Identification of a Universal Antigen Epitope of Influenza A Virus using Peptide Microarray

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Research article

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Abstract

Background
Hemagglutinin is a major surface protein in influenza A virus (IAV), and HA2 is relative conserved among different IAVs. However, identification of broad-spectrum epitopes remain less.

Results
Overlapping peptides of the HA2 protein of the H5N1 IAV A/Mallard/Huadong/S/2005 were synthesized and loaded on modified silica gel film to form a microarray, and antisera against different subtypes of IAVs were used to screen universal epitopes. The selected epitope was further confirmed by western blotting using anti-peptide immune serum and viruses rescued with amino acid substitution. The results showed that 485-FYHKDNCEME-495 of the 14th peptide in HA2 had broad-spectrum binding activity with antisera against H1, H3, H4, H5, H6, H7, H8, H9, and H10 subtype IAV. Substitution of amino acids (K or D) in rescued viruses resulted in decreased serum binding, indicating that they were critical residues for serum binding activity. In Immune Epitope Database, some epitopes containing 14–4 peptide were confirmed as MHC-II-restricted CD4 T cell epitope and had effects on releasing IL-2 or IFN.

Conclusion
The identified epitope should be a novel universal target for diagnostics and its ability to generate immune protection needs further exploration.

Background
Influenza A virus (IAV), a highly infectious zoonotic and variable pathogen, presents a substantial threat to public health worldwide, causing huge economic losses in the poultry industry owing to its high morbidity and mortality [1, 2]. Since 1918 influenza H1N1 virus killed more than 50 million people, influenza virus has been receiving more and more attention [3]. Influenza viruses could infect not only animals but also humans, and there was the possibility of interspecies transmission. Study shows that the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus causes millions of deaths in poultry and cross-species infection in human [4]. These factors have posed a huge pressure to the surveillance of influenza viruses and prevention of influenza.

IAV is negative-strand RNA virus and belongs to the Orthomyxoviridae. It is composed of eight gene segments that encode at least 17 different kinds of proteins [5–7]. Hemagglutinin (HA) is main envelope glycoprotein and can be cleaved into the HA1 and HA2 subunit. Continual mutations result in vast changes in HA proteins and as a consequence, cross-immunity between different subtypes is extremely poor. Thus far, 18 HA subtypes have been identified, which can be phylogenetically segmented into two large groups—Group 1 (H1, H2, H5, H6, H8, H9, H11, H12, H13, H16, H17, and H18) and Group 2 (H3, H4, H7, H10, H14, and H15) [8, 9]. Hence, effective universal epitopes are of great significance for the control of influenza virus.

Currently, vaccination is still considered the most effective and powerful means against IAVs, and the HA1 subunit plays a major role in immune response induced by traditional vaccines. However, immune pressure brings out mutations of HA1. As a result, it is difficult for conventional vaccines to deal with the new strains with mutations, due to lack of cross-immune protection [10]. On the contrary, HA2 subunit is located in stem and highly conserved in different subtypes of IAV. Antibodies against conformational or linear epitopes found in the HA2 are more broadly neutralizing and protective [11].

Several methods have been developed to identify conserved epitopes. Lohia et al identified three peptides containing T cell epitopes from the Matrix 1 protein of the H1N1 influenza virus using the immunoinformatics-based consensus approach, which were conserved (> 90%) among different subtypes of IAV and might to be promising candidates for universal vaccine design [12]. Ichihashi et al predicted six cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL) epitopes from internal proteins of the H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza by peptide prediction programs; three of which were protective and highly conserved among three different IAV subtypes [13]. Reverse-deriving epitopes by preparing numbers of monoclonal antibodies has been sought after by many people [14–16]. Li et al used four monoclonal antibodies which could neutralize the HA of H7N9, H3N2, and H9N2 to recognize novel linear epitopes by peptide-based ELISA[17]. Zhu et al identified six critical amino acid positions (92, 145, 166, 167, 168, and 197) in H9 antigenic sites based on the reactivity of variant and wild-type strains with monoclonal antibodies [18]. Some conserved epitopes also have been identified in HA2 of H5 subtype IAV [19]. In this study, novel conserved epitopes in HA2 of IAV were screened by peptide microarray and antisera against different subtypes of IAVs.

Results
Identification of peptides with broad-spectrum serum binding activity
To discover serum binding activity of peptides, the chip containing 18 overlapping peptides from the HA2 protein of the H5N1 subtype IAV S strain was reacted with 15 antisera against 9 subtype IAVs. The results showed that the SNR (Signal-to-noise ratio, SNR = (signal strength-background intensity)/background intensity) of reactions between the 1st, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 18th, or 19th peptides and antisera were all lower than 2, indicating that there was no binding activity between these peptides and antisera (Additional file 1 (Fig S1-S4)). The 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 12th, 13th, 16th, or 17th peptides showed binding activity to partial sera against the H5 subtype IAVs (Additional file 1 (Fig S1-S4)). In contrast, the 14th and 15th peptides not only showed positive binding activity to different serum samples against the H5 subtype IAVs, but also showed positive binding activity to sera against H1, H3, H4, H6, H7, H8, H9 or H10 subtype IAVs, indicating that the two peptides had broad-spectrum binding activity (Fig 1A, B). As general binding activity of the 14th peptide to different sera was higher than that of the 15th peptide, and there was partial overlapping between the 14th peptide and 15th peptide, the 14th peptide (KELNGCCEFYHKCDNECMEME) was selected for further study.

To verify whether the 14th peptide at the same position of other subtype IAVs had broad-spectrum serum binding activity, a peptide from the HA2 protein of the H7 subtype IAV was synthesized and subjected to the microarray assay. The results showed that the H7-14 peptide bound well with sera against H7 subtype IAVs, and several kinds of H5 and H9 subtype IAVs (Fig 2E), indicating that not all 14th peptides of the HA2 protein in different subtype IAVs had a broad spectrum serum binding activity.

Through PyMOL software and the online protein simulation website SWISS-MODEL, the 3D structure of the HA protein was simulated based on the sequences of S (Fig 3). The 14th peptide consisted of α-helix and loop structures, which was exposed to the surface and able to induce antibody binding.

To confirm immunogenicity, the 14th peptide from the HA2 protein of the H5 subtype IAV was conjugated to BSA, and used to immunize chickens. Chicken serum was collected for western-blot analysis of different subtypes of IAVs. The results showed that immune serum against the 14th peptide could bind to HA2 proteins from H1, H3, H4, H5, H6, H7, H8, H9, or H10 subtype IAVs (Fig 2E), indicating that not all 14th peptides of the HA2 protein in different subtype IAVs had a broad spectrum serum binding activity.

Identification of key amino acids for the universal epitope

To determine a more specific epitope in the 14th peptide, the peptide was further cut into four overlapping peptides and each peptide contained 11 amino acids. The peptides 14-1, 14-2 and 14-3 showed a few positive reactions to sera (Fig 2A-C). In contrast, SNR values of the 14-4 peptide serum binding activity were higher than 2 (Fig 2D), except for H5-04 serum (equal to 2), indicating that some key amino acids might be in the 14-4 peptide (FYHKCDNECMEME).

By comparing sequences and structure of the 14-4 peptide from different subtypes of IAVs (Fig 3 and Fig 5), a cluster of amino acids (–HKC–CM–) was conserved in most subtypes of IAVs. However, CM were located at the alpha helix region that was not easy to form epitopes [20]. So, they were not taken into consideration. Based on the sequence of five amino acids (YHKCD), 16 mutation/deletion patterns were designed (Table 1). Among these, all deletion patterns could not be applied to a rescue virus. Only when a single amino acid (Y/H/K/D) was mutated to glycine (G) could the virus be rescued. Rescued viruses were named S-Y-G, S-H-G, S-K-G, and S-D-G (biological characteristics of recombinant viruses are shown in Fig 6). The binding activities of rescued viruses to 14th peptide immune serum were analyzed by western-blotting. The results showed that the band intensities of viruses with substitution of amino acid Y or H to G were similar to that of the wild-type strain. However, the band intensities of viruses with substitutions of the other two amino acids (K or D) to G decreased significantly (Fig 7), indicating that amino acids K and D were critical for the serum binding activity of the universal epitope.

Use IEDB to analyze 14-4 peptide. The results showed that several epitopes containing partial amino acids of 14-4 peptide were confirmed as MHC-II-restricted T cell epitope and had effects on releasing IL-2 or IFN (Table 2). However, their influence was not significant [21-23].

Discussion

Owing to natural and immune selection pressures, IAVs constantly evolve by antigenic drift or antigenic shift, resulting in influenza epidemics and recurring pandemics with serious consequences for public health and animal production [24]. Although monitoring IAV mutations to update vaccine strains is the primary method to achieve a suitable vaccine, increasingly more effort is put on finding a universal vaccine to prevent and control influenza epidemics [25-29].

The neutralizing antibody induced by the HA1 protein of IAV has a strong protective effect; however, it is well known that HA1 is highly variable. In contrast, HA2 with high sequence and structure conservation among various subtypes of IAVs are more suitable as targets for screening broad-spectrum epitopes [30]. It has been proved that HA2 has universal and subdominant epitopes[17, 31, 32], which are usually screened by effective monoclonal antibodies and whole viruses or peptides. In this study, we applied peptide microarray with immune serum against different subtypes of IAVs to screen a universal antigenic epitope.

The peptide microarray is a new type of technology that has recently been developed. In a dot matrix, proteins are decomposed into a plurality of peptides and dotted on silica gel film [33, 34]. It can not only detect the corresponding antibody in serum but also reverse deduce the epitope
Recognized by the antibody [35, 36]. Based on the peptide microarray, we screened out the 14th peptide, KELGNGCFEFYHKCDNECME in HA2, which was positively responsive to the antibodies against multiple subtypes of IAVs. Furthermore, the truncated peptide (FYHKCDNECME) was confirmed to play a major role in the functioning of the broad-spectrum serum binding activity. In the mimetic 3D protein structure, the peptide was located at the bottom of the HA stem region, while the truncated peptide was located outside the bottom of the peptide, suggesting that the peptide epitope was exposed and immunogenic. It's confusing that the reactivity of the three different HA2 from the H5-01, H5-02 and H5-03 viruses against a serum specific of 14th peptide was different (Fig 4). So HA 3D simulation structures of those viruses were also simulated. According to Table 3 and Fig 8, the 14th peptide sequences and structures of three viruses are not significantly different, but different protein structures around them may affect the reaction of the antibody with the epitope.

As three consecutive amino acids (HKC) were relatively conserved in the 14th peptide of most IAVs, a total of 16 mutation/deletion patterns of the peptide was designed to find key amino acids for binding activity based on consecutive amino acids (YHKCD). Viruses could only be successfully rescued when a single amino acid was mutated to a non-polar amino acid G, except amino acid C. This may demonstrate that the 14th peptide structure is an extremely stable conformation in the HA stem region, and any amino acid deletion of the peptide might have a strong effect on stem structure. Interestingly, amino acid C, which is known as the only one kind of amino acid to form intermolecular disulfide bonds, was almost completely conserved in different subtypes of IAVs. In 3D simulation (Fig 8), 14-4 peptide is also adjacent to HA1. Substitution of C to G failed to rescue the virus, indicating the C was of great significance for stabilizing protein/peptide structures [37-39]. Simultaneously, when ‘K/D’ was mutated to G respectively, the binding activities of viruses to immune serum of the 14th peptide decreased. Although both the H5-14 and the H7-14 peptide had the core amino acid HKCD, the H5-14 peptide showed more broad-spectrum serum binding activity than that of the H7-14 peptide. These data suggest that the broad-spectrum epitope consists of HKCD and adjacent amino acids.

Additionally, Guo et al also found that the peptide FYHKCDNT was an immunodominant epitope in the 2009 pandemic H1N1 IAV, and the seasonal influenza viruses, induced generation of high volumes of antibodies by organisms [40]. Wang et al proved that peptide CFEFYHKCDNTCMES could be recognized by the antisera against the H1 subtype swine influenza virus, and was able to generate antibody responses in pigs via intranasal inoculation [41]. Katherine et al identified that peptide YHKCNNECMESVKNITYD and EFYHKCNNECMES played a role in CD4 T cells response and facilitated the release of IL-2. However, the ELISPOT results of the two peptides only detected less than 50 IL-2-producing cells per million CD4 T cells [22, 23].

Conclusion

A peptide FYHKCDNECME was identified demonstrating broad-spectrum serum binding activity to different subtypes of IAVs may be used as a novel universal target for diagnostics.

Methods

Virus, serum, plasmid, and cells

A total of 13 strains of IAV (Table 4) isolated from live poultry markets, including nine different subtypes of IAV (H1, H3, H4, H5, H6, H8, H7, H9, and H10), were used to prepare sera. All viruses were propagated in specific pathogen free (SPF) embryonated chicken eggs. Two kinds of sera against the H5 subtype of vaccine strains (2.3.4.4d and 2.3.2.1d) were purchased from YEBIO Company (China). The H5N1 avian influenza virus origin rescue plasmids (pHW-PB2, pHW-PB1, pHW-PA, pHW-HALo, pHW-NP, pHW-NA, pHW-M, and pHW-NS) were constructed by Shi et al [42]. Primary chicken embryo fibroblasts (CEF) were prepared from 9–10 d SPF chicken embryos and cultured in DMEM (HyClone Laboratories, USA) containing 4% fetal bovine serum (FBS, Shuangru Biotech, China).

Serum preparation

Forty-five 21-day-old SPF chickens (Beijing Meria Vitong experimental animal technology co., Ltd, China) were housed in cages under biosafety conditions with ad libitum access to food and water, three chickens in each group were immunized with inactivated IAVs (10^6 EID_{50}) with oil emulsion adjuvant or BSA-conjugated peptides (GL Biochem Ltd, China) with Freund’s adjuvant (Sigma, USA) and boosted at a two-week interval. Chickens were euthanatized by manual cervical dislocation at two weeks after the second vaccination and their sera were collected and identified by hemagglutination inhibition assay for whole virus immunized antisera (Table 4), and peptide chip for peptide immunized antisera.

Microarray experiment

According to the deduced amino acid sequence of the HA2 protein of the H5 subtype virus A/Mallard/Huadong/S/2005 (S, GenBank accession numbers: EU195389-EU195396), overlapping peptides (10 amino acids overlapped between two adjacent peptides) were synthesized by GL Biochem Ltd (China), except for the failure of the 11th peptide. To confirm key amino acids for the serum binding activity, the selected 14th peptide from the HA2 protein of the H5 subtype virus (KELGNGCFEFYHKCDNECME) was further cut into four overlapping peptides. To verify whether the selected
Site-direct mutagenesis and virus rescue

Site-direct mutagenesis of selected amino acid residues on the S strain HA2 protein was performed by the Mut Express II Fast Mutagenesis Kit V2 (Vazyme Biotech, China). Modified HA genes were inserted into the pHW2000 vector [45] and confirmed by sequencing (BGI Company, China). Recombinant viruses were rescued via an 8-plasmid reverse genetics technology as described previously [46]. HEC293T and M90 cells were plated at a ratio of approximately 1:5:1 in six-well plates and cultured in Dulbecco’s Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM) medium (HyClone Laboratories, USA) containing 10% FBS. The modified HA plasmid combined with seven S strain rescue plasmids were transfected using the PolyJet™ transfection reagent (SignaGen Laboratories, USA). At 48–72 h post-transfection, the cells and supernatant were collected and inoculated into chicken embryo allantoic cavity (7-day-old SPF chicken embryo, 0.25 μL each) to propagate recombinant viruses. The Median Tissue Culture Infectious Dose (TCID₅₀) of rescued viruses in CEF cells were determined according to Wagner (2000) and calculated by the Reed–Muench method [47]. To determine growth curve, CEF were infected with each virus at an MOI of 0.01 in M199 for 1 h. The infected cells were washed with PBS and then serum-free M199 was added. Cells were incubated at 37 °C under 5% CO₂. The virus titers in the supernatant were monitored periodically by determination of TCID₅₀ in CEF cells.

Western-blot analysis

Chicken embryo fibroblasts was inoculated with viruses (MOI = 0.01) and incubated for 1 h at 37 °C. Cells were washed twice with phosphate buffered saline (PBS, pH 7.2). Thereafter, M199 medium containing 1% FBS was added and incubated for 12 h. Cells were washed once with pre-cooled PBS (4 °C) and lysed with 200 μL of RIPA Lysis Buffer (strong) (CWBIO, Beijing, China) individually on ice for 15–20 min. Supernatants were collected by centrifugation at 12000 r/min for 10 min at 4 °C and mixed with protein loading buffer (Beyotime Biotechnology, China). Following boiling at 100 °C for 6–8 min, samples were subjected to 12% SDS-PAGE, and transferred to a PVDF membrane. The membrane which was first blocked in TBST containing 5% non-fat powdered milk at 25 °C for 1 h was incubated with the primary antibody against the 14th peptide of M199 at 1:1000 with TBST, 15 μL chemiluminescent imaging analysis system (Tanon 5200, Tanon Biotech, China).

Bioinformatics analysis

HA gene sequences of IAVs available from the GISAID (https://platform.gisaid.org/epi3/frontend) and GenBank influenza database (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/FLU/Database/nph-select.cgi#mainform) were aligned by MEGA 7.0 and then analyzed by WebLogo3 (http://weblogo.threeplusone.com/). HA molecule was analyzed by using Protein Data Bank (PDB), SWISS-MODEL system and the PyMOL System (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/FLU/Database/nph-select.cgi#mainform). Taking PDB file (PDB ID 4JUK, 6NTF, 6PCX) as a template, the amino acid sequence of target virus was modeled by Alignment Mode on SWISS-MODEL. The PDB file of HA protein of target virus was further modified with PyMOL. The epitope was also analyzed via the Immune Epitope Database (IEDB).

Abbreviations

IAV: influenza a virus; HA:hemagglutinin; CTL:cytotoxic t lymphocyte; ELISA:enzyme linked immunosorbent assay; SPF:specific pathogen free; CEF:chicken embryo fibroblasts; FBS:fetal bovine serum; BSA:bovine serum albumin; iPDMS:modified silica gel film; TBST:Tris-buffered saline tween-20; CCD:charge coupled device; SNR:signal-to-noise ratio; DMEM:Dulbecco’s modified eagle medium; TCID₅₀:median tissue culture infectious dose; PBS:phosphate buffered saline; PVDF:polyvinylidene fluoride; HRP:horseradish peroxidase.
All animal studies were approved by the Jiangsu Administrative Committee for Laboratory Animals (Permission number: SYXKSU-2007-0005) and complied with the Guidelines of Laboratory Animal Welfare and Ethics of Jiangsu Administrative Committee for Laboratory Animals.

Consent for publication

Not applicable

Availability of data and materials

All data generated or analysed during this study are included in this published article and its supplementary information files.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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Authors' contributions

DP, QW and ZS conceived and designed the experiments; QW, ZS and JL performed the experiments; QW wrote the paper; DP, QW and ZS analyzed the data; XL, DP, SC, HM, ZS, QW and JL offered suggestions and performed some of the experiments; DP and SC revised the manuscript and coordinated the research. All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

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Additional Files

Name: Additional file 1 (Fig S1-FigS4)
Format: .tif
Title: The signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs) of binding activity between sera from different subtype influenza A viruses (IAVs) and the other 16 peptides
Description: Synthetic peptides were sampled onto iPDMS (modified silica gel film) to form the chip. For the binding activity assay, sera were diluted 1:50 (v/v) with serum dilution buffer. SNR = (signal strength–background intensity)/background intensity were determined by GenePix Pro 6.0 software. The dotted line represents the SNR = 2. H5-01: serum against A/Mallard/Huadong/S/2005; H5-02: serum against A/Duck/Huadong/wx1205/2016; H5-03: serum against A/Chicken/Huadong/yz1111/2016; H5-04: serum against 2.3.4.4d vaccine strain; H5-05: serum against 2.3.2.1d vaccine strain; H7-01: serum against A/Chicken/Jiangsu/W1-8/15; H7-02: serum against A/Chicken/Huadong/JD/17; H9-01: serum against A/Chicken/Shanghai/F/98; H9-02: serum against A/Chicken/Taixing/10/2010.

Name: Additional file 2
Format: .DOC
Title: Original images for Western-blotting analysis
Western-blotting analysis of HA2 protein from different subtypes of influenza A viruses (Fig 4) and mutant viruses (Fig 7).

Description: Western-blotting analysis of HA2 protein from different subtypes of influenza A viruses (Fig 4) and mutant viruses (Fig 7).

Name: Additional file 3

Format: PDF

Title: ARRIVE checklist

Description: Checklist for serum preparation in immunized chickens.

Tables

Table 1 Different mutation/deletion patterns of 14-4 peptides

| Mutation       | Delete 4 amino acids | Delete 1 amino acids | Delete 5 amino acids |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| FGHKCDNECME    | FY----NECME          | F-HKCDNECME          | F----NECME           |
| FYGKCDNECME    | F-H----NECME         | FY-KCDNECME          |                     |
| FYHGCDNECME    | F-K----NECME         | FYH-CDNECME          |                     |
| FYHKDNECME     | F---C-NECME          | FYHK-DNECME          |                     |
| FYHKCGNECME    | F-----DNECME         | FYHKG-NECME          |                     |

- represents deletion, bold letter represents substitution amino acid

Table 2 Results of 14-4 peptide analyzed in IEDB
| Epitope                  | Parent protein                  | Antigen name                      | Host        | Method                  | Assay      | Result | Reference                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| CFEFYHCNNECMSVK         | hemagglutinin                   | A/NewCaledonia/20/1999 (H1N1)     | Homo sapiens| ELISPOT                 | IFNg release | Positive | Jenny Aurielle B Babon, Hum Immunol, 2009 |
| YHKCNNECMSV5NGTYD       | Hemagglutinin                   | A/NewCaledonia/20/1999 (H1N1)     | Mus musculus| ELISPOT                 | IL-2 release | Positive | Katherine A Richards, Immunology, 2011 |
| EFYHKCDNECMS            | hemagglutinin                   | A/Thailand/4(SP-528)/2004 (H5N1)  | Mus musculus| ELISPOT                 | IL-2 release | Positive | Katherine A Richards, J Virol, 2009 |
| EEMNGCFKIYHKCD          | Hemagglutinin                   | A/X-31 (H3N2)                     | Mus musculus| ELISPOT                 | IFNg release | Negative | Sherry R Crowe, Vaccine, 2006       |
| FEFYHKCDNECMSV          | Hemagglutinin                   | A/PuertoRico/8/34/Mount Sinai (H1N1) | Mus musculus| ELISPOT                 | IFNg release | Negative | Sherry R Crowe, Vaccine, 2006       |
| IGNGCCEFHYKCDNE         | Hemagglutinin                   | A/PuertoRico/8/34/Mount Sinai (H1N1) | Mus musculus| ELISPOT                 | IFNg release | Negative | Sherry R Crowe, Vaccine, 2006       |
| AEDMGNGCFKIYHKCDN       | Hemagglutinin                   | A/New York/384/2005 (H3N2)       | Homo sapiens| ELISPOT                 | IFNg release | Negative | Jenny Aurielle B Babon, Hum Immunol, 2009 |
| AKELNGCCEFHYKCDN        | Hemagglutinin                   | A/Thailand/4(SP-528)/2004 (H5N1)  | Homo sapiens| ELISPOT                 | IFNg release | Negative | Jenny Aurielle B Babon, Hum Immunol, 2009 |
| GCFEFYHKCDNECMSV        | Hemagglutinin                   | A/Thailand/4(SP-528)/2004 (H5N1)  | Homo sapiens| ELISPOT                 | IFNg release | Negative | Jenny Aurielle B Babon, Hum Immunol, 2009 |
| HKCDNECMSVRNGTYD        | Hemagglutinin                   | A/Thailand/4(SP-528)/2004 (H5N1)  | Homo sapiens| ELISPOT                 | IFNg release | Negative | Jenny Aurielle B Babon, Hum Immunol, 2009 |
| GNGCCEFHYHCNNECMS       | Hemagglutinin                   | A/NewCaledonia/20/1999 (H1N1)     | Mus musculus| ELISPOT                 | IL-2 release | Negative | Katherine A Richards, J Virol, 2007 |

Table 3 Amino acid sequences of 14th peptide and 14-4 peptide of 13 virus
### Table 4 Background information of 13 influenza A viruses (IAVs) and their immunized antisera

| Virus                                           | Type | 14th peptide       | 14-4 peptide       |
|-------------------------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------------------|
| A/Duck/Eastern China/103/2003                   | H1N1 | KEIGNGCFEFYHKCNNECME | FYHKCNNECME        |
| A/Duck/Eastern China/852/2003                   | H3N2 | EDMNGNGCFKIIYHKCDNACIE | IYHKCDNACIE        |
| A/Duck/Eastern China/160/2002                   | H4N6 | EDKNGNGCFEIFHQCDNNCIE | IFHQCDNNCIE        |
| A/Mallard/Huadong/S/2005                        | H5N1 | KELNGNGCFEFYHKCDNECME | FYHKCDNECME        |
| A/Duck/Huadong/wx1205/2016                      | H5N1 | KELNGNGCFEFYHKCNNECME | FYHKCNNECME        |
| A/Goose/Huadong/yz1111/2016                     | H5N6 | EELNGNGCFEFYHKCDNECME | FYHKCDNECME        |
| A/Duck/Eastern China/58/2003                    | H6N2 | NDLNGNGCFEFWHKCDNECIE | FWHKCDNECIE        |
| A/Chicken/Jiangsu/W1-8/15                       | H7N9 | EEDGTGCFEIFHKCDDCMA  | IFHKCDDCMA         |
| A/Chicken/Huadong/JD/17                         | H7N9 | EEDGTGCFEIFHKCDDCMA  | IFHKCDDCMA         |
| A/Duck/Eastern China/01/2005                    | H8N4 | IDAGNGCFDLHKCDNECME  | ILHKCDNECME        |
| A/Chicken/Shanghai/F/98                         | H9N2 | MEDGKGCFELYHKCDQCME  | LYHKCDQCME         |
| A/Chicken/Taixing/10/2010                       | H9N2 | MEDGKGCFELYHKCDQCME  | LYHKCDQCME         |
| A/Chicken/Huadong/RD5/2013                      | H10N9| EEDGKGCFEYHKCDNCME   | IYHKCDNCME         |

*represented mean HI titer of three chicken sera

### Table 5 Amino acid sequence of synthesized peptides
| Peptide name | Amino acid |
|-------------|------------|
| 1<sup>st</sup> | GLFGAIAGFIEGGQGWGMVDG |
| 2<sup>nd</sup> | EGGQGWGMDGWYGYHHSNEQ |
| 3<sup>rd</sup> | WYGYHHSNEQGSGYAADKES |
| 4<sup>th</sup> | GSGYAADKESTQKAIDGVTN |
| 5<sup>th</sup> | TQKAIDGVTNKVNSIIDKMN |
| 6<sup>th</sup> | KVNSIIDKMNTQFEAVGREF |
| 7<sup>th</sup> | TQFEAVGREFNNTNERRIE |
| 8<sup>th</sup> | NNLERRIELNKKMEDGFD |
| 9<sup>th</sup> | NKKMEDGFLDVWTYNAELLV |
| 10<sup>th</sup> | VWTYNAELLVLKMMERTLDF |
| 12<sup>th</sup> | HDSNVKNLYDKVRLQRLDN |
| 13<sup>th</sup> | KVRLQRLDNKELGNGCFEF |
| 14<sup>th</sup> | KELGNGCFEFYHKCDNECM |
| 15<sup>th</sup> | YHKCDNECMESVRNGTYDVD |
| 16<sup>th</sup> | SVRNGTYDYPQYSEEARLKR |
| 17<sup>th</sup> | QYSEEARLKRKKEISGVKLES |
| 18<sup>th</sup> | EEISGVKLESIGTYQILSIY |
| 19<sup>th</sup> | IGTYQILSIYSTVASSLALA |
| H7-14 | EEDGTGCFEIFHKCDDDCMA |
| 14-1 | KELGNGCFEFY |
| 14-2 | GNGCFEFYHKC |
| 14-3 | CFEFYHKCDNE |
| 14-4 | FYHKCDNECM |