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(54) Title: HIV IMMUNOGENIC COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS

(57) Abstract

The invention provides immunogenic compositions which enhance β–chemokine levels in a mammal. The immunogenic compositions certain an HIV antigen, an isolated nucleic acid molecule containing an immunostimulatory sequence (ISS) and an adjuvant. The HIV antigen can be a whole–killed HIV virus devoid of outer envelope protein gp120. Alternatively, the HIV antigen can be a whole–killed HIV virus, or a p24 antigen. Also provided are kits, the components of which, when combined, produce the immunogenic compositions of the invention. The invention also provides methods of making the immunogenic compositions, by combining an HIV antigen, an isolated nucleic acid molecule containing an immunostimulatory sequence (ISS) and an adjuvant. The invention further provides a method of immunizing a mammal, by enhancing β–chemokine production in the mammal by administering to the mammal an immunogenic composition containing an HIV antigen, an isolated nucleic acid molecule containing an immunostimulatory sequence (ISS) and an adjuvant. Also provided is a method of inhibiting AIDS, by enhancing β–chemokine production in the mammal by administering to the mammal an immunogenic composition containing an HIV antigen, an isolated nucleic acid molecule containing an immunostimulatory sequence (ISS) and an adjuvant.