CLAIMS

1. A circular polyribonucleotide comprising an open reading frame encoding a varicella-zoster virus (VZV) polypeptide immunogen.

2. The circular polyribonucleotide of claim 1, wherein the VZV polypeptide immunogen is a VZV glycoprotein or an immunogenic fragment thereof.

3. The circular polyribonucleotide of claim 2, wherein the VZV glycoprotein is selected from VZV gE, gl, gB, gH, gK, gL, gC, gN, and gM, or an immunogenic fragment thereof.

4. The circular polyribonucleotide of claim 3, wherein the VZV glycoprotein is VZV gE, or an immunogenic fragment thereof.

5. The circular polyribonucleotide of claim 4, wherein:

(a) the VZV glycoprotein is a mutational variant of VZV gE, or an immunogenic fragment thereof, comprising no more than 10 amino acid substitutions, deletions, or insertions relative to wild-type VZV gE;

(b) the VZV gE polypeptide is a truncated polypeptide lacking an anchor domain (ER retention domain); or

(c) the VZV gE polypeptide is a truncated polypeptide lacking a carboxy terminal tail domain.

6. The circular polyribonucleotide of claim 4, wherein the VZV gE polypeptide comprises amino acids 1-524, 1-546, 1-561, 1-573, or 1-623 of VZV gE.

7. The circular polyribonucleotide of claim 4, wherein the VZV gE polypeptide comprises a Y569A mutation, a Y582G mutation, or a Y569A/Y582G double mutation.

8. The circular polyribonucleotide of claim 4, wherein the VZV gE polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 85% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 29-33 and 65-68.

9. The circular polyribonucleotide of claim 4, wherein the VZV gE polypeptide further comprises signal sequence and the VZV gE polypeptide and signal sequence together comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 85% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 34-38 and 69-70 or wherein the VZV gE polypeptide, optionally further comprising a signal sequence, is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence having at least 85% sequence identity with the nucleic acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 39-47 and 71-83.

10. The circular polyribonucleotide of claim 1, wherein the VZV polypeptide immunogen is a VZV immediate early protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof.

11. The circular polyribonucleotide of claim 10, wherein the VZV immediate early protein is an IE63 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 85% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 84 or wherein the VZV immediate early protein is an IE63 polypeptide, optionally further comprising a signal sequence, encoded by a nucleic acid sequence having at least 85% sequence identity with the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85.

12. The circular polyribonucleotide of claim 1, wherein the VZV polypeptide immunogen further comprises a sequence encoding a multimerization domain.

13. The circular polyribonucleotide of claim 1, wherein the open reading frame encoding the VZV polypeptide immunogen encodes a second polypeptide.

14. The circular polyribonucleotide of claim 13, wherein the second polypeptide is a polypeptide immunogen.

15. The circular polyribonucleotide of claim 13, wherein the second polypeptide is a polypeptide adjuvant.

16. An immunogenic composition comprising the circular polyribonucleotide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

17. The immunogenic composition of claim 16, wherein the composition further comprises a second circular polyribonucleotide, wherein the second circular polyribonucleotide comprises an open reading frame encoding a second polypeptide immunogen or a polypeptide adjuvant.

18. Use of the circular polyribonucleotide or immunogenic composition of claim 1 or claim 16 in the manufacture of a medicament for inducing an immune response in a subject against VZV.

19. Use of the circular polyribonucleotide or immunogenic composition of claim 1 or claim 16 in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing a VZV infection in a subject.

20. Use of the circular polyribonucleotide or immunogenic composition of claim 1 or claim 16 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a subject who has or is suspected to have a VZV infection.