

CLAIMS

1. A recombinant cytomegalovirus gL protein, or a complex-forming fragment thereof, wherein said gL protein or fragment comprises a mutation at Protease Recognition Site, wherein said mutation reduces protease cleavage at said Protease Recognition Site, as compared to a control.
2. The gL protein or fragment of claim 1, wherein said mutation comprises addition, deletion, substitution, or a combination thereof, of an amino acid residue.
3. The gL protein or fragment of claim 1 or 2, wherein residues of said Protease Recognition Site form a β -strand, and said mutation maintains the β -strand conformation.
4. The gL protein or fragment of any one of claims 1-3, wherein said mutation results in no more than 20% (molar percentage) of gL cleaved at said Protease Recognition Site when recombinantly expressed in a mammalian host cell.
5. The gL protein or fragment of any one of claims 1-4, wherein said mutation comprises addition of two to five amino acid residues.
6. The gL protein or fragment of any one of claims 1-5, wherein said mutation comprises deletion of one to three amino acid residues.
7. The gL protein or fragment of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said mutation comprises substituting a residue with a corresponding residue from the gL protein of another herpes virus.
8. The gL protein or fragment of claim 7, wherein said gL protein from another herpes virus is gL protein from HSV1, HSV2, VZV, EBV, PrV, or bovine herpesvirus 5.
9. A cytomegalovirus complex comprising the recombinant gL protein or fragment of any one of claims 1-8.
10. The complex of claim 9, wherein said complex is a pentameric complex comprising: gH or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof, gL or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof, pUL128 or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof, pUL130 or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof, and pUL131 or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof.
11. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding the recombinant cytomegalovirus gL protein or fragment of any one of claims 1-8.
12. A host cell, preferably a mammalian host cell, comprising the nucleic acid of claim 11.
13. The host cell of claim 12, wherein said host cell comprises one or more polynucleotide sequences encoding cytomegalovirus pentameric complex, said pentameric complex comprising: gH or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof, gL or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof, pUL128 or a

pentamer-forming fragment thereof, pUL130 or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof, and pUL131 or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof.

14. An immunogenic composition comprising the recombinant cytomegalovirus gL protein or fragment of any of one of claims 1-8, or the complex of any one of claims 9-10, and optionally comprising an adjuvant.

15. The immunogenic composition of claim 14 for use in inducing an immune response against cytomegalovirus.