-continued

<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Synthetic

<400> SEQUENCE: 30

Asp Tyr Lys Asp Asp Asp Asp Lys Gly
1 5

1. A polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the ectodomain of Lassa virus (LASV) glycoprotein 1 (GP1), or a fragment, analog or homolog thereof, in fusion with a non-LASV polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide excludes other LASV peptide sequences.

2. The polypeptide of claim **1**, wherein said polypeptide is a glycoprotein and said fusion is with a signal peptide.

3. The polypeptide of claim **2**, wherein said ectodomain comprises amino acid residues 59-259 of the LASV glycoprotein precursor (GPC).

4. The polypeptide of claim **2**, wherein said signal peptide is a human IgG λ light chain (h λLC) signal peptide or a human IgG heavy chain (h HC) signal peptide.

5-7. (canceled)

8. The polypeptide of claim **1**, wherein said fusion is with an *Escherichia coli* maltose-binding protein or the Flag-tag sequence (DYKDDDDKG).

9-10. (canceled)

11. A nucleic acid molecule that contains a sequence encoding the polypeptide of claim **1**.

12-18. (canceled)

19. The nucleic acid molecule of claim **11**, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is an expression vector.

20-26. (canceled)

27. An antibody raised against the polypeptide of claim **1**.

28-53. (canceled)

54. The polypeptide of claim **1**, wherein said polypeptide is a membrane-anchored form of glycoprotein 1 (GP1).

55. The polypeptide of claim **54**, comprising amino acid residues 1-259 and 428-451 of the Lassa virus (LASV) glycoprotein precursor (GPC).

56-88. (canceled)

89. The composition of claim **91**, wherein said composition is in the form of a vaccine for preventing or treating infection of a patient by Lassa virus.

90. (canceled)

91. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polypeptide according to claim **1** and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

92-94. (canceled)

95. A diagnostic kit for detecting an infection of a subject by Lassa virus or other arenaviridae comprising a polypeptide according to claim **1**.

96. (canceled)

97. A method of detecting infection by a Lassa virus or other arenaviridae comprising detecting Lassa virus or other arenaviridae antigens, or antibodies to Lassa virus or other arenaviridae, in a sample obtained from a subject suspected of being infected, wherein said antigens or antibodies are detected using a polypeptide according to claim **1**.

98. A method of treating or preventing infection by Lassa virus or other arenaviridae in a subject comprising administering a polypeptide according to claim **1** to said subject.

99-100. (canceled)

101. A method for producing a polypeptide according to claim **1**, wherein the method comprises the step of expressing said polypeptide in a cell.

102. The method of claim **101**, wherein said cell is an *Escherichia coli* cell.

103. The method of claim **102**, wherein the polypeptide is expressed in the cytoplasm of said *Escherichia coli* cell.

104. The method of claim **103**, wherein the polypeptide is expressed in an *Escherichia coli* Rosetta gami 2 cell.

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