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Funkhouser et al.

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(54) **ATTENUATED HEPATITIS A VIRUS
VACCINE WHICH GROWS IN MRC-5 CELLS**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **424/226.1**; 435/237

(58) **Field of Search** 435/235.1, 236,
435/237; 424/93.1, 93.6, 226.1

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ABSTRACT

A live hepatitis A virus (HAV) adapted to grow in MRC-5
cells is described, the HAV preferably characterized by
suitable attenuation for effective vaccine administration to
humans and animals without inactivation. Methods for
adapting HAV to grow in MRC-5 cells, vaccine composi-
tions comprising the attenuated HAV, and methods of vac-
cinating humans against HAV infection are also described.

6 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

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FIG. 1

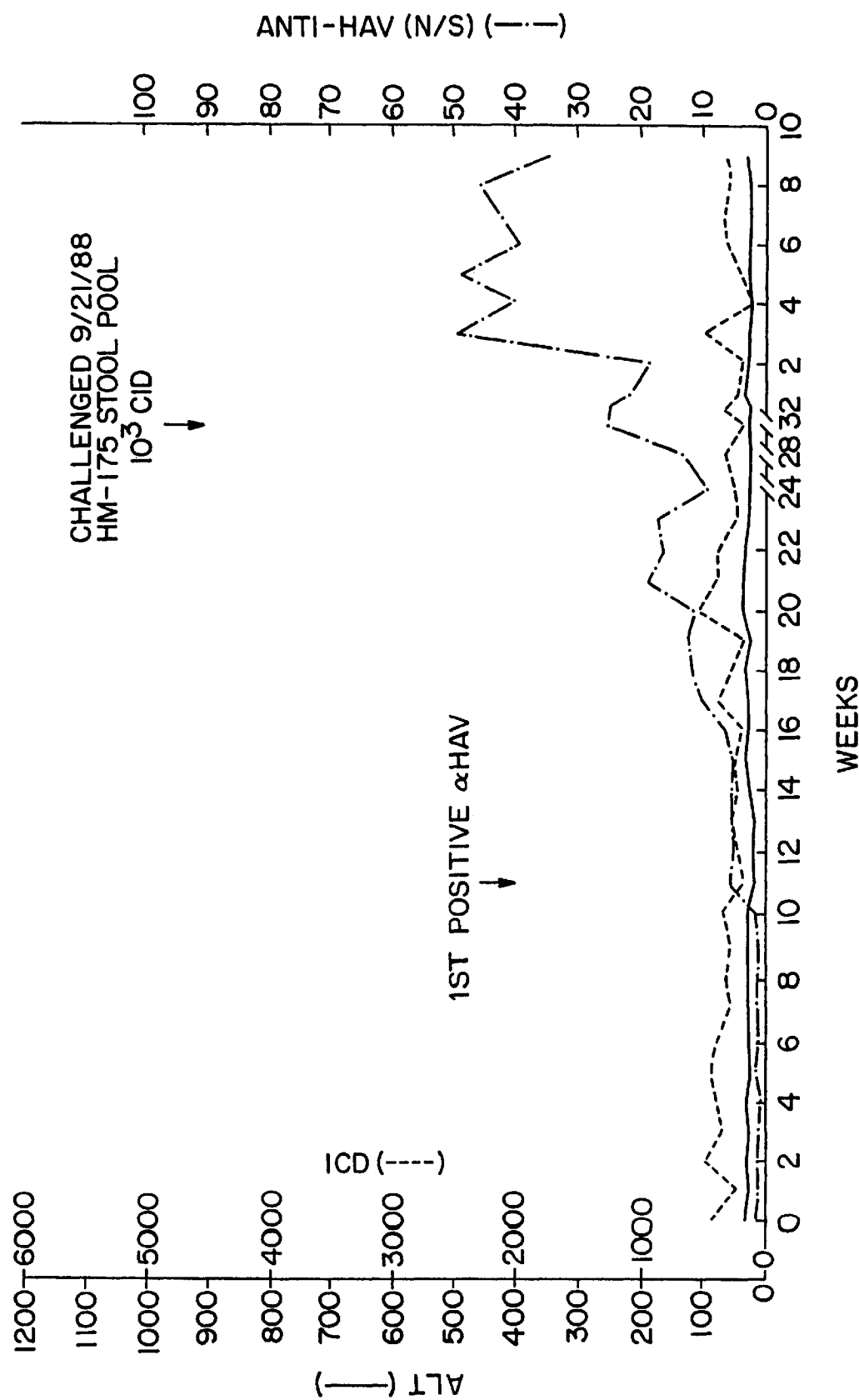


FIG. 2

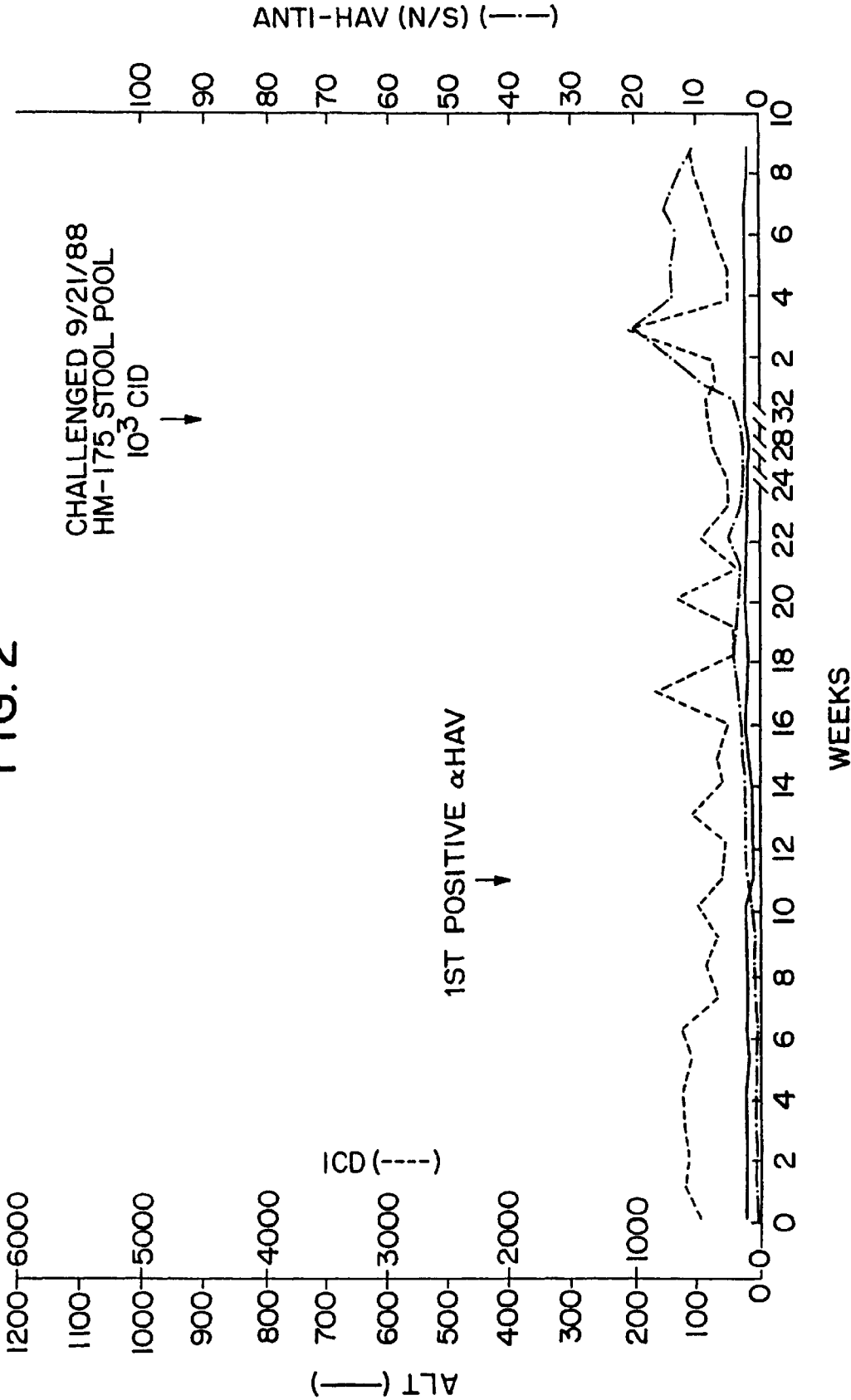
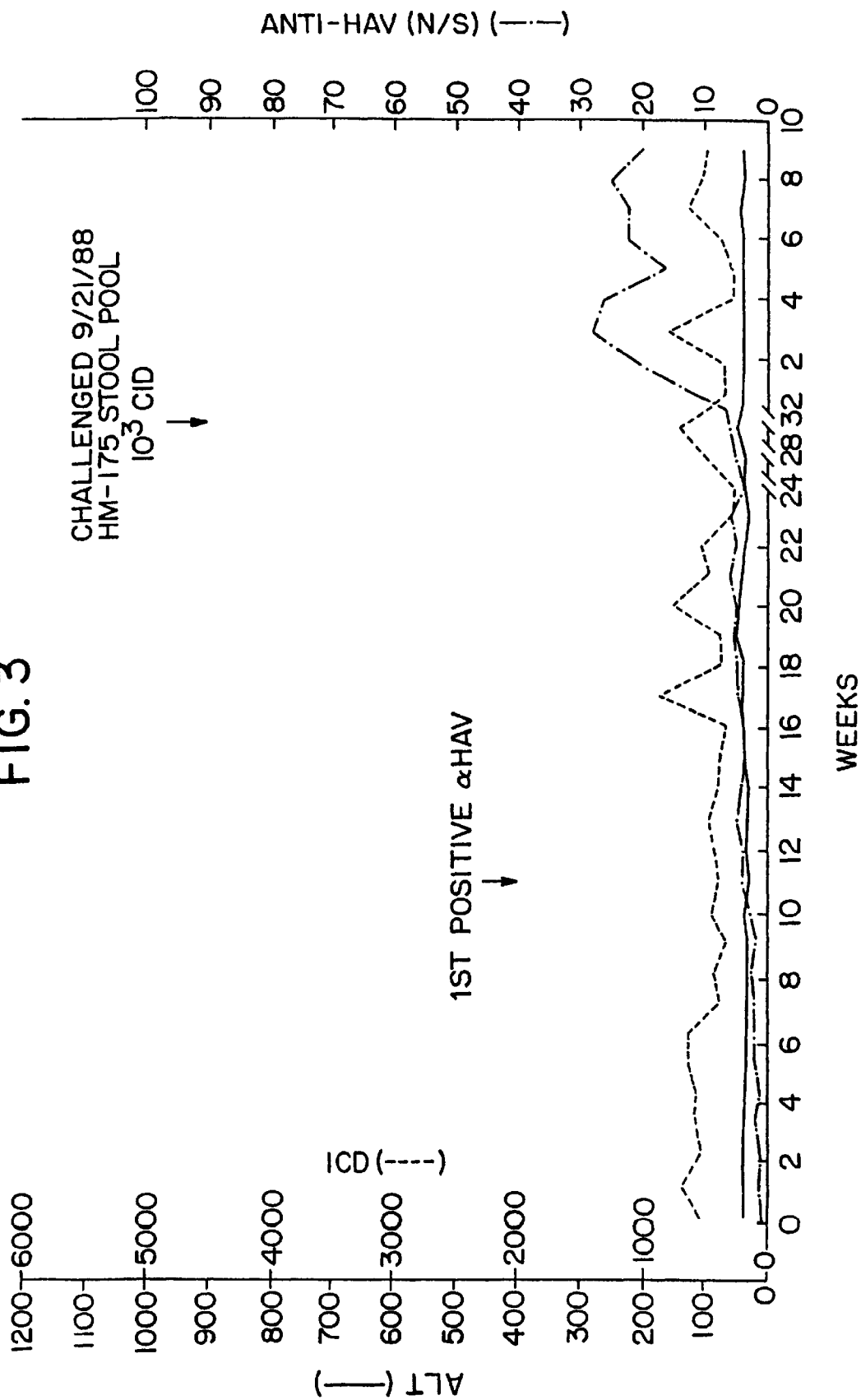


FIG. 3



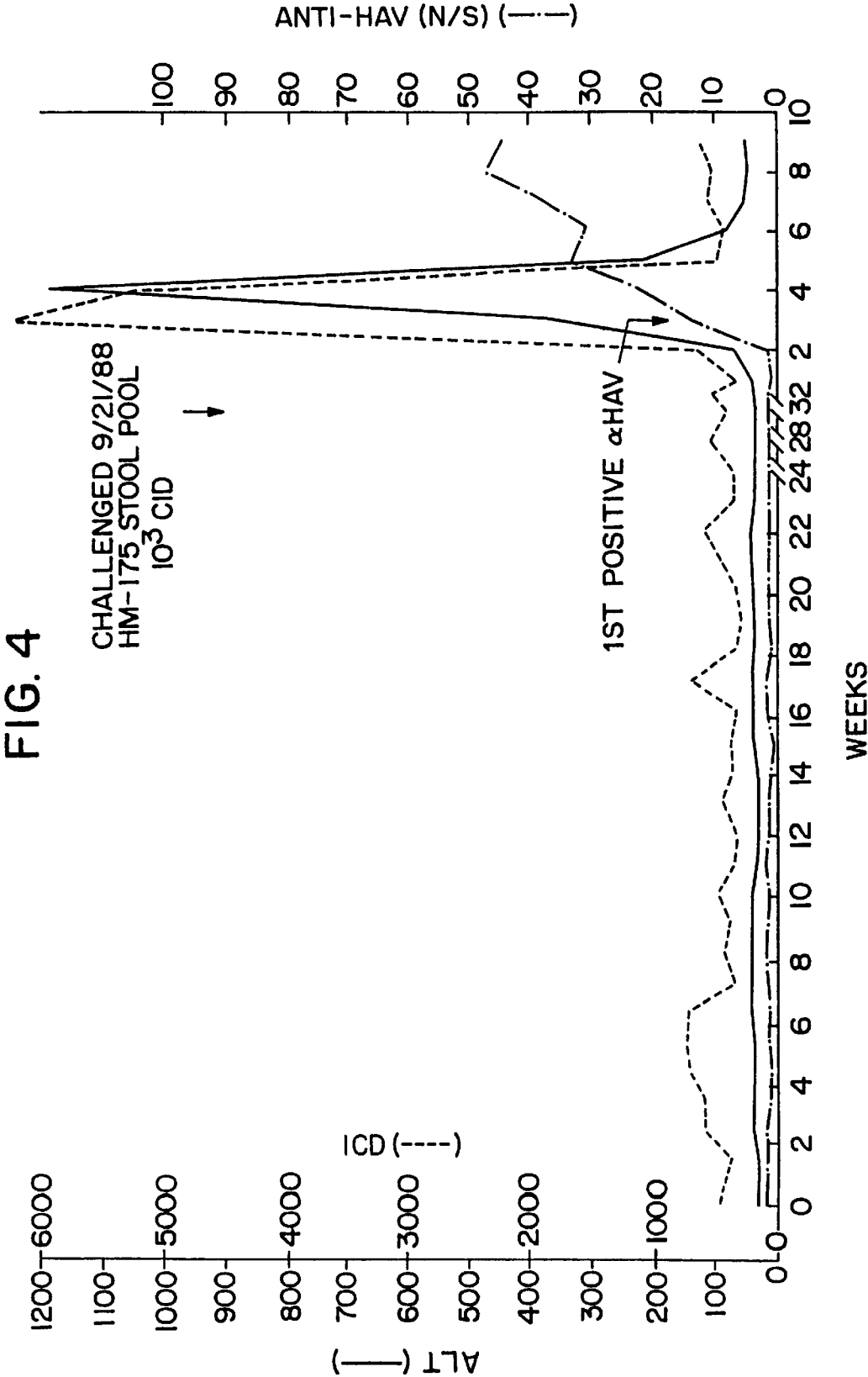
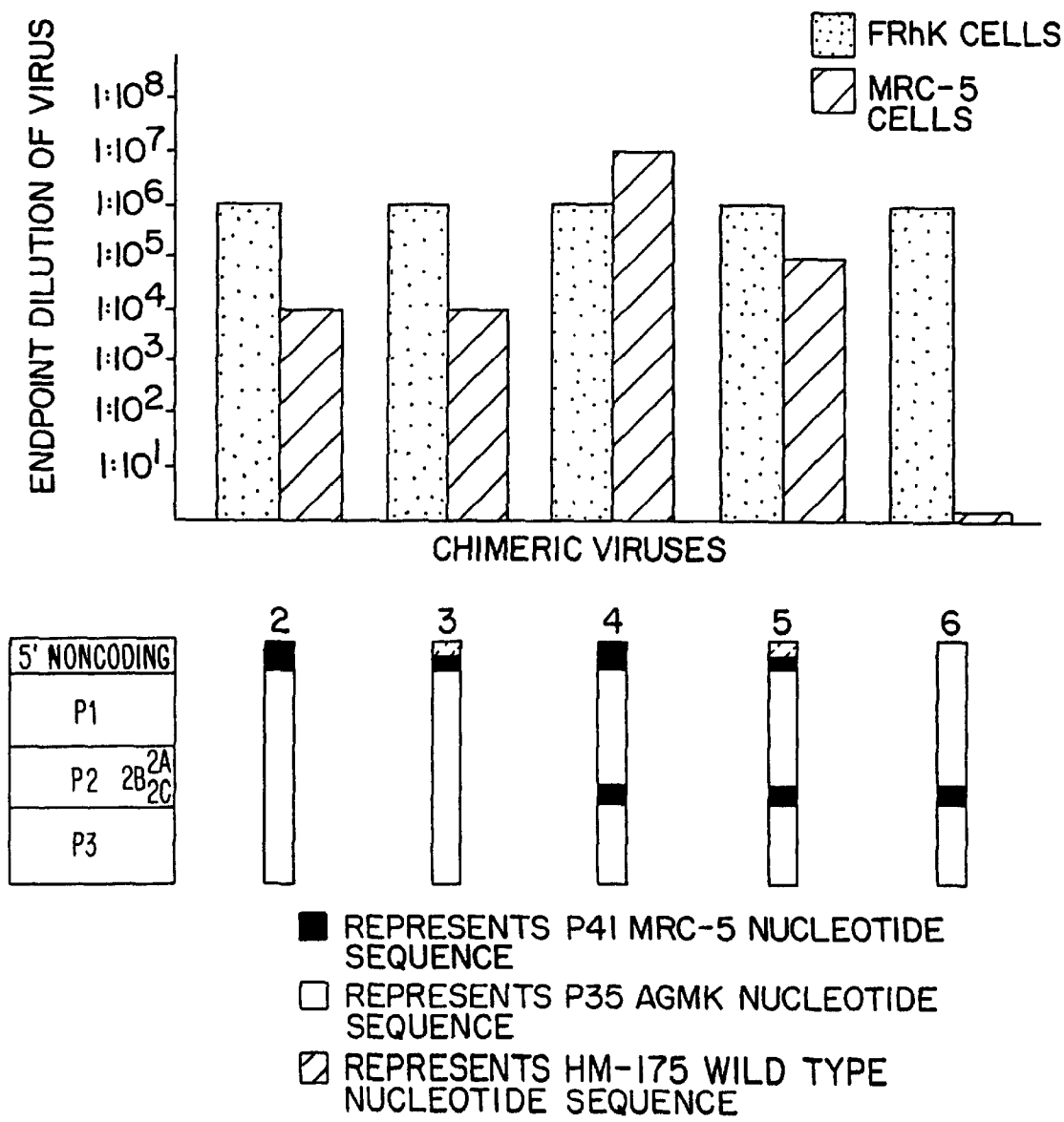


FIG. 5



ATTENUATED HEPATITIS A VIRUS VACCINE WHICH GROWS IN MRC-5 CELLS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a 371 national phase filing of PCT/US93/08610, filed Sep. 17, 1993, which was a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 07/947,338, filed Sep. 18, 1992, now abandoned.

This invention was made with government support under certain Collaborative Research and Development Agreements awarded by the Department of Health and Human Services. The government has certain rights in this invention.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to the field of vaccinal compositions useful in the prophylaxis of hepatitis A. More specifically, the invention provides a novel live hepatitis A virus (HAV), and recombinant and chimeric HAVs, the genomes of which are modified from that of their parental strain HM-175 to provide them with the ability to propagate in MRC-5 cells and retain appropriate attenuation for use as live vaccines in humans and other primates.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In the United States, hepatitis A virus is the cause of approximately 25% of all clinical hepatitis cases, accounting for approximately 150,000 such cases. Populations at high risk of acquiring hepatitis A in industrialized countries include the socially disadvantaged, medical personnel, military personnel, staff and adult contacts of children in day-care centers, male homosexuals, drug addicts, and travelers to endemic areas.

In developing countries, virtually the entire population is infected with hepatitis A virus at an early age. Much of this infection results in subclinical and inapparent infection, but, as countries improve their hygienic conditions, infection with hepatitis A virus occurs at progressively older ages, resulting in a higher proportion of clinical disease. Thus, there is a paradoxical increase in clinical hepatitis A as the overall rate of infection diminishes. To successfully immunize against hepatitis A in the United States and in other industrialized countries as well as in developing countries, it will be necessary to vaccinate the entire pediatric population. There will be an increasing need for hepatitis A vaccines in such countries for the foreseeable future.

Research in HAV vaccines has focused on inactivated, or killed, viruses. However, in vaccine, therapy there are several advantages to a live vaccine, rather than an inactivated, vaccine. With a live vaccine, one can use a lower dosage and smaller number of doses, because a live vaccine replicates in the vaccines to produce more antigen and can stimulate the immune system of the vaccinee to make both IgA and IgM. Inactivated vaccines, such as the Salk polio vaccine, which stimulates production of IgG only in vaccinees, do not protect against infection by ingested virus, only against disease.

A major obstacle to the development of live, attenuated vaccine has been the difficulty in adapting HAV to a cell line that supports rapid viral growth and is licensed for vaccine production. Wild type hepatitis A virus (HAV) grows poorly in cell culture.

U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,532,215 and 4,636,469 describe, respectively, a strain of HAV designated HM-175 initially

isolated from human feces of a patient in Melbourne, Australia, and adapted to passage in vitro in African green monkey kidney (AGMK) culture cells and methods for obtaining same by serial passaging. U.S. Pat. No. 4,620,978 describes a vaccine employing the HAV HM-175, triply cloned in AGMK cell culture and attenuated. U.S. Pat. No. 4,894,228 describes HM-175 Pass 35, which differs from wild-type HM-175 by nucleotide changes in the genome, is attenuated for chimpanzees, elicits serum neutralizing antibodies, and is suitable for use as an attenuated HAV vaccine. It discloses the complete nucleotide sequence of HAV, strain HM-175/7. See, also, B. C. Ross et al., *J. Gen. Virol.*, 70:2805-2810 (1989); R. W. Jansen et al., *Virol.*, 163:299-307 (1988); and Tedeschi et al., *J. Med. Virol.*, (in press). The disclosure of these patents and articles are incorporated by reference herein.

N. Fineschi et al., *J. Hepatol.*, 13(4):S146-S151 (1991) describes an HAV isolate, LSH/S, which is a candidate for an inactivated vaccine. It was adapted to grow in human diploid MRC-5 cells, a preferred licensed cell for vaccine development. This document compares only a small part of its nucleotide sequence to that of wild-type HM-175.

Provost et al., *J. Med. Virol.*, 20:165-175 (1986) described the F and F' variants of the CR326 hepatitis A virus strain. While it is reported to be immunogenic in volunteer vaccinees, the F variant also caused abnormal serum ALT levels in a substantial proportion of individuals.

Another recent publication from this group of investigators has described further work with the F' variant [K. Midthun et al., *J. Infect. Dis.*, 163:735-739 (1991)]. They observed that the immunogenicity of the F' vaccine product is dose dependent, i.e., a $10^{7.3}$ TCID₅₀ evoked an antibody response in 100% of volunteers within 9 weeks after immunization whereas lower doses were immunogenic in a smaller percentage of volunteers, and anti-HAV was observed 4 to 6 months after immunization. Chinese investigators have recently described studies of a potential live attenuated hepatitis A vaccine prepared from the H2 strain of HAV [J. S. Mao et al., *J. Infect. Dis.*, 159:621-624 (1989)]. Twelve volunteers received the vaccine by the subcutaneous route.

A live attenuated hepatitis A vaccine could have a significant impact on the eradication of the disease. It could be anticipated that a live attenuated vaccine which requires minimal purification and no adjuvant would be less costly than presently available inactivated hepatitis A vaccines.

There is a need in the art for methods and compositions for effective vaccination of humans and animals against hepatitis A.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect, the present invention provides a live hepatitis A virus adapted to growth in MRC-5 cells. This virus is preferably characterized by attenuation. The attenuated virus may be, recombinant or chimeric. More preferably, the HAV is characterized by suitable attenuation for effective vaccine administration to primates, preferably humans, without inactivation. The HAV may be characterized by containing one or more of fourteen specific nucleotides which differ from nucleotides in the same position in the genome of HAV HM-175, Pass 35.

In another aspect, the invention provides a vaccine useful for protecting humans or other primates against hepatitis A which vaccine contains at least one above-described HAV adapted to growth in MRC-5 cells. Preferably, the vaccine is effective in inducing a protective antibody response without adjuvant.

In still another aspect, the invention provides a method for protecting humans against hepatitis A virus infection which comprises administering to the human patient an effective amount of a vaccine composition of this invention.

In a further aspect, the invention provides a method for preparing a live HAV adapted to growth in MRC-5 cells by incorporating into a selected area of the genome of an HAV one or more of fourteen specific nucleotides. The HAV genome so modified is preferably HAV HM-175, Pass 35 or a related cell culture-adapted mutant.

In another embodiment, the HAV may be constructed using another HAV cDNA clone and inserting appropriate nucleotides into its genome. According to this method an attenuated, MRC-5-adapted HAV is provided without requiring further passaging in MRC-5 or other primate cell lines.

In still another aspect, the invention provides polynucleotide sequences encoding the recombinant or chimeric HAVs described above. Preferably these sequences are cDNAs useful as master seeds for vaccine preparation.

Other aspects and advantages of the present invention are described further in the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments thereof.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a graph plotting anti-HAV antibody production vs. time (weeks) vs. ALT and ICD levels for the chimpanzee studies with Virus 4380 and subsequent challenge with wild-type HAV, as described in Example 1. These results were obtained from a chimpanzee that was infected with the attenuated HAV at time 0 and challenged with virulent virus at week 28.

FIG. 2 is a graph plotting anti-HAV antibody production vs. time (weeks) vs. ALT and ICD levels for the chimpanzee studies with Virus 4380 and subsequent challenge with wild-type HAV, as described in Example 1. The conditions were the same as for FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a graph plotting anti-HAV antibody production vs. time (weeks) vs. ALT and ICD levels for the chimpanzee studies with Virus 4380 and subsequent challenge with wild-type HAV, as described in Example 1. The conditions were the same as for FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a graph plotting anti-HAV antibody production vs. time (weeks) vs. ALT and ICD levels for the chimpanzee studies with Virus 4380 and subsequent challenge with wild-type HAV, as described in Example 1. These results were obtained from the chimpanzee that was not infected with the attenuated HAV, and therefore developed hepatitis following challenge with the virulent virus. The conditions were the same as for FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a bar graph of endpoint dilutions of several of the chimeric viruses, Viruses #2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, listed in Table VI.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides hepatitis A virus (HAV) adapted to growth in the human fibroblast-like cell line, MRC-5, a cell substrate suitable for commercial production and licensing of inactivated and live, attenuated hepatitis A vaccines. In addition to such adapted HAVs, the invention provides a method for adapting a selected HAV to growth in that human cell line and preparing an MRC-5-adapted, attenuated HAV without passaging in other primate cells. The HAV of this invention and the preparative method also

preferably provides the HAV with sufficient attenuation to enable its efficacy as a vaccine for humans and animals.

Although the prior art discloses other candidate vaccine strains of hepatitis A virus which have been adapted to growth in human diploid fibroblasts, the genetic changes in the virus genome necessary and sufficient for such adaptation have not been characterized. Thus, these strains cannot be manipulated in vitro to assure a reproducible and fully-characterized vaccine product.

The present invention is based on the wild-type HAV, strain HM-175, which is described in detail in the above-cited and incorporated art [Cohen et al., *J. Virol.*, 61:50-59 (1987); SEQ ID NO:1 and 2]. Briefly described, the wild type, infectious HAV HM-175 virus was previously adapted to growth in primary African green monkey kidney (AGMK) cells at 37° C. After 26 passages in AGMK, the virus was cloned three times in AGMK cells by serial dilution, then passage three more times to provide passage 32 (P-32). P-32 was found to be attenuated as described in R. A. Karron et al, *J. Infect. Dis.*, 157:338-345 (1988).

The P-32 virus described above was passaged three more times in AGMK, and molecularly clones. The virus that was cloned was called P-35 and the full-length clone was referred to as pHAV/7. pHAV/7 is an infectious cDNA clone of the virus that can be maintained in a monoclonal state and amplified at will with diminished risk of spontaneous mutations. The resulting P-35 virus grew well in fetal rhesus monkey kidney (FRhK) cells and minimally in human fibroblastoid lung cells (MRC-5).

U.S. Pat. No. 4,894,228 and Cohen et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA*, 84:2497-2501 (1987) provide the HAV nucleotide sequences of wild-type HAV strain HM-175 (see, FIG. 1 of the patent; SEQ ID NO:1 and 2) and the nucleotide differences between HAV HM-175, Pass 35, clone pHAV/7 and the wild-type sequence [SEQ ID NO:1]. Thus, these documents, incorporated by reference, provide the sequence of pHAV/7, P-35. The nucleotide numbers used herein to which the mutations of this invention correspond (Tables I and VI below) are the nucleotide numbers assigned to positions of the wild-type sequence of FIG. 1 [SEQ ID NO:1 and 2] from U.S. Pat. No. 4,894,228 containing the mutations for P-35. Note that the nucleotides deleted in P-35 are assigned the nucleotide position of the wild-type sequence [SEQ ID NO:1]. Thus, for example, nucleotide position 131 represents a nucleotide that was deleted between wild-type and P-35. The P-35 cDNA, i.e., HAV/HM-175/7, is on deposit at the American Type Culture Collection, 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Md. under Accession No. 67495, deposited Aug. 7, 1987. One of skill in the art can readily construct the nucleotide and amino acid sequences of P-35 by use of the above-cited art.

Thereafter the P-32 AGMK cell-adapted and attenuated virus was further manipulated to enable it to be adapted for growth in MRC-5 cells, so that it is available for large scale vaccine production. Passage 32 was double plaque cloned in MRC-5 to form Passage 37. Passage 37 was passaged once in MRC-5 of a selected clone 24-4-21. The resulting Passage 38 was passaged three times in MRC-5 cells, resulting in Passage 41, the master seed, designated 87J19. This master seed virus stock was also called virus 4380, and is referred to throughout this disclosure by the latter name.

Live attenuated virus HAV 4380, was deposited on Apr. 4, 1990 at the Collection Nationale de Cultures de Microorganismes, Institut Pasteur, 25, rue du Docteur Roux, 75724, Paris CEDEX 15 under Accession No. I-936. The deposited HAV 4380 virus has the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3.

TTCAAGAGGG GTCTCCGGGA ATTTCCGGAG TCCCTCTTGG AAGTCCATGG TGAGGGGACT	60
TGATACCTCA CCGCCGTTTG CCTAGGCTAT AGGCTAAATT TTCCCTTTCC CTTTCCCTT	120
TCCCATTCCC TTTTGCCTGT AAATATTGAT TCCTGCAGGT TCAGGGTTCT TAAATCTGTT	180
TCTCTATAAG AACACTCATT TTCACGCTTT CTGTCTTCTT TCTTCCAGGG CTCTCCCCTT	240
GCCCTAGGCT CTGGCCGTTG CGCCCGGCGG GGTCAACTCC ATGATTAGCA TGGAGCTGTA	300
GGAGTCTAAA TTGGGGACAC AGATGTTTGG AACGTCACCT TGCAGTGTTA ACTTGGCTTT	360
CATGAATCTC TTTGATCTTC CACAAGGGGT AGGCTACGGG TGAAACCTCT TAGGCTAATA	420
CTTCTATGAA GAGATGCCTT GGATAGGGTA ACAGCGGCGG ATATTGGTGA GTTGTTAAGA	480
CAAAAACCAT TCAACGCCGG AGGACTGACT CTCATCCAGT GGATGCATTG AGTGGATTGA	540
CTGTCAAGGC TGTCTTTAGG CTTAATTCCA GACCTCTCTG TGCTTGGGGC AAACATCATT	600
TGGCCTTAAA TGGGATTCTG TGAGAGGGGA TCCCTCCATT AACAGCTGGA CTGTTCTTTG	660
GGGTCTTATG TGGTGTTTGC CGCTGAGGTA CTCAGGGGCA TTTAGGTTTT TCCTCATCTC	720
TAAATAATA ATG AAC ATG TCT AGA CAA GGT ATT TTC CAG ACT GTT GGG AGT	771
GGT CTT GAC CAC ATC CTG TCT TTG GCA GAC ATT GAG GAA GAG CAA ATG	819
ATT CAA TCA GTT GAT AGG ACT GCA GTG ACT GGT GCT TCT TAT TTT ACT	867
TCT GTG GAT CAA TCT TCA GTT CAT ACA GCT GAG GTT GGA TCA CAC CAG	915
GTT GAA CCT TTG AGA ACC TCT GTT GAT AAA CCC GGT TCA AAG AGG ACT	963
CAG GGA GAG AAA TTT TTC TTG ATT CAT TCT GCA GAT TGG CTT ACT ACA	1011
CAT GCT CTT TTC CAT GAA GTT GCA AAA TTG GAT GTG GTG AAA TTA TTA	1059
TAC AAT GAG CAG TTT GCT GTT CAA GGG TTG TTG AGA TAC CAT ACA TAT	1107
GCA AGA TTT GGC ATT GAA ATT CAA GTT CAG ATA AAC CCT ACA CCT TTC	1155
CAA CAG GGG GGA TTG ATC TGT GCT ATG GTT CCT GGT GAC CAG AGC TAT	1203
GGT TCT ATA GCA TCA TTG ACT GTT TAT CCT CAT GGT TTG TTA AAT TGC	1251
AAT ATT AAC AAT GTG GTT AGA ATA AAG GTT CCA TTT ATT TAC ACA AGA	1299
GGT GCT TAC CAC TTT AAA GAT CCA CAA TAC CCA GTT TGG GAA TTG ACA	1347
ATT AGA GTT TGG TCA GAA TTA AAT ATT GGG ACA GGA ACT TCA GCT TAT	1395
ACT TCA CTC AAT GTT TTA GCT AGA TTT ACA GAT TTG GAG TTG CAT GGA	1443
TTA ACT CCT CTT TCT ACA CAA ATG ATG AGA AAT GAA TTT AGG GTC AGT	1491
ACT ACT GAG AAT GTG GTG AAT CTG TCA AAT TAT GAA GAT GCA AGA GCA	1539
AAG ATG TCT TTT GCT TTG GAT CAG GAA GAT TGG AAA TCT GAT CCG TCC	1587
CAG GGT GGT GGG ATC AAA ATT ACT CAT TTT ACT ACT TGG ACA TCT ATT	1635
CCA ACT TTG GCT GCT CAG TTT CCA TTT AAT GCT TCA GAC TCA GTT GGT	1683
CAA CAA ATT AAA GTT ATT CCA GTT GAC CCA TAT TTT TTC CAA ATG ACA	1731
AAT ACA AAT CCT GAC CAA AAA TGT ATA ACT GCT TTG GCT TCT ATT TGT	1779
CAG ATG TTT TGT TTT TGG AGA GGA GAT CTT GTC TTT GAT TTT CAA GTT	1827
TTT CCC ACC AAA TAT CAT TCA GGT AGA TTA CTG TTT TGT TTT GTT CCT	1875
GGC AAT GAG CTA ATA GAT GTT TCT GGA ATC ACA TTA AAG CAA GCA ACT	1923
ACT GCT CCT TGT GCA GTA ATG GAT ATT ACA GGA GTG CAG TCA ACT TTG	1971
AGA TTT CGT GTT CCC TGG ATT TCT GAC ACT CCT TAC AGA GTG AAC AGG	2019
TAT ACA AAG TCA GCA CAT CAG AAA GGT GAG TAC ACT GCC ATT GGG AAG	2067

-continued										
CTT	ATT	GTG	TAT	TGT	TAT	AAC	AGA	TTG	ACC	2115
TCC	CAT	GTC	AGA	GTG	AAT	GTT	TAT	CTT	TCA	2163
TTT	GCT	CCT	CTT	TAT	CAT	GCT	ATG	GAT	GTT	2211
GAT	TCT	GGA	GGT	TTT	TCA	ACA	ACA	GTT	TCT	2259
GAT	CCC	CAA	GTT	GGT	ATA	ACA	ACC	ATG	AAA	2307
AAC	AGA	GGG	AAA	ATG	GAT	GTT	TCA	GGA	GTA	2355
ATC	ACA	ACA	ATT	GAG	GAT	CCA	GTT	TTA	GCA	2403
TTT	CCT	GAA	TTG	AAA	CCT	GGA	GAA	TCC	AGA	2451
TCC	ATC	TAC	AAG	TTT	ATG	GGA	AGG	TCT	CAT	2499
TTC	AAT	TCA	AAT	AAT	AAA	GAG	TAC	ACA	TTT	2547
ACC	TCT	AAT	CCT	CCT	CAT	GGT	TTG	CCA	TCA	2595
AAC	TTG	TTT	CAG	TTG	TAT	AGA	GGG	CCT	TTA	2643
ACA	GGA	GCA	ACT	GAT	GTA	GAT	GGC	ATG	GCC	2691
CTT	GCC	GTT	GAT	ACT	CCT	TGG	GTA	GAG	AAG	2739
GAC	TAT	AAA	ACT	GCT	CTT	GGA	GCT	GTC	AGA	2787
GGG	AAC	ATT	CAG	ATT	AGA	TTA	CCA	TGG	TAT	2835
TCT	GGA	GCA	CTG	GAT	GGT	TTG	GGA	GAC	AAG	2883
TTG	GTT	TCT	ATT	CAG	ATT	GCA	AAT	TAC	AAT	2931
TCT	TTT	AGT	TGT	TAT	TTG	TCT	GTC	ACA	GAA	2979
CCC	AGA	GCT	CCA	TTG	AAC	TCA	AAT	GCC	ATG	3027
ATG	AGC	AGA	ATT	GCA	GCT	GGA	GAC	TTG	GAG	3075
AGA	TCA	GAG	GAA	GAT	AAA	AGA	TTT	GAG	AGT	3123
CCA	TAT	AAA	GAA	CTG	AGA	TTA	GAA	GTT	GGG	3171
GCT	CAG	GAA	GAA	TTG	TCA	AAT	GAA	GTA	CTT	3219
AAG	GGA	CTG	TTT	TCA	CAA	GCC	AAA	ATT	TCT	3267
CAT	GAA	ATA	ATG	AAG	TTT	TCC	TGG	AGA	GGT	3315
GCT	TTA	AGG	AGG	TTT	GGA	TTC	TCT	TTG	GCC	3363
ACT	CTT	GAA	ATG	GAT	GCT	GGG	GTT	CTT	ACT	3411
AAT	GAT	GAG	AAA	TGG	ACA	GAA	ATG	AAG	GAT	3459
ATT	GAA	AAG	TTT	ACA	AGT	AAC	AAA	TAT	TGG	3507
CAT	GGG	ATG	TTG	GAT	CTT	GAA	GAA	ATT	GCT	3555
CCT	AAC	ATG	TCT	GAA	ACG	GAT	TTG	TGT	TTC	3603
CCA	AAG	AAA	ATT	AAT	TTA	GCA	GAT	AGA	ATG	3651
CAG	GAA	ATT	AAA	GAA	CAA	GGT	GTT	GGA	TTA	3699
TTC	TTA	GAT	TCT	ATT	GCT	GGA	ACT	TTA	AAA	3747
CAT	CAT	TCT	GTG	ACT	GTT	GAA	ATT	ATA	AAC	3795
AAG	AGT	GGA	ATT	TTG	CTT	TAT	GTA	ATA	CAA	3843
CAT	TCT	CAC	ATA	ATT	GGT	TTG	TTG	AGA	GTC	3891
GGT	TGT	TCA	GTT	ATT	TCA	TGT	GCC	AAA	GTT	3939
ACA	GTC	TTT	AAT	TGG	CAA	ATG	GAC	TCC	AGA	3987

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CAG	AGT	TTT	TCC	AAC	TGG	TTA	AGA	GAT	ATT	TGT	TCT	GGG	ATC	ACC	ATT	4035
TTC	AAA	AAC	TTC	AAG	GAT	GCA	ATT	TAT	TGG	CTT	TAT	ACA	AAA	TTA	ATG	4083
GAC	TTT	TAT	GAA	GTG	AAT	TAT	GGC	AAG	AAG	AAG	GAC	ATT	TTA	AAT	ATT	4131
CTT	AAA	GAT	AAC	CAA	CAA	AAA	ATA	GAG	AAA	GCC	ATT	GAG	GAA	GCC	GAT	4179
AAA	TTT	TGC	ATT	TTG	CAA	ATC	CAA	GAT	GTG	GAA	AAA	TCT	GAA	CAG	TAT	4227
CAG	AAA	GGG	GTT	GAC	TTG	ATA	CAA	AAA	TTG	AGA	ACT	GTT	CAT	TCA	ATG	4275
GCT	CAG	GTT	GAT	CCA	AAT	TTA	ATG	GTT	CAT	TTG	TCA	CCT	TTG	AGA	GAT	4323
TGT	ATA	GCA	AGA	GTT	CAT	CAG	AAA	CTT	AAA	AAC	CTT	GGA	TCT	ATA	AAT	4371
CAG	GCA	ATG	GTA	ACG	AGA	TGT	GAG	CCA	GTT	GTT	TGT	TAT	TTT	TAT	GGC	4419
AAA	AGA	GGG	GGA	GGA	AAG	AGC	TTA	ACA	TCA	ATT	GCA	TTG	GCA	ACC	AAA	4467
ATT	TGT	AAA	CAT	TAT	GGT	GTT	GAG	CCT	GAA	AAG	AAT	ATC	TAT	ACT	AAA	4515
CCT	GTG	GCT	TCA	GAT	TAC	TGG	GAT	GGA	TAT	AGT	GGA	CAA	TTA	GTT	TGC	4563
ATC	ATT	GAT	GAT	ATT	GGC	CAA	AAC	ACA	ACA	GAT	GAG	GAT	TGG	TCA	GAT	4611
TTT	TGT	CAG	TTA	GTG	TCA	GGA	TGT	CCT	ATG	AGA	TTA	AAC	ATG	GCC	TCT	4659
CTT	GAG	GAG	AAG	GGT	AGG	CAT	TTT	TCT	TCT	CCT	TTT	ATA	ATA	GCA	ACT	4707
TCA	AAT	TGG	TCA	AAT	CCA	AGT	CCA	AAA	ACA	GTT	TAT	GTT	AAG	GAA	GCA	4755
ATT	GAC	CGC	AGA	CTC	CAT	TTC	AAG	GTT	GAA	GTT	AAA	CCT	GCT	TCA	TTT	4803
TTC	AAA	AAT	CCT	CAC	AAT	GAT	ATG	TTG	AAT	GTT	AAT	TTA	GCT	AAA	ACA	4851
AAT	GAT	GCA	ATC	AAA	GAT	ATG	TCT	TGT	GTT	GAT	TTG	ATA	ATG	GAT	GGA	4899
CAT	AAT	GTT	TCA	TTG	ATG	GAT	TTG	CTC	AGT	TCT	TTA	GTC	ATG	ACA	GTT	4947
GAA	ATT	AGA	AAA	CAA	AAC	ATG	ACT	GAA	TTC	ATG	GAG	TTG	TGG	TCT	CAG	4995
GGA	ATT	TCA	GAT	GAT	GAT	AAT	GAT	AGT	GCA	GTA	GCT	GAG	TTT	TTC	CAG	5043
TCT	TTT	CCA	TCT	GGT	GAA	CCA	TCG	AAC	TCT	AAA	TTA	TCT	GGC	TTT	TTC	5091
CAA	TCT	GTT	ACT	AAT	CAC	AAG	TGG	GTT	GCT	GTG	GGA	GCT	GCA	GTT	GGC	5139
GTT	CTT	GGA	GTG	CTC	GTT	GGA	GGA	TGG	TTT	GTG	TAT	AAG	CAT	TTC	TCC	5187
CGC	AAA	GAG	GAA	GAA	CCA	ATC	CCA	GCT	GAA	GGG	GTA	TAT	TAT	GGT	GTA	5235
ACT	AAG	CCC	AAG	CAA	GTG	ATT	AAA	TTA	GAT	GCA	GAT	CCA	GTA	GAA	TCT	5283
CAG	TCA	ACT	TTG	GAA	ATA	GCA	GGA	CTG	GTT	AGG	AAG	AAC	TTG	GTT	CAG	5331
TTT	GGA	GTT	GGA	GAG	AAG	AAT	GGA	TGT	GTG	AGA	TGG	GTT	ATG	AAT	GCC	5379
TTG	GGA	GTG	AAA	GAT	GAT	TGG	CTG	CTT	GTG	CCT	TCC	CAT	GCT	TAT	AAA	5427
TTT	GAG	AAA	GAT	TAT	GAA	ATG	ATG	GAG	TTT	TAT	TTT	AAT	AGA	GGT	GGA	5475
ACT	TAC	TAT	TCA	ATT	TCA	GCT	GGT	AAT	GTT	GTT	ATT	CAA	TCT	TTG	GAT	5523
GTG	GGA	TTC	CAG	GAT	GTT	GTT	CTG	ATG	AAG	GTT	CCT	ACA	ATT	CCT	AAG	5571
TTT	AGA	GAT	ATT	ACT	CAG	CAT	TTT	ATT	AAG	AAA	GGG	GAT	GTG	CCT	AGA	5619
GCT	TTG	AAT	CGC	CTG	GCA	ACA	TTA	GTG	ACA	ACT	GTA	AAT	GGA	ACC	CCT	5667
ATG	TTA	ATT	TCT	GAG	GGC	CCA	CTA	AAG	ATG	GAA	GAG	AAA	GCT	ACT	TAT	5715
GTT	CAT	AAG	AAA	AAT	GAT	GGT	ACA	TCA	GTT	GAT	TTA	ACT	GTG	GAT	CAG	5763
GCA	TGG	AGA	GGA	AAA	GGC	GAA	GGT	CTT	CCT	GGA	ATG	TGT	GGT	GGG	GCC	5811
TTG	GTT	TCA	TCG	AAT	CAA	TCT	ATA	CAG	AAT	GCA	ATC	TTG	GGC	ATC	CAT	5859
GTT	GCT	GGA	GGA	AAT	TCA	ATT	CTT	GTT	GCA	AAA	TTG	GTT	ACT	CAA	GAA	5907

-continued																	
ATG	TTC	CAA	AAT	ATT	GAT	AAG	AAA	ATT	GAA	AGT	CAG	AGA	ATT	ATG	AAA	5955	
GTG	GAG	TTT	ACT	CAG	TGT	TCA	ATG	AAT	GTG	GTC	TCC	AAA	ACG	CTT	TTT	6003	
AGA	AAG	AGT	CCC	ATT	TAT	CAT	CAC	ATT	GAT	AAA	ACC	ATG	ATT	AAT	TTT	6051	
CCT	GCA	GCT	ATG	CCC	TTT	TCT	AAA	GCT	GAA	ATT	GAT	CCA	ATG	GCT	GTG	6099	
ATG	TTA	TCT	AAG	TAT	TCA	TTA	CCT	ATT	GTA	GAA	GAA	CCA	GAG	AAT	TAT	6147	
AAA	GAG	GCT	TCA	ATT	TTT	TAT	CAA	AAT	AAA	ATA	GTG	GGT	AAG	ACT	CAG	6195	
TTA	GTT	GAT	GAT	TTT	CTA	GAT	CTT	GAT	ATG	GCC	ATT	ACA	GGG	GCC	CCA	6243	
GGA	ATT	GAT	GCT	ATC	AAC	ATG	GAT	TCA	TCT	CCT	GGA	TTT	CCT	TAT	GTC	6291	
CAG	GAG	AAG	TTG	ACC	AAA	AGA	GAT	TTA	ATT	TGG	TTG	GAT	GAA	AAT	GGT	6339	
TTA	TTG	CTG	GGA	GTT	CAT	CCA	AGA	TTG	GCT	CAG	AGA	ATC	TTA	TTC	AAT	6387	
ACT	GTC	ATG	ATG	GAA	AAT	TGT	TCT	GAT	TTG	GAT	GTT	GTT	TTT	ACA	ACC	6435	
TGT	CCA	AAA	GAT	GAA	TTG	AGA	CCA	TTA	GAG	AAA	GTG	TTG	GAA	TCA	AAA	6483	
ACA	AGA	GCT	ATT	GAT	GCT	TGT	CCT	CTG	GAT	TAC	ACA	ATT	TTG	TGC	CGA	6531	
ATG	TAT	TGG	GGT	CCA	GCT	ATT	AGT	TAT	TTT	CAT	TTG	AAT	CCA	GGT	TTC	6579	
CAT	ACA	GGT	GTT	GCT	ATT	GGC	ATA	GAT	CCT	GAT	AGA	CAG	TGG	GAT	GAA	6627	
TTA	TTT	AAA	ACA	ATG	ATA	AGA	TTC	GGA	GAT	GTT	GGT	CTT	GAT	TTA	GAT	6675	
TTC	TCT	GCT	TTT	GAT	GCT	AGT	CTT	AGT	CCA	TTT	ATG	ATT	AGA	GAA	GCA	6723	
GGT	AGA	ATC	ATG	AGT	GAA	CTA	TCT	GGA	ACT	CCA	TCC	CAT	TTT	GGC	ACA	6771	
GCT	CTT	ATC	AAT	ACT	ATC	ATT	TAT	TCC	AAG	CAT	TTG	CTG	TAT	AAC	TGT	6819	
TGT	TAC	CAT	GTC	TGT	GGT	TCA	ATG	CCC	TCT	GGG	TCT	CCT	TGT	ACA	GCT	6867	
TTG	CTA	AAT	TCA	ATT	ATT	AAT	AAT	GTC	AAT	TTG	TAC	TAT	GTG	TTT	TCC	6915	
AAG	ATA	TTT	GGA	AAG	TCT	CCA	GTT	TTC	TTT	TGT	CAG	GCT	TTG	AAG	ATT	6963	
CTC	TGT	TAT	GGA	GAT	GAT	GTT	TTA	ATA	GTT	TTC	TCT	CGA	GAT	GTT	CAG	7011	
ATT	GAT	AAT	CTT	GAT	TTG	ATT	GGA	CAA	AAA	ATT	GTA	GAT	GAG	TTT	AAG	7059	
AAA	CTT	GGC	ATG	ACA	GCT	ACT	TCT	GCT	GAC	AAG	AAT	GTA	CCT	CAG	CTG	7107	
AAA	CCA	GTT	TCG	GAA	TTG	ACT	TTT	CTC	AAA	AGA	TCT	TTC	AAT	TTG	GTA	7155	
GAG	GAT	AGA	ATT	AGA	CCT	GCA	ATT	TCG	GAA	AAA	ACA	ATT	TGG	TCT	TTA	7203	
ATA	GCA	TGG	CAG	AGA	AGT	AAC	GCT	GAG	TTT	GAG	CAG	AAT	TTA	GAA	ATT	7251	
GCT	CAG	TGG	TTT	GCT	TTT	ATG	CAT	GGC	TAT	GAG	TTT	TAT	CAG	AAA	TTT	7299	
TAT	TAT	TTT	GTT	CAG	TCC	TGT	TTG	GAG	AAA	GAG	ATG	ATA	GAA	TAC	AGA	7347	
CTT	AAA	TCT	TAT	GAT	TGG	TGG	AGA	ATG	AGA	TTT	TAT	GAC	CAG	TGT	TTC	7395	
ATT	TGT	GAC	CTT	TCA	TGA	TTT	GTTTAA	CGA	ATTTTCT	TAAAA	TTTCT					7443	
GAG	GTT	GTT	TAT	TCT	TTT	ATC	AGTAA	AT	AAAA	AAAA	AAAA	AAA				7486	

This deposit was made under the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms and has not been publicly disseminated. HAV 4380 is a cell culture-adapted and attenuated strain of hepatitis A virus strain HM-175, adapted to growth in a human fibroblast cell line (MRC-5) suitable for vaccine development by incubation at a reduced temperature of 32–35° C. Growth of the virus is determined by detection of viral antigen in a serological assay. The adapted virus is purified by plaque-purification, using an accepted method (radioimmunofocus assay).

After a total of nine passages in MRC-5 cells at reduced temperature, the resultant virus was characterized for its biological characteristics in cell culture and in two primate species that are considered to be surrogates for man, i.e., marmosets and chimpanzees. See, e.g., Example 1 below. The HAV 4380 virus was found to be temperature-sensitive (i.e., only grew at reduced temperatures) in MRC-5 cells but was still capable of growing at 37° C. in primary African green monkey kidney cells. The virus was further attenuated in virulence, compared to the parent virus HM-175, P-32, when tested in chimpanzees and marmoset monkeys, in

which species the virus replicated poorly or not at all. This reduced capacity for replication in primates was further confirmed in human volunteers, as described in Example 2.

A candidate inactivated hepatitis A vaccine was prepared from the HAV 4380 and demonstrated to be safe (i.e., it does not produce hepatitis or other serious adverse effects) and immunogenic in humans. It was also found to induce antibody production without adjuvant. HAV 4380, as it currently exists, grows well in a cell substrate suitable for commercial vaccine production. It also does not infect human beings when administered by the oral or intravenous route at doses of up to 10⁷ tissue culture infectious doses, even when not inactivated. HAV 4380 is suitable for use as a live HAV vaccine in humans. However, as indicated in Example 2, vaccine 4380 is believed to be somewhat over-attenuated, because it is not infectious, which characteristic reduces its efficiency when used as an attenuated vaccine.

In order to produce other vaccine candidates which are maximized for desirable levels of attenuation and good growth in MRC-5 cells, the inventors discovered genetic changes that occurred in the genome of the MRC-5-adapted HAV 4380 virus that altered its growth characteristics and made it more suitable for vaccine production than the related AGMK-adapted virus HM-175, Passage 35. The discovery of the following mutations in the nucleotide sequences in 4380, when compared to HM-175 Pass 35 [Cohen et al, cited above; and U.S. Pat. No. 4,894,228, FIG. 1; permit the manipulation of the HAV genome by genetic engineering techniques.

Thus, knowledge of the genomic differences between the AGMK-adapted passages of HM-175 and the more attenuated 4380 permit the construction of chimeric viruses having the improved growth characteristics, i.e., rapid and efficient growth in MRC-5 cell culture, but with a level of attenuation of virulence for primate species, including man, that will permit the virus to replicate efficiently without producing hepatitis or other untoward effects. This invention permits the design of a chimeric HAV that can achieve the optimum characteristics for a candidate live-attenuated hepatitis A vaccine. Such a virus will also permit the design of preferred inactivated vaccine candidates, if desired. The present invention identifies the mutations that are believed to have occurred during adaptation to growth of the HM-175 HAV, passage 32, strain in MRC-5 cells. One or a combination of these mutations are responsible for MRC-5 cell adaptation and overattenuation in HAV 4380. The nucleotide sequence of the MRC-5 cell-adapted virus HAV 4380 was compared with that of the AGMK-adapted, HM-175 virus, passage 35, clone 7. Nucleotide consensus sequences were determined directly from polymerase chain reaction products.

The inventors have discovered that there are at least sixteen unique nucleotide differences between the pass-35 HM-175/7 virus and the MRC-5-adapted virus 4380. Table I lists these sixteen mutations by nucleotide differences and resulting amino acid (AA) differences, if any, acquired by the MRC-5 adapted virus HAV 4380. Note that the partial sequence of LHS/S HAV of Fineschi et al., cited above, overlaps with only the mutation observed at position 5145.

In the Table, A represents adenine, G represents guanine, C represents cytosine, and T represents thymine; Leu represents leucine, Phe represents phenylalanine, Ile represents isoleucine, Val represents valine, Ser represents serine, Lys represents lysine, Asn represents asparagine and Thr represents threonine.

TABLE I

Difference in Nucleotide Sequence of MRC-5-Adapted Hepatitis A Virus: Comparison with Sequence of HM-175/7 (P-35)		
Nucleotide Change	Region of Genome	AA Change
591 A to G	5' nc	NA
646 G to A	5' nc	NA
669 C to T	5' nc	NA
687 T to G	5' nc	NA
2750 C to T	VP1	No change
3027 T to A	2A	Ser to Thr
3196 G to A	2A	Ser to Asn
3934 A to G	2B	Lys to Arg
4418 A to T	2C	Leu to Phe
4563 A to G	2C	Ile to Val
4643 A to T	2C	No change
5145 A to G	3A	Ile to Val
5745 A to T	3C	Thr to Ser
6908 T to C	3D	No change
7032 C to T	3D	No change
7255 A to T	3D	Asn to Ile

New HAV vaccine candidates are designed by introducing one or more of these nucleotides into an HAV at a nucleotide position homologous to the nucleotide position in the genomic sequence of the AGMK-adapted virus HM-175, Pass 35. These nucleotides identified in Table I may be introduced at analogous and/or homologous nucleotide positions to those of P-35 in the genomic sequences of other HAV strains and variants to produce a recombinant or chimeric HAV of this invention. By the phrase "analogous or homologous nucleotide position" is meant a nucleotide in an HAV other than HAV HM-175, Pass 35 which is present in the same viral region, e.g., 2C, 3D and the like, at a position in that region similar to that of the nucleotide of Table I. In other words, the nucleotide position may differ in position number due to deletions in other regions of the virus; but one of skill in the art can readily determine its functional similarity to the nucleotide position in HM-175, Pass 35.

While such nucleotide positions may not have the identical nucleotide position numbers corresponding to the wild-type HM-175 [SEQ ID NO:1], it is anticipated that these analogous and/or homologous positions can be readily identified to enable HAVs other than strain HM-175 derivatives to be modified to create novel HAVs according to this invention.

Similarly, the inventors are able to manipulate the genome of a progenitor or intermediate of HAV 4380 with resort to this knowledge and can thereby 'reverse' certain mutations in 4380 to create new chimeric HAV viruses. One or more of these nucleotides, or varying combinations thereof, can be incorporated, by chimera formation or oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis, into an HAV strain, most readily the cDNA clone HAV/HM-175/7, to produce new viable virus which has acquired the ability to grow in MRC-5 cells. Other HM-175 HAV derivatives are available from the American Type Culture Collection under ATCC designation numbers VR 2089, VR 2090, VR 2091, VR 2092, VR 2093, VR 2097, VR 2098, and VR 2099. These and other HAVs may be employed to derive desired HAVs of this invention. Since there are indications that the MRC-5-adapted virus 4380 may be over-attenuated for humans, it is important to be able to remove or introduce selected mutations into HM-175. The construction of nine exemplary chimeric viruses containing one or more such mutations is described in detail in Example 3 below.

The mutagenic and genetic engineering techniques employed to construct chimeric or recombinant HAVs which

incorporate one or more of these mutations are conventional and known to those of skill in the art [see, for example, Sambrook et al., *Molecular Cloning. A Laboratory Manual*, 2d edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. (1989)]. Other conventional techniques, including polymerase chain reactions and chemical synthetic techniques may also be used to design HAVs of this invention. Similarly, it is anticipated that homologous mutations may be made using other HM-175 passages. It also may be possible to adapt similar changes to HAV strains other than HM-175 by introducing these nucleotides into homologous regions.

Chimeric and recombinant viruses of this invention may be designed by application of similar techniques and selecting one or more different combinations of the nucleotides (mutations) appearing in Tables I and VI. For example, data from growth analyses of the chimeric viruses of Example 3 demonstrate that one or more of the four MRC-5 specific mutations in the 5' non-coding region (mutations at nucleotide positions 591, 646, 669, and 687 of HM-175/7) and one or both of the MRC-5 specific mutations in the 2C region (mutations at nucleotide positions 4418 and 4643 of HM-175/7) may be desirable for optimal growth of the virus in MRC-5 cells. Other mutations may also be involved. Specific exemplary chimeric HAVs of this invention are characterized by the mutations in the genome of HAV HM-175/7 that appear in viruses designated #2 through #10 in Table VI of Example 3 below.

HAVs of this invention may be characterized by the presence of one or more of these nucleotides of Tables I or VI in analogous genomic positions of HAV HM-175 derivatives or other HAV strains. HAVs of this invention may also be characterized by two or more such nucleotides, where one nucleotide in the HAV parent strain is a guanine (G) at position 5145 of pHAV/7 or the analogous position of another HAV strain.

It is further anticipated that additional mutations may appear in a few regions of HAV that have yet to be sequenced. The mutations appearing in Table I may be incorporated in any combination, and/or with other mutations yet to be identified to construct a number of chimeric or recombinant HAVs with desired characteristics for use as live HAV vaccines.

Additional chimeras and recombinant viruses constructed by oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis may be designed and evaluated for assessment of the individual effects of the mutations and combinations thereof on viral growth in MRC-5 cells and on adaptation to growth in selected cell culture. The attenuation phenotype of these chimeric viruses may be evaluated in marmosets or chimpanzees by techniques such as described below in Example 1 for HAV 4380.

Also provided by this invention are the polynucleotide sequences encoding the HAVs of this invention. Such polynucleotide sequences are preferably cDNA sequences, which can form a master seed for the HAV vaccine. A cDNA sequence of this invention comprises a DNA sequence encoding a selected HAV genome characterized by the presence of one or more of the nucleotides identified as the twelve mutations in Table I in any desired combination which imparts desired characteristics to the novel HAV. Such cDNAs may be obtained by conventional techniques known to those of skill in the art. See, e.g., Sambrook et al, cited above, and U.S. Pat. No. 4,894,228.

Thus, the present invention provides a live vaccine composition useful in protecting against HAV infection and a prophylactic method entailing administering to a primate, preferably a human, an effective amount of such a compo-

sition. This vaccine composition may contain one or more of the HAVs of the invention, including HAV 4380, as well as the chimeric and recombinant HAVs described herein. The vaccine composition may also contain mixtures of two or more of the HAVs, if desired.

A vaccinal composition may be formulated to contain a carrier or diluent and one or more of the HAVs of the invention. Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carriers facilitate administration of the viruses but are physiologically inert and/or nonharmful. Carriers may be selected by one of skill in the art. Exemplary carriers include sterile saline, lactose, sucrose, calcium phosphate, gelatin, dextrin, agar, pectin, peanut oil, olive oil, sesame oil, and water. Additionally, the carrier or diluent may include a time delay material, such as glycerol monostearate or glycerol distearate alone or with a wax. In addition, slow release polymer formulations can be used.

Optionally, the vaccine composition may further contain preservatives, chemical stabilizers, other antigenic proteins, and conventional pharmaceutical ingredients. Suitable ingredients which may be used in a vaccinal composition in conjunction with the viruses include, for example, casamino acids, sucrose, gelatin, phenol red, N-Z amine, monopotassium diphosphate, lactose, lactalbumin hydrolysate, and dried milk. Typically, stabilizers, adjuvants, and preservatives are optimized to determine the best formulation for efficacy in the target human or animal. Suitable preservatives include chlorobutanol, potassium sorbate, sorbic acid, sulfur dioxide, propyl gallate, the parabens, ethyl vanillin, glycerin, phenol, parachlorophenol.

A vaccine composition of this invention is most preferably produced without an adjuvant. However, where necessary, one or more of the above described vaccine component may be admixed or adsorbed with a conventional adjuvant. The adjuvant is used as a non-specific irritant to attract leukocytes or enhance an immune response. Such adjuvants include, among others, mineral oil and water, aluminum hydroxide, Amphigen, Avridine, L121/squalene, D-lactide-poly(lactide)/glycoside, pluronic ployois, muramyl dipeptide, killed Bordetella, saponins, and Quil A.

Alternatively, or in addition to the HAV of the invention, other agents useful in treating HAV infection, e.g., immunostimulatory agents, are expected to be useful in reducing and eliminating disease symptoms. The development of vaccine or therapeutic compositions containing these agents is within the skill of one of skill in the art in view of the teaching of this invention.

According to the method of the invention, a human or an animal may be vaccinated against HAV infection by administering an effective amount of a vaccine composition described above. An effective amount is defined as that amount of HAV vaccine capable of inducing protection in the vaccinee against HAV infection and/or against hepatitis. The vaccine may be administered by any suitable route. Such a composition may be administered parenterally, preferably intramuscularly or subcutaneously. However, it may also be formulated to be administered by any other suitable route, including orally.

Suitable effective amounts of the HAVs of this invention can be determined by one of skill in the art based upon the level of immune response desired. Such a composition may be administered once, and/or a booster may also be administered. However, suitable dosage adjustments may be made by the attending physician or veterinarian depending upon the age, sex, weight and general health of the human or animal patient.

Similarly, suitable doses of the vaccine composition of the invention can be readily determined by one of skill in the art.

The dosage can be adjusted depending upon the human patient or the animal species being treated, i.e. its weight, age, an general health.

The following examples illustrate the preferred methods for obtaining HAVs of the invention and using them as vaccine compositions. These examples are not intended to limit the scope thereof.

EXAMPLE 1

Test of MRC-5-Adapted HAB 4380 Vaccine in Marmosets and Chimpanzees

The attenuation of hepatitis A virus (HAV), strain HM-175, by serial passage in cell culture has previously been demonstrated. Following 32 passages in primary AGMK cells, the virus was completely attenuated for chimpanzees and almost completely attenuated for marmosets. Subsequently, according to this invention the virus was adapted to growth in MRC-5 cells and recloned by plaque purification.

HAV 4380 was prepared from Volunteer lot 87J19, passage level 41 of strain HM-175 HAV that was derived from previously characterized passage levels of the virus that have also been prepared as volunteer pools. Two such earlier passage pools were shown to be attenuated for chimpanzees and marmosets. However, neither was administered to volunteers because it was recognized that primary African green monkey kidney cells, the substrate for those volunteer pools, would not be available in sufficient quantities to produce an economically viable vaccine. Therefore, the virus was adapted to MRC-5 cells and further passaged to prepare volunteer lot 87J19 or HAV 4380.

The purpose of this experiment is to test the level of attenuation of this virus for marmosets and chimpanzees, prior to phase I trials in volunteers. Lot 87J19 was tested for safety and immunogenicity in four chimpanzees and four *Saquinus mystax* marmosets. Two additional marmosets served as uninoculated controls. The chimpanzees used in this study were bred and raised in captivity; the marmosets were wild-caught animals. An inoculum of 10^4 TCID₅₀ of candidate vaccine lot 87J19 was administered intravenously to each animal. Residual inoculum was frozen and the titer reconfirmed subsequently in two different laboratories.

According to the experimental protocol, marmosets identified by the arbitrary ID numbers 570, 572, 566, and 575 and chimpanzees identified by the arbitrary ID numbers 1300, 1333, 1309 and 1313 received an inoculum of HAV 4380 from Clone 25-4-21, Lot 87 J 19575, 17/11/87 at a dose and route of administration of 10^{-3} dilution/1 ml/I.V. Marmosets No. 541 and 578 received a diluent at a dose and route of 1 ml/I.V.

A. Infection:

Three of four chimpanzees and one of four marmosets were infected, as determined by development of anti-HAV detectable by commercial radioimmunoassay (HAVAB, Abbot Laboratories, Chicago, Ill.). The chimpanzees seroconverted ten to eleven weeks following inoculation; the single marmoset seroconversion occurred eight weeks following inoculation. This marmoset subsequently died on week eleven of the study and another, noninfected, marmoset subsequently died on week fourteen, but neither death was attributable to the inoculum.

All three chimpanzees that seroconverted also developed IgM anti-Hav. Two of these, Chip 1309 and Chimp 1313, developed IgM anti-HAV on weeks ten and thirteen, respectively, when tested by the standard HAVAB-M (Abbott Laboratories, Chicago, Ill.) at a final serum dilution of 1:4,000. When sera were tested at a dilution of 1:40, Chimp 1313 and Chimp 1333 seroconverted at weeks nine and five, respectively. The HAVAB-M test is a capture assay utilizing anti-human IgM and has not been standardized for use with sera from primates less closely related to man than to the chimpanzee. For this reason, the marmosets were not tested for IgM anti-HAV.

B. Biochemistry:

Biochemical evidence of hepatitis was monitored by weekly determinations of serum alanine amino transferase (ALT) and isocitric dehydrogenase (ICD). The former is the most reliable indirect means of diagnosing hepatitis in the chimpanzee and the latter is comparably sensitive for evaluating marmosets. None of the chimpanzees or marmosets had elevation of liver enzymes attributable to the inoculum. All values for chimpanzees were within normal limits. The only infected marmoset, number 582, had normal liver enzymes up to the time of its death. Marmosets 566, 570, and 578 each had one or more abnormal liver enzyme values, but the first two of these animals were not infected by the inoculum, as judged by failure to seroconvert, and the third was an uninoculated negative control.

Marmosets often have less stable liver enzyme values than chimpanzees, in part because they are, by nature, relatively fragile animals and because they are jungle-caught and therefore usually infected with a variety of endo- and ecto-parasites, including microfilaria.

C. Histology:

Histologic sections prepared from serial weekly liver biopsies obtained from the chimpanzees and marmosets were evaluated under code for histopathologic changes. Although some animals had a high base-line of histopathologic changes, none of the animals had evidence of histopathologic changes more severe than those seen in preinoculation biopsies. Equally important, there were no histologic changes that were temporally related to seroconversion in infected animals. The two marmosets that died were subjected to more extensive evaluation. Both animals had evidence of systemic disease that was probably etiologically related to their deaths, but histologic changes in the liver were diagnostic of chronic, not acute, disease and therefore not related to the inoculum.

A comparison of histopathologic changes observed in chimpanzees and marmosets with these various volunteer pools and wild-type virus was performed. See Tables II and III below.

TABLE II

HISTOPATHOLOGY: CHIMPANZEES				
Liver Histopathology				
Inoculum*	# Inoc.	# Infected	#	Range of Severity**
W.T.	4	4	4	±-3+
P-21	6	6	1	0-3+
P-32	6	6	0	0
MRC-5	4	3	0	0

*Dose: 10³-10⁵ ID₅₀ IV
**Scale of 0-3+

TABLE III

HISTOPATHOLOGY: MARMOSETS				
Liver Histopathology				
Inoculum*	# Inoc.	# Infected	#	Range of Severity**
W.T.	4	4	4	1+-2+
P-21	8	8	8	1+-3+
P-32	5	5	3	0-2+
MRC-5	4	1	0	0

*Dose: 10³-10⁵ ID₅₀ IV
**Scale of 0-3+

Lot 87J19 appears to be more attenuated than the other volunteer pools or wild-type virus, based upon infectivity and severity of histopathologic changes.

D. Immunofluorescence:

Serial snap-frozen liver biopsies obtained from infected animals were evaluated for expression of viral antigen by immunofluorescence. Only one animal, Chimp 1313, was definitely but weakly positive for intrahepatic viral antigen. This animal was positive for only one week. These results were compared with those obtained in the previous study of other volunteer pools and wild-type virus. As seen in Tables IV and V, intrahepatic replication was further diminished in both chimpanzees and marmosets when compared with the AGMK-grown virus and wild-type virus.

TABLE IV

VIRAL REPLICATION IN THE LIVER: MARMOSETS (IMMUNOFLUORESCENCE)				
Inoculum*	# Inoc.	# Infected	Mean Peak	Mean Duration (wks)
W.T.	4	4	2.5+	12.2
P-21	8	8	1+	3.5
P-32	5	5	<1+	2.4
MRC-5	4	1	0	0

*Dose: 10³-10⁵ ID₅₀ I.V.

TABLE V

VIRAL REPLICATION IN THE LIVER: CHIMPANZEES (IMMUNOFLUORESCENCE)				
Inoculum*	# Inoc.	# Infected	Mean Peak	Mean Duration (wks)
W.T.	4	4	1+	1.8
P-21	6	6	<1+	0.5

TABLE V-continued

VIRAL REPLICATION IN THE LIVER: CHIMPANZEES (IMMUNOFLUORESCENCE)				
Inoculum*	# Inoc.	# Infected	Mean Peak	Mean Duration (wks)
P-32	6	6	<1+	0.6
MRC-5	4	3	<1+	0.3

*Dose: 10³-10⁵ ID₅₀ I.V.

E. Protection:

Although the single infected marmoset on study died, all four chimpanzees were available for challenge with wild-type parent HAV to determine if the levels of anti-HAV present in infected animals were protective. Consequently, the three infected and one uninfected animals were challenged with approximately 10³ chimpanzee infectious doses of wild-type HM-175 strain HAV (human stool suspension), administered intravenously (FIGS. 1 through 4).

All three previously infected chimpanzees were protected against type A hepatitis, as measured by persistently normal serum enzyme values (FIGS. 1 through 3). All three protected animals had an anamnestic antibody response to the challenge virus, suggesting that there was limited replication. In contrast, the previously uninfected chimpanzee developed high enzyme values diagnostic of hepatitis following challenge with wild-type virus (FIG. 4). Thus, volunteer pool 87J19 produced an inapparent infection in chimpanzees that stimulated protection against subsequent challenge with virulent wild-type virus.

The results of these portions of the experiment demonstrate that volunteer pool 87J19 of HAV 4380, strain HM-175 (adapted to MRC-5 cells) was significantly more attenuated for chimpanzees and marmosets than its parent, HAV, strain HM-175 (AGMK, Pass-32). It is clear from these studies that HAV 4380, strain HM-175 volunteer pool 87J19, is highly attenuated for chimpanzees and marmosets which are accepted surrogates for man in the study of hepatitis A viruses.

EXAMPLE 2

Clinical Study of Volunteers

In this clinical trial, volunteers received increasing titers of the liver attenuated hepatitis A vaccine 4380, volunteer pool 87J19, which was previously tested in chimpanzees and marmosets as described in Example 1. These pre-clinical studies demonstrated that the vaccine was safe, immunogenic, and efficacious in experimental animal models.

Volunteers were admitted to a closed clinical ward at the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Fort Detrick, Md. Eight volunteers received the live attenuated hepatitis A vaccine (1 ml) by the oral route in the following manner: two received a 10⁴ TCID₅₀ dose, two a 10⁵ TCID₅₀ dose, two a 10⁶ TCID₅₀ dose, and two a 10⁷ TCID₅₀ dose. Six volunteers received the vaccine by the intramuscular route in the deltoid area in the following manner: 2 received a 10⁵ TCID₅₀ dose, 2 a 10⁶ TCID₅₀ dose and 2 a 10⁷ TCID₅₀ dose.

Each volunteer remained on the ward for three days after immunization. Local or systemic side effects were monitored during the admission period and for 12 weeks following the immunization. Volunteers were asked to return at 6 and 12 months for serological follow-up.

Sera were obtained prior to immunization and once a week for the next 12 weeks. In volunteers who completed the appropriate follow-up time, sera were also obtained at 6 and 12 months after initial administration of vaccine. Serum specimens were tested for alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and antibody to hepatitis A. ALT was tested with a Kodak EKTA Chem 700XR analyzer (Rochester, N.Y.); normal values were 0 to 50 IU/ml. Antibody to hepatitis A was tested by four different methods, including a commercial radioimmunoassay (HAVAB, Abbott Laboratories, N. Chicago, Ill.). Second, an enzyme-linked immunoassay developed by SmithKline Beecham (SKB-ELISA), which was more sensitive than the standard HAVAB, in which a level of ≥ 20 milli-International Units (mIU) was considered positive. Selected sera were tested by the RIFIT (radioimmunofocus) assay for neutralizing antibody to hepatitis A. With this test, a serum titer of 23 1:10 was considered positive [S. M. Lemon et al, *J. Infect. Dis.*, 148:1033-1039 (1983)]. Finally sera were tested for IgM anti-HAV by commercial radioimmunoassay (HAVAB-M, Abbott Laboratories, N. Chicago, Ill.).

Stools were collected from the volunteers two to three times per week for the first 12 weeks and were tested for the presence of hepatitis A virus by radioimmunoassay [R. H. Purcell et al, *J. Immunol.*, 116:349-356 (1976)] and molecular biology techniques [J. Ticehurst et al, *J. Clin. Microbiol.*, 25:1822-1829 (1987)].

All volunteers remained healthy during the follow-up period (14 weeks to one year). No systemic complaints were present immediately after immunization or during long-term follow-up. Serum alanine aminotransferase levels remained normal in all 14 individuals during the period of observation.

Antibody to hepatitis A was not observed in any of the eight volunteers who received the vaccine by the oral route or in the two volunteers who received the 10^5 TCID₅₀ dose by the intramuscular route. The four volunteers who received higher doses of vaccine (10^6 TCID₅₀ or 10^7 TCID₅₀) all had detectable antibody by the SKB ELISA as early as 3 weeks after immunization. Detectable levels persisted for the 12 weeks of observation. Selected sera tested for neutralizing antibody had titers ranging from 1:10 to 1:40 in a volunteer who received a 10^6 dose and 1:40 to 1:2560 in a volunteer who received a 10^7 TCID₅₀ dose. The commercial HAVAB assay detected anti-HAV in only one of the volunteers, who received the 10^7 dose. IgM anti-HAV was not detected in any of the volunteers who received the vaccine orally. Sera from volunteers who received 10^7 TCID₅₀ I.M. had detectable IgM anti-HAV.

Stools from all volunteers who received the oral vaccine were negative for hepatitis A virus, while those from volunteers who had received the vaccine by intramuscular route are in the process of being tested.

Although only a small number of volunteers received the vaccine orally, it appeared that the vaccine is not immunogenic by this route. This is likely due to over-attenuation of the virus, although other causes, such as inactivation in the gastrointestinal tract or too small an inoculum, should be considered. The vaccine was safe and immunogenic by the intramuscular route at doses of 10^6 and 10^7 TCID₅₀. The antibody response was prompt: anti-HAV was observed within 3 weeks of immunization, persisted during the period of observation, and did not diminish in titer. Such a response to one single inoculation of a preparation which lacked an adjuvant, is remarkable. If indeed, anti-HAV persists for a long time after one dose, the logistics of administration of this product would be much simpler and more successful

than with present hepatitis A vaccines. The presence of IgM anti-HAV in volunteers who received 10^7 TCID₅₀ without evidence of hepatitis is suggestive of asymptomatic replication of the virus.

EXAMPLE 3

Construction of Chimeric Viruses

Several exemplary chimeric viruses were generated to evaluate the effect of several of the mutations of Table I on host range and/or attenuation in primates. The sequence of the MRC-5-adapted virus 4380 was obtained using reverse-transcriptase:polymerase chain reaction (RT:PCR) to amplify regions of the virus as cDNA prior to sequencing (hence T instead of U in Table VI below). Numbers 2-10 in Table VI designate chimeric viruses made by inserting mutations found in the MRC-5-adapted virus 4380 into the cDNA clone of pHAV/7 encoding the attenuated HM-175 virus, Pass 35, of Cohen et al., *J. Virol.*, 61:3035-3039 (1987). Mutations introduced by "chimera" means a portion of the 4380 virus genome was amplified by RT:PCR, digested with specific restriction enzymes and the fragment used to replace the homologous fragment in the cDNA clone pHAV/7. Mutations introduced by mutagenesis were inserted by oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis of the cDNA clone pHAV/7 using the Amersham mutagenesis protocol.

The chimeric cDNAs were transcribed into RNA in vitro and the nucleic acids (both RNA and DNA) transfected into FRhK-4 cells to generate chimeric viruses. Quantification of chimeric virus growth for the exemplary chimeras was performed by slot-blot assay.

Table VI reports the results of the construction and testing of nine chimeric viruses. As used in Table VI, the following terms are defined: Cell culture refers to virus containing indicated mutations selected by growth in MRC-5 cells. Mutagenesis refers to oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis of P-35 or HM-175 cDNA clones. A chimeric viral genome refers to the construction of a chimeric viral genome using portions of P-35 cDNA clone and PCR-generated fragments of the MRC-5 cell-adapted virus 4380. ND means that this study has not yet been performed. The + symbol refers to virus that has some growth in that cell type. The - symbol refers to virus that has little or no growth in that cell type. The two cell types employed to test the growth of the chimeric viruses are the human lung fibroblast-like cell line MRC-5 and fetal rhesus monkey kidney epithelial-like cell line, FRhK-4. Note that Virus #1 in the Table refers to MRC-5-adapted HAV 4380. Viruses #2 through 10 are chimeric viruses of this invention.

TABLE VI

Differences in Nucleotide Sequence of MRC-5-Adapted Hepatitis A Virus: Comparison with P-35 HM-175 Virus			
Nucleotide Differences	Method Mutation	Growth of Mutated Virus in Cell Cultures	
		FRhK-4	MRC-5
from P-35 HM-175	Introduced		
Virus #1 (MRC-5-adapted)	Cell Culture	+	+
591 A to G			
646 G to A			
669 C to T			
687 T to G			

TABLE VI-continued

Differences in Nucleotide Sequence of MRC-5-Adapted Hepatitis A Virus: <u>Comparison with P-35 HM-175 Virus</u>								
Nucleotide Differences	Method Mutation	Growth of Mutated Virus in Cell Cultures						
		from P-35 HM-175	Introduced	FRhK-4	MRC-5			
2750 C to T		Introduced						
3027 T to A								
3196 G to A								
3934 A to G								
4418 A to T								
4563 A to G								
4643 A to T								
5145 A to G								
5745 A to T								
6908 T to C								
7032 C to T								
7255 A to T								
Virus #2								
591 A to G	Chimera		+	+				
646 G to A								
669 C to T								
687 T to G								
Virus #3								
124 C to T								
131 d to T								
132 d to T								
133 d to T								
134 d to G								
152 G to A								
203-207 d to T								
591 A to G								
646 G to A	Chimera		+	+				
669 C to T								
687 T to G								
Virus #4								
591 A to G								
646 G to A								
669 C to T								
687 T to G								
4418 A to T								
4563 A to G								
4643 A to T								
Virus #5								
124 C to T					Chimera		+	+
131 d to T								
132 d to T								
133 d to T								
134 d to T								
152 G to A								
203-207 d to T								
591 A to G								
646 G to A								
669 C to T								
687 T to G								
4418 A to T								
4563 A to G								
4643 A to T	Chimera		+	+				
Virus #6								
4418 A to T								
4563 A to G								
4643 A to T								
Virus #7								
591 A to G								
4418 A to T								
4563 A to G								
4643 A to T								
Virus #8								
646 G to A					Chimera Mutagenesis		+	ND
4418 A to T								
4563 A to G								
4643 A to T								
Virus #9								
669 C to T								
4418 A to T								

TABLE VI-continued

Differences in Nucleotide Sequence of MRC-5-Adapted Hepatitis A Virus: Comparison with P-35 HM-175 Virus				
Nucleotide Differences	Method Mutation	Growth of Mutated Virus in Cell Cultures		
from P-35 HM-175	Introduced	FRhK-4	MRC-5	
4563 A to G				
4643 A to T				
Virus #10	Chimera Mutagenesis	+	ND	
687 T to G				
4418 A to T				
4563 A to G				
4643 A to T				

d = Base at this position deleted in P-35 compared to wild-type

Introduction of four mutations found in the 5' noncoding region, at nucleotide positions 591, 646, 669, and 687 of the P-35 genome, appear to be important for HAV host range in cell culture. They allow some growth of the transfected virus in MRC-5 cells, but do not account entirely for MRC-5 cell culture adaptation.

Introduction of three mutations, at nucleotides 4418, 4563 and 4643 in the 2C region of the MRC-5-adapted virus, with the 5' mutations allow full growth in MRC-5 cells. Thus the four mutation in the 5' noncoding region and the three mutations in the 2C region of the genome of the MRC-5 cell-adapted of this virus to efficient growth in MRC-5 cells. Introduction of only the three mutations in the 2 C region into the P-35 AGMK genome does not permit discernible growth of the transfected virus in MRC-5 cells.

EXAMPLE 4

Comparison of End Point Dilution of Chimeric Viruses in FRhK-4 Versus MRC-5 Cells

Chimeric viruses with the composition described in Table VI were serially diluted in ten-fold increments, and an equal aliquot of each dilution was plated onto FRhK-4 and MRC-5 cells. After 21 days incubation at 34.5° C. to permit virus growth, the cells were lysed by the addition of a buffer solution containing sodium dodecyl sulfate. The viral RNA was extracted with phenol and quantified by slot blot hybridization using a [^{32p}]-labeled riboprobe specific for hepatitis A virus. A radioautograph of the slot blot obtained from the FRhK-4 cells and from the MRC-5 cells illustrates that the endpoint dilution of the MRC-5-adapted virus was the same in both cell lines, indicating that this virus can grow in either cell line. In contrast, the P35 HM-175 virus had an endpoint dilution of 10⁻⁵ on FRhK-4 cells and <10⁻¹ on MRC-5 cells, demonstrating that this virus is unable to grow successfully on MRC-5 cells. As FIG. 5 illustrates, virus #6 was most like the pass 35 virus while virus #4 was most like the MRC-5 adapted virus and viruses #2, 3, and 5 were intermediate. These results show that certain mutations from the MRC-5-adapted virus can be introduced into the pHAV/7 cDNA clone to generate new viruses which also have acquired the ability to grow in MRC-5 cells.

Numerous modifications and variations of the present invention are included in the above-identified specification and are expected to be obvious to one of skill in the art. Such modifications and alterations to the compositions and processes of the present invention are believed to be encompassed in the scope of the claims appended hereto.

SEQUENCE LISTING

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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: WILD-TYPE HUMAN HEPATITIS A VIRUS, STRAIN HM-175
<220> FEATURE:
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<222> LOCATION: (735)..(7415)

<400> SEQUENCE: 1

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tgtttctcta taagaacct cttttttcac gctttctgtc ttctttcttc cagggtcttc 240
cccttgcctt aggtctctggc cgttgcgccc ggcgggggtca actccatgat tagcatggag 300
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15 20 25
caa atg att caa tca gtt gat agg act gca gtg act ggt gct tct tat 866
Gln Met Ile Gln Ser Val Asp Arg Thr Ala Val Thr Gly Ala Ser Tyr
30 35 40
ttt act tct gtg gat caa tct tca gtt cat aca gct gag gtt gga tca 914
Phe Thr Ser Val Asp Gln Ser Ser Val His Thr Ala Glu Val Gly Ser
45 50 55 60
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His Gln Val Glu Pro Leu Arg Thr Ser Val Asp Lys Pro Gly Ser Lys
65 70 75
aag act cag gga gag aaa ttt ttc ttg att cat tct gca gat tgg ctt 1010
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80 85 90
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Thr Thr His Ala Leu Phe His Glu Val Ala Lys Leu Asp Val Val Lys
95 100 105
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Thr Arg Gly Ala Tyr His Phe Lys Asp Pro Gln Tyr Pro Val Trp Glu	
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Val Gly Gln Gln Ile Lys Val Ile Pro Val Asp Pro Tyr Phe Phe Gln	
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Ile Cys Gln Met Phe Cys Phe Trp Arg Gly Asp Leu Val Phe Asp Phe	
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Val Pro Gly Asn Glu Leu Ile Asp Val Ser Gly Ile Thr Leu Lys Gln	
385 390 395	
gca act act gct cct tgt gca gta atg gat att aca gga gtg cag tca	1970
Ala Thr Thr Ala Pro Cys Ala Val Met Asp Ile Thr Gly Val Gln Ser	
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Phe Phe Asn Leu Phe Gln Leu Tyr Arg Gly Pro Leu Asp Leu Thr Ile	
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Ile Ile Thr Gly Ala Thr Asp Val Asp Gly Met Ala Trp Phe Thr Pro	
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Ser Ile Asp Tyr Lys Thr Ala Leu Gly Ala Val Arg Phe Asn Thr Arg	
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Ala Val Ser Gly Ala Leu Asp Gly Leu Gly Asp Lys Thr Asp Ser Thr	
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Phe Gly Leu Val Ser Ile Gln Ile Ala Asn Tyr Asn His Ser Asp Glu	
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Tyr Leu Ser Phe Ser Cys Tyr Leu Ser Val Thr Glu Gln Ser Glu Phe	
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Ser Met Met Ser Arg Ile Ala Ala Gly Asp Leu Glu Ser Ser Val Asp	
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Asp Pro Arg Ser Glu Glu Asp Lys Arg Phe Glu Ser His Ile Glu Cys	
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Ser Val Asp Arg Thr Ala Val Thr Gly Ala Ser Tyr Phe Thr Ser Val 35 40 45	
Asp Gln Ser Ser Val His Thr Ala Glu Val Gly Ser His Gln Val Glu 50 55 60	
Pro Leu Arg Thr Ser Val Asp Lys Pro Gly Ser Lys Lys Thr Gln Gly 65 70 75 80	
Glu Lys Phe Phe Leu Ile His Ser Ala Asp Trp Leu Thr Thr His Ala 85 90 95	
Leu Phe His Glu Val Ala Lys Leu Asp Val Val Lys Leu Leu Tyr Asn 100 105 110	
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Ile	Ala	Ser	Leu	Thr	Val	Tyr	Pro	His	Gly	Leu	Leu	Asn	Cys	Asn	Ile	
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Tyr	His	Phe	Lys	Asp	Pro	Gln	Tyr	Pro	Val	Trp	Glu	Leu	Thr	Ile	Arg	
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Lys	Ser	Ala	His	Gln	Lys	Gly	Glu	Tyr	Thr	Ala	Ile	Gly	Lys	Leu	Ile	
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Pro	Leu	Tyr	His	Ala	Met	Asp	Val	Thr	Thr	Gln	Val	Gly	Asp	Asp	Ser	
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Gln	Val	Gly	Ile	Thr	Thr	Met	Lys	Asp	Leu	Lys	Gly	Lys	Ala	Asn	Arg	
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ctt gag gag aag ggt agg cat ttt tct tct cct ttt ata ata gca act Leu Glu Glu Lys Gly Arg His Phe Ser Ser Pro Phe Ile Ile Ala Thr 1315 1320 1325	4707
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att gac cgc aga ctc cat ttc aag gtt gaa gtt aaa cct gct tca ttt Ile Asp Arg Arg Leu His Phe Lys Val Glu Val Lys Pro Ala Ser Phe 1345 1350 1355	4803
ttc aaa aat cct cac aat gat atg ttg aat gtt aat tta gct aaa aca Phe Lys Asn Pro His Asn Asp Met Leu Asn Val Asn Leu Ala Lys Thr 1360 1365 1370	4851
aat gat gca atc aaa gat atg tct tgt gtt gat ttg ata atg gat gga Asn Asp Ala Ile Lys Asp Met Ser Cys Val Asp Leu Ile Met Asp Gly 1375 1380 1385 1390	4899
cat aat gtt tca ttg atg gat ttg ctc agt tct tta gtc atg aca gtt His Asn Val Ser Leu Met Asp Leu Leu Ser Ser Leu Val Met Thr Val 1395 1400 1405	4947
gaa att aga aaa caa aac atg act gaa ttc atg gag ttg tgg tct cag Glu Ile Arg Lys Gln Asn Met Thr Glu Phe Met Glu Leu Trp Ser Gln 1410 1415 1420	4995
gga att tca gat gat gat aat gat agt gca gta gct gag ttt ttc cag Gly Ile Ser Asp Asp Asn Asp Ser Ala Val Ala Glu Phe Phe Gln 1425 1430 1435	5043
tct ttt cca tct ggt gaa cca tcg aac tct aaa tta tct ggc ttt ttc Ser Phe Pro Ser Gly Glu Pro Ser Asn Ser Lys Leu Ser Gly Phe Phe 1440 1445 1450	5091

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caa tct gtt act aat cac aag tgg gtt gct gtg gga gct gca gtt ggc Gln Ser Val Thr Asn His Lys Trp Val Ala Val Gly Ala Ala Val Gly 1455 1460 1465 1470	5139
gtt ctt gga gtg ctc gtt gga gga tgg ttt gtg tat aag cat ttc tcc Val Leu Gly Val Leu Val Gly Gly Trp Phe Val Tyr Lys His Phe Ser 1475 1480 1485	5187
cgc aaa gag gaa gaa cca atc cca gct gaa ggg gta tat tat ggt gta Arg Lys Glu Glu Glu Pro Ile Pro Ala Glu Gly Val Tyr Tyr Gly Val 1490 1495 1500	5235
act aag ccc aag caa gtg att aaa tta gat gca gat cca gta gaa tct Thr Lys Pro Lys Gln Val Ile Lys Leu Asp Ala Asp Pro Val Glu Ser 1505 1510 1515	5283
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ttg gga gtg aaa gat gat tgg ctg ctt gtg cct tcc cat gct tat aaa Leu Gly Val Lys Asp Asp Trp Leu Leu Val Pro Ser His Ala Tyr Lys 1555 1560 1565	5427
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act tac tat tca att tca gct ggt aat gtt gtt att caa tct ttg gat Thr Tyr Tyr Ser Ile Ser Ala Gly Asn Val Val Ile Gln Ser Leu Asp 1585 1590 1595	5523
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gct ttg aat cgc ctg gca aca tta gtg aca act gta aat gga acc cct Ala Leu Asn Arg Leu Ala Thr Leu Val Thr Thr Val Asn Gly Thr Pro 1635 1640 1645	5667
atg tta att tct gag ggc cca cta aag atg gaa gag aaa gct act tat Met Leu Ile Ser Glu Gly Pro Leu Lys Met Glu Glu Lys Ala Thr Tyr 1650 1655 1660	5715
gtt cat aag aaa aat gat ggt aca tca gtt gat tta act gtg gat cag Val His Lys Lys Asn Asp Gly Thr Ser Val Asp Leu Thr Val Asp Gln 1665 1670 1675	5763
gca tgg aga gga aaa ggc gaa ggt ctt cct gga atg tgt ggt ggg gcc Ala Trp Arg Gly Lys Gly Glu Gly Leu Pro Gly Met Cys Gly Gly Ala 1680 1685 1690	5811
ttg gtt tca tcg aat caa tct ata cag aat gca atc ttg ggc atc cat Leu Val Ser Ser Asn Gln Ser Ile Gln Asn Ala Ile Leu Gly Ile His 1695 1700 1705 1710	5859
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gtg gag ttt act cag tgt tca atg aat gtg gtc tcc aaa acg ctt ttt Val Glu Phe Thr Gln Cys Ser Met Asn Val Val Ser Lys Thr Leu Phe 1745 1750 1755	6003
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cct gca gct atg ccc ttt tct aaa gct gaa att gat cca atg gct gtg Pro Ala Ala Met Pro Phe Ser Lys Ala Glu Ile Asp Pro Met Ala Val 1775 1780 1785 1790	6099
atg tta tct aag tat tca tta cct att gta gaa gaa cca gag aat tat Met Leu Ser Lys Tyr Ser Leu Pro Ile Val Glu Glu Pro Glu Asn Tyr 1795 1800 1805	6147
aaa gag gct tca att ttt tat caa aat aaa ata gtg ggt aag act cag Lys Glu Ala Ser Ile Phe Tyr Gln Asn Lys Ile Val Gly Lys Thr Gln 1810 1815 1820	6195
tta gtt gat gat ttt cta gat ctt gat atg gcc att aca ggg gcc cca Leu Val Asp Asp Phe Leu Asp Leu Asp Met Ala Ile Thr Gly Ala Pro 1825 1830 1835	6243
gga att gat gct atc aac atg gat tca tct cct gga ttt cct tat gtc Gly Ile Asp Ala Ile Asn Met Asp Ser Ser Pro Gly Phe Pro Tyr Val 1840 1845 1850	6291
cag gag aag ttg acc aaa aga gat tta att tgg ttg gat gaa aat ggt Gln Glu Lys Leu Thr Lys Arg Asp Leu Ile Trp Leu Asp Glu Asn Gly 1855 1860 1865 1870	6339
tta ttg ctg gga gtt cat cca aga ttg gct cag aga atc tta ttc aat Leu Leu Leu Gly Val His Pro Arg Leu Ala Gln Arg Ile Leu Phe Asn 1875 1880 1885	6387
act gtc atg atg gaa aat tgt tct gat ttg gat gtt gtt ttt aca acc Thr Val Met Met Glu Asn Cys Ser Asp Leu Asp Val Val Phe Thr Thr 1890 1895 1900	6435
tgt cca aaa gat gaa ttg aga cca tta gag aaa gtg ttg gaa tca aaa Cys Pro Lys Asp Glu Leu Arg Pro Leu Glu Lys Val Leu Glu Ser Lys 1905 1910 1915	6483
aca aga gct att gat gct tgt cct ctg gat tac aca att ttg tgc cga Thr Arg Ala Ile Asp Ala Cys Pro Leu Asp Tyr Thr Ile Leu Cys Arg 1920 1925 1930	6531
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cat aca ggt gtt gct att ggc ata gat cct gat aga cag tgg gat gaa His Thr Gly Val Ala Ile Gly Ile Asp Pro Asp Arg Gln Trp Asp Glu 1955 1960 1965	6627
tta ttt aaa aca atg ata aga ttc gga gat gtt ggt ctt gat tta gat Leu Phe Lys Thr Met Ile Arg Phe Gly Asp Val Gly Leu Asp Leu Asp 1970 1975 1980	6675
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aag ata ttt gga aag tct cca gtt ttc ttt tgt cag gct ttg aag att Lys Ile Phe Gly Lys Ser Pro Val Phe Phe Cys Gln Ala Leu Lys Ile 2065 2070 2075	6963
ctc tgt tat gga gat gat gtt tta ata gtt ttc tct cga gat gtt cag Leu Cys Tyr Gly Asp Asp Val Leu Ile Val Phe Ser Arg Asp Val Gln 2080 2085 2090	7011

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att gat aat ctt gat ttg att gga caa aaa att gta gat gag ttt aag Ile Asp Asn Leu Asp Leu Ile Gly Gln Lys Ile Val Asp Glu Phe Lys 2095 2100 2105 2110	7059
aaa ctt ggc atg aca gct act tct gct gac aag aat gta cct cag ctg Lys Leu Gly Met Thr Ala Thr Ser Ala Asp Lys Asn Val Pro Gln Leu 2115 2120 2125	7107
aaa cca gtt tcg gaa ttg act ttt ctc aaa aga tct ttc aat ttg gta Lys Pro Val Ser Glu Leu Thr Phe Leu Lys Arg Ser Phe Asn Leu Val 2130 2135 2140	7155
gag gat aga att aga cct gca att tcg gaa aaa aca att tgg tct tta Glu Asp Arg Ile Arg Pro Ala Ile Ser Glu Lys Thr Ile Trp Ser Leu 2145 2150 2155	7203
ata gca tgg cag aga agt aac gct gag ttt gag cag aat tta gaa att Ile Ala Trp Gln Arg Ser Asn Ala Glu Phe Glu Gln Asn Leu Glu Ile 2160 2165 2170	7251
gct cag tgg ttt gct ttt atg cat ggc tat gag ttt tat cag aaa ttt Ala Gln Trp Phe Ala Phe Met His Gly Tyr Glu Phe Tyr Gln Lys Phe 2175 2180 2185 2190	7299
tat tat ttt gtt cag tcc tgt ttg gag aaa gag atg ata gaa tac aga Tyr Tyr Phe Val Gln Ser Cys Leu Glu Lys Glu Met Ile Glu Tyr Arg 2195 2200 2205	7347
ctt aaa tct tat gat tgg tgg aga atg aga ttt tat gac cag tgt ttc Leu Lys Ser Tyr Asp Trp Trp Arg Met Arg Phe Tyr Asp Gln Cys Phe 2210 2215 2220	7395
att tgt gac ctt tca tgatttgttt aaacgaattt tcttaaaatt tctgaggttt Ile Cys Asp Leu Ser 2225	7450
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Asp His Ile Leu Ser Leu Ala Asp Ile Glu Glu Glu Gln Met Ile Gln 20 25 30	
Ser Val Asp Arg Thr Ala Val Thr Gly Ala Ser Tyr Phe Thr Ser Val 35 40 45	
Asp Gln Ser Ser Val His Thr Ala Glu Val Gly Ser His Gln Val Glu 50 55 60	
Pro Leu Arg Thr Ser Val Asp Lys Pro Gly Ser Lys Arg Thr Gln Gly 65 70 75 80	
Glu Lys Phe Phe Leu Ile His Ser Ala Asp Trp Leu Thr Thr His Ala 85 90 95	
Leu Phe His Glu Val Ala Lys Leu Asp Val Val Lys Leu Leu Tyr Asn 100 105 110	
Glu Gln Phe Ala Val Gln Gly Leu Leu Arg Tyr His Thr Tyr Ala Arg 115 120 125	
Phe Gly Ile Glu Ile Gln Val Gln Ile Asn Pro Thr Pro Phe Gln Gln 130 135 140	
Gly Gly Leu Ile Cys Ala Met Val Pro Gly Asp Gln Ser Tyr Gly Ser 145 150 155 160	
Ile Ala Ser Leu Thr Val Tyr Pro His Gly Leu Leu Asn Cys Asn Ile 165 170 175	

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Asn	Asn	Val	Val	Arg	Ile	Lys	Val	Pro	Phe	Ile	Tyr	Thr	Arg	Gly	Ala	
		180						185					190			
Tyr	His	Phe	Lys	Asp	Pro	Gln	Tyr	Pro	Val	Trp	Glu	Leu	Thr	Ile	Arg	
	195						200					205				
Val	Trp	Ser	Glu	Leu	Asn	Ile	Gly	Thr	Gly	Thr	Ser	Ala	Tyr	Thr	Ser	
	210					215					220					
Leu	Asn	Val	Leu	Ala	Arg	Phe	Thr	Asp	Leu	Glu	Leu	His	Gly	Leu	Thr	
225					230					235					240	
Pro	Leu	Ser	Thr	Gln	Met	Met	Arg	Asn	Glu	Phe	Arg	Val	Ser	Thr	Thr	
				245					250					255		
Glu	Asn	Val	Val	Asn	Leu	Ser	Asn	Tyr	Glu	Asp	Ala	Arg	Ala	Lys	Met	
			260					265					270			
Ser	Phe	Ala	Leu	Asp	Gln	Glu	Asp	Trp	Lys	Ser	Asp	Pro	Ser	Gln	Gly	
	275						280					285				
Gly	Gly	Ile	Lys	Ile	Thr	His	Phe	Thr	Thr	Trp	Thr	Ser	Ile	Pro	Thr	
	290					295						300				
Leu	Ala	Ala	Gln	Phe	Pro	Phe	Asn	Ala	Ser	Asp	Ser	Val	Gly	Gln	Gln	
305					310					315					320	
Ile	Lys	Val	Ile	Pro	Val	Asp	Pro	Tyr	Phe	Phe	Gln	Met	Thr	Asn	Thr	
				325					330					335		
Asn	Pro	Asp	Gln	Lys	Cys	Ile	Thr	Ala	Leu	Ala	Ser	Ile	Cys	Gln	Met	
			340					345					350			
Phe	Cys	Phe	Trp	Arg	Gly	Asp	Leu	Val	Phe	Asp	Phe	Gln	Val	Phe	Pro	
	355						360					365				
Thr	Lys	Tyr	His	Ser	Gly	Arg	Leu	Leu	Phe	Cys	Phe	Val	Pro	Gly	Asn	
	370					375					380					
Glu	Leu	Ile	Asp	Val	Ser	Gly	Ile	Thr	Leu	Lys	Gln	Ala	Thr	Thr	Ala	
385					390					395					400	
Pro	Cys	Ala	Val	Met	Asp	Ile	Thr	Gly	Val	Gln	Ser	Thr	Leu	Arg	Phe	
			405						410					415		
Arg	Val	Pro	Trp	Ile	Ser	Asp	Thr	Pro	Tyr	Arg	Val	Asn	Arg	Tyr	Thr	
		420						425				430				
Lys	Ser	Ala	His	Gln	Lys	Gly	Glu	Tyr	Thr	Ala	Ile	Gly	Lys	Leu	Ile	
		435					440					445				
Val	Tyr	Cys	Tyr	Asn	Arg	Leu	Thr	Ser	Pro	Ser	Asn	Val	Ala	Ser	His	
	450					455					460					
Val	Arg	Val	Asn	Val	Tyr	Leu	Ser	Ala	Ile	Asn	Leu	Glu	Cys	Phe	Ala	
465				470						475					480	
Pro	Leu	Tyr	His	Ala	Met	Asp	Val	Thr	Thr	Gln	Val	Gly	Asp	Asp	Ser	
			485						490					495		
Gly	Gly	Phe	Ser	Thr	Thr	Val	Ser	Thr	Glu	Gln	Asn	Val	Pro	Asp	Pro	
			500					505					510			
Gln	Val	Gly	Ile	Thr	Thr	Met	Lys	Asp	Leu	Lys	Gly	Lys	Ala	Asn	Arg	
	515					520						525				
Gly	Lys	Met	Asp	Val	Ser	Gly	Val	Gln	Ala	Pro	Val	Gly	Ala	Ile	Thr	
	530					535					540					
Thr	Ile	Glu	Asp	Pro	Val	Leu	Ala	Lys	Lys	Val	Pro	Glu	Thr	Phe	Pro	
545				550						555					560	
Glu	Leu	Lys	Pro	Gly	Glu	Ser	Arg	His	Thr	Ser	Asp	His	Met	Ser	Ile	
			565						570				575			
Tyr	Lys	Phe	Met	Gly	Arg	Ser	His	Phe	Leu	Cys	Thr	Phe	Thr	Phe	Asn	
			580					585					590			

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Ser	Asn	Asn	Lys	Glu	Tyr	Thr	Phe	Pro	Ile	Thr	Leu	Ser	Ser	Thr	Ser	
	595						600					605				
Asn	Pro	Pro	His	Gly	Leu	Pro	Ser	Thr	Leu	Arg	Trp	Phe	Phe	Asn	Leu	
	610					615					620					
Phe	Gln	Leu	Tyr	Arg	Gly	Pro	Leu	Asp	Leu	Thr	Ile	Ile	Ile	Thr	Gly	
625					630					635					640	
Ala	Thr	Asp	Val	Asp	Gly	Met	Ala	Trp	Phe	Thr	Pro	Val	Gly	Leu	Ala	
				645					650					655		
Val	Asp	Thr	Pro	Trp	Val	Glu	Lys	Glu	Ser	Ala	Leu	Ser	Ile	Asp	Tyr	
			660					665					670			
Lys	Thr	Ala	Leu	Gly	Ala	Val	Arg	Phe	Asn	Thr	Arg	Arg	Thr	Gly	Asn	
		675					680					685				
Ile	Gln	Ile	Arg	Leu	Pro	Trp	Tyr	Ser	Tyr	Leu	Tyr	Ala	Val	Ser	Gly	
	690					695					700					
Ala	Leu	Asp	Gly	Leu	Gly	Asp	Lys	Thr	Asp	Ser	Thr	Phe	Gly	Leu	Val	
705					710					715					720	
Ser	Ile	Gln	Ile	Ala	Asn	Tyr	Asn	His	Ser	Asp	Glu	Tyr	Leu	Ser	Phe	
				725					730						735	
Ser	Cys	Tyr	Leu	Ser	Val	Thr	Glu	Gln	Ser	Glu	Phe	Tyr	Phe	Pro	Arg	
			740					745					750			
Ala	Pro	Leu	Asn	Ser	Asn	Ala	Met	Leu	Ser	Thr	Val	Thr	Met	Met	Ser	
		755					760					765				
Arg	Ile	Ala	Ala	Gly	Asp	Leu	Glu	Ser	Ser	Val	Asp	Asp	Pro	Arg	Ser	
	770					775					780					
Glu	Glu	Asp	Lys	Arg	Phe	Glu	Ser	His	Ile	Glu	Cys	Arg	Lys	Pro	Tyr	
785					790					795					800	
Lys	Glu	Leu	Arg	Leu	Glu	Val	Gly	Lys	Gln	Arg	Leu	Lys	Tyr	Ala	Gln	
				805					810					815		
Glu	Glu	Leu	Ser	Asn	Glu	Val	Leu	Pro	Pro	Pro	Arg	Lys	Met	Lys	Gly	
			820					825					830			
Leu	Phe	Ser	Gln	Ala	Lys	Ile	Ser	Leu	Phe	Tyr	Thr	Glu	Glu	His	Glu	
		835					840					845				
Ile	Met	Lys	Phe	Ser	Trp	Arg	Gly	Val	Thr	Ala	Asp	Thr	Arg	Ala	Leu	
	850					855					860					
Arg	Arg	Phe	Gly	Phe	Ser	Leu	Ala	Ala	Gly	Arg	Ser	Val	Trp	Thr	Leu	
865					870					875					880	
Glu	Met	Asp	Ala	Gly	Val	Leu	Thr	Gly	Arg	Leu	Ile	Arg	Leu	Asn	Asp	
				885					890					895		
Glu	Lys	Trp	Thr	Glu	Met	Lys	Asp	Asp	Lys	Ile	Val	Ser	Leu	Ile	Glu	
			900					905					910			
Lys	Phe	Thr	Ser	Asn	Lys	Tyr	Trp	Ser	Lys	Val	Asn	Phe	Pro	His	Gly	
		915					920					925				
Met	Leu	Asp	Leu	Glu	Glu	Ile	Ala	Ala	Asn	Ser	Lys	Asp	Phe	Pro	Asn	
	930					935						940				
Met	Ser	Glu	Thr	Asp	Leu	Cys	Phe	Leu	Leu	His	Trp	Leu	Asn	Pro	Lys	
945					950					955					960	
Lys	Ile	Asn	Leu	Ala	Asp	Arg	Met	Leu	Gly	Leu	Ser	Gly	Val	Gln	Glu	
				965					970					975		
Ile	Lys	Glu	Gln	Gly	Val	Gly	Leu	Ile	Ala	Glu	Cys	Arg	Thr	Phe	Leu	
			980				985						990			
Asp	Ser	Ile	Ala	Gly	Thr	Leu	Lys	Ser	Met	Met	Phe	Gly	Phe	His	His	
		995					1000					1005				

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Ser Val Thr Val Glu Ile Ile Asn Thr Val Leu Cys Phe Val Lys Ser		
1010	1015	1020
Gly Ile Leu Leu Tyr Val Ile Gln Gln Leu Asn Gln Asp Glu His Ser		
1025	1030	1035 1040
His Ile Ile Gly Leu Leu Arg Val Met Asn Tyr Val Asp Ile Gly Cys		
	1045	1050 1055
Ser Val Ile Ser Cys Ala Lys Val Phe Ser Arg Met Leu Glu Thr Val		
	1060	1065 1070
Phe Asn Trp Gln Met Asp Ser Arg Met Met Glu Leu Arg Thr Gln Ser		
	1075	1080 1085
Phe Ser Asn Trp Leu Arg Asp Ile Cys Ser Gly Ile Thr Ile Phe Lys		
	1090	1095 1100
Asn Phe Lys Asp Ala Ile Tyr Trp Leu Tyr Thr Lys Leu Met Asp Phe		
	1105	1110 1115 1120
Tyr Glu Val Asn Tyr Gly Lys Lys Lys Asp Ile Leu Asn Ile Leu Lys		
	1125	1130 1135
Asp Asn Gln Gln Lys Ile Glu Lys Ala Ile Glu Glu Ala Asp Lys Phe		
	1140	1145 1150
Cys Ile Leu Gln Ile Gln Asp Val Glu Lys Ser Glu Gln Tyr Gln Lys		
	1155	1160 1165
Gly Val Asp Leu Ile Gln Lys Leu Arg Thr Val His Ser Met Ala Gln		
	1170	1175 1180
Val Asp Pro Asn Leu Met Val His Leu Ser Pro Leu Arg Asp Cys Ile		
	1185	1190 1195 1200
Ala Arg Val His Gln Lys Leu Lys Asn Leu Gly Ser Ile Asn Gln Ala		
	1205	1210 1215
Met Val Thr Arg Cys Glu Pro Val Val Cys Tyr Phe Tyr Gly Lys Arg		
	1220	1225 1230
Gly Gly Gly Lys Ser Leu Thr Ser Ile Ala Leu Ala Thr Lys Ile Cys		
	1235	1240 1245
Lys His Tyr Gly Val Glu Pro Glu Lys Asn Ile Tyr Thr Lys Pro Val		
	1250	1255 1260
Ala Ser Asp Tyr Trp Asp Gly Tyr Ser Gly Gln Leu Val Cys Ile Ile		
	1265	1270 1275 1280
Asp Asp Ile Gly Gln Asn Thr Thr Asp Glu Asp Trp Ser Asp Phe Cys		
	1285	1290 1295
Gln Leu Val Ser Gly Cys Pro Met Arg Leu Asn Met Ala Ser Leu Glu		
	1300	1305 1310
Glu Lys Gly Arg His Phe Ser Ser Pro Phe Ile Ile Ala Thr Ser Asn		
	1315	1320 1325
Trp Ser Asn Pro Ser Pro Lys Thr Val Tyr Val Lys Glu Ala Ile Asp		
	1330	1335 1340
Arg Arg Leu His Phe Lys Val Glu Val Lys Pro Ala Ser Phe Phe Lys		
	1345	1350 1355 1360
Asn Pro His Asn Asp Met Leu Asn Val Asn Leu Ala Lys Thr Asn Asp		
	1365	1370 1375
Ala Ile Lys Asp Met Ser Cys Val Asp Leu Ile Met Asp Gly His Asn		
	1380	1385 1390
Val Ser Leu Met Asp Leu Leu Ser Ser Leu Val Met Thr Val Glu Ile		
	1395	1400 1405
Arg Lys Gln Asn Met Thr Glu Phe Met Glu Leu Trp Ser Gln Gly Ile		
	1410	1415 1420

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Ser	Asp	Asp	Asp	Asn	Asp	Ser	Ala	Val	Ala	Glu	Phe	Phe	Gln	Ser	Phe
1425					1430					1435					1440
Pro	Ser	Gly	Glu	Pro	Ser	Asn	Ser	Lys	Leu	Ser	Gly	Phe	Phe	Gln	Ser
				1445					1450					1455	
Val	Thr	Asn	His	Lys	Trp	Val	Ala	Val	Gly	Ala	Ala	Val	Gly	Val	Leu
			1460					1465					1470		
Gly	Val	Leu	Val	Gly	Gly	Trp	Phe	Val	Tyr	Lys	His	Phe	Ser	Arg	Lys
		1475					1480					1485			
Glu	Glu	Glu	Pro	Ile	Pro	Ala	Glu	Gly	Val	Tyr	Tyr	Gly	Val	Thr	Lys
	1490					1495					1500				
Pro	Lys	Gln	Val	Ile	Lys	Leu	Asp	Ala	Asp	Pro	Val	Glu	Ser	Gln	Ser
1505					1510					1515					1520
Thr	Leu	Glu	Ile	Ala	Gly	Leu	Val	Arg	Lys	Asn	Leu	Val	Gln	Phe	Gly
				1525					1530					1535	
Val	Gly	Glu	Lys	Asn	Gly	Cys	Val	Arg	Trp	Val	Met	Asn	Ala	Leu	Gly
			1540					1545					1550		
Val	Lys	Asp	Asp	Trp	Leu	Leu	Val	Pro	Ser	His	Ala	Tyr	Lys	Phe	Glu
		1555					1560						1565		
Lys	Asp	Tyr	Glu	Met	Met	Glu	Phe	Tyr	Phe	Asn	Arg	Gly	Gly	Thr	Tyr
	1570						1575				1580				
Tyr	Ser	Ile	Ser	Ala	Gly	Asn	Val	Val	Ile	Gln	Ser	Leu	Asp	Val	Gly
1585					1590					1595					1600
Phe	Gln	Asp	Val	Val	Leu	Met	Lys	Val	Pro	Thr	Ile	Pro	Lys	Phe	Arg
				1605					1610					1615	
Asp	Ile	Thr	Gln	His	Phe	Ile	Lys	Lys	Gly	Asp	Val	Pro	Arg	Ala	Leu
			1620					1625					1630		
Asn	Arg	Leu	Ala	Thr	Leu	Val	Thr	Thr	Val	Asn	Gly	Thr	Pro	Met	Leu
		1635					1640						1645		
Ile	Ser	Glu	Gly	Pro	Leu	Lys	Met	Glu	Glu	Lys	Ala	Thr	Tyr	Val	His
	1650					1655					1660				
Lys	Lys	Asn	Asp	Gly	Thr	Ser	Val	Asp	Leu	Thr	Val	Asp	Gln	Ala	Trp
1665					1670					1675					1680
Arg	Gly	Lys	Gly	Glu	Gly	Leu	Pro	Gly	Met	Cys	Gly	Gly	Ala	Leu	Val
				1685					1690					1695	
Ser	Ser	Asn	Gln	Ser	Ile	Gln	Asn	Ala	Ile	Leu	Gly	Ile	His	Val	Ala
			1700					1705					1710		
Gly	Gly	Asn	Ser	Ile	Leu	Val	Ala	Lys	Leu	Val	Thr	Gln	Glu	Met	Phe
		1715					1720					1725			
Gln	Asn	Ile	Asp	Lys	Lys	Ile	Glu	Ser	Gln	Arg	Ile	Met	Lys	Val	Glu
	1730					1735						1740			
Phe	Thr	Gln	Cys	Ser	Met	Asn	Val	Val	Ser	Lys	Thr	Leu	Phe	Arg	Lys
1745					1750					1755					1760
Ser	Pro	Ile	Tyr	His	His	Ile	Asp	Lys	Thr	Met	Ile	Asn	Phe	Pro	Ala
				1765					1770					1775	
Ala	Met	Pro	Phe	Ser	Lys	Ala	Glu	Ile	Asp	Pro	Met	Ala	Val	Met	Leu
				1780				1785					1790		
Ser	Lys	Tyr	Ser	Leu	Pro	Ile	Val	Glu	Glu	Pro	Glu	Asn	Tyr	Lys	Glu
		1795					1800					1805			
Ala	Ser	Ile	Phe	Tyr	Gln	Asn	Lys	Ile	Val	Gly	Lys	Thr	Gln	Leu	Val
	1810					1815					1820				
Asp	Asp	Phe	Leu	Asp	Leu	Asp	Met	Ala	Ile	Thr	Gly	Ala	Pro	Gly	Ile
1825					1830					1835					1840

Asp	Ala	Ile	Asn	Met	Asp	Ser	Ser	Pro	Gly	Phe	Pro	Tyr	Val	Gln	Glu		
1845						1850									1855		
Lys	Leu	Thr	Lys	Arg	Asp	Leu	Ile	Trp	Leu	Asp	Glu	Asn	Gly	Leu	Leu		
1860						1865					1870						
Leu	Gly	Val	His	Pro	Arg	Leu	Ala	Gln	Arg	Ile	Leu	Phe	Asn	Thr	Val		
1875						1880					1885						
Met	Met	Glu	Asn	Cys	Ser	Asp	Leu	Asp	Val	Val	Phe	Thr	Thr	Cys	Pro		
1890						1895					1900						
Lys	Asp	Glu	Leu	Arg	Pro	Leu	Glu	Lys	Val	Leu	Glu	Ser	Lys	Thr	Arg		
1905						1910					1915					1920	
Ala	Ile	Asp	Ala	Cys	Pro	Leu	Asp	Tyr	Thr	Ile	Leu	Cys	Arg	Met	Tyr		
1925						1930					1935						
Trp	Gly	Pro	Ala	Ile	Ser	Tyr	Phe	His	Leu	Asn	Pro	Gly	Phe	His	Thr		
1940						1945					1950						
Gly	Val	Ala	Ile	Gly	Ile	Asp	Pro	Asp	Arg	Gln	Trp	Asp	Glu	Leu	Phe		
1955						1960					1965						
Lys	Thr	Met	Ile	Arg	Phe	Gly	Asp	Val	Gly	Leu	Asp	Leu	Asp	Phe	Ser		
1970						1975					1980						
Ala	Phe	Asp	Ala	Ser	Leu	Ser	Pro	Phe	Met	Ile	Arg	Glu	Ala	Gly	Arg		
1985						1990					1995					2000	
Ile	Met	Ser	Glu	Leu	Ser	Gly	Thr	Pro	Ser	His	Phe	Gly	Thr	Ala	Leu		
2005						2010					2015						
Ile	Asn	Thr	Ile	Ile	Tyr	Ser	Lys	His	Leu	Leu	Tyr	Asn	Cys	Cys	Tyr		
2020						2025					2030						
His	Val	Cys	Gly	Ser	Met	Pro	Ser	Gly	Ser	Pro	Cys	Thr	Ala	Leu	Leu		
2035						2040					2045						
Asn	Ser	Ile	Ile	Asn	Asn	Val	Asn	Leu	Tyr	Tyr	Val	Phe	Ser	Lys	Ile		
2050						2055					2060						
Phe	Gly	Lys	Ser	Pro	Val	Phe	Phe	Cys	Gln	Ala	Leu	Lys	Ile	Leu	Cys		
2065						2070					2075					2080	
Tyr	Gly	Asp	Asp	Val	Leu	Ile	Val	Phe	Ser	Arg	Asp	Val	Gln	Ile	Asp		
2085						2090					2095						
Asn	Leu	Asp	Leu	Ile	Gly	Gln	Lys	Ile	Val	Asp	Glu	Phe	Lys	Lys	Leu		
2100						2105					2110						
Gly	Met	Thr	Ala	Thr	Ser	Ala	Asp	Lys	Asn	Val	Pro	Gln	Leu	Lys	Pro		
2115						2120					2125						
Val	Ser	Glu	Leu	Thr	Phe	Leu	Lys	Arg	Ser	Phe	Asn	Leu	Val	Glu	Asp		
2130						2135					2140						
Arg	Ile	Arg	Pro	Ala	Ile	Ser	Glu	Lys	Thr	Ile	Trp	Ser	Leu	Ile	Ala		
2145						2150					2155					2160	
Trp	Gln	Arg	Ser	Asn	Ala	Glu	Phe	Glu	Gln	Asn	Leu	Glu	Ile	Ala	Gln		
2165						2170					2175						
Trp	Phe	Ala	Phe	Met	His	Gly	Tyr	Glu	Phe	Tyr	Gln	Lys	Phe	Tyr	Tyr		
2180						2185					2190						
Phe	Val	Gln	Ser	Cys	Leu	Glu	Lys	Glu	Met	Ile	Glu	Tyr	Arg	Leu	Lys		
2195						2200					2205						
Ser	Tyr	Asp	Trp	Trp	Arg	Met	Arg	Phe	Tyr	Asp	Gln	Cys	Phe	Ile	Cys		
2210						2215					2220						
Asp	Leu	Ser															
2225																	

What is claimed is:

- 1. A hepatitis A virus HAV 4380 having Institute Pasteur Accession No. I-936, where said virus is characterized by the ability to grow in MRC-5 cells.
- 2. A vaccine composition useful for protecting humans or primates against hepatitis A, said vaccine comprising the hepatitis A virus of claim 1.
- 3. A method for protecting a human or primate against hepatitis A, said method comprising administering the vaccine of claim 1 to said human or primate in an amount effective to protect said human or primate against hepatitis A.

- 4. A hepatitis A virus encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO:3.
- 5. A hepatitis A vaccine comprising the virus of claim 4.
- 6. A method for protecting a human or primate against hepatitis A, said method comprising administering the vaccine of claim 5 to said human or primate in an amount effective to protect said human or primate against hepatitis A.

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,180,110 B1

Page 1 of 1

DATED : January 30, 2001

INVENTOR(S) : Ann W. Funkhouser, Suzanne U. Emerson, Robert H. Purcell and Eric O. Horbt

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

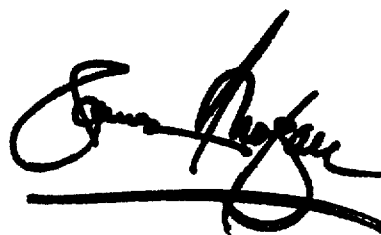
Column 77,

Line 2, delete "Institute" and insert -- Institut --.

Signed and Sealed this

Thirtieth Day of April, 2002

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Rogan", with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Attesting Officer

JAMES E. ROGAN
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office