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1	Rapid Identification of Neutralizing Antibodies
2	against SARS-CoV-2 Variants by mRNA Display
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22 Abstract

23	The increasing prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 variants with the ability to escape existing
24	humoral protection conferred by previous infection and/or immunization necessitates the
25	discovery of broadly-reactive neutralizing antibodies (nAbs). Utilizing mRNA display, we
26	identified a set of antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 spike (S) proteins and characterized the
27	structures of nAbs that recognized epitopes in the S1 subunit of the S glycoprotein. These
28	structural studies revealed distinct binding modes for several antibodies, including targeting of
29	rare cryptic epitopes in the receptor-binding domain (RBD) of S that interacts with angiotensin-
30	converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) to initiate infection, as well as the S1 subdomain 1. A potent
31	ACE2-blocking nAb was further engineered to sustain binding to S RBD with the E484K and
32	L452R substitutions found in multiple SARS-CoV-2 variants. We demonstrate that mRNA
33	display is a promising approach for the rapid identification of nAbs that can be used in
34	combination to combat emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants.
35	

36 Keywords

- 37 SARS-CoV-2, mRNA display, antibody, antibody design, neutralizing antibody, anti-spike
- 38 antibody, SARS-CoV-2 variants
- 39

40 Introduction

41 The emergence of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the 42 causative agent of the respiratory disease COVID-19, has resulted in a pandemic that brought the 43 world to a standstill (Zhou et al., 2020). Despite the rapid development and success of vaccines 44 and antibody therapies, ongoing SARS-CoV-2 antigenic drift has resulted in the emergence of 45 variants that pose new threats (Davies et al., 2021; Plante et al., 2021; Yurkovetskiy et al., 2020). 46 Various studies have shown that several of these variants have the ability to escape antibody neutralization mediated by antisera from recovered COVID-19 patients/vaccinated individuals or 47 recombinant neutralizing antibodies (nAbs) developed as therapeutics (Cerutti et al., 2021; 48 49 McCallum et al., 2021a; Survadevara et al., 2021). Thus, along with modified vaccines to combat 50 variants, there is an urgent need for development of prophylactic and therapeutic anti-viral drugs, 51 including biologics such as nAbs, with sustained efficacy against SARS-CoV-2 variants. 52 The trimeric SARS-CoV-2 spike (S) glycoprotein serves as the fusion machinery for viral 53 entry, and therefore represents the main target of nAbs (Brouwer et al., 2020; Cao et al., 2020; 54 Robbiani et al., 2020). The SARS-CoV-2 S trimer utilizes the angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 55 (ACE2) as its host receptor (Hoffmann et al., 2020; Li et al., 2003; Zhou et al., 2020), through 56 interactions with the receptor-binding domains (RBDs) located at the apex of the S trimer. The 57 RBDs adopt either 'down' or 'up' conformations, with RBD binding to ACE2 facilitated only by 58 the 'up' conformation (Kirchdoerfer et al., 2016; Li et al., 2019; Walls et al., 2016, 2020; Wrapp 59 et al., 2020; Yuan et al., 2017). While the majority of potent anti-SARS-CoV-2 nAbs target the 60 RBD and directly compete with ACE2 binding (Barnes et al., 2020a; Brouwer et al., 2020; Cao 61 et al., 2020; Robbiani et al., 2020), recent studies have revealed nAbs that target the N-terminal 62 domain (NTD) (Liu et al., 2020; McCallum et al., 2021b) and S2 stem helix (Zhou et al., 2021).

63	The structures of numerous monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) recognizing the RBD and NTD
64	have been characterized (Barnes et al., 2020b, 2020a; Baum et al., 2020; Brouwer et al., 2020;
65	Hansen et al., 2020; Pinto et al., 2020), enabling their classification based on shared epitopes and
66	neutralizing properties (Barnes et al., 2020b; Dejnirattisai et al., 2021; McCallum et al., 2021b;
67	Yuan et al., 2021). A subset of mAbs that recognize non-overlapping epitopes are in clinical
68	trials or have received emergency use authorization from the US Food and Drug Administration
69	(FDA) for the treatment and prevention of COVID-19 (Cathcart et al., 2021; Jones et al., 2021;
70	Weinreich et al., 2021). However, ongoing viral evolution and genetic drift has resulted in an
71	accumulation of mutations and/or deletions found in the S RBD and NTD that enhance affinity
72	of ACE2 binding and allow some variants to evade existing immunity (Cele et al., 2021; Tegally
73	et al., 2021). Thus, current emergency-authorized therapies developed early in the pandemic
74	based on the first-wave or 'A' strain S sequence could potentially be less effective against
75	emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants that harbor escape mutations mapped to their epitopes (Greaney
76	et al., 2021a, 2021b; Starr et al., 2020, 2021; Weisblum et al., 2020).
77	Here, we report our identification via mRNA display (Newton et al., 2020; Olson et al.,
78	2008; Roberts and Szostak, 1997; Takahashi et al., 2003) of a set of novel mAbs targeting
79	SARS-CoV-2 S, which we demonstrate neutralize both authentic and pseudoviral SARS-CoV-2
80	with IC ₅₀ s between $0.076 - 7.0 \ \mu g/mL$. Structural analysis revealed a subset of these nAbs
81	recognize RBD and NTD epitopes, including a rare, cryptic, cross-reactive RBD epitope.
82	Moreover, we characterize a weakly neutralizing antibody that recognizes the S1 subdomain 1
83	(SD1), providing insight into a unique class of antibodies that are infrequently found among
84	convalescent individuals (Zost et al., 2020a, 2020b)_that can be utilized in the fight against
85	COVID-19. Finally, we describe the utility of mRNA display for rapid identification of variant-

86 resistant antibody clones. This powerful technique er	enabled the rapid selection of a discovered
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- 87 SARS-CoV-2 nAb to extend its neutralizing capability to SARS-CoV-2 expressing the E484K
- and L452R S RBD mutations found in multiple SARS-CoV-2 variants.
- 89 **Results**

90 Identification of Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Spike Antibodies by mRNA Display

91 We utilized mRNA display to identify mAbs targeting the S protein of SARS-CoV-2 and

92 discovered 10 novel VH/VL sequences that bind various domains on S (Table S1). S comprises

93 an N-terminal fragment known as S1, which further divides into the NTD, ACE2 RBD, small C-

94 terminal subdomains 1 and 2 (SD1 and SD2), and a C-terminal "S2" fragment (Figure 1A). Bio-

95 layer interferometry (BLI) kinetic analysis using recombinant SARS-CoV-2 RBD (residue 319-

96 541), RBD-SD1 (residue 319-591), S1 (residue 16-685), and S2 (residue 686-1213) proteins

- 97 revealed 3 antibodies bind the RBD (N-612-017, N-612-056, and N-612-074), 2 antibodies bind
- 98 the SD1 domain (N-612-004 and N-612-041), 2 antibodies bind the NTD (N-612-002 and N-
- 99 612-014), and 3 antibodies bind the S2 domain (N-612-007, N-612-044, and N-612-086) (Figure
- 100 1A-C). All 10 antibodies bind corresponding binding domains with low nM binding affinity (*K*_D)
- 101 (Figure 1B and Table S2), but apparent affinities are far superior ($K_D < 3 \text{ pM}$) for S trimers
- 102 (Figure 1B and 1C, and Table S3). Among the 3 RBD binders, only N-612-017 showed
- 103 competition with ACE2 binding (Figure 1D).

104 To further map the binding regions of the 10 antibodies, we performed epitope binning

105 experiments using S1 and S2 fragments separately (Figure 1E). Two NTD binders blocked each

- 106 other but not RBD or SD1 binding antibodies. The 3 RBD binders competed with each other
- 107 (Figure 1E and F) despite N-612-017 being the only ACE2 blocker (Figure 1D). SD1 binders N-
- 108 612-004 and N-612-041 blocked each other, but only N-612-041 blocked N-612-074 (an RBD

109	binder) suggesting N-612-041 and N-612-074 have proximal or overlapping binding sites
110	(Figure 1E and 1F). Epitope binning using the S2 domain revealed N-612-007 and N-612-044
111	are non-competing whereas N-612-086 competes with both N-612-007 and N-612-044,
112	suggesting they all bind distinct epitopes on S2 (Figure 1E and 1F).
113	In addition, multiple biophysical assays were carried out to determine the developability of
114	all 10 antibodies (Table S4) (Jain et al., 2017). All 10 mAbs displayed low polyreactivity scores
115	by meso scale diagnostic (MSD) analysis and low self-interaction scores by BLI-clone self-
116	interaction (CSI) (Table S4). Eight of the mAb candidates exhibited low hydrophobicity in the
117	hydrophobic interaction column (HIC) chromatography while higher hydrophobicity was
118	observed for N-612-041 and N-612-074 (Table S4). N-612-041 also showed more rapid
119	aggregation in an accelerated stability assay system while the other 9 mAbs demonstrated long-
120	term stability (Table S4). Furthermore, all 10 mAbs exhibited desirable thermostability of Fab in
121	differential scanning fluorimetry (DSF) melting temperature (Tm) analysis, although N-612-044
122	exhibited heterogeneous characteristics in thermostability and hydrophobic interaction column
123	chromatography. Ultimately, 7 out of 10 antibodies displayed biophysical characteristics within
124	the acceptance criteria, indicating antibodies engineered by mRNA display can have favorable
125	developability.

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126

127 Figure 1. Identification of SARS-CoV-2 Spike Targeting Monoclonal Antibodies. (A) Model 128 of the SARS-CoV-2 spike trimer domains (PDB 6VYB); NTD (wheat), RBD (light gray), SD1 129 (coral), SD2 (powder blue), and S2 (dark blue). (B) K_D summary table from BLI kinetic analysis 130 of 10 antibodies against spike trimer and various domains used as analytes. N.B. indicates no 131 binding. N/A is untested. Apparent K_D values for S-trimer were obtained by curve fitting with a 132 bivalent model. (C) BLI kinetic analysis of 10 antibodies against the spike trimer (left) and each 133 corresponding domain (right). (D) BLI blocking assay: biosensors were coated with RBD and 134 subsequently all RBD binding antibodies (N-612-017, N-612-056, and N-612-074) and ACE2-IgG1Fc were incubated with RBD coated biosensor. The recorded signal from ACE2-IgG1Fc 135 136 binding to the RBD on the biosensor indicates the RBD blocking capability of the test samples. 137 Both N-612-017 and ACE2-IgG1Fc completely blocked RBD and ACE2 interaction. (E) Epitope 138 binning data indicating competing antibody pairs in red and non-competing antibody pairs in 139 green. Self-blocking is in orange. (F) Epitope binning diagram mapping overlapping regions of

140 binding sites of 10 mAbs.

141 Neutralization Activity Assessment of Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies

- 142 Ten mAbs identified by mRNA display were assessed for neutralization activity against
- 143 authentic SARS-CoV-2 virus in a Vero E6 cell neutralization assay. The ACE2-blocking anti-
- 144 RBD antibody N-612-017 demonstrated the highest neutralization activity and the non-ACE2-
- 145 blocking RBD binder N-612-056 showed weaker but nearly complete neutralization of ~87%.
- 146 (Figure 2A). N-612-004 (SD1 binder), N-612-007 (S2 binder), and N-612-014 (NTD) antibodies
- 147 all showed some neutralization activity that plateaued at 40~60% (Figure 2A), similar to
- 148 previous observations made for anti-NTD antibodies (McCallum et al., 2021b). We next
- investigated the activity of N-612-017 in combination with N-612-004, N-612-007, and N-612-
- 150 014. N-612-017 and respective partners were mixed in equal concentrations. All combinations
- 151 tested showed slightly improved IC_{50} values compared to N-612-017 by itself, suggesting both
- 152 antibodies present in mixture can bind to S simultaneously and in some cases non-RBD domain
- binders can enhance activity of RBD-binding nAb (Figure 2B, C and D).





156 Dose-dependent neutralization of SARS-CoV-2 virus by 10 mAbs selected by mRNA library

- display. N-612-017 neutralization activity in combination with (B) N-612-014, (C) N-612-004,
- and (D) N-612-007. X-axis represents the concentration of antibodies when used alone; when
- antibodies were combined, an equal concentration of each antibody was used.

160 Neutralization activity of N-612-014 (NTD binder) showed variable saturation between 161 assays and prevented accurate IC_{50} determination (Figure S1A). To test whether activity of N-162 612-014 changes in time-dependent manner, we tested the effects of longer antibody-virus 163 incubation times on neutralization potency. With a virus-antibody incubation time of ~30 min, 164 neutralization activity plateaued between 20~90% (Figure S1A). In contrast, when virus was 165 incubated with antibody for 24 hours, neutralization activity plateaued at $\sim 90\%$ with IC₅₀ values 166 of 0.023-0.025 µg/mL (Figure S1B). Longer incubation also resulted in improved neutralization 167 potencies for N-612-017, N-612-056, and positive control convalescent plasma serum (Figure 168 S1C), suggesting a change in viral infectivity due to a time-dependent conformational change in 169 spike (Huo et al., 2020; Wec et al., 2020).

170 Structural Characterization of RBD-Specific, ACE2 Blocking nAb N-612-017

171 To investigate the specificity of RBD-targeting for nAbs N-612-017 and N-612-056, we 172 determined a 3.2 Å single-particle cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) structure of a complex 173 between SARS-CoV-2 S trimer and the N-612-017 Fab (Figure 3, Figure S2 and Table S5), and 174 a 2.9 Å X-ray crystal structure of a SARS-CoV-2 RBD – N-612-056 Fab complex (Figure 4 and 175 Table S6). The N-612-017 – S trimer complex structure revealed N-612-017 Fab binding to both 176 'up' and 'down' RBD conformations, and recognition of an epitope that partially overlapped 177 with the ACE2 receptor binding site (Figure 3A and 3B), consistent with BLI competition data 178 (Figure 1D). N-612-017 uses five of its six complementarity-determining region (CDR) loops 179 and HC framework region 3 (FWR3) to interact with an epitope focused on RBD residues 180 adjacent to the ACE2 receptor binding ridge (Figure 3C and 3D), resulting in $\sim 1018 \text{\AA}^2$ buried 181 surface area (BSA) on the epitope. The CDRH2 and CDRH3 loops mediate the majority of RBD 182 contacts (~616Å² of ~1030Å² total paratope BSA), establishing hydrophobic and hydrogen bond

- interactions at the Fab-RBD interface. Of note, N-612-017 CDRH2 loop residues contact RBD
 positions frequently mutated among circulating variants (Deng et al., 2021; Kuzmina et al., 2021;
 McCallum et al., 2021a; Wang et al., 2021). RBD residue E484_{RBD} established hydrogen bond
 interactions with G52_{HC} and G54_{HC} in CDR2 and D72_{HC} in FWR3 (Figure 3E), while L452_{RBD}
 formed stacking interactions with CDR2 residue Y52_{HC} (Figure 3F). Taken together, these data
 indicate nAb N-612-017 targets the RBD similarly to nAbs that belong to the class 2 binding
 mode, which is the predominant nAb class identified in convalescent and vaccinated donors
 - В 612-01 ACE2 epitope RBD BD N-612-017_{HC} 'up' dowr RBD N-linked glycans 017_{LC} N-612-01 N-612-017_{HC} N343 N-612 glycan Viral Membra С D Ε RBD RBD CDRH T470 F490 DRH1 CD -1468 DRH3 Y351 R346 K444 Y351 N343 glycan N343 glycan
- 190 (Barnes et al., 2020b; Wang et al., 2021).

- 191
- Figure 3. Cryo-EM Structure of the N-612-017 S Complex. (A) Cryo-EM density for the N-612-017- S trimer complex. Side view (left panel) illustrates orientation with respect to the viral membrane (dashed line). (B) Close-up view of N-612-017 variable domains (HC: gold, LC: yellow) bound to RBD (gray surface). ACE2 receptor binding site is shown as a dashed line. (C) N-612-017 CDR loops mapped on the RBD. (D) Surface and stick representation of N-612-017 epitope (yellow) on RBD surface (gray). (E,F). Residue-level interactions between N-612-017
- (gold) and SARS-CoV-2 RBD (gray). Potential hydrogen bond interactions are illustrated by
- 199 dashed black lines.

200 Structural Characterization of RBD-Specific nAb N-612-056 Targeting Cryptic Site

- 201 Next, we analyzed the high-resolution X-ray crystal structure of the SARS-CoV-2 RBD –N-
- 202 612-056 Fab complex (Figure 4A). This method was used rather than cryo-EM due to N-612-
- 203 056's lack of binding to intact S trimers (Figure 4A; inset). Similar to the donor-derived antibody
- 204 COVOX-45 (Dejnirattisai et al., 2021), N-612-056 binds a rare cryptic epitope that is not readily
- 205 found in the repertoire of antibodies from convalescent donors (Figure S4). Consistent with
- 206 observed binding to dissociated S1 protomers by single-particle cryo-EM (data not shown), the
- 207 N-612-056 cryptic epitope is inaccessible on an S trimer due to steric clashes with the
- 208 neighboring NTD, and does not overlap with the ACE2 binding site (Figure 4A and 4B). N-612-
- 209 056 HC and LC CDR loops participate equally to bury ~890 Å² of the RBD epitope surface area
- that comprises residues 352-357 in the β 1 strand, which is part of a structurally conserved 5-
- 211 stranded RBD β-sheet, and residues 457-471 that comprise a disordered loop directly beneath the
- 212 ACE2 receptor binding ridge (Figure 4C and 4D).
- 213 N-612-056 establishes a network of hydrogen bond and hydrophobic interactions that
- 214 include a stretch of hydrophobic residues in CDRH3 that mediate van der Waals interactions at
- the RBD interface, and the formation of salt bridges between N-612-056 residues D28_{LC} and
- 216 E55_{LC} with R346_{RBD} and R357_{RBD}, respectively (Figure 4E). These structural data explain the
- 217 observed cross-reactivity against SARS-CoV RBD (Figure S3A)(Cohen et al., 2021), as 14 of 20
- epitope residues are strictly conserved and three additional residues (R346, R357 and K462
- 219 SARS-CoV-2 RBD numbering) are conservatively-substituted (K333, K344, and R449 SARS-
- 220 CoV RBD numbering) in SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2. (Figure 4F). Overall, these structural
- 221 data for the two RBD-targeting nAbs analyzed suggest comparable modes of recognition and

- 222 neutralization for antibodies N-612-017 and N-612-056, which were selected from mRNA
- 223 display, as those identified in convalescent or vaccinated donors.



224

Fab. (A) 2.9 Å X-ray crystal structure for the N-612-056 Fab – RBD complex. Inset: Overlay of 226

227 the N-612-056-RBD crystal structure on a S trimer with 'up' RBD conformation (PDB 6VYB).

228 (B) Composite model of N-612-056 – RBD (blue ribbon and gray surface, respectively) overlaid

229 with soluble ACE2 (green, PDB 6M0J). The model was generated by aligning RBDs on 191

- 230 matched Ca atoms. (C) N-612-056 CDR loops (blue) mapped on the RBD surface (gray). The
- N-612-056 epitope is shown as a light blue surface. (D) Surface and stick representation of N-231
- 232 612-056 epitope. (E) N-612-056 paratope residues mapped on the RBD surface with epitope

233 residues shown in light blue. (F) Sequence alignment of SARS-CoV-2, SARS-CoV, WIV1-CoV,

234 and SCH014-CoV. N-612-056 epitope residues are shaded blue. S309 epitope residues are also

235 shown (# symbol).

²²⁵

236 Structural Characterization of S1-Specific Antibodies N-612-014 and N-612-004

237 The primary target of SARS-CoV-2 nAbs is the viral spike glycoprotein, with the majority 238 of nAbs targeting the RBD (Greaney et al., 2021a; Piccoli et al., 2020). The S NTD represents a 239 common site of antigenic drift (Cele et al., 2021; McCarthy et al., 2021; Ribes et al., 2021), and 240 nAbs that bind to this region have recently been identified (Cerutti et al., 2021; McCallum et al., 241 2021b; Survadevara et al., 2021). To understand the binding mode of the NTD-targeting 242 antibody N-612-014 (Figure 1), we determined a 3.5Å cryo-EM structure of N-612-014 Fabs 243 complexed with stabilized S trimers (Figure 5A and Figure S2). N-612-014 adopted a binding 244 pose parallel to the viral membrane and primarily used HC CDR loops to recognize an epitope at 245 the periphery of the NTD (Figure 5A-C). The NTD epitope recognized by N-612-014 closely 246 resembles that recognized by the human-derived SARS-CoV-2 antibody S2X316 that targets 247 NTD antigenic site v, which resides outside of the antigenic supersite (site i) that is the main 248 target of neutralizing NTD antibodies (McCallum et al., 2021b). The N-612-014 epitope (~1070 249 $Å^2$ epitope BSA) involves contacts with peripheral loops comprising NTD residues 68-78, 175-250 188, and 245-260, as well as contacts with the tip of the supersite β -hairpin (Figure 5D and 5E). 251 Despite contacts with residues 69-70_{NTD} and 144_{NTD}, N-612-014 maintains binding to S trimers 252 of the B.1.1.7 lineage sequence (Figure S3), which has deletions at these positions that allow 253 escape from NTD supersite antibodies (McCallum et al., 2021b). These data suggest that N-612-254 014 retains NTD binding capability and may retain potency in the presence of NTD mutations 255 commonly found in viral variants.

In addition to N-612-014, we also identified antibody N-612-004, an S1-specific antibody that was mapped to a domain outside of the NTD and RBD (Figure 1). Using single-particle cryo-EM, we determined a 4.8Å structure of N-612-004 bound to a dissociated S1 protomer,

which revealed recognition of a SD1 epitope (Figure 5F and Figure S2). Consistent with our
library design that varied CDR loops H2, H3 and L3, N-612-004 contacts were solely mediated
by these three regions, which led to recognition of loops 556-563 and 567-69 in the SD1 domain
(Figure 5G). The epitope for N-612-004 is not accessible on S trimers, which likely explains the
lack of N-612-004-like antibodies identified among a repertoire of antibodies found in
convalescent plasma (Figure S4).



Figure 5. Structures of S1-Specific Antibodies N-612-014 and N-612-004 Bound to SARS-

267 **CoV-2 Spike.** (A) Cryo-EM structure of the N-612-014 – S trimer complex. Inset: top down

view of complex. (B) Close-up view of the N-612-014 variable domains (teal green) contacting

the NTD (tan surface). The RBD (gray surface) of an adjacent protomer is shown as reference.
(C) N-612-014 CDR loops (green ribbons) mapped onto the surface of the NTD (tan surface).

271 (D) Cartoon representation of the N-612-014 – NTD interface. (E) Surface and stick

272 representation of the N-612-014 epitope (light green surface). (F) Cryo-EM structure of the N-

273 612-004 - S1 protomer (inset) rigid body fit with individual S1 domains (cartoon). (G) Cartoon

and surface representation of N-612-004 (purple) recognition of the SD1 domain. Inset: N-612-

275 004 epitope (pink sticks) highlighted on the SD1 surface (orange). Given the low resolution,

epitope residues were assigned using a criterion of a distance of ≤ 7 Å between antibody-antigen C α atoms.

278

279 Activity of Identified nAbs Against Variants

280 To assess the relative affinity of RBD-binding nAbs N-612-017 and N-612-056 against a

series of variants, BLI was performed using RBD variants B.1.1.7 (N501Y), B.1.351

282 (K417N/E484K/N501Y), CAL.20C (L452R), and A.VOI.V2(T478R/E484K) with single or

283 combined mutations. N-612-056 binding affinity was not affected by any of the RBD mutations

tested, which was anticipated based on structural characterization findings that indicate N-612-

285 056 recognizes a more conserved epitope on the surface of RBD. Neither N501Y (the only RBD

286 mutation in B.1.1.7 and one of 3 RBD mutations in B.1.351) nor K417N, (one of 3 RBD

287 mutations in B.1.351) disrupted the binding affinity of N-612-017. E484K - an escape mutant

found in many different variants, including B.1.351 and A.VOI.V2 (Oliveira et al., 2021; Tegally

et al., 2021; Weisblum et al., 2020) - did, however, reduce binding affinity of N-612-017 by 6-10

fold (Figure 6A and 6B). Furthermore, the L452R mutation found in CA.20C (also known as

B.1.1.427 and B.1.1.429) completely abolished the binding of RBD by N-612-017.

292 N-612-017 and N-612-056 were then evaluated in a pseudovirus neutralization assay

293 (Crawford et al., 2020) using wild-type (containing D614G), B.1.1.7, and B.1.351 pseudoviruses.

N-612-017 neutralized wild-type (D614G) and B.1.1.7 pseudoviruses with $IC_{50} = 0.09-0.25$

- 295 µg/mL but failed to neutralize B.1.351. N-612-056 retained neutralization activity against all
- 296 variants with IC₅₀ of 2-10 μ g/mL as expected (Figure 6C).
- 297 The binding affinity of N-612-014 and N-612-004 against the recombinant S1 domain
- containing B.1.1.7 mutations was tested and it was determined that 69-70del and Y144del on
- 299 NTD did not affect binding affinity of N-612-014 for S1 whereas these mutations moderately
- 300 lowered (by about 3-fold) the binding affinity of N-612-004 for S1 (Figure S3B and C).



302 Figure 6. Binding Affinity and Neutralization Activity of N-612-017 and N-612-056 Against 303 Known SARS-CoV-2 Variants. (A) BLI kinetic analysis of N-612-017 and N-612-056 affinity 304 against various mutations found in SARS-CoV-2 variants alone or in combination. N-612-017 305 binding curves against RBD mutants containing E484K were fit with 1:1 binding model using a 306 shorter dissociation time (30 sec) to highlight weakened binding. (B) Table of BLI kinetic assay values. SARS-CoV-2 pseudovirus neutralization assay of antibodies. Asterisk indicates K_D 307 308 values obtained from processing the data with a shorter dissociation time to fit the curves to 1:1 309 binding and may not represent accurate K_D. (C) N-612-017 and (D) N-612-056 against wild-type 310 (D614G), B.1.1.7, and B.1.351 variants. Mean and standard deviation of duplicate experiments 311 (n=4), is shown.

312 Generation of E484K and L452R-Resistant N-612-017

- 313 To recover N-612-017 binding against RBD with the E484K substitution (RBD-E484K), we
- 314 used an mRNA-doped library for affinity maturation and identified mutations on VH framework
- 315 3 (Arg 71 \rightarrow Ser) and CDR H3 (Asp 97 \rightarrow Glu) that restored binding affinity against RBD-
- 316 E484K. The N-612-017 subclone N-612-017-01 containing a single VH:R71S mutation and
- 317 subclone N-612-017-03 containing double VH:R71S/D97E mutations were tested by BLI for
- their binding of RBD-B.1.351 and RBD-L452R. Interestingly, both N-612-017-01 and N-612-
- 319 017-03 subclones not only exhibited restored binding affinity against E484K-expressing RBD
- 320 variants, they had 10- to 20-fold enhanced affinity against wild-type RBD (Figure 7A, 7B and
- 321 Table S7). While neither subclone displayed complete recovery of binding affinity against RBD-
- 322 L452R, affinity was relatively enhanced ($K_D = 33.1-58.7$ nM). These subclones were then tested
- in a live virus neutralization assay against wild-type (D614G) and B.1.351 viruses and showed
- neutralization activity against both, whereas the parent N-612-017 did not show neutralization
- activity against B.1.351 (Figure 7C and 7D).
- 326 Subsequently, we used N-612-017-001 in affinity maturation against RBD-L452R and
- 327 identified 2 clones with restored affinity against RBD-L452R. N-612-017-5B02 containing 4
- 328 additional VH mutations (A33T/S54W/G54Δ/S55T) and N-612-017-5B05 containing 4
- 329 additional VH mutations (S31P/A33V/R96E/D97E) were tested by BLI for their binding of
- B.1.351 and RBD-L452R. Both subclones showed complete recovery of binding affinity against
- 331 RBD-B.1.351 and RBD-L452R (Figure 7A, 7B, and Table S7).
- 332 Affinity Maturation of N-612-056

- 333 To improve potency of N-612-056, we utilized mRNA display for affinity maturation and
- identified N-612-056-21 containing a single point mutation in VH CDR3 (Ser 99 \rightarrow Pro) that
- resulted in a 10-fold improvement in binding affinity (K_D = 0.41 nM) (Figure 7E).
- Affinity matured N-612-017-5B05 and N-612-056-21 were tested against all the variants of
- 337 concern (VOC) and variants of interest (VOI) using BLI. N-612-017-5B05 showed binding
- affinity to the variants that was similar to the parent molecule N-612-017, whereas N-612-056-21
- displayed binding affinities improved as much as ~10-fold compared to N-612-056 (Figure 7F).

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200 300 Time (s) 340 341 Figure 7. Affinity Maturation of N-612-017 and N-612-056 (A) VH and VL sequences of N-342 612-017 affinity matured subclones. (B) BLI kinetic analysis of N-612-017 affinity matured 343 subclones against RBD-wild-type, RBD-B.1.351, and RBD-L452R. Asterisk indicates $K_{\rm D}$ values 344 obtained from processing the data with a shorter dissociation time to fit the curves to 1:1 binding 345 model and may not represent accurate $K_{\rm D}$ values. SARS-CoV-2 live virus neutralization assay of 346 N-612-017, N-617-017-01, and N-612-017-03 against (C) wild-type and (D) B.1.351 variant. Mean and standard deviation of duplicate experiments (n=3) (E) BLI kinetic analysis of N-612-347 056 and affinity matured N-612-056-21 against RBD-wild-type. (F) Table of binding affinity of 348

349 N-612-017-5B05 and N-612-056-21 against RBD containing variant mutations from all the VOC

350 and VOI listed by CDC.

351 Discussion

352	Our use of <i>in vitro</i> mRNA display facilitated our identification of novel antibody sequences
353	and enabled us to enhance their binding affinity for mutated S of SARS-CoV-2 variants through
354	affinity maturation. BLI and epitope binning analysis determined that 10 unique IgG1 antibody
355	sequences identified here bind 7 distinct epitope regions on SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. Major
356	sequence differences in CDRH3 and CDRL3 loops in combination with minor variation in
357	CDRH1 and CDRH2 can drive the recognition of a broad spectrum of epitopes and create potent
358	neutralizing interactions with SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. Previous IGHV (immunoglobulin
359	heavy chain variable region) gene analysis identified distinct IGVH genes (e.g. 1-53) that were
360	more likely to produce potent RBD-binding nAbs (Dejnirattisai et al., 2021; Robbiani et al.,
361	2020; Yuan et al., 2020) within the human antibody repertoire. The nAb N-612-017 VH
362	sequence is most similar to IGHV 3-23, which are most abundant in human antibodies, and
363	shows potent neutralizing activity (< 0.1 μ g/mL), suggesting CDR sequence variation is essential
364	in determining potency against antigen regardless of germline genes.
365	The majority of potent nAbs (~90%) are RBD targeting and the remainder target NTD of
366	spike protein (Brouwer et al., 2020; Cao et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2020; McCallum et al., 2021b).
367	Our most potent nAb N-612-017 is RBD targeting and categorized into Class 2 as characterized
368	by cryo-EM. Though N-612-056 also neutralized SARS-CoV-2 by targeting RBD, albeit at
369	lower potency, it lacks the ability to directly block ACE2 binding and binds to a cryptic epitope
370	on RBD. Similar antibody binding to this cryptic epitope by a patient-derived antibody has been
371	previously reported (Dejnirattisai et al., 2021). The rarity of this epitope is evident in the
372	convalescent plasma blocking assay, in which convalescent plasma from 3 out 4 patients failed
373	to block N-612-056 from binding to spike protein. This cryptic interface is well conserved, and

374 although the potency of N-612-056 is relatively low, cross-reactivity with SARS-CoV RBD and 375 sustained binding affinity for mutant SARS-CoV-2 RBD found in circulating variants suggests 376 N-612-056 may be an attractive monoclonal antibody therapy candidate against novel variants. 377 The cryo-EM structural data presented here reveal that N-612-014 binds NTD at a site 378 different from that of the majority of described antibodies (McCallum et al., 2021b), suggesting 379 the presence of a second neutralization site on the NTD. Proposed mechanisms for nAbs 380 targeting NTD include destabilization of S trimer by S1 shedding and blockage of cell-cell fusion 381 auxiliary receptor binding, membrane fusion, or proteolytic activation (Huo et al., 2020; Walls et 382 al., 2019; Wec et al., 2020; Wrobel et al., 2020). N-612-014 displayed neutralization activity in 383 live virus assays whereas it lacked neutralization activity in a pseudovirus assay. Although this 384 type of discrepancy is rare, such inter-assay discrepancies have been described previously (Liu et 385 al., 2020). N-612-014 may require a longer incubation time to reach maximum neutralization 386 because this allows the opportunity for the S trimer to adopt a conformation that is more 387 susceptible to S1 shedding that is promoted by the antibody, thus destabilizing spike; this 388 hypothesis awaits experimental confirmation.

389 The SD1-targeting antibody N-612-004 displayed partial neutralization activity and was 390 only observed in complex with S1 domain dissociated from the spike trimer in cryo-EM. To our 391 knowledge, there have been no reports on SD1-targeting antibodies that display neutralization 392 activity. We also identified the S2-targeting antibody N-612-007 that displayed partial 393 neutralization activity in a live virus neutralization assay and while structural analysis was 394 attempted, we were unable to visualize/characterize an S trimer/N-612-007 complex. nAbs 395 targeting S2 domain have been previously observed in MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV (Elshabrawy 396 et al., 2012; Lai et al., 2005; Lip et al., 2006; Pallesen et al., 2017), and recently reported

397	structures of SARS-CoV-2 S2/antibody complex have also revealed antibody binding to the S2
398	stem helix, which may interfere with membrane fusion machinary (Zhou et al., 2021). Other S2
399	epitope regions identified for SARS-CoV nAb are two heptad repeats region essential in cell
400	fusion during virus entry (Elshabrawy et al., 2012; Lip et al., 2006; Pallesen et al., 2017).
401	Neutralization activities of these non-RBD binders (N-612-014, N-612-004, and N-612-007)
402	were inconsistent between multiple assays and generally not very potent when tested
403	individually. However, when tested in combination with N-612-017, all slightly enhanced the
404	neutralization activity of N-612-017. This may suggest the role of non-RBD binding antibodies
405	in neutralization.
406	Bamlanivimab is a Class 2 RBD binder that neutralizes wild-type SARS-CoV-2 and was the
407	first antibody to attain emergency use authorization (EUA) by the FDA (Jones et al., 2021). This
408	EUA was, however, recently revoked due to loss of potency against SARS-CoV-2 variants
409	(Widera et al., 2021). Two alternate monoclonal antibody therapies remain available under EUA:
410	a combination of casirivimab plus imdevimab (Baum et al., 2020; Pinto et al., 2020) and
411	combination bamlanivimab plus etesevimab. In both cases, administering 2 monoclonal
412	antibodies together is key to compounding potency and reducing the risk of variant virus escape
413	from neutralization. Our N-612-017 antibody is a Class 2 RBD binder similar to bamlanivimab
414	that also displays a loss of activity in the presence of the E484K mutation. To address this
415	potential loss of efficacy, we used affinity maturation for N-612-017 and quickly identified
416	subclones that restored affinity for both E484K and L452R. N-612-056 is resistant to all the
417	RBD variants and N-612-014 is not affected by NTD mutation present in B.1.1.7. These nAbs
418	are attractive candidates for the use in combination with N-612-017. N-612-056 was quickly

affinity matured to present an attractive combo approach in combination with N-612-017 tocombat variants.

The recent emergence of more transmissible and infectious variants such as B.1.351 ('Beta')
and B.1.617 ('Delta') highlights the need for a method to rapidly address mutations that
overcome current therapies and existing immunity. The results described in this study
demonstrate the utility of mRNA display-based nAb discovery in the identification of antiviral
monoclonal antibodies against the rapidly evolving SARS-CoV-2 pathogen which should be
applicable to other novel or seasonal pathogens.

427

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449	C.A.O; Cloning: C.A.O and W.H.; Protein Expression and Purification: C.A.O., S.T. and M.G.;				
450	Kinetic Analysis, ACE2 Blocking Assay, Epitope Binning, and ELISA ACE2 blocking assay:				
451	S.T., cryo-EM and X-ray crystallography: C.O.B and P.J.B.; Vero E6 Live Virus Neutralization				
452	Assay: J.T., A.R., M.M.F. and D.B.; pseudo-typed virus neutralization assay: P.G Manuscript				
453	preparation: S.T., C.O.B., C.A.O., and P.S				
454					
455	Declaration of interests				
456	C.A.O., S.T., W.H., K.N., and P.S.S. are inventors for an international patent application with				
457	this work.				
458					

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695 Materials Availability

- 696 All expression plasmids generated in this study for CoV proteins, CoV pseudoviruses, human
- Fabs and IgGs are available upon request through a MTA.
- 698

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699 Data availability

- The atomic model generated for the N-612-056 Fab complexed with SARS-CoV-2 RBD have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank (PDB, <u>http://www.rcsb.org/</u>) under accession code 7S0B. The atomic models and cryo-EM maps generated for the N-612-017, N-612-014, and N-612-004 Fabs complexed with SARS-CoV-2 S have been deposited at the PDB (http://www.rcsb.org/) and the Electron Microscopy Databank (EMDB) (http://www.emdataresource.org/) under accession codes 7S0C, 7S0D, 7S0E and EMD-24786, EMD-24787, EMD-24788, respectively. All models and maps are publicly available as of the date of publication.
- 707

708 Experimental Methods

709 mRNA display

710 A synthetic VH3/Vk1 scFv library was transcribed by T7 run-off transcription (Thermo 711 Fisher), followed by ligation to the pF30P linker (Liu et al., 2000) via a splint oligonucleotide by 712 T4 DNA ligase (NEB). After lambda exonuclease digestion to remove splint and unincorporated 713 linker, the ligated mRNA was purified by oligo(dT₁₂₅ dynabeads (Thermo Fisher). The mRNA-714 puromycin template was translated (Purexpress, NEB) followed by incubation with KCl (550 715 mM final) and MgCl2 (60 mM final) for 1 hour at room temperature to enhance fusion formation 716 (Liu et al., 2000). The mRNA-scFv fusions were then affinity-purified using M2 anti-Flag beads 717 (Sigma-Aldrich) to remove non-fused template and sequences containing nonsense mutations 718 (Liao et al., 2009; Olson et al., 2011). After elution with 3XFlag peptide (Sigma-Aldrich), the 719 fusions were reverse transcribed with super script II (ThermoFisher). The pool was incubated 720 with biotinylated SARS CoV2 Spike extracellular domain bound to 5 µL streptavidin M280 721 dynabeads (ThermoFisher) for 1 hour at room temperature. After washing, the immobilized

- fusion samples were eluted by heat (95°C) and PCR amplified with KOD hot start polymerase
- 723 (EMD). Affinity maturation was performed by replacing the wild type CDRs H1, H2, H3, and
- L3 with synthetic DNA cassettes derived from oligonucleotides doped at 6% (Hutchison et al.,
- 1986) and performing 3-5 rounds of mRNA display as described above.
- 726 Production antibodies and recombinant SARS-CoV-2 S domains
- 727 Molecular cloning
- 728 SARS-CoV-2 Spike ECD 1-1208 (682-GSAS-685; 986-PP-987) fused to the T4 fibritin
- trimerization domain with C-terminal Avi- and His-tag were synthesized with gene block (IDT)
- and cloned into pcDNA.3 vector. RBD-SD1, wild type RBD and mutant RBD domains were
- r31 subcloned into pcDNA.3 vector with C-terminal His-tag.
- 732 VH and VL sequences of candidate sequences were cloned into a pcDNA.3 based vector
- 733 with dual CMV promotor harboring IgG1 heavy chain and light chain backbone using
- 734 NEBuilder Hifi DNA Assembly Master Mix (New England Biolabs).
- 735 FectoPRO® transient transfection of antibodies
- 736 For transient expression of antibodies by FectoPRO® transfection, CHO-S cells in
- 737 suspension were cultured in CD-CHO media supplemented with 8 mM L-glutamine in shaker
- flasks at 37°C with 125 rpm rotation and 8 % CO₂. One day before transfection, CHO-S cells
- 739 were seeded at a density of 1×10^6 cells/mL in 45 mL culture flask. On the day of transfection,
- 740 75 µL of FectoPRO® transfection reagent (PolyPlus-transfection®) was mixed with 5 mL of 15
- 741 μg/mL pcDNA3 plasmid DNA harboring antibody encoding sequence in CD-CHO media and
- 742 incubated for 10 min at room temperature. The DNA/transfection reagent mixture was added to
- 45 mL of CHO-S culture and incubated at 37°C with 5% CO₂ and 125 rpm rotation. On Day 3,

50 mL of the CD-CHO media supplemented with 8 mM L-glutamine was added and the culture

745 incubated for an additional 4 days.

746 Lipofectamine® transient transfection of RBD constructs

For transient expression of RBD-SD1, RBD wild-type and RBD mutants, 293T cells were

cultured and incubated at at 37°C with 5% CO₂. Plasmid harboring RBD constructs were

mixed with lipofectamin 2000 (Life Technology) with 1:1 (v:v) ratio and incubated for 20 min at

room temperature. The mixture was then added to the culture and incubated for 3-4 days.

751 *Maxcyte*® transient transfection of SARS-CoV-2-S ECD trimer

752 For transient expression of SARS-CoV-2 S di-Pro ECD timer by Maxcyte® transfection,

753 CHO-S cells were cultured in suspension in CD-CHO media supplemented with 8 mM L-

glutamine in shaker flasks at 37°C with 125 rpm rotation and 8% CO₂. For transfection, cells in

the exponential growth stage were pelleted by centrifugation at 1,400 rpm for 10 min, re-

suspended in 10 mL of electroporation buffer, and re-pelleted at 1,400 rpm for 5 min. The cell

pellet was resuspended at a density of 2×10^8 cells/mL in electroporation buffer, mixed with the

plasmid harboring SARS-CoV-2 S di-Pro ECD sequence at a concentration of 150 µg/mL, and

transfected using OC-400 processing assemblies in a Maxcyte® ExPERT ATx Transfection

760 System. Transfected cells were incubated for 30 min at 37°C, 5% CO₂ and then resuspended in

761 Efficient Feed A Cocktail (CHO-CD EfficientFeedTM A + 0.2% Pluronic F-68 + 1% HT

Supplement + 1% L-glutamine) at a density of \sim 4-6 x 10⁶ cells/mL. This cell culture was

incubated at 37°C with 5% CO₂ and 125 rpm rotation overnight, 1 mM sodium buryrate was

- added, and the culture was further incubated at 32°C with 3% CO₂ and 125 rpm for 13 more
- 765 days; during this incubation period, Maxcyte® Feed Cocktail (13.9% CD Hydrolysate, 69.5%

766 CHO CD EfficientFeed[™] A, 6.2% Glucose, 6.9% FunctionMax[™] Titer Enhancer, 3.5% L-

Glutamine) was added at 10% of the culture volume on Days 3 and Day 8.

768 *Purification of IgGs*

FectoPRO® transfection cell culture medium was centrifuged and filtered through a 0.22 μ m filter to remove cells and debris, then loaded onto a HiTrapTM MabSelect SuReTM column (GE Healthcare Life Sciences) on the AKTA Pure system pre-equilibrated with 10 mM Na Phosphate and 150 mM NaCl at pH 7.0. After loading, the column was washed with 10 column volumes of the same buffer. The protein was eluted with 100 mM sodium acetate, pH 3.6, then immediately neutralized using 2 M Tris pH 8.0. The elution fractions were pooled and dialyzed into 10 mM

Hepes and 150 mM sodium chloride at pH 7.4.

776 *Purification of Fabs*

777 Fabs were generated by papain digestion using crystallized papain (Sigma-Aldrich) in 50 778 mMsodium phosphate, 2 mM EDTA, 10 mM L-cysteine, pH 7.4 for 30-60 min at 37°C at a 1:100 779 enzyme: IgG ratio. Fab and partially cleaved IgG were applied on 1-mL HiTrap Protein L column 780 (GE Healthcare Life Science). After loading, the column was washed with 10 column volumes of 781 10 mM Na Phosphate and 150 mM NaCl at pH 7.0. The protein was eluted with 100 mM sodium 782 citrate, pH 2.5, then immediately neutralized using 2 M Tris pH 8.0. The elution fractions were 783 pooled and dialyzed into 10 mM Hepes and 150 mM sodium chloride at pH 7.4. Fabs were 784 further purified by SEC using a Superdex 200 10/300 GL column (GE Healthcare Life Sciences) 785 in 10 mM Hepes and 150 mM sodium chloride at pH 7.4. 786 Purification of di-Pro S timer, RBD-SD1, RBD wild-type and RBD mutants

787 The Lipofectamin transfection cell culture medium and Maxcyte transfection cell culture

medium was centrifuged and filtered through a 0.22 µm filter or 0.45 µm, respectively, remove

cells and debris. 50 mM Tris, 100 mM sodium chloride, and 10 mM imidazole was added to the
 supernatant then loaded to a gravity column packed with Ni-NTA resins (Qiagen) pre-

r91 equilibrated with 20 mM Tris, 300 mM sodium chloride, and 10 mM imidazole, pH 8.0. After

loading, the column was washed with 10 column volumes of the same buffer. The protein was

eluted with 20 mM Tris, 150 mM sodium chloride, and 300 mM imidazole. The elution fractions

were pooled and dialyzed into 10 mM Hepes and 150 mM sodium chloride, pH 7.4.

795 Bio-Layer Interferometry (BLI) Kinetic Analysis of Antibodies

BLI buffer used in all experiments was 10 mM Hepes, 150 mM NaCl, pH 7.4, with 0.02%

797 Tween 20, and 0.1% BSA. Analytes used in kinetic analysis were uncleavable S trimer, RBD-

SD1, RBD wild-type, RBD mutants, commercially purchased recombinant SARS-CoV-2 S2

799 (SinoBiological), and SARS-CoV-2 S1 (SinoBiological). For determining binding affinities,

800 IgGs were immobilized on Anti-hIgG Fc Capture (AHC) biosensors (Sartorius Corporation) and

a concentration series of 200, 100, 50, 25, 12.5, 6.25, 3.125 nM was used to determine the

802 equilibrium dissociation constants (K_D values) for RBD-SD1, RBD wild-type, RBD mutants, and

803 Slusing 1:1 binding curve fit. For some RBD mutants that weakened binding and showed

804 biphasic dissociation, only 30 seconds dissociation curves were used to fit 1:1 binding model. A

805 concentration series of 20, 10, 5, 2.5, 1.25, 3.13, 1.56 nM was used to determine apparent K_D for

806 uncleavable S trimer using bivalent model on Octet HT software. For determining 1:1 binding

affinity for S2, S2-His-tag was immobilized on Anti-Penta-His (HIS1K) biosensors (Sartorius

808 Corporation), and a concentration series of S2 binding mAb Fab at 200, 100, 50, 25, 12.5, 6.25,

809 3.125 nM was used.

810 ACE2 blocking assay

- 811 RBD-His-tag at 5 µg/mL was first loaded on Ni-NTA (NTA) biosensors (Sartorius
- 812 Corporation) for 15 sec and subsequently blocked with 5 µg/mL mAbs or BLI assay buffer for 5
- 813 min. BLI signal from ACE2 binding were measured by incubating RBD-coated/mAb blocked
- 814 biosensors in 25 nM ACE2-IgG1Fc for 3 min.

815 **Epitope binning**

- 816 For epitope binning using S1 domain, biotinylated S1 binding mAbs at 25 μg/mL were first
- 817 loaded on High Precision Streptavidin SAX biosensors (Sartorius Corporation) for 10 sec. 3.75
- 818 µg/mL of recombinant SARS-CoV-2 S1 were used to bind mAb captured on biosensors for 3
- 819 min and subsequently 10 µg/mL S1 binding mAb were incubated with biosensors to observe
- 820 binding competition and signal was recorded for 3 min. For epitope binning using S2 domain,
- 821 recombinant SARS-CoV-2 S2-His-tag at 10 μg/mL was loaded on Anti-Penta-HIS (HIS1K)
- biosensors (Sartorius Corporation) for 1 min. 10 µg/mL of S2 binding mAbs were sequentially
- 823 incubated with biosensors for 3-5 min to observe binding competition.

824 Vero E6 neutralization assay

825 All aspects of the assay utilizing virus were performed in a BSL3 containment facility 826 according to the ISMMS Conventional Biocontainment Facility SOPs for SARS-CoV-2 cell 827 culture studies. Vero E6 cells were seeded into 96-well plates at 20,000 cells/well and cultured 828 overnight at 37°C. The next day, 3-fold serial dilutions of mAbs were prepared in DMEM 829 containing 2% FBS, 1% NEAAs, and 1% Pen-Strep (vDMEM). SARS-CoV-2 virus stock was 830 prepared in vDMEM at 10,000 TCID50/mL, mixed 1:1 (v:v) with the mAb dilutions, and incubated for 30 min or 24 hr at 37°C. Media was removed from the Vero E6 cells, mAb-virus 831 832 complexes were added and incubated at 37°C for 48 hours before fixation with 4% PFA. Fixed 833 cells were stained for SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid protein to measure infection. The percent

neutralization was calculated as 100-((sample of interest-[average of "no virus"]/[average of
"virus only"])*100).

836 **Pseudovirus neutralization assays**

837 Pseudoviruses based on HIV lentiviral particles were prepared as described (Robbiani et al., 838 2020). Three-fold serially diluted mAbs were incubated with SARS-CoV-2 pseudovirus for 1 839 hour at 37°C. After incubation with 293TACE2 cells for 48 hours at 37°C, cells were washed 840 twice with PBS, lysed with Luciferase Cell Culture Lysis 5x reagent (Promega), and NanoLuc 841 Luciferase activity in lysates was measured using the Nano-Glo Luciferase Assay System 842 (Promega). Relative luminescence units (RLUs) were normalized to values derived from cells 843 infected with pseudovirus in the absence of mAbs. Half-maximal inhibitory concentrations (IC_{50}) 844 values) for mAbs were determined using 4-parameter nonlinear regression (Prism, GraphPad). 845 **Cryo-EM sample preparation** 846 N-612-004, N-612-014 and N-612-017 Fab-S complexes were assembled by incubating 847 purified SARS-CoV-2 S trimer at a 1.1:1 molar excess of purified Fab per S protomer at RT for 848 20 min. Complex was mixed with F-octylmaltoside solution (Anatrace) to a final concentration 849 of 0.02% w/v and then 3 μ L were immediately applied to a 300 mesh, 1.2/1.3 QuantiFoil grid 850 (Electron Microscopy Sciences) that had been freshly glow discharged for 30s at 20 mA using a 851 PELCO easiGLOW (Ted Pella). The grid was blotted for 3s with Whatman No. 1 filter paper at 852 22°C and 100% humidity then vitrified in 100% liquid ethane using a Mark IV Vitrobot (FEI) 853 and stored under liquid nitrogen.

854 Cryo-EM structure determination of N-612-004, N-612-014, and N-612-017 Fab in complex 855 with S-6P

856 Single-particle cryo-EM data were collected for Fab-S trimer complexes as previously 857 described (Barnes et al., 2020b) Briefly, movies were collected on a 200 kV Talos Arctica 858 transmission electron microscope (Thermo Fisher) equipped with a Gatan K3 Summit direct 859 electron detector operating in counting mode. Movies were collected using a 3x3 beam image 860 shift pattern with SerialEM automated data collection software (Mastronarde, 2005) at a nominal 861 magnification of 45,000x (super-resolution 0.4345 Å/pixel) using a defocus range of -0.7 to -2.0 μ m. An average dose rate of 13.5 e⁻/pix/s resulted in a total dose of ~60 e⁻/Å² over 40 frames for 862 863 all datasets.

864 For all datasets, movies were patch motion corrected for beam-induced motion including 865 dose-weighting within cryoSPARC v3.1 (Punjani et al., 2017)after binning super resolution 866 movies by 2 (0.869 Å/pixel). The non-dose-weighted images were used to estimate CTF 867 parameters using Patch CTF in cryoSPARC, and micrographs with poor CTF fits, signs of 868 crystalline ice, and field of views that were majority carbon were discarded. Particles were 869 picked in a reference-free manner using Gaussian blob picker in cryoSPARC(Punjani et al., 870 2017) Initial particle stacks were extracted, binned x4 (3.48 Å/pixel), and subjected to *ab initio* 871 volume generation (4 classes) and subsequent heterogeneous refinement with all particles. The 872 3D classes that showed features for a Fab-S trimer complex or Fab-S1 protomer were 2D 873 classified to polish particle stacks. The resulting particle stacks were unbinned (0.869 Å/pixel) 874 and re-extracted using a 432 box size, and moved to Relion v3.1 (Zivanov et al., 2018) for 875 further 3D classification. Particles corresponding to distinct states were separately refined using 876 non-uniform 3D refinement imposing C1 symmetry in cryoSPARC and final resolutions were 877 estimated according to the gold-standard FSC (Bell et al., 2016).

878 To improve features at the Fab-RBD interface, focused, non-uniform 3D local refinement

in cryoSPARC were performed by applying a soft mask around the Fab V_HV_L – RBD (N-612-

880 017), NTD (N-612-014), or SD1 (N-612-004) domains. These efforts resulted in a modest

improvement in the Fab-S interface, which helped accurate model building.

882 X-ray crystallography structure determination of N-612-056 in complex with RBD

The N-612-056-RBD complex was assembled by incubating the SARS-CoV-2 RBD with

a 2x molar excess of Fab for 1 h on ice followed by size exclusion chromatography on an

superdex200 10/300 increase column (Cytiva). Fractions containing complex were pooled and

886 concentrated to 5-8 mg/mL. Crystallization trials using commercially-available screens

887 (Hampton Research) were performed at room temperature using the sitting drop vapor diffusion

888 method by mixing equal volumes of the Fab-RBD complex and reservoir using a TTP LabTech

889 Mosquito instrument. Crystals were obtained for N-612-056-RBD complex in 0.2 M Lithium

890 citrate tribasic tetrahydrate and 20% w/v polyethylene glycol 3,350, subsequently cryoprotected

by adding glycerol directly to drops to a final concentration of 20% v/v and cryopreserved in

892 liquid nitrogen.

893 X-ray diffraction data were collected at the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource

894 (SSRL) beamline 12-2 on a Pilatus 6M pixel detector (Dectris). Data from single crystals were

indexed and integrated in XDS (Kabsch, 2010) and merged using AIMLESS in CCP4 (Winn et

al., 2011)(Table S6). The N-612-056-RBD structure was solved by molecular replacement in

897 PHASER (McCoy et al., 2007) using unmodified RBD coordinates (PDB 7K8M) and

- 898 coordinates from C002 Fab (PDB 7K8O) as search models, after removal of C002 heavy chain
- and light chain CDR loops. Coordinates were rigid body and B-factor refined in PHENIX v1.19

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900	(Adams et al., 2010) followed by sequence matching and repeated cycles of <i>phenix.refine</i> and
901	manual building in Coot (v0.9.3) (Emsley et al., 2010) (Table S6).
902	Structure analyses
903	Buried surface area estimates were made using PDBePISA with a 1.4Å probe (Krissinel and
904	Henrick, 2007). Potential hydrogen bonds were assigned using a distance of $<3.6A^{\circ}$ and an A-D-
905	H angle of $>90^{\circ}$, and the maximum distance allowed for a van der Waals interaction was 4.0 Å.
906	Structure figures were made using UCSF Chimera v1.14 (Goddard et al., 2018).
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Supplementary Material for

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Rapid Identification of Neutralizing Antibodies

- against SARS-CoV-2 Variants by mRNA Display
- 926 Supplementary Methods

927 **Developability assays**

928 *Meso Scale Diagnostics (MSD) Polyreactivity*: Six different antigens, cardiolipin (50

929 μg/mL, C0563; Sigma), KLH (5 μg/mL, H8283; Sigma), LPS (10 μg/mL, tlrl-eblps; InvivoGen),

930 ssDNA (1 μg/mL, D8899; Sigma), dsDNA (1 μg/mL, D4522; Sigma), and insulin (5 μg/mL,

931 I9278; Sigma) were coated onto MSD MULTI-Array 96-well plate (MSD) individually at 50 μL

per well overnight at 4°C. Plates were blocked with PBS with 0.5% BSA at room temperature

for 1 h, followed by three washes with PBST (PBS plus 0.05% Tween 20). Fifty microliters of

100 nM testing antibody solution was added to each well and incubated at RT for 1 hour

935 followed by six washes with 100 µL of PBS. Twenty microliters of 0.25 µg/mL SULFO-tag,

anti-Human antibody was added to the wells and incubated for 1 hour followed by six washes as

937 before. Finally, 150 µL of 2X MSD Read Buffer T (MSD) was added to each well, and

938 electrochemilluminescence signal was read by MSD Sector Imager. Polyreactivity score was

939 determined by normalizing signal by control wells with no test antibody.

Hydrophobic Interaction Column (HIC): 5 µg antibody samples (1 mg/mL) were spiked in
with a mobile phase A solution (1.8 M ammonium sulfate and 0.1 M sodium phosphate at pH
6.5) to achieve a final ammonium sulfate concentration of about 1 M before analysis. A Sepax
Proteomix HIC butyl-NP5 column on Agilent 1100 HPLC was used with a liner gradient of
mobile phase A and mobile phase B solution (0.1 M sodium phosphate, pH 6.5) over 20 min at a
flow rate of 1 mL/min with UV absorbance monitoring at 280 nm. Elution time was recorded.

946 Clone Self-interaction by Bio-layer Interferometry (CSI-BLI): Human IgG (Sigma) was 947 loaded to an AHQ biosensor (ForteBio) to ~ 1 nm, followed by sensor blocking with human 948 IgG1 Fc (R&D systems). The self-association was performed at 1 uM solution concentration of 949 antibodies for 300s on an Octet Red96e system (Sartorius Corporation). The binding response 950 from the association step was subtracted from that of a reference IgG. 951 Accelerated Stability Assay: Antibody samples at 1 mg/mL were kept at 40°C for 30 days in 952 10 mM Hepes and 150 mM sodium chloride, pH 7.4. 10 µg of antibody was loaded onto Zenix-C 953 SEC-300 size-exclusion column (Sepax) on HPLC at Day 0, 5, 20, and 30. A long-term stability 954 slope (% aggregation/day) was calculated from the percent aggregated measured on the SEC-955 HPLC at each time-point. 956 Differential Scanning Fluorimetry (DSF) Analysis of Melting Temperature (Tm): Twenty 957 microliters of 1mg/mL antibody sample was mixed with 10 μ L of 20x SYPRO Orange 958 (ThermoFisher) in a 96-well PCR plate (ThermoFisher). The plate was scanned from 40°C to 959 95°C at a rate of 0.5°C/ 2 min in a CFX96 Real-Time PCR system (Bio-Rad). The Fab Tm was 960 assigned using the first derivative of the raw data. 961 **Convalescent plasma blocking assay** 962 Spike trimer with C-terminal biotin at 5 µg/mL was first loaded on High Precision 963 Streptavidin SAX biosensors (Sartorius Corporation) for 75 min. Spike coated biosensor was 964 subsequently blocked with 10-fold diluted SARS-CoV-2 convalescent plasma for 15 min. BLI

965 signal from 10 mAbs binding to available surface of spike timer were measure by incubating

- 966 Spike-coated/plasma blocked biosensors in 10 µg/mL of mAbs for 3 min. BLI signal was
- 967 compared to self-blocking of N-612-017/N-612-017 and non-blocking pair of N-612-017/N-612-

- 968 004 to determine whether each mAb was completely blocked, partially blocked, or non-blocked
- 969 by convalescent plasma from 4 different patients.
- 970 Supplementary Tables
- 971
- 972 Table S1. Ten unique spike binding VH/VL sequences identified by mRNA display

Ab	CDRH1 (26-35)	CDRH2 (50-58)	CDRH3 (93-101)	CDRL3 (89-86)	
N-612-017	GFTFSSYAMH	AIWGSGSNTY	ARGRDLAAFTKTA	QQHDALPW	-
N-612-056	GFTFSSYAMS	LISGSGGSTY	ARDLWGSGFFA	QQDAGTPL	RBD binder
N-612-074	GFTFSAYAMH	AIWGSGGSTY	ARDLWMAMWFG	QQRSTYPL	
N-612-004	GFTFSSYYMH	AISGSGGYTY	ARDRDHAYDWG	QQWADWPL	CD1 hindor
N-612-041	GFTFSSYTMH	AISGSGGYTY	ARDRDLLWMGWA	QQYANWPL	SD i binder
N-612-002	GFTFSSYTMH	AISGSGGSTY	ARDLFDWG	QQDYGFPL	NTD binder
N-612-014	GFTFSSYAMT	YISGSGGGTY	ARDRWASGWLA	QQAYAYPL	NTD binder
N-612-007	GFTFSNYAMH	AISGNGGSTG	ARDRWYVKNA	QQLDGTPF	-
N-612-044	GFTFSNYAMH	AISGSGGSTY	ARDLSFWLTYHLASA	QQSYSDPL	S2 binder
N-612-086	GFTFSSYAMH	AISWSGRSTY	ARDLSSNWGSG	QQSADTPF	

973

974 Table S2. BLI kinetic parameters obtained for various SARS-CoV-2 Spike domains (RBD,

975 **RBD-SD1, S1, S2**)

Analyte	nAb	<i>k</i> on (1/Ms)	<i>k</i> _{off} (1/s)	<i>K</i> ⊳ (nM)
	N-612-017	6.77E+05	3.58E-03	5.29
RBD	N-612-056	3.37E+05	1.01E-03	2.98
	N-612-074	1.33E+05	1.48E-03	11.1
	N-612-017	4.56E+05	3.94E-03	8.65
	N-612-056	3.59E+05	1.04E-03	2.89
RBD-SD1	N-612-074	1.21E+05	3.97E-03	32.9
	N-612-004	1.51E+05	9.79E-04	6.49
	N-612-041	2.10E+05	3.35E-03	16.0
	N-612-017	2.77E+05	2.04E-03	7.37
	N-612-056	1.51E+05	5.86E-04	3.89
	N-612-074	1.01E+05	1.46E-03	14.4
S1	N-612-004	9.92E+04	2.13E-04	2.15
	N-612-041	1.25E+05	1.83E-03	14.4
	N-612-002	2.68E+05	7.26E-04	2.71
	N-612-014	1.76E+05	2.18E-03	12.4
	N-612-007 (Fab)	3.70E+05	1.40E-03	3.79
S2 (Ligand)	N-612-044 (Fab)	1.70E+05	1.61E-03	9.44
	N-612-086 (Fab)	2.67E+05	0.96E-02	11.6

Ab	<i>k</i> _{on1} (1/Ms)	k _{on2} (1/Ms)	<i>k</i> _{off1} (1/s)	<i>k</i> _{off2} (1/s)	Apparent K⊳ (nM)
N-612-017	8.35E+04	1.55E+00	<1.0E-07	1.69E-02	<0.001
N-612-056	6.24E+04	1.94E+00	<1.0E-07	5.15E-02	<0.001
N-612-074	9.23E+04	8.12E-01	<1.0E-07	1.89E-01	<0.001
N-612-004	7.60E+04	4.24E+00	<1.0E-07	1.00E+00	<0.001
N-612-041	1.11E+05	4.06E-01	<1.0E-07	1.75E-01	<0.001
N-612-002	5.69E+04	6.82E-02	<1.0E-07	6.76E-02	<0.001
N-612-014	2.54E+04	3.82E-03	2.29E-07	2.82E+00	0.0033
N-612-007	5.78E+04	7.80E-02	<1.0E-07	2.92E-02	<0.001
N-612-044	7.15E+04	2.62E+00	<1.0E-07	7.14E-02	<0.001
N-612-086	6.11E+04	1.55E-01	<1.0E-07	5.53E-02	<0.001

977 Table S3. BLI kinetic parameters obtained for Spike trimer using bivalent model fit

978

979 Table S4. Developability assay summary table

Ab	Polyreactivity MSD (Fold-over- PBS)	HIC (min)	BLI-CSI (nm)	Accelerated stability % monomer increase/day	Fab Tm (℃)
N-612-017	3	10.1	-0.06	0.09	85
N-612-056	7	11.5	0.00	0.10	81
N-612-074	31	22.1	-0.01	0.10	76
N-612-004	14	14.9	0.05	0.13	85
N-612-041	10	20.4	0.05	0.37	88
N-612-002	22	13.9	0.08	0.18	82
N-612-014	4	12.3	0.09	0.16	88
N-612-007	10	11.8	0.04	0.11	82
N-612-044	8	13.4/15.4	-0.06	0.10	88/91
N-612-086	10	13.2	0.07	0.11	88
Acceptance criteria	<50	<16	<0.2	<0.2	>65 °C

980

982 Table S5. Cryo-EM data collection and refinement statistics (related to Figures 3 and 5).

	N-612-017 Fab	N-612-014 Fab	N-612-004 Fab
	SARS-CoV-2 S 6P	SARS-CoV-2 S 6P	SARS-CoV-2 S 6P
PDB	7S0C	7S0D	780E
EMD	24786	24787	24788
Data collection conditions			
Microscope	Talos Arctica	Talos Artica	Talos Arctica
Camera	Gatan K3 Summit	Gatan K3 Summit	Gatan K3 Summit
Magnification	45,000x	45,000x	45,000x
Voltage (kV)	200	200	200
Recording mode	counting	counting	counting
Dose rate (e ⁻ /pixel/s)	13.5	13.3	13.8
Electron dose $(e^7/Å^2)$	60	60	60
Defocus range (µm)	0.7 - 2.0	0.7 - 2.0	0.7 - 2.0
Pixel size (Å)	0.8689	0.8689	0.8689
Micrographs collected	2.585	3,791	3.717
Micrographs used	2,132	3.211	2.047
Total extracted particles	282.890	505.695	595,163
Refined particles	175,986	389,223	115,068
Particles in final refinement	108,746	137,684	107,271
Symmetry imposed	C1	C1	C1
FSC 0.143 (unmasked/masked)			
unmasked	4.4 Å	6.4 Å	7.1 Å
masked	3.2 Å	3.5 Å	4.8 Å
Refinement and Validation			
Initial model used	6XKL	6XKL	6XKL
Number of atoms			
Protein	29,164	33,650	5,307
Ligand	434	873	28
MapCC (global/local)	0.81/0.78	0.79/0.76	0.87/0.69
Map sharpening B-factor	65.8	75.3	155
R.m.s. deviations			
Bond lengths (Å)	0.01	0.005	0.02
Bond angles (°)	0.9	0.89	1.5
MolProbity score	2	2.2	2.46
Clashscore (all atom)	13.4	17.7	7.9
Poor rotamers (%)	0.2	0.1	0
Ramachandran plot			
Favored (%)	94.7	93.4	92.8
Allowed (%)	5.1	6	6.3
Disallowed (%)	0.2	0.6	0.9

986 Table S6. X-ray crystallography data collection and refinement statistics (related to Figure 987 4).

	N-612-056 - SARS2-RBD	
	(12-2, SSRL)	
PDB ID	780B	
Data collection ^a		
Space group	P2 ₁ 2 ₁ 2	
Unit cell (Å)	102.3, 153.7, 96.6	
α, β, γ (°)	90, 90, 90	
Wavelength (Å)	0.979	
Resolution (Å)	38.9-29 (3.04-2.9)	
Unique Reflections	34,420 (4,471)	
Completeness (%)	99.8 (99.1)	
Redundancy	6.6 (6.7)	
CC _{1/2} (%)	99.3 (72.8)	
<i oi=""></i>	6.4 (1.5)	
Mosaicity (°)	0.25	
R_{merge} (%)	18.7 (133)	
R _{nim} (%)	8.3 (59.4)	
Wilson <i>B</i> -factor	56.6	
Refinement and Validation		
Resolution (Å)	384 - 2.9	
Number of atoms		
Protein	9,829	
Ligand	28	
Waters	0	
R_{work}/R_{free} (%)	212/25.4	
R.m.s. deviations		
Bond lengths (Å)	0.006	
Bond angles (°)	1.2	
MolProbity score	2.47	
Clashscore (all atom)	11.6	
Poor rotamers (%)	5	
Ramachandran plot		
Favored (%)	94.8	
Allowed (%)	5.2	
Disallowed (%)	0	
Average B-factor (Å)	73.5	

^aNumbers in parentheses correspond to the highest resolution shell

990 Table S7. BLI kinetic analysis of N-612-017, N-612-017-01, N-612-017-03, N-612-017-5B02,

and N-612-017-5B05 against RBD-WT, RBD-B.1.351 (K417N/E484K/N501Y) and RBD L452R

		F	RBD-WT		RBD-B.1.351		RBD-L452R			
		<i>k</i> on (1/Ms)	<i>k</i> _{off} (1/s)	<i>K</i> ⊳ (nM)	<i>k</i> on (1/Ms)	<i>k</i> _{off} (1/s)	<i>K</i> ⊳ (nM)	<i>k</i> on (1/Ms)	$k_{\rm off}(1/s)$	K _D (nM)
	N-612-017 N-612-017-01	6.77E+05	3.58E-03	5.29 0.64	4.45E+05	1.36E-02	30.6 0.77	 2 34E+05	 7 75E-03	N.B. 33.1
	N-612-017-03	6.48E+05	1 60F-04	0.25	6.47E+05	2.33E-04	0.36	1 18E+05	6 90F-03	58.7
	N-612-017-5B02	8.24E+05	9.26E-05	0.11	7.99E+05	1.20E-04	0.15	5.74E+05	3.54E-03	6.16
	N-612-017-5B05	9.62E+05	3.16E-03	3.28	9.68E+05	2.48E-03	2.56	8.01E+05	1.96E-03	2.44
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995										
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998										
999										
1002										
1003										
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Figure S1. Vero E6 live virus neutralization assay (A) Neutralization activity of N-612-014 in
 5 separate experiments. (B) Comparison of neutralization activity of N-612-014, convalescent
 (C+) serum, and control human IgG with 30-min vs 24-hr antibody-virus incubation. (C, D, E)

- 1031 Change in neutralization potency by incubation time.

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1036 1037 Figure S2. Cryo-EM data processing and validation (related to Figures 3 and 5). (A-C)

1038 Representative micrograph, 2D class averages, data processing workflow, and Gold Standard

- 1039 FSC plots for the final reconstructions of (A) N-612-017 – S 6P, (B) N-612-014 – S 6P, and (C)
- 1040 N-612-056 – S 6P complexes. (D-F) Local resolution estimates calculated in cryoSPARC v3.1
- 1041 for (D) N-612-017 – S 6P, (E) N-612-014 – S 6P, and (F) N-612-056 – S 6P complexes.



1042

Figure S3: (A) Cross-reactivity of N-612-056 against SARS-CoV. BLI kinetic analysis of

1044 SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV S1 domain binding to N-612-056. (B, C) BLI kinetic analysis of

- 1045 N-612-004 and N-612-014 against S1 domain from WT and B.1.1.7 variant of SARS-CoV-2
- 1046 Spike protein.
- 1047

- 1049
- 1050

	EX1	EX2	EX3	EX4
No blocking	004(SD1) 041(SD1) 056(RBD)	004(SD1) 041(SD1) 056(RBD)	004(SD1) 041(SD1) 056(RBD)	004(SD1) 041(SD1)
Partial Blocking	002(NTD) 014(NTD) 017(RBD)	002(NTD) 014(NTD) 017(RBD)	002(NTD) 014(NTD) 017(RBD)	002(NTD) 014(NTD) 017(RBD) 056(RBD)
Blocking	074(RBD) 007(S2) 044(S2) 086(S2)	074(RBD) 007(S2) 044(S2) 086(S2)	074(RBD) 007(S2) 044(S2) 086(S2)	074(RBD) 007(S2) 044(S2) 086(S2)

1052 Figure S4. Convalescent plasma blocking of 10 mAbs binding to SARS-CoV-2 Spike.