CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. A composition comprising a nucleic acid sequence of a chimpanzee-derived adenovirus vector of serotype AdC6 or AdC7, wherein the early gene E1 is deleted, the ORF3, ORF4, ORF5, ORF6, and ORF7 from the early gene E3 are deleted, and wherein the nucleic acid sequence further comprises a promoter sequence linked to a sequence encoding a heterologous protein, wherein the heterologous protein is at least one HIV protein selected from the group consisting of gp140, gp160 and Gag.

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the promoter is a constitutive promoter.

3. The composition of claim 1, wherein the promoter is a cytomegalovirus immediate early promoter (CMV).

4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1-8.

5. A protein expression system comprising the composition of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1-8.

6. A protein expression system comprising the composition of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 9-16.

7. The composition of any one of claims 1-4, or the protein expression system of any one of claims 5-6, for use in therapy or vaccination.

8. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of a composition encoded by a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1-8 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prevention of HIV in a mammal.

9. Use of a pharmaceutically acceptable amount of the composition of claim 1 in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for the vaccination of a mammal against HIV infection, wherein the composition elicits an immune response in the mammal.

10. The use of claim 9, wherein the composition is to be administered prophylactically to the mammal.

11. The use of claim 9, wherein the composition is to be administered therapeutically to the mammal.

12. The use of claim 9, wherein the composition is to be administered in combination with an adjuvant.

13. The use of any one of claims 8-12, wherein the mammal is a human.