

1 **Convergence of a common solution to broad ebolavirus neutralization by glycan cap directed**  
2 **human antibodies**

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46 **Summary**

47           Antibodies that target the glycan cap epitope on ebolavirus glycoprotein (GP) are common  
48 in the adaptive response of survivors. A subset is known to be broadly neutralizing, but the details  
49 of their epitopes and basis for neutralization is not well-understood. Here we present cryo-electron  
50 microscopy (cryo-EM) structures of several glycan cap antibodies that variably synergize with GP  
51 base-binding antibodies. These structures describe a conserved site of vulnerability that anchors  
52 the mucin-like domains (MLD) to the glycan cap, which we name the MLD-anchor and cradle.  
53 Antibodies that bind to the MLD-cradle share common features, including the use of *IGHV1-69*  
54 and *IGHJ6* germline genes, which exploit hydrophobic residues and form beta-hairpin structures  
55 to mimic the MLD-anchor, disrupt MLD attachment, destabilize GP quaternary structure and block  
56 cleavage events required for receptor binding. Our results collectively provide a molecular basis  
57 for ebolavirus neutralization by broadly reactive glycan cap antibodies.

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59 **Keywords:** ebolaviruses, Ebola virus, antibody therapeutics, filoviruses, glycan cap, antibody,  
60 mAbs, broadly neutralizing

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## 69 **Introduction**

70           There is mounting evidence that protection from filoviral infection can be achieved through  
71 the use of monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) that target the GP surface (Bornholdt et al., 2019;  
72 Brannan et al., 2019; Mire et al., 2017; Qiu et al., 2014; Sapphire et al., 2018b). Several structures  
73 of antigen-antibody complexes in recent years indicate that antibodies can access nearly any region  
74 on the surface of GP (Flyak et al., 2015; Flyak et al., 2018; Gilchuk et al., 2018; Milligan et al.,  
75 2019; Murin, 2018; Murin et al., 2019; Pallesen et al., 2016; Pascal et al., 2018; Sapphire et al.,  
76 2018a; Wec et al., 2017; West et al., 2018; Zhao et al., 2017). Such antibodies have utility as post-  
77 exposure therapeutics when used in combination, such as the tri-mAb cocktail REGN-EB3, which  
78 demonstrated high efficacy in animal models (Pascal et al., 2018) and in a clinical trial carried out  
79 during a recent Ebola virus (EBOV) outbreak (Mulangu et al., 2019). REGN-EB3 is only effective  
80 against EBOV, however a pan-ebolavirus therapeutic that recognizes multiple ebolaviruses that  
81 cause severe disease in humans and major outbreaks, including Bundibugyo virus (BDBV) and  
82 Sudan virus (SUDV), would be ideal given the unpredictability of ebolavirus outbreaks.

83           Cross-reactive antibodies often target regions of conserved sequence vital to viral function,  
84 such as the receptor binding site (RBS) (Flyak et al., 2015; Hashiguchi et al., 2015; Howell et al.,  
85 2016; King et al., 2018), the internal fusion loop (IFL) (Milligan et al., 2019; Murin, 2018; West  
86 et al., 2018; Zhao et al., 2017), the base of GP (Gilchuk et al., 2018; Misasi et al., 2016) and the  
87 heptad repeat 2 (HR2) region (Bornholdt et al., 2016b; Flyak et al., 2018). Less conserved regions,  
88 such as the glycan cap and MLD, also can be targeted by protective antibodies and typically  
89 represent the largest antibody responses found in survivors; however, such antibodies are usually  
90 weakly or non-neutralizing and species-specific (Murin et al., 2014; Zeitlin et al., 2011). For  
91 example, the antibody 13C6, which was included in the antibody cocktail ZMapp<sup>TM</sup>, targets the

92 glycan cap, but is low in potency for viral neutralization and is thought to instead provide  
93 protection by facilitating a superior cellular response (Murin et al., 2014; Pallesen et al., 2016).  
94 Furthermore, the glycan cap/head epitope in the trimeric membrane form of GP is also partially  
95 present on sGP, the soluble dimer of GP that is secreted in abundance during natural infection  
96 (Cook and Lee, 2013; de La Vega et al., 2015; Pallesen et al., 2016). Finally, GP is massively  
97 remodeled during endosomal entry in processes mediated by host proteases, during which the  
98 glycan cap and MLD are removed (Bornholdt et al., 2016a; Lee and Saphire, 2009). Nevertheless,  
99 several antibodies have been identified that bind within the glycan cap and potently neutralize  
100 EBOV, BDBV and SUDV (Bornholdt et al., 2016b; Flyak et al., 2016; Gilchuk et al., 2020; Misasi  
101 et al., 2016; Murin et al., 2014; Pascal et al., 2018; Saphire et al., 2018a). The mechanistic basis  
102 for this activity, however, is not well-explored.

103         We previously characterized pan-ebolavirus neutralizing mAbs isolated from a survivor  
104 cohort of the EBOV 2013-2016 outbreak (Gilchuk et al., 2018; Gilchuk et al., 2020). Several  
105 antibodies that recognize the glycan cap revealed synergistic activity for the GP binding and virus  
106 neutralization when paired with GP base-binding antibodies. One such pair, EBOV-548 and  
107 EBOV-520, provided superior protection in animal models when compared with treatment by a  
108 single antibody. Structural evaluation revealed that EBOV-520 recognized the 3<sup>10</sup> pocket that is  
109 partially shielded by the  $\beta$ 17-  $\beta$ 18 loop in uncleaved GP. EBOV-548, which binds to the glycan  
110 cap, removed this steric hindrance by dislodging and mimicking the  $\beta$ 18- $\beta$ 18' hairpin obscuring  
111 the 3<sup>10</sup> pocket. These data revealed a structural mechanism for synergy mediated by a glycan cap-  
112 directed antibody.

113         We sought to determine if glycan cap antibodies from other survivors also use similar  
114 mechanisms of protection and synergy as the EBOV-548/EBOV-520 combination (Bramble et al.,

115 2018; Flyak et al., 2015; Flyak et al., 2018; Flyak et al., 2016; Gilchuk et al., 2018). This collection  
116 of antibodies, including two mAbs from a newly described survivor cohort, were tested for their  
117 ability to enhance the activity of the GP base-region-binding broadly neutralizing antibodies  
118 EBOV-520 and EBOV-515 (Gilchuk et al., 2020). Additionally, we observed and quantified  
119 antibody-induced GP trimer instability. Subsequent analysis by cryo-EM revealed a conserved  
120 structural motif, similar to that found in EBOV-548, wherein a complementarity determining  
121 region (CDR) exhibited molecular mimicry of the  $\beta$ 18- $\beta$ 18' hairpin in GP. Finally, we also  
122 quantified the ability of glycan cap antibodies to block GP cleavage events necessary for receptor  
123 binding site exposure. Our data collectively provide evidence for a mechanism behind the activity  
124 of broadly neutralizing and synergistic glycan cap antibodies to ebolaviruses and suggest a rational  
125 strategy for the design of therapeutic antibody cocktails.

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138 **Results**

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140 *Glycan cap antibody synergy is a common feature and is associated with GP instability*

141 We previously described an assay to determine antibody binding synergy of pairs of  
142 antibodies for glycan cap antibody-based synergy of the base-region-binding antibodies EBOV-  
143 515 and EBOV-520 (Gilchuk et al., 2020). Here, we extended this assay to glycan cap antibodies  
144 from other survivor cohorts. We chose previously isolated antibodies based on similar properties  
145 to the synergistic glycan cap mAb EBOV-548, including: 1) synergy with EBOV-520 and/or  
146 EBOV-515, 2) broad reactivity and neutralization, 3) long CDRH3 loops, 4) cross-reactivity with  
147 sGP and/or 5) protection *in vivo*. Based on these criteria, we chose the following antibodies:  
148 BDBV-43, BDBV-329, BDBV-289, EBOV-442, EBOV-437 and EBOV-237 (Flyak et al., 2016;  
149 Gilchuk et al., 2018; Qiu et al., 2012; Williamson et al., 2019; Wilson et al., 2000). EBOV-548,  
150 13C6, and an unrelated human mAb directed to dengue virus (DENV) envelope protein 2D22,  
151 were included for comparative purposes and as controls (**Table 1**). In addition, we also tested two  
152 new antibodies, EBOV-293 and EBOV-296, which we isolated from an individual treated for  
153 EBOV infection in the United States (**Table 1**, also see *Materials and Methods*). Ten characterized  
154 glycan cap antibodies potently bound to the sGP as judged by the half-maximal effective (EC<sub>50</sub>)  
155 concentrations, and revealed diverse GP reactivity and virus neutralization profiles, and diverse  
156 protective efficacy in EBOV challenge mouse model (**Table 1, Fig. S1A**). In addition, epitope  
157 mapping by alanine scanning mutagenesis library analysis identified key contact residues for each  
158 antibody (**Table 1; Fig. S1B**). Furthermore, several of these antibodies have exceptionally long  
159 CDRH3 loops, such as the 33 amino acid loop of BDBV-329 (**Table S1**).

160 We then analyzed all ten glycan cap mAbs for binding enhancement of the base-region-  
161 directed mAbs EBOV-515 or EBOV-520 using an approach described previously (Gilchuk et al.,  
162 2020). Synergy for each glycan cap antibody followed similar patterns for EBOV-515 and EBOV-  
163 520, although enhancement of EBOV-520 binding appears higher likely due to differences in the  
164 molecular nature of the epitope (**Fig. 1A**). A steady range of synergistic patterns from no  
165 enhancement (for 13C6) to binding nearly equivalent to cleaved GP (GP<sub>CL</sub>) (for EBOV-237) were  
166 observed (**Fig. 1A**). It should be noted that BDBV-329 and EBOV-237 are monospecific for the  
167 autologous virus BDBV or EBOV, respectively (**Table 1**).

168 We noticed in several of our 2D classes of glycan cap antibody complexes that the GP  
169 trimer fell apart into GP monomers, similar to what we had observed with our previous  
170 characterization of EBOV-548 (Gilchuk et al., 2020). The amount of GP trimer destabilization was  
171 variable across all the complexes, with some antibodies inducing a large amount of GP monomers  
172 and others only a stable GP trimer. We specifically avoid inclusion of monomers during protein  
173 purification to obtain a pure fraction of trimeric GP as starting material. We therefore hypothesized  
174 that glycan cap antibodies destabilize trimers, which in turn may contribute to their synergistic  
175 ability with base-region-binding antibodies.

176 To quantify GP destabilization, we analyzed cryo-EM data collected on glycan cap  
177 antibody complexes for structural analysis (*see below*). We also included previous data collected  
178 on EBOV-548 complexed with GP (Gilchuk et al., 2020). Particles were selected using a difference  
179 of gaussian approach which would not discriminate trimeric complexes from monomeric ones and  
180 then performed reference-free 2D classification (**Fig. 1B**). All trimeric and monomeric particles  
181 were subsequently subclassified and particle counts were used to determine the percentage of  
182 monomeric particles in the cleaned stack of total particles for each dataset.



183           When plotting the proportion of monomers formed in the presence of each glycan cap  
184 antibody, we noted that the amount of destabilization correlated with the extent of antibody  
185 synergy (**Fig. 1C**). Antibodies that did not synergize with base-region-binding antibodies  
186 displayed little to no destabilization, such as 13C6, BDBV-43, BDBV-329 and BDBV-289. As  
187 synergy increased, we saw increasing amounts of destabilized trimers, with EBOV-237  
188 demonstrating the highest level of destabilization (**Fig. 1C**).

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### 190 *Conservation of a structural $\beta$ -hairpin motif across synergistic glycan cap antibodies*

191           To determine the structural basis of neutralization and synergy behind glycan cap antibody-  
192 based enhancement of base-region-binding antibodies, we solved eight structures of glycan cap  
193 antibodies in complex with mucin deleted ( $\Delta$ Muc) EBOV GP (Makona) and BDBV GP $\Delta$ Muc (**Fig.**  
194 **2A-B, Fig. S2, Table S2**). Antibodies exhibited a range of angles-of-approach to GP, from obtuse,  
195 such as EBOV-437, to nearly parallel to the viral surface, like EBOV-237 (**Fig. 2C**). Additionally,  
196 the antibodies are spaced across the surface of GP inversely related to their angle-of-approach  
197 (**Fig. 2C**).

198           Resolutions achieved for glycan cap antibody cryo-EM structures ranged from 3.3 to 4.4  
199 Å for six of our complexes (**Table S2, Fig. S2A-F**); however, preferred orientation, sub-  
200 stoichiometric Fab binding and trimer instability resulted in limited resolution for BDBV-329 and  
201 EBOV-237 bound structures (**Fig. S2G-H**). We did, however, model BDBV-329 where  
202 resolutions ranged from 4 to 5 Å at the antibody binding interface (**Fig. S2G**). The local resolutions  
203 for the EBOV-237 structure were particularly poor, and we therefore chose only to dock a  
204 homology model for interpretation (**Fig. S2H**). Most of our structures were determined in complex  
205 with EBOV-515 in order to assist with angular sampling and alignment, but we chose not to model

206 EBOV-515 and removed this density from our figures for clarity and to focus on glycan cap  
207 antibodies (**Fig. 3A-B**).

208 All glycan cap antibodies make contacts exclusively within GP1 and are heavily biased  
209 toward HC contacts (**Fig. 3, Table S3, Fig. S3**). Antibody contacts are focused on the  $\beta$ 17 strand  
210 of GP1 from residues 268-280 with a majority of contacts centered around W275 (**Fig. 3, Table**  
211 **S3**), which when mutated to alanine abrogates binding (**Table 1, Fig. S1B**). Additionally, most  
212 glycan cap antibodies make some contact with the inner head domain (**Fig. 3, Table S3, Fig. S3**).  
213 These contacts are characterized by hydrogen bonding along the length of  $\beta$ 17 with either short  
214 CDRH2 loops for EBOV-293 (**Fig. 3A-B, Fig. S3A**) and BDBV-43 (**Fig. 3C-D, Fig. S3B**) or  
215 extended, long ( $\geq 21$  amino acids) CDRH3 loops for EBOV-437 (**Fig. 4F, Fig. S5C**), BDBV-289  
216 (**Fig. 3G-H, Fig. S3D**), EBOV-442 (**Fig. 3I, Fig. S3E**) and EBOV-296 (**Fig. 3J-K, Fig. S3F**),  
217 very similar to EBOV-548 as we previously reported (Gilchuk et al., 2020). Outside of the  
218 hydrogen bonding that occurs along  $\beta$ 17, several glycan cap antibodies make additional stabilizing  
219 bonds, including hydrogen bonds, salt bridges, carbon-pi and pi-pi bonds with other portions of  
220 GP1 (**Fig. 3**). Methionine-aromatic interactions also appear in several of the glycan cap antibodies,  
221 particularly with W275 in GP1 (**Fig. 3D, H, J**). These types of interactions are thought to provide  
222 additional stability compared to purely hydrophobic interactions, can act at long distances ( $\sim 5$ - $6$   
223 Å) and are thought to be less sensitive to changes in the local environment (Valley et al., 2012),  
224 which may help contribute to increased breadth.

225 The CDRH3 loops of the glycan cap antibodies generally adopt an extended  $\beta$ -hairpin  
226 motif with either partial or full  $\beta$ -strand secondary structure (**Fig. 4A**). These loops also pair with  
227  $\beta$ 17 in GP1 to form an extended  $\beta$ -sheet and displace the  $\beta$ 18- $\beta$ 18' hairpin by mimicking its  
228 structure, as was observed in our previous structure of EBOV-548 (**Fig. 4B**). BDBV-43 and

229 EBOV-293 alternatively use shorter CDRH2 loops to pair with  $\beta$ 17 (**Fig. 4A-B**). Conversely, 13C6  
230 has a much shorter CDRH3 loop and does not make full contact with  $\beta$ 17 (**Fig. 4B**), possibly  
231 explaining its lack of synergy with base antibodies (**Fig. 1A**). EBOV-237 and BDBV-329 are  
232 unique among the antibodies we examined here owing to very long CDRH3 loops at 25 or 33  
233 amino acids, respectively.

234 We also determined the unliganded crystal structure of BDBV-289 Fab to 3.0 Å resolution  
235 to compare the conformations of the CDR loops prior to GP engagement (**Fig. 4C, Table S4**). The  
236 structure of the unliganded BDBV-289 Fab is very similar to BDBV-289 Fab bound to EBOV  
237 GPAMuc, with an RMSD of 1.6 Å for the Fv portions of the HC and LC (**Fig. 4C**). There is a  
238 slight shift of the CDRL3 to accommodate the  $\alpha$ 2- $\beta$ 17 loop in the glycan cap, and a larger shift of  
239 CDRH3 (**Fig. 4C**). In the GP-bound structure, the CDRH3 loop moves toward GP by an average  
240 distance of  $\sim$ 3.3 Å (**Fig. 4C**). In the crystal structure, this movement is blocked by a crystal lattice  
241 interaction, but this difference may indicate flexibility in the tip of this loop.

242

243 *The  $\beta$ 18- $\beta$ 18' hairpin anchors the mucin-like domains and shields a hydrophobic patch in the*  
244 *glycan cap*

245 The  $\beta$ 18- $\beta$ 18' region of the glycan cap forms a  $\beta$ -hairpin that anchors the MLD, forming  
246 an extended beta sheet with the underlying core of GP1 (**Fig. 5A**) (Zhao et al., 2016). Due to the  
247 recurrence of the  $\beta$ 18- $\beta$ 18' hairpin epitope within the glycan cap and its role in anchoring down  
248 MLD, we have named this portion of the glycan cap the “MLD-anchor” (**Fig. 5A**). Upon binding  
249 of glycan cap antibody, the MLD-anchor is displaced, revealing a patch of hydrophobic residues,  
250 which we refer to as the “MLD-cradle” (**Fig. 5B**).

251 The MLD-anchor contains complementary hydrophobic residues along the  $\beta 18'$  strand that  
252 are buried by the MLD-cradle (**Fig. 5C**). Through molecular mimicry, the CDRH3 or CDRH2  
253 loops of each of the neutralizing glycan cap antibodies characterized in this study bury analogous  
254 hydrophobic residues in the cradle, displacing the anchor (**Fig. 5C**). Our structures of EBOV-548  
255 (Gilchuk et al., 2020) Fab and BDBV-289 Fab bound to GP indicate that although binding  
256 abrogates attachment of the MLD-anchor, the  $\beta 17$ - $\beta 18$  loop most likely remains tethered to the  
257 base of the IFL via W291<sub>GP1</sub> to N512<sub>GP2</sub>. However, glycan cap binding may remove some restraint  
258 on the  $\beta 17$ - $\beta 18$  loop, allowing increased binding by GP base-directed antibodies.

259 The sequence of the N-terminal portion of the MLD-anchor ( $\beta 18$ ), the MLD-cradle and the  
260  $\beta 17$ - $\beta 18$  loops are relatively conserved throughout all ebolaviruses, however, the surrounding  
261 regions in the glycan cap are not (**Fig. 5D-E, Fig. S4**). The glycan cap antibody contacts described  
262 here are focused toward  $\beta 17$  but other contacts outside this region are also observed (**Fig. S4,**  
263 **Table S3**). While each glycan cap antibody makes contacts outside the most conserved regions,  
264 there is less reliance on these regions for contact in the more cross-reactive antibodies (**Fig. S4**).

265

#### 266 *Germline analysis and conservation of features within glycan cap antibody paratopes*

267 The glycan cap antibodies described here share several common features, including a  
268 majority (5 out of 9) deriving from the *IGHV1-69* germline gene segment (**Table S1**). Frequent  
269 use of the *IGHV1-69* gene is common in the antibody repertoires of those infected by influenza  
270 virus (Lang et al., 2017), HCV (Chan et al., 2001), HIV-1 (Huang et al., 2004), and other pathogens  
271 (Chen et al., 2019). The *IGHV1-69* gene is thought to be superior for viral neutralization at certain  
272 epitopes due to the presence of key germline encoded hydrophobic residues, especially in the  
273 CDRH2, as well as for breadth due to a large repertoire of allelic and copy number variations

274 (Chen et al., 2019). Despite a wide range of donors, we found these characteristics present in the  
275 ebolavirus antibodies described here (**Table S1, Fig. S5**).

276 Eight of the nine of the human antibodies described here use *IGHV1-69* and/or *IGHJ6*  
277 genes to form their HCs (**Table S1, Fig. S5**), the exception being EBOV-237. The use of *IGHV1-*  
278 *69* imparts a germline-encoded CDRH2 with several hydrophobic residues, which is used by  
279 BDBV-43 and EBOV-293 to bind to the MLD-cradle (**Fig. 5C**). In these cases, the CDRH3 loops  
280 are shorter (**Fig. S5**). For the rest of the glycan cap antibodies, usage of *IGHJ6* appears to be key,  
281 due to the presence of a patch of tyrosine residues in the germline gene which sit on the C-terminal  
282 end of the CDRH3 (**Fig. S5**). Overall, somatic hypermutation (SHM) was generally high  
283 throughout all glycan cap mAbs studied here, with an average of ~11% or ~6% amino change from  
284 germline for the V<sub>H</sub> or V<sub>L</sub> regions, respectively (**Table S1**).

285 Despite varying CDRH3 length, the tip of the CDRH3 hairpin contains a highly conserved  
286 glycine surrounded by hydrophobic residues and a C-terminal tyrosine motif (**Fig. 5F**). This  
287 glycine and hydrophobic tip help to insert the CDRH3 loop into the MLD-cradle (**Fig. 5A-C**) and  
288 assists in formation of the hairpin structure necessary for proper binding. The C-terminal tyrosine  
289 motif stabilizes longer CDRH3 loops within the core of the paratope and provides additional, non-  
290 specific hydrophobic contacts within the core of the epitope.

291

### 292 *Glycan cap antibodies inhibit cleavage*

293 The underlying molecular mechanism for how an antibody neutralizes is related to its  
294 ability to inhibit viral infection, which can be achieved by diverse mechanisms including cleavage  
295 inhibition. To determine the ability of the antibodies used in this study to inhibit cleavage, we  
296 performed a cleavage-blocking assay as previously described (Gilchuk et al., 2018) (**Fig. 6A**).

297 Jurkat cells stably transduced with EBOV GP (Jurkat-EBOV GP) were pre-incubated with  
298 individual antibodies followed by treatment with thermolysin to mimic cathepsin cleavage to yield  
299 membrane-displayed GP<sub>CL</sub> (Jurkat-EBOV GP<sub>CL</sub>). The exposure of the receptor binding site (RBS)  
300 on GP<sub>CL</sub> was measured by the level of binding of fluorescently labeled RBS-specific mAb MR78  
301 that does not bind uncleaved EBOV GP (Flyak et al., 2015) The epitope of glycan cap antibodies  
302 is being removed by cleavage, and in a separate assay we confirmed that none of tested antibodies,  
303 except EBOV-442, compete with MR78 on Jurkat-EBOV GP<sub>CL</sub> (**Fig. S6**). EBOV-442 partially  
304 competed with MR78 (**Fig. S6**), suggesting incomplete removal of its epitope by thermolysin that  
305 may have a minor effect on quantification of cleavage inhibition by this antibody. All EBOV GP-  
306 reactive glycan cap antibodies revealed dose-dependent cleavage inhibition and most of them fully  
307 blocked cleavage at the highest tested concentration of 60 µg/mL (**Fig. 6A**). Base antibody 2G4  
308 and control antibody 2D22 did not inhibit cleavage. Although the glycan cap antibodies in this  
309 study do not interact directly with the cathepsin cleavage loop, the disruption or dislocation of the  
310 MLD may provide an obstacle for the recognition or cleavage activity by enzymes (**Fig. 6B**).

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## 320 Discussion

321 Our previous structure of the EBOV-548/EBOV GP complex first revealed the glycan cap  
322 binding site containing the  $\beta$ 18- $\beta$ 18' hairpin (Gilchuk et al., 2020); however, the extensive  
323 structural evidence we provide here more completely describes this epitope, which we coin the  
324 MLD-anchor and cradle. The displacement of the MLD-anchor suggests that it is bound  
325 transiently, similar to the  $\beta$ 17- $\beta$ 18 loop (West et al., 2019). Anecdotally, we and others have often  
326 noticed that the glycan cap is not well resolved in negative stain and cryo-EM structures of GP  
327 that lack coordinating glycan cap antibodies, suggesting this entire domain may be loosely attached  
328 to GP. This transient structural feature may aid in removal of the glycan cap upon cleavage for  
329 exposure of the NPC1 binding site. The MLD-anchor makes very limited contact with the  
330 underlying hydrophobic cradle, essentially mediated by a single  $\beta$ -strand. These characteristics  
331 have been observed for other antibodies that bind with hydrophobic, hairpin CDR loops,  
332 suggesting a conserved mechanism for neutralization that extends to other viruses (Lee et al., 2017;  
333 Pancera et al., 2010; Yuan et al., 2019).

334 Some of the antibodies in this study shared structural features that correlated with shared  
335 antibody germline gene usage, despite having been isolated from separate donors. For example,  
336 BDBV-43 and EBOV-293 are both encoded by the *IGHV1-69\*09* gene allele, which is known to  
337 contain a germline-encoded hydrophobic CDRH2. These antibodies, accordingly, use their  
338 CDRH2 loops to access  $\beta$ 17. However, several other antibodies in this study also use the *IGHV1-*  
339 *69* gene, but alternatively use longer CDRH3 loops to access  $\beta$ 17. BDBV-43 and EBOV-293 also  
340 share almost identical LC usage (*IGKV3-15\*01* and *3-20\*01* for  $V_L$  genes and *IGKJ5\*01* for  $J_L$   
341 genes, respectively). Their structures are nearly identical as well, which indicates that LC pairing  
342 may influence access to  $\beta$ 17 by *IGHV1-69* gene-encoded CDRH2 loops. However, this barrier can

343 be overcome through a larger number of non-templated (N) nucleotide additions within the  
344 CDRH3 when using alternative LC pairing. These observations may indicate that germline  
345 targeting vaccines could be an effective strategy for eliciting similar antibodies for EBOV in  
346 healthy individuals, similar to what has been shown in HIV-1 vaccine studies (Steichen et al.,  
347 2016; Steichen et al., 2019).

348         The glycan cap antibodies described here generally have high levels of SHM, with EBOV-  
349 293 containing 24 mutations from the inferred germline gene in its heavy chain (**Table S1**). This  
350 count also does not consider potential somatic mutations in the long CDRH3 loops, whose  
351 germline origins cannot be predicted but likely arise from large numbers of N-additions during the  
352 original V-D-J recombination event. How glycan cap antibody SHM compares to mutation  
353 frequency in antibodies directed toward other epitopes is not well explored, but the amount of  
354 SHM we observe for these neutralizing glycan cap mAbs is higher than is generally reported in  
355 EBOV survivor repertoires (Davis et al., 2019). Glycan cap antibodies are now known to form a  
356 large portion of the adaptive response to natural infection (Bornholdt et al., 2016b; Flyak et al.,  
357 2016; Wec et al., 2017). Several of these antibodies can potently neutralize, however, they are  
358 often mono-specific. It is unclear how the smaller subset of rarer, broadly neutralizing glycan cap  
359 antibodies develops. Our observations indicate that they may require higher levels of SHM  
360 combined with structural adaptations in order to reach cryptic epitopes shielded by the MLD, the  
361 MLD-anchor and glycans.

362         The mechanism of viral neutralization by glycan cap antibodies is unclear. Potentially,  
363 these antibodies could act indirectly by preventing access to a cleavage loop that is necessary to  
364 cleave during viral entry (Bornholdt et al., 2016a) (**Fig. 6B, part I**). The MLDs are large,  
365 accounting for over half of the mass of GP, unstructured and highly glycosylated. While the MLDs



366 on ebolaviruses are known to sit atop the GP, those on marburgviruses are thought to drape over  
367 the sides (Hashiguchi et al., 2015). This difference may occur because marburgviruses lack the  
368 structured glycan cap that is found in ebolaviruses (King et al., 2018). Consequently, the NPC1  
369 receptor binding site is fully exposed on full-length GP in marburgviruses (Flyak et al., 2015),  
370 while it is hidden under the glycan cap and MLD on ebolaviruses. Therefore, the MLD-anchor  
371 appears to pin the MLD down to the top of ebolavirus GPs, keeping them above the GP and out of  
372 the way of the cleavage loop. Displacing the MLD-anchor may displace the MLDs themselves  
373 while retaining covalent attachment of these large domains to GP (**Fig. 6B, part II**). Within the  
374 dense environment of the ebolavirus surface, in which many GP spikes are known to crowd  
375 together in close proximity (Tran et al., 2014), this displacement may cause the MLD to drape over  
376 the cathepsin cleavage loops, thus blocking access by enzymes.

377 Overall, our data collectively provide the molecular basis for breadth of reactivity and virus  
378 neutralization by potent glycan cap antibodies and suggest a rational strategy for the design of  
379 broad therapeutic antibody cocktails.

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405 Scripps Research for their assistance with cryo-EM sample prep, microscope operation, data  
406 collection and processing.

407

## 408 **Author contributions**

409 C.D.M. performed protein production for all cryo-EM and kinetic experiments, performed  
410 cryo-EM experiments and analysis, crystallized the BDBV289 Fab and performed kinetic  
411 experiments and analysis. C.D.M. collected the crystal data and phased the data. J.F.B. built and

412 validated the crystal structure. J.C. produced antibody Fab for the crystallography trials. P.G.  
413 performed synergy, cleavage assays and assembled information for Table 1. T.A. helped to  
414 perform GP stability assays and collect cryo-EM data. L.W. expressed and purified EBOV-237  
415 and BDBV-329 Fab. P.A.I., K.H., N.K., X.S., A.I.F. and A.B. isolated and characterized EBOV-  
416 293 and EBOV-296. A.L.B., E.D. and B.J.D. performed alanine scanning and characterization of  
417 EBOV-293 and EBOV-296. C.D.M., P.G., A.B., J.E.C. and A.B.W. designed the experiments.  
418 C.D.M. wrote the manuscript.

419

#### 420 **Declaration of Interests**

421 A.L.B., E.D., and B.J.D. are employees of Integral Molecular. B.J.D. is a shareholder of  
422 Integral Molecular. J.E.C. has served as a consultant for Sanofi and is on the Scientific Advisory  
423 Boards of CompuVax and Meissa Vaccines, is a recipient of previous unrelated research grants  
424 from Moderna and Sanofi and is founder of IDBiologics. Vanderbilt University has applied for a  
425 patent that is related to this work. All other authors declare no competing interests.

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435 **Figure Legends**

436

437 **Figure 1. Glycan cap antibody synergy and GP destabilization.** A) Jurkat cell-surface  
438 displayed EBOV GP binding was assessed using fluorescently labeled EBOV-515 or EBOV-520  
439 after prior incubation of cells with individual unlabeled glycan cap antibodies. The blue dotted  
440 line represents basal binding of base antibodies without glycan cap antibodies. The orange dotted  
441 line represents maximal binding of base antibodies to cleaved GP. Data shown as mean  $\pm$  SD of  
442 technical triplicates B) Negative stain 2D-class averages of GP complexes bound to glycan cap  
443 antibodies and EBOV-515 demonstrating examples of intact, trimeric complexes (left) and  
444 monomeric complexes (right). C) Correlation analysis of antibody synergy and GP  
445 destabilization by glycan cap antibodies.

446

447 **Figure 2. Neutralizing and synergistic glycan cap antibodies bind GP across a wide range**  
448 **of orientations.** A) Low-pass filtered glycan cap Fabs from cryo-EM structures solved in this  
449 study, as well as elsewhere, bound to EBOV GP $\Delta$ Muc are overlaid to compare binding epitope  
450 and angle-of-approach. B) Surface representations of cryo-EM structures solved in this study  
451 with a fitted ribbon model protomer. Shown are side (left) or top (right) views with respect to the  
452 viral membrane. Fab HC is colored in dark tones and LC in light tones. Co-binding antibodies  
453 were removed from reconstructions for clarity. C) Relationship between antibody angle-of-  
454 approach and Fab spacing. An angle-of-approach of zero degrees is considered parallel and 90°  
455 is considered perpendicular to the viral surface. An angle-of-approach greater than 90° indicates  
456 antibodies that bind inward toward the head domain while less than 0° indicates antibodies that  
457 bind upward from the viral membrane. Fab spacing is determined by averaging the distance from

458 the same point on modeled Fab hinge terminal residues in the HC and LC. Antibodies are labeled  
459 as in part A. See also Figure S2 and Figure S4.

460

461 **Figure 3. Structural details of glycan cap antibody binding to GP.** Single protomers from  
462 structural models are shown with close-up views of interacting regions. HCs are rendered in  
463 darker colors and LCs in lighter colors, with GP1 colored white. Important residues that  
464 coordinate interaction and binding are highlighted. **A)** Key residues in the EBOV-293 CDRH2  
465 hydrogen bond along the length of  $\beta 17$  with an additional potential salt bridge between E65<sub>H2</sub>  
466 and K276<sub>GP1</sub>. **B)** The EBOV-293 CDRH2 and H3 make additional contacts, including at W275,  
467 and the LC forms potential hydrogen bonds between  $\alpha 2$  and  $\beta 17$ . **C)** Similar to EBOV-293, the  
468 BDBV-43 CDRH2 loop binds along  $\beta 17$ . **D)** The BDBV-43 CDRH2 makes additional contacts  
469 at W275 and also contacts the loop between  $\alpha 2$  and  $\beta 17$  via its LC. **E)** The EBOV-43 CDRH3  
470 loop displaces the loop between  $\alpha 2$  and  $\beta 17$ , shifting N268 by  $\sim 8$  Å (apo-GP in white and  
471 BDBV-43 bound GP in grey). **F)** EBOV-437 makes contact with GP exclusively with its HC,  
472 hydrogen bonding along  $\beta 17$  with its CDRH3 and contacting the head domain in several places.  
473 **G)** BDBV-289 makes extensive hydrogen bonds with its CDRH3 along  $\beta 17$ . **H)** The BDBV-289  
474 CDRH3 contacts W275 via methionine-aromatic and pi-pi interactions. Additional contacts are  
475 made with the head domain of GP via hydrophobic interactions with the CDRH2. **I)** BDBV-442  
476 makes contact with GP exclusively with its HC. The CDRH3 makes hydrogen bonds along  $\beta 17$ ,  
477 with W275 with hydrophobic interactions and along the loop between  $\alpha 2$  and  $\beta 17$ . **J)** EBOV-296  
478 binds to GP along  $\beta 17$ , contacting W275 via methionine-aromatic and pi-pi interactions. The LC  
479 makes further contact to the head domain of GP with several potential salt bridges. **K)** The

480 EBOV-296 LC also makes contact to the loop between  $\alpha 2$  and  $\beta 17$ . See also Figure S3 and  
481 Figure S4, Table S2 and Table S3.

482

483 **Figure 4. Glycan cap antibody paratopes feature long CDRH3 or short CDRH2 loops with**  
484 **beta-hairpin structures that mimic and displace the  $\beta 18$ -  $\beta 18'$  region in the glycan cap. A)**

485 Ribbon models of the glycan cap antibody Fv domains with CDR loops highlighted. The HC is  
486 in dark gray (right) and the LC is in light grey (left). **B)** Structures highlighting the interaction of  
487 each of the glycan cap antibodies with the  $\beta 17$  strand, which forms the basis of an extended beta  
488 sheet in the glycan cap with the  $\beta 17$ -  $\beta 18$  loop and  $\beta 18$ -  $\beta 18'$  hairpin motif (shown on the left).

489 **C)** Crystal structure of BDBV-289 Fab. Shown on the right is comparison of the apo- and GP-  
490 bound forms of BDBV-289. \*From a previous study; †shown as an initial homology model.

491 EBOV-548 (PDB 6UYE) and 13C6 (PDB 5KEL) are included in this figure for comparison. See  
492 also Figure S5, Table S2 and Table S4.

493

494 **Figure 5. Glycan cap antibodies target a conserved, hydrophobic cradle that anchors the**  
495 **mucin-like domains to GP1. A)** Hydrophobicity surface rendering of apo-EBOV GP protomer

496 (PDB 5JQ3) with the MLD-anchor ( $\beta 18$ -  $\beta 18'$ ) highlighted in red. Using the Kyte and Doolittle  
497 scale (Kyte and Doolittle, 1982), hydrophobic residues are colored orange with hydrophilic ones

498 in blue. **B)** Upon glycan cap mAb binding, the MLD-anchor is displaced, exposing a

499 hydrophobic pocket we term the “MLD-cradle”. The cradle lies within a groove formed by  $\alpha 2$

500 and  $\beta 17$ , directly above the  $3^{10}$  pocket. Key residues of the cradle are indicated. The MLD-cradle

501 is composed of residues from  $\alpha 2$  and  $\beta 17$  as well as some additional residues that lie deeper in

502 the core of GP1, including I218, F248, F252, L253, L256, I260, G264, L273, I274, W275, V277

503 and L244. The cradle is segmented in the middle by W275, which may explain this residue's  
504 pivotal role in the binding of many glycan cap antibodies to GP. **C)** Interaction of glycan cap  
505 mAb HC loops with the MLD-cradle (from the rectangle in panel B). Key hydrophobic residues  
506 from antibody paratopes are indicated. **D)** Sequence alignment of the MLD-anchor and cradle  
507 epitope for the five main ebolaviruses (EBOV Q05320, BDBV B8XCN0, SUDV Q66814,  
508 TAFV Q66810 and RESTV Q66799) with topology indicated below. Residues highlighted in  
509 orange are key hydrophobic residues that form the cradle, those in green form the base of the  
510  $\beta$ 17-  $\beta$ 18 loop that interact with the base of the fusion loop, and those in red are key residues  
511 from  $\beta$ 18 that interact with the cradle in apo-GP. Those marked with a \* are common escape  
512 mutants for this epitope. **E)** Glycan cap antibody footprints highlighted on the structure of apo-  
513 GP colored to reflect conservation, with dark purple indicating complete lack of conservation  
514 and white indicating complete conservation. **F)** Shown is a sequence alignment of the CDRH3  
515 region from each of the glycan cap antibodies analyzed in this study, with darker pink indicating  
516 complete conservation and light pink indicating complete lack of conservation. The beta-turn-  
517 beta structure common to these paratopes is indicated above. Key sequences that are similar  
518 among these antibodies are boxed in black with "Y" stretches from *IGHJ6* gene usage underlined  
519 in purple. See also Figure S5.

520

521 **Figure 6. Cleavage inhibition by glycan cap antibodies.** **A)** Jurkat-EBOV GP was incubated  
522 with various concentrations of antibodies, treated with thermolysin, and then assayed using flow  
523 cytometry for exposure of the receptor binding site (RBS) as measured by binding of a  
524 fluorescently labeled MR78 antibody that recognizes the RBS. Determined  $IC_{50}$  and  $IC_{90}$  values  
525 (left) and dose-dependent inhibition curves (right) are shown. Dotted line indicates % RBS

526 exposure in the presence of 2D22 control. BDBV-329 was excluded because it does not bind to  
527 EBOV GP, and BDBV-43 was not tested due to poor recombinant expression. **B)** Proposed  
528 model of the GP inhibition by glycan cap antibodies: I. Enzyme cleavage of a loop draped over  
529 the outside of GP (magenta) is thought to release the glycan cap and attached MLD. II. Glycan  
530 cap antibodies that bind to the MLD-cradle displace the MLD-anchor and thus the MLDs  
531 themselves, potentially shifting their position and sterically blocking access to the cleavage loop  
532 by enzymes, especially on a GP-dense viral surface. See also Figure S6.

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Antibody	GP binding by ELISA, EC <sub>50</sub> (ng/mL)				Virus neutralization, IC <sub>50</sub> (ng/mL)			Site on GP	GP mutations	IgG therapy in mice (EBOV), % survival	Antibody source
	EBOV GP	BDBV GP	SUDV GP	EBOV sGP*	EBOV	BDBV	SUDV				
EBOV-293	49	198	91	3	1,672	1,892	10,456	GC	T240A, W275A	100*	This study
EBOV-296	39	78	514	4	5,758	534	39,217	GC	W275A	20*	This study
BDBV-329	>	135	>	21 (BDBV sGP)	>	770	>	GC	ND	ND	Flyak <i>et al.</i> 2016
BDBV-289	29	20	103	1	602	32	>	GC	W275A, Y241A	80	Flyak <i>et al.</i> 2016
BDBV-43	22	29	21	18 (BDBV sGP)	7,248	139	318	GC	L273P	20	Flyak <i>et al.</i> 2016
EBOV-237	25	3,367	>	162	780	ND	ND	GC	I260R, N278A, P279A, S322G	80-90**	Williamson <i>et al.</i> 2019
EBOV-437	3	11	4	1	8,660***	>	>	GC	W275A	ND	Gilchuk <i>et al.</i> 2018
EBOV-442	1	3	6	1	467	1,489	<75%***	GC	W275A, L273P	80	Gilchuk <i>et al.</i> 2018
EBOV-548	6	7	132	1	1,601	2,262	<12%***	GC	T240A, R266A, T269A, T270A, I274A, W275	40	Gilchuk <i>et al.</i> 2020
13C6	20	>	>	2	>	>	>	GC	T270A, K272A, T240N	100	Wilson <i>et al.</i> 2000
2G4	203	>	>	>	139	>	>	Base	C511A, G553A, N550A, D552A, C556A, Q508R	60	Qiu <i>et al.</i> 2012

549

550 **Table 1. Summary of binding and functional activities of characterized antibodies.**

551 Characteristics for previously described antibodies were included for comparative purposes.

552 \*Determined in this study; \*\* prophylaxis efficacy; \*\*\*incomplete neutralization at highest tested

553 Ab concentration (0.2 mg/mL); “>” indicates activity was not detected at highest tested Ab

554 concentration; ND – not determined. See also Figure S1 and Table S1.

555

556

557 **STAR Methods**

558

559 **RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**

560 *Lead contact*

561 Further information regarding requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and  
562 will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Andrew Ward ([andrew@scripps.edu](mailto:andrew@scripps.edu)).

563

564 *Materials availability*

565 Plasmids generated in this study are available upon request by the Lead Contact.

566

567 *Data and code availability*

568 The cryo-EM maps and structural coordinates generated during this study are available at  
569 the Electron Microscopy Data Bank ([www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/emdb](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/emdb)) and the Worldwide Protein Data  
570 Bank ([www.pdb.org](http://www.pdb.org)). The accession codes for the following cryo-EM maps reported in this paper  
571 are: EMD-22839 (EBOV GPΔMuc:BDBV289 Fab), EMD-22841 (BDBV GPΔMuc:BDBV43 Fab  
572 and ADI-15878 Fab), EMD-22853 (EBOV GPΔMuc:EBOV-437 Fab and EBOV-515 Fab), EMD-  
573 22848 (EBOV GPΔMuc:EBOV-442 Fab and EBOV-515 Fab), EMD-22842 (EBOV  
574 GPΔMuc:EBOV-293 Fab and EBOV-515 Fab), EMD-22847 (EBOV GPΔMuc:EBOV-296 Fab  
575 and EBOV-515 Fab), EMD-22851 (EBOV GPΔMuc:BDBV-329 Fab and EBOV-515 Fab) and  
576 EMD-22852 (EBOV GPΔMuc:EBOV-237 Fab and EBOV-515 Fab). The accession codes for  
577 PDB files are: 7KEJ (EBOV GPΔMuc:BDBV-289 Fab), 7KEW (BDBV GPΔMuc:BDBV-43  
578 Fab), 7KFH (EBOV GPΔMuc:EBOV-437 Fab), 7KFB (EBOV GPΔMuc:EBOV-442 Fab), 7KEX

579 (EBOV GPΔMuc:EBOV-293 Fab), 7KF9 (EBOV GPΔMuc:EBOV-296 Fab), 7KFE (EBOV  
580 GPΔMuc:BDBV-329 Fab) and 7KFG (unliganded BDBV289 Fab).

581

## 582 **EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS**

### 583 *Human samples*

584 Human PBMCs were obtained from a survivor of the 2014 EVD epidemic who acquired  
585 the infection in the Democratic Republic of Congo and was treated in the Nebraska Medical Center  
586 in the United States. A male human survivor was age 57 when PBMCs were collected. PBMCs  
587 were collected after the illness had resolved, following written informed consent. The studies were  
588 approved by the Institutional Review Board of Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

589

### 590 *Cell lines*

591 Suspension adapted HEK293F cells were obtained from ThermoFisher Scientific and  
592 cultured in serum-free FreeStyle medium. Cells were maintained in shaking incubators at 100%  
593 humidity, 37°C and 8% CO<sub>2</sub>. Expi293F cells (ThermoFisher Scientific) were maintained at 37 °C  
594 in 8% CO<sub>2</sub> in Expi293F Expression Medium (ThermoFisher Scientific). ExpiCHO cells  
595 (ThermoFisher Scientific) were maintained at 37°C in 8% CO<sub>2</sub> in ExpiCHO Expression Medium  
596 (ThermoFisher Scientific). The Jurkat-EBOV GP (variant Makona) cell line stably transduced to  
597 display respective GP on the surface (Davis et al., 2019) was a kind gift from Carl Davis (Emory  
598 University, Atlanta, GA). Jurkat-EBOV GP cells were maintained at 37°C in 8% CO<sub>2</sub> in RPMI-  
599 1640 medium (Gibco) supplemented with 10% fetal heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS).  
600 Mycoplasma testing of Expi293F and ExpiCHO cultures was performed on a monthly basis using

601 a PCR-based mycoplasma detection kit (ATCC). Cell lines were not authenticated following  
602 purchase.

603

604 *Viruses*

605 Mouse-adapted EBOV Mayinga (EBOV-MA, GenBank: AF49101) virus was described  
606 previously (Bray et al., 1998).

607

608 *Mouse models*

609 Seven- to eight-week old female BALB/c mice were obtained from the Jackson Laboratory.

610 Mice were housed in microisolator cages and provided food and water *ad libitum*. Challenge

611 studies were conducted under maximum containment in an animal biosafety level 4 (ABSL-4)

612 facility of the Galveston National Laboratory, UTMB. The animal protocols for testing of mAbs

613 in mice were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of the

614 University of Texas Medical Branch in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act and other

615 applicable federal statutes and regulations relating to animals and experiments involving animals.

616

## 617 **METHOD DETAILS**

618 *Isolation of mAbs EBOV-293 and EBOV-296*

619 Hybridoma cell lines secreting human mAbs were generated as described previously

620 (Flyak et al., 2018). In brief, previously cryopreserved samples were transformed with Epstein-

621 Barr virus, CpG and additional supplements. After 7 days, cells from each well of the 384-well

622 culture plates were expanded into four 96-well culture plates using cell culture medium

623 containing irradiated heterologous human PBMCs (recovered from blood unit leukofiltration

624 filters, Nashville Red Cross) and incubated for an additional four days. Plates were screened for  
625 EBOV GP antigen-specific antibody-secreting cell lines using enzyme-linked immunosorbent  
626 assays (ELISAs). Cells from wells with supernatants reacting with antigen in an ELISA were  
627 fused with HMMA2.5 myeloma cells using an established electrofusion technique (Yu et al.,  
628 2008). Antibody heavy- and light-chain variable region genes were sequenced from hybridoma  
629 lines that had been cloned biologically by single-cell flow cytometric sorting. Briefly, total RNA  
630 was extracted using the RNeasy Mini kit (QIAGEN) and reverse-transcriptase PCR (RT-PCR)  
631 amplification of the antibody gene cDNAs was performed using the PrimeScript One Step RT-  
632 PCR kit (CLONTECH) according to the manufacturer's protocols with gene-specific primers  
633 (Thornburg et al., 2016). The thermal cycling conditions were as follows: 50°C for 30 min, 94°C  
634 for 2 min, 40 cycles of (94°C for 30 s, 58°C for 30 s and 72°C for 1 min). PCR products were  
635 purified using Agencourt AMPure XP magnetic beads (Beckman Coulter) and sequenced  
636 directly using an ABI3700 automated DNA sequencer. The identities of gene segments and  
637 mutations from germlines were determined by alignment using the ImMunoGeneTics database  
638 (Giudicelli and Lefranc, 2011).

639

#### 640 *Synergistic binding to cell-surface-displayed GP*

641 The assay was performed as described previously (Gilchuk et al., 2018). Briefly, Jurkat-  
642 EBOV GP cells were pre-incubated at 4°C for 30 min with individual unlabeled glycan cap-  
643 specific mAbs at a saturating for GP binding concentration (20 µg/mL) in PBS containing 2%  
644 FBS and 2 mM EDTA, and then Alexa Fluor 647-labeled mAbs EBOV-515 or EBOV-520 were  
645 added to a total concentration of labeled mAbs of 10 µg/mL. Cells were incubated at 4°C for  
646 additional 2 h, then washed and antibody binding was analyzed by flow cytometry using an iQue

647 Screener Plus flow cytometer (Intellicyt). Controls included binding of labeled mAb to mock-  
648 transduced Jurkat cells (background), binding of labeled mAb alone to intact Jurkat-EBOV GP (a  
649 baseline level of binding to calculate fold change in a presence of glycan mAb), and binding of  
650 labeled mAb alone to cleaved Jurkat-EBOV-GP (maximal saturating binding signal). Results are  
651 expressed as fold-increase in median fluorescence intensity (MFI) of labeled mAb binding in the  
652 presence of the tested unlabeled mAb minus background signal from mock control.

653

#### 654 *ELISA binding assays*

655 To assess mAb binding at different pH, wells of 96-well microtiter plates were coated  
656 with purified, recombinant EBOV, BDBV or SUDV GP<sup>Δ</sup>TM ectodomains or EBOV sGP at 4°C  
657 overnight. Plates were blocked with 2% non-fat dry milk and 2% normal goat serum in DPBS  
658 containing 0.05% Tween-20 (DPBS-T) for 1 h. Purified mAbs were diluted serially in DPBS-T  
659 (pH 7.4), or DPBS-T that was adjusted to pH 5.5 or 4.5 with hydrochloric acid, added to the  
660 wells and incubated for 1 h at ambient temperature. The bound antibodies were detected using  
661 goat anti-human IgG conjugated with horseradish peroxidase (Southern Biotech) diluted in  
662 blocking buffer and TMB substrate (ThermoFisher Scientific). Color development was  
663 monitored, 1N hydrochloric acid was added to stop the reaction, and the absorbance was  
664 measured at 450 nm using a spectrophotometer (Biotek).

665

#### 666 *Epitope mapping using an EBOV GP alanine-scan mutation library*

667 Epitope mapping was carried out as described previously (Gilchuk et al., 2018).  
668 Comprehensive alanine scanning ('shotgun mutagenesis') was carried out on an expression  
669 construct for EBOV GP (Yambuku-Mayinga variant) lacking the mucin-like domain (residues

670 311-461), mutagenizing GP residues 33-310 and 462-676 to create a library of clones, each  
671 representing an individual point mutant. Residues were changed to alanine (with alanine residues  
672 changed to serine). The resulting library, covering 492 of 493 (99.9%) of target residues, was  
673 arrayed into 384-well plates, one mutant per well, then transfected into HEK-293T cells and  
674 allowed to express for 22 hrs. Cells, unfixed or fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, were incubated  
675 with primary antibody and then with an Alexa Fluor 488-conjugated secondary antibody (Jackson  
676 ImmunoResearch Laboratories). After washing, cellular fluorescence was detected using the  
677 Intellicyt flow cytometer. MAbs reactivity against each mutant EBOV GP clone was calculated  
678 relative to wild-type EBOV GP reactivity by subtracting the signal from mock-transfected controls  
679 and normalizing to the signal from wild-type GP-transfected controls. Mutated residues within  
680 clones were identified as critical to the mAb epitope if they did not support reactivity of the test  
681 mAb but did support reactivity of other control EBOV mAbs. This counter-screen strategy  
682 facilitated the exclusion of GP mutants that were misfolded locally or that exhibited an expression  
683 defect. The detailed algorithms used to interpret shotgun mutagenesis data were described  
684 previously (Davidson and Doranz, 2014).

685

#### 686 *Mouse challenge and protection studies*

687 Groups of 7-8-week-old female BALB/c mice (n = 5 per group) housed in microisolator  
688 cages were inoculated with 1,000 PFU of the EBOV-MA by the intraperitoneal (i.p.) route. Mice  
689 were treated i.p. with 100 µg (~5 mg/kg) of individual mAb per mouse on 1 dpi. Human mAb  
690 2D22 (specific to an unrelated target, dengue virus) served as a negative control (Fibriansah and  
691 Lok, 2016). Mice were monitored twice daily from day 0 to 14 post infection for illness,  
692 survival, and weight loss, followed by once daily monitoring from 15 dpi to the end of the study

693 at 28 dpi. The extent of disease was scored using the following parameters: dyspnea (possible  
694 scores 0–5), recumbence (0–5), unresponsiveness (0–5), and bleeding/hemorrhage (0–5).  
695 Moribund mice were euthanized as per the IACUC-approved protocol. All mice were euthanized  
696 on day 28 after EBOV challenge.

697

#### 698 *Cryo-EM trimer stability assay*

699 Complexes for trimer stability assays were derived from data collected for structural  
700 evaluation (*see Cryo-EM sample preparation* section below). Particle picks were completed using  
701 a difference of gaussian method with low thresholds in order to pick everything on the grids.  
702 Particles were separated into stacks for either intact particles or particles that were falling apart,  
703 which was judged by eye, and then counted to determine approximate percentage of glycan cap  
704 antibody-induced instability. We have previously determined that base binding antibodies alone  
705 do not induce trimer instability.

706

#### 707 *Cell surface displayed GP mAb competition-binding*

708 Jurkat-EBOV GP<sub>CL</sub> cells were pre-incubated with a saturating concentration (typically  
709 20 µg/mL) of glycan cap mAbs at room temperature for 30 min, followed by addition of labeled  
710 antibody MR78 (Flyak et al., 2015; Hashiguchi et al., 2015) at 5 µg/mL and incubated for an  
711 additional 30 min. Antibody MR78 was labeled with Alexa Fluor 647 and added after the first  
712 mAb and without washing of cells to minimize a dissociation of the first mAb from cell surface  
713 GP during a prolonged incubation. Cells were washed, fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde, and cell  
714 staining was analyzed using an iQue Screener Plus flow cytometer flow cytometer. Background  
715 values were determined from binding of the second labeled mAbs to untransfected Jurkat.



716 Results are expressed as the percent of binding in the presence of glycan cap mAb relative to  
717 MR78 alone (maximal binding) minus background. The antibodies were considered competing if  
718 the presence of first antibody reduced the signal of the second antibody to less than 35% of its  
719 maximal binding or non-competing if the signal was greater than 86%. A level of 36–85% was  
720 considered partial competition. Thermolysin cleavage removes the epitope for most tested glycan  
721 cap antibodies that showed very low binding to Jurkat-EBOV GP<sub>CL</sub> (data not shown). This study  
722 served as an additional control to confirm that cleavage inhibition measured as percent of RBS  
723 exposure is not due to MR78 binding completion with residually bound glycan cap antibody on  
724 Jurkat-EBOV GP<sub>CL</sub>.

725

#### 726 *Cell surface displayed GP cleavage inhibition*

727 Jurkat-EBOV GP cells were pre-incubated with serial dilutions of mAbs in PBS for  
728 20 min at room temperature, then incubated with thermolysin (Promega) for 20 min at 37°C. The  
729 reaction was stopped by addition of the incubation buffer containing DPBS, 2% heat inactivated  
730 FBS and 2 mM EDTA (pH 8.0). Washed cells were incubated with 5 µg/mL of fluorescently  
731 labeled RBS-specific mAb MR78 at 4°C for 60 min. Stained cells were washed, fixed, and  
732 analyzed by flow cytometry using iQue Screener Plus flow cytometer. Cells were gated for the  
733 viable population. Background staining was determined from binding of the labeled mAb MR78  
734 to Jurkat-EBOV GP (uncleaved) cells. Results are expressed as the percent of RBS exposure in  
735 the presence of tested mAb relative to labeled MR78 mAb-only control (maximal binding to  
736 Jurkat-EBOV GP<sub>CL</sub>) minus background. The GP base-directed antibody 2G4 (Qiu et al., 2011)  
737 and 2D22 served as negative controls. BDBV-329 was excluded because it does not bind to  
738 EBOV and BDBV-43 was excluded due to poor recombinant expression of the antibody.

739

740 *Construct design, expression and protein purification*

741 EBOV GP (Makona) (residues 32-644, GenBank AKG65268.1) with an N-terminal tissue  
742 plasminogen activator (*Homo sapiens*) signal sequence was codon optimized for mammalian  
743 protein expression, synthesized and subcloned into the pPPI4 expression vector (GenScript). A C-  
744 terminal enterokinase (Ek) cut site (DDDDK) was introduced after residue 628 followed by a short  
745 linker (AG) and two streptavidin tags (WSHPQFEK) separated by a GS-linker  
746 (GGGSGGGSGGGS). Residues 310-460 were removed to produce EBOV GP $\Delta$ Muc. BDBV GP  
747 (residues 1-643, GenBank ALT19772.1) with the GP-associated signal peptide, an Ek cut site after  
748 residue 643 followed by an AG-linker and the double streptavidin tag as described above was  
749 codon optimized for mammalian protein expression, synthesized and subcloned into pPPI4.  
750 Residues 313-470 were removed to produce BDBV GP $\Delta$ Muc. EBOV sGP (Mayinga) (residues 1-  
751 314, GenBank AAD14584.1) with the sGP-associated signal peptide an enterokinase cut site after  
752 residue 314 followed by an AG-linker and a double streptavidin tag was codon optimized for  
753 mammalian protein expression, synthesized and subcloned into pPPI4.

754 All GPs were expressed and purified in transiently transfected HEK-293F cells at a density  
755 of  $0.8\text{-}1.5 \times 10^6$  cells/mL using 750  $\mu\text{g}$  of DNA and 2.25 mg of polyethylenimine “Max” (MW  
756 25,000, Polyscience, Inc.) mixed with 50 mL of Opti-MEM (ThermoFisher Scientific). Solutions  
757 were sterile filtered using 0.22  $\mu\text{m}$  Steriflip disposable filters (Millipore) and allowed to incubate  
758 at room temperature for 30 min before being added to cultures. After 5 days of expression at 37°C  
759 and 8% CO<sub>2</sub>, cells were harvested by centrifugation (8,000 x g for 1hr at 4°C) and filtered to  
760 remove cellular debris. BioLock biotin blocking solution (IBA Lifesciences) was added to  
761 supernatant according to the manufacturer’s protocol before being loaded onto Strep-Tactin

762 Superflow Plus beads (Qiagen) that had been pre-equilibrated in 1X Strep Buffer (100 mM Tris,  
763 pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl and 1mM EDTA). Beads were washed with 10 mL of 1X Strep Buffer and  
764 GPs were eluted by addition of 2.5 mM d-desthiobiotin added to 10 mL of 1X Strep Buffer. GPs  
765 were further purified by size exclusion chromatography (SEC) using an S200 increase (S200I, GE)  
766 column equilibrated in 1X TBS (150 mM NaCl, 20 mM Tris, pH 7.4).

767 For EBOV-237, BDBV-329, EBOV-442, EBOV-437 and 2D22 recombinant mAb  
768 production, cDNA encoding the genes of heavy and light chains were cloned into the pTwist CMV  
769 Betaglobin WPRE Neo vector encoding IgG1 or Fab- heavy chain (McLean et al., 2000), or  
770 monocistronic expression vector pTwist-mCis\_G1 (Zost et al., 2020) and transformed into E. coli  
771 cells. mAb proteins were produced after transient transfection of ExpiCHO cells following the  
772 manufacturer's protocol and were purified from filtered culture supernatants by fast protein liquid  
773 chromatography (FPLC) on an AKTA instrument using HiTrap MabSelect Sure column for IgG  
774 (GE Healthcare Life Sciences) or CaptureSelect™ IgG-CH1 column for Fab (ThermoFisher  
775 Scientific). Purified mAbs were buffer exchanged into PBS, filtered using sterile 0.45 µm pore  
776 size filter devices (Millipore), concentrated, and stored in aliquots at -80°C until use.

777 For BDBV-289, BDBV-43, EBOV-293 and EBOV-296 antibody expression, sequences  
778 were optimized for mammalian expression, synthesized and subcloned into the expression vector  
779 AbVec containing the human IgG HC constant region or the human lambda or kappa LC constant  
780 region (GenScript). Fab was produced by the introduction of a stop codon after residue 226 in the  
781 HC hinge-region. ADI-15878 Fab and ADI-16061 Fab were used as a fiducials in this study and  
782 were produced as previously described (Murin et al., 2018). IgGs and Fab were transiently  
783 transfected as described above for GPs, except that 500 µg of HC DNA and 250 µg of LC DNA  
784 was mixed to encourage HC/LC pairing and the avoidance of LC dimers. For BDBV-289 and

785 BDBV-43 Fab, cell supernatants were loaded onto 5 mL Lambda (BDBV-289) or Kappa (BDBV-  
786 43) Select columns (GE) that had been equilibrated in 1X phosphate buffered saline (PBS,  
787 QualityBiological) followed by elution with 0.1 M glycine, pH 3.0. Fab were subsequently buffer  
788 exchanged into 20 mM sodium acetate (NaOAc), pH 5.6 by dialysis and loaded onto a MonoS  
789 column (GE). Fab were then eluted with a gradient of 1M KCl. For EBOV-437, EBOV-442,  
790 EBOV-293 and EBOV-296 Fab, cell supernatants were loaded onto a 1 mL or 5 mL Capture Select  
791 column (ThermoFisher Scientific) and eluted with 0.1 M glycine, pH 3.0. Appropriate fractions  
792 were pooled and further purified by SEC using an S200I column equilibrated in 1X TBS buffer.  
793 For IgG, supernatants were loaded onto a HiTrap 5 mL mAb Select column (GE) that had been  
794 pre-equilibrated in 1X PBS followed by elution with 0.1 M glycine, pH 3.0 and neutralization with  
795 1M Tris, pH 8.5. Appropriate fractions were pooled and further purified by SEC using an S200I  
796 column that had been equilibrated with 1X TBS.

797

#### 798 *Crystallization and Structure Determination of BDBV-289 Fab*

799 Fabs produced for crystallographic studies were made in Expi-CHO cells per the  
800 manufacturer's "max titer" protocol (GIBCO/ThermoFisher Scientific) and purified as described  
801 above. BDBV-289 Fab was screened for crystallization using the Joint Center for Structural  
802 Genomics (JCSG) Rigaku CrystalMation at The Scripps Research Institute against the JCSG  
803 Core Suites I-IV. Protein at 7.4 mg/mL was mixed 1:1 with precipitants and crystallized using  
804 the vapor diffusion method at both room temperature and 4°C. Crystals grew in 0.1M HEPES pH  
805 6.5 and 20% (w/v) polyethylene glycol 6000 at 4°C. Crystals were cryoprotected with well  
806 solution augmented with 30% ethylene glycol. Data were collected at Stanford Synchrotron  
807 Radiation Light Source beamline 12-2. Data were indexed, integrated and scaled using HKL-

808 2000 (Otwinowski and Minor, 1997) to 3.0 Å (Table S2). Crystals belonged to the space group  
809 P6<sub>1</sub> with a single Fab in the asymmetric unit.

810 Data were phased using Phaser (McCoy et al., 2007) with molecular replacement by a  
811 homology model generated using Swiss Modeler (Biasini et al., 2014). A single Fab was placed  
812 in the asymmetric unit. This initial solution was rebuilt manually in Coot (Emsley et al., 2010),  
813 followed by multiple rounds of refinement in Phenex.refine (Adams et al., 2010) and model  
814 building with Coot. Translation/Libration/Screw (TLS) groups were introduced towards the end  
815 of refinement. Four TLS groups were set manually with one for each immunoglobulin domain. A  
816 large positive density seen in the difference map was modeled as PEG after evaluating fits for all  
817 components of the buffer.

818

#### 819 *Cryo-EM sample preparation*

820 EBOV/Mak GPΔmuc was incubated overnight with a 5-fold molar excess of each Fab at  
821 4°C. The complexes were then purified by SEC using an S200I column equilibrated in 1X TBS  
822 and concentrated using a 100-kDa concentrator (Amicon Ultra, Millipore) and mixed with  
823 detergent immediately prior to freezing (**Table S2**). Vitrification was performed with a Vitrobot  
824 (ThermoFisher Scientific) equilibrated to 4°C and 100% humidity. Cryo-EM grids were plasma  
825 cleaned for 5s using a mixture of Ar/O<sub>2</sub> (Gatan Solarus 950 Plasma system) followed by blotting  
826 on both sides of the grid with filter paper (Whatman No. 1). See Table S1 for additional details for  
827 individual complexes. Note that ADI-15878 Fab was added to the BDBV-43 complex and ADI-  
828 16061 Fab and EBOV-515 Fab was added to the EBOV-437, EBOV-442, EBOV-293, EBOV-  
829 296, EBOV-237 and BDBV-329 complexes to assist in angular sampling and orientations in ice.

830

831 *Cryo-EM data collection and processing*

832 Cryo-EM data were collected according to Table S1. Micrographs were aligned and dose-  
833 weighted using MotionCor2 (Zheng et al., 2017). CTF estimation was completed using GCTF  
834 (Zhang, 2016). Particle picking and initial 2D classification were initially performed using  
835 CryoSPARC 2.0 (Punjani et al., 2017) to clean up particle stacks and exclude any complexes that  
836 were degrading. For those reconstructions that required more extensive 3D classification, particle  
837 picks were then imported into Relion 3.1b1 (Zivanov et al., 2018) for 3D classification and then  
838 refinement using appropriate symmetry where necessary and a tight mask around the GP/Fab  
839 complex of interest. CTF refinement was then performed by either Relion or CryoSPARC to  
840 increase map quality and resolution. There was no density for ADI-16061 in any of the maps and  
841 we did not build density for ADI-15878 in the BDBV-43 map (this was previously deposited under  
842 PDB 6DZM). We chose not to build a model into EBOV-515 density but included this density in  
843 our reconstructions to assist with particle alignment.

844

845 *Cryo-EM model building and refinement*

846 Homology models of Fab were first generated using SWISS-MODEL (Biasini et al., 2014).  
847 Models of BDBV GP (PDB: 6DZM) and EBOV GP (PDB: 5JQ3) were then added to generate  
848 starting models used for refinement. Models were fit into maps using UCSF Chimera (Pettersen et  
849 al., 2004) and refined initially using Phenix real-space refinement using NCS constraints  
850 (Liebschner et al., 2019). The refined model was then used as a template for relaxed refinement in  
851 Rosetta (DiMaio et al., 2015). The top five models were then evaluated for fit in EM density and  
852 adjusted manually using Coot (Emsley et al., 2010) to maximize fit. Finally, Man9 glycans were  
853 fit into glycan densities, trimmed and then a final refinement was performed in Rosetta. The final

854 structures were evaluated using EMRinger (Barad et al., 2015) and Molprobit from Phenix. All  
855 figures were generated in UCSF Chimera (Pettersen et al., 2004). Antibody contacts were analyzed  
856 using LigPlot (Laskowski and Swindells, 2011), Arpeggio (Jubb et al., 2017) and UCSF Chimera  
857 (Pettersen et al., 2004).

858

### 859 *Inferred germline antibody analysis*

860 Inferred germline sequences for BDBV289 and BDBV43 F<sub>V</sub> domains were determined  
861 using IMGT/V-QUEST (Brochet et al., 2008; Giudicelli et al., 2011). Nucleotide sequences of B-  
862 cells originally isolated from donors were kindly provided by James Crowe and used to derive a  
863 list of likely germline VDJ genes. Those with the highest confidence were then used to reconstruct  
864 an inferred germline sequence. The mature CDRH3 sequence was included in the reconstructed  
865 germline sequences due to low confidence in predicting germline CDRH3 sequences, although  
866 some residues were predicted to be different from the germline CDRH3. For BDBV-289 and  
867 BDBV-43, inferred germline sequences were then codon optimized for mammalian protein  
868 expression and sub-cloned into the appropriate AbVec expression vector. Stop codons were  
869 introduced as described above to produce Fab.

870

## 871 **QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

872 The descriptive statistics mean  $\pm$  SEM or mean  $\pm$  SD were determined for continuous  
873 variables as noted. EC<sub>50</sub> values for mAb binding were determined after log transformation of  
874 antibody concentration using sigmoidal dose-response nonlinear regression analysis. Correlation  
875 between antibody synergy and percent monomer in GP trimer fraction was estimated using linear  
876 regression analysis. In neutralization assays, IC<sub>50</sub> values were calculated after log transformation

877 of antibody concentrations using a 4-parameter nonlinear fit analysis. Technical and biological  
878 replicates are indicated in the figure legends. Statistical analyses were performed using Prism v8  
879 (GraphPad).

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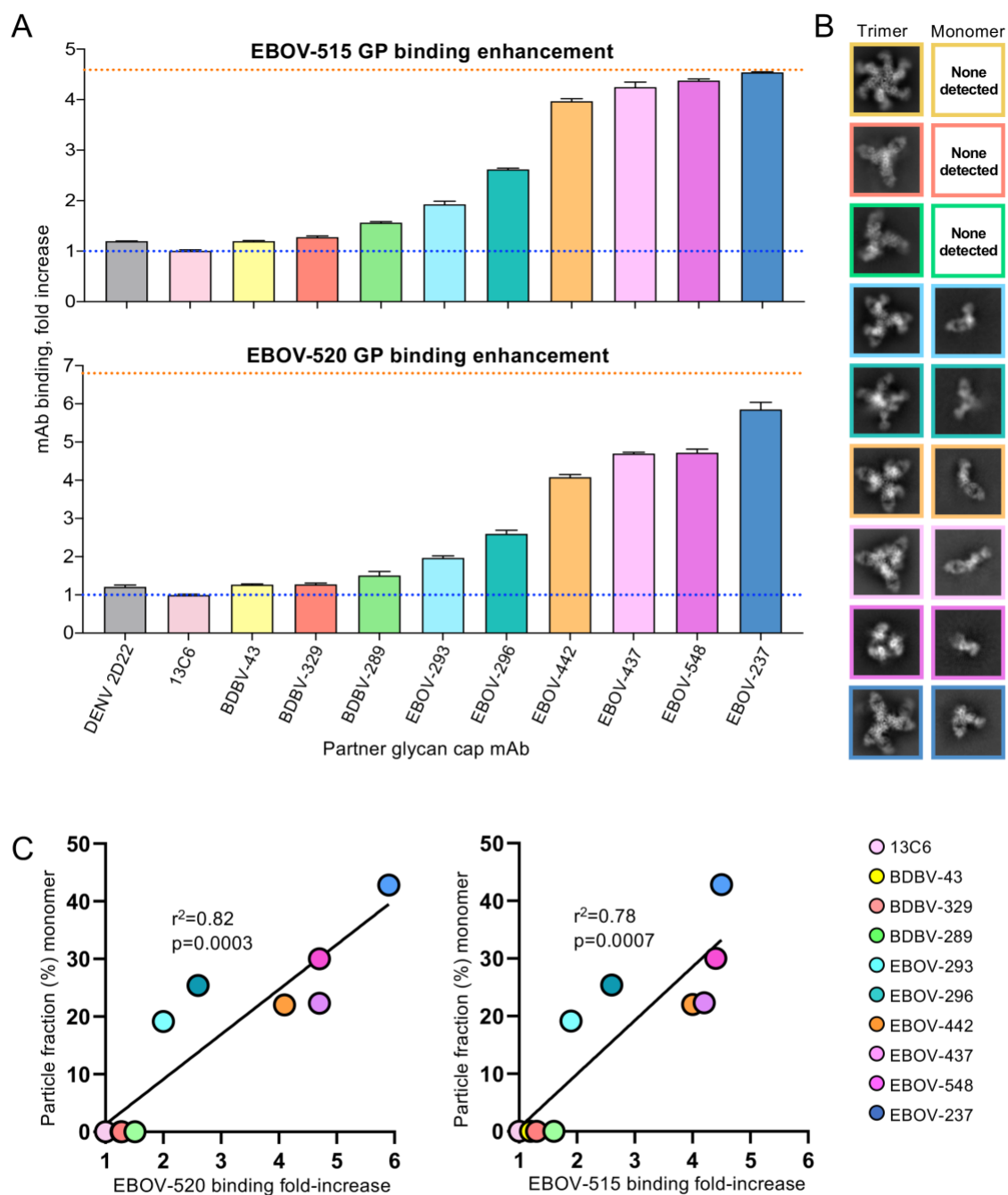
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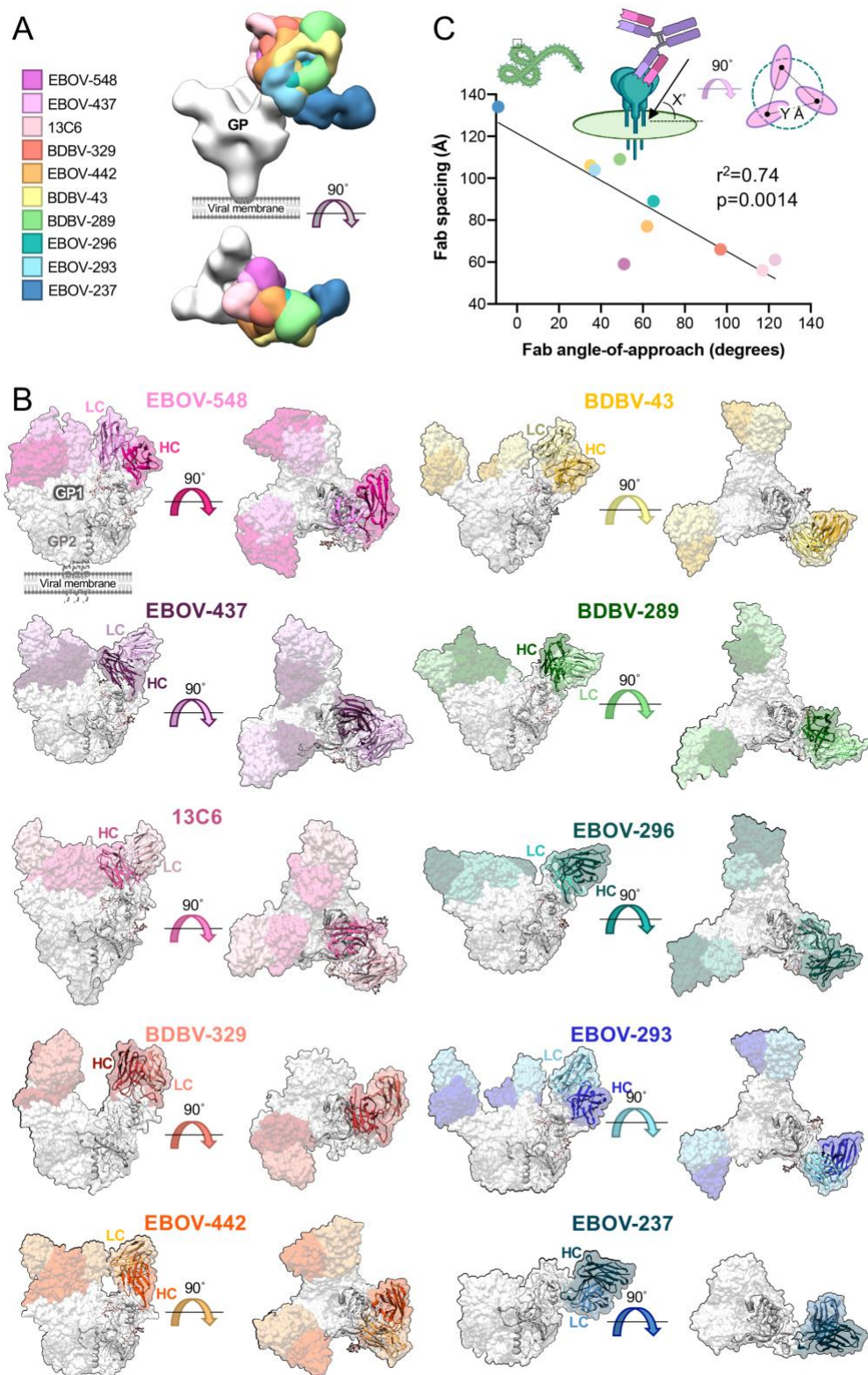
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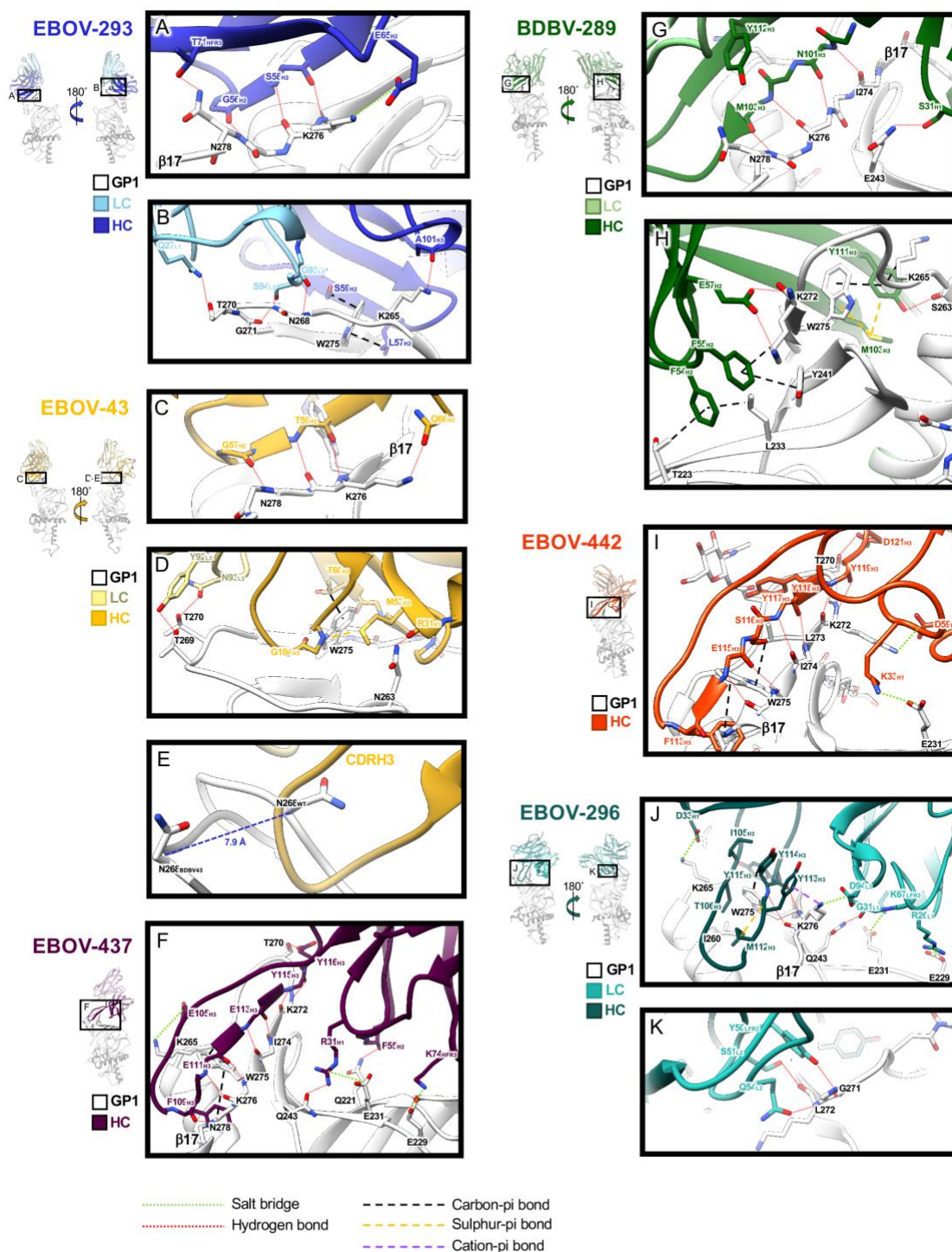
**Figure 1**



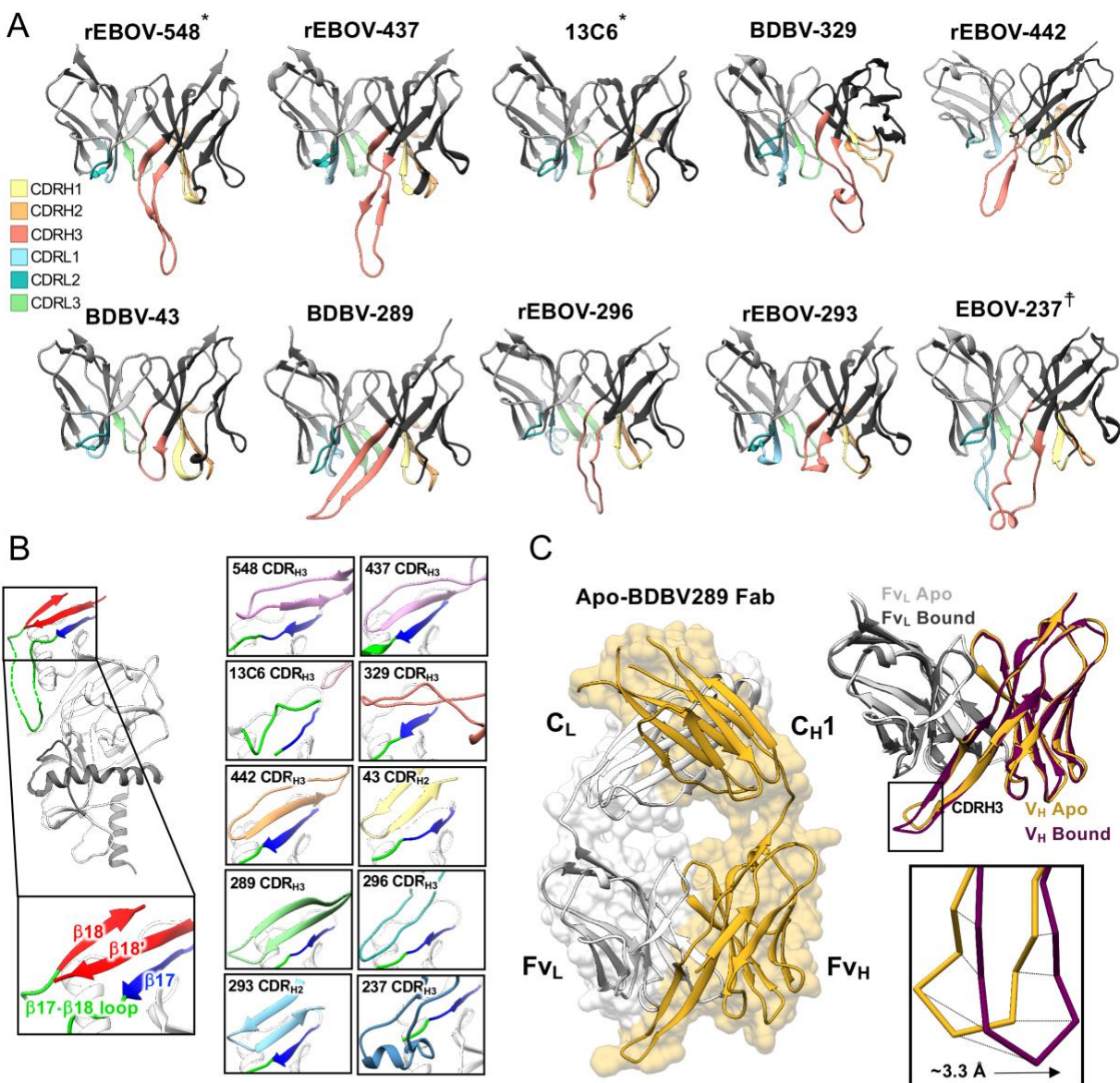
**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**

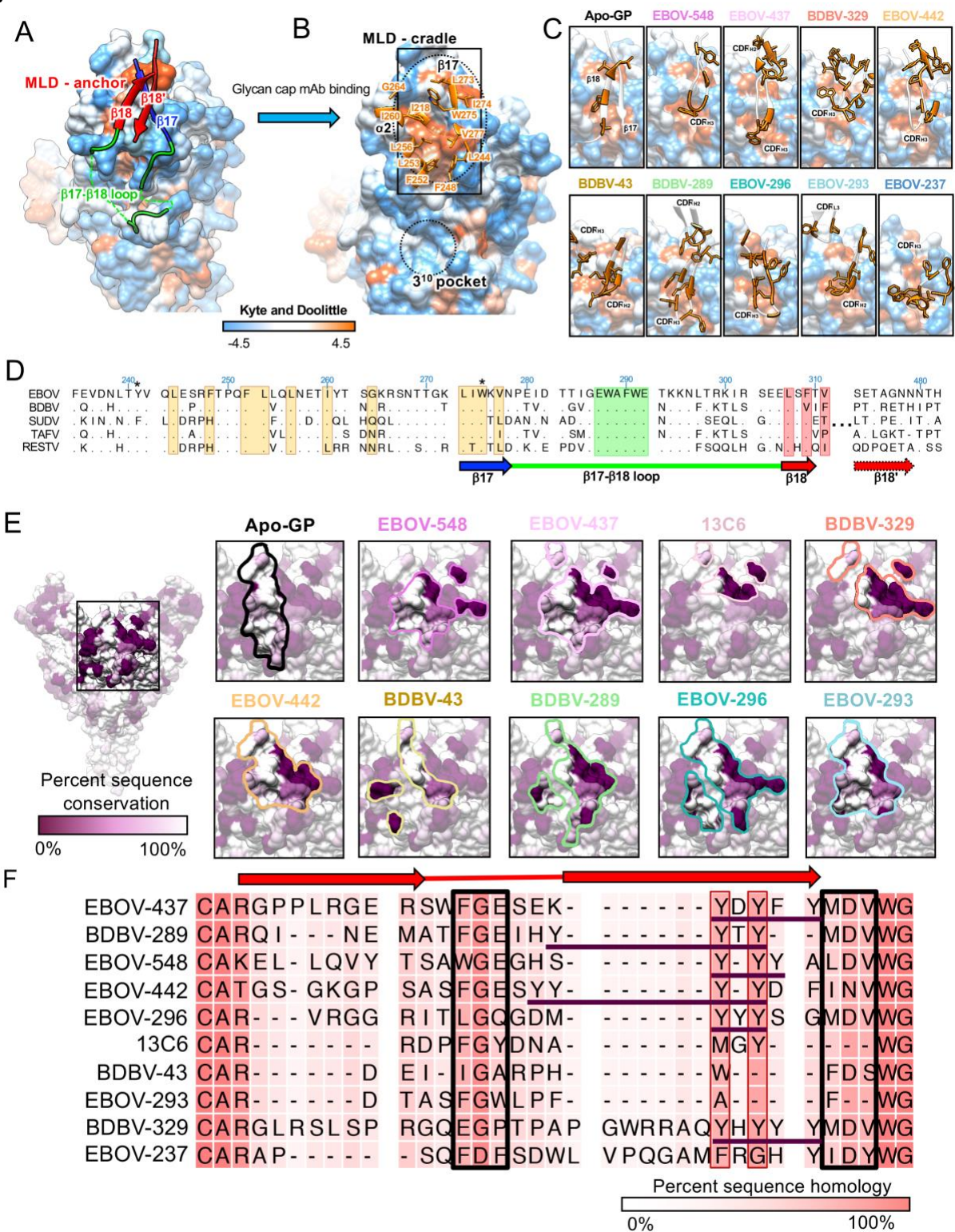


**Figure 4**





**Figure 5**



**Figure 6**

