CLAIMS

1. A recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising an open reading frame encoding a recombinant polypeptide, said recombinant polypeptide comprising a heterologous antigen fused to an N-terminal Listeriolysin O (LLO) polypeptide, wherein said heterologous antigen is survivin, wherein the survivin has the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21, wherein said nucleic acid further comprises a gram-negative origin of replication sequence operably linked to a first promoter sequence, a gram-positive origin of replication sequence, and an open reading frame encoding a metabolic enzyme operably linked to a second promoter sequence, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 41.

2. The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of any one of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is a DNA plasmid.

3. The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1-3, wherein said gram-negative origin of replication sequence is a p15 sequence.

4. The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1-4, wherein said gram-positive origin of replication sequence is a Rep R sequence.

5. The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1-5, wherein said first promoter sequence is an hly promoter sequence.

6. The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said metabolic enzyme is a D-alanine racemase enzyme.

7. The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1-7, wherein said second promoter sequence is a P60 promoter sequence.

8. A recombinant *Listeria* strain comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1-8.

9. The recombinant *Listeria* strain of claim 9, wherein said *Listeria* comprises a mutation in the endogenous *dal/dat* genes.

10. The recombinant *Listeria* strain of any one of claims 8-10, wherein said *Listeria* comprises a mutation in the endogenous *actA* gene.

11. The recombinant *Listeria* strain of any one of claims 8-11, wherein said mutation is a deletion or an inactivation.

12. The recombinant *Listeria* strain of any one of claims 9-12, wherein said recombinant *Listeria* strain is capable of escaping the phagolysosome.

13. The recombinant *Listeria* strain of any one of claims 9-13, wherein said dal/dat mutation is complemented by said metabolic enzyme encoded by said nucleic acid molecule.

14. The recombinant *Listeria* strain of any one of claims 9-14, wherein said recombinant *Listeria* strain has been passaged through an animal host.

15. The recombinant *Listeria* strain of any one of claims 9-15, wherein said recombinant *Listeria* strain is a recombinant *Listeria monocytogenes* strain.

16. An immunogenic composition comprising the recombinant *Listeria* strain of any one of claims 9-16 and an adjuvant, cytokine, chemokine, or combination thereof.

17. Use of the recombinant Listeria strain of any one of claims 9-16 or the immunogenic composition of claim 17 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating cancer by inducing an anti-survivin immune response in a subject.

18. The use of claim 18, wherein said recombinant *Listeria* strain or said immunogenic composition is to be administered orally, or intravenously.

19. Use of the recombinant Listeria strain of claims 9-16, or the immunogenic composition of claim 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating, suppressing, or inhibiting a tumor or cancer in a subject.

20. The use of claim 20, wherein said tumor or cancer is breast tumor or cancer, ovarian tumor or cancer, brain tumor or cancer, lung tumor or cancer, gastrointestinal tumor or cancer, sarcoma, pancreatic tumor or cancer, a lymphoma or a combination thereof.

21. The use of any one of claims 20-21, wherein the medicament comprises a booster dose of said recombinant *Listeria* strain or said immunogenic composition or an alternate form thereof.

22. The use of claim 22, wherein said alternate form of said immunogenic composition is a DNA vaccine encoding a recombinant polypeptide comprising a survivin antigen fused to an N-terminal Listeriolysin O (LLO) polypeptide, a N-terminal ActA polypeptide, or a PEST-peptide, a recombinant polypeptide comprising said antigen fused to an N-terminal Listeriolysin O (LLO) polypeptide, a N-terminal ActA polypeptide, or a PEST-peptide, or a viral vector encoding said recombinant polypeptide.

23. Use of the recombinant *Listeria* or immunogenic composition of any one of claims 9-17 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating cancer by inducing an anti-survivin immune response in a subject or for treating, suppressing, or inhibiting a survivin-expressing cancer in a subject, or for treating, suppressing, or inhibiting a survivin-expressing tumor in a subject.

24. The use of claim 24 wherein said *Listeria* or said immunogenic composition is to be administered orally, or intravenously.

25. The use of claim 25, wherein said tumor or cancer is breast tumor or cancer, ovarian tumor or cancer, brain tumor or cancer, lung tumor or cancer, gastrointestinal tumor or cancer, sarcoma, pancreatic tumor or cancer, a lymphoma or a combination thereof.