SARS-CoV-2 escape from a highly neutralizing COVID-19 convalescent plasma

Emanuele Andreana, Giulia Piccinib, Danilo Licastro, Lorenzo Casalino, Nicole V. Johnson, Ida Paciello, Simeone Dal Monegoc, Noemi Manganaro, Alessandro Manenti, Rachele Mannab, Elisa Casab, Inesa Hysenib, Linda Benincasal, Emanuele Montomoli, Rommie E. Amarod, Jason S. McLellan, and Rino Rappuoli

*mMonoclonal Antibody Discovery Lab, Fondazione Toscana Life Sciences, S3100 Siena, Italy; bVisMederi S.r.l., S3100 Siena, Italy; ARGO Open Lab Platform for Genome Sequencing, 34149 Trieste, Italy; cDepartment of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92037; dDepartment of Molecular Biosciences, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712; eVisMederi Research S.r.l., S3100 Siena, Italy; fDepartment of Molecular and Developmental Medicine, University of Siena, S3100 Siena, Italy; gFaculty of Medicine, Imperial College, SW7 2DD London, United Kingdom

To investigate the evolution of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in the immune population, we coincubated the authentic virus with a highly neutralizing plasma from a COVID-19 convalescent patient. The plasma fully neutralized the virus for seven passages, but, after 45 d, the deletion of F140 in the spike N-terminal domain (NTD) N3 loop led to partial breakthrough. At day 73, an E484K substitution in the receptor-binding domain (RBD) occurred, followed, at day 80, by an insertion in the NTD N5 loop containing a new glycan sequon, which generated a variant completely resistant to plasma neutralization. Computational modeling predicts that the deletion and insertion in loops N3 and N5 prevent binding of neutralizing antibodies. The recent emergence in the United Kingdom, South Africa, Brazil, and Japan of natural variants with similar changes suggests that SARS-CoV-2 has the potential to escape an effective immune response and that vaccines and antibodies able to control emerging variants should be developed.

SARS-CoV-2 | COVID-19 | emerging variants | immune evasion | antibody response

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), causative agent of COVID-19, accounts for over 105 million cases of infections and more than 2.3 million deaths worldwide. Thanks to an incredible scientific and financial effort, several prophylactic and therapeutic tools, such as vaccines and monoclonal antibodies (mAbs), have been developed in less than 1 y to combat this pandemic (1–4). The main target of vaccines and mAbs is the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein (S protein), a large class I trimeric fusion protein which plays a key role in viral pathogenesis (3, 5, 6). The SARS-CoV-2 S protein is composed of two subunits: S1, which contains the receptor-binding domain (RBD) responsible for the interaction with receptors on the host cells, and S2, which mediates membrane fusion and viral entry (7, 8). The S1 subunit presents two highly immunogenic domains, the N-terminal domain (NTD) and the RBD, which are the major targets of polyclonal and monoclonal neutralizing antibodies (4, 9, 10). The continued spread in immune-competent populations has led to adaptations of the virus to the host and generation of new SARS-CoV-2 variants. Indeed, S-protein variants have been recently described in the United Kingdom, South Africa, Brazil, and Japan (11–13), and the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data (GISAID) database reports more than 1,100 amino acid changes in the S protein (14, 15).

An important question for vaccine development is whether the authentic virus, under the selective pressure of the polyclonal immune response in convalescent or vaccinated people, can evolve to fully escape immunity and antibody treatment. To address this question, we incubated the authentic SARS-CoV-2 wild-type (WT) virus for more than 90 d in the presence of a potent neutralizing plasma.
Table 1. Summary of COVID-19 convalescent plasma characteristics

| Sample ID | S-protein trimer-binding titer | RBD-binding titer | S1-binding titer | S2-binding titer | Neutralization titer WT | Neutralization titer D614G | Neutralization titer PT188-EM |
|-----------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| PT003     | 1/320                         | 1/10             | 1/80             | 1/320            | 1/15                     | Not neutralizing           | Not neutralizing              |
| PT004     | 1/2,560                       | 1/80             | 1/120            | 1/5,120          | 1/120                    | 1/30                      | 1/10                          |
| PT005     | 1/320                         | 1/80             | 1/120            | 1/1,280          | 1/120                    | 1/30                      | 1/10                          |
| PT006     | 1/460                         | 1/160            | 1/1,280          | 1/640            | 1/120                    | 1/40                      | 1/10                          |
| PT008     | 1/10,240                      | 1/80             | 1/640            | 1/640            | 1/120                    | 1/80                      | 1/10                          |
| PT009     | 1/10,240                      | 1/2,560          | 1/2,560          | 1/640            | 1/320                    | 1/120                     | 1/10                          |
| PT010     | 1/320                         | 1/80             | 1/120            | 1/1,280          | 1/120                    | 1/40                      | 1/10                          |
| PT012     | 1/1,280                       | 1/160            | 1/1,280          | 1/640            | 1/320                    | 1/120                     | 1/10                          |
| PT014     | 1/1,280                       | 1/80             | 1/1,280          | 1/640            | 1/120                    | 1/40                      | 1/10                          |
| PT015     | 1/10,240                      | 1,10,240         | 1,2,560          | 1,5,120          | 1,640                    | 1,320                     | 1,120                         |
| PT041     | 1/640                         | 1/160            | 1/160            | 1/160            | 1/120                    | 1/40                      | 1/10                          |
| PT042     | 1/5,120                       | 1/320            | 1/1,280          | 1/640            | 1/320                    | 1/120                     | 1/10                          |
| PT100     | 1/1,280                       | 1/80             | 1/1,280          | 1/640            | 1/320                    | 1/120                     | 1/10                          |
| PT101     | 1/640                         | 1/40             | 1/160            | 1/320            | 1/120                    | 1/40                      | 1/10                          |
| PT102     | 1/160                         | 1/20             | 1/80             | 1/640            | 1/120                    | 1/40                      | 1/10                          |
| PT103     | 1/160                         | 1/80             | Not binder       | 1/640            | Not neutralizing         | 1/120                     | Not neutralizing              |
| PT122     | 1/10,240                      | 1/1,280          | 1/1,280          | 1/640            | Not neutralizing         | 1/120                     | Not neutralizing              |
| PT188     | 1/10,240                      | 1/1,280          | 1/1,280          | 1/10,240         | Not neutralizing         | 1/120                     | Not neutralizing              |
| PT200     | 1/1,280                       | 1/160            | Not binder       | 1/10,240         | Not neutralizing         | 1/120                     | Not neutralizing              |
| PT276     | 1/80                          | Not binder       | 1/80             | 1/320            | Not neutralizing         | 1/120                     | Not neutralizing              |

The table shows the binding profile and neutralization activities of 20 COVID-19 convalescent plasma samples.

Reduced Susceptibility to Convalescent Plasma and Monoclonal Antibodies. To evaluate the ability of the SARS-CoV-2 PT188 escape mutant (PT188-EM) to evade the polyclonal antibody response, all 20 plasma samples from COVID-19 convalescent patients were tested in a traditional CPE-based neutralization assay against this viral variant using the virus at 100 TCID$_{50}$. All samples showed at least a twofold decrease in neutralization activity against SARS-CoV-2 PT188-EM (Fig. 2A, Table 1, and SI Appendix, Fig. S1–D). As expected, the plasma used to select the escape mutant showed the biggest neutralization decrease against this escape mutant with a 256-fold decrease compared to WT SARS-CoV-2. Plasma PT042, PT006, PT005, PT012, and PT041 also showed a substantial drop in neutralization efficacy (Table 1). In addition, we observed that a higher response toward the S-protein S1 subunit correlates with loss of neutralization activity against SARS-CoV-2 PT188-EM (see SI Appendix, Fig. S2A), whereas a high response toward the S-protein S2 subunit did not show correlation (see SI Appendix, Fig. S2B).

We also tested a previously identified panel of 13 neutralizing mAbs (nAbs) by CPE-based neutralization assay to assess their neutralization efficacy against SARS-CoV-2 PT188-EM. These antibodies also showed a variable neutralization potency against the SARS-CoV-2 WT and D614G viruses ranging from 3.9 ng/mL to 500.0 ng/mL (Fig. 2B, Table 2, and SI Appendix, Fig. S1E–G). The three mutations selected by SARS-CoV-2 PT188-EM to escape the highly neutralizing plasma completely abrogated the neutralization activity of two of the six tested RBD-directed antibodies (F05 and G12) (Fig. 2B, Table 2, and SI Appendix, Fig. S1E–G).
neutralizing antibody against this escape mutant, with an IC$_{100}$ of 22.1 ng/mL. Interestingly, the S1-RBD–directed antibody C14 showed a twofold increase in neutralization activity compared to the SARS-CoV-2 WT virus, whereas I14 and B07 showed a 16-fold and twofold decrease, respectively. All tested antibodies derived from group II (S1-specific not RBD) and group III (S-protein trimer specific) completely lost their neutralization ability against SARS-CoV-2 PT188-EM (Fig. 2B, Table 2, and SI Appendix, Fig. S1E–G). To better understand the abrogation of activity of some of the tested antibodies, J13, I21, and H20 were cocomplexed with SARS-CoV-2 WT S protein and structurally evaluated by negative-stain EM. Two-dimensional (2D) class averages of the three tested antibodies showed that they all bind to the NTD of the S protein (Fig. 2C). A 3D reconstruction for the J13 Fab complex provided further evidence that this antibody binds to the NTD (Fig. 2D).

**Putative Structural Effects Enabling Viral Escape.** Computational modeling and simulation of the WT and PT188-EM spikes provides a putative structural basis for understanding antibody escape. The highly antigenic NTD is more extensively mutated, containing the F140 deletion as well as the 11-amino acid insertion in loop N5 that introduces a novel N-glycan sequon at position N248d (Fig. 3A–C). In contrast, the single mutation in the RBD (E484K) swaps the charge of the sidechain, which would significantly alter the electrostatic complementarity of antibody binding to this region (Fig. 3D). Upon inspection of molecular dynamics (MD) simulations of the NTD escape mutant model, we hypothesize that the F140 deletion alters the packing of the N1, N3, and N5 loops (see SI Appendix, Fig. S3), where the loss of the bulky aromatic sidechain would overall reduce the stability of this region (Table 1). Subsequently, the extensive insertion within the N5 loop appears to remodel this critical antigenic region, predicting substantial steric occlusion with antibodies targeting this epitope, such as antibody 4A8 (Fig. 3B) (21). Furthermore, introduction of a new N-glycan at position N248d (mutant numbering scheme) would effectively eliminate neutralization by such antibodies (Fig. 3B and SI Appendix, Fig. S4).

**Escape Mutant Shows Similar Viral Fitness Compared to the WT Virus.** To determine the extent to which the escape mutations were detrimental to the infectivity of SARS-CoV-2 PT188-EM, the viral fitness was evaluated. Four different measures were assessed: visible CPE, viral titer, RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp), and nucleocapsid (N) RNA detection by RT-PCR (see SI Appendix, Fig. S5). Initially, the SARS-CoV-2 WT virus and the PT188-EM variant were inoculated at a multiplicity of infection of 0.001 on Vero E6 cells. Every day, for four consecutive days, a titration plate was prepared and optically assessed after 72 h of incubation to evaluate the CPE effect on Vero E6 cells and viral titer. Furthermore, the RNA was extracted to assess RdRp and N-gene levels in the supernatant. We collected pictures at 72 h postinfection to evaluate the morphological status of noninfected Vero E6 cells and the CPE on infected feeder cells. Vero E6 cells were confluent at 72 h, and no sign of CPE was optically detectable (see SI Appendix, Fig. S5A). Conversely, SARS-CoV-2 WT and PT188-EM showed significant and comparable amounts of CPE (see SI Appendix, Fig.
Viral titers were evaluated for both SARS-CoV-2 WT and PT188-EM, and no significant differences were observed, as the viruses showed almost identical growth curves (see SI Appendix, Fig. S5B). A similar trend was observed when RdRp and N-gene levels in the supernatant were detected, even if slightly higher levels of RdRp and N gene were detectable for SARS-CoV-2 PT188-EM

Table 2. Features of 13 SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibodies

| mAb ID | Binding specificity* | Neutralization WT IC100 (ng/mL)* | Neutralization D614G IC100 (ng/mL)* | Neutralization PT188-EM IC100 (ng/mL) |
|--------|----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| J08    | S1-RBD               | 3.9                             | 7.8                               | 22.1                                 |
| I14    | S1-RBD               | 11.0                            | 19.7                              | 176.8                                |
| F05    | S1-RBD               | 3.9                             | 4.9                               | Not neutralizing                     |
| G12    | S1-RBD               | 39.4                            | 39.4                              | Not neutralizing                     |
| C14    | S1-RBD               | 157.5                           | 78.7                              | 88.4                                 |
| B07    | S1-RBD               | 99.2                            | 49.6                              | 250.0                                |
| I21    | S1                  | 99.2                            | 198.4                             | Not neutralizing                     |
| J13    | S1                  | 396.8                           | 500.0                             | Not neutralizing                     |
| D14    | S1                  | 396.8                           | 250.0                             | Not neutralizing                     |
| H20    | S protein            | 492.2                           | 310.0                             | Not neutralizing                     |
| I15    | S protein            | 310.0                           | 155.0                             | Not neutralizing                     |
| F10    | S protein            | 155.0                           | 195.3                             | Not neutralizing                     |
| F20    | S protein            | 246.1                           | 155.0                             | Not neutralizing                     |

The table shows the binding and neutralization profile of 13 previously identified SARS-CoV-2 nAbs. *Column refers to previously published data (1).
The generated trajectory. (C) Conformational dynamics of the PT188-EM spike NTD model resulting from 100 ns of MD simulation is shown by overlaying multiple frames along the generated trajectory. (D) In silico model of the PT188-EM spike RBD based on PDB ID code 6M17, where the E484K mutation is shown with licorice representation.

**Discussion**

We have shown that the authentic SARS-CoV-2, if constantly pressured, has the ability to escape even a potent polyclonal serum targeting multiple neutralizing epitopes. These results are remarkable because SARS-CoV-2 shows a very low estimated evolutionary rate of mutation, as this virus encodes a proof-reading exoribonuclease machinery, and, therefore, while escape mutants can be easily isolated when viruses are incubated with single mAbs, it is usually believed that a combination of two mAbs is sufficient to eliminate the evolution of escape variants (22–25). The recent isolation of SARS-CoV-2 variants in the United Kingdom, South Africa, Brazil, and Japan with deletions in or near the NTD loops shows that what we describe here can occur in the real world. The ability of the virus to adapt to the host immune system was also observed in clinical settings where an immunocompromised COVID-19 patient, after 154 d of infection, presented different variants of the virus, including the E484K substitution (26). Therefore, we should be prepared to deal with virus variants that may be selected by the immunity acquired from infection or vaccination. This can be achieved by developing second-generation vaccines and mAbs, possibly targeting universal epitopes and able to neutralize emerging variants of the virus.

A limitation of this study is that viral evolution of SARS-CoV-2 was evaluated only for one plasma sample, limiting the observation of possible spike protein mutations only to a specific polyclonal response. In fact, PT188-EM impacted our plasma samples differently, where PT188, used to pressure the virus in vitro, was the most impacted sample (256-fold decrease), while the remaining 15 neutralizing plasmas showed a median neutralization titer reduction of ~sevenfold.

Our data also confirm that the SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibodies acquired during infection target almost entirely the NTD and the RBD. In the RBD, the possibility to escape is limited, and the mutation E484K that we found is one of the most frequent mutations to escape mAbs (22) and among the most common RBD mutations described in experimental settings (27). Remarkably, the evolution of the E484K substitution observed in our experimental setting was replicated a few months later in the real world by the emergence of E484K variants in South Africa, Brazil, and Japan (14). This is likely due to residue E484 being targeted by antibodies derived from IGHV3-53 and closely related IGHV3-66 genes, which are the most common germlines for antibodies directed against the RBD (28). Recently, this mutation has also been shown to reduce considerably the neutralizing potency of vaccine-induced immunity and to escape mAbs already approved for emergency use by the Food and Drug Administration (29–31).

On the other hand, the NTD loops can accommodate many different changes, such as insertions, deletions, and amino acid alterations. Interestingly, in our case, the final mutation contained an insertion carrying an N-glycosylation site which has the potential to hide or obstruct the binding to neutralizing epitopes. The introduction of a glycan is a well-known immunogenic escape strategy described in influenza (32), HIV-1, and other viruses (33–35), although this finding presents a patient-derived escape mutant utilizing this mechanism for SARS-CoV-2. Surprisingly, only three mutations, which led to complete rearrangement of NTD N3 and N5 loops and substitution to a key residue on the RBD, were sufficient to eliminate the neutralization ability of a
potent polyclonal serum. Fortunately, not all plasma and mAbs tested were equally affected by the three mutations, suggesting that natural immunity to infection can target additional epitopes that can still neutralize the PT188-EM variant. Vaccine-induced immunity, which is more robust than natural immunity, is likely to be less susceptible to emerging variants. Indeed, so far, the virus has not mutated sufficiently to completely avoid the antibody response raised by current vaccines (36, 37).

Going forward, it will be important to continue to closely monitor which epitopes on the S protein are targeted by the vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 that are being deployed in hundreds of millions of people around the world.

Materials and Methods

Enrollment of SARS-CoV-2 Convalescent Donors and Human Sample Collection. COVID-19 convalescent plasma samples were provided by the National Institute for Infectious Diseases, Institute for Scientific Based Recovery and Cure—Lazzaro Spallanzani Rome (Italy) and Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Senese, Siena (Italy). Samples were collected from convalescent donors who gave their written consent. The study was approved by local ethics committees (Parere 18_2020 in Rome and Parere 17065 in Siena) and conducted according to good clinical practice in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki (European Council 2001, US Code of Federal Regulations, International Conference on Harmonization 1997). This study was unblinded and not randomized.

SARS-CoV-2 Authentic Virus Neutralization Assay. The mAbs and plasma neutralization activity was evaluated using a CPE-based assay as previously described (17, 20). Further details are available in SI Appendix, Materials and Methods.

Viral Escape Assay Using Authentic SARS-CoV-2. All SARS-CoV-2 authentic virus procedures were performed in the biosafety level 3 (BSL3) laboratories at Toscana Life Sciences in Siena (Italy) and Vismideri S.r.l., Siena (Italy). BSL3 laboratories are approved by a certified biosafety professional and are inspected every year by local authorities. To detect neutralization-resistant SARS-CoV-2 escape variants, a standard concentration of the virus was sequentially passaged in cell cultures in the presence of serially diluted samples containing SARS-CoV-2-specific antibodies. Briefly, 12 serial twofold dilutions of PT188 plasma prepared in complete Dulbecco’s modified Eagle’s medium 2% fetal bovine serum (starting dilution 1:10) were added to the wells of a 24-well plate containing a subconfluent Vero E6 cell monolayer. Both the virus pressured with PT188 and the virus-only control were diluted 1:100 and transferred to the antibody-containing wells of the preabsence or presence of CPE. At each virus passage, the content of the well and a cell-only control were included in each plate to assist in distinguishing the absence or presence of CPE. At each virus passage, the content of the well corresponding to the lowest sample dilution that showed complete CPE was diluted 1:100 and transferred to the antibody-containing wells of the pre-dilution 24-well plate prepared for the subsequent virus passage. At each passage, both the virus pressured with PT188 and the virus-only control were harvested, propagated in 25-cm² flasks, and aliquoted at ~80 °C to be used for RNA extraction, RT-PCR, and sequencing.

Negative Stain Electron Microscopy. SARS-CoV-2 S protein was expressed and purified as previously described (38). Purified spike was combined with individual Fab at final concentrations of 0.04 mg/ml and 0.16 mg/ml, respectively. Following a 30-min incubation on ice, each complex was deposited on plastic cleaned CF-400 grids (EMS) and stained using methylenamine tungstate (Nanoprobe). Grids were imaged at 92,000x magnification in a Talos F200C transmission electron microscope (TEM) equipped with a Ceta 16M detector (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Contrast transfer function estimation and particle picking were performed using cisTEM (39), and particle stacks were exported to cryoSPARC v2 (40) for 2D classification, ab initio 3D reconstruction, and heterogeneous refinement.

Computational Methods. The PT188-EM spike escape mutant was modeled using in silico approaches. As the mutations are localized in two different domains of the spike, namely the NTD and the RBD, separate models were generated for each domain. In detail, two models of the PT188-EM spike NTD (residues 13 to 308) were built starting from two different cryoelectron microscopy (cryo-EM) structures of the WT S protein as templates: 1) one bearing a completely resolved NTD [Protein Data Bank (PDB) ID code 7JJ1 (41)], which includes all the loops from N1 to N5, and 2) one bound to the antibody 4A8 [PDB ID code 7CL1 (21)], which presents only one small gap within the N5 loop. The model of the PT188-EM spike RBD was based on the cryo-EM structure of the spike’s RBD in complex with ACE2 [PDB ID code 6MT7 (42)]. The generated models were subsequently refined using explicitly solvated MD simulation. The systems and the simulations were visually inspected with visual molecular dynamics, which was also used for image rendering (43). Further details on the computational method analyses are reported in SI Appendix, Materials and Methods.

Data Availability. All study data are included in the article and SI Appendix.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS. This work was funded by European Research Council Advanced Grant Agreement 884878, Cure for Infectious Diseases, Institute for Scientific Based Recovery and Cure—Lazzaro Spallanzani Rome (Italy) and Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Senese, Siena (Italy). Funds from the European Commission’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement 653316. This publication was supported by funds from the “Centro Regionale Medicina di Precisione” and by all the people who answered the call to fight with us the battle against SARS-CoV-2 with their kind donations on the platform ForFunding (https://www. forfunding.intesaSanpaolo.com/DonationPlatform-SfInViavprogetto/13380). This publication was supported by the European Virus Archive Goes Global project, which has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement 653316. This publication was supported by the COVID-2020-12371871 project, which has received funding from the Italian Ministry of Health. This work was supported by NIH Grant GM132826, NSF Grants for Rapid Response Research Grant MCB-2032054, an award from the Research Corporation for Science Advancement, and a University of California San Diego Moore’s Cancer Center 2018-2022 grant. The systems and the simulations were visually inspected with visual molecular dynamics, which was also used for image rendering (43). Further details on the computational method analyses are reported in SI Appendix, Materials and Methods.

1. S. Jiang, C. Hillyer, L. Du, Neutralizing antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 and other human coronaviruses. Trends Immunol. 41, 355–359 (2020).
2. F. Kramer, SARS-CoV-2 vaccines in development. Nature 586, 516–527 (2020).
3. Y. Dong et al., A systematic review of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine candidates. Signal Transduct. Target. Ther. 5, 237 (2020).
4. E. Gavor, Y. K. Choong, S. Y. Er, H. Sivaraman, J. Sivaraman, Structural basis of SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV antibody interactions. Trends Immunol. 41, 1006–1022 (2020).
5. Z. Ke et al., Structures and distributions of SARS-CoV-2 spike proteins on intact virions. Nature 588, 498–502 (2020).
6. A. C. Walls et al., Structure, function, and antigenicity of the SARS-CoV-2 spike glycoprotein. Cell 181, 281–292.e6 (2020).
7. T. M. Clausen et al., SARS-CoV-2 infection depends on cellular heparan sulfate and ACE2. Cell 183, 1043–1057.e15 (2020).
8. T. F. Rogers et al., Isolation of potent SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibodies and protection from disease in a small animal model. Science 368, 956–963 (2020).
9. Q. Wang et al., Structural and functional basis of SARS-CoV-2 entry by using human ACE2. Cell 181, 894–904.e9 (2020).
10. J. Lan et al., Structure of the SARS-CoV-2 spike receptor-binding domain bound to the ACE2 receptor. Nature 581, 215–220 (2020).
11. COG-UK, “COG-UK update on SARS-CoV-2 Spike mutations of special interest.” Rep. 1, COG-UK, 2020.

12. H. Tegally et al., Emergence and rapid spread of a new severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) lineage with multiple spike mutations in South Africa. medRxiv [Preprint] (2020). https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.12.21.2048640 (Accessed 22 December 2020).
13. E. C. Sabino et al., Resurgence of COVID-19 in Manaus, Brazil, despite high seroprevalence. Lancet 397, 452–455 (2021).
14. S. S. Elbe, G. Buckland-Merrett, Data, disease and diplomacy: GISAID’s innovative contribution to global health. Glob. Chall. 1, 33–46 (2017).
15. Y. Shu, J. McCauley, GISAID: Global initiative on sharing all influenza data—From vision to reality. Eurosurveillance 22, 30494 (2017).
16. L. A. Jackson et al., An mRNA vaccine against SARS-CoV-2—Preliminary report. N. Engl. J. Med. 383, 1820–1910 (2020).
17. A. Manenti et al., Evaluation of SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibodies using a CPE-based colorimetric live virus micro-neutralization assay in human serum samples. J. Med. Virol. 92, 2096–2104 (2020).
18. P. M. Folegatti et al., Safety and immunogenicity of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine against SARS-CoV-2: A preliminary report of a phase 1/2, single-blind, randomised controlled trial. Lancet 396, 467–478 (2020).
19. S. J. Zost et al., Potently neutralizing and protective human antibodies against SARS-CoV-2. Nature 584, 443–449 (2020).
20. E. Andreano et al., Extremely potent human monoclonal antibodies from COVID-19 convalescent patients. Cell 184, 1821–1835.e1816 (2021).
21. X. Chi et al., A neutralizing human antibody binds to the N-terminal domain of the Spike protein of SARS-CoV-2. Science 369, 650-655 (2020).
22. Y. Bar-On et al., Safety and antiviral activity of combination HIV-1 broadly neutralizing antibodies in viremic individuals. Nat. Med. 24, 1701-1707 (2018).
23. A. Baum et al., Antibody cocktail to SARS-CoV-2 spike protein prevents rapid mutational escape seen with individual antibodies. Science 369, 650–655 (2020).
24. Y. Bar-On et al., A systematic study of the N-glycosylation sites of HIV-1 envelope protein on infectivity and antibody-mediated neutralization. Retrovirology 10, 14 (2013).
25. F. Robson et al., Coronavirus RNA proofreading: Molecular basis and therapeutic targeting. Mol. Cell 79, 710–727 (2020).
26. B. Choi et al., Persistence and evolution of SARS-CoV-2 in an immunocompromised host. N. Engl. J. Med. 383, 2291–2293 (2020).
27. A. J. Greaney et al., Complete mapping of mutations to the SARS-CoV-2 spike receptor-binding domain that escape antibody recognition. Cell Host Microbe 29, 44–57 (2021).
28. F. Fagiani, M. Catanzaro, C. Lanni, Molecular features of IGHV3-53-encoded antibodies elicited by SARS-CoV-2. Signal Transduct. Target. Ther. 5, 170 (2020).
29. Z. Wang et al., mRNA vaccine-elicited antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 and circulating variants. Nature 592, 616–622 (2021).
30. P. Wang et al., Increased resistance of SARS-CoV-2 variants B.1.351 and B.1.1.7 to antibody neutralization. bioRxiv [Preprint] (2021). https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.01.25.428137 (Accessed 12 February 2021).
31. R. L. Gottlieb et al., Effect of bamlanivimab as monotherapy or in combination with etesevimab on viral load in patients with mild to moderate COVID-19: A randomized clinical trial. JAMA 325, 632-644 (2021).