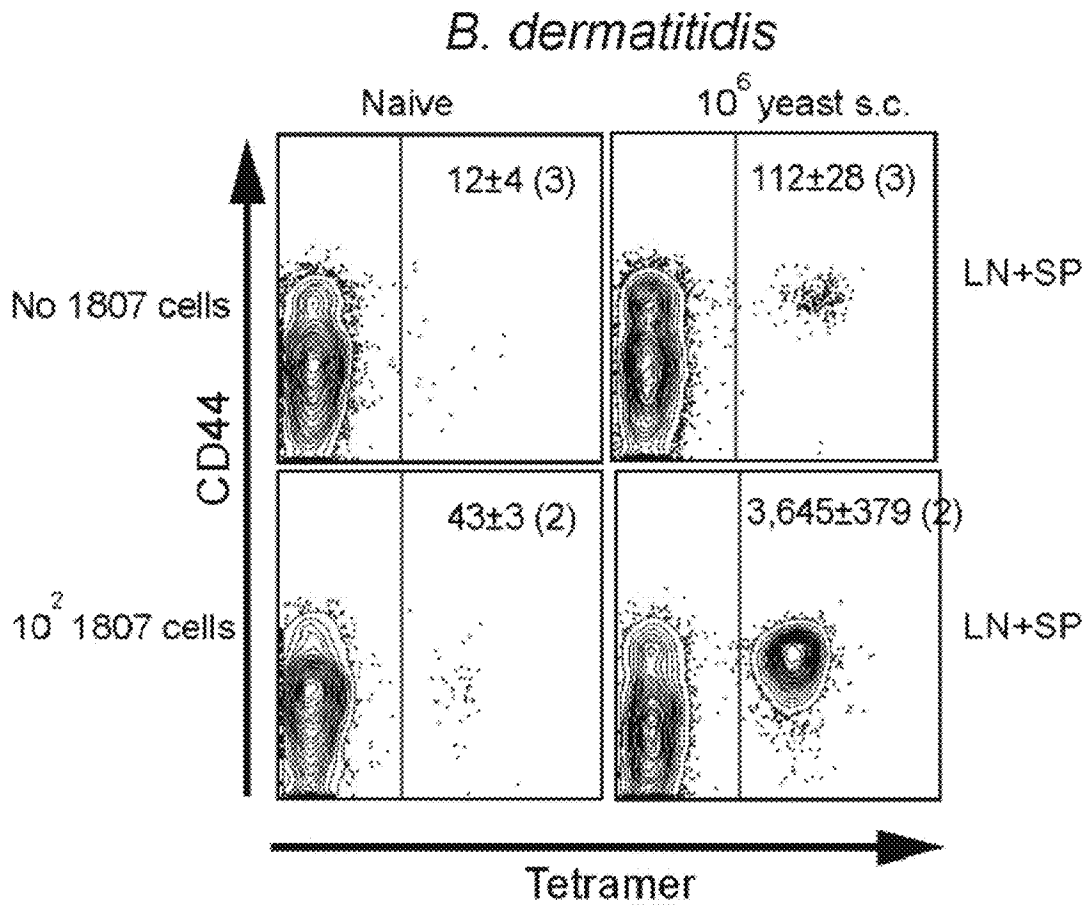


FIGURE 11

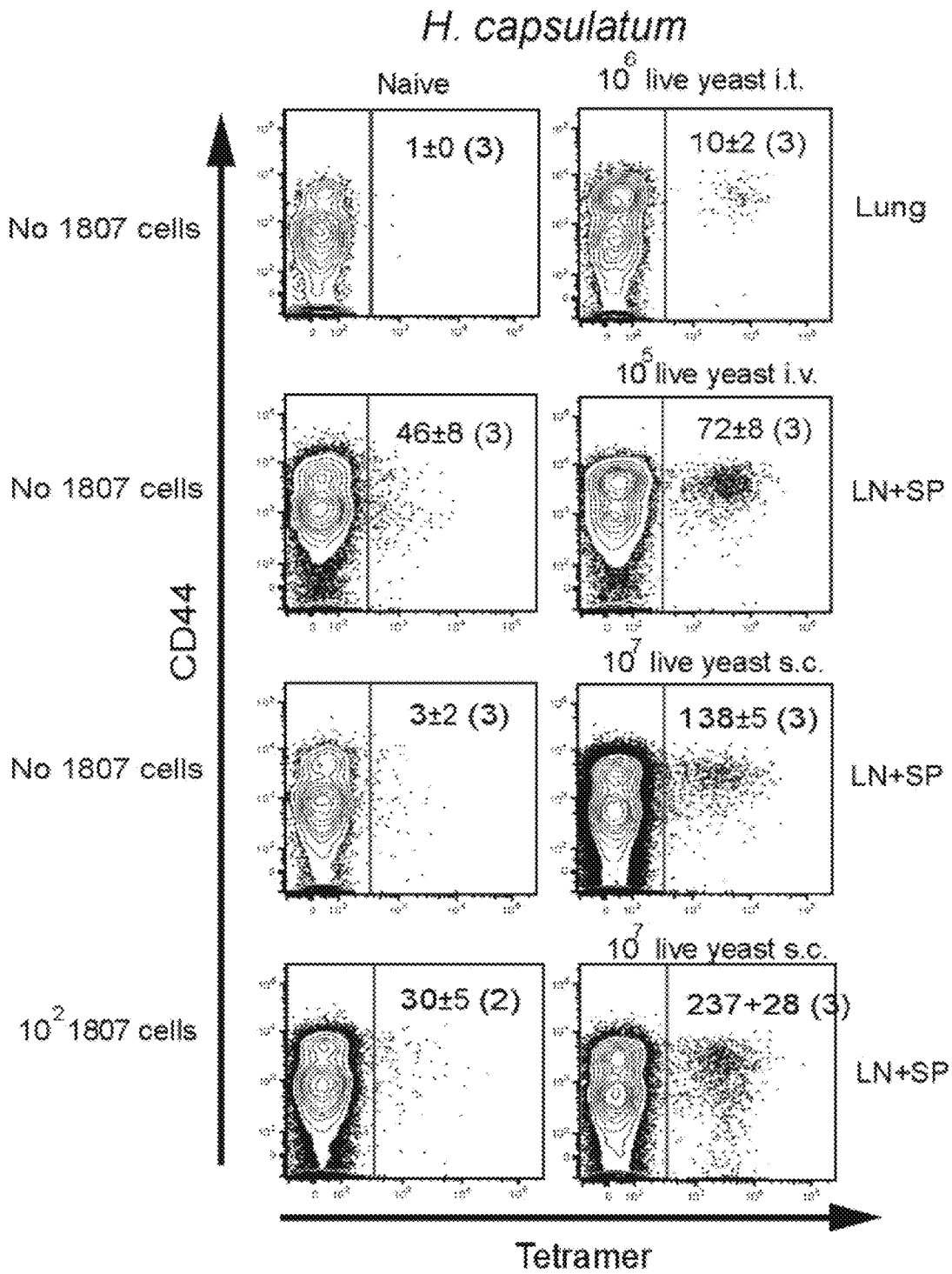


FIGURE 11 - continued

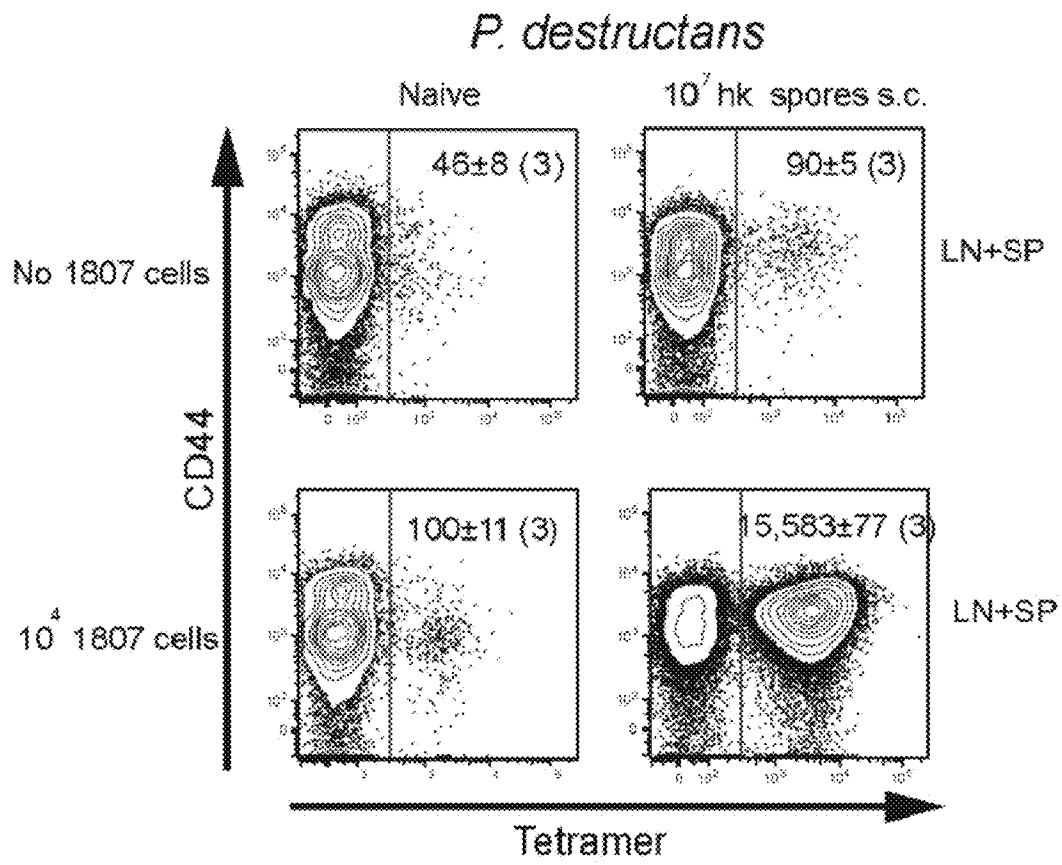


FIGURE 11 - continued

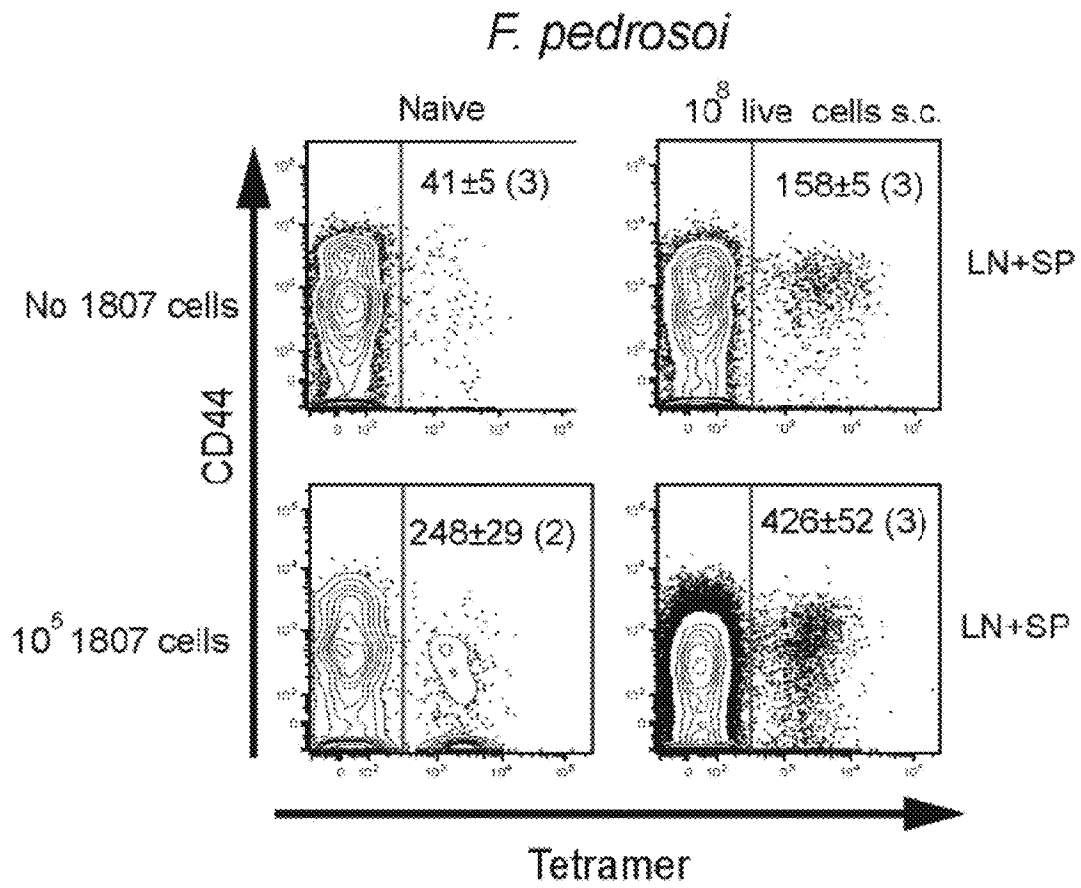


FIGURE 11 - continued

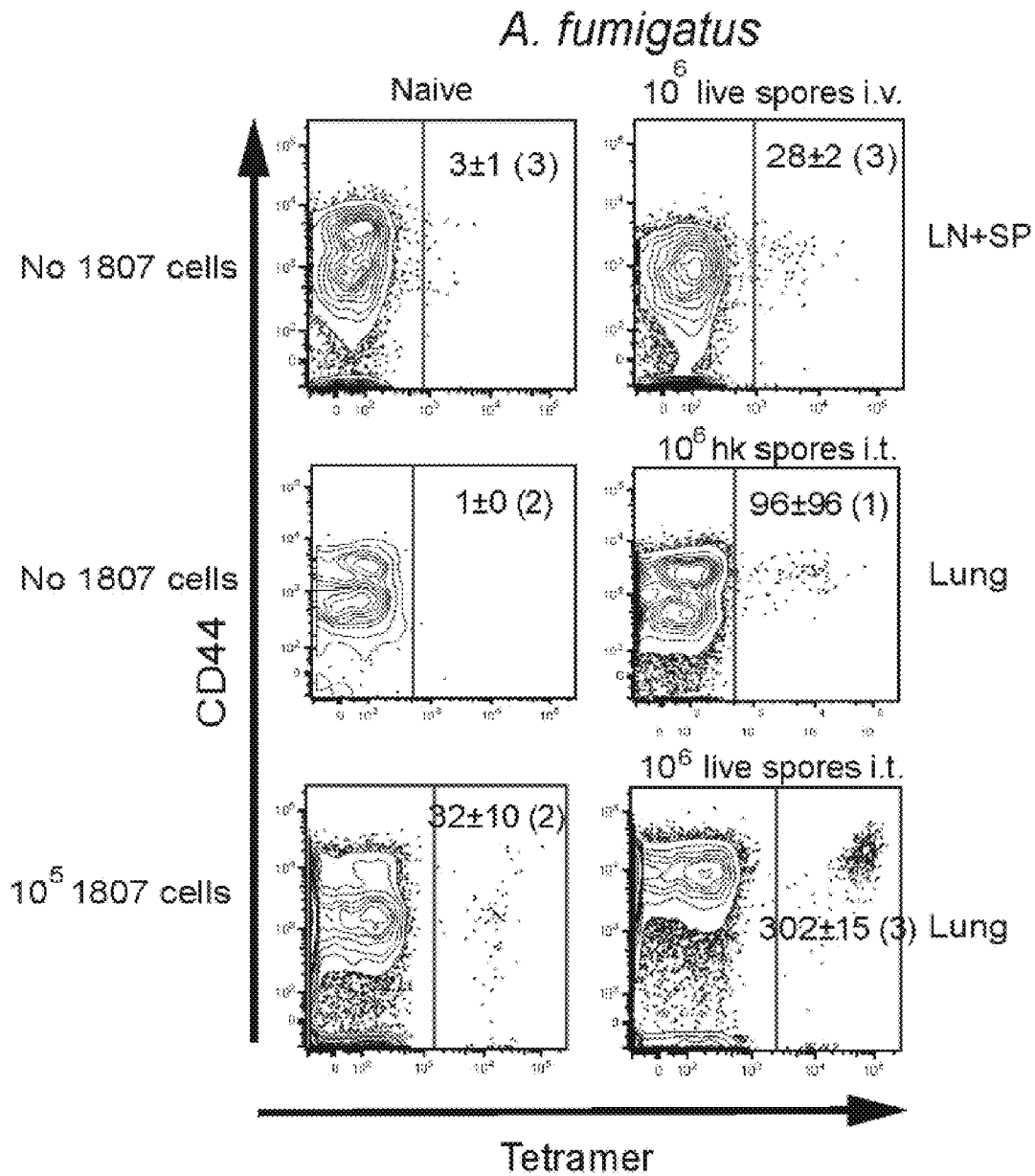


FIGURE 11 - continued

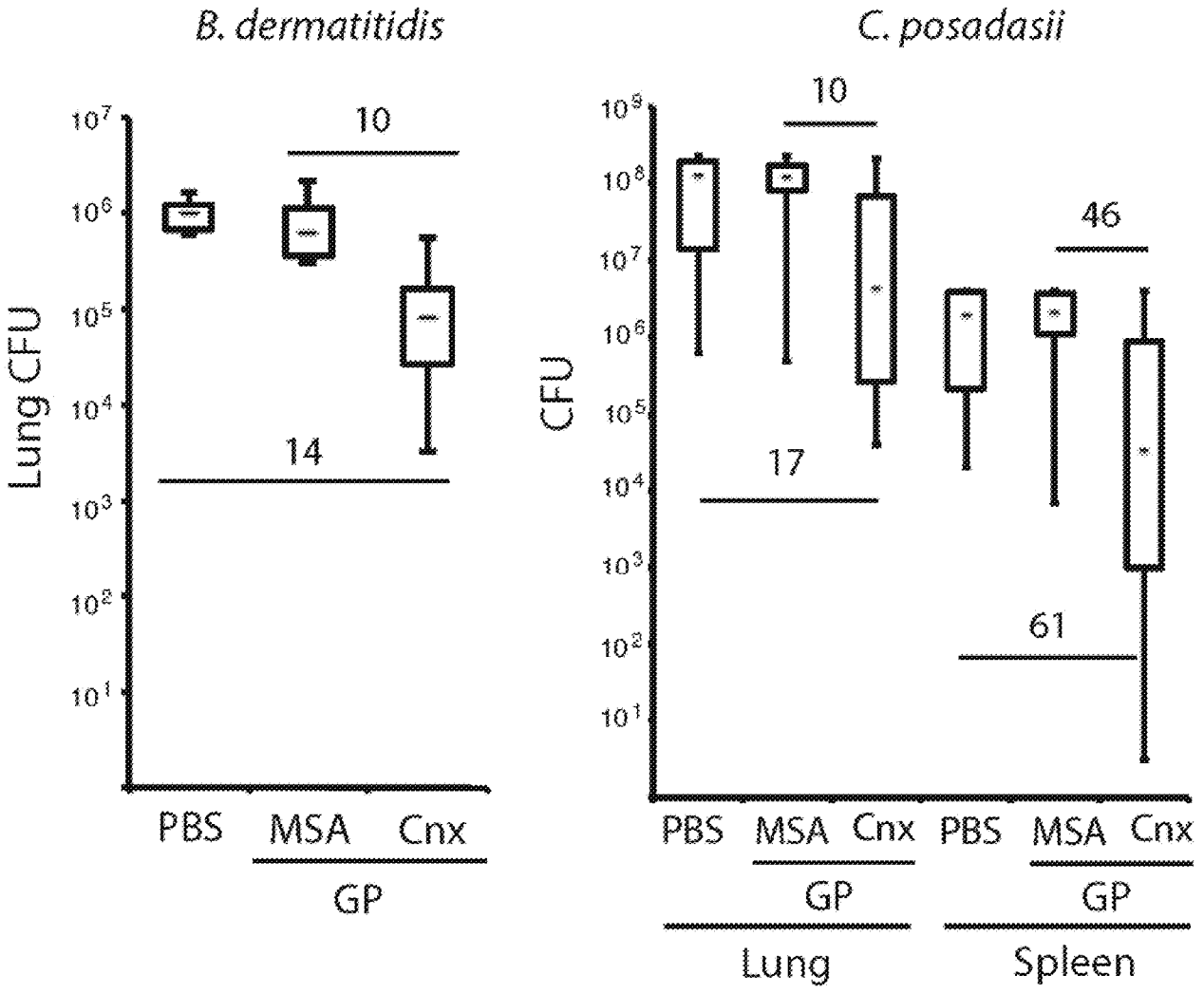


FIGURE 12A

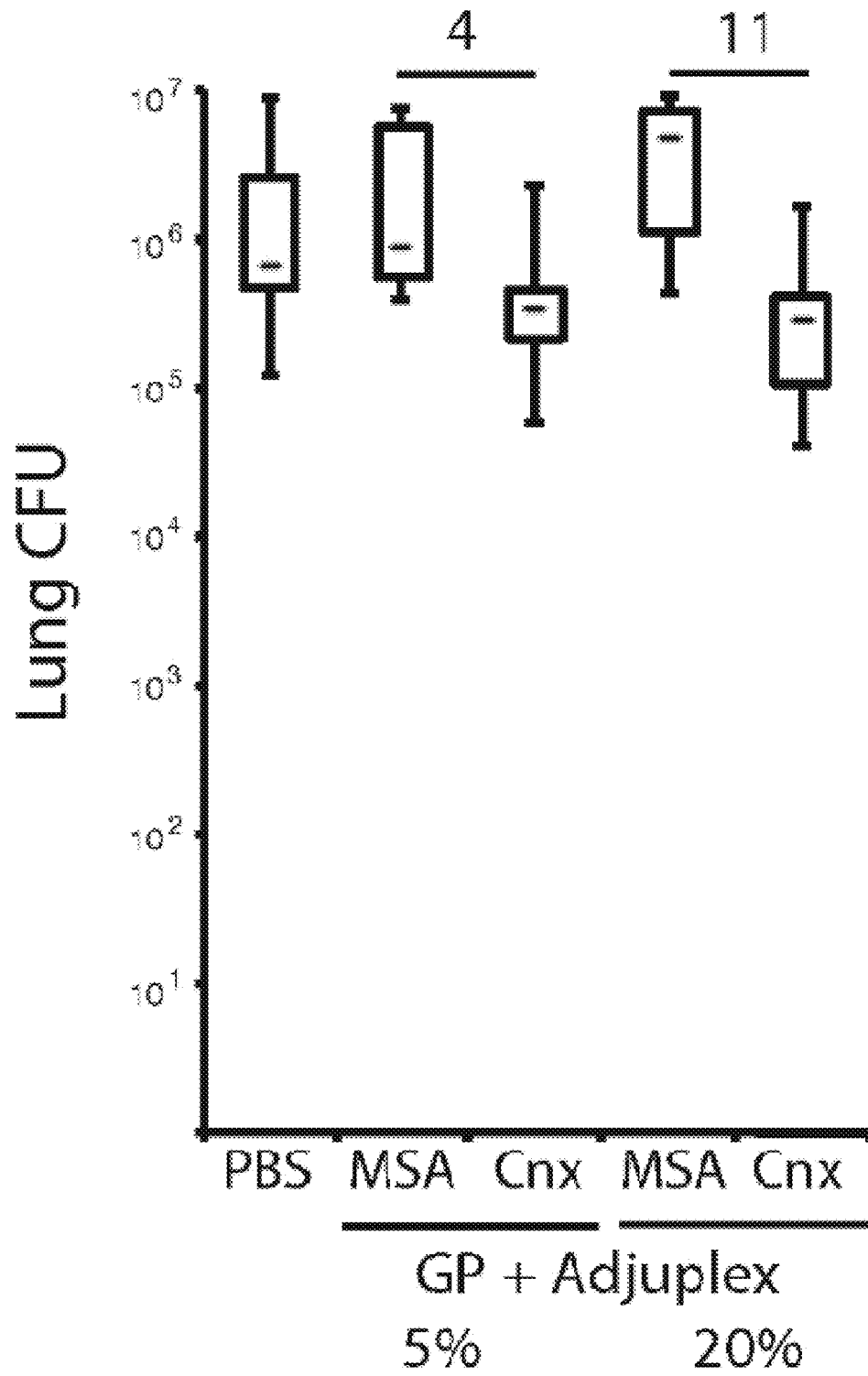


FIGURE 12B

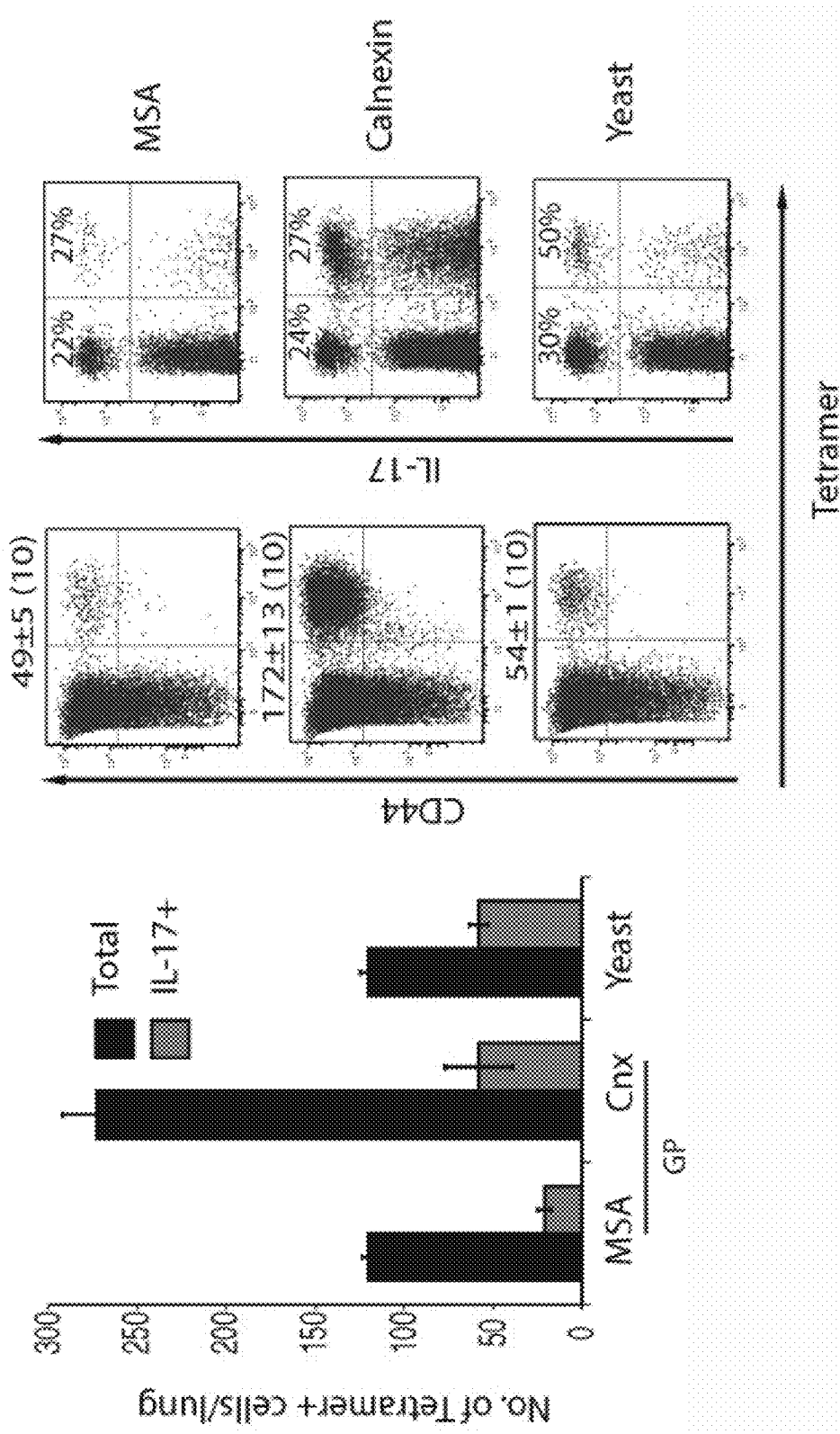


FIGURE 12C

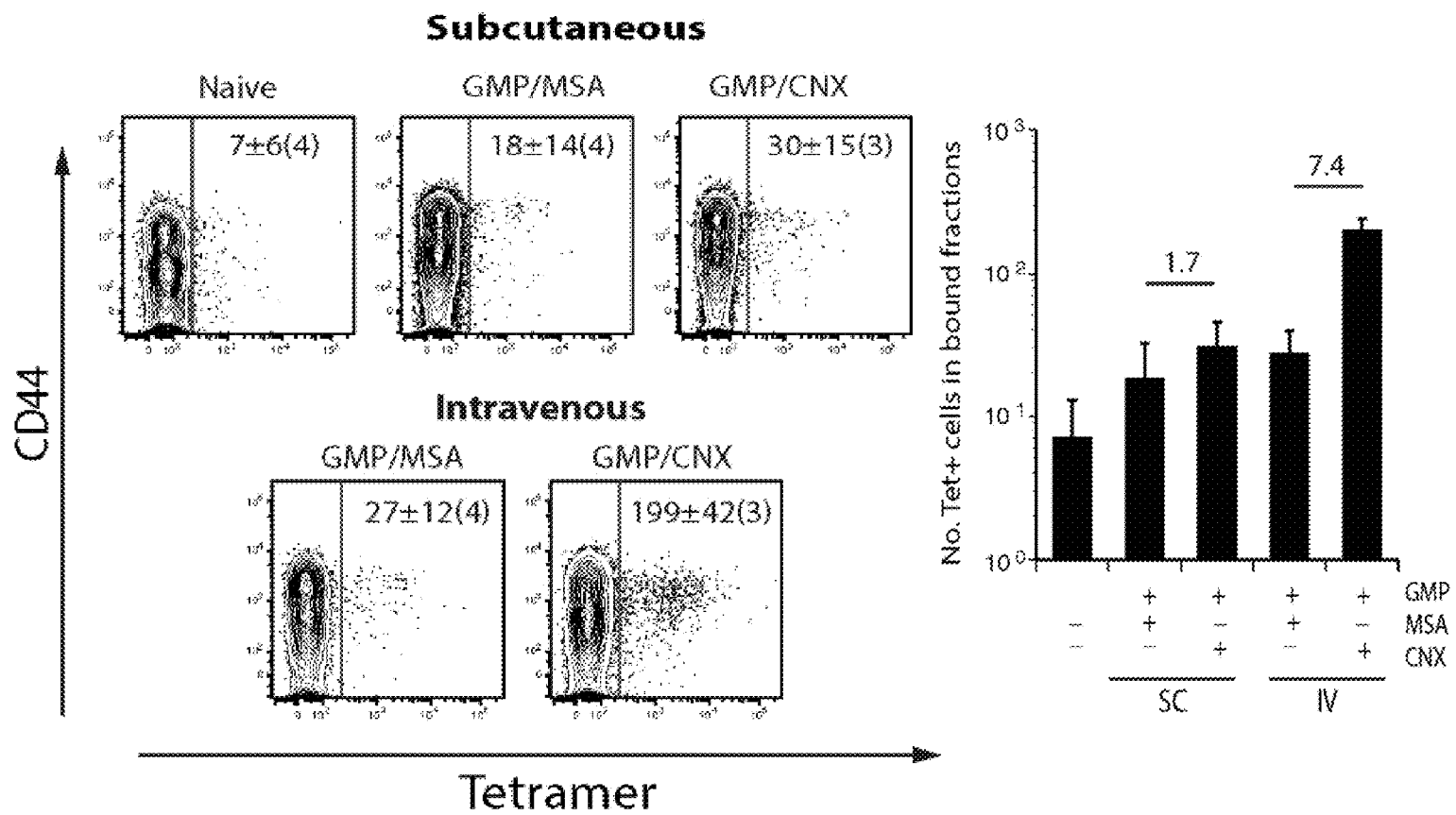


FIGURE 13A

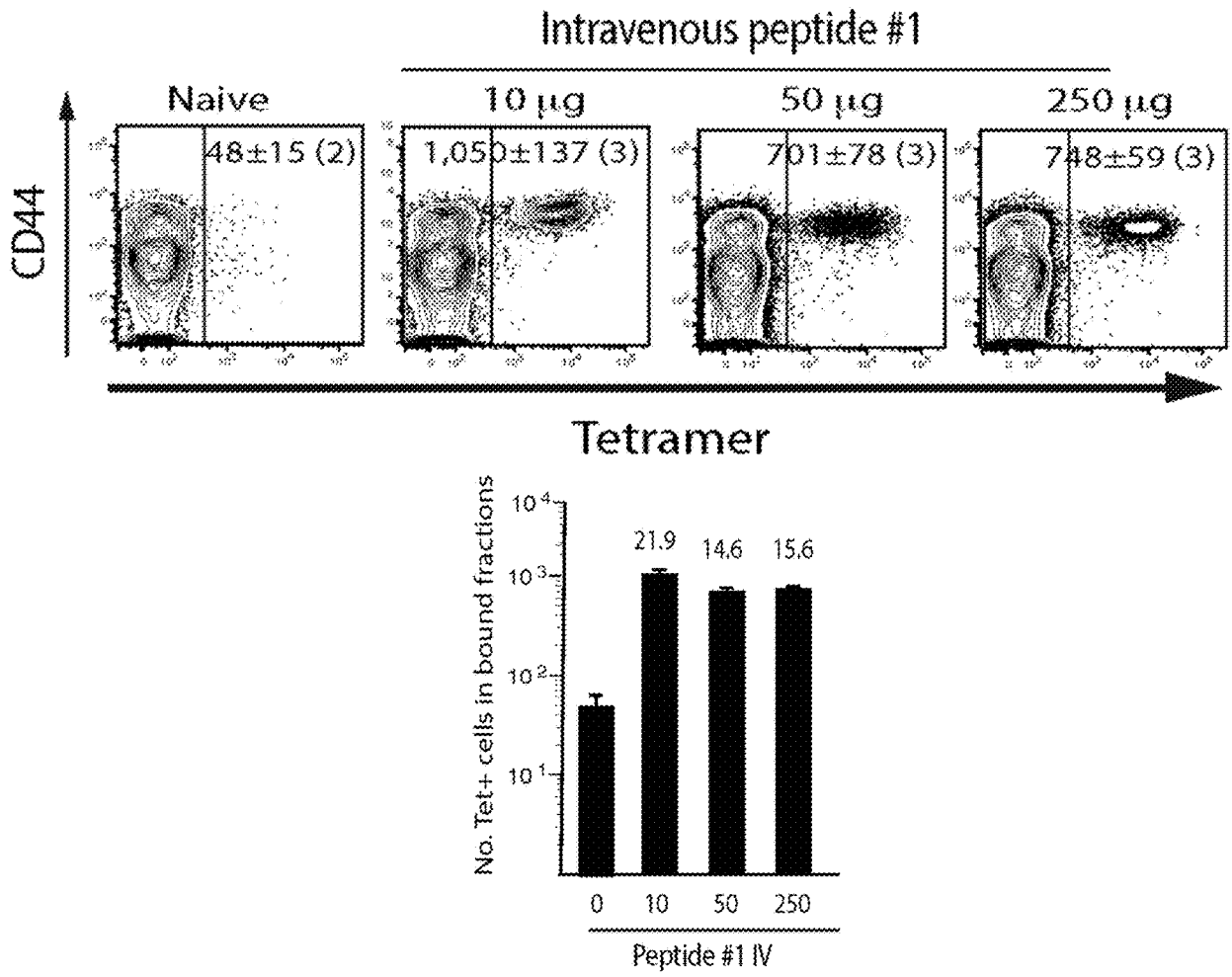


FIGURE 13B

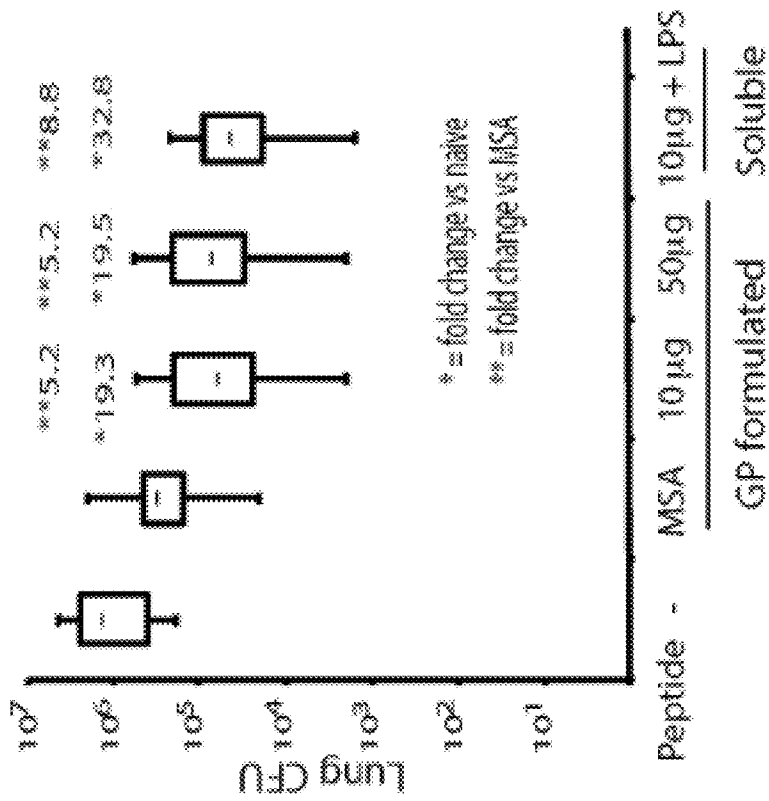


FIGURE 13C

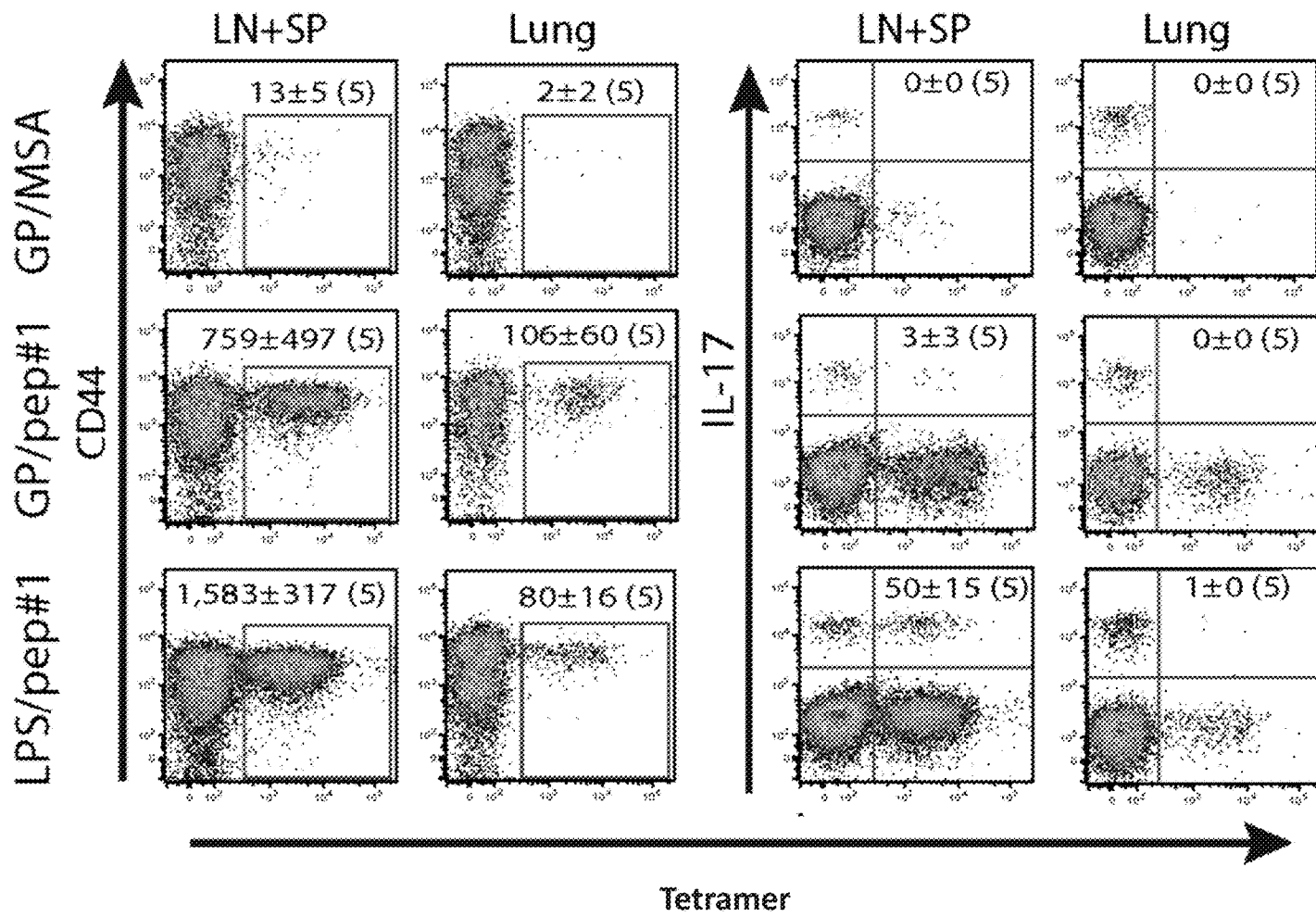


FIGURE 13C - continued

Fig. 14B

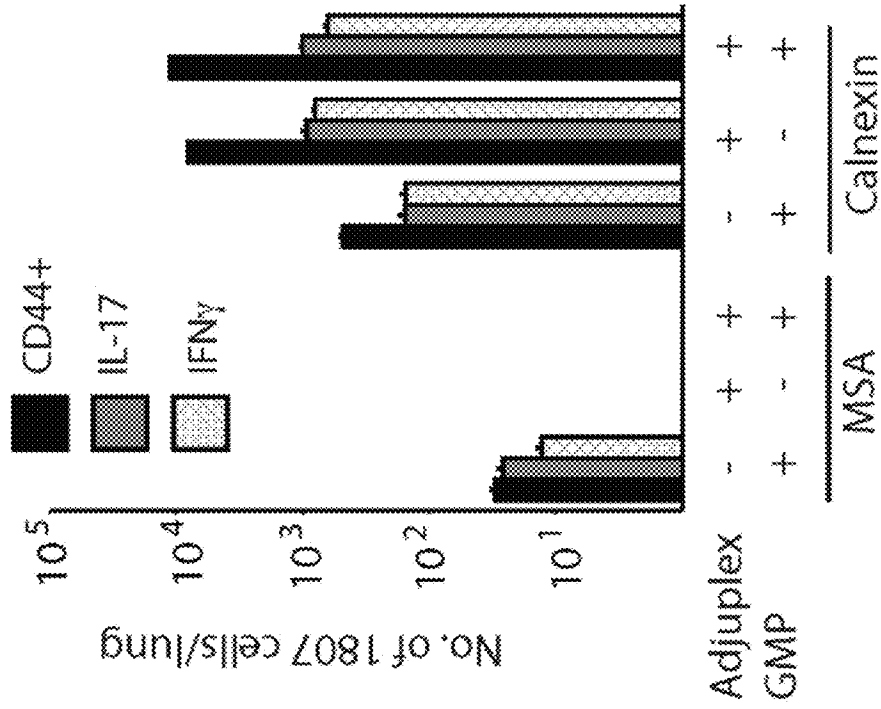
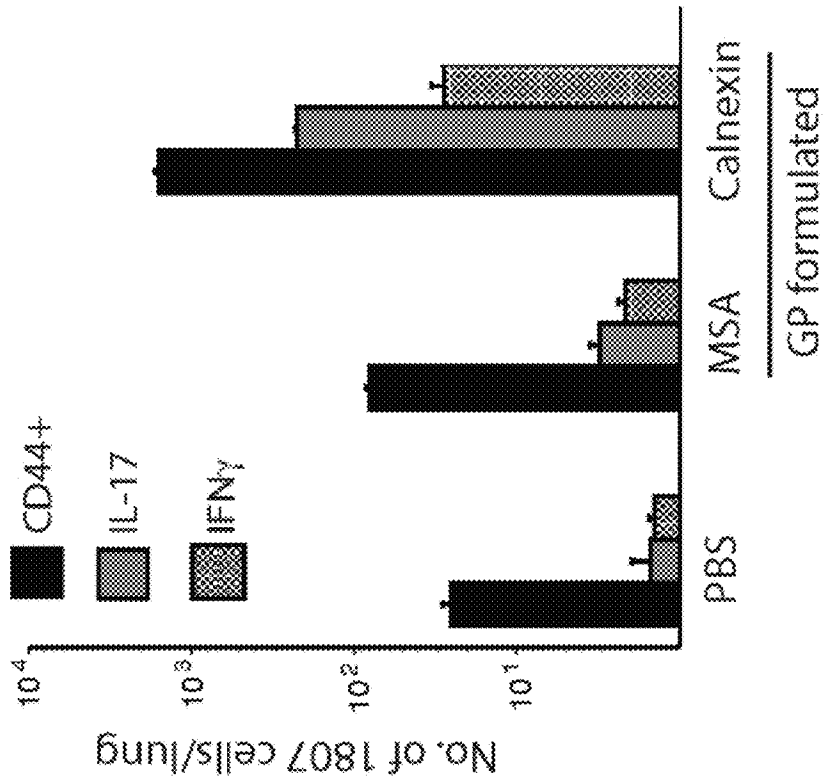


Fig. 14A



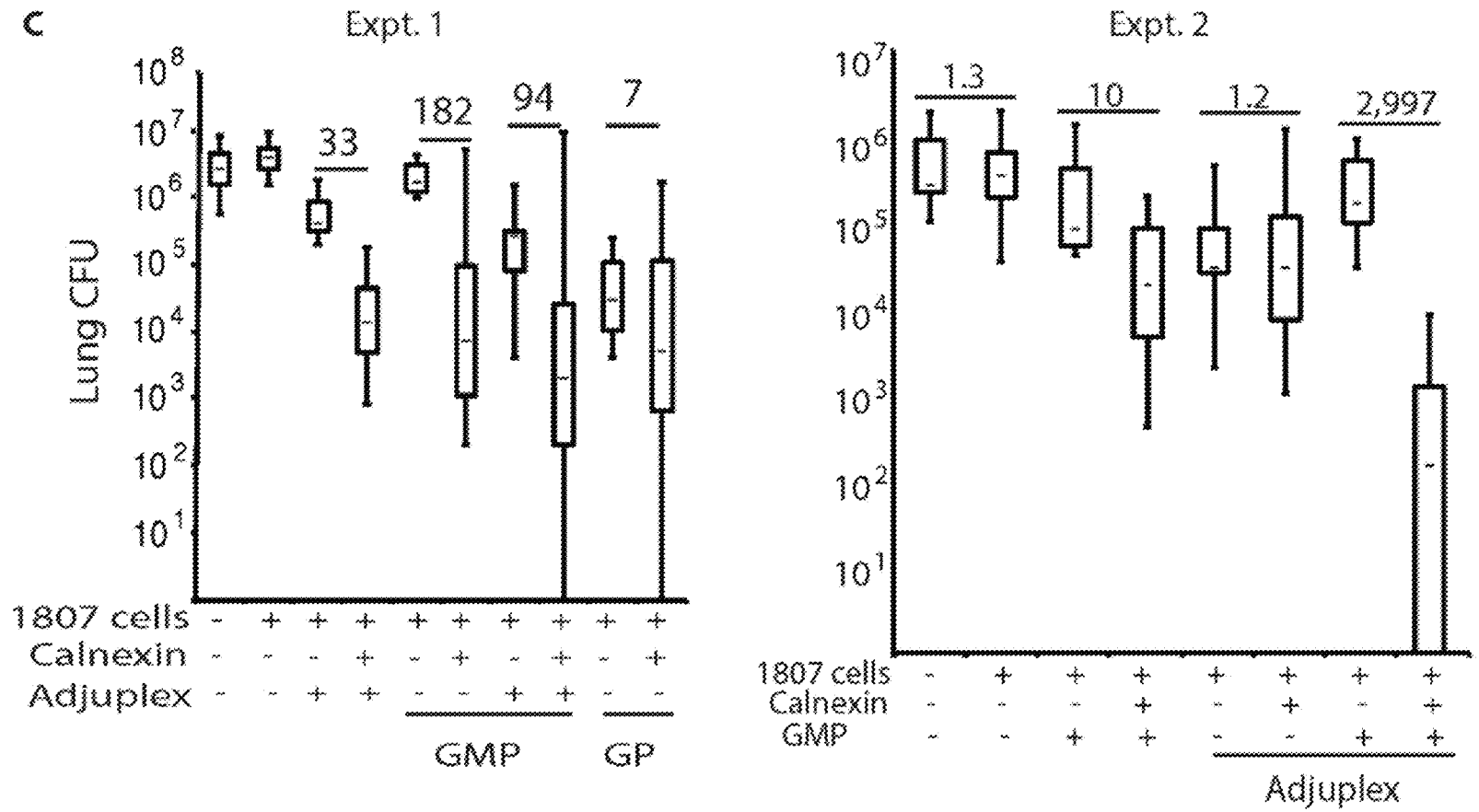


FIGURE 14C

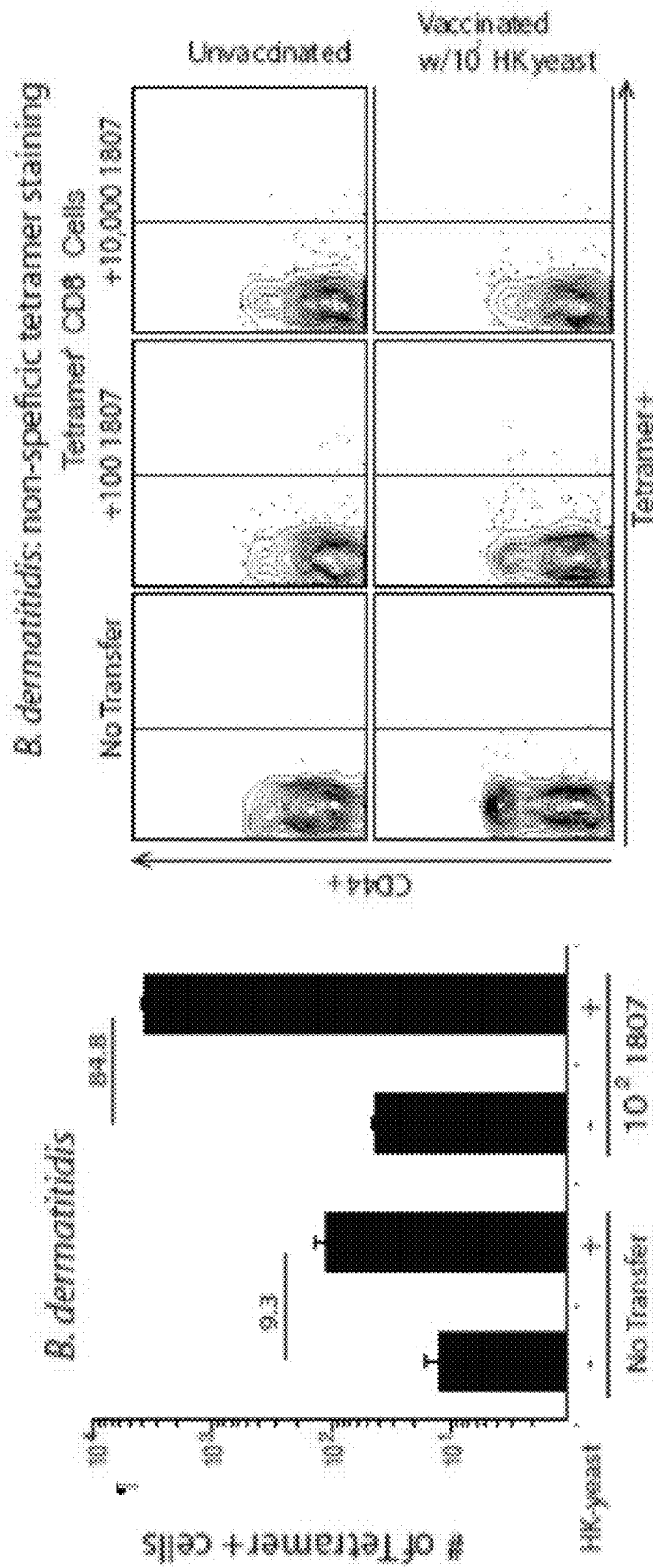


FIGURE 15

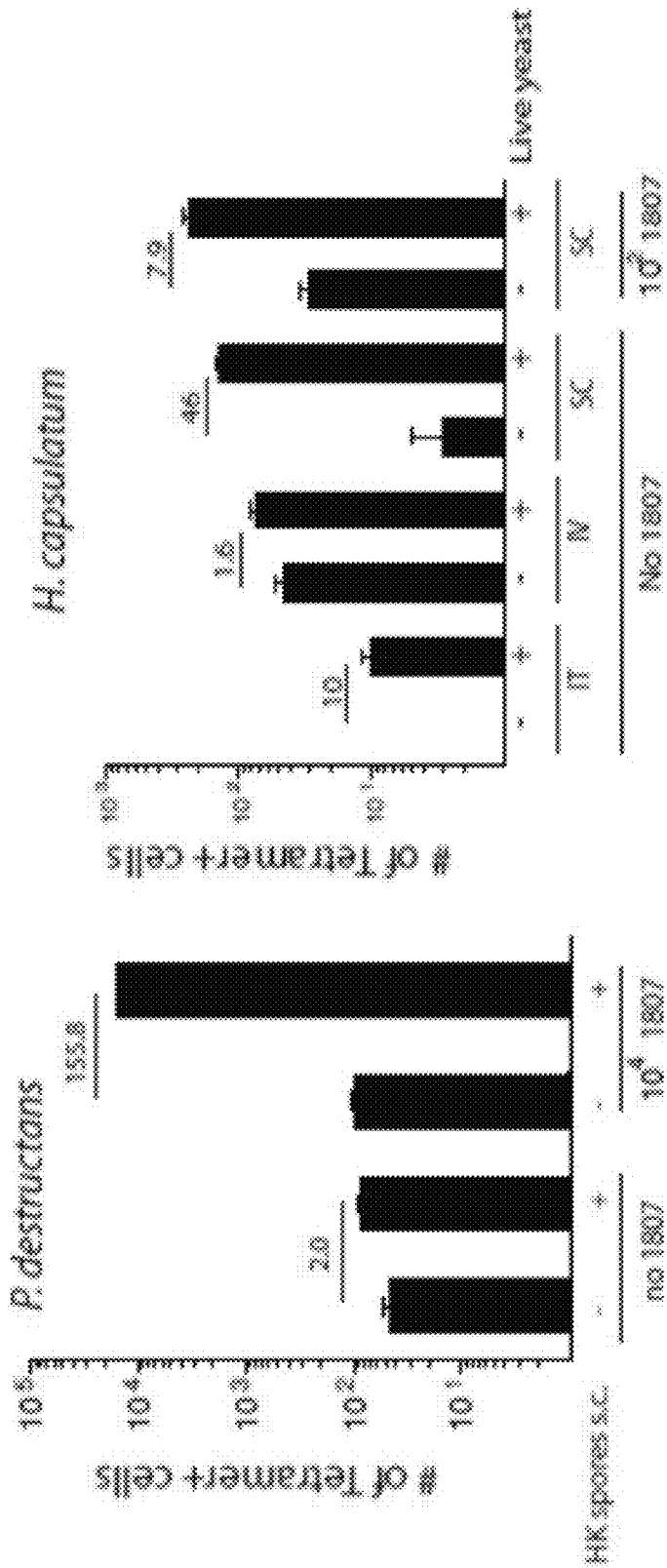


FIGURE 15 - continued

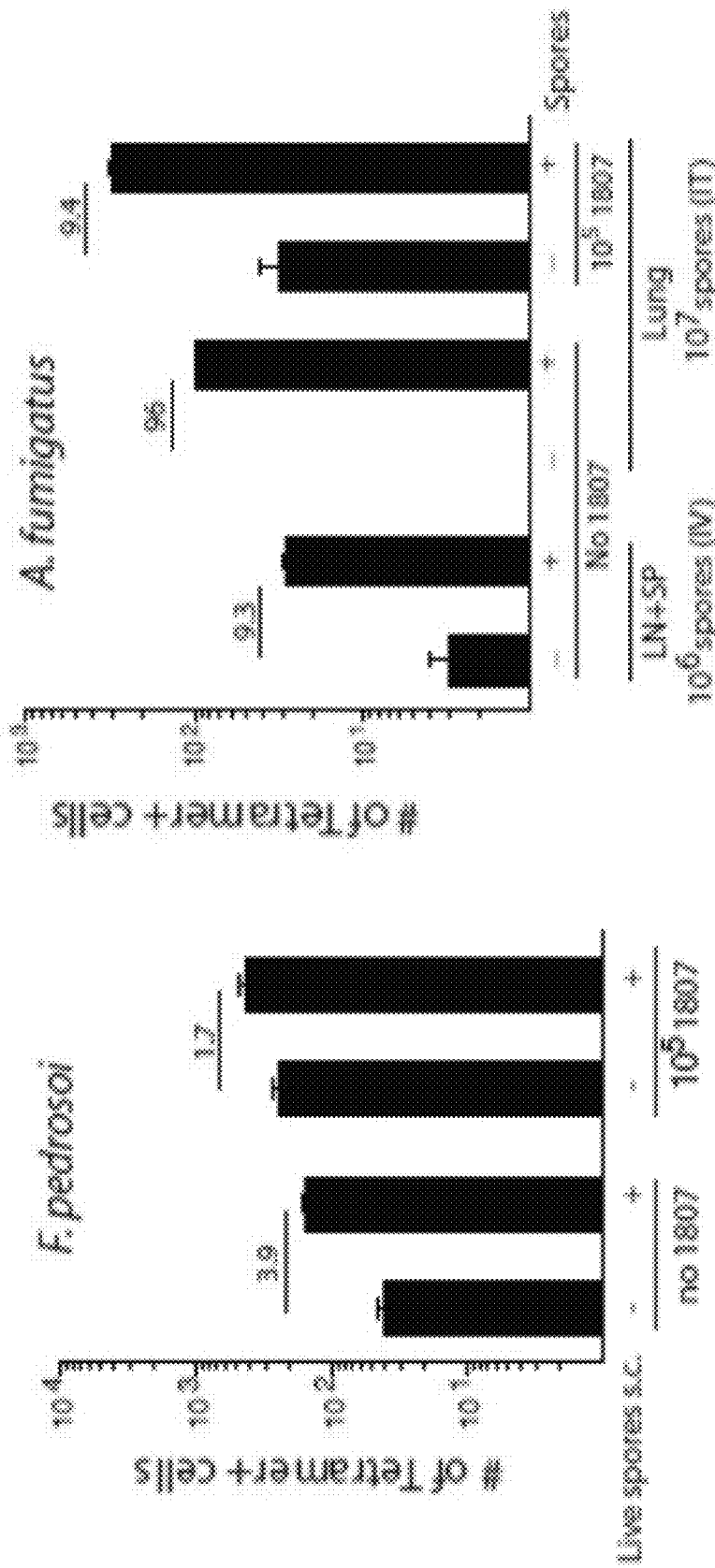


FIGURE 15 - continued

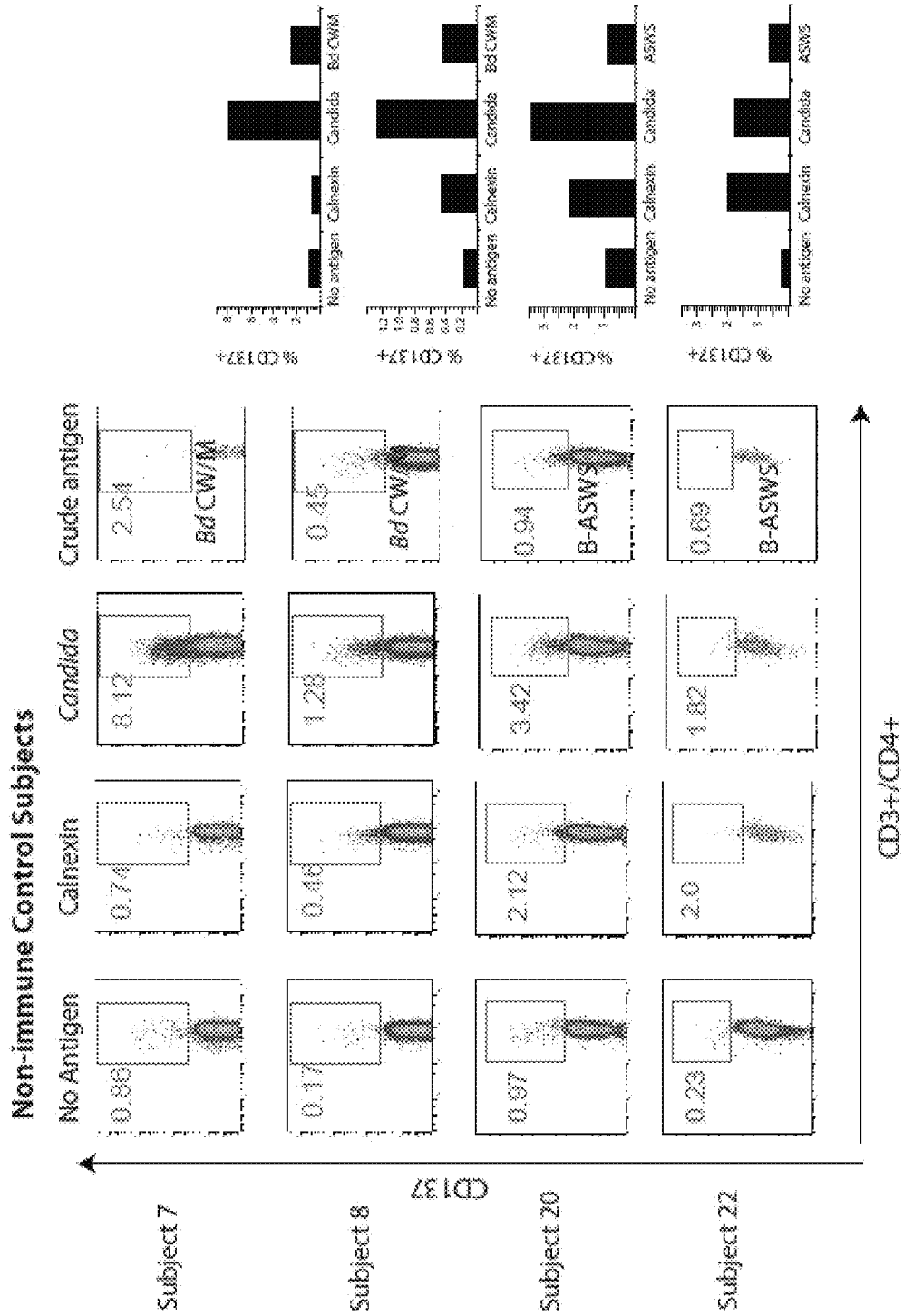


FIGURE 16A

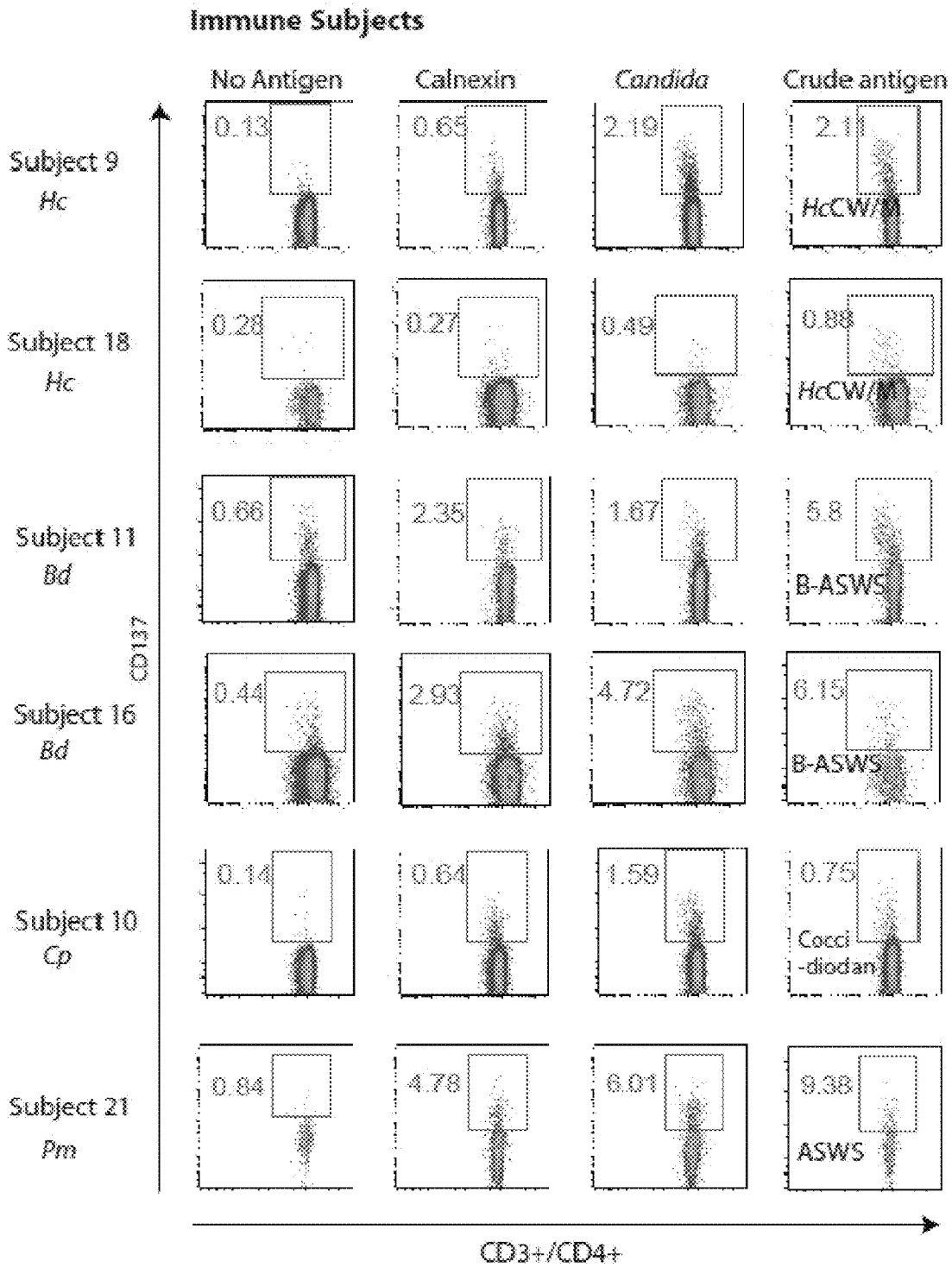


FIGURE 16B

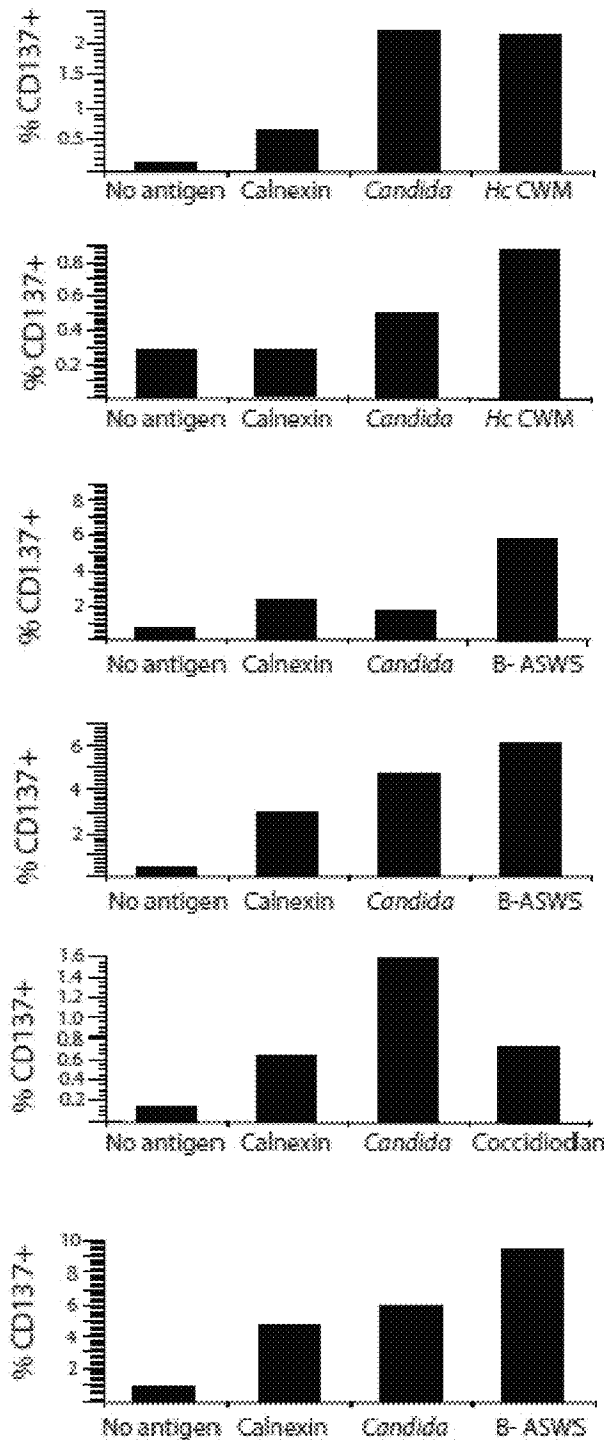


FIGURE 16B - continued

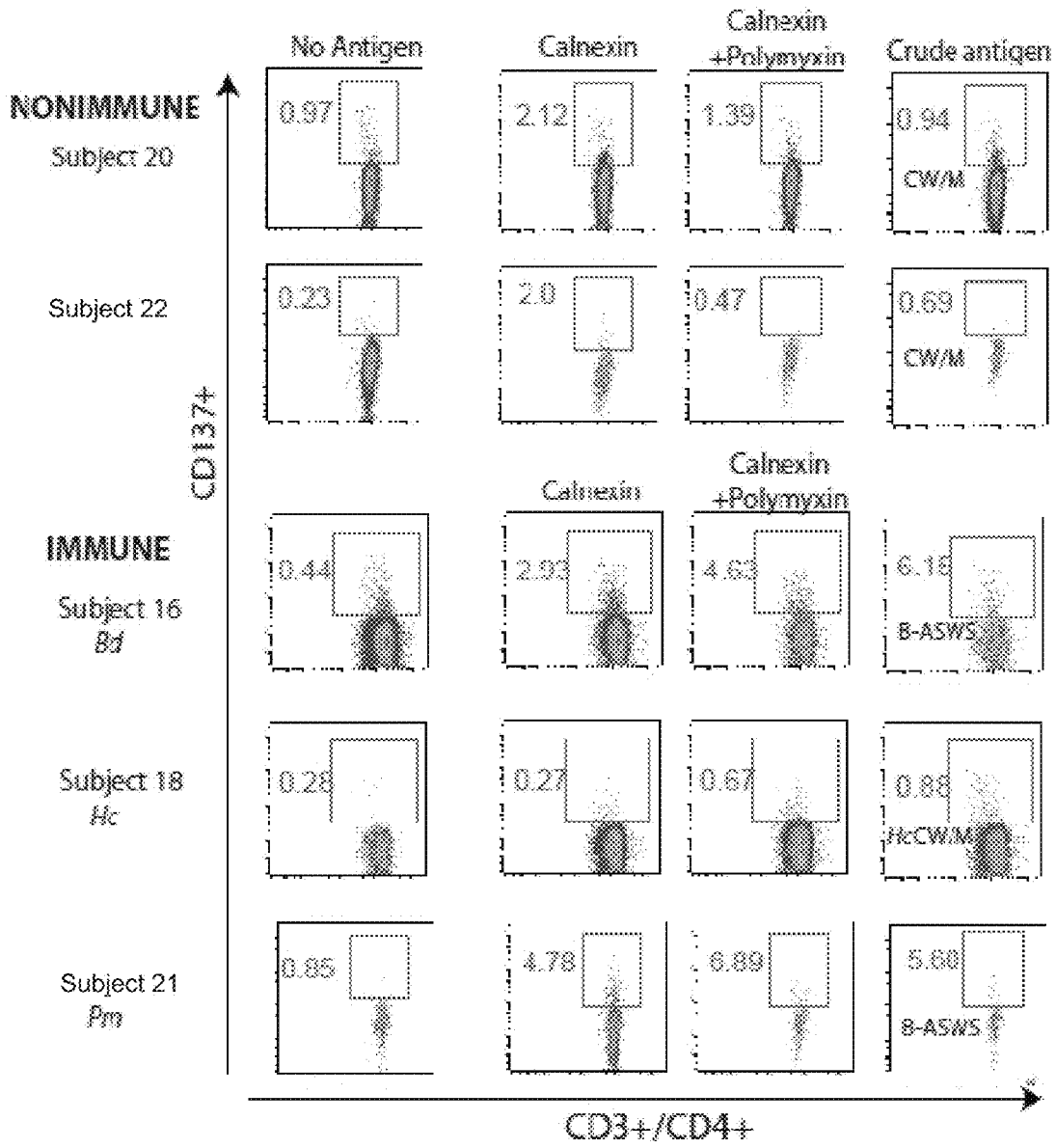


FIGURE 16C

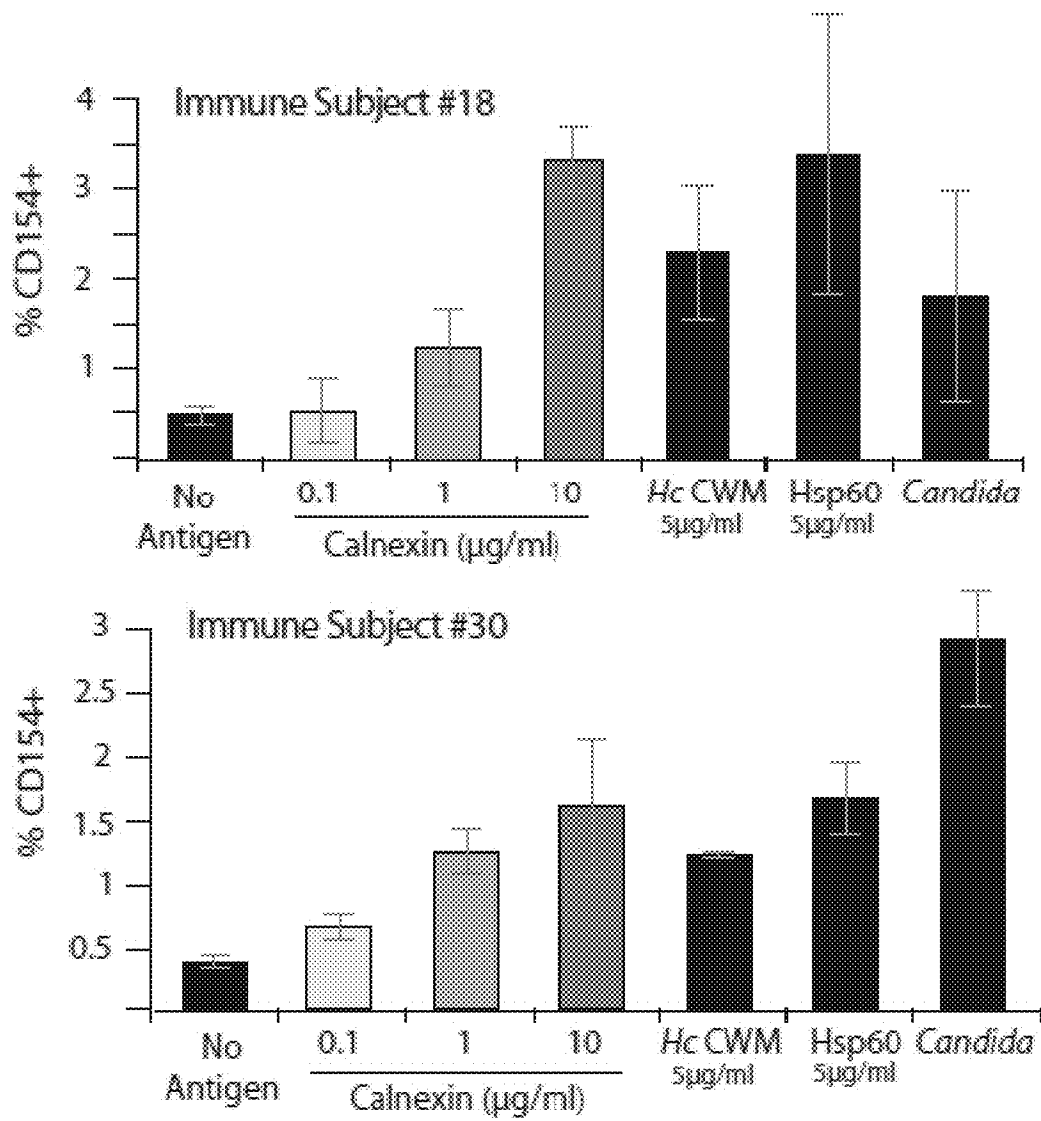


FIGURE 16D

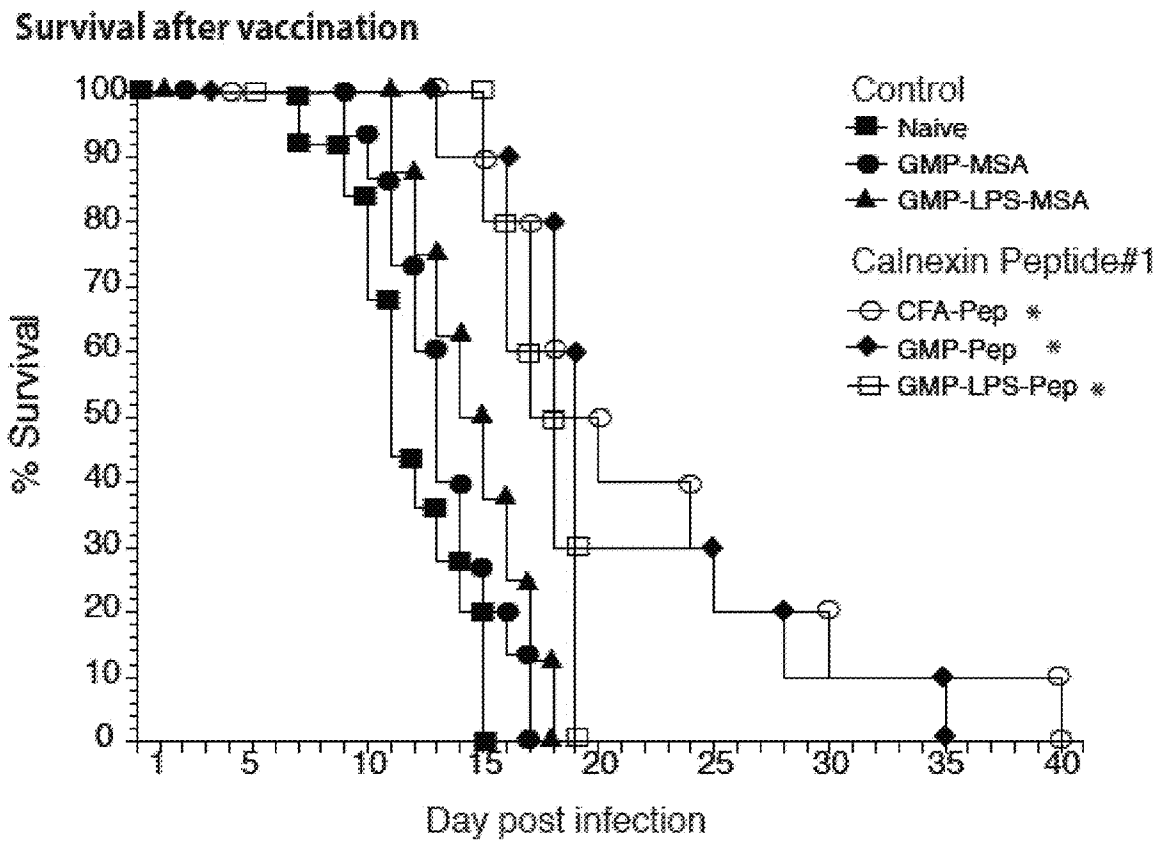


FIGURE 17A

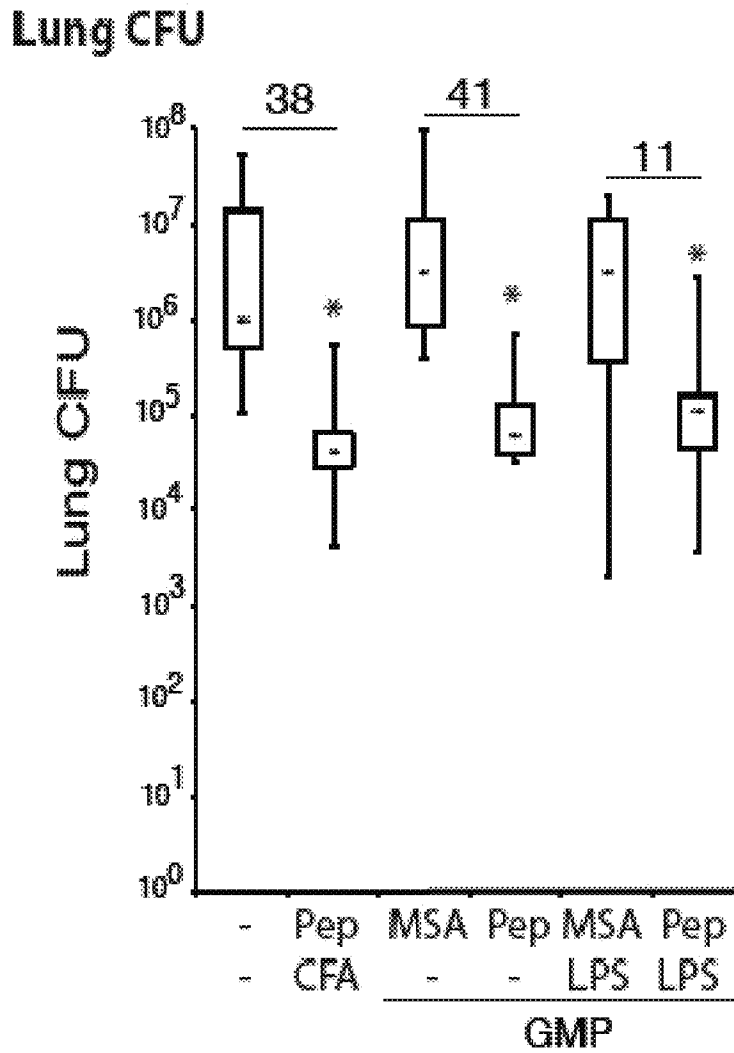


FIGURE 17B

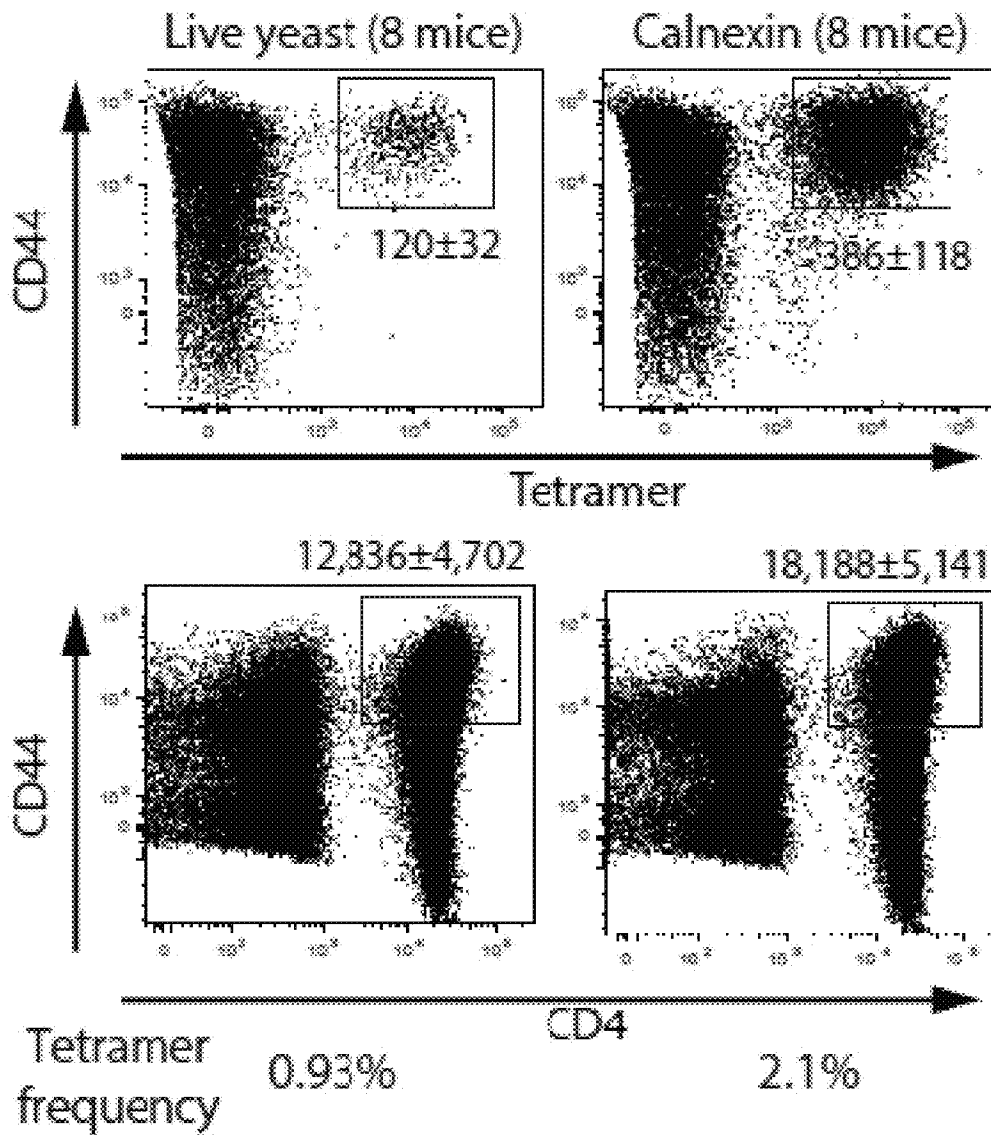


FIGURE 18A

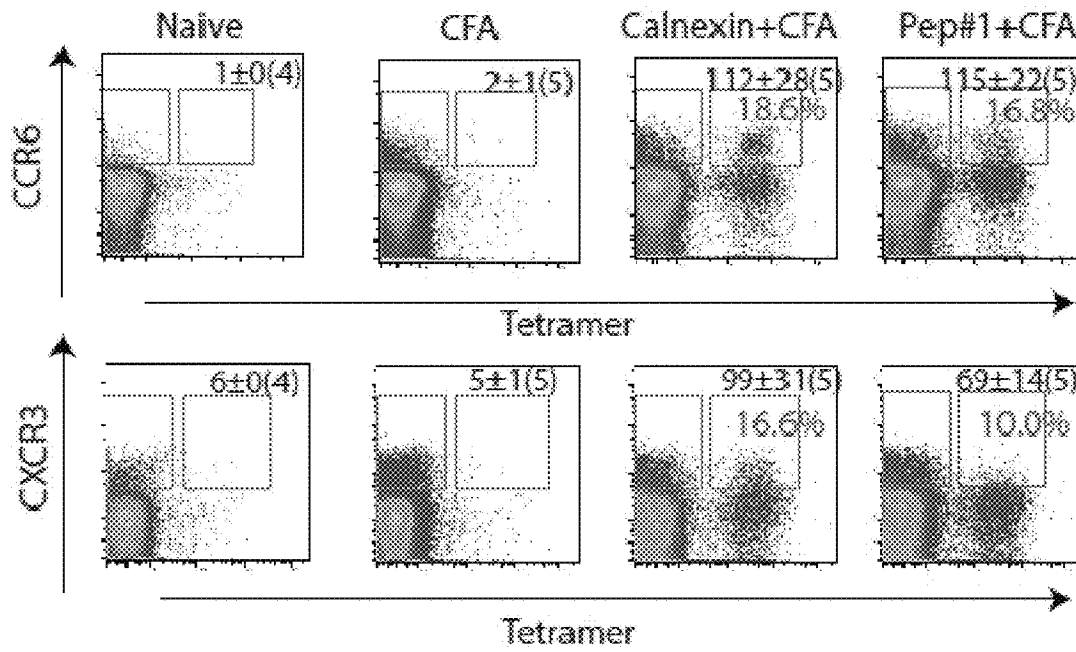


FIGURE 18B

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PEPTIDE MHCII TETRAMERS TO DETECT ENDOGENOUS CALNEXIN SPECIFIC CD4 T CELLS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/951,099 filed Mar. 11, 2014, which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH/DEVELOPMENT

This invention was made with government support under AI105816 and AI093553 awarded by the National Institutes of Health. The government has certain rights in the invention.

BACKGROUND

Major killers such as poliomyelitis have been eradicated, but new pathogens are emerging. Fungi are one such group, which is linked partly to modern medical practices. Fungi, from yeasts colonizing the skin or mucosa, to molds from soil or water, are often harmless in the context of normal host responses. However, the success of cancer chemotherapy, as well as the AIDS pandemic, has led to immune deficiencies in a growing segment of the human population. Likewise, the routine use of intravenous catheters in hospitals provides a route of access for microbes that otherwise might not be able to infect human hosts. *Candida* is now among the leading agents of nosocomial blood stream infections (Pfaller et al., 2011). Infection with the mold *Aspergillus* is among the most feared complications in patients with hematological malignancies (Walsh et al., 2008). Over one million new cases per year of cryptococcosis are estimated worldwide in patients with AIDS, and over half those affected die of the infection (Park et al., 2009). Fungal infections have thus become an important cause of morbidity and mortality, and represent an increasing burden on the medical system. Effective ways to treat and prevent these infections are badly needed.

Vaccines have been hailed as one of the greatest achievements in public health during the past century. The global eradication of Smallpox virus in humans and Rinderpest virus in animals, and the near eradication or successful prevention of other viral or bacterial infections, for example meningitis in children due to *Hemophilus influenzae* Type B, offer compelling examples. Yet, the development of safe and efficacious vaccines against fungi has been a major hurdle. This difficulty stems from the relative genetic complexity and intractability of fungi in the laboratory, limited knowledge of the mechanisms that underpin anti-fungal protective immunity, and a lack of defined antigen (Ag) candidates for vaccine protection against fungal pathogens. To date, only two vaccines against fungi have moved into clinical trials (Cassone and Casadevall, 2012). An investigational candidate vaccine containing rAls3p-N (NDV-3), directed against *Candida* (and also *S. aureus*), has been tested for safety and immunogenicity in volunteers in a Phase I trial. Another candidate vaccine containing rSap2p was found to be tolerated and effective in inducing specific antibodies and B cell memory in women with recurrent vulvovaginitis in a European clinical trial (Edwards, 2012). Highly conserved Ags that are shared across fungal pathogens in a family or taxon would be preferable, but the only such component that has

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shown promise is β -glucan. Cassone et. al. (Torosantucci et al., 2005) reported that this shared cell wall component served as the basis for a glyco-conjugate vaccine against *Candida* and *Aspergillus*. This preparation has not yet moved into clinical trials, but β -glucan particles (GPs) could serve as an experimental platform for the delivery of candidate vaccines against fungi.

The incidence of fungal infections and mycoses has increased significantly in the past two decades, mainly due to the growing number of individuals who have reduced immunological function (immuno-compromised patients), such as cancer patients, patients who have undergone organ transplantation, patients with AIDS, patients undergoing hemodialysis, critically ill patients, patients after major surgery, patients with catheters, patients suffering from severe trauma or burns, patients having debilitating metabolic illnesses such as diabetes mellitus, persons whose blood is exposed to environmental microbes such as individuals having indwelling intravenous tubes, and even in some elderly individuals. Fungal infections are often also attributed to the frequent use of cytotoxic and/or antibacterial drugs, which alter the normal bacterial flora. Fungi include moulds, yeasts and higher fungi. All fungi are eukaryotic and have sterols but not peptidoglycan in their cell membrane. They are chemoheterotrophs (requiring organic nutrition) and most are aerobic. Many fungi are also saprophytes (living off dead organic matter) in soil and water and acquire their food by absorption. Characteristically fungi also produce sexual and asexual spores. There are over 100,000 species recognized, with 100 infectious members for humans.

Human fungal infections are uncommon in generally healthy persons, being confined to conditions such as *Candidiasis* (thrush) and dermatophyte skin infections such as athlete's foot. Nevertheless, yeast and other fungi infections are one of the human ailments which still present a formidable challenge to modern medicine. In an immuno-compromised host, a variety of normally mild or nonpathogenic fungi can cause potentially fatal infections. Furthermore, the relative ease with which human can now travel around the world provides the means for unusual fungal infections to be imported from place to place. Therefore, wild and resistant strains of fungi are considered to be one of the most threatening and frequent cause of death mainly in hospitalized persons and immuno-compromised patients.

The identity of conserved antigens among pathogenic fungi is poorly understood. This is especially true for immunologically significant antigens that may serve as immunogens to vaccinate against infection. There are currently no commercial vaccines against fungi despite the growing problem of fungal infections. A vaccine against pathogenic fungi, especially one that protects against multiple fungal pathogens, would be of enormous clinical benefit, and of commercial interest.

An improved vaccine and a method of vaccination against fungi are needed in the art. Specifically, a vaccine antigenic to multiple fungi, e.g., multiple dimorphic fungi, and a method of using such vaccine are needed in the art.

There is currently no way to identify CD4 T cells in mammalian blood or tissue, and thus to determine an individual's profile of CD4 T cell based immune resistance or susceptibility. Therefore, needed in the art are compositions and methods for evaluating immune status of a patient by identifying and evaluating CD4 T cells in the patient.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect, the present invention discloses a method for evaluating the immune status of a patient against a fungus.

The method comprises the steps of (a) obtaining peptide-MHCII tetramers; (b) exposing a patient's sample to a suitable amount of the pMHCII tetramers; (c) identifying helper T cells in the patient's sample; (d) quantifying the helper T cells in the patient's sample; and (e) monitoring the response, expansion and characteristics of the helper T cells the after infection and vaccination, wherein the immune status of a patient against the fungus is obtained by comparing the quantity, expansion and characteristics of the helper T cells before and after infection and vaccination.

In one embodiment, the sample is a fresh blood sample.

In one embodiment, the peptide-MHCII tetramers comprise a calnexin peptide.

In one embodiment, the calnexin peptide comprises or consists of a sequence selected from a group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-5, 7-8, and 12.

In one embodiment, the peptide-MHCII tetramers comprise at least one fluorescent label.

In one embodiment, the helper T cells are "endogenous" calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells.

In one embodiment, in the step (c) helper T cells are identified by using a spectroscopy technique. In one specific embodiment, the spectroscopy technique is fluorescence.

In one embodiment, the fungus is either a dimorphic fungus or non-dimorphic fungus.

In one specific embodiment, the dimorphic fungus is selected from a group consisting of *Histoplasma*, *Coccidioides*, *Paracoccidioides*, *Penicillium*, *Blastomyces*, and *Sporothrix*.

In one embodiment, the fungus is selected from a group consisting of *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, *Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Fonsecea pedrosoi*, and *Geomyces destructans*.

In one aspect, the present invention discloses a composition to evaluate the immune status of a patient against a fungus, wherein the composition comprises peptide-MHCII tetramers.

In one embodiment, the peptide-MHCII tetramers comprise a calnexin peptide.

In one embodiment, the calnexin peptide comprises or consists of a sequence selected from a group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-5, 7-8, and 12.

In one embodiment, the composition additionally comprises at least one of a stabilizer, a buffer, or an adjuvant.

In one embodiment, the peptide-MHCII tetramers comprise at least one fluorescent label.

In one aspect, the present invention discloses a kit for evaluating the immune status of a patient against a fungus. The kit comprises (1) a container or formulation wherein the container or formulation comprises peptide-MHCII tetramers, (2) means for exposing peptide-MHCII tetramers to a sample of a patient, and (3) means for detecting helper T cells in the patient's sample, wherein the peptide-MHCII tetramers are binding to the helper T cells.

In one embodiment, the peptide-MHCII tetramers comprise a calnexin peptide.

In one embodiment, the calnexin peptide comprises or consists of a sequence selected from a group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-5, 7-8, and 12.

In one embodiment, the sample is a fresh blood sample.

In one embodiment, the peptide-MHCII tetramers are in the form of a powder.

In one embodiment, the peptide-MHCII tetramers are in a solution.

In one embodiment, the peptide-MHCII tetramers comprise at least one fluorescent label.

In one embodiment, the means of detection is a fluorescence technique.

In one embodiment, the fungus is selected from a group consisting of *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, *Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Fonsecea pedrosoi*, and *Geomyces destructans*.

In one embodiment, the help T cells are "endogenous" calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells.

In one embodiment, the means for delivering peptide-MHCII tetramers is selected from a group consisting of subcutaneous administration, intramuscular administration, transcutaneous administration, intradermal administration, intraperitoneal administration, intraocular administration, intranasal administration and intravenous administration.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The patent or application file contains at least one drawing in color. Copies of this patent or patent application publication with color drawings will be provided by the Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee.

FIG. 1A is a graph showing identity of shared fungal antigen (Ag). Flow diagram that illustrates the generation of eluate #1 from the BAD1 vaccine strain #55.

FIG. 1B Figure is a graph showing identity of shared fungal antigen (Ag). Silver nitrate stain of PAGE of *B. dermatitidis* Ags CW/M and Eluate #1 (left to right).

FIG. 1C is a graph showing identity of shared fungal antigen (Ag). Gel free separation of Eluate #1 into fractions by molecular weight.

FIG. 1D is a graph showing identity of shared fungal antigen (Ag). Stimulation of 1807 TCR Tg cells in vitro by gel free fractions from panel C, as measured by IFN- γ response. The arrow in fraction 7 indicates the material that was subjected to MS/MS.

FIG. 1E is a graph showing identity of shared fungal antigen (Ag). The identification of Calnexin by MS/MS. This figure shows data collected for one Calnexin-derived peptide, as an example. The top set of paired traces are a comparison of the HPLC separation of the non-stimulatory control fraction (upper) and the stimulatory fraction #7 (lower). g MS analysis of this peak (bottom set of paired traces) identified it as the peptide: LQNSLNCGGAYMK (SEQ ID NO:13) [728.34 Da; +2H], and this mass is significantly better represented in the stimulatory fraction #7 (lower) compared to the non-stimulatory control (upper).

FIG. 2A is part of a set of graphs showing experimental evidence proving that Calnexin is the shared antigen (Ag)—Induction of *E. coli* transformed with pET28c-Calnexin plasmid produces recombinant Calnexin (63 kD).

FIG. 2B is part of a set of graphs showing experimental evidence proving that Calnexin is the shared antigen (Ag)—Recombinant Calnexin stimulates 1807 T cells to produce IFN-g in vitro.

FIG. 2C is part of a set of graphs showing experimental evidence proving that Calnexin is the shared antigen (Ag)—Recombinant Calnexin activates (CD44) and induces proliferation (CF SE) of adoptively transferred 1807 cells in vivo.

FIG. 3A is part of a set of graphs showing identification of Calnexin's 1807 TCR epitope. In vitro activation of 1807 T cells by Calnexin peptide 1. 10^5 BMDC were loaded with various concentrations of antigens or peptides shown and then co-cultured with 3×10^5 CD4⁺ purified 1807 T cells. Three days later, T-cells were analyzed for activation by flow cytometry.

FIG. 3B is part of a set of graphs showing identification of Calnexin's 1807 TCR epitope. Naive 1807 T cells were co-cultured as in Panel A, and cell culture supernatants analyzed for IFN- γ by ELISA.

FIG. 3C is part of a set of graphs showing identification of Calnexin's 1807 TCR epitope. In vivo activation of 1807 T cells by Calnexin peptide #1.

FIGS. 4A, 4B, and 4C are a set of graphs of experimental observations showing that Calnexin is present on the yeast surface.

FIG. 4A shows the western-blot of the water-soluble extract, which is part of a set of graphs of experimental observations showing that Calnexin is present on the yeast surface.

FIG. 4B shows surface staining of vaccine and challenge yeast, which is part of a set of graphs of experimental observations showing that Calnexin is present on the yeast surface

FIG. 4C shows surface staining of vaccine and challenge yeast, which is part of a set of graphs of experimental observations showing that Calnexin is present on the yeast surface.

FIGS. 5A and 5B are a set of graphs of experimental observations showing response to Calnexin.

FIG. 5A graphs experimental observations showing response to Calnexin, specifically, mice received adoptive transfer of 10^6 1807 T cells before vaccination, and were challenged with 2×10^4 *B. dermatitidis* yeast. 4 d after infection, lungs were collected and 1807 T cells analyzed for cytokine products by FACS.

FIG. 5B graphs experimental observations showing response to Calnexin, specifically, mice received adoptive transfer of 10^6 1807 T cells before vaccination, and were challenged with 2×10^4 *B. dermatitidis* yeast. 4 d after infection of the lungs.

FIG. 6 is a set of graphs of Calnexin's protein sequence alignment among different strains, showing that Calnexin is highly conserved in dimorphic fungi. The deduced Calnexin protein sequences of *B. dermatitidis* strain 26199 (B.d. 26199 SEQ ID NO:12), *H. capsulatum* strain G217B (H.c. G217B SEQ ID NO:52), *C. posadasii* strain C735 (C.p. C735 SEQ ID NO:53) and *P. brasiliensis* strain PB01 (P.b. Pb01 SEQ ID NO:54) were aligned using ClustalW software. Regions of identity (in at least three of the four species) are indicated in grey and boxed with a black border. Two different MHC class II peptide-binding prediction algorithms were used to analyze the Calnexin sequence of *B. dermatitidis* and the highest-ranking predictions are indicated on the sequence (Methods). The IEDB (red) boxes represent the regions where multiple overlapping peptides have been predicted. The six regions predicted to bind with an IC_{50} value less than 500 nM are labeled -A through -E, based on lowest to highest value. The Marc Jenkins algorithm predicts nine amino-acid MHCII-binding peptides. Ten predicted binding nanomers are shown, with two amino acids added to each end. These 13-mers were synthesized to test epitope-specific 1807 T-cell activation (see the Example and FIGS. 3A, 3B, and 3C). The peptides are labeled 1 through 10, based on the highest-to-lowest strength of the predicted binding.

FIGS. 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F, 7G and 7H are diagrams showing an analysis of the predicted peptides that are suitable to work with the known epitope binding domain of several Human HLA-DRB1 alleles. The diagram is produced by using the publicly available ProPred software (www.imtech.res.in/raghava/propred). In the output, the *Blastomyces* Calnexin sequence (SEQ ID NO:12) is shown on a

separate line for each of 51 DRB1 alleles, and peptides that are predicted to fit in the MHCII groove of that allele are indicated in blue, with red used to indicate a so-called anchor amino acid that would be at position one of the 9 amino acid core sequence. A peptide of interest is "promiscuous" if it is predicted to interact with many different human MHCII molecules. Since the human HLA locus is so polymorphic, a good vaccine for human's will have to have epitopes that are promiscuous, and can work with many different HLA MHC molecules in order to stimulate an immune response. The webarchive shows that *Blastomyces* Calnexin does, indeed, have several peptide sequences (blue) that are predicted to fit into the MHC groove for presentation to T-Cells. Of particular interest is that there is a predicted epitope for the sequence of Peptide 1 (calnexin peptide #1; which was predicted for B6 mouse HLA interaction, and has been experimentally shown to do so with 1807 cells) at position 103 to 115. There are several other promiscuous epitopes throughout the Calnexin sequence as predicted by the ProPred software.

FIG. 8 is a list showing the protein sequences of *Blastomyces* Calnexin of strains ATCC 18188 and ATCC 26199 (SEQ ID NO:12). The sequences are deduced from genomic sequences. (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/protein/327357651; Protein database Accession number: EGE86508; Broad Institute predicted Gene name: BDDG_09453).

FIG. 9 is a diagram showing the comparison analysis of Calnexin among dimorphic fungi, e.g., *Blastomyces*, *Histoplasma*, *Coccidioides* and *Paracoccidioides* and other, more distantly related fungi, e.g., *Aspergillus*, *Candida* and *Cryptococcus*.

FIG. 10 is a diagram showing the formatted alignment and the comparison analysis of Calnexin among dimorphic fungi, e.g., *Blastomyces* (B.d. 26199 SEQ ID NO:12), *Histoplasma* (H.c. G186AR SEQ ID NO:56), *Coccidioides* (C.i. RS SEQ ID NO:55) and *Paracoccidioides* (P.b. Pb01 SEQ ID NO:54) and other, more distantly related fungi, e.g., *Aspergillus* (*A. flavus* SEQ ID NO:57), *Candida* (C.a. 5314 SEQ ID NO:58) and *Cryptococcus* (*C. neoform.* SEQ ID NO:59).

FIG. 11 is a set of graphs showing tetramer enrichment of endogenous, fungal-specific T cells ex vivo. Mice received naive 1807 T cells or not and were infected by doses and routes shown for *B. dermatitidis* yeast, *F. pedrosoi* spores, *A. fumigatus* spores, *H. capsulatum* yeast and *P. destructans* spores. 7 d post-infection, the skin draining lymph nodes (LN), spleen (SP) or lungs were collected. The number of calnexin peptide #1-specific CD4+ T cells were analyzed and quantified after tetramer enrichment as detailed in the Methods. Tetramer-positive cells are shown to the right of the gate in each dot plot. The number represents the geometric mean \pm SEM of tetramer-positive cells, with number of mice studied in parenthesis.

FIGS. 12A, 12B and 12C are a set of graphs showing vaccine-induced resistance mediated by calnexin. FIG. 12A. Mice were vaccinated s.c. thrice, 2 wks apart with 10^8 glucan particles (GP) loaded with 10 μ g r-calnexin (Cnx) or mouse serum albumin (MSA) as a control. 2 wk after the last boost, mice were challenged with 2×10^3 *B. dermatitidis* 26199 yeast or 86 spores of *C. posadasii* strain C735. Lung and spleen (latter for *C. posadasii* infection) CFU were assessed 2 wk post-infection. Numbers indicate the fold difference in lung CFUs vs. controls. FIG. 12B. Mice were vaccinated s.c. with 25 μ g r-calnexin or MSA mixed with 5 or 20% ADJUPLEX adjuvant. 2 wk after the last boost, mice were challenged with 2×10^3 *B. dermatitidis* and lung CFU measured as in FIG. 12A. Numbers are the fold difference in

lung CFUs vs. controls. FIG. 12C. IL-17 reporter mice were vaccinated thrice with 25 μ g of calnexin encapsulated in GMP and mixed with 5% ADJUPLEX adjuvant. The histogram shows the mean number of tetramer-positive cells from the bound and unbound fractions combined. Dot plots show the mean \pm SEM number of tetramer-positive and percent of IL-17+ (eYFP+) CD4+ T cells among tetramer-positive and -negative cells from the bound fraction, enumerated by FACS. Dot plots represent an overlay of 10 samples/group.

FIGS. 13A, 13B and 13C are a set of graphs showing intravenous delivery of calnexin peptide, expansion of endogenous, tetramer-specific T cells, and resistance to infection. A. Wild type C57BL6 mice were vaccinated s.c. or i.v. with 10⁸ glucan mannan particles (GMP) loaded with 10 μ g of r-calnexin (Cnx) or MSA as a negative control. FIG. 13B. Mice were vaccinated i.v. with 10-250 μ g soluble calnexin peptide #1 and 5 μ g LPS. 7 d after vaccination in panels A and B, the skin draining lymph nodes and spleen were harvested and the number and activation (CD44) of tetramer-positive T cells assessed. The dot plots represent concatenated samples for 3-4 mice (noted in parenthesis) per group. The numbers of tetramer+ CD4+ T cells per concatenated sample is indicated inside the dot plots. The mean \pm SEM of tetramer+ CD4+ T cells per mouse is indicated in the histogram (right). The number over a bar denotes the fold change of tetramer+ T cells vs. indicated control mice. FIG. 13C. To assess resistance after i.v. delivery of calnexin peptide, mice were vaccinated thrice with 10 μ g soluble peptide #1 plus 5 μ g LPS or GP loaded with 10 or 50 μ g peptide #1 or MSA as a control. 2 wk after the last boost, mice were challenged with 2 \times 10³ *B. dermatitidis* 26199 yeast. Lung CFU was assayed 2 wk post-infection. * and **, denote fold change vs. the GMP/MSA or naïve control groups, respectively. Dot plots show the mean \pm SEM number of tetramer+, activated (CD44+) and IL-17 differentiated cells (as determined by eYFP fluorescence with IL-17A fate-reporter mice) in the draining lymph nodes and spleen at the time of challenge, and recalled to the lung 4 d post-infection, concatenated for 5 mice/group.

FIGS. 14A, 14B and 14C are a set of graphs showing naïve T cell precursor frequency and adjuvant formulation impact the pool size of calnexin primed T cells and resistance to infection. FIG. 14A. Mice received 10⁶ naïve 1807 cells prior to vaccination s.c. with 10⁸ glucan particles (GP) loaded with 10 μ g r-calnexin or MSA as a negative control. 2 wk after the last boost, mice were challenged with 2 \times 10³ *B. dermatitidis* 26199 yeast and the number of activated (CD44+) and cytokine-producing 1807 cells determined by FACS. FIG. 14B. Mice received 10⁶ naïve 1807 cells before vaccination s.c. with 50 μ g calnexin or MSA formulated in GMP or ADJUPLEX adjuvant or in GMP and ADJUPLEX adjuvant together. At d4 post-challenge, the number of CD44+, IL-17 and IFN- γ producing 1807 cells were determined by FACS. FIG. 14C. Mice received 10⁶ naïve 1807 cells and were vaccinated as in B. 2 wk after the last boost, mice were challenged with *B. dermatitidis* and lung CFU assayed 2 wk post-infection when unvaccinated controls were moribund. Numbers in bold are the fold-change vs. MSA vaccinated controls.

FIG. 15 are a set of graphs showing expansion of calnexin specific endogenous and 1807 cells in response to ascomycete fungi. Mice received naïve 1807 cells or not and were infected with the fungi shown in FIG. 12. 7 d post-infection, the skin draining lymph nodes (LN), spleen (SP) or lungs were collected and the number of calnexin peptide #1-specific CD4+ T cells were analyzed by tetramer enrichment. The fold change in tetramer-positive cells from fungus-

exposed vs. naïve controls were calculated by dividing the geometric means and are indicated in the histograms. To validate the specificity of the tetramer staining, dot plots in the upper right show tetramer vs. CD44 staining of CD8+ T cells in mice exposed to *Blastomyces*.

FIGS. 16A, 16B, 16C and 16D are a set of graphs showing response of immune and non-immune human subjects to calnexin and other fungal antigens. PBMC was collected from subjects with proven infection or a history of prior exposure to *H. capsulatum* (Hc), *B. dermatidis* (Bd), *C. posadasii* (Cp) or *P. marne ei* (Pm) (immune subjects) and healthy normal control subjects (non-immune subjects). PMBC were stimulated overnight with medium alone, r-calnexin or control Ag shown. Activated CD4+ T cells were enriched based on CD154 expression (Methods). Enriched cells were stained for a second activation marker CD137. The frequencies of anti-CD154 enriched CD8-/CD3+/CD4+ cells that express CD137 are shown in dot plots (left) and histograms (right). A positive response to the relevant crude fungal Ag (far right) was defined as >3-fold more than the response in medium alone. Thus, none of the non-immune subjects were positive, whereas all of the immune subjects were positive to the corresponding crude fungal Ag. Non-immune (FIG. 16A) and immune (FIG. 16B) subjects were assayed for the responses to r-calnexin (10 μ g/ml) and a positive control (*Candida*). One of four non-immune subjects responded to calnexin (#22), while five of six immune subjects responded to calnexin (#18 did not respond). FIG. 16C: The response to calnexin was assayed in the presence and absence of polymyxin B to chelate LPS. All calnexin responses in immune subjects were retained in the presence of polymyxin B. FIG. 16D: CD4+ T cells of immune subjects responded to calnexin in a concentration-dependent manner and the frequency of activated cells, measured by expression of CD154, was similar for calnexin and another immunodominant Ag Hsp60.

FIGS. 17A and 17B are a set of graphs showing calnexin-induced resistance: correlation of CFU and survival. FIG. 17A: Mice were monitored for survival after they were vaccinated twice with 10 μ g calnexin peptide#1 formulated with GMP, GMP plus LPS, CFA or adjuvant control or not and challenged with 2 \times 10³ 26199 yeast. * p<0.05 vs. control groups.

FIG. 17B: In parallel, 2 wks post-infection, lung CFU was quantified. Numbers shown denote fold change in CFU vs. control. * p<0.05 vs. control groups.

FIGS. 18A and 18B are a set of graphs showing features of endogenous calnexin-specific T cells: immunodominance and chemokine receptor expression. FIG. 18A: Mice were vaccinated thrice with calnexin (25 μ g) encapsulated in GMP and mixed with 5% ADJUPLEX adjuvant or with live yeast. 4 days after challenge, the number of tetramer-positive and CD44+ CD4+ T-cells that migrated to the lung were enumerated by FACS. The frequency of calnexin peptide-specific T-cells among CD44+ CD4+ T-cells that migrated to the lung was calculated by dividing the average number of tetramer-positive cells by the average number of CD44+ CD4+ T-cells (after subtracting the background from GMP-MSA vaccinated mice). Dot plots represent an overlay of 8 samples per group. FIG. 18B: C57BL6 mice were vaccinated s.c. with 10 μ g calnexin peptide #1 emulsified in CFA, 50 μ g calnexin protein emulsified in CFA, CFA alone or not. 7 d later, skin draining lymph nodes and spleen were harvested and CD4+ T cells were tetramer enriched and analyzed for tetramer and chemokine receptor (CCR6 and

CXCR3) expression. The number and frequency of chemokine receptor-positive, tetramer-positive CD4+ T cells are shown.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The use of the term “or” in the claims is used to mean “and/or” unless explicitly indicated to refer to alternatives only or the alternatives are mutually exclusive. It is specifically contemplated that any listing of items using the term “or” means that any of those listed items may also be specifically excluded from the related embodiment.

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

As used herein the specification, “a” or “an” may mean one or more, unless clearly indicated otherwise. As used herein in the claims, when used in conjunction with the word “comprising,” the words “a” or “an” may mean one or more than one.

The terms “comprise,” “have,” and “include” are open-ended linking verbs. Any forms or tenses of one or more of these verbs, such as “comprises,” “comprising,” “has,” “having,” “includes,” and “including,” are also open-ended. For example, any method that “comprises,” “has” or “includes” one or more steps is not limited to possessing only those one or more steps and also covers other unlisted steps.

It is specifically contemplated that any limitation discussed with respect to one embodiment of the invention may apply to any other embodiment of the invention. Furthermore, any composition of the invention may be used in any method of the invention, and any method of the invention may be used to produce or to utilize any composition of the invention. For example, any method discussed herein may employ any nanoparticle described herein.

The terms “polypeptide,” “peptide,” and “protein,” as used herein, refer to a polymer comprising amino acid residues predominantly bound together by covalent amide bonds. By the term “protein,” we mean to encompass all the above definitions. The terms apply to amino acid polymers in which one or more amino acid residue may be an artificial chemical mimetic of a naturally occurring amino acid, as well as to naturally occurring amino acid polymers and non-naturally occurring amino acid polymers. As used herein, the terms may encompass amino acid chains of any length, including full length proteins, wherein the amino acids are linked by covalent peptide bonds. The protein or peptide may be isolated from a native organism, produced by recombinant techniques, or produced by synthetic production techniques known to one skilled in the art.

The term “lyophilization,” as used herein, refers to freezing of a material at low temperature followed by dehydration by sublimation, usually under a high vacuum. Lyophilization is also known as freeze drying. Many techniques of freezing are known in the art of lyophilization such as tray-freezing, shelf-freezing, spray-freezing, shell-freezing and liquid nitrogen immersion. Each technique will result in a different rate of freezing. Shell-freezing may be automated or manual. For example, flasks can be automatically rotated by motor driven rollers in a refrigerated bath containing alcohol, acetone, liquid nitrogen, or any other appropriate fluid. A thin coating of product is evenly frozen around the inside “shell” of a flask, permitting a greater volume of material to be safely processed during each freeze drying

run. Tray-freezing may be performed by, for example, placing the samples in lyophilizer, equilibrating 1 hr at a shelf temperature of 0° C., then cooling the shelves at 0.5° C./min to -40° C. Spray-freezing, for example, may be performed by spray-freezing into liquid, dropping by ~20 µl droplets into liquid N₂, spray-freezing into vapor over liquid, or by other techniques known in the art.

The term “antibody,” as used herein, refers to a class of proteins that are generally known as immunoglobulins. The term “antibody” herein is used in the broadest sense and specifically includes full-length monoclonal antibodies, polyclonal antibodies, multi specific antibodies (e.g., bispecific antibodies), and antibody fragments, so long as they exhibit the desired biological activity. Various techniques relevant to the production of antibodies are provided in, e.g., Harlow, et al., ANTIBODIES: A LABORATORY MANUAL, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., (1988).

The term “fusion protein,” as used herein, refers to a hybrid polypeptide which comprises protein domains from at least two different proteins. Fusion proteins or chimeric proteins (literally, made of parts from different sources) are proteins created through the joining of two or more genes that originally coded for separate proteins. Translation of this fusion gene results in a single or multiple polypeptides with functional properties derived from each of the original proteins. Recombinant fusion proteins are created artificially by recombinant DNA technology for use in biological research or therapeutics. Chimeric or chimera usually designate hybrid proteins made of polypeptides having different functions or physico-chemical patterns. Chimeric mutant proteins occur naturally when a complex mutation, such as a chromosomal translocation, tandem duplication, or retrotransposition creates a novel coding sequence containing parts of the coding sequences from two different genes. Naturally occurring fusion proteins are commonly found in cancer cells, where they may function as oncoproteins. In one embodiment of the present invention, fusion proteins comprise at least one engineered intein.

The term “recombinant protein,” as used herein, refers to a polypeptide of the present disclosure which is produced by recombinant DNA techniques, wherein generally, DNA encoding a polypeptide is inserted into a suitable expression vector which is in turn used to transform a heterologous host cell (e.g., a microorganism or yeast cell) to produce the heterologous protein.

The term “recombinant nucleic acid” or “recombinant DNA,” as used herein, refers to a nucleic acid or DNA of the present disclosure which is produced by recombinant DNA techniques, wherein generally, DNA encoding a polypeptide is inserted into a suitable expression vector which is in turn used to transform a host cell to produce the heterologous protein.

The term “binding peptide,” as used herein, refers to peptides that bind MHCII molecules to form pMHCII tetramers. In one embodiment, the binding peptides are calnexin peptides, preferably calnexin peptide #1, that is, residues 103-115 of the calnexin protein; SEQ ID NOs:1-11.

As used herein, the term “patient” refers to a human or non-human mammalian patient in need of vaccination. The vaccines of the present invention may be intended for use by any species, including, for example, human, feline, canine, equine, porcine, bovine, ovine. Preferably, the vaccines of the present invention may be intended for use by human.

The term “fungi” or “funguses”, as used herein, refers to a member of a large group of eukaryotic organisms that may include microorganisms, e.g., yeasts and molds. These

organisms may be classified as a kingdom of fungi, which is separate from plants, animals, and bacteria. One major difference between fungi and the others is that fungal cells have cell walls that contain chitin, unlike the cell walls of plants, which contain cellulose.

These and other differences show that the fungi form a single group of related organisms, named the *Eumycota* (true fungi or *Eumycetes*), that share a common ancestor (a monophyletic group). This fungal group may be distinct from the structurally similar myxomycetes (slime molds) and oomycetes (water molds). Genetic studies have shown that fungi are more closely related to animals than to plants. In the present invention, the terms “fungi”, “funguses”, or “fungal” may refer to fungi which may cause infection in humans and animals.

In the embodiments of the present invention, fungi may include dimorphic fungi and non-dimorphic fungi.

The term “dimorphic fungi”, as used herein, refers to fungi which may exist as mold/hyphal/filamentous form or as yeast. An example is *Penicillium marneffei*. At room temperature, it may grow as a mold. At body temperature, it may grow as a yeast. The exception to these conditions are *Candida* spp. *Candida* grows as a mold at body temperatures and as a yeast at room temperatures. Several species of dimorphic fungi may be potential pathogens, including *Coccidioides immitis*, *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*, *Candida albicans*, *Ustilago maydis*, *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, *Histoplasma capsulatum*, and *Sporothrix schenckii*.

The term “Calnexin”, as used herein, refers to a 67 kDa integral protein of the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) (Williams D. B., 2006; Myhill N., Lynes E. M., et al., 2008).

Calnexin may appear variously as a 90 kDa, 80 kDa or 75 kDa band on western blotting depending on the source of the antibody. Calnexin may consist of a large (50 kDa) N-terminal calcium-binding luminal domain, a single transmembrane helix and a short (90 residues), acidic cytoplasmic tail. Calnexin may be one of the chaperone molecules, which may be characterized by their main function of assisting protein folding and quality control, ensuring that only properly folded and assembled proteins proceed further along the secretory pathway.

The function of Calnexin may include retaining unfolded or unassembled N-linked glycoproteins in the ER. Antibodies against Calnexin may be used as markers for the ER in immunofluorescence experiments. Calnexin may bind only those N-glycoproteins that have GlcNAc2Man9Glc1 oligosaccharides. Oligosaccharides with three sequential glucose residues may be added to asparagine residues of the nascent proteins in the ER. The monoglucosylated oligosaccharides that are recognized by Calnexin result from the trimming of two glucose residues by the sequential action of two glucosidases, I and II. Glucosidase II may also remove the third and last glucose residue. ATP and calcium ions may be two of the cofactors involved in substrate binding for Calnexin.

Calnexin may also function as a chaperone for the folding of MHC class I alpha chain in the membrane of the ER. After folding is completed Calnexin is replaced by calreticulin, which assists in further assembly of MHC class I.

The term “Calnexin fragment” as used herein, refers to at least one portion or domain of the full-length version of wild-type Calnexin, or at least one portion or domain of the modified version or recombinant Calnexin. A Calnexin fragment may retain at least 90% activity of the wild-type version of Calnexin. A preferable fragment is at least 13 amino acids.

The term “Calnexin peptide,” as used herein, refers to a peptide directly from calnexin or a peptide which has an amino acid sequence substantially identical to part of the calnexin protein sequence.

In one embodiment of the present invention, certain calnexin peptides are the primary places for calnexin to bind with MHCII molecules. FIG. 6 and the Example show calnexin peptides #1-#10 (Peptides 1-10) are predicted binding sequences from calnexin.

The term “substantially identical,” as used herein, refers to a peptide having a sequence identity of at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 90%, preferably at least 92%, more preferably at least 94%, even more preferably at least 96%, even more preferably at least 98%, and even more preferably 99% or 100% to a natural peptide from calnexin.

The term “functionally equivalent,” as used herein, refers to a Calnexin fragment or a modified version of wild-type Calnexin that retains at least 90% activity of the wild-type version of Calnexin. In one embodiment, one may wish to use only selected domains of the native Calnexin protein.

The term “activity,” as used herein, refers to antigenic reactivity of Calnexin fragments against fungi, as demonstrated below in the examples.

As used herein, an “antigenic peptide” is a peptide presented on an MHC II complex that is recognized by a T cell. As used herein, a “peptide” refers to two or more amino acids joined together by an amide bond. In certain embodiments, peptides comprise up to or include 50 amino acids. In certain embodiments, a peptide, such as an antigenic peptide, is at most or at least 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, or 50 amino acids in length, or any range derivable therein. In certain embodiments, the amino acid is at least 13 amino acids in length. As used herein, an “amino acid” refers to any of the 20 naturally occurring amino acids found in proteins. In one preferred embodiment, the antigenic peptide in the present invention is calnexin peptide, more preferably calnexin peptide #1, that is, residues 103-115 of the calnexin protein; SEQ ID NOs: 1-5, 7-8, and 12.

The term “therapeutically effective amount,” as used herein, refers to an amount of an antigen or vaccine that would induce an immune response in a subject receiving the antigen or vaccine which is adequate to prevent signs or symptoms of disease, including adverse health effects or complications thereof, caused by infection with a pathogen, such as a virus or a bacterium. Humoral immunity or cell mediated immunity or both humoral and cell mediated immunity may be induced. The immunogenic response of an animal to a vaccine may be evaluated, e.g., indirectly through measurement of antibody titers, lymphocyte proliferation assays, or directly through monitoring signs and symptoms after challenge with wild-type strain. The protective immunity conferred by a vaccine may be evaluated by measuring, e.g., reduction in clinical signs such as mortality, morbidity, temperature number, overall physical condition, and overall health and performance of the subject. The amount of a vaccine that is therapeutically effective may vary depending on the particular virus used, or the condition of the subject, and may be determined by a physician.

The term “protected,” as used herein, refers to immunization of a patient against a disease. The immunization may be caused by administering a vaccine comprising an antigen. Specifically, in the present invention, the immunized patient is protected from fungal infection.

The term “vaccine,” as used herein, refers to a composition that includes an antigen, as defined herein. Vaccine may

also include a biological preparation that improves immunity to a particular disease. A vaccine may typically contain an agent that resembles a disease-causing microorganism, and the agent may often be made from weakened or killed forms of the microbe, its toxins or one of its surface proteins. The agent may stimulate the body's immune system to recognize the agent as foreign, destroy it, and "remember" it, so that the immune system can more easily recognize and destroy any of these microorganisms that it later encounters. Vaccines may be prophylactic, e.g., to prevent or ameliorate the effects of a future infection by any natural or "wild" pathogen, or therapeutic, e.g., to treat the disease. Administration of the vaccine to a subject results in an immune response, generally against one or more specific diseases. The amount of a vaccine that is therapeutically effective may vary depending on the particular virus used, or the condition of the patient, and may be determined by a physician. The vaccine may be introduced directly into the subject by the subcutaneous, oral, oronasal, or intranasal routes of administration.

The term "administration," as used herein, refers to the introduction of a substance, such as a vaccine, into a subject's body through or by way of a route that does not include the digestive tract. The administration, e.g., parental administration, may include subcutaneous administration, intramuscular administration, transcutaneous administration, intradermal administration, intraperitoneal administration, intraocular administration, intranasal administration and intravenous administration.

The vaccine or the composition according to the invention may be administered to an individual according to methods known in the art. Such methods comprise application e.g. parenterally, such as through all routes of injection into or through the skin: e.g. intramuscular, intravenous, intraperitoneal, intradermal, mucosal, submucosal, or subcutaneous. Also, the vaccine may be applied by topical application as a drop, spray, gel or ointment to the mucosal epithelium of the eye, nose, mouth, anus, or vagina, or onto the epidermis of the outer skin at any part of the body. Other possible routes of application are by spray, aerosol, or powder application through inhalation via the respiratory tract. In this last case the particle size that is used will determine how deep the particles will penetrate into the respiratory tract. Alternatively, application may be via the alimentary route, by combining with the food, feed or drinking water e.g. as a powder, a liquid, or tablet, or by administration directly into the mouth as a liquid, a gel, a tablet, or a capsule, or to the anus as a suppository. The term "animal-based protein", as used herein, refers to proteins that are sourced from ruminant milk, and other sources, for example the muscle meat, of an animal, particularly a mammal. Suitable animal-based proteins may include, but are not limited to, digested protein extracts such as N-Z-Amine®, N-Z-Amine AS® and N-Z-Amine YT® (Sheffield Products Co., Norwich, N.Y.), which are casein enzymatic hydrolysates of bovine milk.

The term "vegetable-based protein," as used herein, refers to proteins from vegetables. A vegetable-based protein may include, without limitation, soy protein, wheat protein, corn gluten, rice protein and hemp protein, among others. Preferred vegetable based proteins in the present invention are soy proteins and corn gluten. Corn gluten is a mixture of various corn-derived proteins. The soy proteins can include 100% soy protein (available as VegeFuel® by Twinlab), textured soy protein, and soybean enzymatic digest. Textured soy protein is a soy protein that is made from defatted soy flour that is compressed and processed into granules or

chunks. Soybean enzymatic digest describes soybean peptones that result from the partial hydrolysis of soybean proteins.

As used herein, the term "major histocompatibility complex" or "MHC" refers to a set of cell surface molecules encoded by a large gene family in all vertebrates. WIC molecules may mediate interactions of leukocytes, also called white blood cells (WBCs), which are immune cells, with other leukocytes or body cells. MHC determines compatibility of donors for organ transplant as well as one's susceptibility to an autoimmune disease via cross-reacting immunization. In humans, WIC is also called human leukocyte antigen (HLA).

Protein molecules—either of the host's own phenotype or of other biologic entities—are continually synthesized and degraded in a cell. Occurring on the cell surface, each MHC molecule displays a molecular fraction, called epitope, of a protein. The presented antigen can be either self or nonself.

The MHC gene family may be divided into three subgroups: class I, class II and class III. Diversity of antigen presentation, mediated by WIC classes I and II, may be attained in at least three ways: (1) an organism's MHC repertoire is polygenic (via multiple, interacting genes); (2) MEW expression is codominant (from both sets of inherited alleles); (3) MEW gene variants are highly polymorphic (diversely varying from organism to organism within a species).

Of the three WIC classes identified, human attention commonly focuses on classes I and II. By interacting with CD4 molecules on surfaces of helper T cells, MHC class II mediates establishment of specific immunity (also called acquired immunity or adaptive immunity).

As used herein, the term "peptide-MHCII tetramers" or "pMHCII tetramers" refers to molecule complexes of peptides with WWII molecules, each of which includes four peptides and four MHCII molecules. The pMHC tetramers may bind multiple MHCs at a time to a T-cell (ideally, 3 of the 4 MHCs would bind) and so increase the binding avidity and circumvent the problem of dissociation.

In one embodiment, the binding peptides are calnexin peptides, preferably calnexin peptides #1-10 as shown in FIG. 6. In one more preferred embodiment, the binding peptides are calnexin peptides #1. Table 1 shows exemplary amino acid sequences of calnexin peptide #1.

The pMHCII tetramers may also comprise a streptavidin complex. Streptavidin is a molecule that forms homotetramer complexes, with each monomer having an unusually high affinity for biotin. One may bioengineer *E. Coli* to produce soluble MHCII molecules with a biotinylation protein domain, meaning a part of the MHCII can be replaced by covalently bound biotin (via BirA enzyme activity). The WWII molecules may then be mixed with the antigenic peptide of interest, forming peptide-MHCII (pMHCII) complexes. The biotinylated domain may allow for up to 4 pMHCII to bind to a fluorescently tagged streptavidin complex with high affinity. The resulting pMHCII-streptavidin-fluorophore tetramer may be added to a sample of cells. The pMHCII tetramers bind to T-cells that are specific for both the MHC type and peptide being used in the tetramer.

Once the tetramers are bound, T-cells are often stained with other fluorophores and the sample may be washed to remove non-bound tetramers and ligands. The stained sample is then run through a flow cytometer for detection and sorting. In one embodiment, the fluorophore on any bound tetramers may be excited to give a signal, indicating that the tetramer is bound to a T-cell, and thus that the bound

TABLE 1-continued

Calnexin peptide #1, 13 amino acid sequence														
Genus species_strain	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1807 reactive
<i>Magnaporthe oryzae</i> _70-15 (SEQ ID NO: 1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Exophiala dermatitidis</i> _NIH/UT8656 (SEQ ID NO: 3)	—	—	—	—	—	A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Neurospora crassa</i> _OR74A (SEQ ID NO: 3)	—	—	—	—	—	A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cryptococcus neoformans</i> (SEQ ID NO: 7)	—	—	L	—	T	K	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Schizophyllum commune</i> _H4-8 (SEQ ID NO: 8)	—	—	A	—	T	K	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Candida albicans</i> _5314 (SEQ ID NO: 9)	—	—	M	—	S	R	—	S	—	Y	—	—	—	—
<i>Homo sapiens</i> (Calmegin) (SEQ ID NO: 10)	—	—	L	—	S	R	—	K	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Homo sapiens</i> (Calnexin) (SEQ ID NO: 11)	—	—	L	M	S	R	—	K	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Geomyces destructans</i> (SEQ ID NO: 3) ^f	—	—	—	—	—	A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

^a*B. dermatitidis* strains: 26199, 18808, Er-3, 14081
^b*H. capsulatum* strains: G186AR, Nam1, H88, H143
^c*C. posadasii* strains: C35 Δ SOWgp, Silveira
^d*Aspergillus* species group.1: *A. flavus*, *A. oryzae*, *A. terreus*
^e*Aspergillus* species group 2: *A. nidulans*, *A. kawachii*, *A. niger*, *A. fumigatus* 293, *A. clavatus*
^f*Geomyces destructans* now called *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*

In another embodiment of the present invention, a suitable Calnexin fragment, comprising 13 amino acid sequence of LVVKNPAAHHAIS (SEQ ID NO:1), may have at least one modified amino acid sequence among the 13 amino acid sequence. In one specific embodiment, the suitable Calnexin fragment may comprise LVVKNAAAHHAIS from *Coccidioides immitis*_RS (SEQ ID NO: 3). In another specific embodiment, the suitable Calnexin fragment may comprise LVVKNAAAHHAIS (SEQ ID NO:3) from *Coccidioides posadasii* of strains C35 Δ SOWgp and Silveira. In another specific embodiment, the suitable Calnexin fragment may comprise LVLKNPAAHHAIS from *Penicillium marneffeii* (SEQ ID NO: 4). In another specific embodiment, the suitable Calnexin fragment may comprise LVVKNAAAHHAIS from *Penicillium chrysogenum* (SEQ ID NO: 3). In yet another specific embodiment, the suitable Calnexin fragment may comprise LVVKNVAAHHAIS (SEQ ID NO:5) from *Aspergillus* sp.2 of strains group.2, *A. nidulans*, group.2, *A. kawachii*, group.2, *A. niger*, group.2, *A. fumigatus* 293, or group.2, *A. clavatus*. In yet another specific embodiment, the suitable Calnexin fragment may comprise LVVKNAAAHHAIS from *Exophiala dermatitidis* NIH/UT8656 (SEQ ID NO: 3). In yet another specific embodiment, the suitable Calnexin fragment may comprise LVVKNAAAHHAIS from *Neurospora crassa*_OR74A (SEQ ID NO: 3). In another embodiment, the suitable Calnexin fragment may comprise LVVKNAAAHHAIS from *Geomyces destructans*, which are now called *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (SEQ ID NO: 3).

In another embodiment of the present invention, a suitable Calnexin fragment, comprising the 13 amino acid sequence of LVVKNPAAHHAIS (SEQ ID NO:1), may have at least two changed amino acid sequences among the 13 amino acid sequence. In one specific embodiment, the suitable Calnexin fragment may comprise LVIKNAAAHHAIS from *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* Pb18 (SEQ ID NO: 2). In another specific embodiment, the suitable Calnexin fragment may comprise LVIKNAAAHHAIS from *Paracoccidioides lutzii* Pb01 (SEQ ID NO: 2). Applicants found that the Calnexin

fragment comprising the 13 amino acid sequence of LVLKNEAAHHAIS (SEQ ID NO: 6) from *Pneumocystis carinii* was not reactive.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a suitable Calnexin fragment, comprising the 13 amino acid sequence of LVVKNPAAHHAIS (SEQ ID NO:1), may have at least three changed amino acid sequences among the 13 amino acid sequence. In one specific embodiment, the suitable Calnexin fragment may comprise LVLKTKAAHHAIS from *Cryptococcus neoformans* (SEQ ID NO: 7). In another specific embodiment, the suitable Calnexin fragment may comprise LVAKTKAAHHAIS from *Schizophyllum commune*_H4-8 (SEQ ID NO: 8).

In another embodiment of the present invention, a suitable Calnexin fragment, comprising 13 amino acid sequence of LVVKNPAAHHAIS (SEQ ID NO:1), may have more than three changed amino acid sequences among the 13 amino acid sequence.

In one preferred embodiment, a suitable Calnexin fragment may comprise a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1-2, 3, and 5.

In another preferred embodiment, a suitable Calnexin fragment may comprise a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2, 3, and 7.

In one embodiment, Applicants found or envisioned that the Calnexin fragment comprising LVLKNEAAHHAIS (SEQ ID NO: 6) from *Pneumocystis carinii*_Rat Form 1, the Calnexin fragment comprising LVMKSRASHYAIS (SEQ ID NO: 9) from *Candida albicans* 5314, and the Calnexin fragment comprising LVLKSRAKHHAIS (SEQ ID NO: 10) from *Homo sapiens* (Calmegin) were not reactive with the 1807 cells. Thus, the Calnexin fragments from these species may not be suitable for a vaccine of the present invention.

In another embodiment, a suitable Calnexin fragment in the vaccine of the present invention may comprise a full-length native version of a Calnexin. In one specific embodiment, the full length native version of a Calnexin may comprise a sequence from *Blastomyces dermatitidis* of strains 26199 (SEQ ID NO: 12) or 18188 (SEQ ID NO: 12).

In another embodiment, a suitable Calnexin fragment in the vaccine of the present invention may comprise a functionally equivalent version of full-length wild-type Calnexin.

Applicants envision that many peptide sequences of Calnexin fragments would be suitable vaccines for human in the present invention. FIGS. 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F, 7G and 7H show predicted peptide sequences of Calnexin fragments for 51 Human HLA DRB1 alleles, where the predicted peptide sequences of Calnexin fragments would fit in the known epitope binding domain of all the 51 Human HLA DRB1 alleles. In one embodiment, a suitable Calnexin fragment for human vaccination may comprise a sequence selected from a group consisting of each of the 51 amino acid sequences shown in Figures FIGS. 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F, 7G and 7H. In another embodiment, a suitable Calnexin fragment for human vaccination may comprise a sequence selected from a group consisting of each of the 51 amino acid sequences at least having the highlighted amino acid sequences as shown in Figures FIGS. 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F, 7G and 7H.

In one embodiment, a suitable calnexin fragment for human vaccination may comprise a sequence selected from a group consisting of at least one of the highlighted amino acid sequences as shown in Figures FIGS. 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F, 7G and 7H. In one embodiment, a suitable calnexin fragment for human vaccination may comprise a sequence selected from a group consisting of at least two of the highlighted amino acid sequences as shown in FIG. 7 FIGS. 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F, 7G and 7H. Applicants envision that the amino acid sequences highlighted in blue color can likely bind (based on motifs) to human HLA class II molecules and thus may be antigens for stimulating human CD4 T cells and eliciting calnexin antigen-dependent cellular immunity to fungi. In one embodiment, the suitable calnexin fragment may comprise or consist of a sequence selected from a group consisting of the sequences presented in Figures FIGS. 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F, 7G and 7H. Specifically, the group may consist of those sequences highlighted in Figures FIGS. 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F, 7G and 7H.

In another embodiment, the present invention relates to a method of vaccination for protecting a patient from fungal infections. The method of vaccination in the present invention may generally be applicable to any fungi comprising any dimorphic or non-dimorphic fungi. In a preferred embodiment, the method of vaccination may be used to protect a patient from the infections of dimorphic fungi. In one specific embodiment, the method of vaccination may be applicable to a dimorphic fungus selected from a group consisting of *Histoplasma*, *Coccidioides*, *Paracoccidioides*, *Penicillium*, *Blastomyces*, and *Sporothrix*. In another embodiment, the method of vaccination may be applicable to a non-dimorphic fungus selected from a group consisting of *Aspergillus*, *Pneumocystis*, *Magnaportha*, *Exophiala*, *Neurospora*, *Cryptococcus*, *Schizophyllum*, and *Candida*.

A Calnexin fragment suitable for a vaccine in the present invention may be in any form as discussed above. In one embodiment, a vaccine of a Calnexin fragment may be expressed in commercially available sources, e.g., *E. coli*. The vaccine of a Calnexin fragment may be then isolated and purified from the sources. The protein expression, isolation, and purifications are well know to a person having ordinary skill in the art. The Example demonstrated methods of expression, isolation, and purifications of a Calnexin fragment according to one embodiment of the present invention.

A vaccine comprising a Calnexin fragment may also comprise other suitable ingredients. In one embodiment, a

vaccine may also comprise a carrier molecule as a stabilizer component. As the types of vaccines enclosed in the present invention may be rapidly degraded once injected into the body, the vaccine may be bound to a carrier molecule for stabilizing the vaccine during delivery and administration. A suitable carrier or stabilizer may comprise fusion proteins, polymers, liposome, micro or nanoparticles, or any other pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. A suitable carrier or stabilizer molecule may comprise a tertiary amine N-oxide, e.g., trimethylamine-N-oxide, a sugar, e.g., trehalose, a poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG), an animal-based protein, e.g., digested protein extracts such as N-Z-Amine®, N-Z-Amine AS® and N-Z-Amine YT® (Sheffield Products Co., Norwich, N.Y.), a vegetable-based protein, e.g., soy protein, wheat protein, corn gluten, rice protein and hemp protein, and any other suitable carrier molecules.

Suitable Carrier or Vehicle

Suitable agents may include a suitable carrier or vehicle for delivery. As used herein, the term "carrier" refers to a pharmaceutically acceptable solid or liquid filler, diluent or encapsulating material. A water-containing liquid carrier can contain pharmaceutically acceptable additives such as acidifying agents, alkalizing agents, antimicrobial preservatives, antioxidants, buffering agents, chelating agents, complexing agents, solubilizing agents, humectants, solvents, suspending and/or viscosity-increasing agents, tonicity agents, wetting agents or other biocompatible materials. A tabulation of ingredients listed by the above categories, may be found in the U.S. Pharmacopeia National Formulary, 1857-1859, (1990).

Some examples of the materials which can serve as pharmaceutically acceptable carriers are sugars, such as lactose, glucose and sucrose; starches such as corn starch and potato starch; cellulose and its derivatives such as sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose and cellulose acetate; powdered tragacanth; malt; gelatin; talc; excipients such as cocoa butter and suppository waxes; oils such as peanut oil, cottonseed oil, safflower oil, sesame oil, olive oil, corn oil and soybean oil; glycols, such as propylene glycol; polyols such as glycerin, sorbitol, mannitol and polyethylene glycol; esters such as ethyl oleate and ethyl laurate; agar; buffering agents such as magnesium hydroxide and aluminum hydroxide; alginic acid; pyrogen free water; isotonic saline; Ringer's solution, ethyl alcohol and phosphate buffer solutions, as well as other non toxic compatible substances used in pharmaceutical formulations. Wetting agents, emulsifiers and lubricants such as sodium lauryl sulfate and magnesium stearate, as well as coloring agents, release agents, coating agents, sweetening, flavoring and perfuming agents, preservatives and antioxidants can also be present in the compositions, according to the desires of the formulator.

Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable antioxidants include water soluble antioxidants such as ascorbic acid, cysteine hydrochloride, sodium bisulfite, sodium metabisulfite, sodium sulfite and the like; oil-soluble antioxidants such as ascorbyl palmitate, butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA), butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), lecithin, propyl gallate, alpha-tocopherol and the like; and metal-chelating agents such as citric acid, ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA), sorbitol, tartaric acid, phosphoric acid and the like.

Stabilization Agent

In another configuration, the present formulation may also comprise other suitable agents that stabilize the formulations. For example, an approach for stabilizing solid protein formulations of the invention is to increase the physical stability of purified, e.g., lyophilized, protein. This will

inhibit aggregation via hydrophobic interactions as well as via covalent pathways that may increase as proteins unfold. Stabilizing formulations in this context may often include polymer-based formulations, for example a biodegradable hydrogel formulation/delivery system. The critical role of water in protein structure, function, and stability is well known. Typically, proteins are relatively stable in the solid state with bulk water removed. However, solid therapeutic protein formulations may become hydrated upon storage at elevated humidities or during delivery from a sustained release composition or device. The stability of proteins generally drops with increasing hydration. Water may also play a significant role in solid protein aggregation, for example, by increasing protein flexibility resulting in enhanced accessibility of reactive groups, by providing a mobile phase for reactants, and by serving as a reactant in several deleterious processes such as beta-elimination and hydrolysis.

An effective method for stabilizing peptides and proteins against solid-state aggregation for delivery may be to control the water content in a solid formulation and maintain the water activity in the formulation at optimal levels. This level depends on the nature of the protein, but in general, proteins maintained below their "monolayer" water coverage will exhibit superior solid-state stability.

A variety of additives, diluents, bases and delivery vehicles may be provided within the invention that effectively control water content to enhance protein stability. These reagents and carrier materials effective as anti-aggregation agents in this sense may include, for example, polymers of various functionalities, such as polyethylene glycol, dextran, diethylaminoethyl dextran, and carboxymethyl cellulose, which significantly increase the stability and reduce the solid-phase aggregation of peptides and proteins admixed therewith or linked thereto. In some instances, the activity or physical stability of proteins may also be enhanced by various additives to aqueous solutions of the peptide or protein drugs. For example, additives, such as polyols (including sugars), amino acids, proteins such as collagen and gelatin, and various salts may be used.

Certain additives, in particular sugars and other polyols, may also impart significant physical stability to dry, e.g., lyophilized proteins. These additives may also be used within the invention to protect the proteins against aggregation not only during lyophilization but also during storage in the dry state. For example sucrose and Ficoll 70 (a polymer with sucrose units) exhibit significant protection against peptide or protein aggregation during solid-phase incubation under various conditions. These additives may also enhance the stability of solid proteins embedded within polymer matrices.

Yet additional additives, for example sucrose, stabilize proteins against solid-state aggregation in humid atmospheres at elevated temperatures, as may occur in certain sustained-release formulations of the invention. Proteins such as gelatin and collagen also serve as stabilizing or bulking agents to reduce denaturation and aggregation of unstable proteins in this context. These additives can be incorporated into polymeric melt processes and compositions within the invention. For example, polypeptide microparticles can be prepared by simply lyophilizing or spray drying a solution containing various stabilizing additives described above. Sustained release of unaggregated peptides and proteins can thereby be obtained over an extended period of time.

Various additional preparative components and methods, as well as specific formulation additives, are provided herein

which yield formulations for mucosal delivery of aggregation-prone peptides and proteins, wherein the peptide or protein is stabilized in a substantially pure, unaggregated form using a solubilization agent. A range of components and additives are contemplated for use within these methods and formulations. Exemplary of these solubilization agents are cyclodextrins (CDs), which selectively bind hydrophobic side chains of polypeptides. These CDs have been found to bind to hydrophobic patches of proteins in a manner that significantly inhibits aggregation. This inhibition is selective with respect to both the CD and the protein involved. Such selective inhibition of protein aggregation may provide additional advantages within the intranasal delivery methods and compositions of the invention.

Additional agents for use in this context include CD dimers, trimers and tetramers with varying geometries controlled by the linkers that specifically block aggregation of peptides and protein. Yet solubilization agents and methods for incorporation within the invention involve the use of peptides and peptide mimetics to selectively block protein-protein interactions. In one aspect, the specific binding of hydrophobic side chains reported for CD multimers may be extended to proteins via the use of peptides and peptide mimetics that similarly block protein aggregation. A wide range of suitable methods and anti-aggregation agents may be available for incorporation within the compositions and procedures of the invention.

Stabilizing Delivery Vehicle, Carrier, Support or Complex-Forming Species

In another embodiment, the present formulation may also comprise other suitable agents such as a stabilizing delivery vehicle, carrier, support or complex-forming species. The coordinate administration methods and combinatorial formulations of the instant invention may optionally incorporate effective lipid or fatty acid based carriers, processing agents, or delivery vehicles, to provide improved formulations for delivery of Calnexin or functionally equivalent fragment proteins, analogs and mimetics, and other biologically active agents. For example, a variety of formulations and methods are provided for delivery which comprise one or more of these active agents, such as a peptide or protein, admixed or encapsulated by, or coordinately administered with, a liposome, mixed micellar carrier, or emulsion, to enhance chemical and physical stability and increase the half-life of the biologically active agents (e.g., by reducing susceptibility to proteolysis, chemical modification and/or denaturation) upon mucosal delivery.

Within certain aspects of the invention, specialized delivery systems for biologically active agents may comprise small lipid vesicles known as liposomes or micelles. These are typically made from natural, biodegradable, non-toxic, and non-immunogenic lipid molecules, and can efficiently entrap or bind drug molecules, including peptides and proteins, into, or onto, their membranes. The attractiveness of liposomes as a peptide and protein delivery system within the invention is increased by the fact that the encapsulated proteins can remain in their preferred aqueous environment within the vesicles, while the liposomal membrane protects them against proteolysis and other destabilizing factors. Even though not all liposome preparation methods known are feasible in the encapsulation of peptides and proteins due to their unique physical and chemical properties, several methods allow the encapsulation of these macromolecules without substantial deactivation.

Additional delivery vehicles carrier, support or complex-forming species for use within the invention may include long and medium chain fatty acids, as well as surfactant

mixed micelles with fatty acids. Most naturally occurring lipids in the form of esters have important implications with regard to their own transport across mucosal surfaces. Free fatty acids and their monoglycerides which have polar groups attached have been demonstrated in the form of mixed micelles to act on the intestinal barrier as penetration enhancers. This discovery of barrier modifying function of free fatty acids (carboxylic acids with a chain length varying from 12 to 20 carbon atoms) and their polar derivatives has stimulated extensive research on the application of these agents as mucosal absorption enhancers.

For use within the methods of the invention, long chain fatty acids, especially fusogenic lipids (unsaturated fatty acids and monoglycerides such as oleic acid, linoleic acid, linoleic acid, monoolein, etc.) provide useful carriers to enhance delivery of Calnexin or a functionally equivalent fragment, and other biologically active agents disclosed herein. Medium chain fatty acids (C6 to C12) and monoglycerides have also been shown to have enhancing activity in intestinal drug absorption and can be adapted for use within the mucosal delivery formulations and methods of the invention. In addition, sodium salts of medium and long chain fatty acids are effective delivery vehicles and absorption-enhancing agents for mucosal delivery of biologically active agents within the invention. Thus, fatty acids can be employed in soluble forms of sodium salts or by the addition of non-toxic surfactants, e.g., polyoxyethylated hydrogenated castor oil, sodium taurocholate, etc. Other fatty acid and mixed micellar preparations that are useful within the invention include, but are not limited to, Na caprylate (C8), Na caprate (C10), Na laurate (C12) or Na oleate (C18), optionally combined with bile salts, such as glycocholate and taurocholate.

The vaccine of the present invention may advantageously include a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient such as a suitable adjuvant. Suitable adjuvants include an aluminium salt such as aluminium hydroxide gel (alum) or aluminium phosphate (as described in WO93/24148), but may also be a salt of calcium, iron or zinc, or may be an insoluble suspension of acylated tyrosine, or acylated sugars, cationically or anionically derivatised polysaccharides, or polyphosphazenes. The suitable adjuvants may also comprise mannose-containing, carbohydrate based adjuvants such as fungal mannans.

The vaccine formulation may additionally include a biologically acceptable buffer to maintain a pH close to neutral (7.0-7.3). Such buffers preferably used are typically phosphates, carboxylates, and bicarbonates. More preferred buffering agents are sodium phosphate, potassium phosphate, sodium citrate, calcium lactate, sodium succinate, sodium glutamate, sodium bicarbonate, and potassium bicarbonate. The buffer may comprise about 0.0001-5% (w/v) of the vaccine formulation, more preferably about 0.001-1% (w/v). The buffer(s) may be added as part of the stabilizer component during the preparation thereof, if desired. Other excipients, if desired, may be included as part of the final vaccine formulation.

The remainder of the vaccine formulation may be an acceptable diluent, to 100%, including water. The vaccine formulation may also be formulated as part of a water-in-oil, or oil-in-water emulsion.

Also provided as part of the invention is a method of preparation of the vaccine formulation herein described. Preparation of the vaccine formulation preferably takes place in two phases. The first phase typically involves the preparation of the stabilizer component. The first phase may typically involve the preparation of the stabilizer compo-

nent. The stabilizer component may comprise any suitable components as discussed above. For example, a vegetable-based protein stock solution may be prepared by dissolving the vegetable-based protein in a diluent. The preferred diluent may be water, preferably distilled and/or purified so as to remove trace impurities (such as that sold as purified Super Q®). In a separate vessel an animal-based protein may be dissolved in a diluent, additionally with the sugar component and buffer additives. Preferably, an equal volume of the vegetable-based protein stock solution is added to the animal-based protein solution. It is desirable that after HCl/KOH adjustment to achieve a pH of approximately 7.2±0.1, the stabilizer component may be sterilized via autoclave. The stabilizer solution may be refrigerated for an extended period prior to introduction of the Calnexin fragment.

The second phase of preparation of the vaccine formulation may include introduction of the Calnexin fragment with the stabilizer component, thereby yielding the vaccine formulation. Preferably, the Calnexin fragment may be diluted with a buffer solution prior to its introduction to the stabilizer component.

Once this vaccine formulation solution has been achieved, the formulation may be separated into vials or other suitable containers. The vaccine formulation herein described may then be packaged in individual or multi-dose ampoules, or be subsequently lyophilized (freeze-dried) before packaging in individual or multi-dose ampoules. The vaccine formulation herein contemplated also includes the lyophilized version. The lyophilized vaccine formulation may be stored for extended periods of time without loss of viability at ambient temperatures. The lyophilized vaccine may be reconstituted by the end user, and administered to a patient.

The vaccine of the present invention may be either in a solid form or in a liquid form. Preferably, the vaccine of the present invention may be in a liquid form. The liquid form of the vaccine may have a concentration of 50-4,000 nanomolar (nM), preferably between 50-150 nM. In some embodiments, the concentration will be between 1-50,000 nM.

To vaccinate a patient, a therapeutically effective amount of vaccine comprising Calnexin fragments may be administered to a patient. The therapeutically effective amount of vaccine may typically be one or more doses, preferably in the range of about 0.01-10 mL, most preferably 0.1-1 mL, containing 20-200 micrograms, most preferably 1-50 micrograms of vaccine formulation/dose. The therapeutically effective amount may also depend on the vaccination species. For example, for smaller animals such as mice, a preferred dosage may be about 0.01-1 mL of a 1-50 microgram solution of antigen. For a human patient, a preferred dosage may be about 0.1-1 mL of a 1-50 microgram solution of antigen. The therapeutically effective amount may also depend on other conditions including characteristics of the patient (age, body weight, gender, health condition, etc.), the species of fungi, and others.

A vaccine of the present invention may be administered by using any suitable means as disclosed above. Preferably, a vaccine of the present invention may be administered by intranasal delivery or intramuscular administration, e.g., needle injection.

After vaccination using a vaccine of the present invention, a patient may be immunized from at least one of fungi. In one specific embodiment, a patient after vaccination may be immunized from at least one of dimorphic fungi. In one preferred embodiment, a patient after vaccination may be

immunized from multiple dimorphic fungi of *Histoplasma*, *Coccidioides*, *Paracoccidioides*, *Penicillium*, *Blastomyces*, and *Sporothrix*.

In one embodiment, the present invention relates to a therapeutic device for vaccination a patient against fungal infection. In one embodiment, the therapeutic device may comprise any suitable devices charged with a preparation of Calnexin or a functionally equivalent fragment. In another embodiment, the therapeutic device may comprise any suitable devices charged with a preparation of Calnexin or a functionally equivalent fragment and at least one additional active compound.

The instant invention may also include kits, packages and multicontainer units containing the above described pharmaceutical compositions, active ingredients, and/or means for administering the same for use in the prevention and treatment of diseases and other conditions in mammalian subjects. Briefly, these kits include a container or formulation that contains Calnexin or a functionally equivalent fragment, and/or other biologically active agents in combination with mucosal delivery enhancing agents disclosed herein formulated in a pharmaceutical preparation for delivery.

Methods for Determining the Immune Status of a Patient

In one aspect, the present application discloses diagnostic methods for determining immune status of a patient. Applicants envision that the present methods would be used to access the status of receipt in a tissue transplantation procedure.

In one embodiment, the present application discloses proteins or peptides and methods of using such proteins or peptides to evaluate the immune status of a patient. In one embodiment, proteins or peptides may be used to detect endogenous calnexin specific CD4 T cells. As discussed above, Applicants identified calnexin as a major shared antigen that is recognized by T cells that mediate protection against pathogenic fungi that are members of the broad fungal taxonomic group called Ascomycetes.

In one embodiment, the family of Ascomycetes may comprise *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, *Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Fonsecea pedrosoi*, and *Geomyces destructans* (the latter is the “white nose fungus”, which is decimating bat populations in North America), to name a few.

In one preferred embodiment, the proteins or peptides may comprise peptide-MHCII tetramers (pMHC tetramers). The binding peptide in pMHC tetramers may be any calnexin peptide as discussed above. In one embodiment, the binding peptides may be any of calnexin peptides 1-10 as shown in FIG. 6.

In one preferred embodiment, the binding peptide in pMHC tetramers may be calnexin peptide #1 (that is, residues 103-115 of the calnexin protein; SEQ ID NOs: 1-5, 7-8, and 12).

Calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells recognize many of these fungi and confer protection against them. As used herein, calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells refers to the T cells that are directed against the calnexin peptide #1 (that is, residues 103-115 of the calnexin protein; SEQ ID NOs: 1-5, 7-8, and 12). The examples of calnexin peptide #1 are shown in the Table 1.

Helper T cells play an essential role in protecting the host from infection and cancer. Each helper T cell expresses a unique receptor (TCR), which via the aid of the CD4 coreceptor is capable of binding to a specific foreign peptide embedded in a Major Histocompatibility Complex II (MHCII) molecule on the surface of another host cell—the

so-called antigen-presenting cell. Recognition of the relevant peptide-MHCII ligand causes a helper T cell to produce various lymphokines that help B cells produce antibodies and enhance the microbicidal activities of phagocytes and cytotoxic lymphocytes. Therefore, The pMHC tetramers may be used to track the emergence and persistence of these T cells after exposure to the fungus in question.

In one aspect, the present invention disclose pMHCII tetramers and method of using pMHCII tetramers to evaluate immune status of a patient.

In one embodiment, the pMHCII tetramers may include any calnexin peptides as discussed above as binding peptides. In one preferred embodiment, the calnexin peptide in the pMHCII tetramers is calnexin peptide #1, which include residues 103-115 of the calnexin protein. Preferably, the calnexin peptide comprises or consists of a sequence selected from a group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1-5, 7-8, and 12. The calnexin peptide may be linked to a MHCII molecule through a flexible linker. Any suitable flexible linker as appreciated by one skilled in the art may be used to link the calnexin peptide to the MHCII molecule.

In one embodiment, the fungus in question may include any fungi as discussed above and any others as appreciated by one person having ordinary skill in the art.

The pMHCII tetramers may be produced from any suitable methods as appreciated by one person having ordinary skill in the art. For example, the pMHCII tetramers may be synthesized by using the method described previously (www.jenkinslab.umn.edu/Jenkins_Lab_2/assets/pdf/Jenkins%20tetramer%20production%2004-25-10.pdf).

In one preferred embodiment, the pMHCII tetramers may comprise at least one fluorescent label. For example, the design of the tetramer may incorporate Fos-Jun leucine zipper motifs to force dimerize the coexpressed MHCII α and β chains (Teyton, et. al., *J. Exp. Med.* 183:2087), and the *E. coli* BirA signal sequence (Schatz, et. al., *Protein Science* 8:921) on the α chain to allow for site-specific biotinylation. The resulting biotinylated peptide:MHCII (pMHCII) heterodimers may be tetramerized with fluorochrome-labeled streptavidin.

In one embodiment, the present proteins or peptides such as the pMHC tetramers may be used to identify “endogenous” calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells that reside in the body of a patient before infection.

In one embodiment, the present proteins or peptides such as the pMHC tetramers may be used to quantify “endogenous” calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells that reside in the body of a patient before infection.

In one embodiment, the present proteins or peptides such as the pMHC tetramers may be used to monitor the response of calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells.

In one embodiment, the present proteins or peptides such as the pMHC tetramers may be used to monitor expansion and characteristics of the calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells after infection and vaccination.

In one embodiment, the present application discloses compositions to identify and track calnexin peptide specific T cells in a patient. In one embodiment, the compositions may comprise proteins or peptides. Specifically, the suitable proteins or peptides may comprise pMHC tetramers as discussed above.

The present invention provides compositions, e.g., pharmaceutically acceptable compositions, which include pMHC tetramers formulated together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. As used herein, “pharmaceutical compositions” encompass labeled pMHC tetramers for visu-

alization of calnexin peptide specific T cells, e.g., in vivo imaging as well as therapeutic compositions.

A composition comprising pMHC tetramers may also comprise other suitable ingredients. The present composition of pMHC tetramers may comprise other pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or other pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

As used herein, the term "pharmaceutically acceptable carrier" refers to any and all solvents, dispersion media, coatings, antibacterial and antifungal agents, isotonic and absorption delaying agents, and the like that are physiologically compatible. Preferably, the carrier is suitable for intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, parenteral, spinal or epidermal administration (e.g., by injection or infusion). Depending on the route of administration, the antigenic peptide, i.e., the calnexin protein may be coated in a material to protect the peptide from the action of acids and other natural conditions that may inactivate the peptide.

A "pharmaceutically acceptable salt" refers to a salt that retains the desired biological activity of the parent compound and does not impart any undesired toxicological effects (see e.g., Berge, S. M., et al. (1977) *J. Pharm. Sci.* 66:1-19). Examples of such salts include acid addition salts and base addition salts. Acid addition salts include those derived from nontoxic inorganic acids, such as hydrochloric, nitric, phosphoric, sulfuric, hydrobromic, hydroiodic, phosphorous and the like, as well as from nontoxic organic acids such as aliphatic mono- and dicarboxylic acids, phenyl-substituted alkanolic acids, hydroxy alkanolic acids, aromatic acids, aliphatic and aromatic sulfonic acids and the like. Base addition salts include those derived from alkaline earth metals, such as sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium and the like, as well as from nontoxic organic amines, such as N,N'-dibenzylethylenediamine, N-methylglucamine, chlorprocaine, choline, diethanolamine, ethylenediamine, procaine and the like.

The composition can be formulated as a solution, micro-emulsion, dispersion, liposome, or other ordered structure suitable to high drug concentration.

In one embodiment, the composition may also comprise a carrier molecule as a stabilizer component. As the types of proteins or peptides enclosed in the present invention may be rapidly degraded once injected into the body, the proteins or peptides may be bound to a carrier molecule for stabilizing the proteins or peptides during delivery and administration. A suitable carrier or stabilizer may comprise fusion proteins, polymers, liposome, micro or nanoparticles, or any other pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. A suitable carrier or stabilizer molecule may comprise a tertiary amine N-oxide, e.g., trimethylamine-N-oxide, a sugar, e.g., trehalose, a poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG), an animal-based protein, e.g., digested protein extracts such as N-Z-Amine®, N-Z-Amine AS® and N—Z-Amine YT® (Sheffield Products Co., Norwich, N.Y.), a vegetable-based protein, e.g., soy protein, wheat protein, corn gluten, rice protein and hemp protein, and any other suitable carrier molecules. The composition may also comprise any suitable carrier or vehicle, such as those as discussed above. The composition may also comprise other stabilization agents, such as those as discussed above.

In one embodiment, the composition may also comprise suitable stabilizing delivery vehicle, carrier, support or complex-forming species, such as those as discussed above. For example, the composition may additionally comprise at least one of a stabilizer, a buffer, or an adjuvant.

In one embodiment, the present application discloses methods for evaluating the immune status of a patient.

In one specific embodiment, the present methods for evaluating the immune status of a patient may be accomplished by detecting and evaluating "endogenous" calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells in a patient.

In one embodiment, a method for evaluating the immune status of a patient against a fungus comprises the steps of 1) obtaining pMHCII tetramers; 2) exposing a sample of a patient to a suitable amount of pMHCII tetramers; 3) identifying helper T cells such as "endogenous" calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells in the patient's sample; 4) quantifying helper T cells such as "endogenous" calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells in the patient's sample; and 5) monitoring the response, expansion and characteristics of helper T cells such as calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells the after infection and vaccination, wherein the immune status of a patient against the fungus is obtained by comparing the quantity, expansion and characteristics of the helper T cells before and after infection and vaccination.

In one embodiment, the pMHCII tetramers of the present invention may be produced by any methods as discussed above or by any other suitable methods as appreciated by one person having ordinary skill in art.

In one specific embodiment, the binding peptide in the pMHCII tetramers is a calnexin peptide. Any calnexin peptide as discussed above may be used as the binding peptide in the pMHCII tetramers. In one preferred embodiment, the binding peptide in the pMHCII tetramers is calnexin peptide #1, i.e., residues 103-115 of the calnexin protein. More preferably, the calnexin peptide #1 comprises or consists of a sequence selected from a group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1-5, 7-8, and 12.

In one specific embodiment, the sample of the present invention is a fresh blood sample from a patient. Applicants envision that other biological samples may also be used for the present invention. The other biological samples may include any biological fluids that comprise the helper T cells, preferably "endogenous" calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells.

After the pMHCII tetramers and the patient sample are obtained, the patient's sample is exposed to a suitable amount of the pMHCII tetramers. The reaction of the helper T cells, such as calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells to the antigenic peptide in the pMHCII tetramers is monitored to evaluate immune status of the patient. In one embodiment, the reaction of the helper T cells to the pMHCII tetramers may be monitored by detecting, identifying, evaluating enumerating and quantifying the helper T cells, such as calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells.

In one embodiment, the immune status of a patient against a fungus may be evaluated by monitoring the response, expansion and characteristics of the helper T cells after infection and vaccination.

The term "detecting," "identifying," "evaluating," "enumerating," or "quantifying," as used herein, refers to its broadest sense to include assays which qualitatively or quantitatively or semi-quantitatively test for the presence or level of the helper T cells in the presence of the pMHCII tetramers and hence the number of the pMHCII tetramers (e.g., CD44+)-positive cells, or, assays which qualitatively or quantitatively test for the presence or level of the pMHCII tetramers using reagents capable of distinguishing between the two forms.

In one embodiment, the response, expansion and characteristics of the helper T cells after infection and vaccination may be monitored by using a detection marker, a reporter molecule or fluorescent label. The term "detection marker," "reporter molecule" or "fluorescent label," as used herein,

refers to a molecule or particle which, by its chemical nature, provides an analytically identifiable signal which allows the detection of positive helper T cells. As will be well recognized, a wide variety of different reporter systems are available and those allowing rapid visual detection are clearly the most useful in the context of point of care diagnostics.

For example, the detection marker may be a colloidal particle or microparticle.

Colloidal metal and metalloid particles may include those comprising gold, silver, platinum, iron, copper, selenium; metal complexes such as cyclopentadienylmanganese(I) tricarbonyl, gold cluster; and microparticles such as latex and dyed latex particles.

In one embodiment, the present invention may also extend to qualitative or quantitative detection using any of the commonly used reporter molecules in immunoassay such as enzymes, fluorophores or radionuclide containing molecules and chemiluminescent molecules. In the case of an enzyme immunoassay, an enzyme is conjugated to a second antibody generally by means of glutaraldehyde or periodate. Commonly used enzymes include horseradish peroxidase, glucose oxidase, beta galactosidase and alkaline phosphatase, amongst others. The substrates to be used with the specific enzymes are generally chosen for the production, upon hydrolysis by the corresponding enzyme, of a detectable colour change. Examples of suitable enzymes include alkaline phosphatase and peroxidase. It is also possible to employ fluorogenic substrates which yield a fluorescent product rather than the chromogenic substrates listed above. In all cases, the enzyme labelled antibody is added to the first antibody antigen complex, allowed to bind, and the excess reagent is washed away. A solution containing the appropriate substrate is then added to the complex of antibody-antigen antibody. The substrate will react with the enzyme linked to the second antibody, giving a qualitative visual signal, which may be further quantified, usually spectrophotometrically, to give an indication of the amount of antigen which is present in the sample. Alternatively, fluorescent compounds, such as fluorescein and rhodamine are chemically coupled to antibodies without altering their binding capacity. When activated by a illumination with light of a particular wave length, the fluorochrome labelled antibody absorbs the light energy inducing a state of excitability in the molecule followed by emission of the light at a characteristic wavelength visually detectable with a microscope.

In one specific embodiment, the peptide-MHCII tetramers may comprise at least one fluorescent label. The fluorescent peptide-MHCII tetramers may bind to helper T cells such as "endogenous" calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells. One may identify the help T cells through a fluorescence detection technique.

The peptide-MHCII tetramers of the present invention may be directly or indirectly labeled with a detectable substance to facilitate detection of the positive helper T cells. Suitable detectable substances include various enzymes, prosthetic groups, fluorescent materials, luminescent materials and radioactive materials.

Complex formation between the calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells and peptide-MHCII tetramers may be detected by measuring or visualizing either the T cells bound to the peptide-MHCII tetramers or unbound T cells. Conventional detection assays can be used, e.g., an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA), a radioimmunoassay (RIA) or tissue immunohistochemistry. Further to labeling the T cells, the presence of a peptide-MHCII

tetramer may be assayed in a sample by a competition immunoassay utilizing standards labeled with a detectable substance and an unlabeled T cell.

Fluorophore and chromophore labeled peptide-MHCII tetramers can be prepared. Since antibodies and other proteins absorb light having wavelengths up to about 310 nm, the fluorescent moieties should be selected to have substantial absorption at wavelengths above 310 nm and preferably above 400 nm. The peptide-MHCII tetramers can be labeled with fluorescent chromophore groups by conventional procedures as appreciated by one skilled in the art. One group of fluorescers having a number of the desirable properties described above is the xanthene dyes, which include the fluoresceins and rhodamines. Another group of fluorescent compounds are the naphthylamines. Once labeled with a fluorophore or chromophore, the peptide-MHCII tetramers can be used to detect the presence or localization of the T cells in a sample, e.g., using fluorescent microscopy (such as confocal or deconvolution microscopy).

In one embodiment, the response, expansion and characteristics of the helper T cells after infection and vaccination may be monitored by using Chromatographic assays. Immunoassay or enzyme-based chromatographic assays are particularly preferred and these are described in Wild D "The Immunoassay Handbook", Nature Publishing Group, 2001 and by reference to U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,016,043; 4,590,159; 5,266,497; 4,962,023; 5,714,389; 5,877,028, 5,922,537, 6,168,956 and 6,548,309, 6,180,417, and 5,266,497 incorporated herein and information disclosed by references cited therein. Various modifications of immunochromatographic methods are described in Published US Patent Application Nos. 20010006821, 20040087036 and 20040214347 which are incorporated herein in their entirety. Immunogold filtration methods for multiple analyte analyses are described in Published US Patent Application No. 20030165970 incorporated herein.

In one embodiment, the method may be applied to evaluate the immune status against any fungi such as dimorphic fungi or non-dimorphic fungi. In one embodiment, the method may be applied to evaluate the immune status against a dimorphic fungus selected from a group consisting of *Histoplasma*, *Coccidioides*, *Paracoccidioides*, *Penicillium*, *Blastomyces*, and *Sporothrix*.

In another embodiment, the method may be applied to evaluate the immune status against a fungus selected from a group consisting of *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, *Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Fonsecea pedrosoi*, and *Geomyces destructans*.

In one aspect, the present application discloses a kit for evaluating the immune status of a patient against a fungus. The kit may comprise (1) a container or formulation wherein the container or formulation comprises peptide-MHCII tetramers, (2) means for exposing peptide-MHCII to a sample of a patient, and (3) means for detecting helper T cells in the patient's sample, wherein the immune status of a patient against the fungus is obtained by comparing the quantity, expansion and characteristics of the helper T cells before and after infection and vaccination. In one embodiment, the peptide-MHCII tetramers are binding to the helper T cells.

In one specific embodiment, the binding peptide in the pMHCII tetramers is a calnexin peptide. Any calnexin peptide as discussed above may be used as the binding peptide in the pMHCII tetramers. In one preferred embodiment, the binding peptide in the pMHCII tetramers is calnexin peptide #1, i.e., residues 103-115 of the calnexin protein. More preferably, the calnexin peptide #1 comprises

or consists of a sequence selected from a group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1-5, 7-8, and 12.

In one embodiment, the sample is a fresh blood sample of a patient.

In one embodiment, the peptide-MHCII tetramers may be either a powder or a solution. In one specific embodiment, the means for delivering peptide-MHCII tetramers is selected from a group consisting of subcutaneous administration, intramuscular administration, transcutaneous administration, intradermal administration, intraperitoneal administration, intraocular administration, intranasal administration and intravenous administration.

In another embodiment, the kit may be used to evaluating the immune status of a patient against a fungus selected from a group consisting of *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, *Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Fonseca pedrosoi*, and *Geomyces destructans*.

In another embodiment, the kit may be used to evaluating the immune status of a patient against a fungus selected from a group consisting of *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, *Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Fonseca pedrosoi*, and *Geomyces destructans*.

In one embodiment, the means for detecting helper T cells in the patient's sample may include any methods as discussed above.

In one embodiment, the peptide-MHCII tetramers may comprise at least one fluorescent label. In one specific embodiment, the means of detection may be a fluorescence technique.

In one embodiment, the kit may include Chromatographic assays as discussed above to monitor and evaluate the response, expansion and characteristics of the helper T cells after infection and vaccination.

The following examples are, of course, offered for illustrative purposes only, and are not intended to limit the scope of the present invention in any way. Indeed, various modifications of the invention in addition to those shown and described herein will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the foregoing description and the following examples and fall within the scope of the appended claims.

Examples

Materials and Methods

Fungi.

Strains used were ATCC 26199 (Harvey, Schmid, et al., 1978), a wild-type strain of *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, and the isogenic, attenuated mutant lacking BAD1, designated strain #55 (Brandhorst, Wuthrich, et al., 1999), as well as *Histoplasma capsulatum* strain G217B, *Coccidioides posadasii* (isolate C735) and *Candida albicans* strain #5314 (Wuthrich, Hung, et al., 2011); *P. destructans* ATCC 20631-21; *A. fumigatus* Af293; and *F. pedrosoi* strain ATCC 46428. *B. dermatitidis* was grown as yeast on Middlebrook 7H10 agar with oleic acid-albumin complex (Sigma) at 39° C. *H. capsulatum* was grown as yeast at 37° C. and 5% CO₂ on brain-heart infusion agar (BHI) slants. *C. albicans* was grown on YPD plates. The saprobic phase of *C. posadasii* (isolate C735) was grown on GYE medium (1% glucose, 0.5% yeast extract, 1.5% agar) at 30° C. for 3 to 4 weeks to generate a confluent layer of arthroconidia (spores) on the agar surface. Formalin killed spherules (FKS) of *C. posadasii* were generated as described (Levine, Cobb, et al., 1960; Levine, Kong, et al., 1965.). *P. destructans* was kindly provided by David Blehart (USGS—National Wildlife Health Center) and grown on Sabouraud dextrose agar for 60 days at 7-10° C. *F. pedrosoi* was kindly provided by

Gordon Brown (Aberdeen, Scotland) and grown on potato agar plates or in liquid potato broth containing 50 µg/ml chloramphenicol in a shaking incubator at 30° C. Conidia were filtered to remove hyphae and washed with PBS before use. *A. fumigatus* was kindly provided by Nancy Keller (UW-Madison) and cultured on glucose minimal medium at 37° C. Spores were collected in H₂O-Tween 20 (0.01%).

Mouse Strains.

Inbred C57BL/6, IL-17a^{tm1.1(cre)Stck/J} (stock #16879) and Gt(ROSA)26Sor^{tm1(EYFP)Cos} reporter mice (stock #6148) were obtained from Jackson laboratory, Bar Harbor, Me. Breeding IL-17a^{tm1.1(cre)Stck/J} to Gt(ROSA)26Sor^{tm1(EYFP)Cos} reporter mice enabled us to fluorescently label and track IL-17A expressing cells as described for fate mapping (Hirota et al., 2011). *Blastomyces*-specific TCR Tg 1807 mice were bred to B6.PL (Thy1.1⁺) mice to obtain Thy1.1⁺ 1807 cells (Wuthrich, Ermland, et al., 2012). Mice were 7-8 weeks old at the time of these experiments. Mice were housed and cared for as per guidelines of the University of Wisconsin Animal Care Committee, who approved this work.

Generation of Eluate #1.

Cell wall membrane (CW/M) antigen (Ag) was extracted from BAD1-null vaccine yeast as previously described (Wuthrich, et al., 2000). Briefly, yeast were broken open with glass beads, debris pelleted, and the aqueous supernatant harvested. CW/M Ag was diluted to a protein concentration of 1.5 mg/ml in binding buffer containing 20 mM Tris, pH7.6, 0.3 mM NaCl, 1 mM MnCl₂, 1 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM CaCl₂ and centrifuged to remove insoluble complexes. To enrich the mannosylated proteins in the CW/M Ag preparation we used a Con A column (FIGS. 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, and 1E). To prepare the column, we washed 0.75 ml Con A-Sepharose resin with 5 ml of binding buffer at least three times, each time the resin was pelleted by centrifugation at 1,000×g for 3 min. After equilibration of the resin with an equal volume of binding buffer, the CW/M Ag extract was allowed to bind for 60 to 120 min under agitation at 4° C. The resin was then centrifuged at 1,000×g for 3 min, and washed twice for 10 min with 15 ml of binding buffer containing 0.1% Tween 20. After a final wash with detergent free binding buffer, the bound fraction was eluted by incubating it for 10 min in 5 ml 20 mM Tris-HCL buffer pH 7.6 containing 500 mM α-D-methylmannopyranoside and 0.3 M NaCl. After pelleting the resin at 2,000×g for 3 min, the supernatant was saved as eluate #1 and aliquoted for subsequent use. To inactivate Con A that might have leached from the resin, eluate #1 aliquots were heat treated for 15 min at 85° C.

Enrichment of the Shared Ag by Gel-Free Separation and Identification by Mass Spec Analysis.

Eluate #1 was applied to a Gel-free 8100 fractionation system (Protein Discovery, Knoxville, Tenn.), and separated on a 10% Tris-Acetate cartridge. Fractions were collected that corresponded to separately eluted MW markers. These fractions were surveyed for protein content by PAGE analysis and silver stain. The fractions that activated 1807 T cells (quantified by production of INF-γ) were concentrated by FASP for mass spectroscopy analysis (below).

Filter Aided Sample Preparation [FASP] Method.

FASP sample preparation (Universal sample preparation method for proteome analysis (Wisniewski, Zougman, et al., 2009) and mass spectrometric analysis was done at the Mass Spectrometry Facility at the Biotechnology Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Peptides were analyzed by nanoLC-MS/MS using the Agilent 1100 NANOFLOW high performance liquid chromatography system (Agilent Tech-

nologies) connected to a hybrid linear ion trap-ORBITRAP mass spectrometer (LTQ-ORBITRAP XL, Thermo Fisher Scientific) equipped with a nanoelectrospray ion source. In short, samples were bound to 10 kDa MW cutoff Microcon filters (Millipore Corp., Bedford Mass.) and washed twice with 5004, of 25 mM NH₄HCO₃ (pH8.5). Sample was denatured for 2 min in 1004, of 8M Urea/50 mM NH₄HCO₃ (pH8.5) then spun 6 min at 14,000×g. Disulfides were reduced at 37° C. in 100 µl of 6.4M Urea/40 mM NH₄HCO₃ (pH8.5)/5 mM DTT for 45 min then spun 2 min at 14,000×g. Cys alkylation was performed at room temperature in the dark for 15 min in 100 µl of 6.4M Urea/40 mM NH₄HCO₃ (pH8.5)/11 mM IAA then spun 2 min at 14,000×g and washed once with 1004, of 8M Urea/50 mM NH₄HCO₃ (pH8.5) and once with 25 mM NH₄HCO₃ (pH8.5). Digestion with 200 ng trypsin (Promega Corporation, Madison Wis.) was performed in 50 µl of 1M Urea/20 mM NH₄HCO₃ (pH8.5)/5% ACN overnight at 37° C. Peptides were spun through the membrane and washed through with 50 µl of 25 mM NH₄HCO₃ (pH8.5), 5 min at 14,000×g. Eluted peptide solution was acidified with 2.5% TFA [Tri-fluoroacetic Acid] to 0.3% final and C18 solid phase extracted with OMIX SPE tips (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, Calif.). Peptides were eluted off the C18 column with 20 µl of acetonitrile/H₂O/TFA (60%:40%:0.1%) into 1.5 mL Protein LoBind tube (Eppendorf) dried in the SpeedVac to ~2 µl, diluted to 18 µl with 0.05% TFA and 8 µl loaded for nanoLC-MS/MS analysis.

NanoLC-MS/MS.

Peptides were analyzed by nanoLC-MS/MS using the Agilent 1100 NANOFLOW high performance liquid chromatography system (Agilent Technologies) connected to a hybrid linear ion trap-ORBITRAP mass spectrometer (LTQ-ORBITRAP XL, Thermo Fisher Scientific) equipped with a nanoelectrospray ion source. HPLC was performed using an in-house fabricated 15-cm C18 column packed with MAGIC C18AQ 3 µm particles (MICHROM Bioresources Inc., Auburn, Calif.). Solvents were 0.1% formic acid in water (solvent A) and 0.1% formic acid, 95% acetonitrile in water (solvent B). The gradient consisted of 20 min loading and desalting at 1% solvent B, an increase to 40% B over 195 min, to 60% B over 20 min, and to 100% B over 5 min.

MS survey scans from m/z 300 to 2000 were collected in centroid mode at a resolving power of 100,000. Dynamic exclusion was employed to increase dynamic range and maximize peptide identifications, excluding precursors up to 0.55 m/z below and 1.05 m/z above previously selected precursors (40 sec expiration). Data was referenced against *B. dermatitidis* amino acid sequence database (19,126 protein entries) using in-house Mascot search engine 2.2.07 (Matrix Science, London, UK). Peptide mass tolerance was set at 20 ppm and fragment mass at 0.6 Da. Quantification was done with Scaffold software (version 3.6.3, Proteome Software Inc., Portland, Oreg.). Protein identifications were reported above 95.0% probability within 0.9% False Discovery Rate and comprising at least 2 identified peptides. Probabilities were assigned by the Protein Prophet algorithm (Nesvizhskii, Keller, et al., 2003).

Generation and Purification of Recombinant Calnexin.

Paracoccidioides brasiliensis Calnexin was amplified from the pGEM-Calnexin plasmid (dos Santos Feitosa, de Almeida Soares, et al., 2007), generously provided by Jose Daniel Lopes, using oligonucleotides designed to omit the stop codon and add NheI and Sall restriction sites to the 5' and 3' ends, respectively. The resulting 1.7 kb fragment was ligated into the pET28c vector digested with NheI and XhoI, in frame with a C-terminal 6×His tag. The pET28c-Calnexin

construct was transformed into BL21(DE3) *E. coli* for expression of recombinant Calnexin. Calnexin-expressing *E. coli* was grown at 37° C. in LB medium supplemented with 50 µg/ml kanamycin to an OD₆₀₀ of ~0.9, at which point isopropyl-β-D-1-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) was added to a final concentration of 0.2 mM. Cells were induced for 24 hours at 15° C. Cells were harvested and resuspended in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 200 mM NaCl, 0.1% Triton X-100, 5 mM DTT, and 0.1 mg/ml lysozyme supplemented with complete EDTA-free Protease Inhibitor Cocktail Tablet (Roche)), followed by sonication and centrifugation. Calnexin was purified from the supernatant using a Ni-NTA column (Qiagen) and the wash and elution buffers were used according to manufacturer instructions for purification under native conditions. Calnexin eluate was then dialyzed into 1×PBS using 3,500 MWCO dialysis tubing (Pierce).

Generation of Anti-Calnexin Polyclonal Antibody and Staining of Yeast.

Mice were vaccinated with 200 µg recombinant Calnexin (rCalnexin) thrice. For the first immunization, the protein was emulsified in CFA, the following two boosters were formulated in IFA (Wuthrich, Filutowicz, et al., 2000). Two weeks after the last boost, mice were bled and the serum harvested. Oligospecific anti-Calnexin antibodies were purified from the serum using affinity-purification. Briefly, >200 µg purified recombinant Calnexin was run on an SDS-10% polyacrylamide gel at 20 mAmp for one hour, transferred to PVDF membrane (Millipore), and stained in Ponceau S. The band corresponding to Calnexin was excised from the membrane and probed overnight at 4° C. with anti-Calnexin mouse serum diluted 1:2 in PBS. After washing once in PBS+0.1% Tween 20 and three times in PBS, the anti-Calnexin antibodies were eluted from the membrane in 100 mM glycine (pH 2.6). Following neutralization with 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8), the purified antibody was functionally verified by spectrophotometric analysis and Western blot.

For staining yeast, *B. dermatitidis* strain #55 was grown in liquid HMM for three days at 37° C., passed back to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.8 and grown for an additional two days. Aliquots of 10⁶ yeast were washed in PBS, resuspended in 90 µl PBS+10 µl anti-Calnexin antibody, and incubated at 4° C. for one hour. Cells were washed in PBS, and then incubated at room temperature for 40 minutes with rhodamine red-conjugated goat anti-mouse (Molecular Probes) diluted 1:100 in PBS containing 0.5% BSA and 2 mM EDTA. After washing in PBS, the yeast were fixed in 2% PFA, pelleted, and resuspended in PBS. Fluorescent microscopy was carried out on an Olympus BX60 using mirror cube U-MWIG, with images taken under a 40× objective using QCapture Pro software.

Comparison of Calnexin Sequence Among Different Fungi and Prediction of its Class II Epitopes.

To determine the degree of conservation of the Calnexin protein among the systemic dimorphic fungi, the deduced Calnexin protein sequences of *B. dermatitidis* strain 26199, *H. capsulatum* strain G217B, *C. posadasii* strain C735 and *P. brasiliensis* strain PB01 were aligned using ClustalW (Thompson, Higgins, et al., 1994) in the MacVector software package (v. 12.5.1; MacVector Inc., Carey, N.C.). To aid in determining possible epitopes within the Calnexin protein sequence, two different algorithms were used to predict binding peptides for the mouse C57/B6 MHC-class-II-allele, H2-IAb. In the first algorithm the Calnexin protein sequence of *B. dermatitidis* was analyzed using the Immune Epitope Database (IEDB) Analysis Resource (tools.immuneepitope.org/main/html/tcell tools.html). The output of this software

designates each peptide and its IC₅₀ value. Several peptides, with nine amino-acid-core sequences that had IC₅₀ values less than 500 nM (considered strong to moderate binding affinity) were predicted, and clustered into six regions of extended peptides within the *B. dermatitidis* Calnexin protein sequence (FIG. 6). A second algorithm developed in the Laboratory of Marc Jenkins, University of Minnesota, which is based only on peptides that have been eluted from affinity purified H2-IAb molecules and sequenced by mass spec (Mark Jenkins, personal communication), generated ten strong-binding nanomers, with greater than 5 standard deviations above random peptides. The peptides were named Peptide 1 through Peptides 10, based on the strength of predicted binding to H2-IAb (FIG. 6).

The ten predicted nanomers were synthesized as 13aa peptide-harboring an additional two flanking amino acids at each end—by GeneScript USA Inc. (Piscataway, N.J.; www.genscript.com) and used to test epitope-specific 1807 T-cell activation.

GP-Calnexin-MSA/yR, GMP-Calnexin-MSA/yR, GP-MSA/yR, and GP-MSA/yR Vaccine Formulations.

Glucan Particles (GP) and Glucan Mannan Particles (GMP) were purified from Baker's yeast using chemical and organic extractions (Soto and Ostroff, 2008; Young et al., 2007). GPs and GMPs containing encapsulated r-calnexin-mouse serum albumin (MSA; Equitech-Bio, Kerrville, Tex.) and yeast RNA (yR; Sigma, St. Louis, Mo.) (G(M)P-calnexin-MSA/yR) or control MSA/yR (G(M)P-MSA/r) were synthesized (Huang et al., 2010; Soto and Ostroff, 2008). Vaccine formulations were adjusted to 10⁹ particles/ml in saline for injection (Baxter, Deerfield, Ill.) and flash frozen in single use aliquots to deliver 10 µg calnexin complexed with 50 µg MSA/10⁸ particles per 0.1 ml dose. Vaccine Ag identity and encapsulation efficiency (>95%) were established by SDS-PAGE. GMP calnexin peptide 1-MSA/yR vaccine formulations were synthesized as described for calnexin protein.

Generation of MHC Class II Tetramer.

To create tetramer, we covalently linked the peptide Ag by a fusion to the N-terminus of the MHCIIb chain via a flexible glycine-serine linker as described www.jenkin-slab.umn.edu/links_Lab_2/assets/pdf/Jenkins%20tetramer%20production%2004-25-10.pdf and (Moon et al., 2007). Briefly, to clone the calnexin peptide #1 sequence into the I-Ab b chain vector (pRMHa-3 I-Ab beta 2W-109C) we designed a set of overlapping oligos encoding the new peptide sequence (underlined) plus flanking sequences encompassing the restriction sites XmaI and SpeI (italicized). The oligos

tdsP813
(sense strand)
(SEQ ID NO: 14)
CCGGGACTGAGGGCTCGTGGTGAAGAATCCCGCGCCACACGCG

ATTTCGGCTGTGGAGGTA
and

tdsP814
(anti-sense 5' to 3')
(SEQ ID NO: 15)
CTAGTACCTCCACAGCCGGAATCGCGTGGTGGGCGGCGGATTCTT

CACCACGAGGCCCTCAGTC

contain a cysteine residue (italicized and underlined) in the linker sequence, which stabilizes the peptide in the MEW binding pocket. The cloning was verified by sequencing and

the peptide:I-Ab molecules expressed in *Drosophila* S2 cells as described (Moon et al., 2007).

Enrichment, Staining and Analysis of Rare Epitope-Specific T Cells.

To enrich epitope-specific T cells in mice we used a magnetic bead-based procedure that results in about a 100-fold increase in the frequency of the target population (Moon et al., 2009; Moon et al., 2007). Enriched cells were stained with a cocktail of fluorochrome-labeled antibodies specific for B220, CD11b, CD11c, F4/80, CD3, CD8, CD4 and CD44. The entire stained sample was collected on an LSRII flow cytometer and live cells analyzed by FlowJo software (TreeStar) following the gating strategy described (Moon et al., 2009). The total number of tetramer positive cells from a mouse was calculated from the percent of tetramer-positive events multiplied by the total number of cells in the enriched fraction as described (Moon et al., 2009) and in the enriched plus unbound fraction when larger numbers of tetramer positive cells are present. Briefly, a single cell suspension from the spleen and vaccine site draining lymph nodes was prepared in 0.2 ml Fc block. PE-conjugated tetramer was added at a concentration of 10 nM and the cells were incubated at room temperature for 1 h, washed in 10 ml of ice-cold sorter buffer (PBS+2% fetal bovine serum). Tetramer stained cells were then resuspended in 400 µl of sorter buffer and mixed with 100 µl of anti-PE antibody conjugated magnetic microbeads (Miltenyi) and incubate on ice for 20 min, followed by two washes with 10 ml of sorter buffer and passed over a magnetized LS column (Miltenyi). The column was washed with 3 ml of sorter buffer three times and the bound cells eluted with a plunger.

Stimulation of 1807 T Cells In Vitro.

To test the antigenic properties of the Calnexin protein and peptides we loaded bone marrow derived dendritic cells (BMDC) with the respective antigens and cultured them with naïve 1807 T cells to assess T-cell activation and cytokine production. After three days of co-culture, the cell culture supernatants were harvested and analyzed for cytokines by ELISA and 1807 T cells stained for the activation markers CD44 and CD62L (Wuthrich, Ermland, et al., 2012). In some experiments, the *Blastomyces* CW/M-reactive T-cell clone #5, whose TCR was cloned to generate 1807 transgenic mice (Wuthrich, Filutowicz, et al., 2007), was used as a reporter T-cell to identify the presence of the antigen. Cell-culture supernatants were generated in 96-well plates in 0.2 ml containing 1×10⁵ BMDC, 0.05 to 10 µg/ml of CW/M antigen (Wuthrich, Filutowicz, et al., 2000), 0.05 to 50 µg/ml Calnexin and Drk1 (as a negative control) (Nemecek, Wuthrich, et al., 2006) and 0.001 to 100 µM Calnexin peptides #1-10 (FIG. 6). Supernatants were collected after 72 hours of co-culture. IFN-γ and IL-17A were measured by ELISA (R&D System, Minneapolis, Minn.) according to manufacturer specifications (detection limits were 0.05 ng/ml).

Generation of a Water-Soluble Extract from Vaccine Yeast.

Yeast surface proteins were extracted three times with three yeast-pellet volumes of water by agitating the yeast for one hour at 4° C. The yeast were separated from the supernatant by centrifugation and filtration through a 0.2 µm filter. The water soluble-extract was concentrated by a Centricon column with a 30 kD cutoff.

Vaccination and Infection.

Mice were vaccinated as described (Wuthrich, Filutowicz, et al., 2000), twice, two weeks apart, subcutaneously (s.c.) with 20 to 200 µg recombinant Calnexin emulsified in complete Freund's adjuvant or with 10⁸ heat killed *C.*

albicans yeast and mineral oil. Mice were infected intratracheally (i.t.) with 2×10^3 or 2×10^4 wild-type yeast of *B. dermatitidis* strain 26199, 2×10^5 *H. capsulatum* G217B, 2×10^5 FKS or 60 spores of the virulent *C. posadasii* isolate C735 (Wuthrich, Filutowicz, et al., 2000; Wisniewski, Zougman, et al., 2009; Nesvizhskii, Keller, et al., 2003; dos Santos Feitosa, de Almeida Soares, et al., 2007; Thompson, Higgins, et al., 1994; Wuthrich, Filutowicz, et al., 2007; Nemecek, Wuthrich, et al., 2006; Wuthrich Gem, et al., 2011). To assess the infiltration of primed CD4 T cells into the lungs, challenged mice were analyzed at day 4 post-infection. To analyze the extent of lung infection, homogenized lungs were plated and yeast colony forming units (CFU) enumerated on BHI agar (Difco, Detroit, Mich.), sheep-blood containing Mycosel plates, or GYE plates containing 50 µg/ml of chloramphenicol (Wuthrich, Gem, et al., 2011).

Adoptive Transfer of 1807 Cells and Experimental Challenge.

To assess the T helper cytokine phenotype of Calnexin-specific CD4⁺ T cells after vaccination with Calnexin and various adjuvants, we transferred 10^6 naive 1807 Tg cells into C57BL/6 wild-type mice before vaccination. On the same day, recipients were vaccinated, boosted two weeks later and challenged two weeks after the boost.

Intracellular Cytokine Stain.

Lung cells were harvested at day 4 post-infection. Cells (0.5×10^6 cells/ml) were stimulated for 4 hours with anti-CD3 (clone 145-2C11; 0.1 µg/mL) and anti-CD28 (clone 37.51; 1 µg/mL) in the presence of Golgi-Stop (BD Biosciences). Stimulation with fungal ligands yielded comparable cytokine production by transgenic T-cells compared to CD3/CD28 stimulation (data not shown). After cells were washed and stained for surface CD4 and CD8 using anti-CD4 PerCp, anti-CD8 PeCy7, and anti-CD44-FITC mAbs (Pharmingen), they were fixed and permeabilized in Cytofix/Cytoperm at 4° C. overnight. Permeabilized cells were stained with anti-IL-17A PE and anti-IFN-γ-Alexa 700 (clone XMG1.2) conjugated mAbs (Pharmingen) in FACS buffer for 30 min at 4° C., washed, and analyzed by FACS. Cells were gated on CD4 and cytokine expression in each gate analyzed. The number of cytokine positive CD4⁺ T cells per lung was calculated by multiplying the percent of cytokine-producing cells by the number of CD4⁺ cells in the lung.

Cytokine Protein Measurements of In Vivo Primed T Cells.

Cell-culture supernatants were generated in 24-well plates in 1 mL containing 5×10^6 splenocytes and lymph node cells and various concentrations of *Blastomyces* CW/M antigen (Wuthrich, Filutowicz, et al., 2000), rCalnexin, Drk1, and Calnexin peptides. Supernatant was collected after 72 hours of co-culture. IFN-γ and IL-17A were measured by ELISA as above.

In Vitro Stimulation and Identification of Activated Human T Cells.

Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) were isolated from heparinized whole blood collected over histopaque 1119 and 1077. Studies were approved by UW-Madison IRB (protocol 2014-1167). Patients provided informed consent. PBMC were stimulated with 10 µg/ml r-calnexin, 10^7 /ml heat killed *C. albicans* or crude or purified fungal Ag (10 µg/ml *Blastomyces* CW/M, 5 µg/ml *Histoplasma* CW/M, 100 µg/ml *Blastomyces* alkali-soluble, water-soluble (ASWS) Ag, 10 µg/ml Coccidioidin, and 5 µg/ml *Histoplasma* Hsp60) plus 5U/ml IL-2 and 1 µg/ml α-human CD40 mAb for 14 hr at 37° C./5% CO₂. After stimulation, cells were bead-enriched by CD154⁺ selection

(Miltenyi). Enriched cells were stained with live/dead blue fluorescent dye (Life Technologies), and α-CD8 PerCP, -CD4 PeCy-7, -CD3 BV785, -B220 Pacblue, -CD154 PE and -CD137 APC. B220⁻, CD8⁻, CD3⁺, CD4⁺ T cells were analyzed for CD137 and CD154 expression using FlowJo.

Statistical Analysis.

The number and percentage of activated, proliferating or cytokine producing T-cells and differences in number of CFU were analyzed using the Wilcoxon rank test for non-parametric data (Fisher and vanBelle, 1993) or the T-test when data were normally distributed. A P value of <0.05 is considered statistically significant.

SUMMARY

We described an effective live, attenuated vaccine against infection with *Blastomyces dermatitidis* (Wüthrich et al., 2000). This dimorphic fungus causes the systemic mycosis blastomycosis and exhibits genetic and morphological similarities to six related dimorphic fungi that cause human disease: *Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Coccidioides posadasii* and *immitis*, *Penicillium marneffeii*, *Sporothrix schenckii* and *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*. The dimorphic fungi are in the fungal taxon Ascomycota, which includes diverse members such as *A. fumigatus* and also the white nose fungus, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, the cause of epidemic fatal disease spreading among bats across the U.S. Analysis of the attenuated vaccine against blastomycosis revealed that resistance is mediated by CD4⁺ T cells; cloning of the protective T cells disclosed the identity of the T cell receptor (TCR) and enabled the generation of a TCR (Tg) transgenic mouse, termed 1807. TCR Tg 1807 cells recognize and respond to all the dimorphic fungi of North America (*Blastomyces*, *Histoplasma*, *Coccidioides*) and confer resistance against lethal experimental infection with each of them (Wüthrich et al., 2011a; Wüthrich et al., 2011b). These findings imply that the T cells recognize a conserved Ag in dimorphic fungi and perhaps fungal Ascomycetes.

Here, we sought to identify a conserved Ag in pathogenic fungi. We used broadly reactive, protective 1807 cells to probe for such an Ag. We report that calnexin, which is generally thought of as an intracellular resident of endoplasmic reticulum, is displayed on the fungal surface and represents the shared Ag of 1807 cells. We also describe that the calnexin epitope is highly conserved in the taxon Ascomycota. Finally, by using calnexin-peptide MHCII tetramers, we show that fungal display of this sequence across numerous ascomycetes induces the expansion of calnexin-specific CD4⁺ T cells that can be harnessed for vaccine immunity against multiple fungal pathogens.

Results

Steps Used to Identify Calnexin as the Shared Antigen (Ag).

1807 TCR Tg cells recognize a protective antigen that is shared among systemic dimorphic fungi (Wuthrich, Hung, et al., 2011; Wuthrich, Ersland, et al., 2012). To identify the shared antigen, we prepared a cell wall membrane (CW/M) extract from *B. dermatitidis* vaccine yeast as previously described (Wuthrich, Filutowicz, et al., 2000). After running CW/M through a Con A column that retains mannosylated proteins, we collected Eluate 1, which contained 1% of the protein present in the starting material (FIG. 1A). Traces of active Con A released from the column into Eluate #1 were heated to destroy its mitogenic activity (not shown). Eluate #1 (FIG. 1B) was further fractionated in a gel free system to separate individual constituents by size (FIG. 1C). Fractions 6 and 7 stimulated 1807 T cells to produce IFN-γ, whereas

medium alone as a control, and fractions 5 and 8 did not (FIG. 1D). To identify the T cell reactive Ag, we subjected fraction 7 to mass spec analysis. Proteins were identified by cross-referencing the mass of detected peptides against a database of the *B. dermatitidis* proteome. Proteins present in non-stimulatory fractions and proteins diverging from the mass parameters of the gel-free fraction were discounted. This technique yielded a roster of five protein candidates potentially representing the shared antigen. Calnexin was one of these five proteins (FIG. 1E).

Proof that Calnexin is the Shared Antigen

To investigate whether Calnexin is the shared Ag that stimulates 1807 T cells, we cloned the gene into the plasmid pET28c and used IPTG to induce gene expression in transfected *E. coli*. 24 h later, the crude lysate from *E. coli* harbored an additional prominent band that migrated between 60-70 kD, which corresponds with the predicted molecular weight of 63 kD for recombinant Calnexin (rCalnexin) (FIG. 2A). We purified the recombinant protein over a Ni-NTA column (FIG. 2A) and used the eluate to stimulate 1807 cells in an in vitro co-culture system with BMDC. In response to rCalnexin, 1807 T cells produced IFN- γ in a dose-dependent manner. The response to rCalnexin exceeded the response to CW/M extract, which also harbors Calnexin, but at a lower concentration (FIG. 2B). In contrast, recombinant Drk1—a hybrid histidine kinase of *B. dermatitidis* (Nemecek, Wuthrich, et al., 2006) expressed and purified from *E. coli* as a control—did not induce IFN- γ production by 1807 T cells. Thus, rCalnexin (not LPS from *E. coli*) induced cytokine production by 1807 T cells specifically and in a dose-dependent manner.

To investigate whether rCalnexin induces activation and proliferation of 1807 cells in vivo, we adoptively transferred 1807 Tg T cells into naïve wild-type recipient mice prior to vaccination. Similar to live *B. dermatitidis* vaccine yeast, rCalnexin emulsified in complete Freund's adjuvant activated and stimulated proliferation of >85% of the transferred 1807 cells (FIG. 2C), whereas adjuvant alone did not. These results identify Calnexin as the shared Ag that is recognized by 1807 TCR Tg T cells, which confer resistance to multiple systemic dimorphic fungi (Wuthrich, Hung, et al., 2011; Wuthrich, Ersland, et al., 2012).

Identification of Calnexin's Peptide Epitope

To identify the 1807 T cell reactive peptide epitope, we first aligned the amino acid sequence of the fungal species that we have reported stimulate 1807 T cells in vivo (Wuthrich, Hung, et al., 2011), including *B. dermatitidis*, *H. capsulatum*, *C. posadasii* and *P. brasiliensis*. We investigated regions of sequence conservation that might represent the shared epitope for the 1807 T-cell receptor. We found that Calnexin is highly conserved across the entire Calnexin sequence among this group of dimorphic fungi (FIG. 6). Thus, the identification of highly conserved areas of the protein was not a sufficient measure to hone in on the 1807 epitope-containing sequence. To narrow the focus of possible peptides to test for 1807 reactivity, we subjected *Blastomyces* Calnexin to two class II I-Ab restricted-epitope prediction algorithms (FIG. 6). The IEBD algorithm predicted six regions of overlapping peptides with binding affinities values (IC_{50}) less than 500 nM. In a second analysis, an algorithm developed in Marc Jenkins' laboratory (unpublished data) refined the above analysis, and predicted ten strong H2-IAb epitopes in *B. dermatitidis* Calnexin (FIG. 6). We chemically synthesized peptides of thirteen amino acids in length, representing these ten pre-

dicted epitopes (named Peptide #1 though Peptide #10), and tested them to determine the cognate epitope for the 1807 T-cell receptor.

To test whether the synthetic peptides activate naïve 1807 T cells in vitro, we loaded BMDC with individual peptides and co-cultured them with 1807 cells. Peptide #1 (comprised of the sequence LVVKNPAAHHAIS) activated naïve 1807 T cells as measured by their reduced expression of CD62L (FIG. 3A) and increased expression of CD44 (data not shown). An irrelevant control, ovalbumin (OT-II) peptide, and all other synthetic calnexin peptides did not activate 1807 cells. Peptide #1 also stimulated the production of IFN- γ by 1807 cells in a concentration-dependent manner (FIG. 3B). As little as 1 to 10 nM of peptide #1 stimulated as much IFN- γ as 10 μ g/ml of CW/M Ag, which has been shown to induce substantial amounts of the cytokine (data not shown). None of the other calnexin peptides induced IFN- γ production by 1807 cells. In vivo, 0.1 to 1 μ g of peptide #1 was enough to activate and induce the proliferation of naïve 1807 T cells (FIG. 3C). Thus, peptide #1 is the T-cell epitope recognized by 1807 cells.

Evidence that Calnexin is Displayed on the Yeast Surface

Among fungal pathogens, most of the virulence factors and antigenic proteins are secreted or associated with the cell wall or surface. Despite the fact that Calnexin is a molecular chaperone and folding sensor that regulates the transport of proteins from the ER to the Golgi apparatus (Ellgaard and Helenius, 2003), vaccination with *B. dermatitidis* yeast efficiently stimulates 1807 T cell responses in vivo. To address this unexpected finding, we investigated whether calnexin is displayed on the yeast surface. During our early search for the shared Ag, we found that a water-soluble extract of surface proteins from the vaccine yeast activated 1807 T cells (data not shown). Western-blot analysis of the water-soluble extract detected a doublet that migrated on SDS-PAGE at the same position as rCalnexin produced by *E. coli* (FIG. 4A). To investigate whether *B. dermatitidis* vaccine yeast harbor Calnexin on their surface, we stained yeast with polyclonal anti-Calnexin antibodies. Both in vitro and in vivo grown vaccine yeast stained positively with the anti-Calnexin serum (FIG. 4B and FIG. 4C). The virulent parental strain 26199 that is used for the pulmonary challenge of mice also harbored Calnexin on the yeast surface when harvested and stained at day 4 post-infection (FIG. 4C). Since calnexin is shared among ascomycetes, we tested whether it is also expressed on the surface of *Aspergillus fumigatus*. Exposure of hyphae and spores to anti-calnexin antibody showed punctuate surface staining and fluorescence (FIG. 4C). Thus, calnexin is detectable on the surface of *B. dermatitidis* yeast and *A. fumigatus* hyphae and spores.

Functional Relevance of Calnexin and Peptide T Cell Responses.

To determine whether vaccination with Calnexin induces protective immunity against lethal *B. dermatitidis* infection, we immunized mice with soluble recombinant protein plus either complete Freund's adjuvant (CFA) or heat killed *C. albicans* yeast (contains fungal PAMPs) to polarize naïve T cells into Th1 cells or Th17, respectively (Leibundgut-Landmann, Gross, et al., 2007). To evaluate whether these vaccine formulations efficiently stimulate the generation and recruitment of Th17 and Th1 cells to the lung upon recall, we adoptively transferred naïve 1807 T cells into mice prior to vaccination and determined the number of cytokine producing 1807 T cells at day 4 post-infection. Mice vaccinated with Calnexin recruited Th17 and Th1 cells into the lung in a dose and Ag-specific manner. The antigen formu-

lation prepared with heat killed *C. albicans* yeast expanded more 1807 T cells than that prepared with CFA (FIG. 5A). Most strikingly, mice that were vaccinated with rCalnexin and *C. albicans* yeast as the adjuvant completely cleared lung infection by day 4 post-infection, whereas mice vaccinated with either *Candida* adjuvant alone or Calnexin and CFA together did not (FIG. 5B). These data indicate that recombinant Calnexin protein has the capacity to protect vaccinated mice against lethal pulmonary infection when Ag-specific T cells have been primed in sufficient numbers.

Peptide Prediction of Calnexin Fragments to Human.

Applicants performed an analysis of the predicted peptides that could work with the known epitope binding domain of several Human HLA DRB1 alleles, using the publicly available ProPred software (www.imtech.res.in/raghava/propred/). The results were shown in FIGS. 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, and 7F. In the output, the Blasto Calnexin sequence was shown on a separate line for each of 51 DRB1 alleles, and peptides that are predicted to fit in the MHCII groove of that allele were indicated in blue, with red used to indicate a so-called anchor amino acid that would be at position one of the 9 amino acid core sequence. A peptide of interest is “promiscuous” if it is predicted to interact with many different human MHCII molecules. Since the human HLA locus is so polymorphic, a good vaccine for humans will have to have epitopes that are promiscuous, and can work with many different HLA MHC molecules in order to stimulate an immune response. The results in FIGS. 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F, 7G and 7H shows that Blasto Calnexin does, indeed, have several peptide sequences (blue) that are predicted to fit into the MHC groove for presentation to T-Cells. Of particular interest is that there is a predicted epitope for the sequence of Peptide1 (which was predicted for B6 mouse HLA interaction, and has been experimentally shown to do so with 1807 cells) at position 103 to 115. There were several other promiscuous epitopes throughout the Calnexin sequence as predicted by the ProPred software.

Peptide MHCII Tetramers to Detect Endogenous Calnexin Specific Cd4 T Cells

Applicants have taken advantage of the discovery of calnexin as a major shared antigen that is recognized by T cells that mediate protection against pathogenic fungi that are members of the broad fungal taxonomic group called Ascomycetes. Having already discovered that calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells recognize many of these fungi and confer protection against them, Applicants created an immunological tool—peptide-MHCII tetramers (pMHC tetramers)—to track the emergence and persistence of these T cells after exposure to the fungus in question. The synthesis of pMHCII tetramers has been previously described. The present application discloses methods of creating reagents to identify and track calnexin peptide specific T cells.

Applicants have now used the tetramers to find and quantify “endogenous” calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells that reside in the body before infection, and then to monitor their response, expansion and characteristics after infection and vaccination. Applicants initiated this work by studying mice before and after infection with *Blastomyces dermatitidis* or after vaccination with calnexin recombinant protein or attenuated *B. dermatitidis*. Applicants envision that the process of the experiments may be extended to other fungi that are members of the family of ascomycetes. Other fungi may include *Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Fonsecaea pedrosoi*, and *Geomyces destructans* (the latter is the “white nose fungus”, which is decimating bat populations in North America), to name a few. Applicants

results suggest that infection with these fungi activates and expands endogenous calnexin peptide #1 specific T cells.

The tetramers that we are developing pave the way toward a clinical application. Individuals with cancer or other disorders who are to receive bone marrow or stem cell transplants may be at risk for opportunistic fungal infection with *Asperillus* species. These infections may carry high morbidity and mortality rates that reach 80-90%. It would be clinically advantageous to use the tetramer to screen and discern whether a bone marrow or stem cell donor has evidence of strong immunity against *Aspergillus* as a way of planning the clinical management of the recipient. For example, the tetramers in the present application may be used to, 1) gauge the risk of *Aspergillus* infection in the transplanted recipient (who will receive the immune or non-immune cells); 2) to plan anti-fungal prophylaxis strategies for the at-risk recipient, or 3) plan vaccination of the donor (pre-transplant) to induce calnexin or peptide #1 antigen-specific T cells.

Calnexin Peptide #1 in Fungi and Activation of T Cells In Vivo.

We analyzed conservation of the sequence of peptide #1 broadly throughout fungi. The 13 aa sequence is found in four phyla including Ascomycota, Basidiomycota, Chytridiomycota and Glomeromycota (Tables 1 and 2). The highest conservation of the peptide was found in ascomycetes. To investigate biological relevance, and test whether medically important fungi with conserved peptide #1 sequences trigger the expansion and activation of TCR Tg 1807 and endogenous, polyclonal, peptide #1-specific CD4⁺ T-cells in vivo, we transferred naïve 1807 T cells into mice before infection or vaccination with these fungi. One week later, we analyzed activation of 1807 and also endogenous Ag-specific CD4⁺ T-cells using a newly generated, calnexin peptide-MHC class II tetramer. *B. dermatitidis*, *A. fumigatus*, *H. capsulatum*, *C. posadasii*, *Fonsecaea pedrosoi* causing chromoblastomycosis (da Gloria Sousa et al., 2011), and *Pseudogymnoascus* (*Geomyces*) *destructans* causing white nose syndrome and death in bats in the U.S. (Lorch et al., 2011) expanded and activated 1807 and tetramer positive CD4⁺ T cells in vivo (FIGS. 11 and 15, and data not shown). Fungi that did not trigger expansion of tetramer positive CD4⁺ T cells included *Candida albicans*, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, and *Pneumocystis jiroveci*, none of which are ascomycetes. Naïve mice harbored 29±10 tetramer positive CD4⁺ T cells per animal; hardly any tetramer positive CD8⁺ T-cells were detected in vaccinated mice (FIG. 15A). Thus, the tetramer recognizes and binds the T-cell receptor of calnexin peptide #1-specific CD4⁺ T-cells in a specific manner and can be used as a tool to monitor Ag-specific T cells in vivo in response to a number of pathogenic fungal ascomycetes.

The Basis for Variable Expansion of Peptide-Specific T Cells by Fungi.

We sought to explain the effect of calnexin peptide #1 variation in fungi. It is likely that the nonamer core for peptide #1 is VKNPAAHHA (SEQ ID NO: 16; Table 1). For the class II MHC, I-Ab, P1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9 make contacts with I-Ab, and P2, 5, 7, and 8 are usually the most important TCR contacts, especially P5 (Nelson et al., 2014). Calnexin from *C. immitis* and *Aspergillus* can be detected by VKN-PAAHHA:I-Ab-specific T cells because A or V at P4 are permissive for I-Ab binding and these peptides have the same TCR contact amino acids at P2, 5, 7, and 8 as calnexin from *B. dermatitidis*. Conversely, *P. carinii* may not be recognized because E at P4 is not permissive for I-Ab binding, and the peptide likely does not bind I-Ab. Calnexin from *C. albicans* is not recognized because R at P4 is not

permissive for I-Ab binding, and thus, this peptide likely does not bind I-Ab. *Candida* also has a Y for H substitution at P8, which should make the peptide unrecognizable to VKNPAAHHA:I-Ab-specific T cells even if it does bind to I-Ab.

Response to Calnexin in Humans.

In a pilot study, we assayed the CD4⁺ T cell response to calnexin in human subjects with either a history of confirmed infection due to dimorphic fungi or residence in an endemic area and laboratory evidence of prior infection (immune) vs. healthy subjects that lacked the above features (non-immune) (FIGS. 16A, 16B, 16C and 16D). Five of six immune subjects responded to calnexin vs. one of four non-immune subjects. The response to calnexin in immune subjects was dose-dependent, similar to that for the immunodominant fungal Ag heat shock protein 60 (Hsp60) and not due to contaminating LPS.

Functions of Calnexin Specific T Cell Responses.

To test whether vaccination with calnexin induces protective immunity against lethal, pulmonary fungal infection, we immunized mice with r-calnexin. We investigated selected adjuvants empirically such as glucan particles (GP) to promote type 17 immunity and ADJUPLEX adjuvant, type 1 immunity. Vaccination with calnexin formulated in GP or ADJUPLEX adjuvant reduced lung and spleen CFU ≥ 10 -fold vs. control mice after infection with *B. dermatitidis* or *C. posadasii* (FIGS. 12A and 12B); reduced lung CFU correlated with prolonged survival (FIG. 17A). Vaccination with calnexin lead to increased numbers of tetramer-positive cells recruited to the lung at day 4 post-infection (FIG. 12C). Of the CD44^{hi} CD4⁺ T cells recruited to lung after fungal challenge of *Blastomyces* yeast-vaccinated mice, about 1% are tetramer positive and that proportion more than doubles after vaccination with calnexin (FIG. 18A). After vaccination with calnexin, 15-20% of the tetramer-positive cells in the draining lymph nodes display the chemokine receptors CCR6 or CXCR3 (FIG. 18B), which are respectively linked with Th17 and Th1 cell recruitment (Hirota et al., 2007; Nanjappa et al., 2012a; Nanjappa et al., 2012b). Nearly 30% of tetramer-positive cells recruited to the lung were IL-17 producers in calnexin-vaccinated mice (FIG. 12C). Thus, vaccination with calnexin induces the development of Ag-specific CD4⁺ T cells that are recruited to the lung after challenge and this response is linked to reduced CFU and prolonged survival in association with features of Th17 and Th1 immunity.

The Role of T Cell Precursor Frequency and Expansion in Calnexin Induced Protection.

The frequency of naïve CD4⁺ T cell populations affects the size of the T-cell response after immunization with the relevant peptide (Moon et al., 2007). We tested whether better expansion and recruitment of calnexin peptide #1 specific CD4⁺ T cells would improve vaccine protection. With calnexin vaccination above, we observed ≈ 100 -200 tetramer positive cells recruited to the lung after infection, but only about 50 of these cells produced IL-17, implying that type 17 responses could be further enhanced.

We first compared different routes of vaccine delivery. The intravenous (i.v.) route with particles bearing calnexin triggered better expansion than the subcutaneous (s.c.) route (FIG. 13A). Delivery of soluble peptide #1 with LPS i.v. prompted a further increase in the number of tetramer-positive cells at the peak of expansion (FIG. 13B), especially at the lowest dose of 10 μ g peptide. Improved expansion of calnexin-specific T cells did not translate into better protection against infection compared to the preceding approaches (FIG. 13C), perhaps because only a small fraction of

tetramer-positive cells were recalled to the lungs and fate-mapping mice demonstrated that essentially none maintained production of IL-17. Thus, i.v. delivery promoted better expansion, but differentiation or persistence of IL-17 effectors wavered despite vaccine protection.

Enhanced Vaccine-Induced Expansion of Calnexin Specific T Cells.

We sought an alternate approach to promote expansion, differentiation and maintenance of calnexin-specific T cells to explore their role in vaccine protection. We transferred naïve 1807 T cells prior to s.c. vaccination to increase the pool of Ag-experienced CD4⁺ T cells that persist. In mice given GP-encapsulated calnexin, we enumerated the number of activated (CD44⁺) and cytokine-producing 1807 T cells upon recall in the lung at day 4 post-infection. The number of CD44⁺ Ag-specific lung CD4⁺ T cells increased 41-fold in mice that received 1807 T cells (11,240 \pm 298 1807 cells; FIG. 14A) vs. those that did not (273 \pm 19 tetramer positive cells; FIG. 12C). Encouraged by this finding, we empirically tested different calnexin vaccine formulations to boost the number of Ag-experienced 1807 cells in the lung upon recall and sway their polarization. Mannan was added to GP to sway type 17 responses and ADJUPLEX adjuvant to drive type 1 responses. Glucan mannan particles (GMP), ADJUPLEX adjuvant and the combination of the two together yielded maximal numbers of IL-17- and IFN- γ producing 1807 T cells in the lung (FIG. 14B), with $\geq 10^4$ recalled 1807 T cells showing an activated phenotype and $\geq 10^3$ T cells each producing IL-17 or IFN- γ . To test whether increased numbers of calnexin-primed CD4⁺ T cells translate into improved vaccine resistance, we determined the lung burden after infection in mice that received transferred, naïve 1807 T cells before vaccination. Calnexin formulated with GMP and ADJUPLEX adjuvant together yielded $\approx 3,000$ -fold less lung CFU than adjuvant-control mice (FIG. 14C). Thus, calnexin is a conserved Ag capable of inducing vaccine resistance against infection with multiple fungal ascomycetes if the conditions are optimized for precursor frequency, expansion and maintenance of T cells that produce IL-17, IFN- γ or both.

Discussion

We report the discovery of an immunodominant Ag—calnexin—that is conserved among numerous members of the fungal taxon Ascomycota. The peptide sequence that induces CD4⁺ T cell responses is conserved among the endemic, systemic dimorphic fungi, as well as clinically important *Aspergillus* species, *Fonsecea pedrosoi*, and even *P. destructans*, also referred to as the white nose fungus, which is sweeping across North America and devastating bat populations. This sequence is functionally important for inducing the expansion of Ag-specific T cells following exposure to each of these fungi, and the responses stemmed progression of ascomycete fungal infections that we studied, including *Blastomyces* and *Coccidioides*. The calnexin sequence diverges in fungi of other taxa, such as the basidiomycetes, and importantly also in mammals. The calnexin CD4⁺ T cell epitope is conserved for the inbred mouse strain studied here. Likewise, humans that have recovered from certain fungal infections demonstrate recall responses to calnexin in their CD4⁺ T cells.

Most of the major fungal antigens reported to date are either secreted or cell wall associated molecules (Rappleye and Goldman, 2008). In *Blastomyces*, the chief Ag BAD-1 is both released and yeast cell wall associated. In *Histoplasma*, the skin test Ag histoplasmin is a cell culture filtrate that contains H and M Ags, which are encoded by a β -glucosidase and catalase, respectively (Deepe and Durose,

1995; Zancope-Oliveira et al., 1999). In *Cryptococcus* sp., mannoproteins in or on the cell wall, or accumulated in the supernatant, trigger immunity to this fungus (Levitz and Specht, 2006). In *Candida*, the principal Ag targets of vaccines currently under study are Als3, which is a surface adhesin, and Sap2, which is a secreted aspartyl proteinase (Cassone and Casadevall, 2012). Thus, we were surprised that a protein such as calnexin, which monitors protein folding and glycosylation in the ER of cells, would serve as a major trigger of host cellular immune responses. We found that although calnexin normally resides in interior cell compartments, anti-calnexin antisera detected this protein on the surface of *Blastomyces* yeast and *Aspergillus* spores and hyphae. While unexpected, this result is not unprecedented. In *Histoplasma*, HIS62, a heat-shock protein (HSP), triggers CD4⁺ T cells that confer immunity in response to the fungus (Gomez et al., 1991). HSPs have been detected on the surface of *Histoplasma* yeast and mediate adherence to host integrin receptors (Long et al., 2003). Likewise, histone-like proteins have been detected on the surface of this fungus and antibodies directed against these proteins confer immunity (Nosanchuk et al., 2003). The localization of calnexin on the fungal surface could be due to protein shedding from dead or dying fungi, followed by non-specific adherence to the surface of viable cells. Alternatively, surface localization could be due to the trafficking of intracellular molecules through the cell wall in vesicles, as described in other fungi (Casadevall et al., 2009). The route notwithstanding, intracellular proteins including calnexin may unexpectedly appear at the fungal surface and induce immune recognition by the host.

In mapping the T cell epitope of calnexin, we synthesized peptide-MHCII tetramers and exploited this tool to study endogenous CD4⁺ T cells specific for this sequence on multiple pathogenic fungi. The pool of naïve calnexin specific cells in a C57BL/6 mouse is about 30 CD4⁺ T cells. This pool of T cells expands in response to exposure to a wide range of fungal ascomycetes, including the white nose fungus *P. destructans*. Our results supporting the conserved nature of the Ag were confirmed with TCR transgenic T cells that were adoptively transferred in parallel into infected mice. While the availability of transgenic T cells enables the monitoring of Ag specific immune responses, transfer of large numbers of T cells has pitfalls and limitations that may introduce artifacts that distort or misrepresent the true nature of the immune response to microbes (Moon et al., 2009). Peptide-MHCII tetramers offer a powerful tool to circumvent such limitations. We validated this tool for detecting and tracking endogenous fungal Ag specific CD4⁺ T cell responses to multiple fungi, in a manner that has not been previously available for the study of immunity to fungi. This tool will offer investigators studying various fungal pathogens a level of resolution that has not previously been possible. We show that this tool can be applied to study fungal diseases that vary from the endemic, systemic mycoses such as blastomycosis and histoplasmosis, to the opportunistic fungal disease Aspergillosis, to the tropical mycosis chromoblastomycosis, and unexpectedly, even to the fatal bat disease caused by the white nose fungus.

We used calnexin peptide-MHCII tetramers to track the behavior of IL-17-producing, Ag-specific CD4⁺ T cells with the benefit of fate mapping mice. We previously demonstrated that IL-17 production by CD4⁺ T cells is indispensable in vaccine immunity against dimorphic fungi that cause North American systemic mycoses (Nanjappa et al., 2012a; Wüthrich et al., 2011a). We have found that IL-17 producing T cells are maintained and persist after vaccination with

attenuated yeast in CD4-sufficient and -deficient mice (Nanjappa et al., 2012a; Wüthrich et al., 2011a). In contrast, others have reported that IL-17 producing T cells are short lived and dwindle due to death or conversion to type 1 cytokine producing T cells (Hirota et al., 2011; Pepper et al., 2010). Here, we exploited tetramers to track fungal Ag-specific, IL-17 producing T cells after vaccination. Calnexin vaccination induced T cells to differentiate into IL-17 producers, and tetramer positive cells recalled to the lung after challenge included IL-17 producers. These cells dwindled after i.v. peptide vaccination. In contrast, mice that received transferred 1807 T cells and s.c. vaccination with GMP and ADJUPLEX adjuvant evinced a large population of IL-17 producers during recall. Thus, fungal Ag-specific CD4⁺ T cells that produce IL-17 in response to vaccination were maintained in the latter setting. In a murine model of cutaneous *Candida* infection, IL-17 producing CD4⁺ T cells did not persist (Hirota et al., 2011). Our findings are in line with data in humans where *Candida* responsive, IL-17 producing T cells persist (Acosta-Rodriguez et al., 2007). Tetramers developed here should allow us to elucidate strategies to promote the persistence of memory T cells that confer anti-fungal immunity after vaccine administration.

In view of the conserved nature of calnexin, and its potential clinical utility for vaccination against pathogenic fungi, we immunized mice with calnexin or its epitopes and tested efficacy against pulmonary challenge with *Blastomyces* or *Coccidioides*. We encapsulated calnexin in GPs due to the potential advantages of polarizing the immune response toward IL-17 producing CD4⁺ T cells (Soto and Ostroff, 2008). Calnexin vaccine protected mice against lethal blastomycosis or coccidioidomycosis, reducing lung CFU by at least 1 log vs. control mice. In addition to calnexin delivery in GPs, we explored adjuvants such as mannan, LPS and ADJUPLEX adjuvant that may polarize T cells differently; each gave similar levels of calnexin-induced resistance and our results suggest a role for both type 17 and type 1 immunity. Thus, calnexin could prove to be a valuable component for a “pan-fungal” vaccine.

The size of the pool of naïve precursors specific for calnexin peptide #1 is an average size (Nelson et al., 2014) of 30 cells. Because the size of this precursor pool dictates the ultimate number of Ag-specific T cells in the expanded pool after vaccination (Moon et al., 2007), we sought to expand this pool to boost calnexin vaccine efficacy. Delivery of peptide via the i.v. route lead to an expanded pool of calnexin-specific T cells. In the latter circumstance, the pool of calnexin-specific T cells increased to >1000 cells in the draining lymph nodes and spleen of calnexin-vaccinated mice, or more than 20-fold higher than the number of cells in control mice. However, tetramers showed that Ag-specific effectors were poorly maintained based on recall and vaccine efficacy was unchanged.

We investigated cell transfer as an alternate maneuver to increase the size of the precursor pool and boost vaccine efficacy. Transfer of 1807 T cells lead to a 10-fold enhancement of calnexin peptide-specific T cells recruited to the lungs on challenge; ≈10,000 of these cells exhibited an activated (CD44⁺) phenotype and produced IL-17 or IFN-γ (1,000 each). These mice also had vaccine given s.c. in GMPs in association with ADJUPLEX adjuvant so that the independent role of each of these conditions—precursor number vs. adjuvant—could not be discerned. These combined conditions yielded improved vaccine efficacy, with levels that far exceeded other conditions, resulting in a 3-4 log reduction in lung CFU in a model of lethal experimental fungal infection. We cannot exclude that TCR affinity played

TABLE 2-continued

Short sequence BLASTp of <i>Blastomyces dermatitidis</i> calnexin peptide #1 against deduced fungal protein sequences at NCBI.		Calnexin peptide #1													SEQ ID NO:	
Organism	Accession	L	V	V	K	N	P	A	A	H	H	A	I	S	I	
<i>Fibroporia radiculosa</i> ^B	CCM03669*	—	—	A	—	T	K	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
<i>Serpula lacrymans</i> ^B	EGO05279*	—	—	A	—	T	K	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
<i>Gloeophyllum trabeum</i> ^B	EPQ60121*	—	—	A	—	T	K	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
<i>Fomitopsis pinicola</i> ^B	EPT03461	—	—	A	—	T	K	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
<i>Dekkera bruxellensis</i>	EIF46712	—	—	—	—	S	E	—	—	L	—	—	—	—	—	43
<i>Mixia osmundae</i> ^B	GAA96853	—	—	—	A	S	K	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> ^B	CCO31780	—	—	A	—	S	K	—	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	45
<i>Spathaspara passalidarum</i>	EGW35646	—	—	L	—	S	K	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	A	46
<i>Auricularia delicata</i> ^B	EJD54856	—	—	A	—	S	K	—	T	—	—	—	—	—	—	47
<i>Rhizophagus irregularis</i> ^C	ESA03120	—	I	—	D	S	K	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	48
<i>Pyronema omphalodes</i>	CCX15881	—	—	A	—	—	V	—	—	F	—	—	—	—	—	49
<i>Moniliophthora perniciosa</i> ^B	XP_002392753*	—	—	A	—	S	K	—	—	—	Q	—	—	—	—	50
<i>Dacryopax</i> sp. ^B	EJU02798	—	—	A	—	T	K	—	G	—	—	—	—	—	—	51

NOTES:

NCBI BLASTp with parameters adjusted (automatically by BLASTp) to search for short input sequences.

Only amino acids different from *Bd.* calnexin peptide 1 are indicated by letter;

— = no diff.

Duplicate hits of different seq files for the same species are not shown.

^BPhylum Basidiomycota,

^CChytridiomycota,

^GPhylum Glomeromycota; all the others are Ascomycota

For hits that are identical to *B. derm.* Peptide 1, the species are listed in alphabetical order; for hits with a single amino acid substitution, the hits are sorted by substituted amino acid, for hits with a single amino acid substitution at position six, the species are first sorted by substituted amino acid, and then alphabetically; Hits with more than one substitution are listed in the order as they appear in the BLASTp output.

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SEQUENCE LISTING

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<211> LENGTH: 13

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1 5 10

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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Trichoderma virens; Paracoccidioides lutzii; Paracoccidioides brasiliensis

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1 5 10

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<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence

<220> FEATURE:

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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: *Talaromyces stipitatus*; *Talaromyces marneffei*;
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marneffei

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 1 5 10

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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: *Aspergillus nidulans*; *Aspergillus clavatus*;
Aspergillus fumigatus; *Aspergillus kawachii*; *Aspergillus niger*;
Chaetomium thermophilum; *Neosartorya fischeri*; *Penicillium*
oxalicum; *Tuber melanosporum*; *Aspergillus* sp. 2

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Leu Val Val Lys Asn Val Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

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<400> SEQUENCE: 6

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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: *Cryptococcus neoformans*; *Cryptococcus gattii*;
Pneumocystis murina; *Rhodospiridium toruloides*; *Candida tenuis*

<400> SEQUENCE: 7

Leu Val Leu Lys Thr Lys Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 8

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<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence

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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: *Coniophora puteana*; *Schizophyllum commune*;
Dichomitus squalens; *Trametes versicolor*; *Phanerochaete carnosae*;
Ceriporiopsis subvermispora; *Fibroporia radiculosa*; *Serpula*
lacrymans; *Gloeophyllum trabeum*; *Fomitopsis pinicola*

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Leu Val Ala Lys Thr Lys Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

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<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: *Candida albicans*

<400> SEQUENCE: 9

Leu Val Met Lys Ser Arg Ala Ser His Tyr Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

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<400> SEQUENCE: 10

Leu Val Leu Lys Ser Arg Ala Lys His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

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 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

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Leu Val Leu Met Ser Arg Ala Lys His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 12
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<400> SEQUENCE: 12

Met Arg Leu Asn Ala Ser Leu Ala Ser Leu Ile Leu Ser Ser Ile Ala
 1 5 10 15
 Leu Ile Gly Asn Val His Ala Glu Asp Glu Val Lys Glu Asp Ala Thr
 20 25 30
 Ser Thr Ser Ser Val Ile Glu Lys Pro Thr Phe Thr Pro Thr Thr Leu
 35 40 45
 Lys Ala Pro Phe Leu Glu Gln Phe Thr Asp Gly Trp Glu Thr Arg Trp
 50 55 60
 Thr Pro Ser His Ala Lys Lys Glu Asp Ser Lys Ser Glu Glu Asp Trp
 65 70 75 80
 Ala Tyr Val Gly Thr Trp Ala Val Glu Glu Pro His Val Phe Asn Gly
 85 90 95
 Met Val Gly Asp Lys Gly Leu Val Val Lys Asn Pro Ala Ala His His
 100 105 110
 Ala Ile Ser Ala Lys Phe Pro Lys Lys Ile Asp Asn Lys Gly Lys Thr
 115 120 125
 Leu Val Val Gln Tyr Glu Val Lys Leu Gln Asn Ser Leu Asn Cys Gly
 130 135 140
 Gly Ala Tyr Met Lys Leu Leu Gln Asp Asn Lys Lys Leu His Ala Glu
 145 150 155 160
 Glu Phe Ser Asn Thr Ser Pro Tyr Val Ile Met Phe Gly Pro Asp Lys
 165 170 175
 Cys Gly Val Thr Asn Lys Val His Phe Ile Phe Lys His Lys Asn Pro
 180 185 190
 Lys Thr Gly Glu Tyr Glu Glu Lys His Met Lys Leu Pro Pro Ala Val
 195 200 205
 Arg Val Ser Lys Leu Ser Thr Leu Tyr Thr Leu Ile Val Asn Pro Asp
 210 215 220
 Gln Ser Phe Gln Ile Arg Ile Asp Gly Ala Ala Val Lys Asn Gly Thr
 225 230 235 240
 Leu Leu Glu Asp Phe Ser Pro Ala Val Asn Pro Glu Lys Glu Ile Asp
 245 250 255
 Asp Pro Glu Asp Lys Lys Pro Glu Asp Trp Val Asp Glu Ala His Ile
 260 265 270

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Pro Asp Pro Glu Ala Thr Lys Pro Glu Asp Trp Asp Glu Asp Ala Pro
 275 280 285

Tyr Glu Ile Val Asp Thr Asp Ala Thr Gln Pro Glu Asp Trp Leu Val
 290 295 300

Asp Glu Pro Thr Ser Ile Pro Asp Pro Glu Ala Gln Lys Pro Glu Asp
 305 310 315 320

Trp Asp Asp Glu Glu Asp Gly Asp Trp Ile Pro Pro Thr Ile Pro Asn
 325 330 335

Pro Lys Cys Ser Glu Val Ser Gly Cys Gly Met Trp Glu Pro Pro Met
 340 345 350

Lys Lys Asn Pro Glu Tyr Lys Gly Lys Trp Thr Ala Pro Met Ile Asp
 355 360 365

Asn Pro Ala Tyr Lys Gly Pro Trp Ala Pro Arg Lys Ile Ala Asn Pro
 370 375 380

Asn Tyr Phe Glu Asp Lys Thr Pro Ser Asn Phe Glu Pro Met Gly Ala
 385 390 395 400

Ile Gly Phe Glu Ile Trp Thr Met Gln Asn Asp Ile Leu Phe Asp Asn
 405 410 415

Ile Tyr Ile Gly His Ser Val Glu Asp Ala Glu Lys Leu Lys Ala Glu
 420 425 430

Thr Trp Asp Leu Lys His Pro Val Glu Val Ala Glu Glu Glu Ala Ala
 435 440 445

Arg Pro Lys Asp Glu Glu Lys Lys Glu Gly Thr Leu Ser Phe Lys Glu
 450 455 460

Ala Pro Val Lys Tyr Ile Arg Gly Lys Ile Glu Leu Phe Ile Ser Leu
 465 470 475 480

Ala Leu Glu Asn Pro Val Glu Ala Val Lys Ala Val Pro Glu Val Ala
 485 490 495

Gly Gly Leu Gly Ala Leu Leu Val Thr Leu Val Leu Ile Ile Val Gly
 500 505 510

Ala Val Gly Leu Gly Ser Pro Ser Pro Ala Pro Ala Ala Lys Lys Gln
 515 520 525

Ala Glu Lys Gly Lys Glu Lys Thr Ala Glu Ala Val Ser Thr Ala Ala
 530 535 540

Asp Asn Val Lys Gly Glu Ala Lys Lys Arg Ser Gly Lys Ala Gly Glu
 545 550 555 560

<210> SEQ ID NO 13
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 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Blastomyces dermatitidis of strains 26199,
 18808, Er-3, 14081

<400> SEQUENCE: 13

Leu Gln Asn Ser Leu Asn Cys Gly Gly Ala Tyr Met Lys
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 14
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 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 14

ccgggactga gggcctcgtg gtgaagaatc ccggccgccca ccacgcgatt tccgctgtg 60

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gaggta 66

<210> SEQ ID NO 15
 <211> LENGTH: 66
 <212> TYPE: DNA
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 15

ctagtacctc cacagccgga aatcgcgtgg tgggcccggg gattcttcac cacaggagccc 60

tcagtc 66

<210> SEQ ID NO 16
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 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Blastomyces dermatitidis of strains 26199, 18808, Er-3, 14081; Histoplasma capsulatum of strains G186AR, Nam1, H88, and H143, Aspergillus sp.1 of strains group.1, A. flavus, and group.1, A. oryzae, A. terreus, and Magnaporthe oryzae_70-15.

<400> SEQUENCE: 16

Val Lys Asn Pro Ala Ala His His Ala
 1 5

<210> SEQ ID NO 17
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 <212> TYPE: PRT
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 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Colletotrichum graminicola; Chaetomium globosum

<400> SEQUENCE: 17

Leu Val Ile Lys Asn Pro Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

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 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Puccinia graminis; Melampsora larici-populina; Yarrowia lipolytica

<400> SEQUENCE: 18

Leu Val Val Lys Ser Pro Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 19
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 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Grosmannia clavigera; Sporothrix schenckii

<400> SEQUENCE: 19

Leu Val Val Lys Asn Lys Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 20
 <211> LENGTH: 13
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Meyerozyma guilliermondii

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<400> SEQUENCE: 20

Leu Val Met Lys Thr Pro Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 21

<211> LENGTH: 13

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence

<220> FEATURE:

<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Debaryomyces hansenii; Wickerhamomyces
ciferrii

<400> SEQUENCE: 21

Leu Val Leu Lys Thr Pro Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 22

<211> LENGTH: 13

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Arthrobotrys oligospor

<400> SEQUENCE: 22

Leu Val Val Lys Asp Lys Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 23

<211> LENGTH: 13

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Pichia pastoris

<400> SEQUENCE: 23

Leu Val Val Lys Ser Glu Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 24

<211> LENGTH: 13

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis

<400> SEQUENCE: 24

Leu Val Val Lys Thr Thr Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 25

<211> LENGTH: 13

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Bipolaris maydis

<400> SEQUENCE: 25

Leu Val Ile Lys Asp Gln Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 26

<211> LENGTH: 13

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Agaricus bisporus

<400> SEQUENCE: 26

Leu Val Ala Lys Ser Pro Ala Ser His His Ala Ile Ser
1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 27

<211> LENGTH: 13

<212> TYPE: PRT

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<213> ORGANISM: *Ophiostoma piceae*

<400> SEQUENCE: 27

Leu Val Leu Lys Asn Lys Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 28

<211> LENGTH: 13

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence

<220> FEATURE:

<223> OTHER INFORMATION: *Schizosaccharomyces japonicas*;
Schizosaccharomyces octosporus

<400> SEQUENCE: 28

Leu Val Met Lys Asp Ala Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 29

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<220> FEATURE:

<223> OTHER INFORMATION: *Phaeosphaeria nodorum* ; *Neofusicoccum parvum*;
Macrophomina phaseolina; *Pyrenophora teres*; *Pyrenophora*
tritici-repentis; *Coniosporium apollinis*

<400> SEQUENCE: 29

Leu Val Ile Lys Asp Lys Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 30

<211> LENGTH: 13

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: *Setosphaeria turcica*

<400> SEQUENCE: 30

Leu Ile Val Lys Asp Lys Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 31

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<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence

<220> FEATURE:

<223> OTHER INFORMATION: *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*; *Schizosaccharomyces*
cryophilus

<400> SEQUENCE: 31

Leu Val Met Lys Asp Glu Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 32

<211> LENGTH: 13

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: *Millerozyza farinose*

<400> SEQUENCE: 32

Leu Val Met Lys Lys Ala Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 33

<211> LENGTH: 13

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: *Glarea lozoyensis*

<400> SEQUENCE: 33

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Leu Val Met Lys Asp Val Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 34
 <211> LENGTH: 13
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: *Pneumocystis jirovecii*

<400> SEQUENCE: 34

Leu Val Leu Lys Lys Gln Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

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 <211> LENGTH: 13
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: *Stereum hirsutum*; *Pseudocercospora fijiensis*

<400> SEQUENCE: 35

Leu Val Ala Lys Asp Lys Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 36
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 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: *Sphaerulina musiva*; *Dothistroma septosporum*;
Zymoseptoria tritici; *Leptosphaeria maculans*; *Baudoinia*
compniacensis

<400> SEQUENCE: 36

Leu Val Leu Lys Asp Lys Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 37
 <211> LENGTH: 13
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: *Blumeria graminis*

<400> SEQUENCE: 37

Leu Val Met Lys Ser Lys Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 38
 <211> LENGTH: 13
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: *Tremella mesenterica*

<400> SEQUENCE: 38

Leu Val Met Lys Ser Lys Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 39
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 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: *Fomitiporia mediterranea*; *Punctularia*
strigosozonata; *Laccaria bicolor*; *Coprinopsis cinerea*;
Moniliophthora roreri; *Piriformospora indica*; *Heterobasidion*
irregularare

<400> SEQUENCE: 39

Leu Val Ala Lys Ser Lys Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser

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 1 5 10

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 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: *Trichosporon asahii*; *Scheffersomyces stipites*

 <400> SEQUENCE: 40

Leu Val Leu Lys Ser Lys Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

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 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
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 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: *Ogataea parapolyomorpha*; *Ogataea angusta*

 <400> SEQUENCE: 41

Leu Val Ala Lys Thr Glu Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 42
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 <213> ORGANISM: *Dactylellina haptotyla*

 <400> SEQUENCE: 42

Leu Val Val Lys Asp Lys Ala Arg His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 43
 <211> LENGTH: 13
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: *Dekkera bruxellensis*

 <400> SEQUENCE: 43

Leu Val Val Lys Ser Glu Ala Ala Leu His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 44
 <211> LENGTH: 13
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: *Mixia osmundae*

 <400> SEQUENCE: 44

Leu Val Val Ala Ser Lys Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 45
 <211> LENGTH: 13
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: *Rhizoctonia solani*

 <400> SEQUENCE: 45

Leu Val Ala Lys Ser Lys Ala Ser His His Ala Ile Ser
 1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 46
 <211> LENGTH: 13
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: *Spathaspora passalidarum*

 <400> SEQUENCE: 46

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Leu Val Leu Lys Ser Lys Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ala
1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 47
<211> LENGTH: 13
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Auricularia delicata

<400> SEQUENCE: 47

Leu Val Ala Lys Ser Lys Ala Thr His His Ala Ile Ser
1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 48
<211> LENGTH: 13
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Rhizophagus irregularis

<400> SEQUENCE: 48

Leu Ile Val Asp Ser Lys Ala Ala His His Ala Ile Ser
1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 49
<211> LENGTH: 13
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Pyronema omphalodes

<400> SEQUENCE: 49

Leu Val Ala Lys Asn Val Ala Ala Phe His Ala Ile Ser
1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 50
<211> LENGTH: 13
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Moniliophthora perniciosa

<400> SEQUENCE: 50

Leu Val Ala Lys Ser Lys Ala Ala His Gln Ala Ile Ser
1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 51
<211> LENGTH: 13
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Dacryopinax sp.

<400> SEQUENCE: 51

Leu Val Ala Lys Thr Lys Ala Gly His His Ala Ile Ser
1 5 10

<210> SEQ ID NO 52
<211> LENGTH: 562
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Histoplasma capsulatum of strains G217B

<400> SEQUENCE: 52

Met Arg Leu Asn Ala Ser Leu Ala Ser Leu Ile Leu Ser Ser Val Ala
1 5 10 15

Leu Ile Gly Asn Val Arg Ala Glu Glu Glu Val Lys Gly Asp Ala Pro
20 25 30

Ser Pro Ser Ser Ala Ile Glu Lys Pro Thr Phe Thr Pro Thr Thr Leu
35 40 45

Lys Ala Pro Phe Leu Glu Gln Phe Thr Asp Asp Trp Glu Thr Arg Trp
50 55 60

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Thr Pro Ser His Ala Lys Lys Glu Asp Ser Ser Ser Asp Glu Asp Trp
65 70 75 80

Ala Tyr Ile Gly Thr Trp Ala Val Glu Glu Pro His Val Leu Asn Gly
85 90 95

Met Val Gly Asp Lys Gly Leu Val Val Lys Asn Pro Ala Ala His His
100 105 110

Ala Ile Ser Ala Lys Phe Pro Lys Lys Ile Asp Asn Lys Gly Lys Thr
115 120 125

Leu Val Val Gln Tyr Glu Val Lys Leu Gln Asp Ser Leu Val Cys Gly
130 135 140

Gly Ala Tyr Met Lys Leu Leu Gln Asp Asn Lys Lys Leu His Ala Glu
145 150 155 160

Glu Phe Ser Asn Ala Ser Pro Tyr Val Ile Met Phe Gly Pro Asp Lys
165 170 175

Cys Gly Val Thr Asn Lys Val His Phe Ile Phe Arg His Lys Asn Pro
180 185 190

Lys Thr Gly Glu Tyr Glu Glu Lys His Met Asn Ala Ala Pro Ala Ala
195 200 205

Lys Ile Asn Lys Leu Ser Thr Leu Tyr Thr Leu Ile Val Lys Pro Asp
210 215 220

Gln Ser Phe Gln Ile Arg Ile Asp Gly Lys Ala Val Lys Asn Gly Thr
225 230 235 240

Leu Leu Glu Asp Phe Ser Pro Ala Val Asn Pro Pro Lys Glu Ile Asp
245 250 255

Asp Pro Glu Asp Lys Lys Pro Glu Asp Trp Val Asp Glu Ala Arg Ile
260 265 270

Ala Asp Pro Asp Ala Thr Lys Pro Glu Asp Trp Asp Glu Asp Ala Pro
275 280 285

Tyr Glu Ile Val Asp Thr Asp Ala Val Gln Pro Glu Asp Trp Leu Val
290 295 300

Asp Glu Pro Thr Ser Ile Pro Asp Pro Glu Ala Glu Lys Pro Glu Asp
305 310 315 320

Trp Asp Asp Glu Glu Asp Gly Asp Trp Thr Pro Pro Thr Ile Pro Asn
325 330 335

Pro Lys Cys Ser Glu Val Ser Gly Cys Gly Lys Trp Gln Gln Pro Met
340 345 350

Lys Lys Asn Pro Asp Tyr Lys Gly Lys Trp Val Ala Pro Met Ile Asp
355 360 365

Asn Pro Ala Tyr Lys Gly Pro Trp Ala Pro Arg Lys Ile Pro Asn Pro
370 375 380

Asp Tyr Phe Glu Asp Lys Thr Pro Ser Asn Phe Glu Pro Met Gly Ala
385 390 395 400

Ile Gly Phe Glu Ile Trp Thr Met Gln Ser Asp Ile Leu Phe Asn Asn
405 410 415

Ile Tyr Ile Gly His Ser Ile Glu Asp Ala Glu Lys Leu Lys Ala Glu
420 425 430

Thr Trp Asp Leu Lys His Pro Val Glu Val Ala Glu Glu Glu Ala Ser
435 440 445

Arg Pro Lys Asp Glu Glu Lys Glu Ala Gly Thr Ser Phe Lys Glu Asp
450 455 460

Pro Val Gln Tyr Ile Arg Lys Lys Ile Asp Leu Phe Ile Ser Leu Ala
465 470 475 480

Leu Glu Asn Pro Val Glu Ala Val Lys Ala Val Pro Glu Val Ala Gly

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290				295				300							
Glu	Pro	Ser	Ser	Ile	Pro	Asp	Pro	Glu	Ala	Gln	Lys	Pro	Glu	Asp	Trp
305					310					315					320
Asp	Asp	Glu	Glu	Asp	Gly	Asp	Trp	Phe	Ala	Pro	Thr	Val	Pro	Asn	Pro
				325					330						335
Lys	Cys	Glu	Glu	Ala	Ser	Gly	Cys	Gly	Lys	Trp	Glu	Pro	Pro	Met	Lys
				340					345						350
Arg	Asn	Pro	Asp	Tyr	Lys	Gly	Lys	Trp	Thr	Ala	Pro	Leu	Ile	Asp	Asn
		355					360							365	
Pro	Ala	Tyr	Lys	Gly	Pro	Trp	Ser	Pro	Arg	Lys	Ile	Ala	Asn	Pro	Asp
		370				375						380			
Phe	Phe	Glu	Asp	Lys	Lys	Pro	Ala	Asn	Phe	Glu	Pro	Met	Gly	Ala	Ile
385						390									400
Gly	Phe	Glu	Ile	Trp	Thr	Met	Gln	Asn	Asp	Ile	Leu	Phe	Asp	Asn	Ile
				405						410					415
Tyr	Ile	Gly	His	Ser	Ile	Glu	Asp	Ala	Lys	Lys	Leu	Lys	Ala	Glu	Thr
				420					425						430
Phe	Asp	Ile	Lys	Gln	Pro	Ile	Glu	Val	Ala	Glu	Glu	Glu	Ala	Ala	Lys
				435					440						445
Pro	Lys	Asp	Glu	Pro	Ser	Thr	Asp	Ser	Gly	Leu	Asn	Phe	Lys	Asp	Asp
				450			455								460
Pro	Val	Lys	Tyr	Ile	Arg	Ser	Lys	Val	Asp	Gln	Phe	Ile	Leu	Met	Ala
				465			470								480
Lys	Asp	Asn	Pro	Val	Glu	Ala	Val	Lys	Thr	Val	Pro	Glu	Val	Ala	Gly
				485						490					495
Gly	Leu	Ala	Ala	Leu	Leu	Ile	Thr	Leu	Ile	Leu	Val	Val	Phe	Gly	Ala
				500					505						510
Ile	Gly	Leu	Ser	Ser	Pro	Ala	Pro	Ala	Pro	Ala	Lys	Lys	Asp	Ala	Gly
				515					520						525
Lys	Gly	Lys	Glu	Lys	Ala	Lys	Glu	Lys	Ala	Ala	Glu	Ala	Val	Ser	Thr
				530					535						540
Gly	Ala	Glu	Asn	Ile	Lys	Ala	Gly	Ala	Thr	Lys	Arg	Ser	Lys	Ser	Ser
				545			550								560

Glu

<210> SEQ ID NO 54

<211> LENGTH: 567

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Paracoccidioides brasiliensis

<400> SEQUENCE: 54

Met	Arg	Leu	Asn	Ala	Ser	Leu	Ala	Ser	Leu	Ile	Leu	Thr	Ser	Ile	Ala
1				5						10					15
Leu	Ile	Gly	Asn	Val	His	Ala	Glu	Asp	Glu	Val	Glu	Gly	Lys	Pro	Ser
				20					25						30
Ser	Thr	Ser	Ser	Val	Ile	Glu	Lys	Pro	Leu	Phe	Thr	Pro	Thr	Thr	Leu
				35					40						45
Lys	Ala	Pro	Phe	Leu	Glu	Gln	Phe	Thr	Asp	Asp	Trp	Glu	Thr	Arg	Trp
				50					55						60
Thr	Pro	Ser	His	Ala	Lys	Lys	Gln	Asp	Ser	Ser	Ser	Glu	Glu	Asp	Trp
				65											80
Ala	Tyr	Val	Gly	Thr	Trp	Ala	Val	Glu	Glu	Pro	His	Val	Phe	Asn	Gly
				85						90					95
Met	Lys	Gly	Asp	Lys	Gly	Leu	Val	Ile	Lys	Asn	Ala	Ala	Ala	His	His

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100				105				110							
Ala	Ile	Ser	Ala	Lys	Phe	Pro	Lys	Lys	Ile	Asp	Asn	Lys	Gly	Asn	Thr
		115					120					125			
Leu	Val	Val	Gln	Tyr	Glu	Val	Lys	Leu	Gln	Asn	Gly	Leu	Asn	Cys	Gly
	130				135						140				
Gly	Ala	Tyr	Met	Lys	Leu	Leu	Gln	Asp	Asn	Lys	Lys	Leu	His	Ala	Glu
145				150					155					160	
Glu	Phe	Ser	Asn	Ala	Ser	Pro	Tyr	Val	Ile	Met	Phe	Gly	Pro	Asp	Lys
			165						170					175	
Cys	Gly	Val	Thr	Asn	Lys	Val	His	Phe	Ile	Phe	Arg	His	Lys	Asn	Pro
		180						185				190			
Lys	Thr	Gly	Glu	Tyr	Glu	Glu	Lys	His	Leu	Lys	Asn	Pro	Pro	Ala	Ala
	195						200					205			
Arg	Val	Ser	Lys	Leu	Ser	Thr	Leu	Tyr	Thr	Leu	Ile	Val	Lys	Pro	Asp
	210					215					220				
Gln	Ser	Phe	Gln	Ile	Leu	Ile	Asp	Gly	Glu	Ala	Val	Lys	Asn	Gly	Thr
225				230					235					240	
Leu	Leu	Glu	Asp	Phe	Ser	Pro	Ala	Val	Asn	Pro	Gln	Lys	Glu	Ile	Asp
			245						250					255	
Asp	Pro	Glu	Asp	Lys	Lys	Pro	Lys	Asp	Trp	Val	Asp	Glu	Thr	Arg	Ile
		260						265					270		
Pro	Asp	Pro	Thr	Ala	Thr	Lys	Pro	Asp	Asp	Trp	Asp	Glu	Asp	Ala	Pro
		275					280					285			
Tyr	Glu	Ile	Ile	Asp	Thr	Glu	Ala	Thr	Lys	Pro	Asp	Asp	Trp	Leu	Asp
	290				295						300				
Ser	Glu	Pro	Asp	Ser	Ile	Pro	Asp	Pro	Glu	Ala	Gln	Lys	Pro	Glu	Asp
305				310					315					320	
Trp	Asp	Asp	Glu	Glu	Asp	Gly	Asp	Trp	Ala	Ala	Pro	Thr	Ile	Pro	Asn
			325					330						335	
Pro	Lys	Cys	Ser	Glu	Val	Ser	Gly	Cys	Gly	Lys	Trp	Glu	Ala	Pro	Met
		340						345				350			
Lys	Lys	Asn	Pro	Asp	Tyr	Lys	Gly	Lys	Trp	Thr	Pro	Pro	Met	Ile	Asp
		355					360					365			
Asn	Pro	Ala	Tyr	Lys	Gly	Pro	Trp	Thr	Pro	Arg	Lys	Ile	Pro	Asn	Pro
	370				375						380				
Asn	Tyr	Phe	Glu	Asp	Lys	Thr	Pro	Ala	Asn	Phe	Glu	Pro	Met	Gly	Ala
385				390					395					400	
Ile	Gly	Phe	Glu	Ile	Trp	Thr	Met	Gln	Asn	Asp	Ile	Leu	Phe	Asn	Asn
			405					410						415	
Ile	Tyr	Ile	Gly	His	Ser	Ile	Glu	Asp	Ala	Gln	Lys	Leu	Lys	Ser	Glu
		420						425				430			
Thr	Trp	Asp	Ile	Lys	His	Pro	Ile	Glu	Val	Ala	Glu	Glu	Glu	Ala	Thr
		435					440					445			
Arg	Pro	Lys	Asp	Asp	Glu	Lys	Asp	Ser	Ser	Phe	Val	Ser	Phe	Lys	Glu
	450				455						460				
Ala	Pro	Val	Gln	Phe	Val	Arg	Glu	Lys	Ile	Asn	Leu	Phe	Ile	Ser	Ile
465				470					475					480	
Ala	Arg	Lys	Asp	Pro	Val	Gln	Ala	Ala	Lys	Ser	Val	Pro	Glu	Val	Ala
			485					490						495	
Gly	Gly	Leu	Gly	Ala	Leu	Val	Ile	Thr	Leu	Ala	Leu	Ile	Ile	Val	Gly
		500						505				510			
Ala	Ile	Gly	Leu	Ser	Ser	Pro	Ala	Pro	Ala	Pro	Ala	Val	Ala	Lys	Lys
		515					520					525			

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Val Asp Gly Lys Glu Lys Asp Gly Ala Ser Lys Glu Lys Ala Ala Glu
 530 535 540

Ala Val Ser Thr Thr Ala Asp Asn Val Lys Gly Ala Ala Thr Arg Arg
 545 550 555 560

Ser Gly Lys Ala Asn Asn Glu
 565

<210> SEQ ID NO 55
 <211> LENGTH: 561
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: *Coccidioides immitis*

<400> SEQUENCE: 55

Met Arg Leu Asn Ala Arg Thr Ala Ser Leu Ile Leu Ser Tyr Ile Ala
 1 5 10 15

Leu Leu Gly Gln Val His Ala Glu Ser Glu Ala Thr Lys Glu Glu Pro
 20 25 30

Thr Ala Thr Ser Ile Ser Arg Pro Thr Phe Thr Pro Thr Thr Leu Lys
 35 40 45

Ala Pro Phe Leu Glu Gln Phe Thr Asp Asp Trp Gln Thr Arg Trp Thr
 50 55 60

Pro Ser His Ala Lys Lys Glu Asp Ser Lys Ser Glu Glu Glu Trp Ala
 65 70 75 80

Tyr Val Gly Glu Trp Ala Val Glu Glu Pro Thr Val Phe Lys Gly Ile
 85 90 95

Asp Gly Asp Lys Gly Leu Val Val Lys Asn Ala Ala Ala His His Ala
 100 105 110

Ile Ser Ala Lys Phe Pro Gln Lys Ile Asp Asn Lys Gly Lys Thr Leu
 115 120 125

Val Val Gln Tyr Glu Val Lys Leu Gln Asn Ser Leu Val Cys Gly Gly
 130 135 140

Ala Tyr Met Lys Leu Leu Gln Asp Asn Lys Lys Leu His Ala Glu Glu
 145 150 155 160

Phe Ser Asn Ala Ser Pro Tyr Val Ile Met Phe Gly Pro Asp Lys Cys
 165 170 175

Gly Ala Thr Asn Lys Val His Phe Ile Phe Lys His Lys Asn Pro Lys
 180 185 190

Thr Gly Glu Tyr Glu Glu Lys His Leu Asn Asn Ala Pro Thr Ala Arg
 195 200 205

Ile Ser Lys Leu Ser Thr Leu Tyr Thr Leu Ile Val Lys Pro Asp Gln
 210 215 220

Thr Phe Gln Ile Gln Ile Asn Gly Glu Ala Val Lys Asn Gly Thr Leu
 225 230 235 240

Leu Glu Asp Phe Gln Pro Pro Val Asn Pro Pro Lys Glu Ile Asp Asp
 245 250 255

Pro Asn Asp Lys Lys Pro Ala Asp Trp Val Asp Glu Ala Lys Ile Pro
 260 265 270

Asp Pro Glu Ala Lys Lys Pro Glu Asp Trp Asp Glu Asp Ala Pro Phe
 275 280 285

Glu Ile Val Asp Thr Glu Ala Lys Lys Pro Asp Asp Trp Leu Asp Asp
 290 295 300

Glu Pro Ser Ser Ile Pro Asp Pro Glu Ala Gln Lys Pro Glu Asp Trp
 305 310 315 320

Asp Asp Glu Glu Asp Gly Asp Trp Val Ala Pro Thr Val Pro Asn Pro

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325					330					335					
Lys	Cys	Glu	Glu	Ala	Ser	Gly	Cys	Gly	Lys	Trp	Glu	Pro	Pro	Met	Lys
			340					345					350		
Arg	Asn	Pro	Asp	Tyr	Lys	Gly	Lys	Trp	Thr	Ala	Pro	Leu	Ile	Asp	Asn
		355					360					365			
Pro	Ala	Tyr	Lys	Gly	Pro	Trp	Ser	Pro	Arg	Lys	Ile	Ala	Asn	Pro	Asp
		370				375					380				
Phe	Phe	Glu	Asp	Lys	Lys	Pro	Ala	Asn	Phe	Glu	Pro	Met	Gly	Ala	Ile
		385				390					395				400
Gly	Phe	Glu	Ile	Trp	Thr	Met	Gln	Asn	Asp	Ile	Leu	Phe	Asp	Asn	Ile
			405						410					415	
Tyr	Ile	Gly	His	Ser	Ile	Glu	Asp	Ala	Lys	Lys	Leu	Lys	Ala	Glu	Thr
			420					425					430		
Phe	Asp	Ile	Lys	His	Pro	Ile	Glu	Val	Ala	Glu	Glu	Glu	Ala	Ala	Lys
		435					440					445			
Pro	Lys	Asp	Glu	Pro	Ser	Thr	Asp	Ser	Gly	Leu	Asn	Phe	Lys	Asp	Asp
		450				455					460				
Pro	Val	Lys	Tyr	Ile	Arg	Ser	Lys	Val	Asp	Gln	Phe	Ile	Leu	Met	Ala
		465				470					475				480
Lys	Asp	Asn	Pro	Val	Glu	Ala	Val	Lys	Ala	Val	Pro	Glu	Val	Ala	Gly
			485						490					495	
Gly	Leu	Ala	Ala	Leu	Leu	Ile	Thr	Leu	Ile	Leu	Val	Val	Phe	Gly	Ala
			500					505						510	
Ile	Gly	Leu	Ser	Ser	Pro	Ala	Pro	Ala	Pro	Ala	Lys	Lys	Asp	Ala	Gly
		515					520					525			
Lys	Gly	Lys	Glu	Lys	Ala	Lys	Glu	Lys	Ala	Ala	Glu	Ala	Val	Ser	Thr
		530				535					540				
Gly	Ala	Glu	Asn	Val	Lys	Ala	Gly	Ala	Thr	Lys	Arg	Ser	Lys	Ser	Ser
		545				550					555				560

Glu

<210> SEQ ID NO 56

<211> LENGTH: 598

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Histoplasma capsulatum of strains G186AR

<400> SEQUENCE: 56

Met	Ile	Pro	Ala	Ser	Asp	Ile	Ala	Gln	Arg	Ile	Glu	Ile	Trp	Gln	Ile
1				5					10					15	
Asp	Ser	Gly	Ser	Lys	Leu	Gln	Leu	Ala	Thr	Thr	Leu	Ser	Asn	Trp	Arg
			20					25					30		
Pro	Ser	Val	Thr	Met	Arg	Leu	Asn	Ala	Ser	Leu	Ala	Ser	Leu	Ile	Leu
			35				40					45			
Ser	Ser	Val	Ala	Leu	Ile	Gly	Asn	Val	Arg	Ala	Glu	Glu	Glu	Val	Lys
		50				55					60				
Gly	Asp	Ala	Pro	Ser	Pro	Ser	Ser	Ala	Ile	Glu	Lys	Pro	Thr	Phe	Thr
		65				70					75				80
Pro	Thr	Thr	Leu	Lys	Ala	Pro	Phe	Leu	Glu	Gln	Phe	Thr	Asp	Asp	Trp
			85					90						95	
Glu	Thr	Arg	Trp	Thr	Pro	Ser	His	Ala	Lys	Lys	Glu	Asp	Ser	Ser	Ser
			100					105					110		
Asp	Glu	Asp	Trp	Ala	Tyr	Ile	Gly	Thr	Trp	Ala	Val	Glu	Glu	Pro	His
		115					120					125			
Val	Leu	Asn	Gly	Met	Val	Gly	Asp	Lys	Gly	Leu	Val	Val	Lys	Asn	Pro

-continued

130			135			140									
Ala	Ala	His	His	Ala	Ile	Ser	Ala	Lys	Phe	Pro	Lys	Lys	Ile	Asp	Asn
145				150						155					160
Lys	Gly	Lys	Thr	Leu	Val	Val	Gln	Tyr	Glu	Val	Lys	Leu	Gln	Asn	Ser
			165						170						175
Leu	Val	Cys	Gly	Gly	Ala	Tyr	Met	Lys	Leu	Leu	Gln	Asp	Asn	Lys	Lys
			180					185					190		
Leu	His	Ala	Glu	Glu	Phe	Ser	Asn	Ala	Ser	Pro	Tyr	Val	Ile	Met	Phe
		195					200					205			
Gly	Pro	Asp	Lys	Cys	Gly	Val	Thr	Asn	Lys	Val	His	Phe	Ile	Phe	Arg
210						215					220				
His	Lys	Asn	Pro	Lys	Thr	Gly	Glu	Tyr	Glu	Glu	Lys	His	Met	Asn	Ala
225					230					235					240
Ala	Pro	Ala	Ala	Lys	Ile	Asn	Lys	Leu	Ser	Thr	Leu	Tyr	Thr	Leu	Ile
			245						250						255
Val	Lys	Pro	Asp	Gln	Ser	Phe	Gln	Ile	Arg	Ile	Asp	Gly	Lys	Ala	Val
			260					265					270		
Lys	Asn	Gly	Thr	Leu	Leu	Glu	Asp	Phe	Ser	Pro	Ala	Val	Asn	Pro	Pro
		275					280					285			
Lys	Glu	Ile	Asp	Asp	Pro	Glu	Asp	Lys	Lys	Pro	Glu	Asp	Trp	Val	Asp
290					295						300				
Glu	Ala	Arg	Ile	Ala	Asp	Pro	Asp	Ala	Thr	Lys	Pro	Glu	Asp	Trp	Asp
305				310						315					320
Glu	Asp	Ala	Pro	Tyr	Glu	Ile	Val	Asp	Ala	Asp	Ala	Val	Gln	Pro	Glu
			325						330						335
Asp	Trp	Leu	Ile	Asp	Glu	Pro	Thr	Ser	Ile	Pro	Asp	Pro	Glu	Ala	Glu
		340						345					350		
Lys	Pro	Glu	Asp	Trp	Asp	Asp	Glu	Glu	Asp	Gly	Asp	Trp	Thr	Pro	Pro
		355					360					365			
Thr	Ile	Pro	Asn	Pro	Lys	Cys	Ser	Glu	Val	Ser	Gly	Cys	Gly	Lys	Trp
370					375						380				
Gln	Gln	Pro	Met	Lys	Lys	Asn	Pro	Asp	Tyr	Lys	Gly	Lys	Trp	Val	Ala
385					390					395					400
Pro	Met	Ile	Asp	Asn	Pro	Ala	Tyr	Lys	Gly	Pro	Trp	Ala	Pro	Arg	Lys
			405					410							415
Ile	Pro	Asn	Pro	Asp	Tyr	Phe	Glu	Asp	Lys	Thr	Pro	Ala	Asn	Phe	Glu
		420						425					430		
Pro	Met	Gly	Ala	Ile	Gly	Phe	Glu	Ile	Trp	Thr	Met	Gln	Ser	Asp	Ile
		435					440					445			
Leu	Phe	Asn	Asn	Ile	Tyr	Ile	Gly	His	Ser	Ile	Glu	Asp	Ala	Glu	Lys
450					455						460				
Leu	Lys	Ala	Glu	Thr	Trp	Asp	Leu	Lys	His	Pro	Val	Glu	Val	Ala	Glu
465				470						475					480
Glu	Glu	Ala	Ser	Arg	Pro	Lys	Asp	Glu	Glu	Lys	Glu	Ala	Gly	Thr	Ser
			485					490							495
Phe	Lys	Glu	Asp	Pro	Val	Gln	Tyr	Ile	Arg	Lys	Lys	Ile	Asp	Leu	Phe
			500					505					510		
Ile	Ser	Leu	Ala	Leu	Glu	Asn	Pro	Val	Glu	Ala	Val	Lys	Thr	Val	Pro
		515					520						525		
Glu	Val	Ala	Gly	Gly	Leu	Gly	Ala	Leu	Leu	Val	Thr	Leu	Ile	Leu	Ile
		530					535				540				
Ile	Val	Ser	Gly	Ile	Ser	Leu	Gly	Ser	Ser	Ser	Pro	Ala	Pro	Lys	
545				550						555					560

-continued

	325		330		335										
Cys	Asn	Asp	Val	Ser	Gly	Cys	Gly	Pro	Trp	Ser	Ala	Pro	Met	Lys	Lys
	340							345					350		
Asn	Pro	Ala	Tyr	Lys	Gly	Lys	Trp	Thr	Ala	Pro	Met	Ile	Asp	Asn	Pro
	355						360					365			
Ala	Tyr	Lys	Gly	Pro	Trp	Ser	Pro	Arg	Lys	Ile	Ala	Asn	Pro	Ala	Tyr
	370					375					380				
Phe	Glu	Asp	Lys	Thr	Pro	Ser	Asn	Phe	Glu	Pro	Met	Gly	Ala	Ile	Gly
	385				390					395					400
Phe	Glu	Ile	Trp	Thr	Met	Gln	Asn	Asp	Ile	Leu	Phe	Asp	Asn	Ile	Tyr
				405					410					415	
Ile	Gly	His	Ser	Pro	Glu	Asp	Ala	Glu	Gln	Leu	Arg	Lys	Glu	Thr	Phe
			420					425					430		
Asp	Val	Lys	His	Pro	Val	Glu	Val	Ala	Glu	Glu	Glu	Ala	Ser	Lys	Pro
	435						440					445			
Lys	Lys	Glu	Glu	Thr	Ala	Pro	Ala	Thr	Ser	Val	Ser	Phe	Gln	Glu	Asp
	450					455					460				
Pro	Ile	Thr	Phe	Val	Arg	Glu	Lys	Val	Asp	His	Phe	Val	Gly	Leu	Ala
	465				470					475					480
Lys	Gln	Asp	Pro	Val	Asn	Ala	Val	Lys	Gln	Ala	Pro	Glu	Val	Ala	Gly
			485						490						495
Thr	Leu	Gly	Ala	Leu	Val	Leu	Ser	Met	Val	Leu	Ile	Ile	Val	Gly	Ala
		500						505						510	
Ile	Lys	Ala	Ser	Ser	Pro	Ala	Pro	Ala	Pro	Val	Lys	Lys	Gly	Lys	Glu
	515						520					525			
Ala	Ala	Gly	Ala	Ala	Lys	Glu	Lys	Val	Ser	Glu	Ala	Val	Ser	Ser	Ser
	530					535					540				
Ala	Asp	Thr	Gly	Lys	Gly	Gly	Ala	Ser	Lys	Arg	Thr	Thr	Arg	Ser	Ser
	545				550					555					560

Ala Gln

<210> SEQ ID NO 58
 <211> LENGTH: 581
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Candida albicans

<400> SEQUENCE: 58

Met	Lys	Tyr	Ala	Leu	Val	Leu	Leu	Leu	Ser	Leu	Val	Asn	Ala	Leu	Lys
1				5					10					15	
Tyr	Val	Pro	Phe	Asp	Lys	Thr	Gln	Leu	Asp	Pro	Ser	Ser	Val	Phe	Glu
			20					25					30		
Gln	Phe	Asp	Tyr	Pro	Ser	Leu	Asn	Ser	Ser	Pro	Trp	Gln	Val	Ser	Thr
		35					40					45			
Ala	Lys	Lys	Phe	Asp	Glu	Gly	Arg	Asp	Glu	Ile	Val	Arg	Tyr	Ser	Gly
	50					55					60				
Glu	Trp	Lys	Ile	Glu	Ser	Ser	Thr	Ser	Lys	Tyr	Pro	Gly	Leu	Glu	Gly
	65				70					75				80	
Asp	Leu	Gly	Leu	Val	Met	Lys	Ser	Arg	Ala	Ser	His	Tyr	Ala	Ile	Ser
			85						90					95	
Tyr	Lys	Leu	Pro	His	Glu	Val	Thr	Asn	Thr	Asn	Pro	Asn	Asn	Asn	Lys
			100					105						110	
Thr	Gln	Asp	Leu	Val	Leu	Gln	Tyr	Glu	Val	Lys	Leu	Gln	Gln	Gly	Leu
			115				120					125			
Thr	Cys	Gly	Gly	Ala	Tyr	Ile	Lys	Leu	Leu	Asp	Ser	Ser	Pro	Ser	Gly

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130			135			140									
Tyr	Lys	Phe	Phe	Asn	Ser	Glu	Thr	Pro	Tyr	Gln	Ile	Met	Phe	Gly	Pro
145				150						155					160
Asp	Val	Cys	Gly	Ser	Glu	Asn	Lys	Ile	His	Phe	Ile	Ile	Arg	Lys	Lys
			165						170					175	
Leu	Pro	Asn	Gly	Ala	Ile	Glu	Glu	Lys	His	Leu	Lys	His	Lys	Pro	Met
			180						185				190		
Ala	Arg	Thr	Asn	Glu	Leu	Thr	Asn	Leu	Tyr	Thr	Leu	Ile	Ile	Lys	Ser
		195					200						205		
Asn	Gln	Asp	Phe	Glu	Ile	Arg	Val	Asn	Gly	Gln	Val	Ala	Lys	Ala	Gly
210						215					220				
Asn	Leu	Tyr	Lys	Asn	Gln	Lys	Leu	Phe	Asn	Pro	Pro	Phe	Glu	Pro	Pro
225					230					235					240
Lys	Glu	Ile	Pro	Asp	Val	Asp	Asp	Lys	Lys	Pro	Asp	Asp	Trp	Asp	Asp
				245					250					255	
Arg	Ala	Tyr	Ile	Pro	Asp	Pro	Asn	Val	Glu	Lys	Pro	Glu	Asp	Tyr	Glu
			260					265					270		
Leu	Lys	His	Glu	Tyr	Pro	Gln	Ile	Arg	Asp	Pro	Asn	Ala	Val	Lys	Pro
		275					280					285			
Asp	Glu	Trp	Asp	Glu	Ser	Ala	Pro	Arg	Tyr	Ile	Pro	Asp	Pro	Asp	Ala
290						295					300				
Val	Lys	Pro	Lys	Asp	Trp	Asn	Asp	Ala	Glu	Lys	Gln	Trp	Glu	Pro	Pro
305					310					315					320
Leu	Ile	Val	Asn	Pro	Lys	Cys	Ala	Thr	Gly	Cys	Gly	Pro	Trp	Glu	Ala
				325					330					335	
Pro	Leu	Ile	Pro	Asn	His	Asp	Tyr	Ile	Gly	Pro	Trp	Phe	Pro	Pro	Asp
			340					345					350		
Ile	Lys	Asn	Pro	Asn	Tyr	Asn	Gly	Ile	Trp	Thr	Pro	Arg	Leu	Ile	Pro
		355					360					365			
Asn	Pro	Tyr	Tyr	Tyr	Gln	Val	Lys	Thr	Pro	Gly	Lys	Leu	Asp	Lys	Pro
370						375					380				
Ile	Gly	Gly	Ile	Gly	Phe	Glu	Leu	Trp	Ser	Ile	Glu	Ser	Asp	Ile	Leu
385					390					395					400
Phe	Asp	Asn	Ile	Tyr	Leu	Gly	Asn	Ser	Ile	Ala	Glu	Ala	Glu	Leu	Ile
				405					410					415	
Gly	Asn	Thr	Thr	Phe	Lys	Ile	Lys	Tyr	Glu	Leu	Glu	Ala	Asp	Gln	Arg
			420					425						430	
Arg	Glu	Asn	Lys	Pro	Arg	Val	Lys	Asn	Glu	Pro	Val	Ala	Pro	Pro	Arg
		435					440					445			
Asn	Phe	Glu	Asp	Ile	Ile	Arg	Asp	Asp	Ser	Ile	Ser	Thr	Phe	Gln	Gln
450						455					460				
Phe	Leu	Ile	Phe	Ile	Lys	Leu	Phe	Trp	Leu	Lys	Gln	Tyr	Val	Gln	Leu
465					470					475					480
Lys	Asp	Phe	Tyr	Phe	Glu	Leu	Thr	Leu	Asp	Pro	Ile	Gly	Leu	Ile	Met
				485					490					495	
Ala	Asn	Pro	Leu	Lys	Thr	Leu	Leu	Tyr	Ala	Phe	Leu	Phe	Leu	Phe	Ser
			500					505					510		
Phe	Thr	Ile	Phe	Phe	Gly	Phe	Ala	Ser	Thr	Ile	Met	Phe	Leu	Leu	Gln
		515					520						525		
Gly	Gly	Glu	Ala	Phe	Gly	Ser	Ser	Ser	Ser	Ile	Thr	Thr	Thr	Thr	Thr
530						535					540				
Thr	Asp	Ser	Asn	Arg	Lys	Asn	Val	Leu	Thr	Ala	Glu	Glu	Ile	Glu	Met
545					550					555					560

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Pro Ser Asn His Val Gln Lys Ile Glu Ile Leu Asp Glu Gln Ile His
565 570 575

Val Arg Gln Arg Lys
580

<210> SEQ ID NO 59
<211> LENGTH: 554
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: *Cryptococcus gattii*

<400> SEQUENCE: 59

Met Arg Pro Gln Asn Val Ala Gly Val Ala Gly Thr Gly Ala Leu Ile
1 5 10 15

Met Ala Ala Gly Ala Leu Ala Asp Arg Ala Val Phe His Pro Thr Ser
20 25 30

Leu Thr Ala Pro Phe Ile Glu Gln Phe Leu Glu Ser Ile Pro Glu Ser
35 40 45

Arg Trp Thr Val Ser Arg Ala Thr Lys Gln Thr Pro Val Gly Asp Glu
50 55 60

Ile Phe Ser Tyr Val Gly Gln Trp Glu Ile Glu Glu Pro Asp Val Tyr
65 70 75 80

Pro Gly Ile Ser Gly Asp Lys Gly Leu Val Leu Lys Thr Lys Ala Ala
85 90 95

His His Ala Ile Ser Thr Leu Phe Asp Glu Pro Ile Asp Pro Lys Gly
100 105 110

Lys Ser Leu Val Val Gln Tyr Glu Val Lys Leu Gln Lys Gly Leu Glu
115 120 125

Cys Gly Gly Ala Tyr Ile Lys Leu Leu Thr Asp Gln Gln Asp Glu Gly
130 135 140

Leu Arg Ala Gly Glu Asp Tyr Thr Asp Lys Thr Pro Phe Thr Ile Met
145 150 155 160

Phe Gly Pro Asp Lys Cys Gly Ser Thr Asn Lys Val His Phe Ile Phe
165 170 175

Arg His Lys Asn Pro Leu Thr Gly Glu Trp Glu Glu Lys His Leu Lys
180 185 190

Asn Pro Pro Ala Pro Lys Ile Thr Lys Thr Thr Ala Leu Tyr Thr Leu
195 200 205

Ile Thr Lys Thr Ser Pro Asp Gln Thr Phe Glu Ile Leu Ile Asn Asp
210 215 220

Glu Ser Val Arg Lys Gly Ser Leu Leu Glu Asp Phe Asp Pro Pro Val
225 230 235 240

Asn Pro Pro Lys Glu Ile Asp Asp Pro Glu Asp Phe Lys Pro Glu Thr
245 250 255

Trp Val Asp Glu Ala Glu Ile Asp Asp Val Thr Ala Thr Lys Pro Asp
260 265 270

Asp Trp Asp Glu Asp Ala Pro Ile Met Ile Thr Asp Thr Ser Ala Val
275 280 285

Lys Pro Glu Asp Trp Leu Glu Glu Glu Pro Glu Thr Ile Pro Asp Pro
290 295 300

Glu Ala Glu Lys Pro Glu Glu Trp Asp Asp Glu Glu Asp Gly Asp Trp
305 310 315 320

Ile Pro Pro Met Val Pro Asn Pro Lys Cys Glu Asp Val Ser Gly Cys
325 330 335

Gly Pro Trp Thr Ala Pro Lys Val Arg Asn Pro Ala Tyr Lys Gly Lys

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340	345	350
Trp Thr Ile Pro Lys Ile Pro Asn Pro Asp Tyr Lys Gly Pro Trp Ala 355 360 365		
Pro Arg Lys Ile Ala Asn Pro Ala Phe Phe Glu Asp Leu His Pro Ser 370 375 380		
Asp Phe Thr Lys Ile Gly Gly Val Gly Ile Glu Leu Trp Thr Met Thr 385 390 395 400		
Glu Asp Ile Leu Phe Asp Asn Leu Tyr Ile Gly His Asp Ala Ala Gln 405 410 415		
Ala Lys Lys Phe Ala Glu Glu Thr Tyr His Val Lys Lys Pro Ile Glu 420 425 430		
Lys Glu Ala Glu Gly Ser Asn Glu Asp Glu Leu Glu Glu Pro Ser Ser 435 440 445		
Leu Ile Asp Lys Val Gln Leu Lys Val Tyr Glu Phe Leu His Leu Ala 450 455 460		
Thr Phe Asp Ile Ser Gln Ala Val Lys Gln Met Pro Glu Val Ala Ala 465 470 475 480		
Gly Leu Ala Ala Ala Val Phe Thr Leu Leu Gly Met Leu Leu Ala Leu 485 490 495		
Phe Gly Phe Ile Gly Ser Ala Pro Thr Lys Val Lys Gln Thr Ser Val 500 505 510		
Lys Thr Lys Ser Val Ala Pro Val Ala Pro Ala Gly Glu Glu Glu Lys 515 520 525		
Lys Ala Leu Asp Gln Ala Gly Val Glu Val Pro Ala Val Glu Gly Ser 530 535 540		
Lys Lys Arg Val Thr Arg Ser Thr Lys Glu 545 550		

We claim:

1. A composition to evaluate the immune status of a patient against a fungus, wherein the composition comprises peptide-MHCII tetramers comprising:
 - a calnexin peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-5, 7 and 8 covalently linked by a flexible linker to a MHCII β chain; and
 - a MHCII α chain, wherein the β and α chains each further comprise a leucine zipper dimerization motif for association of said β and α chains.
2. The composition of claim 1, additionally comprising at least one of a stabilizer, a buffer, or an adjuvant.
3. The composition of claim 1, wherein the peptide-MHCII tetramers comprise at least one fluorescent label.
4. A kit for evaluating the immune status of a patient against a fungus comprising
 - (1) a container or formulation wherein the container or formulation comprises peptide-MHCII tetramers comprising:
 - a calnexin peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-5, 7 and 8 covalently linked by a flexible linker to a MHCII β chain; and
 - a MHCII α chain, wherein the β and α chains each further comprise a leucine zipper dimerization motif for association of said β and α chains, and
 - (2) a detection marker for detecting helper T cells in a sample from the patient.
5. The kit of claim 4, wherein the sample is a fresh blood sample.
6. The kit of claim 4, wherein the peptide-MHCII tetramers are in the form of a powder.
7. The kit of claim 4, wherein the peptide-MHCII tetramers are in a solution.
8. The kit of claim 4, wherein the peptide-MHCII tetramers comprise at least one fluorescent label.
9. The kit of claim 4, wherein the detection marker is a fluorescence label.
10. The kit of claim 4, wherein the fungus is selected from a group consisting of *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, *Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Fonsecea pedrosoi*, and *Geomyces destructans*.

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