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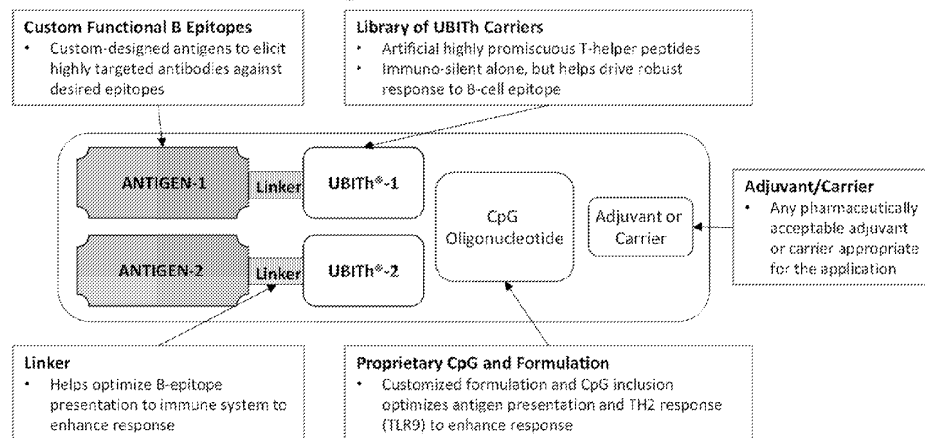
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(54) Title: ARTIFICIAL PROMISCUOUS T HELPER CELL EPITOPES AS IMMUNE STIMULATORS FOR SYNTHETIC PEPTIDE IMMUNOGENS

Figure 1A



(57) Abstract: The present invention is directed to novel promiscuous and artificial T helper cell epitopes (Th epitopes) designed to provide optimum immunogenicity of a target antigenic site. The target antigenic site can include a B cell epitope, a CTL epitope, a peptide hapten, a non-peptide hapten, or any immunologically reactive analogue thereof. The disclosed Th epitopes, when covalently linked to a target antigenic site in a peptide immunogen construct, elicit a strong B cell antibody response or an effector T cell response to the target antigenic site. The Th epitopes are immunosilent on their own, i.e., little, if any, of the antibodies generated by the peptide immunogen constructs will be directed towards the Th epitope, thus allowing a very focused immune response directed to the targeted antigenic site. The promiscuous artificial Th epitopes provide effective and safe peptide immunogens that do not generate inflammatory, anti-self, cell-mediated immune responses following administration.

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