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Conformational Flexibility in Respiratory Syncytial Virus G Neutralizing Epitopes.

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20 **ABSTRACT**

21 Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a top cause of severe lower respiratory tract disease
22 and mortality in infants and the elderly. Currently, no vaccine or effective treatment
23 exists for RSV. The RSV G glycoprotein mediates viral attachment to cells and
24 contributes to pathogenesis by modulating host immunity through interactions with the
25 human chemokine receptor CX3CR1. Antibodies targeting the RSV G central conserved
26 domain are protective in both prophylactic and post-infection animal models. Here we
27 describe the crystal structure of the broadly-neutralizing human monoclonal antibody
28 3G12 bound to the RSV G central conserved domain. Antibody 3G12 binds to a
29 conformational epitope composed of highly conserved residues, explaining its broad
30 neutralization activity. Surprisingly, RSV G complexed with 3G12 adopts a distinct
31 conformation not observed in previously described RSV G–antibody structures.
32 Comparison to other structures reveals that the RSV G central conserved domain is
33 flexible and can adopt multiple conformations in the regions flanking the cysteine noose.
34 We also show that restriction of RSV G flexibility with a proline mutation abolishes
35 binding to antibody 3G12 but not antibody 3D3, which recognizes a different
36 conformation of RSV G. Our studies provide new insights for rational vaccine design,
37 indicating the importance of preserving both the global structural integrity of antigens
38 and local conformational flexibility at antigenic sites, which may elicit a more diverse
39 antibody response and broader protection against infection and disease.

40 **IMPORTANCE**

41 Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) causes severe respiratory infections in infants, young
42 children, and the elderly, and currently no licensed vaccine exists. In this study, we
43 describe the crystal structure of the RSV surface glycoprotein G in complex with a
44 broadly-neutralizing human monoclonal antibody. The antibody binds to RSV G at a
45 highly conserved region stabilized by two disulfide bonds, but it captures RSV G in a
46 conformation not previously observed, revealing that this region is both structured and
47 flexible. Importantly, our findings provide insight for the design of vaccines that elicit
48 diverse antibodies, which may provide broad protection from infection and disease.

49 **INTRODUCTION**

50 Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a globally prevalent virus that affects the
51 airways and lungs. Infants and young children are at the highest risk of severe outcome
52 from RSV infection, with 33.1 million episodes of lower respiratory tract infection and
53 approximately 3.2 million hospital visits and 118,200 deaths per year worldwide in
54 children under age 5 due to RSV (1). RSV is also a major cause of illness in adults older
55 than 65 years and immunocompromised individuals, with an estimated 14,000 deaths per
56 year in the United States (2). Hospitalization due to RSV is a major economic burden,
57 especially in preterm infants and older adults (3).

58 Currently, no licensed vaccine exists for the prevention of RSV infection, making
59 RSV one of the highest burden diseases with no readily available preventative measure.
60 The only FDA-approved therapy for RSV is passive prophylaxis with palivizumab
61 (Synagis), a monoclonal antibody, which reduces disease severity and hospitalization (4).
62 Palivizumab's approved use is limited to high-risk premature birth infants; moreover, the
63 high cost, approximately \$10,000, for a full course of therapy, limits use even in that
64 narrow indication (5). The need for widely available vaccines and therapies for RSV is
65 evidenced from the 19 vaccine candidates and therapeutic monoclonal antibodies in
66 clinical trials (6).

67 RSV is a negative-sense single stranded RNA virus with two major glycoproteins
68 on the virion surface: the attachment glycoprotein (G) and the fusion glycoprotein (F) (7).
69 RSV G is responsible for cellular attachment to host cells and RSV F causes the viral
70 membrane to fuse with the target host cell membrane. While both RSV F and G are
71 immunogenic and are targeted by neutralizing antibodies, the majority of neutralizing

72 antibodies in human sera target RSV F (8, 9). As such, most RSV vaccine candidates and
73 therapeutic antibodies currently in development focus on RSV F. However, RSV that
74 does not express the G protein is highly attenuated *in vivo* (10), and monoclonal
75 antibodies that target RSV G are protective *in vivo* (11-21). In humans, anti-G antibodies
76 are associated with lower clinical disease severity scores, despite an abundance in sera
77 more than 30 times lower than anti-F antibodies (8). Thus, the RSV G protein is
78 increasingly recognized as an important target for RSV vaccine and therapeutic antibody
79 development (22).

80 RSV G is a type II membrane protein containing two mucin-like regions coated
81 with 30-40 O-linked glycans and 3-5 N-linked glycans (Fig. 1A) (7, 23, 24). There are
82 two forms of RSV G produced during infection. Membrane-bound RSV G is responsible
83 for virus attachment to airway epithelial cells via the human chemokine receptor
84 CX3CR1 (25-28). A secreted form of RSV G, derived from a second translation initiation
85 site at Met48 and released from the membrane by proteolysis, is expressed early in
86 infection (first ~6 hours, prior to the release of virions at ~12 hours) (Fig. 1A) (29).
87 Secreted RSV G modulates signaling and trafficking of CX3CR1⁺ immune cells,
88 contributing to airway congestion and pathogenesis (26, 27, 30-33). Between the two
89 mucin-like regions of RSV G is a central conserved domain (CCD) of ~40 highly
90 conserved amino acids, including four invariant cysteines forming a cysteine noose motif
91 with two disulfide bonds (1-4, 2-3 connectivity) (Fig. 1A) (34-36). While the C-terminus
92 of the RSV G CCD possesses a heparin binding domain (Fig. 1A) (37, 38), initial RSV
93 infection is thought to be mediated primarily by interaction between the RSV G CCD and

94 CX3CR1 on ciliated airway cells (25-28), which do not have measurable heparan sulfate
95 proteoglycans on their surfaces (39).

96 Broadly neutralizing monoclonal antibodies (bnmAbs) that target RSV G are able
97 to neutralize RSV infectivity in cell culture, including in HAE cells, and significantly
98 reduce RSV viral loads and disease in both prophylactic and post-infection animal
99 models (12, 14-16, 21, 25, 28, 40, 41). In addition, treatment with anti-RSV G mAbs
100 reduces BAL cell influx including RSV G protein-induced leukocyte migration and
101 eosinophilic inflammatory response, resulting in decreased airway congestion (15, 33,
102 42). Anti-G mAbs have also been shown to reduce mucus production and to restore
103 beneficial antiviral IFN- α (18, 42-44). Most of the anti-G bnmAbs that have been studied
104 to date bind with high affinity to RSV G (K_D (dissociation constant) = 1.1 pM - 3.3 nM)
105 and bind to linear epitopes within the RSV G CCD as determined by linear epitope
106 mapping techniques (17, 21, 40, 45). Recently, two studies elucidated four high-
107 resolution crystal structures of antibody-RSV G CCD complexes (16, 46). Unexpectedly,
108 all four antibodies have additional interactions outside their linear epitopes, revealing a
109 previously unappreciated role of the disulfide-stabilized cysteine noose in forming
110 conformational epitopes and contributing to high-affinity antibody binding.

111 Here we investigated the human bnmAb 3G12, which reduces viral loads, airway
112 hyper-responsiveness, and inflammation in both prophylactic and post-infection mouse
113 models of RSV infection (12, 21). Linear epitope mapping experiments have shown that
114 bnmAb 3G12 binds to RSV G CCD residues 167-176, which is shifted downstream
115 compared to other anti-G bnmAbs in the panel that bind primarily RSV G residues 162-
116 169 (12, 21). We hypothesized that structural studies into the 3G12 epitope might reveal

117 additional information about the mechanisms of high-affinity antibody binding and broad
118 neutralization against RSV A and B strains. We present here the structure of antibody
119 3G12 bound to the RSV G CCD, which reveals a novel conformational epitope composed
120 of highly conserved residues. Comparison to other structures highlights the flexible
121 nature of the RSV G CCD. We further show that RSV G flexibility is important for
122 binding by antibody 3G12. Overall, these studies have broad implications for vaccine
123 antigen design. The studies highlight the importance of preserving antigen structural
124 integrity and also maintaining flexibility in antigenic sites, in order to elicit a diverse
125 antibody response.

126

127 **RESULTS**

128 **Fab 3G12-RSV G¹⁵⁷⁻¹⁹⁷ complex structure**

129 We investigated bnmAb 3G12, a native human antibody that binds RSV G with
130 high affinity, $K_D = 579$ pM. Antibody 3G12 shows broadly neutralizing activity across
131 diverse lab and clinical RSV strains (21). To understand the molecular basis for the broad
132 reactivity of bnmAb 3G12 and to determine if it binds to a larger conformational epitope
133 beyond that predicted by linear epitope mapping, we used X-ray crystallographic studies
134 to determine the structure of bnmAb 3G12 bound to the RSV G CCD (Fig. 1A). Purified
135 antigen-binding fragment (Fab) 3G12 was mixed with recombinant RSV G¹⁵⁷⁻¹⁹⁷, which
136 formed a stable complex in solution. We crystallized the Fab 3G12-RSV G¹⁵⁷⁻¹⁹⁷ complex
137 and determined its crystal structure to 2.9 Å resolution (Fig. 1B, Fig. 1C, and Table 1).

138 The Fab 3G12-RSV G¹⁵⁷⁻¹⁹⁷ complex structure reveals a 924 Å² epitope on the
139 RSV G CCD, with 3G12 heavy chain burying 697 Å² and the light chain burying 227 Å²

140 of the epitope (Fig. 1B). Similar to RSV G-antibody structures determined previously
141 (16, 46), antibody 3G12 binds to a *conformational epitope* comprising RSV G residues
142 160-179, 182 and 189, revealing additional interactions beyond the linear epitope
143 residues 167-176 (Fig. 1). Epitope residues are invariant or highly conserved (Fig. 1A),
144 explaining the broad reactivity of bnmAb 3G12 for diverse RSV strains. The 3G12 heavy
145 chain complementarity-determining regions (HCDRs) account for the majority of the
146 interactions and buried surface with the RSV G CCD, with the HCDR2 burying the
147 largest portion with 315 Å² and HCDR3 accounting for 284 Å² (Fig. 1C). On the light
148 chain complementarity-determining regions (LCDRs), LCDR3 buries 169.5 Å² on the N-
149 terminal end of the RSV G CCD, while LCDR1 and the Fab 3G12 N-terminal residues
150 form additional minor interactions (Fig. 1C). The 3G12 heavy chain CDR2 stabilizes
151 residues 167-170 of RSV G by several hydrogen bonds and van der Waals interactions
152 (Fig. 1C). In addition, residues from all three of the HCDRs from bnmAb 3G12 stabilize
153 hydrophobic interactions with RSV G residues F163, F165, F168, F170, P172, and I175,
154 forming a hydrophobic core-like region within the antibody 3G12-RSV G complex (Fig.
155 1C). Interestingly, the helix on the C-terminal end of the cysteine noose, which
156 encompasses the CX3C motif (residues 180-186), has almost no interactions with
157 antibody 3G12, unlike other antibody-RSV G CCD structures where this helix has a role
158 in antibody binding (Fig. 1C and Fig. 2).

159

160 **RSV G CCD epitopes and conformational flexibility**

161 To better understand the conformational flexibility in the RSV G CCD, all known
162 structures of the CCD bound by antibodies were compared (Fig. 2). The structures were

163 aligned at the cysteine noose region (~ residues 170-187), which has an RMSD of $<0.6 \text{ \AA}$
164 across all structures. The region N-terminal to the cysteine noose (~ residues 160-169)
165 adopts a different conformation in each structure (RMSD of $3\text{-}5 \text{ \AA}$) and varies in
166 secondary structural elements (i.e. forms a helix when bound to antibody 3D3 and forms
167 a strand when bound to antibody CB002.5)(Fig. 2). RSV G residue N169 appears to be
168 flexible across all of the structures and may be one of the last ordered residues in the N-
169 terminal region of the CCD. Similarly, the C-terminal region after K187 may be flexible
170 and capable of adopting multiple conformations (Fig. 2). These C-terminal non-
171 interacting RSV G CCD residues are present in most of the complexes but do not have
172 visible electron density, suggesting that they are dynamic and flexible. Overall, the RSV
173 G CCD cysteine noose is structurally conserved and is an important structural element for
174 antibody binding, however the N- and C-terminal regions of the CCD are flexible and are
175 captured in different conformations by diverse antibodies.

176

177 **Role of RSV G flexibility in bnmAb binding**

178 To evaluate the role of RSV G flexibility in bnmAb binding, we sought to
179 investigate a mutant of RSV G with restricted flexibility in its CCD. We chose the mutant
180 F170P, which was previously identified in neutralization escape mutants of respiratory
181 syncytial virus grown in the presence of an anti-G monoclonal antibody (47). The F170
182 side chain contributes only 1.3% of the 3G12 epitope (12 \AA^2 of the 924 \AA^2), suggesting
183 that mutation of the side chain alone would not substantially affect bnmAb 3G12 binding.
184 However, when bound to bnmAb 3G12, RSV G residue F170 has a Phi torsion angle of -
185 143 degrees, whereas a typical proline is restricted to a Phi torsion angle of -60 degrees.

186 Thus, we reasoned that the proline mutation would restrict the flexibility of the RSV G
187 CCD and could affect bnmAb binding. We produced and purified the wild-type RSV G
188 ectodomain (RSV G^{ecto}) and its mutant (RSV G^{ecto} F170P) (Fig. 3A). We then evaluated
189 binding by bnmAbs 3G12 and 3D3, which bind to two very different conformations of
190 the RSV G CCD (Fig. 3B). Biolayer interferometry binding studies reveal that while both
191 bnmAbs bind to wild-type RSV G^{ecto} with high-affinity, bnmAb 3G12, but not 3D3,
192 completely lost binding to the mutant RSV G^{ecto} F170P (Fig. 3C and Table 2). These data
193 reveal that the mutant RSV G^{ecto} F170P can adopt the conformation for the 3D3 epitope,
194 however it cannot adopt the conformation for the 3G12 epitope.

195

196 **DISCUSSION**

197 Our study highlights how even disulfide constrained antigens can have flexible,
198 dynamic antigenic sites, and that different high-affinity antibodies can target these sites in
199 distinct ways. We describe the crystal structure of the human bnmAb 3G12 bound to the
200 RSV G CCD and show that bnmAb 3G12 binding is dependent on RSV G flexibility. The
201 antibody binds to a conformational epitope composed of highly conserved residues,
202 explaining its broad reactivity to diverse strains of RSV. The antibody interacts mainly
203 with the RSV G CCD's N-terminal region, in a conformation distinct from all other
204 known CCD structures, suggesting that the RSV G CCD is flexible outside of its rigid
205 disulfide bonded cysteine noose region. Residue N169 likely represents a 'hinge' residue,
206 where the N-terminal region of the CCD preceding N169 appears to be flexible and
207 capable of adopting multiple conformations and even secondary structures. Likewise,
208 residues after K187 in the C-terminal region of the CCD also appear to be flexible. Thus,

209 RSV G is part of a growing list of antigens with flexible or intrinsically disordered
210 regions (IDRs) that are targeted by antibodies (48-56).

211 The observation of different conformations of RSV G CCD raises several
212 important questions. Does RSV G move freely and randomly, and do our structures
213 reveal momentary snapshots captured by antibody binding? What conformation does
214 RSV G adopt when interacting with the human CX3CR1 receptor? We note that none of
215 the conformations have any substantial tertiary structure stabilizing interactions within
216 the CCD or clearly defined secondary structure. Therefore it is unlikely that RSV G
217 assumes distinct conformations without additional external stabilizing interactions. One
218 form of stabilization may come from the oligomerization state of RSV G. It has been
219 previously suggested that RSV G exists as a trimer or tetramer (57, 58). The extensive
220 glycosylation of RSV G in the mucin-like regions flanking the CCD may also restrict
221 RSV G flexibility. It is also possible that RSV G interacts with RSV F on the virus
222 surface, creating a quaternary structure that may limit RSV G to the defined structures
223 like those captured by the antibodies discussed in this paper. Interestingly, in a RSV
224 virus-like particle vaccine containing F and G, the conformation of F affected the
225 immunogenicity of G (59). These factors may be important in the design of an RSV
226 vaccine.

227 Our study also has important implications for vaccine antigen design in a broader
228 sense. Recently, there has been a trend to stabilize antigens based on structural analyses
229 to elicit higher levels of neutralizing antibodies targeting specific epitopes, e.g. HIV
230 gp120, influenza hemagglutinin, MERS-Coronavirus spike, human parainfluenza virus
231 fusion protein, human metapneumovirus fusion protein, and RSV fusion protein (60-71).

232 A common approach to antigen stabilization in many of the aforementioned studies
233 involves the introduction of proline substitutions and disulfide bonds, which can stabilize
234 by limiting polypeptide backbone mobility. However, antigen over-stabilization could
235 limit the *diversity* of antibody responses. In support of this concept, we show that limiting
236 flexibility of RSV G with a proline mutation abolishes the epitope for the high-affinity
237 bnmAb 3G12. Thus, when designing stabilized antigens that display specific epitopes,
238 one should also consider the benefits of preserving the native flexibility of antigenic sites,
239 which may elicit a more diverse immune response and may offer better protection against
240 virus escape (Fig. 4). Incorporating antibody repertoire analysis technologies during
241 vaccine development could provide opportunities to evaluate antibody diversity that is
242 elicited by stabilized antigens.

243

244 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

245 **Production of bnmAb 3G12 and Fab 3G12.** Recombinant bnmAb 3G12 was produced
246 by transient-transfection in CHO cells and purification by immobilized protein A, as
247 described previously (21, 45). Fab 3G12 was generated by incubation of bnmAb 3G12
248 with immobilized papain, followed by removal of the Fc fragment with immobilized
249 protein A. Fab 3G12 was then purified by Superdex 200 size-exclusion chromatography
250 in 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0 and 150 mM NaCl.

251

252 **Expression and purification of RSV G¹⁵⁷⁻¹⁹⁷.** A synthetic gene codon-optimized for *E.*
253 *coli* encoding RSV G (strain A2) amino acids 157 to 197 (UniProtKB entry P03423) with
254 a C-terminal 6× histidine purification tag was cloned into pET52b. Recombinant RSV

255 $G^{157-197}$ was expressed overnight in *E. coli* BL21(DE3) at 18°C. *E. coli* cells were lysed
256 by ultrasonication in 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 150 mM NaCl, and 25 mM imidazole
257 (buffer A) containing 2 μ M MgCl₂, benzonase, and protease inhibitors. RSV $G^{157-197}$ was
258 purified from soluble lysates by HisTrap FF affinity chromatography and eluted with a
259 gradient into buffer B (buffer A containing 500 mM imidazole).

260

261 **Formation and structure determination of the Fab 3G12-RSV $G^{157-197}$ complex.**

262 Purified RSV $G^{157-197}$ was mixed in 2-molar excess with purified Fab 3G12, incubated for
263 1 hour at 4° C, and purified by Superdex 75 size-exclusion chromatography in 10 mM
264 Tris-HCl pH 8.0 and 150 mM NaCl. The Fab 3G12-RSV $G^{157-197}$ complex was
265 concentrated to 15 mg/ml. Crystals were grown by hanging drop vapor diffusion at 22°C
266 with a well solution of 1.8 M Ammonium Sulfate and 100 mM Sodium acetate trihydrate
267 (pH 4.4). Crystals were transferred into a cryoprotectant solution of 2.0 M Ammonium
268 Sulfate, 100 mM Sodium acetate trihydrate (pH 4.4) and 25% glycerol and flash-frozen
269 in liquid nitrogen. Diffraction data were collected at cryogenic temperature at the
270 Advanced Light Source on beamline 8.3.1 using a wavelength of 1.11503 Å. Diffraction
271 data from a single crystal were processed with iMosflm (72) and Aimless (73) (Table 1).
272 The Fab 3G12-RSV $G^{157-197}$ complex structure was solved by molecular replacement
273 with the Fab from PDB 5K59 and the program PHASER (74), and the structure was
274 refined and manually rebuilt using PHENIX (75) and Coot (76), respectively (Table 1).

275

276 **Expression and purification of RSV G^{ecto} and RSV G^{ecto} F170P.** A codon-optimized
277 synthetic gene encoding RSV G (strain A2) amino acids 64 to 298 (UniProtKB entry

278 P03423) was cloned into pCF in-frame with an N-terminal CCR5 signal sequence and C-
279 terminal His-tag and Twin-Strep purification tags. The F170P mutation was introduced
280 by Phusion site-directed mutagenesis and verified by Sanger sequencing. Recombinant
281 RSV G^{ecto} and RSV G^{ecto} F170P were produced by transient-transfection in HEK293F
282 cells with Effectene Transfection Reagent (Qiagen). After 5 days, cell media was
283 supplemented with BioLock (IBA) and 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0 and 0.22 μ m-filtered.
284 RSV G^{ecto} and RSV G^{ecto} F170P were batch purified from media with Strep-Tactin resin
285 (IBA), washed, and eluted with Strep-Tactin elution buffer (50 mM Tris pH 8.0, 150mM
286 NaCl, 1mM EDTA, 2.5mM desthiobiotin). RSV G^{ecto} and RSV G^{ecto} F170P were
287 concentrated and dialyzed into PBS using 10 kDa spin concentrators. Protein purity was
288 evaluated by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis.

289

290 **Binding affinity analyses.** An Octet RED96e biolayer interferometry instrument was
291 used to evaluate binding of bnmAbs 3G12 and 3D3 to RSV G^{ecto} and RSV G^{ecto} F170P.
292 Antibody 3G12 or 3D3 at 1 μ g/ml in Octet buffer (phosphate buffered saline pH 7.4,
293 0.05% Tween-20, 1% BSA) was loaded onto Anti-Human IgG Fc Capture (AHC)
294 biosensors, and two-fold serially diluted RSV G^{ecto} or RSV G^{ecto} F170P, from 40 nM to
295 0.625 nM, was assessed for binding. Red lines are the fit of a global association and
296 dissociation with a 1:1 model, with at least 5 curves used to determine binding on- and
297 off-rates and to calculate dissociation constants.

298

299 **Accession code.** Coordinates and structure factors have been deposited in the Protein
300 Data Bank under accession code 6UVO.

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575 **FIGURE LEGENDS**
576
577

578 **Fig. 1.** Crystal structure of the Fab 3G12-RSV G¹⁵⁷⁻¹⁹⁷ complex. (A) Schematic of the
579 RSV G glycoprotein from RSV strain A2, including the transmembrane region (TM),
580 CCD, and the cysteine noose (Cys noose). Met48 is the alternate initiation site for the
581 production of soluble RSV G. Predicted N- and O-linked glycans are shown by red “Y”
582 and blue “O,” respectively. Below is a sequence logo of residues 160-197 of the RSV G
583 CCD, revealing the sequence conservation across strains RSV A, RSV B, RSV L, and
584 RSV 1-8. (B) Overall views of antibody 3G12 heavy chain (dark grey) and light chain
585 (light grey) bound to RSV G¹⁵⁷⁻¹⁹⁷ (cyan, with disulfides in yellow). (C) Detailed views
586 of interactions between antibody 3G12 with RSV G CCD, with the same viewpoints as in
587 panel B. Hydrogen bonds are shown as dashes. Heavy-chain CDRs (HCDR1-3) and light-
588 chain CDRs (LCDR1 and 3) are labeled.

589

590 **Fig. 2.** Comparison of known RSV G CCD epitopes and structures. Epitope amino acids
591 interacting with antibodies are colored as follows: 3G12 (blue), CB002.5 (gold), 3D3
592 (green), CB017.5 (magenta), and 2D10 (cyan). Bottom panels are rotated 180 degrees
593 around the y-axis compared to top panels. Epitope amino acids were determined by the
594 PDBePISA server and are written below each structure.

595

596 **Fig. 3.** Differences in bnmAb 3G12 and bnmAb 3D3 binding to RSV G^{ecto} F170P. (A)
597 Coomassie-stained SDS-polyacrylamide gel of RSV G^{ecto} (Wild-Type) and RSV G^{ecto}
598 F170P (F170P). Molecular weight (MW) ladder values are labeled in kilodaltons. (B)
599 Structure of RSV G CCD when bound to bnmAb 3D3 (top) and bnmAb 3G12 (bottom).

600 F170 is colored red. (C) Biolayer interferometry traces (blue) and curve fits (red) for
601 binding of bnmAb 3D3 (top) and bnmAb 3G12 (bottom) to RSV G^{ecto} and RSV G^{ecto}
602 F170P. Concentrations of G^{ecto} used for each trace are shown. The vertical red line
603 indicates the transition of the biosensors from the association step to the dissociation step.
604 Binding on-rates, off-rates, dissociation constants, and curve fit statistics are shown in
605 Table 2.

606

607 **Fig. 4.** Proposed model relating antigenic site flexibility, antibody response diversity to
608 that site, and potential for virus neutralization escape at that site.

609 **Table 1. Crystallographic data collection and refinement statistics**
 610

Fab 3G12-RSV G¹⁵⁷⁻¹⁹⁷	
PDB code	6UVO
Data collection^{a,b}	
Space group	<i>P</i> 3 ₁ 21
Cell dimensions	
<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> (Å)	139.33 139.33 94.77
α , β , γ (°)	90, 90, 120
Resolution (Å)	74.53 - 2.90 (3.00 - 2.90)
Total no. reflections	93,208 (14,475)
No. unique reflections	23,682 (3,763)
R_{merge}^c	0.097 (0.641)
<i>I</i> / σ (<i>I</i>)	9.4 (1.9)
Completeness (%)	99.5 (99.5)
Redundancy	3.9 (3.8)
$\text{CC}_{1/2}^d$	0.993 (0.601)
Refinement	
Resolution (Å)	74.53 - 2.90
No. reflections	23,665
$R_{\text{work}} / R_{\text{free}}^e$	0.193/ 0.209
No. atoms	
Protein	3,595
Ligand/ion	0
Water	0
<i>B</i> -factors (Å ²)	
Protein: bnmAb	62
Protein: RSV G	76
Ligand/ion	0
R.m.s. deviations	
Bond lengths (Å)	0.015
Bond angles (°)	2.067
Ramachandran (%)	
Favored	95.7
Allowed	4.3
Outliers	0

611 ^a Data from one crystal was used.

612 ^b Values in parentheses are for highest-resolution shell.

613 ^c $R_{\text{merge}} = \sum |I - \langle I \rangle| / \sum I$, where *I* is the observed intensity.

614 ^d $\text{CC}_{1/2} = \text{Pearson correlation coefficient between random half-datasets.}$

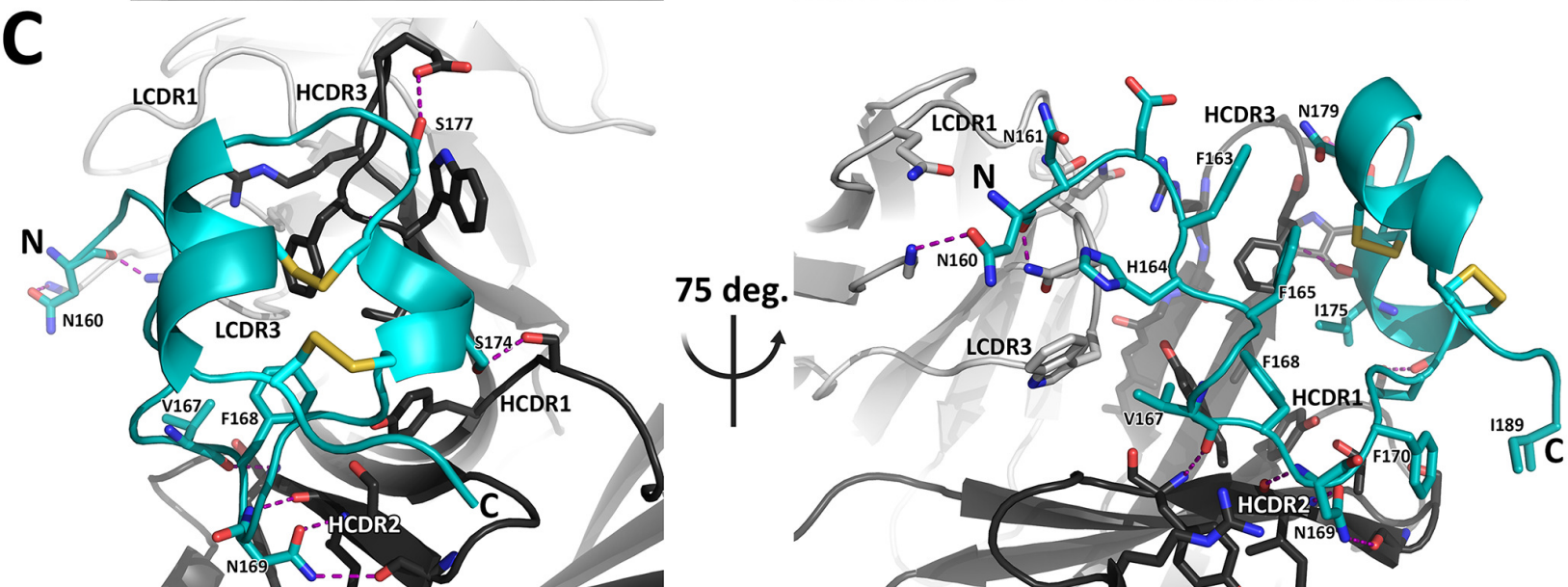
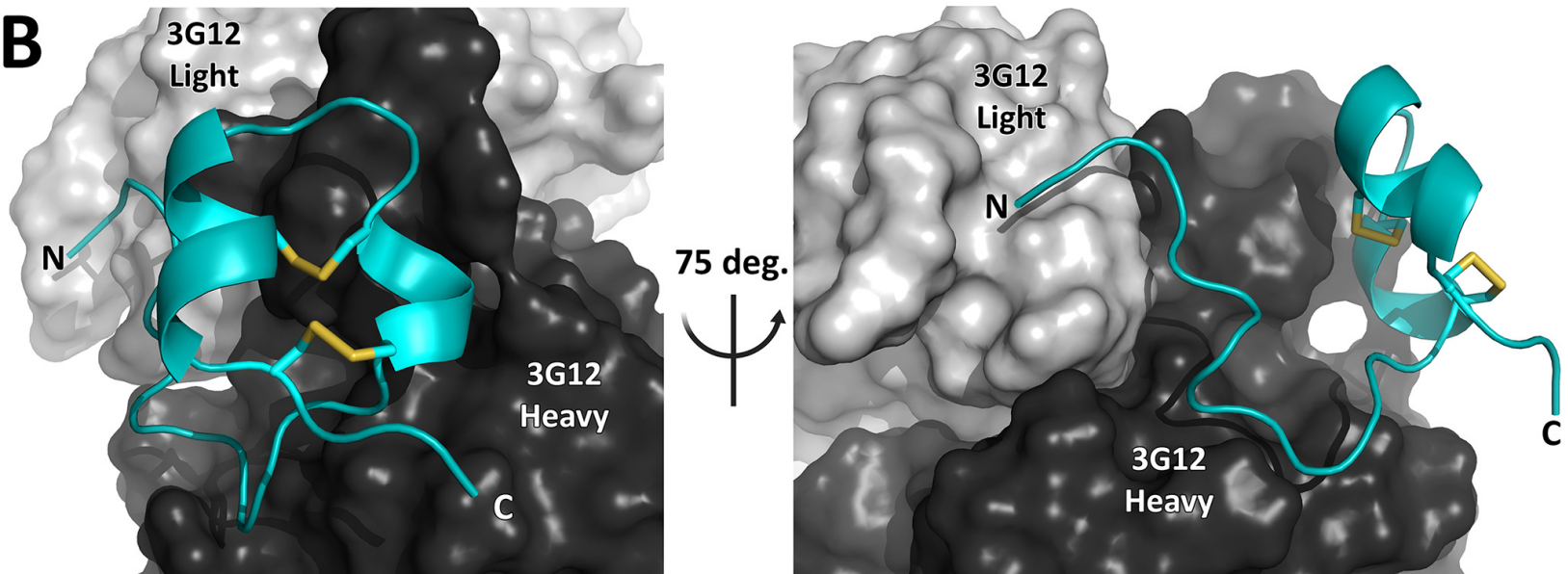
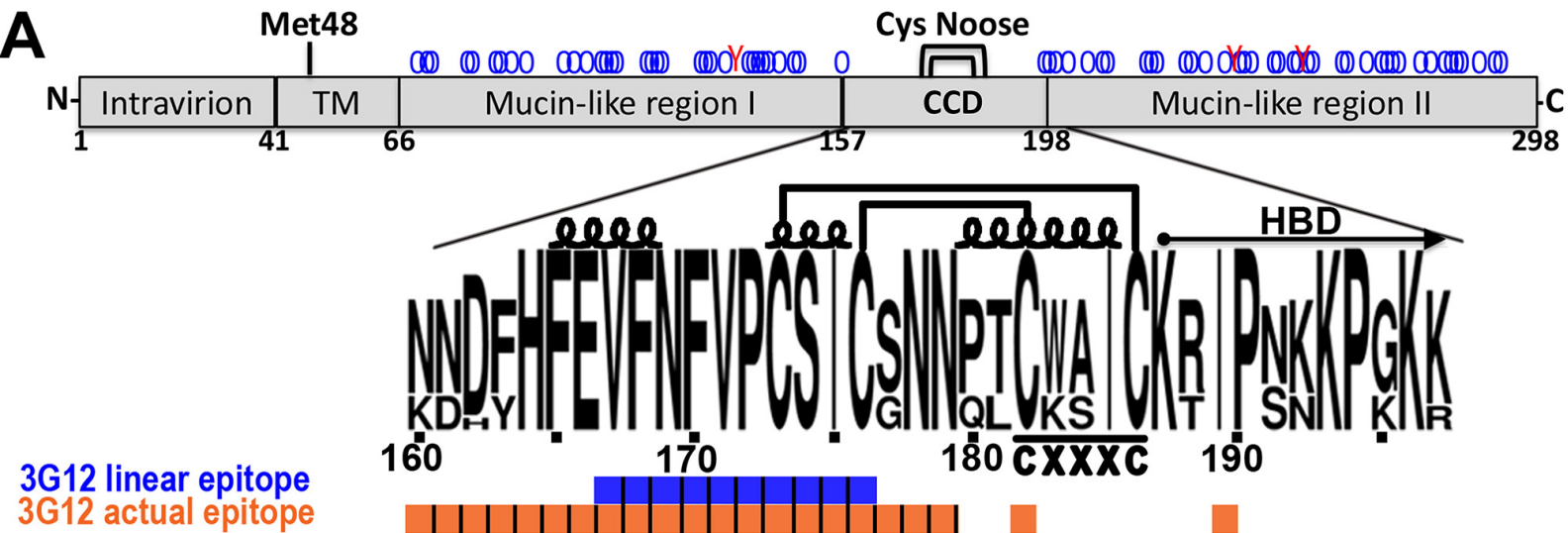
615 ^e $R_{\text{work}} = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$ for all data except 5%, which were used for R_{free} calculation

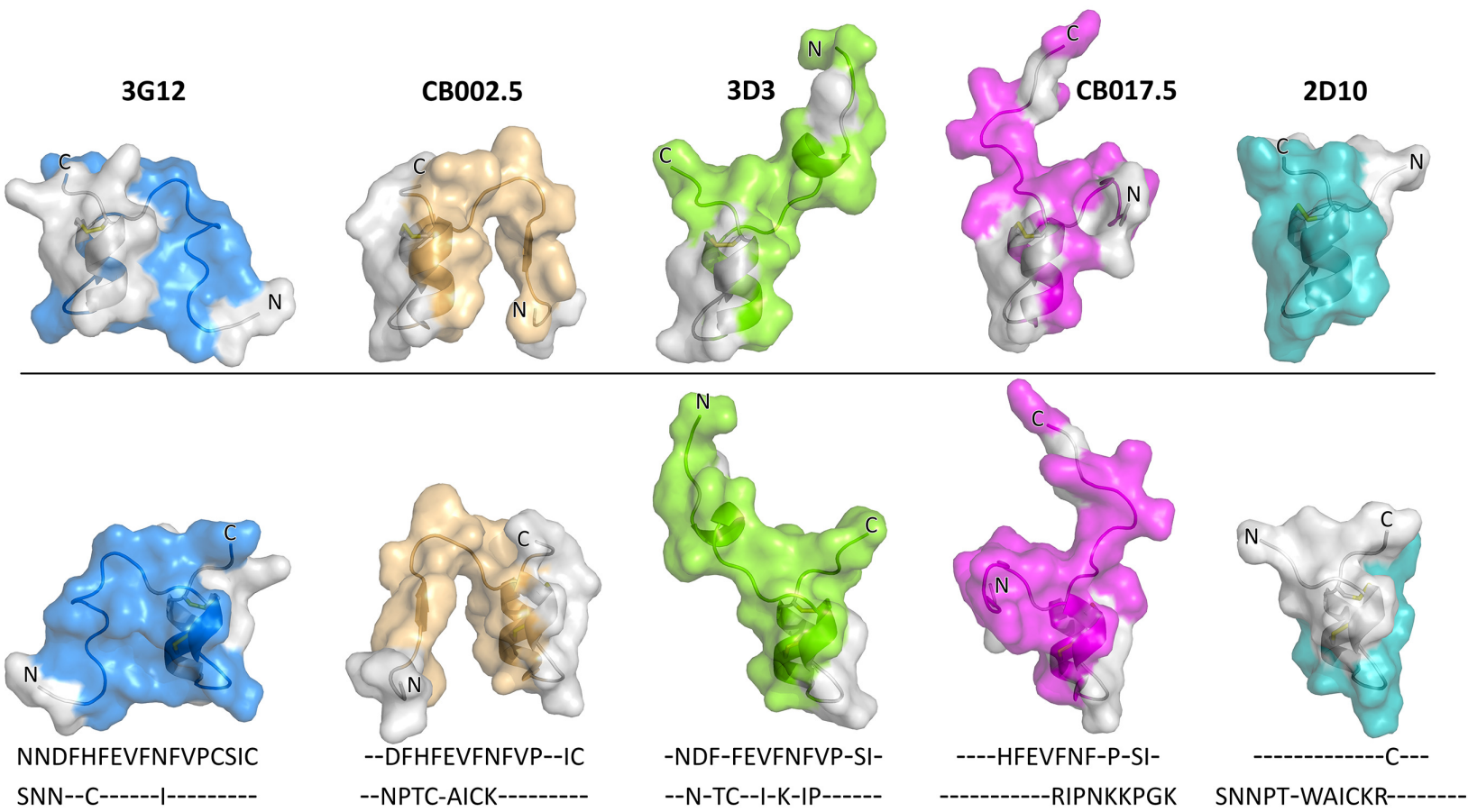
616

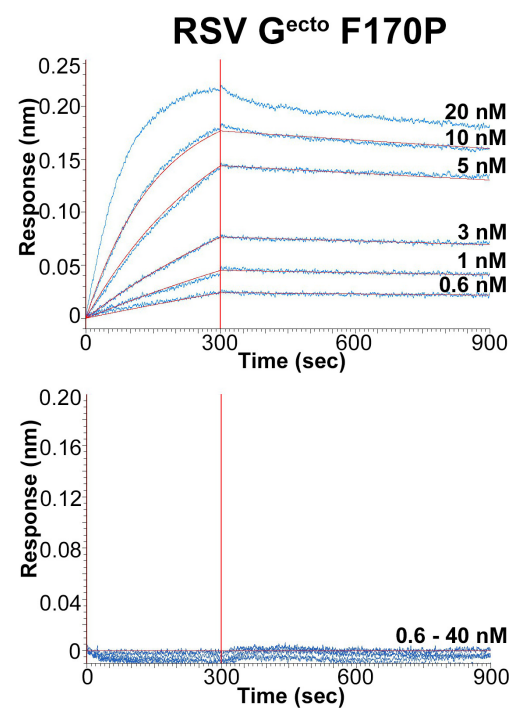
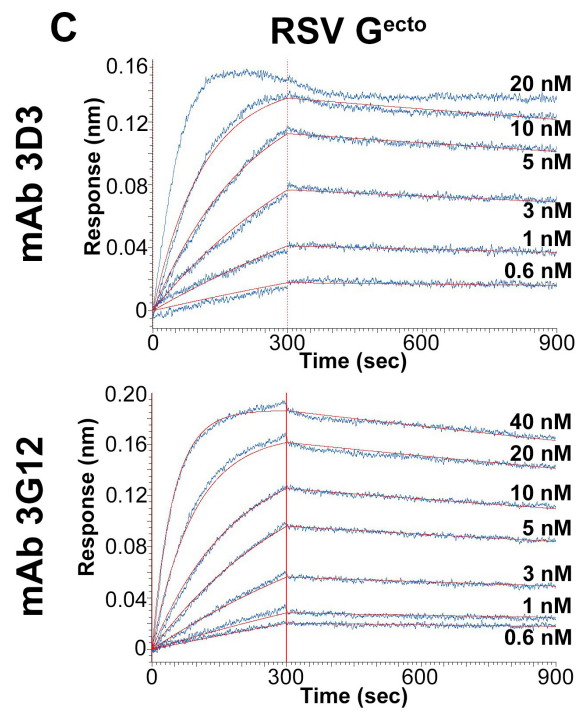
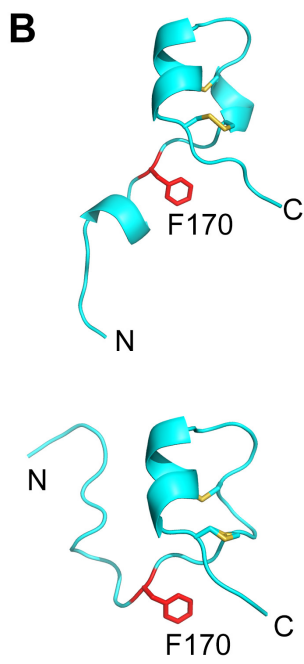
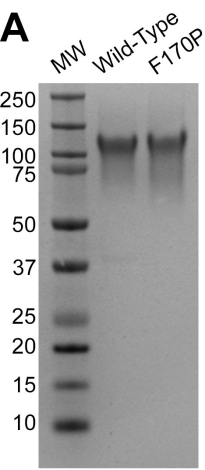
617 **Table 2. Biolayer interferometry binding studies^a**
 618

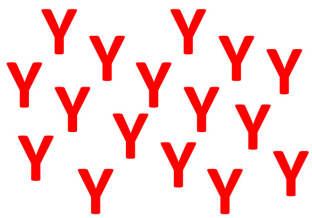
Sample	bnmAb	K_D (pM)	k_a ($\times 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$)	k_d ($\times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$)	R^2
RSV G ^{ecto}	3D3	202 (± 1)	8.73 (± 0.02)	1.77 (± 0.01)	0.998
RSV G ^{ecto} F170P	3D3	264 (± 1)	6.23 (± 0.01)	1.65 (± 0.01)	0.999
RSV G ^{ecto}	3G12	423 (± 1)	5.27 (± 0.01)	2.23 (± 0.01)	0.999
RSV G ^{ecto} F170P	3G12	N.B. ^a	-	-	-

619 ^a K_D , binding dissociation constant. k_a , on-rate. k_d , off-rate. R^2 , curve fit statistic. N.B., no binding
 620 observed. Values in parentheses are the standard error.



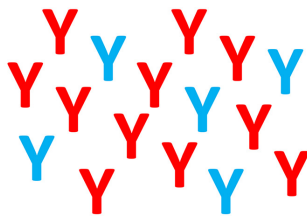






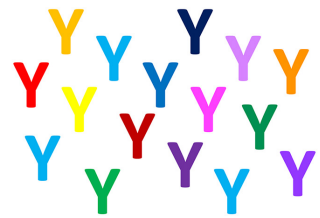
No diversity

Monoclonal antibody



Low diversity

Polyclonal antibody



High diversity

Polyclonal antibody

Antigenic site flexibility

Potential for virus neutralization escape