

- (51) International Patent Classification:

C07K 14/44 (2006.01) G01N 33/569 (2006.01)

C07K 19/00 (2006.01) C07K 16/20 (2006.01)

G01N 33/543 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2024/027617
- (22) International Filing Date:

03 May 2024 (03.05.2024)
- (25) Filing Language:

English
- (26) Publication Language:

English
- (30) Priority Data:

63/463,649 03 May 2023 (03.05.2023) US
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CV, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IQ, IR, IS, IT, JM, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MU, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, CV, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SC, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, ME, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(54) Title: MODIFIED CHIMERIC ANTIGENS IBMP 8.1 AND 8.3 FOR THE DETECTION AND DIAGNOSIS OF TRYPANOSOMA CRUZI

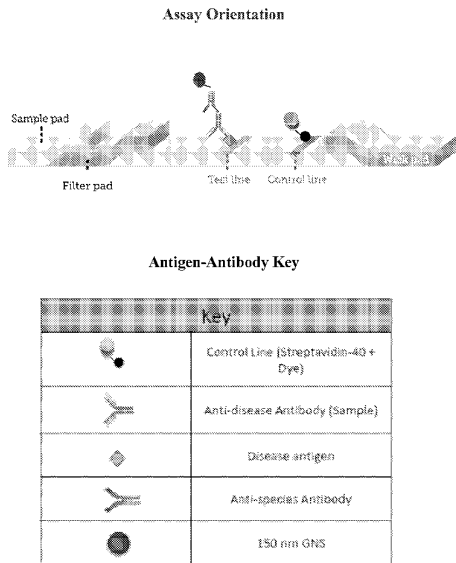


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A modified chimeric IBMP antigen is provided which is used to obtain the detection of the parasite Trypanosoma cruzi with greater accuracy and fewer false positive tests. In this modified chimeric IBMP antigen, the antigens IBMP 8.1 and 8.3 are modified for use in detecting the presence of Trypanosoma cruzi in order to diagnose Chagas disease in a human or animal patient, and the modification may be obtained by inserting one or more PEP2 peptides and other T. cruzi antigens into the IBMP 8.1 and 8.3 antigens, and using the modified antibodies to detect the presence of antibodies to T. cruzi in human and animal patients. A modified IBMP 8.1 antigen may be used in combination with an unmodified IBMP 8.3 antigen, and vice versa. In each case, an IBMP 8.4 antigen may be used along with the modified 8.1 and/or 8.3 antigens. The modified chimeric antigens thus may include the modified IBMP 8.1 and/or 8.3 antigens along with IBMP 8.4, and these antigens may be used in a lateral flow assay or other suitable assays for the detection of T. cruzi and the diagnosis in a human or animal patient of a Chagas disease infection. Test kits employing these chimeric antigens are also provided.

Published:

- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*
- *with sequence listing part of description (Rule 5.2(a))*