



Structural basis for Zika envelope domain III recognition by a germline version of a recurrent neutralizing antibody

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Recent epidemics demonstrate the global threat of Zika virus (ZIKV), a flavivirus transmitted by mosquitoes. Although infection is usually asymptomatic or mild, newborns of infected mothers can display severe symptoms, including neurodevelopmental abnormalities and microcephaly. Given the large-scale spread, symptom severity, and lack of treatment or prophylaxis, a safe and effective ZIKV vaccine is urgently needed. However, vaccine design is complicated by concern that elicited antibodies (Abs) may cross-react with other flaviviruses that share a similar envelope protein, such as dengue virus, West Nile virus, and yellow fever virus. This cross-reactivity may worsen symptoms of a subsequent infection through Ab-dependent enhancement. To better understand the neutralizing Ab response and risk of Ab-dependent enhancement, further information on germline Ab binding to ZIKV and the maturation process that gives rise to potently neutralizing Abs is needed. Here we use binding and structural studies to compare mature and inferred-germline Ab binding to envelope protein domain III of ZIKV and other flaviviruses. We show that affinity maturation of the light-chain variable domain is important for strong binding of the recurrent VH3-23/VK1-5 neutralizing Abs to ZIKV envelope protein domain III, and identify interacting residues that contribute to weak, cross-reactive binding to West Nile virus. These findings provide insight into the affinity maturation process and potential cross-reactivity of VH3-23/VK1-5 neutralizing Abs, informing precautions for protein-based vaccines designed to elicit germline versions of neutralizing Abs.

Zika | germline antibody | flavivirus | affinity maturation | antibody-dependent enhancement

Zika virus (ZIKV) is an arthropod-borne flavivirus first discovered in 1947, with the first reported human case in 1964 and large outbreaks in 2007 and 2013 to 2015 (1–8). Although commonly transmitted by mosquitoes, ZIKV can also be transmitted sexually and can persist in infected individuals for up to several months (9–12). Infection is either asymptomatic or causes mild symptoms, including fever, conjunctivitis, headache, rash, and arthralgia in ~20% of cases, and severe neurologic problems, such as meningoencephalitis or Guillain-Barré syndrome, in rare cases (4, 13–15). There are major concerns about ZIKV infection during pregnancy, which can cause fetal neurodevelopmental abnormalities, such as microcephaly (10, 16–19). Given the large-scale spread, symptom severity, and lack of treatment or prophylaxis, a safe and effective ZIKV vaccine is urgently needed.

The ZIKV envelope (E) protein—containing envelope protein domain (ED)I, EDII, and EDIII—is similar to the E protein of other flaviviruses, including dengue virus serotypes 1 to 4 (DENV1-4), West Nile virus (WNV), and yellow fever virus (YFV) (20–22). EDIII is an important target for neutralizing antibodies (Abs) (23–25). Indeed, many Abs against the ZIKV

EDIII domain are strongly neutralizing and are an important component of the response to infection (26–38). A set of recurrent Abs (commonly occurring in multiple individuals, also referred to as “public Abs”) identified from a large cohort of patients in Brazil and Mexico potently neutralize both ZIKV and DENV1 by binding the lateral ridge of the EDIII domain (28). These Abs share the germline variable heavy (VH) gene segment VH3-23 and the germline variable κ (VK) gene segment VK1-5. One of these VH3-23/VK1-5 Abs, Z004, exhibited protection against ZIKV infection in mice, and when used in combination with another Ab, Z021, reduced viremia and prevented the emergence of ZIKV escape mutations in infected macaques (28, 29).

Strongly neutralizing anti-ZIKV Abs that are derived from known germline Ab precursors represent a potential target for a germline-targeting approach to vaccine design. Such approaches rely on the Ab response to an antigen being initiated through antigen binding to a B cell receptor in its germline configuration,

Significance

There is concern for design of a safe vaccine for Zika virus because antibodies (Abs) elicited against Zika may also bind flaviviruses that share a similar envelope protein. If Abs elicited by a Zika vaccine bind, but do not effectively neutralize other flaviviruses, they may enhance virus entry into cells through the process of Ab-dependent enhancement of infection, potentially leading to more severe disease. By directly comparing how mature Zika-neutralizing Abs and their germline precursors bind different flaviviruses, we provide insight into the Ab maturation process and the molecular interactions important for strong, neutralizing binding to Zika versus weak, cross-reactive binding to other flaviviruses.

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Competing interest statement: D.F.R., M.C.N., and The Rockefeller University have filed a patent application for antibody Z004.

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Data deposition: The atomic coordinates and structure factors have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank, www.pdb.org (PDB ID codes 6UTA and 6UTE).

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triggering B cell activation and subsequent affinity maturation through the process of somatic hypermutation (39). However, a potential concern for vaccine design efforts targeting the epitope for VH3-23/VK1-5 Abs or other flavivirus epitopes is that generation of weakly neutralizing or nonneutralizing Abs against ZIKV that cross-react with different flaviviruses could result in enhanced infection through the process of Ab-dependent enhancement (ADE) (22, 40–44). It is thought that ADE can result when the binding of cross-reactive—but non- or only poorly neutralizing—Abs promote viral entry into Fc γ receptor (Fc γ R)-expressing cells, thereby providing an alternative route of infection and causing increased virus production and symptom severity (22, 41, 42, 45–48). Therefore, understanding the ability of germline Abs to bind flavivirus envelope proteins and mature into specific, potently neutralizing Abs is important for development of a safe vaccine.

The Ab affinity maturation process for EDIII recognition can be investigated by structural comparisons of germline and mature Ab recognition of antigen. This approach provided insights into the affinity maturation of Abs against other viruses, including an increased understanding of modes of binding and somatic hypermutation in broadly neutralizing Abs against HIV-1 (49–53). In the case of ZIKV, knowledge of how both germline and mature versions of potently neutralizing Abs bind flaviviruses may enhance our understanding of the interactions that give rise to potent neutralization versus weak cross-reactivity that could contribute to risk for ADE.

Here we report binding and structural studies to gain insight into affinity maturation and cross-reactivity of the VH3-23/VK1-5 class of anti-ZIKV Abs. Through sequence alignments, surface plasmon resonance (SPR), neutralization assays, ADE assays, and structural studies, we compared mature and inferred germline (iGL) Ab binding to flavivirus EDIII domains from ZIKV, DENV1-4, WNV, and YFV. As part of this analysis, we compared two crystal structures, an iGL Ab bound to ZIKV EDIII and a cross-reactive mature Ab bound to WNV EDIII, with two previously determined crystal structures of potently neutralizing mature Abs bound to ZIKV and DENV1 EDIII (28). These findings revealed components of germline maturation, including contributions of somatic hypermutation in the variable domain (V_L) of the Fab, important for development of VH3-23/VK1-5 Abs that potently neutralize ZIKV and inform cross-reactivity precautions for flavivirus vaccine design and passive delivery of ZIKV Abs.

Results

Selection of Anti-ZIKV Abs for Binding and Structural Studies. Potent neutralizing and recurring VH3-23/VK1-5 Abs against ZIKV and DENV1 were previously identified in multiple donors exposed to ZIKV in Mexico and Brazil (28). To investigate germline Ab maturation and cross-reactivity of VH3-23/VK1-5 Abs, we selected a set of seven Abs identified from the memory B cells of three of the donors: Z004_{mature} from donor MEX 18; Z006_{mature} from donor MEX 105; and Z031_{mature}, Z032_{mature}, Z034_{mature}, Z035_{mature}, and Z036_{mature} from donor BRA 112 (*SI Appendix, Figs. S1–S3*). Since crystal structures were previously determined for Z004_{mature} and Z006_{mature} Fabs complexed with DENV1 EDIII and ZIKV EDIII, respectively (PDB ID codes 5VIC and 5VIG), these Abs were of particular interest for comparison to germline versions (28). Additionally, Z031_{mature}, Z032_{mature}, Z034_{mature}, Z035_{mature}, and Z036_{mature}—which we term the Z03X_{mature} series—were selected since VH3-23/VK1-5 Abs from patient BRA 112 were previously shown to neutralize ZIKV, but no structural information on EDIII recognition was known (28).

Design of iGL Versions of Anti-ZIKV Abs. Z004_{iGL} and Z03X_{iGL} were constructed based on the germline gene assignments of mature VH3-23/VK1-5 Abs identified from donors MEX 18 and BRA

112 (*SI Appendix, Figs. S1–S3*) (28, 54). There are 16 amino acid differences in the V_H and 9 differences in the V_L of the Z004_{mature} and Z004_{iGL} sequences (Fig. 1), some occurring in complementarity determining regions (CDRs; 3 in CDR1, 6 in CDR2, and 5 in CDR3) (Fig. 1A). Amino acid differences between the Z03X_{mature} series and the Z03X_{iGL} ranged from 13 to 23 for V_H and 8 to 11 for V_L (Fig. 1B). The Z03X_{iGL} V_H CDR1 (CDRH1) differed from all Z03X_{mature} sequences except Z035_{mature}, and the V_L CDR1 (CDRL1) differed from all Z03X_{mature} sequences except Z031_{mature}. The Z03X_{iGL} CDRH2 differed from all Z03X_{mature} sequences by at least three amino acids, and CDRL2 was the same as all Z03X_{mature} sequences except Z034_{mature}. The CDR3s of the Z03X_{iGL} V_H and V_L differed by at least two amino acids from all Z03X_{mature} sequences.

Assessing Binding of Anti-ZIKV IgGs with Flavivirus EDIIIs. To investigate whether iGL versions of Abs bind ZIKV EDIIIs and whether any of the mature anti-ZIKV Abs cross-react with EDIIIs of other flaviviruses, we used SPR to determine Ab binding affinities for EDIII domains. To avoid avidity effects, the monomeric EDIII domains were injected over mature and iGL versions of IgGs coupled to biosensor flow cells. The analytes included EDIIIs from ZIKV, DENV1, DENV2, DENV3, DENV4, WNV, and YFV, and the IgG ligands included Z004_{mature}, Z006_{mature}, Z031_{mature}, Z032_{mature}, Z034_{mature}, Z035_{mature}, Z036_{mature}, Z004_{iGL}, and Z03X_{iGL}.

Sensorgrams revealed strong binding of both ZIKV and DENV1 EDIII to all mature IgGs, with low nanomolar or picomolar equilibrium dissociation constants (K_D s) (Fig. 2A, Table 1, and *SI Appendix, Figs. S4A and S5–S7*). The K_D values for Z004_{mature}, Z006_{mature}, Z032_{mature}, Z034_{mature}, Z035_{mature} and Z036_{mature} were all \sim 2 to 14 \times lower for ZIKV EDIII than DENV1 EDIII, demonstrating stronger binding to ZIKV EDIII. Z031_{mature} was the only IgG to bind more tightly to DENV1 than ZIKV EDIII. Mature IgGs showed weak binding to some of the EDIIIs; specifically, Z004_{mature}, Z006_{mature}, and Z034_{mature} with DENV2 EDIII, Z004_{mature} with DENV4 EDIII, and all mature IgGs with WNV EDIII (K_D s $>$ 100 μ M) (Table 1 and *SI Appendix, Figs. S8–S12*). Although the binding of Abs to DENV2, DENV4, and WNV is weak (*SI Appendix, Figs. S8A, S10A, and S11A*), it is clearly detectable compared to negative controls that show no binding (*SI Appendix, Figs. S8B, S9, S10B, S11B, and S12*). However, reporter viral particle (RVP)-based neutralization assays with a subset of VH3-23/VK1-5 Abs showed mature Abs neutralize ZIKV and DENV1, but not WNV (*SI Appendix, Fig. S13*). Additionally, RVP-based ADE assays showed no ability of mature Abs to induce ADE of DENV2 or WNV (*SI Appendix, Fig. S14*).

As expected, the iGL IgGs bound EDIII with lower affinities (e.g., low micromolar to high nanomolar K_D s for the interactions of Z004_{iGL} and Z03X_{iGL} with ZIKV and DENV1 EDIII, respectively) than the mature IgGs (Fig. 2B, Table 1, and *SI Appendix, Fig. S4B*). The iGL IgGs bound ZIKV EDIII with \sim 22 to 83 \times higher affinity than DENV1 EDIII, similar to the trend shown by mature IgGs (Fig. 3). The only other EDIIIs that showed detectable interactions with iGL IgGs were Z03X_{iGL}-DENV2 EDIII and Z03X_{iGL}-DENV4 EDIII (Table 1 and *SI Appendix, Figs. S8 and S10*). While the Z004_{iGL} and Z03X_{iGL} IgGs neutralized ZIKV RVPs (NT₅₀s [concentration at 50% neutralization] of 8.8 ng/mL and 0.82 ng/mL, respectively) and DENV1 RVPs (NT₅₀s: 1,400 ng/mL and 40 ng/mL), these iGL IgGs also showed ability to induce some ADE of ZIKV and DENV1 (but not DENV2 or WNV) (*SI Appendix, Figs. S13 and S14*).

To characterize affinity maturation of anti-ZIKV Abs and the structural correlates of Ab cross-reactivity, we set up crystallization screens for all 7 Fabs and for the 31 Fab–EDIII complexes that exhibited detectable binding interactions (Table 1). Crystals

A V_H alignment

Z004 iGL	EVQLLESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAAS	CDR1	GPTFSSY	MSWVRQAPGKLEWVSA	50
Z004 mature	.....T.T.....	RD	.....	.....S	50
Z004 iGL	ISGSGGST	CDR2	YYADSVKGRFTISRDNKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVVY	CAKDR	96
Z004 mature	Y..IDD	.....	.....S..S.H.....	.....S.L.F.....	96
Z004 iGL	GPRGVGELFDY	CDR3	WGQGLTVTVSS	113	
Z004 mature	.....S	.....	.....	113	

 V_L alignment

Z004 iGL	DIQMTQSPSTLSASVGDRTVITCRAS	CDR1	QSISW	LAWYQQKPKAPKLLIY	50	
Z004 mature	.....	K	.....	.....T	50
Z004 iGL	ASSLESGVPSRFSGSGTEFTLTISLQPD	CDR2	FATYYC	CDR3	QQYNSYPWTFGQ	100
Z004 mature	T.T.K	HFY.V	100
Z004 iGL	GTKVEIK	107				
Z004 mature	.....	107			

B V_H alignment

Z03X iGL	EVQLLESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAAS	CDR1	GPTFSSY	MSWVRQAPGKLEWVSA	ISGSGG	55					
Z031 mature	.....V.....	G.G.A	.....	.....I.S	SID	54				
Z032 mature	.....R.....	T.....	P.T	.....L.....	G.T.DS	55				
Z034 mature	.....A.....	ET.....	R.G.G	.....	S.YI	54				
Z035 mature	.....I.....	.....	.....	.....	G.....	ASDN	53			
Z036 mature	.....D.....	.....	T.G.A	.....	L.S	SVD	54			
Z03X iGL	--STYYADSVKGRFTISRDNKNTLYLQMN	CDR1	SLRAEDTAVVY	CDR2	CAKDR	ISGSGG	FSSWGQ	105			
Z031 mature	-P.....	V.....	E.....	H.S	KV	.....	F.....	N.....	A.....	105
Z032 mature	-----	A.....	.....	T.D	.....	HS.L	.....	Y	105	
Z034 mature	-D.....	A.....	S.....	DR.T	.....	VR..IQ	.....	YRY	105	
Z035 mature	GA.R	.....	S.....	V.....	.....	.....	.....	QK	105	
Z036 mature	-D.K	A.....	R.....	H.....	VD	IPH.L	YAN	105
Z03X iGL	GTLTVTVSS	113									
Z031 mature	.....	113								
Z032 mature	.....	113								
Z034 mature	.....	113								
Z035 mature	.....	113								
Z036 mature	.....	113								

 V_L alignment

Z03X iGL	DIQMTQSPSTLSASVGDRTVITCRAS	CDR1	QSISW	LAWYQQKPKAPKLLIY	CDR2	KASSLESGVPS	60
Z031 mature	.....S	.....	.....	.....	F.H	.....	I
Z032 mature	.....N	.....	NQ	.....	F.M	.....	T.T
Z034 mature	.....M	.....	VNK	.....	ET	.....	I
Z035 mature	.....A	.....	N.N	.....	F	.....	T
Z036 mature	.....	.....	G	.....	R	.....	MH
Z03X iGL	RFSGSGSGTEFTLTISLQPD	CDR1	FATYYC	CDR2	QQYNSYPWTFGQ	GTKVEIK	107
Z031 mature	.....	NN	.....	H.H	.....	.....	107
Z032 mature	.....	H.F	.....	.....	.....	.....	107
Z034 mature	.....	H.HG	.....	.....	.....	.....	107
Z035 mature	.....	H.Y	.....	Y	.....	.....	107
Z036 mature	.....	H.H	.....	Y	.....	.....	107

Fig. 1. Alignments of V_H and V_L sequences of mature and iGL versions of Abs isolated from patients exposed to ZIKV. (A) Z004 mature and iGL Ab. (B) Mature and iGL Z03X Abs. CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 are orange, blue, and red, respectively. The Kabat numbering scheme was used.

were obtained and X-ray structures determined for two complexes: Z004_{iGL} Fab with ZIKV EDIII (3.1 Å resolution) and Z032_{mature} Fab with WNV EDIII (2.9 Å resolution) (*SI Appendix, Table S1*).

Comparing iGL and Mature Fab Interactions with Flavivirus EDIIIs.

Crystals of the Z004_{iGL} Fab–ZIKV EDIII complex contained two Fab–EDIII complexes in the asymmetric unit (root mean square deviation [rmsd] of 0.37 Å for 279 Cα atoms in the V_H – V_L and EDIII domains) (*SI Appendix, Table S1*). The structure revealed that Z004_{iGL} binds the same epitope on the EDIII lateral ridge as Z004_{mature}. Alignment of the EDIII portions of both complexes revealed similar binding interactions, including recognition of the EDIII EK amino acid motif (E393-K394) that is central to the binding epitope in the Z004_{mature} Fab–DENV1 EDIII (PDB ID code 5VIC) and Z006_{mature}–ZIKV EDIII (PDB ID code 5VIG) crystal structures (Fig. 4 and *SI Appendix, Fig. S154 and Table S2*) (28).

To compare the binding interfaces of the iGL and mature Abs with EDIII, we calculated buried surface areas (BSAs) on the Fab and EDIII in each complex (Fig. 5). Increased BSA generally correlates with a larger number of interface residues and a higher binding affinity (55). As expected from the low affinity of the Z004_{iGL} Fab interaction with EDIII, less surface area was buried by EDIII on Z004_{iGL} Fab (~660 Å²) than on Z004_{mature} (~810 Å²) or Z006_{mature} (~890 Å²) (Fig. 5). The difference in Fab BSA between Z004_{iGL} and Z004_{mature} was largely accounted for by interactions with V_L rather than V_H . Specifically, the V_H BSA was similar for Z004_{iGL} (~410 Å²) and Z004_{mature} (~400 Å²), whereas the V_L BSA was greater for Z004_{mature} (~410 Å²) than Z004_{iGL} (~250 Å²). There was more EDIII surface area buried by V_H than by V_L for all complexes (Fig. 5). Since the Z004_{iGL}–ZIKV EDIII and Z004_{mature}–DENV1 EDIII structures do not directly compare iGL and mature Z004 binding to the same EDIII, we also made a homology model of Z004_{mature}–ZIKV EDIII binding by threading the sequence of ZIKV EDIII

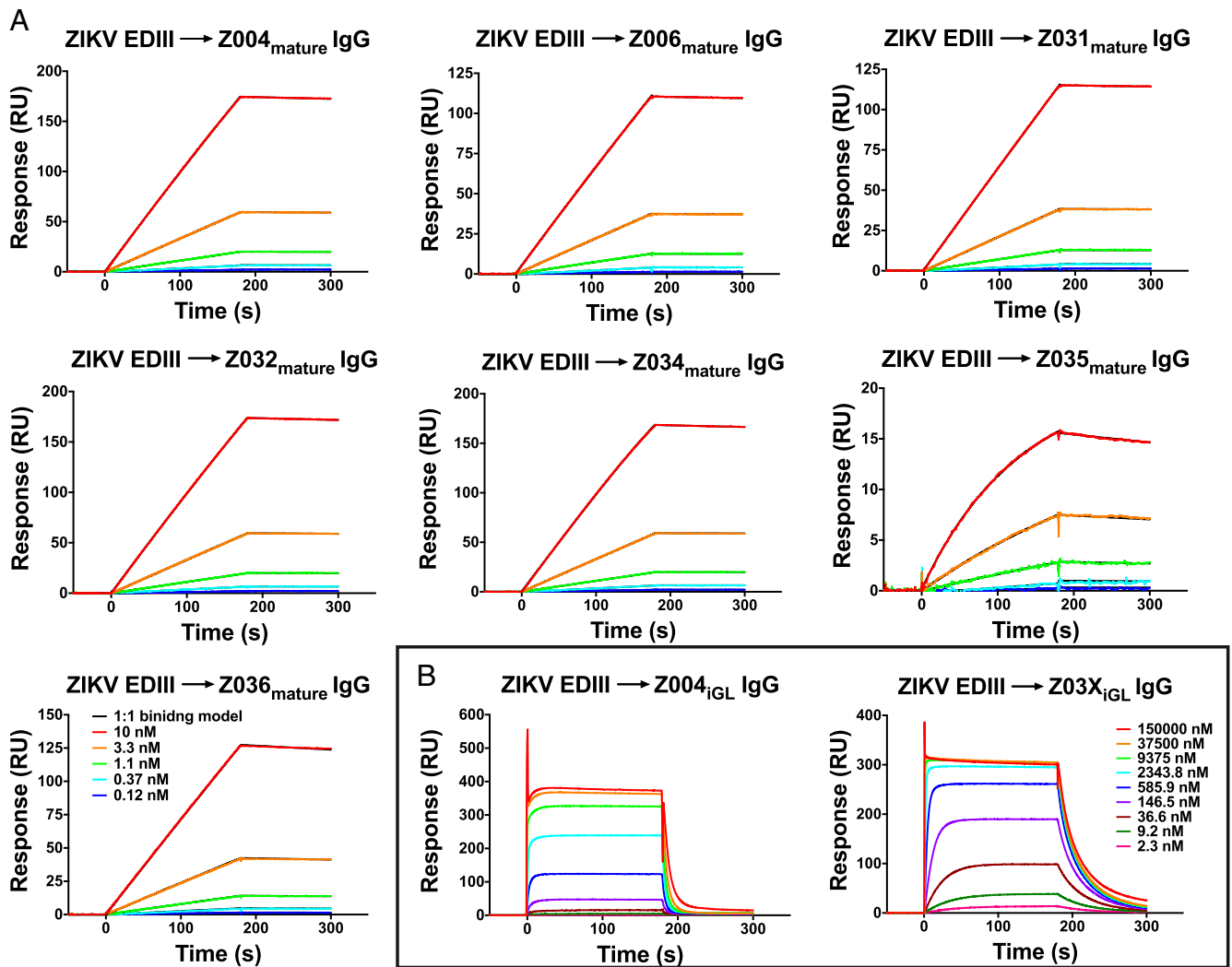


Fig. 2. SPR binding assays with ZIKV EDIII. IgGs were captured on a protein A biosensor chip, and the indicated concentrations of ZIKV EDIII were injected. Sensorgrams are indicated in colors representing different injected concentrations. (A) Mature IgGs binding to ZIKV EDIII. Fits to a 1:1 binding model are in black; since the models very closely fit the data, the models are only slightly visible. The legend shown in the *Bottom Left* applies to all sensorgrams. Residual plots for the 1:1 binding model fitting are shown in *SI Appendix, Fig. S7A*. Two independent experiments were performed; the other set of sensorgrams is shown in *SI Appendix, Fig. S5*. (B) iGL IgGs binding to ZIKV EDIII. Fitting curves for equilibrium binding responses are shown in Fig. 3. The y axes show RU. The legend shown (*Right*) applies to both sensorgrams.

onto the structure DENV1 EDIII in the Z004_{mature}-DENV1 EDIII structure. The BSA on the Fab (770 Å²) for the Z004_{mature}-ZIKV EDIII model showed the same trend as Z004_{mature}-DENV1

EDIII: The V_H BSA of Z004_{mature} (~390 Å²) was similar to Z004_{iGL} (~410 Å²), whereas the V_L BSA was greater for Z004_{mature} (~380 Å²) than Z004_{iGL} (~250 Å²) (Fig. 5).

Table 1. K_Ds (nM) of mature and iGL Ab binding to EDIIIs determined by SPR

IgG	EDIII						
	ZIKV	DENV1	DENV2	DENV3	DENV4	WNV	YFV
Z004 _{mature}	0.28	0.47	>100,000	n.b.	>100,000	>100,000	n.b.
Z006 _{mature}	0.50	1.7	>100,000	n.b.	n.b.	>100,000	n.b.
Z031 _{mature}	3.0	0.33	n.b.	n.b.	n.b.	>100,000	n.b.
Z032 _{mature}	0.30	1.1	n.b.	n.b.	n.b.	>100,000	n.b.
Z034 _{mature}	0.059	0.80	>100,000	n.b.	n.b.	>100,000	n.b.
Z035 _{mature}	0.78	5.2	n.b.	n.b.	n.b.	>100,000	n.b.
Z036 _{mature}	0.29	0.53	n.b.	n.b.	n.b.	>100,000	n.b.
Z004 _{iGL}	1,200	>100,000	n.b.	n.b.	n.b.	n.b.	n.b.
Z03X _{iGL}	92	2000	>100,000	n.b.	>100,000	n.b.	n.b.

n.b.: No detectable binding at concentrations ≤150 μM.

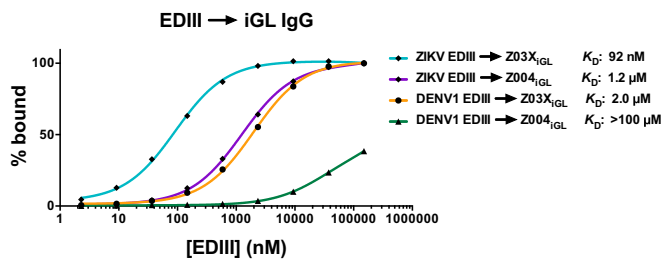


Fig. 3. Comparison of qualitative ZIKV and DENV EDIII binding to iGL IgGs. Normalized R_{eq} from the sensorgrams in Fig. 2B and *SI Appendix, Fig. S4B* are plotted versus the log of the concentration of the indicated injected proteins with best fit binding curves to the experimental data points shown as continuous lines. The SEs of the fit and 95% confidence intervals (CI) of the K_D s are as follows: ZIKV EDIII \rightarrow Z03X_{iGL} IgG (K_D : 92 nM; SE: 4.9 nM; CI: 79 to 100 nM), ZIKV EDIII \rightarrow Z004_{iGL} IgG (K_D : 1.2 μ M; SE: 61 nM; CI: 1,100 to 1,400 nM), and DENV1 EDIII \rightarrow Z03X_{iGL} IgG (K_D : 2.0; SE: 100 nM; CI: 1,700 to 2,200 nM). Since DENV1 EDIII \rightarrow Z004_{iGL} binding reaction did not reach equilibrium, the K_D is approximated as greater than the highest concentration of analyte injected.

Z004_{iGL} showed only 5 residues that interact with the ZIKV EDIII antigen compared with 10 interacting residues for Z004_{mature} (with DENV1 EDIII in the crystal structure and with ZIKV EDIII in the homology model) and 13 residues in Z006_{mature} Fabs that interact with ZIKV EDIII (*SI Appendix, Fig. S16 A–D* and Table S2). The finding of fewer interacting residues is consistent with the weaker binding of Z004_{iGL}, demonstrated by SPR (Figs. 2 and 3 and Table 1). Similar to the trends with differences in BSA, differences in the number of Fab residues predicted to interact with EDIII was pronounced for V_L : one by Z004_{iGL} V_L , four by Z004_{mature} V_L (with ZIKV in the model), five by Z004_{mature} V_L (with DENV1), six by Z006_{mature} V_L (with ZIKV) (*SI Appendix, Fig. S16 A–D* and Table S2). Among Fab residues that interact with EDIII by either Z004_{iGL} or Z004_{mature}, we observe that the only residues that differ in

sequence between the iGL and mature version are in the V_L CDRL3: F91_{VL}, Y92_{VL} and V94_{VL} in Z004_{mature}, compared with Y91_{VL}, N92_{VL}, and Y94_{VL} in Z004_{iGL} (*SI Appendix, Figs. S16 and S17A* and Table S2). Two of these residues, F91_{VL} and Y92_{VL}, interact with the ZIKV EDIII EK motif. In contrast, the only residues that interact with EDIII by both Z004_{mature} and Z004_{iGL} are in the V_H and share the same sequence: S56_{VH} (CDRH2), Y58_{VH} (framework region [FWR]H3), and E100_{VH} (CDRH3). Z006_{mature} Fab also shared one of the same V_H interacting residues: Y58_{VH} (FWRH3) (*SI Appendix, Fig. S16 and Table S2*).

To further investigate the effects of affinity maturation in the V_H versus the V_L domain for high-affinity EDIII binding, we prepared two Z004 chimeric IgGs for SPR and neutralization assay analysis: One with mature V_H and iGL V_L and the other with iGL V_H and mature V_L . The SPR sensorgrams for ZIKV EDIII binding to the Z004 chimeras were fit to a 1:1 binding model (*SI Appendix, Fig. S18*) and showed 10-fold higher affinity binding to the $V_{iGL\ HC}-V_{mature\ LC}$ chimera (K_D : 2.5 nM) than to the $V_{mature\ HC}-V_{iGL\ LC}$ chimera (K_D : 29 nM) (*SI Appendix, Table S3*). The $V_{iGL\ HC}-V_{mature\ LC}$ sensorgrams appeared similar to mature V_H-V_L sensorgrams (slow off-rate), whereas the $V_{mature\ HC}-V_{iGL\ LC}$ sensorgrams were more similar to the iGL V_H-V_L sensorgrams (fast off-rate), consistent with the importance of light-chain (LC) maturation in the development of high-affinity recognition of Zika EDIII. Neutralization assays comparing the two chimeric Abs showed that while both Z004 chimeras can neutralize ZIKV and DENV1, the $V_{iGL\ HC}-V_{mature\ LC}$ chimera neutralizes just as potently (NT_{50} : 0.34) as fully mature Z004 IgG (NT_{50} : 0.55), while $V_{mature\ HC}-V_{iGL\ LC}$ chimera neutralizes with slightly lower potency (NT_{50} : 1.00) (*SI Appendix, Fig. S13*).

To assess which residues are important for high-affinity binding, we first prepared ZIKV EDIII with the EK motif (central to the binding epitope and involved in several interactions with Z004), mutated to alanines (E393A-K394A) for binding studies with SPR. Binding of Z004_{mature} IgG to ZIKV

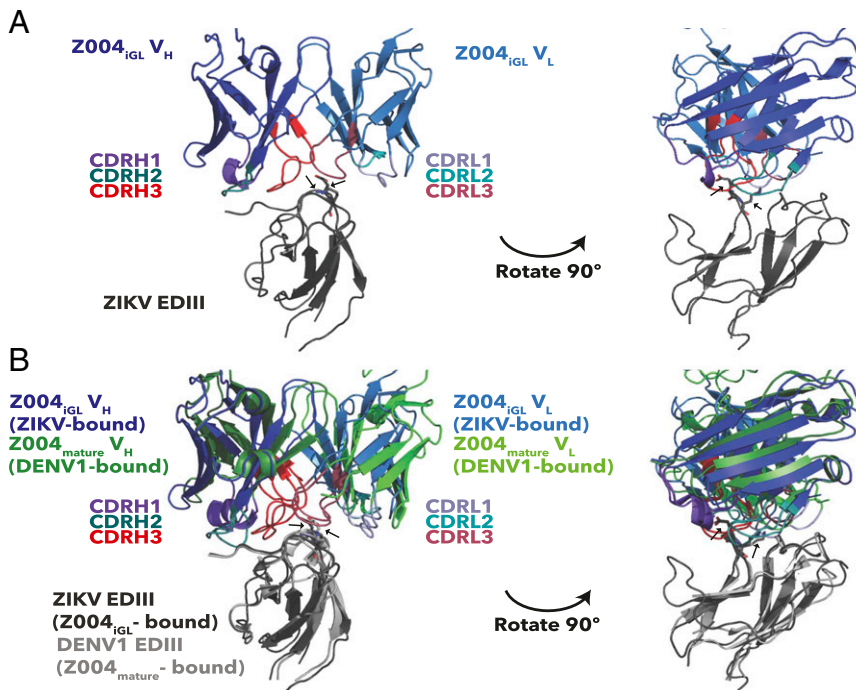
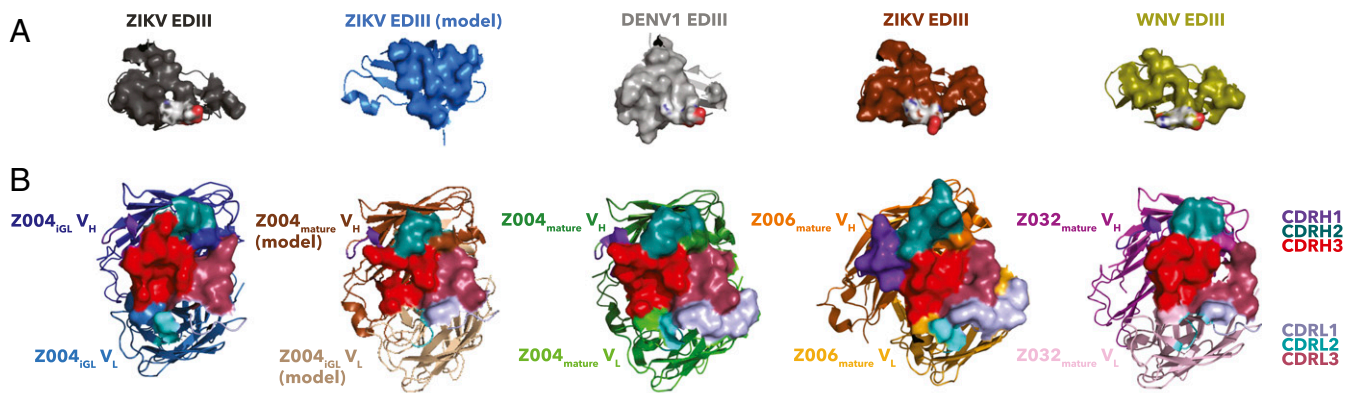


Fig. 4. Recognition of ZIKV EDIII by Z004 iGL and mature Fabs. Fab–EDIII structures are shown as cartoon representations with Fab V_H-V_L domains only and the EK motifs of ZIKV and DENV1 EDIII highlighted as sticks (indicated by arrows). (A) Z004_{iGL} Fab–ZIKV EDIII structure. (B) Superimposition of the Z004_{iGL} Fab–ZIKV EDIII and Z004_{mature} Fab–DENV1 EDIII (PDB 5VIC) structures (28). Structures were superimposed on the EDIII.



C

Complex	EDIII						Fab								
	Surface area buried by V _H			Surface area buried by V _L			V _H buried surface area			V _L buried surface area			Total buried surface area		
	Å ²	%	# EDIII interface residues	Å ²	%	# EDIII interface residues	Å ²	%	# V _H interface residues	Å ²	%	# V _L interface residues	Å ²	%	# Fab interface residues
Z004 _{iGL} Fab - ZIKV EDIII	390	6.6	15	260	4.4	10	410	6.7	14	250	4.5	8	660	11.2	22
Z004 _{mature} Fab - ZIKV EDIII (homology model)	450	7.2	13	380	6.1	10	390	3.4	15	380	3.4	13	770	6.8	28
Z004 _{mature} Fab - DENV1 EDIII	450	8.2	12	400	7.4	11	400	6.2	15	410	7.2	11	810	13.4	26
Z006 _{mature} Fab - ZIKV EDIII	530	9.5	15	390	6.9	10	530	8.7	19	360	6.5	11	890	15.2	30
Z032 _{mature} Fab - WNV EDIII	410	7.2	11	230	3.9	5	420	6.7	14	210	3.7	6	630	10.4	20

Fig. 5. Comparison of Fab–EDIII binding interfaces. Surface representations of the (A) EDIII epitopes contacted by Fabs and (B) Fab binding epitopes contacted by EDIII in the Z004_{iGL} Fab–ZIKV EDIII (PDB ID code 6UTA), Z004_{mature} Fab–ZIKV EDIII homology model, Z004_{mature} Fab–DENV1 EDIII (PDB ID code 5VIC), Z006_{mature} Fab–ZIKV EDIII (PDB ID code 5VIG), and Z032_{mature} Fab–WNV EDIII (PDB ID code 6UTE) structures (left to right) (28). The Z004_{mature} Fab–ZIKV EDIII homology model was made by threading the sequence of ZIKV EDIII onto the structure DENV1 EDIII in the Z004_{mature}–DENV1 EDIII structure. Binding epitopes are shown as surfaces over cartoon representations. CDRs are colored as indicated (Right). (C) Quantification of BSA (Å² and percentage of total surface area) and number of interface residues buried on the entire EDIII (Left) and V_H and V_L of the Fab (Right) based on the interfaces mapped in A and B. The column labeled total buried surface area for Fabs includes the sum of BSA for the V_H and V_L.

EDIII_{AA} mutant was nearly abolished with a K_D of $\gg 100$ μM (SI Appendix, Fig. S17B and Table S3). To verify that the Z004 V_L residues that interact with EDIII and differ between Z004_{iGL} and Z004_{mature} (F91_{V_L}, Y92_{V_L}, and V94_{V_L}) are important for high-affinity binding to ZIKV EDIII, we prepared Z004_{mature} IgG variants with two or all three residues mutated to alanines. When the two EK-interacting residues were mutated (Z004_{mature} IgG: V_L F91A-Y92A), we observed 100-fold reduced binding affinity to ZIKV EDIII (K_D : 35 nM). When all three residues were mutated (Z004_{mature} IgG: V_L F91A-Y92A-V94A), we observed 1,000-fold reduced binding affinity (K_D : 230 nM) (SI Appendix, Fig. S17 C and D and Table S3).

Structural Correlates of Weak Ab Cross-Reactivity. We were able to crystallize a complex of Z032_{mature} Fab bound to WNV EDIII despite the low affinity of this interaction ($K_D \geq 100$ μM) (Table 1). Perhaps correlating with the low affinity of the complex, the crystallographic asymmetric unit contained one Fab–WNV EDIII complex and four unbound Fabs (Fig. 6A and SI Appendix, Table S1). The four unbound Fabs were similar to each other (rmsds ranging from 0.22 Å to 0.47 Å for pairwise superimpositions of 203 to 214 C α residues in the V_H–V_L domains) (SI Appendix, Table S4). WNV EDIII-bound and -unbound Fabs were also similar (rmsds ranging from 0.35 Å to 0.45 Å for pairwise superimpositions of 210 to 217 C α residues in the

V_H–V_L domains), indicating no major structural changes upon EDIII binding (SI Appendix, Fig. S19 and Table S4).

The Z032_{mature} Fab–WNV EDIII structure showed that Z032_{mature} Fab interacts with WNV EDIII at the lateral ridge epitope recognized by Z004_{mature}, Z006_{mature}, and Z004_{iGL}, although with a low Fab BSA (~ 630 Å²) (Figs. 5 and 6 and SI Appendix, Fig. S14). Similar to Z004_{iGL}, the V_H (420 Å²) contributes more to the total Z032_{mature} Fab BSA than V_L (210 Å²). The low Fab BSA correlates with fewer interacting residues at the binding interface: Only eight Z032 Fab residues were found to interact with six WNV EDIII residues (SI Appendix, Fig. S16 and Table S2). Some Z032_{mature} Fab interacting residues were also involved in interactions in other Fab–EDIII structures: S56_{V_H} (in Z004_{iGL} and Z004_{mature}), Y58_{V_H} (FWR3) (in Z004_{iGL}, Z004_{mature}, and Z006_{mature}), R96_{V_H} (CDRH3) (in Z004_{mature} and Z006_{mature}), E100_{C_{V_H}} (CDRH3) (in Z004_{iGL} and Z004_{mature}), Y91_{V_L} (in Z006_{mature}), and Y94_{V_L} (in Z004_{iGL}) (SI Appendix, Fig. S16 and Table S2). This suggests that these residues contribute to enhanced cross-reactivity of anti-ZIKV VH3-23/VK-15 Abs.

Discussion

Understanding the structural basis of Ab recognition of ZIKV and other flavivirus antigens informs considerations and precautions for vaccine design to elicit EDIII-specific Abs. Here we conducted binding and structural studies comparing interactions

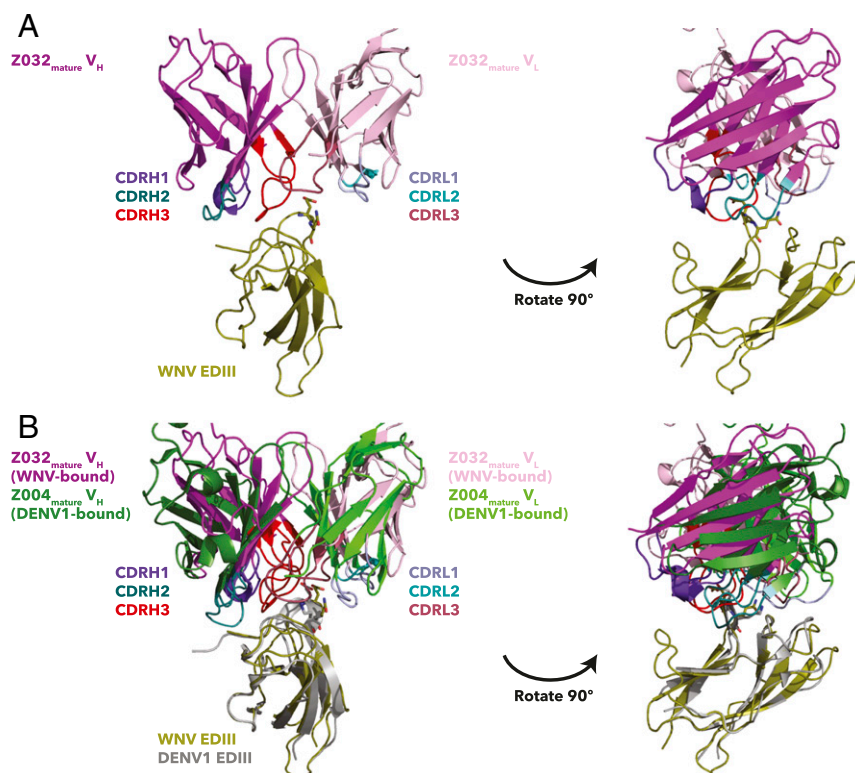


Fig. 6. Cross-reactive recognition of WNV EDIII by Z032_{mature} Fab. Fab–EDIII complex structures are shown as cartoon representations with Fab V_H–V_L domains only and the EQ or EK motifs of WNV and DENV1 EDIIIs highlighted as sticks. (A) Z032_{mature} Fab–WNV EDIII structure. (B) Superimposition of the Z032_{mature} Fab–WNV EDIII and Z004_{mature} Fab–DENV1 EDIII (PDB 5VIC) structures (28). Structures were superimposed on the EDIII domains.

of mature and iGL VH3-23/VK1-5 Abs isolated from ZIKV-exposed donors with a panel of flavivirus EDIII domains to provide insight into the affinity maturation process of this class of potentially neutralizing ZIKV Abs. In addition to revealing interactions critical for potent binding to ZIKV, we also identified weaker interactions that may contribute to cross-reactivity and potentially ADE.

By comparing mature and iGL VH3-23/VK1-5 Ab binding to EDIIIs, we identified the mutations introduced through somatic hypermutation that facilitate tight binding of the Z004 Ab to ZIKV. As expected, a crystal structure of a Z004_{iGL}–EDIII complex showed fewer Fab residues that interact with EDIII than observed for EDIII complexes including mature Fabs, such as Z004_{mature}, Z006_{mature}, and Z032_{mature} (28). In a direct comparison of the Z004_{mature}–DENV1 EDIII structure and Z004_{mature}–ZIKV EDIII homology model with the Z004_{iGL}–ZIKV EDIII structure, the only three Fab residues involved in interactions with EDIII that differed in sequence between Z004_{mature} and Z004_{iGL} are in V_L. In contrast, the three interacting residues that are shared by both Z004_{mature} and Z004_{iGL} are in V_H. This suggests that affinity maturation of V_L CDR3 may be particularly important for higher affinity binding to EDIII. This is further supported by the finding that the increased BSA on Z004_{mature} compared to Z004_{iGL} was largely accounted for by an increase in the V_L BSA. Comparison of the binding affinities and neutralization potencies of Z004 mature/iGL chimeras also suggests the importance of V_L maturation for EDIII recognition.

Through investigation of the effects of site-directed mutations in Z004_{mature} IgG and ZIKV EDIII on binding, we showed that interactions with the EDIII EK motif are critical for high-affinity binding. While both V_H and V_L residues interact with the EK motif, the only EDIII-interacting residues that differ between

Z004_{mature} and Z004_{iGL} are in V_L (F91, Y92, and V94). The reduced binding affinity when these residues are mutated to alanines supports that affinity maturation of the V_L is important for high-affinity binding.

The importance of V_L somatic hypermutation was also observed in a previous longitudinal analysis of a ZIKV-infected patient to trace the lineage of ZK2B10, a protective VH1-8/VL1-47 Ab against ZIKV that binds a different part of the EDIII lateral ridge (56). Two residues in the VL1-47 germline-coded λ V_L, N31 (CDRL1) and S91 (CDRL3), were shown to be necessary and sufficient for functional maturation of the VH1-8/VL1-47 Ab lineage to achieve potent ZIKV neutralization. They observed low somatic hypermutation in germline-like somatic variants of V_H, concluding that restricted V_H gene segment usage, rather than somatic hypermutation in the V_H domain, was important to achieve high affinity and potency. While ZK2B10 is derived from different germline genes and binds a different part of the EDIII lateral ridge than the VH3-23/VK1-5 Abs studied here, we observed a similar trend for the VH3-23/VK1-5 Ab Z004: Affinity maturation of V_L was important for strong binding and neutralization, while V_H interactions were restricted to residues already present in the germline gene.

Through assessment of VH3-23/VK1-5 Ab binding to a panel of flavivirus EDIIIs using SPR, the Abs tightly bound ZIKV and DENV1 and weakly bound DENV2, DENV4, and WNV EDIII, indicating a potential for cross-reactivity. Although this class of mature Abs was shown to neutralize DENV1 in addition to ZIKV (28), the ability of iGL Abs to bind DENV1 EDIII as well as the apparent weak binding of both mature and iGL Abs to other flaviviruses suggests the possibility of ADE upon subsequent infection with a different flavivirus in humans. The EK motif, which is only present in ZIKV and DENV1 EDIII, likely contributes to initial recognition by germline Abs that leads to

the tighter binding and neutralization of these two flaviviruses by VH3-23/VK1-5 Abs. The importance of E393 in the EK motif for neutralization of ZIKV strains was also previously described for the VH3-23/VK1-5 Ab ZIKV-116 (57). In contrast to ZIKV and DENV1, the lateral ridges of DENV2, DENV4, and WNV EDIIIs all contain motifs other than EK, yet still showed weak binding to at least one mature or iGL Ab by SPR. This suggests the interactions that contribute to cross-reactive binding of Abs to these flaviviruses are different from, or only partially overlap with, the interactions that contribute to high affinity and neutralizing binding to ZIKV and DENV1 EDIIIs. Apart from DENV1, WNV EDIII was the only flavivirus for which all seven mature VH3-23/VK1-5 Abs showed cross-reactivity (Table 1). Given that binding to DENV2, DENV4, and WNV EDIIIs is weak ($K_D \geq 100 \mu\text{M}$), it is unclear whether this cross-reactivity could facilitate ADE of these flaviviruses upon infection. However, our RVP-based assays showing no ADE for DENV2 or WNV infection suggests this is of low concern. The potential for cross-reactivity of other Abs with ZIKV and WNV EDIII was shown in studies demonstrating that previous exposure to WNV enhances subsequent ZIKV infection in mice, although immunodominant DII-specific fusion loop Abs might explain this in vivo enhancement (41).

The crystal structure of Z032_{mature} Fab complexed with WNV EDIII provides an example of the structural basis of cross-reactive recognition. This structure shows that the Z03X Abs bind the same lateral ridge epitope as other VH3-23/VK1-5 Abs (28). A few Z032_{mature} Fab-interacting residues (S56_{VH} [CDRH2], Y58_{VH} [FWRH3], R96_{VH} [CDRH3], E100_{CVH} [CDRH3], Y91_{VL} [CDRL3], and Y94_{VL} [CDRL3]) are also involved in at least one other interaction in the Z004_{iGL}, Z004_{mature}, and Z006_{mature} complexes with EDIII domains. This suggests these residues, including the one in a conserved FWR (Y58_{VH}), may contribute to cross-reactivity of VH3-23/VK1-5 Abs, potentially even precursor germline versions, with different flaviviruses. These residues are present in iGL sequences, suggesting that residues that contribute to cross-reactivity may already be present prior to affinity maturation. The weak, cross-reactive binding of Z004_{iGL} to DENV1 EDIII and of Z03X_{iGL} to DENV1, DENV2, and DENV4 further supports this suggestion. Five of the eight Z032_{mature} Fab residues predicted to bind WNV EDIII are in the V_H, suggesting the V_H may contribute more to weak, cross-reactive binding, whereas somatic hypermutation in the V_L may contribute more to tight binding of mature VH3-23/VK1-5 Abs to ZIKV.

Comparison of the structures of bound and unbound Z032_{mature} Fabs indicated the VH3-23/VK1-5 class of Abs does not require major conformational changes for binding. Superimposition of the bound and unbound Z032_{mature} V_H-V_L revealed a low calculated rmsd and no major differences in the backbone structure, suggesting that conformations were preformed prior to binding. This suggests that VH3-23/VK1-5 mature Abs use a lock-and-key mode of binding, involving minimal conformational changes between the bound and unbound states of antigen and Ab (58–60).

Germline versions of VH3-23/VK1-5 ZIKV-neutralizing Abs showed detectable binding to ZIKV and DENV1 EDIII in the nanomolar and low micromolar range. This was also previously observed for the germline version of the VH3-23/VK1-5 Ab ZIKV-116, which bound (K_D s of 48.9 nm–10 μM) and neutralized ZIKV and DENV1 strains (57). This ability of germline versions of VH3-23/VK1-5 Abs to bind ZIKV contrasts with germline-reverted forms of most broadly neutralizing Abs against HIV-1, which generally do not bind HIV-1 envelope (61). The ability of germline versions of neutralizing Abs to bind antigens is of particular interest for vaccine design, as this suggests immunogens may effectively elicit precursors of the desired Ab class, which could then mature into neutralizing Abs. Initial

studies of the potential of ZIKV EDIII to serve as a safe and effective immunogen are underway, and indicate potential to elicit a specific and potent neutralizing Ab response to ZIKV in mice (62–64).

Increased understanding of the differences in the interactions that contribute to neutralization versus cross-reactivity leading to ADE may enable strategic immunogen design. The in vitro ability of germline and mature (65) VH3-23/VK1-5 Abs to induce some ADE for ZIKV and DENV1, but not for DENV2 or WNV, suggests there may be minimal risk of ADE due to weak cross-reactivity for this class of Abs. While this is not indicative of in vivo ability to enhance infection, there may be concern that Ab titers falling below neutralizing levels may be a risk for ADE. These findings indicate the importance of examining the cross-reactivity and ADE-potential of other anti-ZIKV classes of Abs under consideration for vaccine design or passive delivery. Understanding which residues contribute to cross-reactivity versus potent neutralization may also inform the necessity of modifying passively delivered Abs to reduce cross-reactivity and prevent ADE by introducing Fc of mutations that prevent Fc γ R binding.

Materials and Methods

Design of iGL Versions of Abs against ZIKV. Sequences of iGL versions of anti-ZIKV Abs are based on V, D, and joining J gene segment assignments from IgBlast (28, 54). All mature IGHV3-23/GKV1-5 Ab sequences from donors MEX 18 and BRA 112 were considered for design of the Z004 and Z03X iGLs, respectively. CDR1 and CDR2 of the iGLs were based on the V gene segment assignment of the mature sequences, specifically IGHV3-23 for the heavy chain (HC) and IGKV1-5 for the LC. The CDRH3 of the iGL was based on a consensus of the V, D, and J gene segment assignments for the mature HC sequences, and CDRL3 of the iGL was based on a consensus of V and J gene segment assignments for the mature LC sequences (SI Appendix, Figs. S1–S3).

Protein Expression. Abs were produced as previously described (28, 66). Briefly, Z006_{mature}, Z031_{mature}, Z032_{mature}, Z034_{mature}, Z035_{mature}, Z036_{mature}, and Z03X_{iGL} IgGs were expressed by transient transfection of HEK293-6E cells with equal amounts of Ig HC and LC expression vectors. After 7 d, IgGs were purified from supernatants using Protein G Sepharose 4 Fast Flow (GE Healthcare). Z004_{mature}, Z004_{iGL}, and N6 IgGs were expressed by transient transfection and purified from supernatants using a HiTrap MabSelect column (GE Healthcare) and size-exclusion chromatography (SEC) using a Superdex 200 column (GE Healthcare) in 20 mM Tris pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl.

Fabs with C-terminal His-tags were produced by transient transfection of Expi293F cells with equal amounts of HC and LC expression vectors. The Fabs were purified from supernatants with Ni-NTA affinity chromatography and SEC with a Superdex 200 column in 20 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl.

Flavivirus EDIIIs were expressed in *Escherichia coli* and purified from inclusion bodies as previously described (28, 36, 67). Briefly, EDIII genes from ZIKV (H/PF/2013 strain, GenBank KJ776791), DENV1 (45AZ5 strain, National Center for Biotechnology Information [NCBI] reference NC_001477), DENV2 (NCBI reference NC_001474), DENV3 (NCBI reference NC_001475.2), DENV4 (NCBI reference NC_002640.1), YFV (Asibi strain, GenBank KF769016), and WNV (GenBank KX547539.1) in pET21 expression plasmids were transformed into BL21 (DE3) competent cells and cultures were grown in LB with carbenicillin at 37 °C. Expression was induced with isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactopyranoside at an OD of ~0.6, and the culture was harvested after 4 h and stored overnight at –20 °C. The pellet was resuspended in 20 mM Tris pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, cells were lysed and centrifuged at 21,000 \times g for 30 min, and the pellet was resuspended in 6 M guanidine hydrochloride, 100 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0. This suspension was centrifuged again at 21,000 \times g for 30 min, and then 20 mM β -mercaptoethanol was added to the supernatant. EDIII in the supernatant was refolded by dropwise, rapid dilution into 400 mM L-arginine, 100 mM Tris-base pH 8.0, 2 mM EDTA, 5 mM reduced glutathione, 0.5 mM oxidized glutathione, and 10% glycerol at 4 °C. The protein was then concentrated and purified by SEC with a Superdex 75 column (GE Healthcare) in 20 mM Tris pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 0.02% Na₂S₂O₃.

SPR Binding Assays. SPR experiments were performed using a Biacore T200 instrument (GE Healthcare). Binding assays were done by flowing EDIII analytes over IgG ligands bound to a protein A-coupled biosensor chip in 0.2- μm -filtered HBS-EP+ running buffer. The protein A-coupled chip was prepared from a CM5 chip (GE Healthcare) by coupling 1 μM His-tagged Protein

A at pH 4.5 to each flow cell to a final density of ~3,000 response units (RUs). IgGs were then injected onto each flow cell at 50 nM. An irrelevant HIV-1 Ab, N6 (68), was used as a control on a reference flow cell. To remove IgGs from the chip between runs, a solution of 10 mM glycine 50% (vol/vol) pH 1.5/pH 2.5, 1 M guanidine hydrochloride was applied.

For interactions with measurable on- and off-rates, kinetic constants were derived from sensorgram data using global fitting of the association and dissociation phases of binding curves in the working set using Biacore T200 Evaluation Software (GE Healthcare). The sensorgrams were fit to a binding model that assumed a single class of noninteracting binding sites in a 1:1 binding interaction. K_D values were derived as $K_D = k_d/k_a$, the ratio of the association (k_a) and dissociation (k_d) constants. For interactions with fast on- and off-rates, K_D values were derived by nonlinear regression analysis of plots of R_{eq} (the equilibrium binding response) versus the log of the injected protein concentration. Data were fit to a 1:1 binding model, and each K_D was determined as the concentration at which half-maximal binding was observed. If a saturated binding response was not achieved at the highest injected concentration of analyte, we approximated the saturated response as the highest R_{eq} achieved.

For SPR runs used to determine K_D values, the EDIIIs for ZIKV, DENV1-4, WNV, and YFV were dialyzed into HBS-EP⁺ running buffer using a Slide-A-Lyzer MINI Dialysis Device with 3,500 Da molecular mass cutoff (ThermoFisher) to minimize refractive index changes between the association and dissociation phases. We used concentrations of ZIKV and DENV1 EDIII ranging from 0.04 to 10 nM in a threefold dilution series flowed over immobilized mature IgG, and concentrations of ZIKV, DENV1, and ZIKV_{AA mutant} EDIIIs ranging from 2.3 nM to 150 μ M in a fourfold dilution series flowed over immobilized iGL IgGs or Z004_{mature} IgG and the control IgG. Concentrations of DENV2, DENV3, DENV4, WNV, and YFV EDIIIs from 2.3 nM to 150 μ M in a fourfold dilution series were flowed over immobilized mature and iGL IgGs. Concentrations of ZIKV EDIII ranging from 0.036 nM to 150 μ M in a fourfold dilution series were flowed over immobilized Z004 iGL/mature chimeric IgGs in two independent experiments. Concentrations of ZIKV EDIII ranging from 0.036 nM to 37.5 μ M in a fourfold dilution series were flowed over immobilized Z004 IgG V_L site-directed mutants. The injection flow rate was 10 μ L/min over 3 min and the dissociation time was 2 min. For repeated SPR runs for ZIKV and DENV1 EDIII flowed over mature IgGs, concentrations of EDIII from 1.4 to 1,000 nM in a threefold dilution series were injected at a flow rate of 30 μ L/min over 1 min and a dissociation time of 5 min (SI Appendix, Figs. S5 and S6). K_D s for mature IgG binding to ZIKV EDIII and DENV1 EDIIIs were calculated as the average of two independent experiments.

Crystallization Trials. For the Z004_{iGL} Fab–ZIKV EDIII complex, Fabs and EDIII were incubated at a 1:1.8 molar ratio for 3 d and then purified by SEC on Superdex 200 10/300 Increase column (GE Healthcare). For the Z032_{mature} Fab–WNV EDIII complex, Fabs and EDIII were incubated at a 1:1 molar ratio for 3 d. Crystallization trials were set up at ~5 mg/mL (Z004_{iGL} Fab–ZIKV EDIII) and ~10 mg/mL (Z032_{mature} Fab–WNV EDIII) in sitting-drop plates with a Mosquito microcrystallization robot and stored at room temperature. Crystals were cryoprotected with 25% glycerol. Crystallization conditions corresponding to determined structures include 1% (wt/vol) tryptone, 0.001 M sodium azide, 0.05 M Hepes sodium pH 7.0, 20% (wt/vol) polyethylene glycol 3350 (Z004_{iGL} Fab–ZIKV EDIII) and 0.2 M sodium bromide, 20% (wt/vol) polyethylene glycol 3350 (Z032_{mature} Fab–WNV EDIII).

X-Ray Structure Determinations. X-ray data for the Z004_{iGL} Fab–ZIKV EDIII structure were collected at the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource. Data for the Z032_{mature} Fab–WNV EDIII complex were collected at the Advanced Photon Source, Argonne, IL, using the GM/CA 23-ID-D beamline. Z004_{iGL} Fab–ZIKV EDIII diffraction data were processed using the XDS package (69), and Z032_{mature} Fab–WNV EDIII complex data were processed using iMosflm (70). Data were scaled using Pointless and Aimless (71, 72).

Structures were solved by molecular replacement (MR) using Phaser-MR (73). For the Z004_{iGL} Fab–ZIKV EDIII structure, the structure was first determined at 3.3 Å using Z004_{mature} Fab–DENV1 EDIII (PDB ID code 5VIC) as the initial search model (28). This gave a partial solution with two Z004_{mature} Fab–DENV1 EDIII molecules in the asymmetric unit, with one of the Fabs containing an incorrectly placed constant (C_HC_L) domain. This C_HC_L domain was removed and MR was repeated using the initial partial solution and one Z004_{mature} C_HC_L as search models. The structure was then determined at 3.1 Å using a similar method, except the Fab with the incorrectly placed C_HC_L domain was completely removed and MR was repeated using the initial partial solution and the corresponding Z004_{mature} Fab–DENV1 EDIII from the 3.3 Å structure as a search model. For the Z032_{mature} Fab–WNV EDIII complex, Z006_{mature} V_HV_L and Z006_{mature} C_HC_L (PDB ID code 5VIG) domains were

used as the initial search models (28), which produced a partial solution with four V_HV_L and four C_HC_L. MR was repeated using this partial solution and WNV EDIII (PDB ID code 1ZTX) as search models (33). This generated a partial solution with one WNV EDIII placed correctly and three placed incorrectly, so all molecules were removed except for one Fab bound to WNV EDIII. For this Fab–EDIII partial solution, Fab residues were mutated to match the Z032_{mature} sequence, and then to generate Z032_{mature} Fab, Z032_{mature} V_HV_L, and Z032_{mature} C_HC_L search models. MR was repeated using the Z032_{mature} Fab–WNV EDIII partial solution and Z032_{mature} V_HV_L and C_HC_L as search models. This gave a partial solution with two unbound Fabs and one EDIII-bound Fab correctly placed; again, incorrectly placed molecules were removed. MR was repeated with this partial solution and Z032_{mature} Fab as a search model. This gave a partial solution with four correctly placed Fabs, one EDIII-bound and three unbound. MR was repeated with this partial solution and an additional Z032_{mature} Fab as search models, resulting in the final structure with four unbound and one EDIII-bound Fab. Protein models were refined with phenix.refine using torsion angle refinement, group B factors, and noncrystallography symmetry restraints (74). PDB ID codes and X-ray data collection and refinement statistics are in SI Appendix, Table S1.

Figures were prepared and rmsds of superimposed C α atoms were calculated using Pymol (75). A Z004 Fab–Zika EDIII homology model was created using SWISS-MODEL (76). A control for the homology model was prepared by threading ZIKV EDIII onto DENV1 EDIII in the Z021 Fab–DENV1 EDIII structure (PDB ID code 6DFJ); comparison of V_HV_L–EDIIIs from the Z021 Fab–ZIKV EDIII homology model and the known Z021 Fab–ZIKV EDIII structure (PDB ID code 6DFI) resulted in an rmsd of 0.28 for 239 C α atoms (29). Fab–EDIII binding interfaces were mapped as residues within 4 Å in Pymol. BSAs (calculated using a 1.4 Å probe) and the contact residues at Fab–EDIII interfaces (calculated using a distance of <3.89 Å and an A–D–H angle >90° for H-bonds and a distance <4 Å for salt bridges) were determined with PDBePISA (77).

Plasmid Construction. pWNV/TX02/CprME was generated by assembly PCR. Using pZIKV/HPF/CprME [obtained from Ted Pierson, Viral Pathogenesis Section, Laboratory of Viral Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD (28)] as template and oligos RU-O-24611 (5'-CTTGACCGACAATTGCATGAAG) and RU-O-24620 (5'-CCTCTGGTTTCTAGACATAGCCTGCTTTTTGTGACAAAC), the CMV promoter region linked to the beginning of the WNV capsid protein was amplified. The WNV CprME region with upstream overlap with the CMV promoter was amplified using Oligos RU-O-24619 (5'-GTTTGTACAAAAAGCAGGCTATGTCTAAGAAACCGAGG) and RU-O-24621 (5'-TTCGAACCGCGTGGGCTCTATTAAGCTGCACGTTCACGGAGAG) and a full-length WNV strain TX02 infectious clone [obtained from Ilya Frolov, Department of Microbiology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL (78)] as a template. The two fragments were assembled by PCR using oligos RU-O-24611 and RU-O-24621, and the product was digested with SnaI and SacII and cloned into similarly digested pZIKV/HPF/CprME. All PCR-derived DNA regions were verified by sequencing.

RVP Production. RVPs were generated as previously described (28) by cotransfection of two plasmids: A luciferase-expressing WNV replicon plasmid (pWNVII-Rep-REN-IB, obtained from Ted Pierson) and a C-prM-E expression plasmid encoding structural proteins of ZIKV strain HPF with the PRVABC59 E protein (pZIKV/HPF/CprM*PRVABC59E*) (79), DENV1 strain WP (pDENV1/WP/CprME, obtained from Ted Pierson), DENV2 strain 16681 (pDENV2/16681/CprME, obtained from Ted Pierson), or WNV strain TX02 (pWNV/TX02/CprME). Lenti-X 293T cells were seeded at 5 \times 10⁵ cells per well in collagen-coated six-well plates 1 d before DNA transfection. One microgram of pWNVII-Rep-REN-IB (WNV replicon expression construct) and 3 μ g of the flavivirus CprME expression construct were cotransfected with Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen). After incubation at 37 °C for 4 to 5 h, media (containing lipid–DNA complexes) was removed and replaced with Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) containing 20 mM Hepes, 3% fetal bovine serum (FBS). Cells were then incubated at 34 °C for 48 to 72 h before supernatant (containing RVPs) was harvested, filtered through a 0.22- μ m filter, and frozen at –80 °C.

RVP-Based Neutralization Assays. Antibodies were diluted in triplicate in Medium-199 with 17% BSA, 1% P/S (BA-1 diluent) to 40 μ g/mL and then serially diluted in BA-1 diluent using fivefold dilutions. RVPs were diluted in OPTI-MEM to a concentration that results in ~1 \times 10⁶ relative light units (RLU) per 25 μ L (determined based on a titration of the harvested RVPs on Huh-7.5 cells). Serially diluted antibodies were mixed with equal volumes of RVPs and incubated for 1 h at 37 °C. Fifty microliters of RVP–Ab complex was added to Huh-7.5 cells seeded in 96-well half-area plates at 7.5 \times 10³ cells per

well in 50 μ L the day prior. After incubation at 37 °C for 24 h, media was removed, cells were lysed in 35 μ L 1 \times Lysis Buffer, and 20 μ L was used for *Renilla* luciferase measurement on a FLUOstar Omega luminometer (BMG LabTech) using the *Renilla* Luciferase Assay System (Promega). Luciferase activity, measured as RLU, was normalized as the percentage of luciferase activity relative to activity from RVPs incubated without Ab. Experiments were repeated twice and plotted on the same graph. The N6 Ab (negative control) was assessed at 10 μ g/mL final concentration in the well. IC₅₀ values (the Ab concentration that resulted in 50% inhibition) were determined by nonlinear regression fitting of the curve in GraphPad Prism.

ADE Assays. Antibodies were diluted in triplicate in BA-1 diluent to 40 μ g/mL and then serially diluted by threefold dilutions. RVPs were diluted in OPTI-MEM with a goal of achieving $\sim 1 \times 10^6$ Huh-7.5 cell RLU per 12.5 μ L (determined based on a titration of the harvested RVPs on Huh-7.5 cells in the absence of antibody). For some RVPs this goal was not attainable and lower RLU were used. Serially diluted antibodies were mixed with equal volumes of RVPs, and incubated for 1 h at 37 °C. Twenty-five microliters of RVP-Ab complex was added to K562 cells seeded the prior day in poly-L-lysine-coated 96-well half-area plates at 5.0×10^3 cells per well in 25 μ L of DMEM containing 10% FBS and 1 \times nonessential amino acids solution (NEAA). Every plate included a no antibody control, an N6 negative control, and Z004 wild-type antibody (10 ng/mL final concentration) with ZIKV RVPs as a positive control. Each plate also included Huh-7.5 cells seeded the day prior at 7.5×10^3 cells per well in 50 μ L to serve as a positive control for RVP activity. After incubation at 37 °C for 24 h, media was removed, cells were lysed in 35 μ L 1 \times Lysis Buffer, and 20 μ L was used for *Renilla* luciferase measurement on a FLUOstar Omega luminometer (BMG LabTech) using the *Renilla* Luciferase Assay System (Promega). Luciferase activity, measured as RLU, was normalized to respective RVP luciferase activity determined on fully permissive

Huh-7.5 cells (positive control). Experiments were repeated twice and plotted on the same graph. The HIV-1 Ab N6 (negative control) and cross-reactive Ab Z015_{mature} (WNV positive control) were assessed at the highest concentration (10 μ g/mL). Z004_{mature} Ab (positive control) (65) was assessed at 0.01 μ g/mL, a concentration known to show ADE for ZIKV.

Data Availability. Crystallographic coordinates for structures Z004_{IGL} Fab-ZIKV EDIII and Z032_{mature} Fab-WNV EDIII are available from the Protein Data Bank under ID codes 6UTA and 6UTE.

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