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Structural basis for neutralization of *P. vivax* by naturally-acquired human antibodies that target DBP

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Abstract

The *Plasmodium vivax* Duffy binding protein (DBP) is a prime target of the protective immune response and a promising vaccine candidate for *P. vivax* malaria. Naturally acquired immunity (NAI) protects against malaria in adults residing in infection-endemic regions, and the passive transfer of malarial immunity confers protection. A vaccine that replicates NAI will effectively prevent disease. Here, we report the structures of DBP region II in complex with human-derived,

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization, NHT, CLK, JHA. Methodology, DU, LC, YH, NDS, VN, JP, CR, NHT. Validation, DU, LC, YH, VN, JP, CR. Formal Analysis, DU, LC, YH, NDS, VN, JP, CR. Investigation, DU, LC, YH, VN, JP, CR. Resources, NHT, CLK, MLG, JHA, MF, BW. Writing – Original Draft Preparation, DU, NHT. Writing – Review & Editing: DU, LC, YH, NDS, VN, JP, CR, BW, MF, JHA, MLG, CLK, NHT. Visualization, DU, YH, NHT. Supervision, NHT, CLK, MLG, JHA, MF, BW. Project Administration, NHT, CLK, MLG, JHA, MF, BW. Funding Acquisition, NHT, CLK, MLG, JHA, MF, BW.

COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Supplementary Information is available online.

neutralizing monoclonal antibodies obtained from an individual in a malaria-endemic area with naturally acquired immunity. We identified protective epitopes by X-ray crystallography, hydrogen-deuterium exchange mass spectrometry, mutational mapping, and *P. vivax* invasion studies. These approaches reveal that naturally-acquired human antibodies neutralize *P. vivax* by targeting the DARC-binding site and dimer interface of *P. vivax* DBP. Antibody binding is unaffected by polymorphisms in the vicinity of epitopes, suggesting the antibodies have evolved to engage multiple polymorphic variants of DBP. The human antibody epitopes are broadly conserved and are distinct from previously defined epitopes for broadly conserved murine mAbs. A library of globally conserved epitopes of neutralizing human antibodies opens new horizons for rational design of strain-transcending DBP-based vaccines and therapeutics against *P. vivax*.

Malaria remains a life threatening disease causing high morbidity and mortality¹. Despite the long history of human battle against malaria, a viable vaccine is still desperately needed but remains elusive. This is in spite of the recognition that adults in malaria-endemic areas develop relative immunity to malaria infection^{2–4}. Further, passive transfer of gamma globulins isolated from serum of patients exposed to malaria to infected non-immune children less than 5 years of age, demonstrated a significant reduction in parasitemia^{2,5–7}. Defining the structural correlates of naturally acquired immunity is a critical factor for the design of a universal vaccine.

The *P. vivax* Duffy binding protein (DBP) is the most promising vaccine candidate for *P. vivax* malaria^{8–21}. During reticulocyte invasion, *P. vivax* uses a Duffy Binding Like (DBL) domain in DBP also known as region II (DBP-II) to engage the Duffy Antigen Receptor for Chemokines (DARC) on host reticulocytes^{8–12,14–18}. DBP-II binds DARC via receptor-induced ligand dimerization, sandwiching DARC residues 19–30 between two DBP-II molecules^{17,18}. DBP-II is comprised of three subdomains (1 to 3), and subdomain 2 (SD2) is responsible for dimerization and receptor binding that are required to engage DARC^{17,18}. Rabbit and human antibodies that block the DBP:DARC interaction neutralize *P. vivax*, suggesting a DBP-based vaccine will reduce infection⁵. However, the successful design of a DBP-II-based vaccine may be limited by strain-specific immune responses due to the polymorphic nature of DBP^{22,23}, and the presence of immunodominant but non-protective epitopes within DBP^{24,25}. Despite the polymorphic nature of DBP, broadly conserved epitopes of three inhibitory murine monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) have been identified in subdomain 3 of DBP-II¹⁹. These epitopes are distant from the dimer interface or DARC binding site¹⁹. Furthermore, human vaccination with DBP-II elicits antibodies that block the *in vitro* binding of four alleles of DBP to DARC suggesting broadly-neutralizing epitopes of human antibodies may exist within DBP-II^{20,21}.

The identification of broadly-conserved human neutralizing-antibody epitopes that contribute to naturally acquired immunity is essential for the improved rational design of potent strain-transcending DBP-based vaccines. Here, we present the study of DBP-II with two human neutralizing monoclonal antibodies 053054 and 092096. These human mAbs were produced by sorting individual DBP-II-specific B cells from a Cambodian patient with naturally acquired DBP-II-blocking antibodies and then isolating, sequencing, and cloning the variable regions from human IgG heavy and light chains. Structures of DBP-II antibody

complexes were determined by X-ray crystallography, and epitopes further mapped by hydrogen-deuterium exchange mass spectrometry (HDX-MS) and mutational studies. Both antibodies inhibit binding of DBP to red blood cells, and 092096 neutralizes *P. vivax* in *ex vivo* experiments. Polysera from patient populations competes with binding of 092096 to DBP. We show that these naturally-acquired human antibodies neutralize *P. vivax* by targeting the DARC-binding site and dimer interface of *P. vivax* DBP. This work forms a strong foundation for the rational design of potent strain-transcending DBP-based vaccines against *P. vivax*.

RESULTS

Isolation of human monoclonal antibodies 053054 and 092096

Igh and *Igl* PCR products from 98 individual B cells were sequenced from one Cambodian donor, and 16 B cell clonal groups as defined by Ab V heavy chain sequences with the same inferred VH and JH germline sequences, identical CDR3 length, and the same or very similar CDR3 sequences. One or two clones were selected from each group and expressed as full-length IgG1, thereby creating monoclonal antibodies (mAbs). mAbs from eleven clones recognized DBP-II. We selected one mAb from two different clonal groups corresponding to two of the larger clonal groups in terms in the number of DBP-II-specific B cells isolated by single cell sorting. These two mAbs were designated as 092096 and 053054.

Structures of human antibodies 053054 and 092096 in complex with DBP-II

We solved two crystal structures of DBP-II in complex with a single-chain variable fragment (scFv) generated from the human mAbs 053054 and 092096 that were isolated from a Cambodian patient (Fig. 1a,c and Supplementary Table 1). The quality of the electron density maps clearly defined the contact sites of the DBP-II/antibody interface in both structures (Supplementary Fig. 1a,b). Both mAbs bind to the same face of DBP, although the orientation of the heavy and light chains with respect to DBP differs (Supplementary Fig. 2). The interacting residues showed a significant overlap between the two epitopes (Supplementary Table 2).

The discontinuous conformational epitope for 053054 is composed of amino acids D264-A281 and Q356-N372 belonging to two outer helices of subdomain 2, and E249 of the N-terminal helix in subdomain 1 (Fig. 1a,b and Supplementary Table 2). mAb 092096 binds to the discontinuous conformational epitope comprised of residues L270-K289, A355-W375, E249 and Y219 (Fig. 1c,d and Supplementary Table 2). All complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of both antibodies contact DBP (Supplementary Table 2), and the buried surface area and shape complementarity of the interactions are within standard parameters (Supplementary Fig. 1c,d). Strikingly, these epitopes differ from previously reported epitopes for broadly conserved inhibitory murine mAbs located in SD3 of DBP-II (Fig. 1e). The overlap of human epitopes in DBP coupled with distinct modes of binding indicate multiple avenues for antibody engagement of the surface comprised of residues D264-K289 and Q356-W375 in DBP.

Mechanism of neutralization

Binding of 053054 or 092096 does not cause conformational changes within DBP-II as there are negligible structure differences between antibody-bound, unbound and DARC-bound DBP (Supplementary Table 3). However, structural comparison of DBP-II/053054 and DBP-II/092096 with DBP-II/DARC complex revealed that mAbs 053054 and 092096 engage residues in the DARC-binding cleft and dimer-interface of DBP-II (Fig. 2). DBP uses residues F261-T266, L270-K289 and Q356-K367 to engage DARC ectodomain and residue range F261-F267, L270-Y278 and E352-Q356 to form a dimer interface¹⁸. These segments overlap considerably with the 053054 and 092096 epitopes suggesting that antibody association prevents DBP dimerization and DARC binding (Fig. 2c and 2f).

Human antibodies 053054 and 092096 block DBP binding to RBCs and neutralize *P. vivax* invasion *ex vivo*

The structural studies suggest that the mAbs 053054 and 092096 directly block DBP binding to DARC on red blood cells and would, therefore, neutralize *P. vivax* merozoites. To test this hypothesis, we examined inhibition of DBP-II binding to RBCs (Fig. 3a). Both human mAbs completely blocked the binding with IC₅₀ values for 053054 and 092096 as 4.88 ± 1.06 nM and 1.63 ± 1.07 nM, respectively while an isotype control, 043038, could not inhibit binding. 092096 was chosen for its higher potency to test the human mAb's ability to neutralize *P. vivax* invasion of human reticulocytes *ex vivo*. Using *P. vivax*-infected erythrocytes obtained from Brazilian patients we showed that 092096 neutralizes *P. vivax* invasion with 43% invasion inhibition at a human mAb concentration of 100 µg/mL compared to no antibody ($p = 0.0001$) (Fig. 3b). We further performed the *P. vivax ex vivo* assay with Cambodian clinical isolates to assess the ability of this mAb to neutralize parasites from distinct geographical locations. Compared to no antibody 092096 neutralizes *P. vivax* invasion with 47.4% neutralization at a human mAb concentration of 100 µg/mL ($p = 0.002$) and 86.6% neutralization at a human mAb concentration of 500 µg/mL ($p = 0.0007$) (Fig. 3c). Note that the degree of invasion inhibition is fairly consistent for the different parasite isolates. This result indicates a single human mAb that targets the receptor-binding residues and the dimer interface of DBP can neutralize invasion of multiple *P. vivax* isolates, from distinct geographical locations.

Neutralizing epitopes are widely recognized in patient populations

We examined whether the epitope recognized by 092096 is widespread in patient populations exposed to *P. vivax* (Fig. 3d, e). Functional mAbs found in individuals with high levels (80%) of blocking antibody activity to DBP-II who resided in *P. vivax*-endemic regions of Cambodia recognize similar epitopes as 092096 (Fig. 3d). For example, the serum sample at the top right in Fig. 3d (in small box) shows 100% blocking activity of DBP-II binding to DARC N-terminus at a dilution of 1:20, and mAb 092096 (dilution of 1:50) competed for 90% of the blocking activity. The ability of mAbs 092096 and 087086 (a non-blocking mAb to DBP-II) to compete with polysera stratified as to whether participants had 80–100% blocking activity versus lower blocking activity of 40–79% (Fig. 3e). mAb 092096 demonstrated clear competition with high-blocking activity polysera. These data

demonstrate the epitopes identified here are widely recognized by sera in patient populations.

Mutations and ELISA reveal overlapping binding sites with different binding requirements

The epitopes were evaluated using surface mutant libraries of DBP-II and ELISA. Both mAbs 053054 and 092096 recognized wild type Sal-1 DBP-II and mutants 17 and 19, with substituted residues outside either epitope, equally well (Fig. 4a, and Supplementary Fig. 3). In contrast, mAb 053054 did not bind to mutants 18 and 20 as these mutants contain mutations in the epitope for 053054. Consistent with overlapping epitopes between the two mAbs, mAb 092096 also lost binding to mutant 20. Mutant 18, however, had no effect on binding to 092096. This divergence in binding to mutant 18 is caused by interaction differences due to the altered orientation of heavy and light chains of 053054 and 092096 with respect to DBP (Fig. 4b,c and Supplementary Fig. 2). Although residues substituted in mutant 18, F267, Y271, K274 and Y278, are bound to the core of 053054 and interact with CDR3 on both the heavy and light chains (Fig. 4b), they only bind to the periphery of 092096 and predominantly interact with its light chain (Fig. 4c). On the contrary, residues Y363, K367 and K370 substituted in mutant 20 interact with the CDR3 on the heavy chain in 092096 and contact the core of 053054 through CDRs 1 and 2 of its light chain. Therefore, this region of DBP is crucial for binding to both mAbs.

HDX-MS determination of the epitope for 053054 and 092096

Hydrogen deuterium exchange mass spectrometry (HDX-MS) was used to independently assess the epitopes for mAbs 053054 and 092096 in solution (Fig. 4d). In excellent agreement with the structures, peptide 268–281 is significantly attenuated from exchange upon binding to 053054, whereas no difference is detected for this peptide with 092096. Regions 288–298 and 364–379 show substantial HDX attenuation against 092096 predominantly on peptide 364–373. Peptide 364–373 also responds for 053054 but with less attenuation and converging kinetics indicate weaker binding for 053054. In contrast, peptides 288–298 and 374–379 are silent with 053054 (Fig. 4d). The remaining peptides either show minor differences in deuterium exchange upon antibody binding or no difference including the broadly conserved epitope for murine antibodies 2D10, 2H2¹⁹ (Fig. 4d, last panel, and Supplementary Fig. 4 and 5).

Polymorphisms within or in the vicinity of the epitopes for 053054 and 092096 do not affect antibody binding to DBP

Having determined the human neutralizing epitopes and the mechanism of antibody neutralization, we examined the DBP variation within epitopes. We first determined antibody affinities for 053054 and 092096 to the reference strain Sal-1 DBP by using bio-layer interferometry (BLI) (Supplementary Table 4 and Supplementary Fig. 6 and 7). The steady state equilibrium dissociation constants were found to be 7.44 ± 0.36 nM for 053054 and 7.63 ± 0.29 nM for 092096, respectively. BLI also provides the association and dissociation rates that can inform the half-life of antibody binding. In both cases, the dissociation rates were remarkably slow, indicating antibody binding leads to a stable, long-lived complex. The slow off rate is consistent with the HDX data that show no convergence

of HDX kinetics at long exchange times. These results indicate that the two antibodies have comparable binding affinity.

A comparative alignment of 599 DBP sequences from diverse isolates of *P. vivax* revealed a number of polymorphisms within the epitopes for 053054, 092096, and adjacent residues (Supplementary Table 5). The most common polymorphisms individually and in combination are R263S and N372K. Sal-1, the strain that 053054 and 092096 were isolated and crystalized with, contains R263 and N372 at these positions. R263 is located in a disordered segment at the periphery of the 053054 epitope and therefore is not visible in the crystal structure of the complex (Fig. 5a). R263 is also distant from the epitope of 092096. Nevertheless, to determine the effect of polymorphism within or adjacent to the epitopes on the binding of 053054 and 092096 to DBP, the single mutants and the double mutant were generated and analyzed for the antibody binding by ELISA. All variants retained robust binding to both antibodies (Fig. 5b). We further quantified binding of antibodies to the DBP variants by BLI. Binding affinities showed no difference in equilibrium dissociation constants for the natural DBP variants compared to Sal-I DBP-II (Supplementary Table 4 and Supplementary Fig. 6 and 7). In addition to the most frequent polymorphism, we tested whether the lower frequency polymorphisms L288F, I374M and T359R affected binding by BLI (Supplementary Table 4 and Supplementary Fig. 6 and 7). I374M occurs most frequently in combination with N372K, and T359R occurs most frequently with R263S. Introducing these mutations into DBP also had no effect on antibody affinity or binding parameters. These results demonstrate that the polymorphisms within the epitopes do not affect antibody binding.

053054 and 092096 heavy and light chain sequences show limited development from the germline genes

The lack of sequence similarity between mAbs 053054 and 092096 (Fig. 6a,b) indicates they do not evolve from a common progenitor. Nevertheless, both mAbs recognize overlapping epitopes in DBP. We analyzed the CDRs of the neutralizing antibodies to DBP to determine how drastic a deviation from germline the paratopes are and how dramatically the antibodies would need to develop. Nucleotide and amino acid sequences were analyzed by NCBI/IgBlast and IMGT/V-Quest to identify the germline V, D and J genes (Fig. 6c–f). The analysis showed that 053054 and 092096 heavy and light chain sequences are very close to the germline genes with a minimal number of junction insertions (Supplementary Table 6). A limited number of somatic hypermutations create direct contacts between the antibodies and DBP: two (T62 and S110) of fourteen contact residues in the 053054 heavy chain; four (E173, H196, T237 and E240) of fifteen contact residues in the 053054 light chain; two (Y108 and F109) of twenty residues in the 092096 heavy chain; and three (R175, P177 and D197) of fourteen residues in the 092096 light chain (Supplementary Table 2). The low number of somatic hypermutations reflects that the mAbs underwent limited affinity maturation to achieve broadly neutralizing activity (Supplementary Table 6).

DISCUSSION

We found that naturally acquired human antibodies target the DARC-binding site and dimer interface in PvDBP-II. The epitope mapping data are consistent and demonstrate the epitope for mAb 053054 spans residues E249, D264-A281, Q356-N372 of helices belonging to SD2. This epitope overlaps with the epitope for 092096 that comprises residues of Y219, E249, L270-K289 and Q356-W375. These findings result in a clear mechanism for inhibition and neutralization. These human antibodies function by preventing DBP-II binding to the N-terminus of DARC and are neutralizing. Strikingly, we show that a single human mAb 092096 that targets the receptor-binding residues and dimer interface of DBP can neutralize invasion of reticulocytes by multiple *P. vivax* isolates from distinct geographical locations.

The human mAb epitopes are distinct from broadly neutralizing epitopes of murine mAbs¹⁹ and this diversity of epitopes residing in different subdomains of DBP-II is reminiscent of receptor-binding site²⁶ and stem²⁷ epitopes in influenza hemagglutinin. Although 053054 and 092096 mAbs do not share a germ line lineage, they target overlapping epitopes of DBP involved in DARC engagement. Our results suggest the development of neutralizing mAbs can arise from multiple progenitor B cells with straightforward CDR affinity maturation to result in high neutralization and breadth. The epitopes for broadly neutralizing human antibodies presented in this study are, therefore, an excellent platform to develop DBP-II based vaccines.

DBP is highly polymorphic, and this variation may confound vaccine development^{28,29}. Identification of highly conserved epitopes of neutralizing antibodies will have a profound positive effect on the development of a DBP-based vaccine. One caveat of the invasion assays presented here is that the isolates tested were not sequenced to identify the diversity of DBP variants used in the invasion assays. Therefore, we examined the breadth of binding of the antibodies to DBP variants that encompassed polymorphisms within the epitopes. We demonstrate that the most prevalent polymorphisms within or adjacent to the epitopes, as determined by comparative analysis of 599 DBP sequences, were residues N372K, R263S, I374M, L288F, and T359R. As we showed, these polymorphisms individually and in combination do not affect antibody binding to DBP-II. This suggests that human neutralizing antibodies have evolved to compensate for polymorphisms and variation in DBP likely due to repeated exposure to *P. vivax*, thereby becoming broadly neutralizing antibodies.

A significant challenge for successful vaccination is the need for complex maturation of broadly neutralizing antibodies from their precursors requiring long developmental pathways. For example, broadly neutralizing antibodies that target HIV must undergo dramatic development including multiple rounds of affinity maturation to result in CDRs capable of neutralization breadth and involved extensive lengthening of the CDRs³⁰. This has had a fundamental impact on the immunization scheme necessary to generate suitable broadly neutralizing antibodies for HIV. In contrast, the number of somatic hypermutations seen here reflects that 053054 and 092096 underwent limited affinity maturation for broadly neutralizing activity. This limited development for *P. vivax*-neutralizing antibodies differs

from the extensive development needed for HIV-neutralizing antibodies, and suggests immunization with DBP-based vaccines will likely lead to the ready production of neutralizing mAbs.

The findings from this study of DBP will inform neutralization of and vaccine development for an important family of parasite invasion ligands. DBP is a member of the Erythrocyte Binding like (EBL) family of *Plasmodium* red cell invasion proteins that includes EBA-175^{31–37}, EBA-140^{38–44}, EBA-181^{43,45–47}, and EBL-1⁴⁸. EBL family members have either a single or double tandemly arranged Duffy Binding Like (DBL) domains that *Plasmodium* parasites use for receptor-binding and attachment to the host erythrocytes. This study has established that a single monoclonal antibody that targets the receptor binding residues of DBP can neutralize *P. vivax* parasites, and underscores the importance of targeting the functional receptor-binding residues of other EBL ligands. In addition, DBP and EBA-175 undergo receptor-induced dimerization required for invasion^{17,18,34,35}. mAbs 053054 and 092096 also block the dimer interface of DBP suggesting that antibody disruption of oligomeric interfaces in antigens could be a general method for neutralization. Defining the full complement of mechanisms for neutralizing DBL domains using antibodies will aid in the direct design of highly efficient immunogens against malaria. Although additional receptor-ligand interactions have been identified with proposed roles in *P. vivax* malaria^{49,50}, a *P. vivax* vaccine will likely include DBP given the central role of the DBP:DARC interaction in infection.

In conclusion, we studied two human neutralizing monoclonal antibodies 053054 and 092096 that target *P. vivax* DBP isolated from an individual with naturally acquired immunity to *P. vivax* and with high levels of blocking antibodies to DBP. These two monoclonal antibodies arose from different clonal groups, bind overlapping epitopes in DBP, and compete with mAbs found extensively in multiple patients with blocking antibody activity to DBP. We characterized their interaction with DBP, confirmed their high neutralizing potential, structurally defined their epitopes and proposed a mechanism for neutralization. This work extends our knowledge of the function of parasitic ligands and methods to leverage the immune response for neutralization. These naturally acquired human antibodies appear to have a short pathway for development with broadly neutralizing capacity. Monoclonal Abs to DBP-II following immunization of mice recognized a distinct set of epitopes that do not target the receptor binding domain. Therefore, current vaccination regimens may not favor targeting the receptor-binding domain and dimer interface of DBP to generate antibodies capable of blocking parasite invasion. Furthermore, while naturally acquired immunity can result in the desired neutralizing antibodies described here, naturally acquired immunity requires repeated exposure to the parasite and develops over the lifetime of a patient. The structure definition of conformational epitopes provides a solid foundation for focusing the immune response to the neutralizing human antibody epitopes identified through immunogen design and structural vaccinology. This work enables the design of immunogens that primarily elicit antibodies to the neutralizing epitopes identified here and to avoid or reduce targeting immunodominant but non-protective epitopes within DBP. Improved immunogens will aid in the design of successful and efficient DBP-based vaccines for malaria.

ONLINE METHODS

Cell staining and sorting of antigen-specific memory B cells

Blood samples were obtained from Cambodians, Brazilians and Papua New Guineans residing in Pv endemic areas^{2,51–53}. Samples were screened for blocking Abs to PvDBP2 (see below). A subset of Cambodian and Brazilian adults with high levels of blocking Abs to PvDBP2 (>80% binding inhibitory activity at a titer 1:10 or higher) donated up to 200 ml of peripheral venous blood. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) were prepared from the venous blood and cryopreserved. Institutional review boards from the United States National Institutes of Health (NIAID protocol #08-N094, [Clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT00663546) NCT00663546), Cambodian Ministry of Health, University Hospital of the University of Sao Paulo (1025/10), National Human Research Ethics Committee of the Ministry of Health of Brazil (551/2010), Medical Research Advisory Council of Papua New Guinea (PNGIMR No 1409, PNG MRAC No. 1400, and UH IRB No. 04–14-19) and University Hospitals of Cleveland Medical Center approved the protocols. Written informed consent was obtained from all study participants or their parents/guardians.

Single cells were identified and sorted according to previously described techniques⁵⁴ from cryopreserved PBMC without activation. B cells from cryopreserved PBMC were enriched using immunomagnetic positive selection with anti-CD19 magnetic MACS beads (MiltenyiBiotec). Cells were washed at least twice with 5 ml FACS buffer with 3 mM EDTA and adjusted to a cell density of $1\text{--}2 \times 10^6$ cells/ml. Cells were stained with mouse anti-human CD20 (PE-Cy5.5, Invitrogen) and anti-human IgG Abs (PE-Cy7 clone G18–145; Becton, Dickinson and Co., BD) along with DBP2- or T2CF-prepared tetramers using streptavidin coupled with allophycocyanin (BD) and SYTOX Green Dead Cell Stain (Invitrogen) to gate out dead cells. Stained CD19+ cells were sorted on a BD FACSAria II based on size and complexity and individual DBP2- or T2CF-specific CD20+, IgG+ memory B cells were single cell sorted directly into 4 µl mRNA extraction buffer on a cooled 96-well metal block. After cells were collected, plates were frozen immediately on dry ice and stored at -80°C until further processing.

cDNA synthesis

The 96-well plates with single cells were thawed on ice; a cold volume of 7 µl containing 300ng random hexamers (Qiagen Operon), 12U Rnasin (Promega) and 0.9% NP-40 (Thermo Scientific Pierce) was added to each well. After thorough pipetting and rinsing, wells were capped, centrifuged at 4°C , heated to 68°C in a thermal cycler for 5 min and placed on ice for at least 1 min. Reverse transcription was performed with the addition of 7 µl containing 3.6 µl 5X reverse transcriptase buffer, 10 U RNAsin (Promega), 62 U Superscript III RT (Invitrogen), 0.62 µl dNTPs 25 mM each (Omega Bio-Tek) and 1.25 µl 0.1 M DTT (Sigma). All wells were capped, the plate placed in a cold rack and vortexed for 10 sec before centrifugation at 300xg. Thermal cycler conditions for reverse transcription were as follows: 42°C 5 min, 25°C 10 min, 50°C 60 min, 94°C 5 min and 4°C hold. When completed, 10 µl of nuclease-free PCR water was added to each well.

Ig gene amplification

Immediately following cDNA synthesis, IgG genes (IgG) were amplified in a total of 20 µl per well for the first round of nested PCR for IgG heavy chain (Iggh), IgG kappa (Iggek) and IgG lambda (Iggl), utilizing primers (Supplemental Table 1) as previously described⁵⁵. In brief, a master mix was prepared consisting of 15.58 µl water, 2 µl 10X HotStar PCR buffer (Qiagen), 0.065 µl 5' primer mix, 0.065 µl 3' primer, 0.2 µl dNTP solution and 0.09 µl HotStarTaq per well, to which 2 µl cDNA from individual sorted B cells were added and IgG amplified under the following conditions: thermal cycle PCR at 94°C for 15 min; 50 cycles at 94°C for 30 sec, then 58°C (Iggh and Iggek) or 60°C (Iggl) for 30 sec, then 72°C for 55 sec; then one cycle at 72°C for 10 min. Second round of nested PCR for Iggh, Iggek and Iggl utilized 2 µl of first-round PCR product with second-round primers⁵⁵ and the same master mix protocol, with the following conditions: thermal cycle PCR at 94°C for 15 min; 50 cycles at 94°C for 30 sec, then 58°C (Iggh and Iggek) or 60°C (Iggl) for 30 sec, then 72°C for 45 sec; then one cycle at 72°C for 10 min. The PCR product generated was purified and sequenced, with V(D)J genes determined using IMGT/V-Quest⁵⁶.

Specific V(D)J region amplification and cloning

Primers specific with restriction enzyme sites for V and J regions were used to amplify the first-round PCR product to generate a fragment for cloning based on previously described primers⁵⁵. PCR product was purified, restriction enzyme digested, cloned into *Iggh*, *Iggek* or *Iggl* expression vectors and chemically transformed into 5 µl aliquots of TOP10 *E. coli* cells (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Successful transformants were screened by PCR amplification utilizing a vector-specific primer paired with an insert-specific primer, sequenced and compared to the second-round PCR product sequence.

Definition of clonal groups

Clonal groups were based on heavy chain nucleotide sequences. Any PCR product with >0.8% nucleotide sequences with a Phred score <20 was excluded. From PCR-amplified sequences, we determined heavy chain alleles using IMGT/V-QUEST (<http://www.imgt.org>, international ImMunoGeneTic information system). A clonal group was defined by Ab V heavy chain sequences with the same inferred VH and JH germline sequences, identical CDR3 length, and the same or very similar CDR3 sequences (CDR, complementarity-determining region), i.e. >72% similarity of each CDR3 amino acid sequence. Clonal grouping was determined using Sequence Manipulation Suite: Ident and Sim⁵⁷ using Ab-specific clusters as previously defined⁵⁸.

MAB expression and purification

Two plasmids that included coding sequences for full-length IgG1 heavy and light chains were transfected into HEK293-H cells using polyethyleneimine (PEI). Five hundred micrograms PEI were incubated for 25 min at room temperature with 250µg of each plasmid and then added to the HEK293-H at a density of 1×10⁶ cells/ml in total volume of 500ml^{54,55}. Transfected cells were adapted for growth in Freestyle 293 serum-free expression medium (Gibco, Thermo Fisher Scientific) under suspension conditions of 37°C and 8.5% CO₂. Cells were centrifuged 96 h post transfection and culture medium was

harvested, filtered through a 0.22 μ m filter and supernatants concentrated 20 times using a 50 kDa cut-off Vivaflow 50 System (Vivasciences). One volume of IgG binding buffer (Thermo Scientific Pierce) was added and IgG was purified on a Protein A HP HiTrap column (GE Healthcare) eluted with IgG elution buffer (Thermo Scientific Pierce) and neutralized with 1M Tris pH 9.0. Proteins were concentrated and buffer exchanged with PBS using Amicon Ultra4 10kDa. Protein concentrations were determined on Nanodrop (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and sample purity was analyzed by SDS-PAGE.

Protein expression and purification

Sal-1 DBP-II WT and DBP-II mutants were prepared as described^{17–19}. scFvs were produced by expression and refolding from *E. coli*. The light chain variable region was linked to the heavy chain variable region by using a (GGGGS)₃ linker, cloned into the pET28(a+) expression vector using restriction sites NcoI/XhoI and expressed in *E. coli*. Inclusion bodies were solubilized in 6 M guanidinium hydrochloride overnight at 4 °C and refolded with 400 mM *L*-Arginine, 2 mM reduced glutathione and 0.2 mM oxidized glutathione in 50 mM Tris, pH 8.0, 10 mM EDTA and 0.1 mM PMSF at 4 °C for 24 h. Refolded scFv were concentrated in Amicon® Stirred Cells using Biomax® 10 kDa Ultracentrifugation Discs and purified by size exclusion chromatography on GF200 (GE Healthcare) into 10 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 100 mM NaCl.

Protein crystallization and data collection

Purified DBP-II and 053054_{-scFv} or 092096_{-scFv} were mixed in a 1.2:1 (antigen:antibody) molar ratio and incubated at room temperature for 30 minutes. Complexes were purified by size exclusion chromatography (GF200 - GE Healthcare) in 10 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 100 mM NaCl. Crystals were grown by hanging-drop vapor diffusion by mixing 1 μ L of complex at 7 mg/mL for DBP-II/053054_{-scFv} or 10 mg/mL for DBP-II/092096_{-scFv} with 2 μ L of reservoir (0.2M ammonium sulfate, 0.1 M sodium citrate pH 5.6, 25% w/v PEG 4,000 for DBP-II/053054_{-scFv} or 12% w/v PEG 6,000, 0.1 M MES, pH 6.0 for DBP-II/092096_{-scFv}). Crystals were flash frozen with 30% ethylene glycol as cryoprotectant in liquid nitrogen. Data for DBP-II/053054_{-scFv} were collected at the beamline 4.2.2 of the Advanced Light Source. Data for DBP-II/092096_{-scFv} were collected at the beamline 23-ID-D (GM/CA) of Advanced Photon Source. Both data sets were processed with XDS⁵⁹.

Structure solution and analysis

The DBP-II/053054_{-scFv} and DBP-II/092096_{-scFv} structures were solved by molecular replacement in PHASER⁶⁰ by using PDB 4NUV and scFv domains modeled by the PIGS server⁶¹ as search models. Refinement was performed using PHENIX⁶² and COOT⁶³. Summary of diffraction data and refinement statistics are given in Supplementary Table 1. The quality of the models was assessed using the MolProbity server⁶⁴. All structures have good Ramachandran statistics with no outliers. 94.89 % and 5.11% of residues for DBP-II/053054_{-scFv} or 93.80 % and 6.20% of residues for DBP-II/092096_{-scFv} in favored and allowed regions of Ramachandran plot, respectively. Interaction interfaces were determined using PDBePISA⁶⁵. Software used in the project was installed and configured by SBGrid⁶⁶.

Hydrogen-Deuterium Exchange Mass Spectrometry

Before HDX footprinting experiments, 10 μ M PvDBP-II was incubated with 12 μ M of mAb in PBS for 30 min at 25 °C. The apo-state sample was 10 μ M PvDBP in PBS. Continuous HDX on apo- and holo-state samples were performed after diluting into D₂O buffer at the ratio of 1:5 and incubate for 10, 30, 60, 120, 900, 3,600, and 14,400 s, as described previously¹⁹ followed by on-line pepsin digestion and reversed-phase HPLC separation. Peptides were analyzed by a Thermo LTQ-FT mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific). Deuterium uptakes of various time points were analyzed using HDX Workbench (Scripps, FL).

ELISA

The ELISAs were performed as previously described³⁶. Briefly, BSA, Sal1 DBP-II, and DBP-II mutants were coated on plates overnight at 4 °C, washed with PBS/Tween-20, and blocked with 2% BSA in PBS/Tween-20 for 1 h at room temperature. The plates were washed with PBS/Tween-20 and then incubated with each mAb (053054, 092096) in a concentration 250ng/ml for 1 h at room temperature. The plates were washed with PBS/Tween-20 and incubated with an anti-human antibody conjugated to HRP for 30 min at room temperature. After a final wash step with PBS/Tween-20 ELISA, substrate TMB was added to the plates. The reaction was quenched by addition of 0.2 M sulfuric acid, and the absorbance at 450 nm was measured using a POLARstar Omega (BMG Labtech) plate reader.

Biotinylation of BirA-Tagged Sal-1 DBP-II

BirA-tagged Sal-1 DBP-II was buffer exchanged into Phosphate buffered saline. Then 50 μ L of BiomixA (Avidity), 50 μ L of BiomixB (Avidity), and 10 μ L of 5 mM *D*-biotin (Avidity) were added to the protein along with BirA ligase, followed by overnight incubation at 4 °C. The biotinylation was confirmed by Western Blot using Streptavidin HRP-conjugate (Thermo Scientific). Before use, the reaction mix was buffer-exchanged into PBS.

Biolayer Interferometry Binding Assays

The binding affinity of purified Sal1 DBP-II protein with human mAbs was monitored by BLI conducting on an Octet-Red96 device (Pall ForteBio) by using Streptavidin (SA) biosensors (ForteBio). The biotinylated DBP-II was loaded onto biosensors until saturation, typically 1 μ M for 15 min, in 10 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 150 mM NaCl, 3 mM EDTA, and 0.005% P20 surfactant with 3% BSA. The mAb scFvs (analyte) were applied at two-fold serial dilution concentrations (100 nM to 1.675 nM). Association and dissociation were measured at 25 °C for all mAbs. The real-time data were analyzed using Biaevaluation 4.1 (GE Healthcare). Steady-state equilibrium concentration curves were fitted using a 1:1 binding model.

Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorting Assay

Biotinylated purified DBP-II protein in concentration of 10 nM was incubated with ten different concentrations of 053054 or 092096 (from 0.03 nM to 1 μ M interval of concentrations) for 1 h at RT. Red blood cells were added and incubated for an additional 1 h

at RT. To detect bound DBP Alexa Fluor 488 Streptavidin conjugate (Fisher) was added to the mix and incubated at RT for 1 h followed by washing twice with PBS. FITC labeling was measured by flow cytometry. An IC₅₀ value was calculated in GraphPad Prism from three independent biological replicates. IC₅₀ curve for the isotype control mAbs 043038 was plotted as a negative control.

***P. vivax* invasion assay**

P. vivax ex vivo assays were independently performed with clinical isolates from Brazil and Cambodia. Cryopreserved *P. vivax* infected erythrocytes (iRBC) obtained from Brazilian donors with acute *vivax* malaria were thawed, enriched using Percoll density-gradients, immediately re-suspended in 100 µl IMDM plus 10% human AB serum with GlutaMax (1:100) to a hematocrit of 6% and cultured with a gas mix of 5% O₂, 5% CO₂, 90% N₂ at 37 °C until established. The cultures were performed in quadruplicate from a single isolate of *P. vivax* and incubated with 092096 or isotype control comprising anti-TT monoclonal antibody 043038 at a concentration of 100 µg ml⁻¹ and examined for parasite viability and maturation three times: after 20 h of initial incubation (initial growth from ring stages into early trophozoites, since trophozoites and schizont stages of the parasites do not survive cryopreservation), after additional incubation for 38 h, at which time most of the parasite have matured to schizont stages prior to merozoite release, parasite cultures were supplemented with fresh blood cells enriched for reticulocytes to ~2.5–3.0% at a ratio of 1:1 and additional incubation for 24 h to allow for new erythrocyte invasion. For examination, two smear slides were prepared for each culture well and stained with Giemsa. Rings and early trophozoites per 20,000 RBC were counted blindly three times. Cytochalasin D (5 µg/mL), a cell-permeable fungal toxin that inhibits merozoite invasion of erythrocytes, was used as a positive invasion inhibitor control.

For the assay with Cambodian isolates, cryopreserved iRBCs obtained from Cambodian patients with acute *P. vivax* malaria were thawed and cultured in IMDM medium (Gibco) supplemented with 0.5% Albumax II (Gibco), 2.5% heat-inactivated human serum, 25 mM HEPES (Gibco), 20 µg/ml gentamicin (Sigma) and 0.2 mM hypoxanthine (C-C Pro) for ~24 or ~48h until a majority of schizont stage parasites were noted. The schizont-infected erythrocytes were enriched using Percoll-KCl as described⁶⁷, then mixed at a ratio of 1 erythrocyte to 1 with reticulocytes enriched from cord blood and labeled with CellTrace Far Red dye. The cultures were incubated for ~8h in a final volume of 100 µl in 96 well plates or 20 µl in 384 well plates, in presence of the human monoclonal antibodies 092096 or anti-TT MoAb 043038 while a positive invasion inhibitor control used the mouse anti-DARC monoclonal antibody 2C3⁶⁸ at 100 µg/ml. Cells were stained with DNA stain Hoechst 33342 post invasion and examined by flow cytometry. Reticulocytes which were Hoechst 33342 and Far Red positive were scored as new invasion events. Invasion of reticulocytes ranged from 0.19% to 6.52% (media alone) for the six experiments, each of which corresponded to one of six *P. vivax* isolates.

DBP-II patient population ELISAs and binding inhibition of DBP-II to DARC fusion protein

To assess Ab blocking activity, plasma from Pv-exposed individuals was incubated with DBP-II at specified concentrations. We then measured levels of binding inhibition of DBP-II

to a fusion protein containing amino acids 1–60 from the DARC N-terminal region fused to the Fc region of human IgG (nDARCIg)^{5,69}. Pooled plasma samples with high blocking activity from Papua New Guinea or Brazil served as positive controls. Diluent alone or pooled samples from North Americans not exposed to malaria were used for negative controls. Percent inhibition was calculated by $(1 - (\text{optical density [OD] of test sample} / \text{OD of negative control})) \times 100$.

Competition experiments

For assays measuring competition between mAbs and naturally-acquired Abs, plates were coated with mAbs at 0.5 µg/ml per well and remained overnight at 4 °C, then washed with PBST and blocked with 3% BSA in PBST for 2 h at room temperature. Serum from naturally immune subjects, at a dilution of 1/50, was pre-incubated with biotinylated DBP-II Sal I (20 ng/ml) for 20 min at room temperature. The serum mixture was added to plates and incubated 1 h at room temperature. Detection of DBP-II was achieved using High Sensitivity Streptavidin-HRP (Thermo Fisher Scientific) as described for competition assays between individual mAbs.

DBP epitope conservation analysis

A total of 599 sequences representing global variation in DBP-II⁷⁰ was obtained from GenBank (accession codes [XM_001608337.1](#), [DQ156519](#), [AF289480–AF289483](#), [AF289635–AF289653](#), [AF291096](#), [AY970837–AY970925](#), [AF469515–AF469602](#), [U50575–U50590](#), [DQ156513](#), [DQ156515](#), [DQ156522–DQ156523](#), [AF215737–AF215738](#), [AF220657](#), [AF220659–AF220667](#), [FJ491142–FJ491241](#), [EF219451](#), [EF368159–EF368180](#), [EF379127–EF379132](#), [EF379134](#), [GU143914–GU144013](#), [DQ156520](#), [EU812839–EU812960](#), and [EU860428–EU860438](#)), aligned using ClustalW⁷¹, and inspected in JalView⁷². All 599 sequences contained complete coverage for the 053054 and 092096 epitopes.

Antibody evolution analysis

To compare heavy and light chains of 053054 and 092096 with germlines we used IMGT/V-Quest, an integrated software program for immunoglobulin and T cell receptor V–J and V–D–J rearrangement analysis⁷³.

Statistical analyses

Analysis of ELISA data was performed using GraphPad Prism version 6.03 (GraphPad Software).

DATA AND SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY

Atomic coordinates and structural factors have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank with accession codes 6OAN and 6OAO (<https://www.rcsb.org/structure/6OAN> and <https://www.rcsb.org/structure/6OAO>).

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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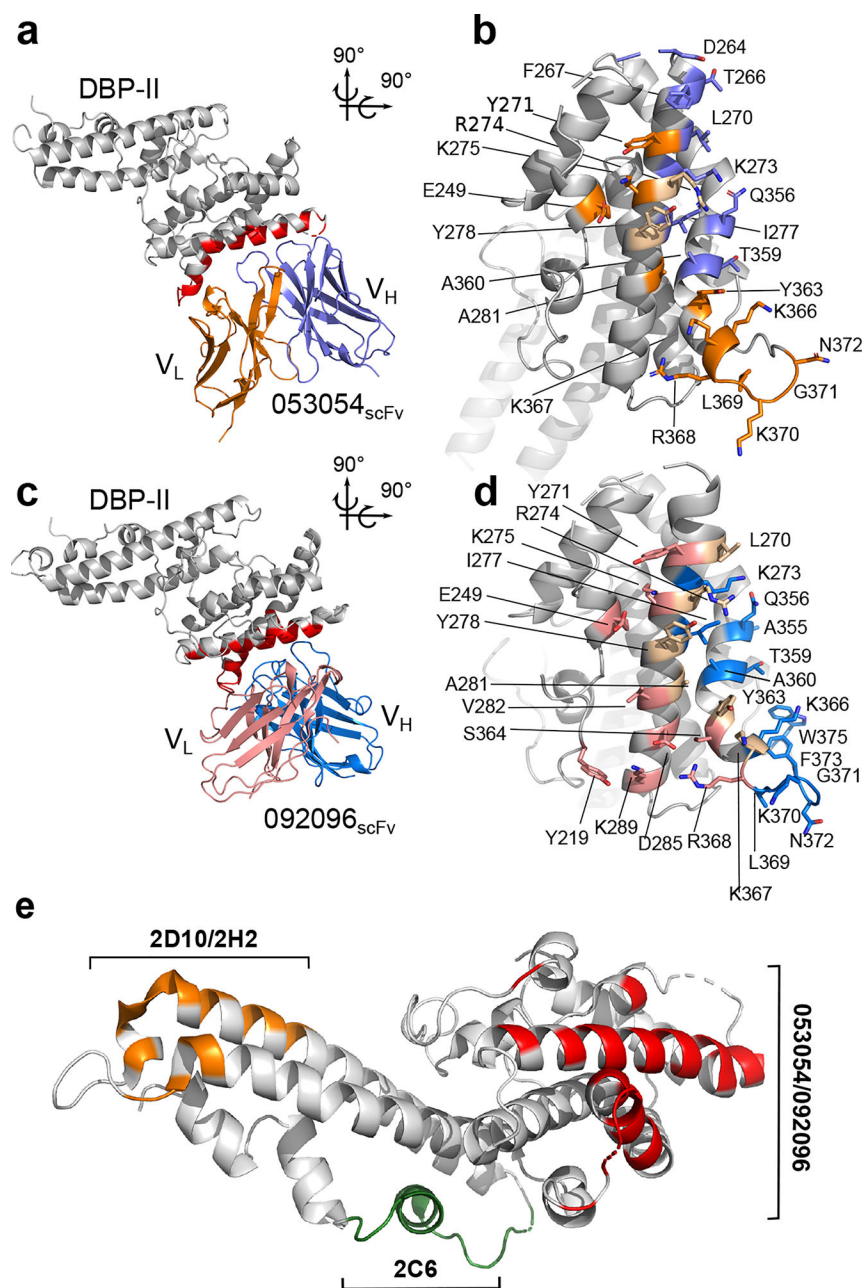


Figure 1|. Structural definition of human antibody epitopes in DBP.

a, Overall structure and epitope for the 053054 complex. Gray - DBP-II. Dark blue - 053054 heavy chain. Orange - 053054 light chain. Red - epitope. **b**, orthogonal detailed view of the epitope for 053054 in DBP. Gray - DBP-II. Dark blue – DBP residues contacted by the 053054 heavy chain. Orange – DBP residues contacted by the 053054 light chain. Beige – DBP residues contacted by both heavy and light chains. **c**, Overall structure and epitope for the 092096 complex. Gray - DBP-II. Light blue - 092096 heavy chain. Pink - 092096 light chain. Red - epitope. **d**, orthogonal detailed view of the epitope for 092096 in DBP. Gray - DBP-II. Light blue – DBP residues contacted by the 092096 heavy chain. Pink – DBP residues contacted by the 092096 light chain. Beige – DBP residues contacted by both heavy and light chains. **e** Structural definition of the epitopes 2D10/2H2 and 2C6.

and light chains. **e**, Comparison of human and murine epitopes¹⁹ in DBP-II reveal epitopes are distinct. Orange - epitope of inhibitory murine mAbs 2D10/2H2. Green - epitope of inhibitory murine mAb 2C6. Red- epitopes of neutralizing human mAbs 053054 and 092096.

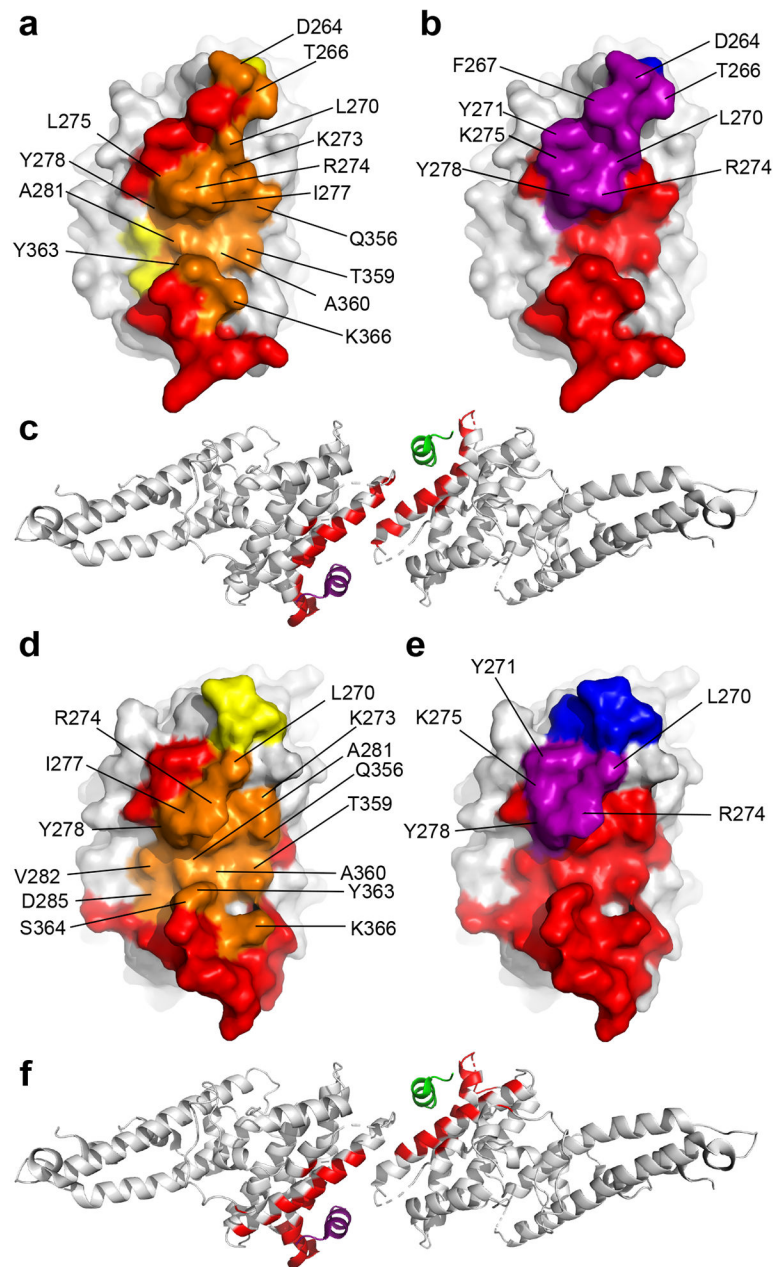


Figure 2]. Neutralizing mAbs 053054 and 092096 block DARC-binding site and dimer interface.
a, Overlay of the 053054 epitope with the DARC-binding residues in DBP. Orange - overlap between the 053054 epitope and the DARC binding site. Yellow/Orange - DARC binding site. Red/Orange –the 053054 epitope. **b**, Overlay of 053054 epitope with the dimer interface of DBP. Purple - overlap between the 053054 epitope and the dimer interface. Blue/Purple - dimer interface. Red/Purple –the 053054 epitope. **c**, Mapping the 053054 epitope on the tetramer structure of DARC-bound DBP reveals the epitope overlaps with the DARC binding residues and dimer interface. Grey – DBP. Green – DARC monomer 1. Purple – DARC monomer 2. Red – epitope of 053054. **d**, Overlay of the 092096 epitope with the DARC-binding residues in DBP. Orange - overlap between the 092096 epitope and

the DARC binding site. Yellow/Orange - DARC binding site. Red/Orange –the 092096 epitope. **e**, Overlay of 092096 epitope with the dimer interface of DBP. Purple - overlap between the 092096 epitope and the dimer interface. Blue/Purple - dimer interface. Red/Purple –the 092096 epitope. **f**, Mapping the 092096 epitope on the tetramer structure of DARC-bound DBP reveals the epitope overlaps with the DARC binding residues and dimer interface. Grey – DBP. Green – DARC monomer 1. Purple – DARC monomer 2. Red – epitope of 092096.

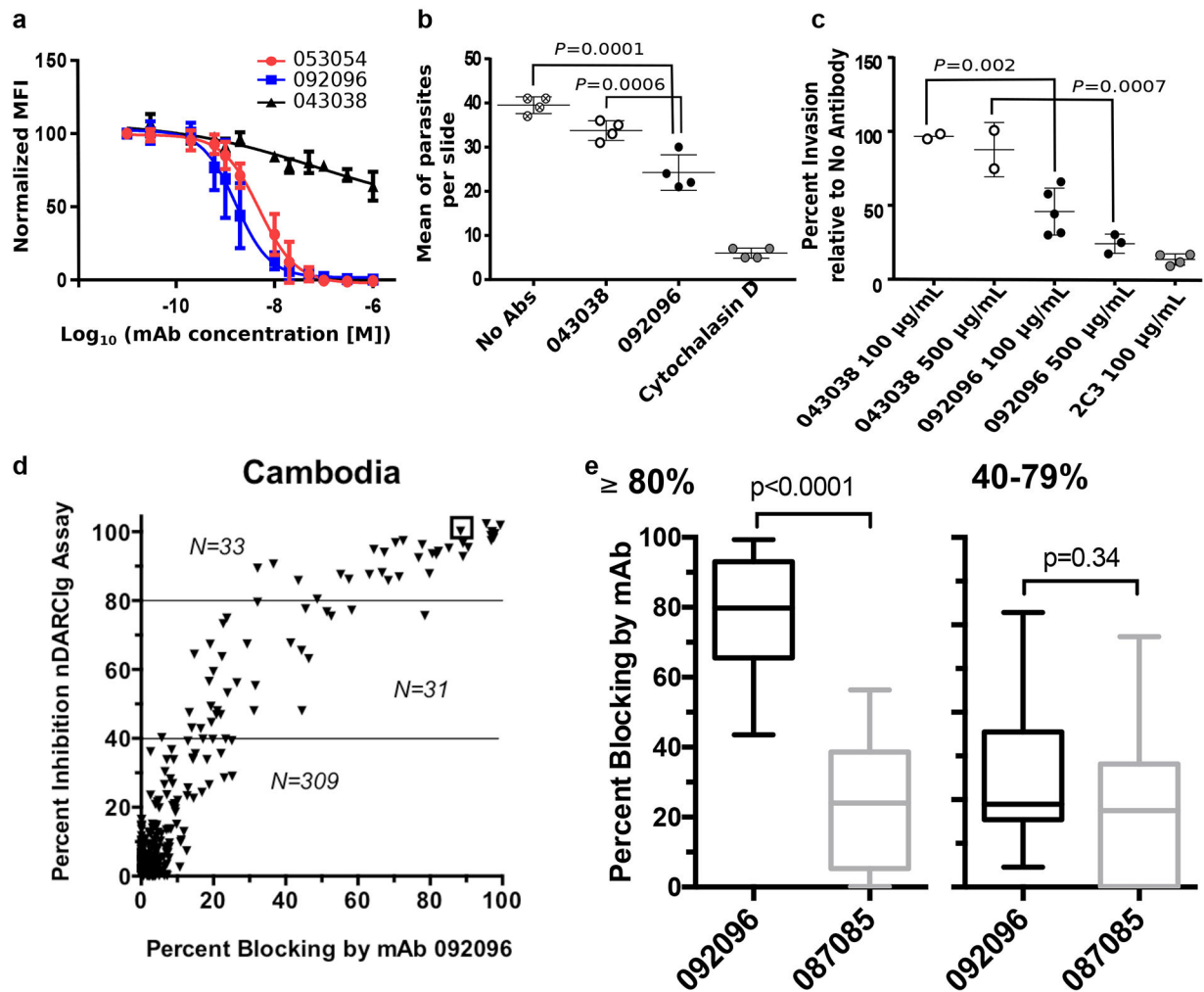


Figure 3|. Human antibodies block DBP binding to RBCs and *P. vivax* invasion.

a, Inhibition of DBP-II binding to RBCs. The isotype matched mAb 043038 was used as a negative control. Data shown are mean \pm SD of three biological replicates. **b**, Neutralization data for a Brazilian isolate of *P. vivax* invasion of human reticulocytes by human mAb 092096. Individual data points represent the total number of *P. vivax* infected cells per 20,000 RBCs and are shown as mean \pm 1 SEM, for one *P. vivax* isolate performed in four biological replicate cultures in one experiment. Statistical differences between 092096 and no invasion inhibitor control (No Abs = medium alone) and non-inhibitory mAb 043038 were analyzed by one-way ANOVA and Dunnett's test ($p=0.0001$ and 0.0006 , respectively). Cytochalasin D, an actin inhibitor, served as a positive control for the inhibition of invasion. **c**, Neutralization data for Cambodian isolates of *P. vivax* invasion of human reticulocytes by human mAb 092096. Each data point represent results from one of five *P. vivax* isolates and the results presented as mean \pm 1 SEM. These data represent results from five separate experiments, each with a different *P. vivax* isolate. All experiments had no Ab control and 4 out of 5 experiments used mouse anti-DARC monoclonal antibody 2C3 as a positive control and one experiment used heparin as positive control (11% invasion relative to no antibody, not shown in figure). The other controls were performed with only some experiments

because of limited number of parasites available for different culture conditions. The isotype matched mAb 043038 serves as an additional negative control. Statistical comparison between non-inhibitory mAb 043038 (n=2) and neutralizing mAb 092096 was performed with one-way ANOVA and Dunnett's test ($p=0.002$ for 100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ mAbs concentration, $n=5$, $p=0.0007$ for 500 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ mAbs concentration, $n=3$). **d**, Human mAbs compete with epitopes recognized by serum from individuals with high levels of DBPII-specific blocking activity (80%) residing in Cambodia. Y-axis indicates the level of blocking activity using a DBPII:DARC binding assay, which measures the overall blocking activity in a serum sample. The x-axis is the percentage of blocking activity in the sample for which a given mAb competed. **e**, The box and whisker plots (median blocking activity, 25% and 75% interquartile ranges, and 95% confidence intervals) examine the degree to which mAbs 092096 and 087085 compete with serum blocking activity stratified as to whether participants had 80–100% blocking activity ($n=33$ for both mAbs, $p<0.0001$) versus lower activity of 40–79% ($n=31$ for both mAbs, $p=0.34$). The sample size for the two strata is shown in the scatter plots. Difference in blocking activity was examined using two-tailed Mann-Whitney U test.

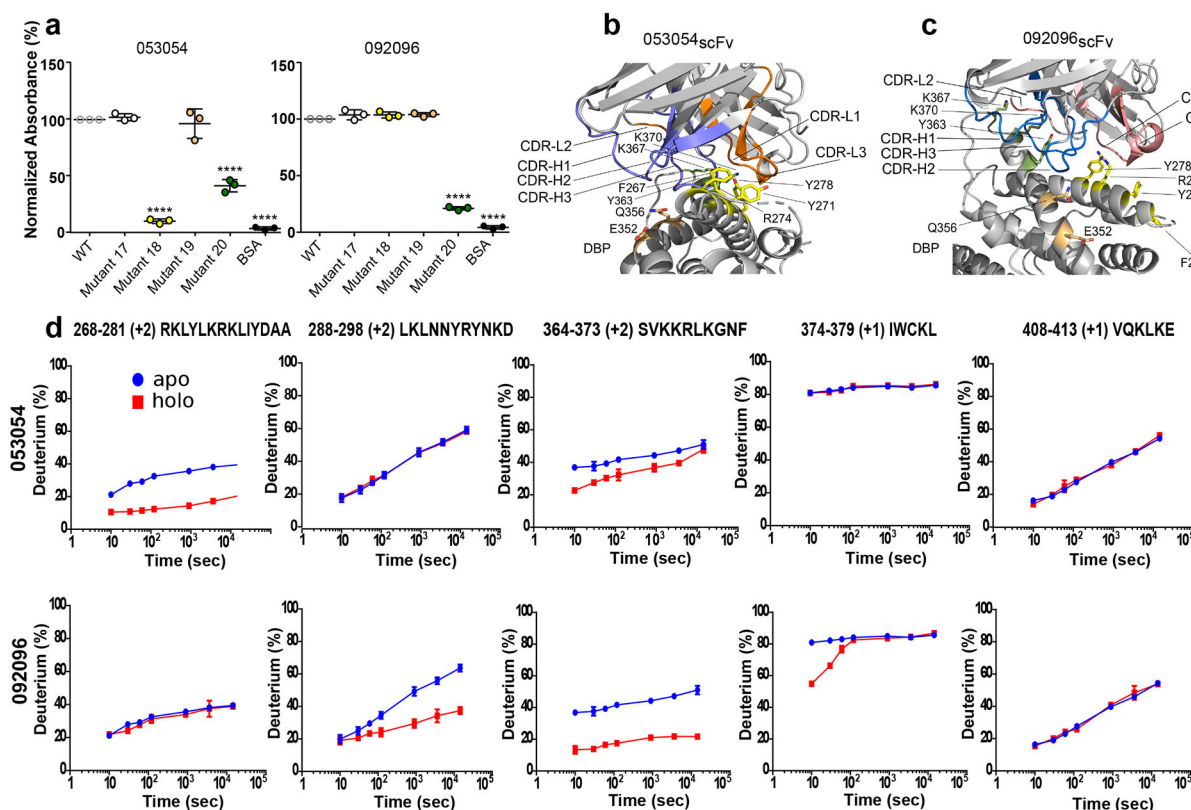


Figure 4|. Mutant ELISAs and HDX-MS reveal overlapping but distinct binding modes.

a, Evaluation of 053054 and 092096 binding to DBP Sal1 and four mutants by ELISA.

Mutant 17: T257G, D258G, T259S, N260G, F261G, H262S. Mutant 18: F267A, Y271A, R274A, Y278A. Mutant 19: E352A, Q356A. Mutant 20: Y363A, K367A, K370A. Data are shown as mean \pm 1 SD, calculated from three independent experiments with three technical replicates each. Statistical differences analyzed by one-way ANOVA and Dunnett's test (**** $p < 0.0001$).

b, c, Position of DBP-II surface mutants tested in (a) with regards to the individual mAbs. The antibodies were structurally aligned in (b) and (c) (see also Supplementary Fig. 2) to show the different locations of the mutations with respect to each complex. DBP-II and antibody colored gray. Mutant 18 – yellow. Mutant 19 – salmon, Mutant 20 – green. **d**, HDX-MS kinetics for five DBP peptides in the presence (red) or absence (blue) of 053054 or 092096. Peptide sequence and charge state is shown (see also Supplementary Fig. 4 for full peptide coverage of DBP). The HDX data were determined in duplicate, and data are presented as mean \pm SD. For determinations where the deviation is not seen, it is smaller than the size of the data point. The statistical validity of the curves was also assured by making the measurement over seven time points. Given that the purpose of the HDX kinetic plots is to assign binding or no-binding, those assignments were made visually without further statistical analysis.

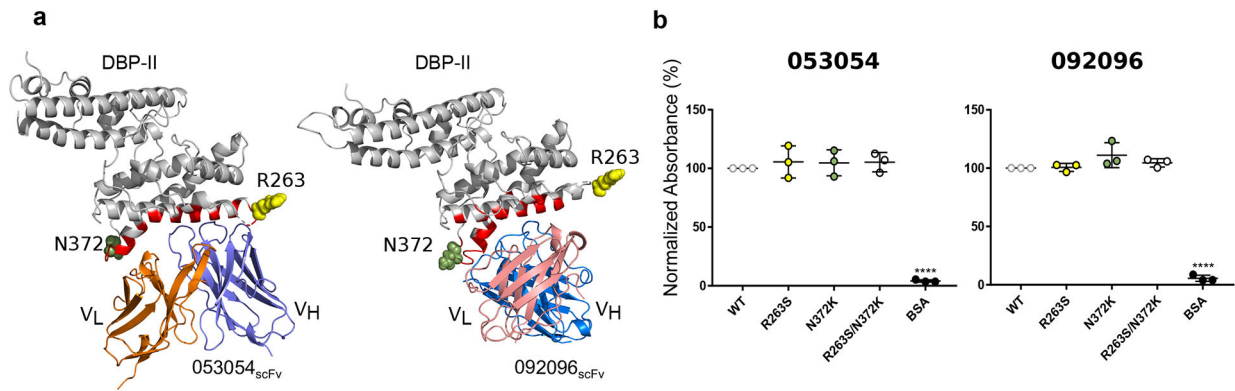


Figure 5]. Strain-transcending human mAbs overcome polymorphisms located within the vicinity of their epitopes.

a, Location of polymorphisms R263S and N372K on DBP-II surface shown in DBP-II/053054 and DBP-II/092096 structures. Polymorphic residues 263 and 372 shown in ball representation in yellow and green, respectively. The location of R263 was modeled as this residue is located in a disordered segment that is not visible in either structure. **b**, ELISA for 053054 and 092096 against Sal-I DBP-II wild type and three DBP-II natural variants, R263S, N372K and double mutant R263S/N372K. Data are shown as mean \pm SD, calculated from three independent experiments. Statistical differences between wild type Sal-1 DBP and the mutants were analyzed by one-way ANOVA and Dunnett's test (**** $p < 0.0001$).

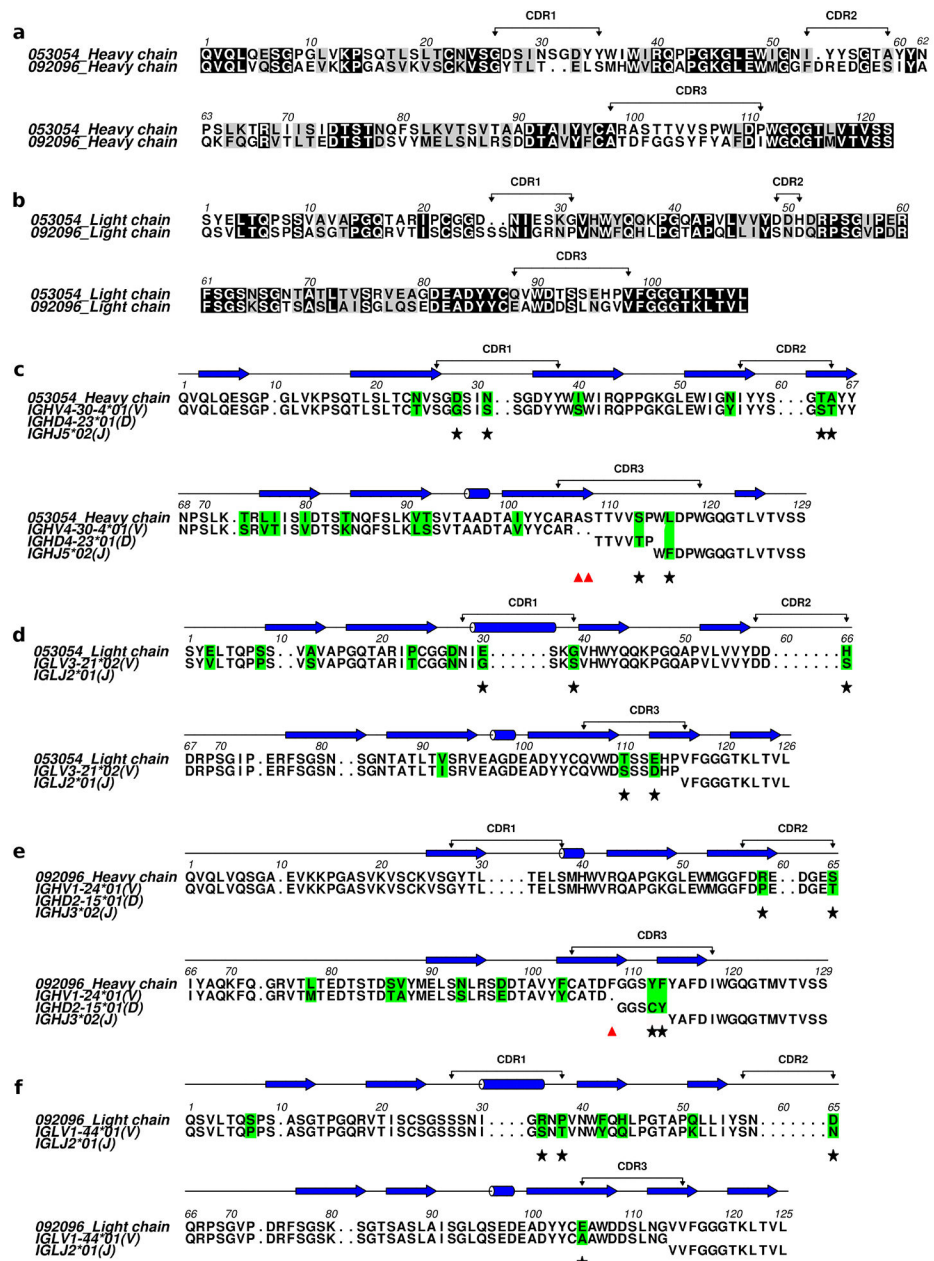


Figure 6|. Monoclonal antibody maturation.

Sequence identity analysis for 053054 and 092096 mAbs by **a**, heavy and **b**, light chain alignment. CDRs 1–3 are marked at the top of the alignment. Similar residues are highlighted gray, identical black. **c–f**, Amino acid sequence alignment of the variable heavy chain and light chain of the mAbs (**c** and **d**) 053054 and (**e** and **f**) 092096 against the germline V, D and J gene members with the highest sequence similarity defined by NCBI/IgBlast and IMGT/V-Quest indicated in each alignment. Complementarity determining regions (CDR 1–3) are shown at the top of the alignment. Amino acid mutations are highlighted green. Non-silent somatic hypermutations in CDRs are indicated by black stars. Red triangles mark insertions in the junction region. The secondary structure elements are

indicated by blue arrows for β sheets and blue coils for α helices. **g**, The number of non-silent somatic mutations for CDRs of V_H and V_L chains of each antibody as well as junction insertions.