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(54) **IMMUNOPROTECTIVE INFLUENZA ANTIGEN AND ITS USE IN VACCINATION**

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435/69.1

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to an influenza antigen, comprising a fusion product of at least (1) the extracellular part of a conserved influenza membrane protein (e.g., M2) or a functional equivalent thereof and (2) a presenting carrier. The presenting carrier may be a (poly)peptide or a non-peptidic structure such as glycans, peptide mimetics, and synthetic polymers. The invention further relates to methods of making and using the antigen, and to influenza vaccines comprising the antigen and optionally one or more excipients.

17 Claims, 35 Drawing Sheets