

1 **Engineering SARS-CoV-2 cocktail antibodies into a bispecific format**
2 **improves neutralizing potency and breadth**

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24 **Abstract**

25 One major limitation of neutralizing antibody-based COVID-19 therapy is the requirement of
26 costly cocktails to reduce antibody resistance. We engineered two bispecific antibodies (bsAbs)
27 using distinct designs and compared them with parental antibodies and their cocktail. Single
28 molecules of both bsAbs block the two epitopes targeted by parental antibodies on the receptor-
29 binding domain (RBD). However, bsAb with the IgG-(scFv)₂ design (14-H-06) but not the
30 CrossMAb design (14-crs-06) increases antigen-binding and virus-neutralizing activities and
31 spectrum against multiple SARS-CoV-2 variants including the Omicron, than the cocktail. X-
32 ray crystallography and computational simulations reveal distinct neutralizing mechanisms for
33 individual cocktail antibodies and suggest higher inter-spike crosslinking potentials by 14-H-
34 06 than 14-crs-06. In mouse models of infections by SARS-CoV-2 and the Beta, Gamma, and
35 Delta variants, 14-H-06 exhibits higher or equivalent therapeutic efficacy than the cocktail.
36 Rationally engineered bsAbs represent a cost-effective alternative to antibody cocktails and a
37 promising strategy to improve potency and breadth.

38

39 **Introduction**

40 The COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged the world with unprecedented health, social and
41 economic losses¹. Vaccination is among the most effective countermeasures but not sufficient
42 to end the pandemic due to challenges such as limited global access, vaccine hesitancy, and
43 waning effectiveness against variants²⁻⁴. Effective treatments are necessary for the patients,
44 unvaccinated populations and immunocompromised people who cannot generate protective
45 immunity after vaccination⁵.

46 Neutralizing antibodies have proved to be effective against COVID-19. The RBD of
47 SARS-CoV-2 spike protein (S) directly contacts the cellular receptor angiotensin-converting
48 enzyme 2 (ACE2). It is the target of the most potent neutralizing antibodies⁶. However, drug
49 resistance rapidly arises with antibody monotherapies regardless of neutralizing potency and
50 epitope conservation of the antibodies⁷. Emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOC),
51 such as the Beta and Gamma, have evolved RBD mutations that escape from neutralization by
52 many single antibodies and some combined antibodies with overlapping epitopes⁸. Rationally
53 designed antibody cocktails, which cover non-overlapping epitopes, can reduce SARS-CoV-2
54 escape mutations and expand neutralizing coverage of emerging variants^{9,10}. Three antibody

55 cocktails have received approval for emergency use, and several candidates are in advanced
56 stages of clinical trials. Despite the encouraging progress, antibody cocktail approaches
57 increase manufacturing costs and require high dose infusion in patients¹¹, making it challenging
58 to have a global impact on pandemic response¹². Recently, a wide range of antibodies has
59 dramatically or completely lost neutralization against the Omicron variant¹³⁻¹⁶, making the FDA
60 to limit the use of two approved antibody cocktails.

61 Bi-specific antibodies (bsAbs) are an emerging drug modality designed to combine the
62 binding specificities of two antibodies into one molecule. With different designs, bsAbs can be
63 engineered into diverse formats with varied valencies. One attractive feature for bsAbs is their
64 potential to display novel functionalities that do not exist in mixtures of parental antibodies¹⁷.
65 For example, engineered HIV-1 neutralizing bsAbs in the CrossMAb format have enhanced
66 virus-neutralizing potency and breadth compared with the mixtures of parental antibodies^{18,19}.
67 With the same CrossMAb design, a SARS-CoV-2 bsAb (CoV-X2) exhibits a neutralizing
68 activity superior to one parental antibody and similar to the other parental antibody²⁰,
69 suggesting the need to test other bsAb designs for improvement of bsAb functions. *In vitro* and
70 *in vivo* comparisons of bsAbs with parental antibodies and the cocktail, which are lacking in
71 previous studies, will provide more insights for developing efficacious bsAb-based COVID-19
72 therapeutics.

73 We have previously identified two SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibodies, called CoV2-
74 06 and CoV2-14, respectively, recognizing non-overlapping RBD epitopes and preventing
75 escape mutations as a cocktail²¹. In this study, we engineered the two antibodies into two bsAbs,
76 one using the CrossMAb design and the other using the IgG-(scFv)₂ design. Using biochemical,
77 structural, and virological assays, we demonstrate that the IgG-(scFv)₂ design, but not the
78 CrossMAb design, enhances neutralizing potency and spectrum against multiple SARS-CoV-
79 2 variants in comparison with parental antibodies and the cocktail.

80

81 **Results**

82 **Engineering of bispecific antibodies**

83 We sought to construct bsAbs to combine the utility of CoV2-06 and CoV2-14 into one single
84 molecule. To explore whether and how the design of formats affect the functions of bsAbs, we
85 engineered two bsAbs with distinct features: one bsAb (14-H-06) is in the tetravalent format

86 using the IgG-(scFv)₂ design, and the other bsAb (14-crs-06) is in the bivalent format using the
87 CrossMAb design (**Fig. 1a**). The two bsAbs were produced by transient expressions in
88 Expi293F cells with high yields (>500 µg/ml). After a single-step Protein A chromatography
89 purification, the bsAbs were showed >95% purities and correctly assembled as analyzed by
90 size-exclusion chromatography (SEC) (**Fig. 1b**). To test whether the bsAbs block the two
91 epitopes targeted by CoV2-06 and CoV2-14, we performed an in-tandem Bio-Layer
92 Interferometry (BLI) based binding assay (**Fig. 1c**). Both 14-H-06 and 14-crs-06 bound to RBD
93 and blocked the subsequent binding of CoV2-06 and CoV2-14 (**Fig. 1d**). In contrast, pre-
94 binding of RBD by CoV2-06 or CoV2-14 did not abolish subsequent binding of 14-H-06 or 14-
95 crs-06 (**Fig. 1e**). These results indicate that the bsAbs are successfully engineered and both of
96 them block the two RBD epitopes simultaneously as single molecules.

97

98 **Enhanced antigen binding and virus neutralization for 14-H-06**

99 We characterized the antigen-binding properties of the two bsAbs and the two parental
100 antibodies using BLI-based kinetic assays. To measure the affinity binding, we immobilized
101 antibodies onto protein A biosensors and used soluble His-tagged RBD (RBD-His) as the
102 analyte. Both bsAbs bound to RBD with affinity K_D values in the low nanomolar range and
103 comparable to the two parental antibodies (**Extended Data Fig. 1a-b**). The result is consistent
104 with the intrinsic binding strength of the one-to-one interaction for the Fab, or scFv, to the RBD.
105 To measure the avidity binding, we immobilized Ni-NTA biosensors with RBD-His at different
106 concentrations and used antibodies as the analyte (**Fig. 2a and Extended Data Fig. 1c-e**).
107 Avidity represents the combined strength of all binding sites on an antibody molecule and often
108 manifests as decrease of dissociation from tethered antigens²². Accordingly, as the
109 concentration of RBD for immobilization increased from 40 ng/ml to 1000 ng/ml, the
110 tetravalent antibody 14-H-06 showed a greater increase of avidity binding (K_D values changed
111 from 1.35 nM to <0.001 nM, over 1350-fold) than the bivalent antibodies 14-crs-06 (8.6-fold
112 change), CoV2-06 (46-fold change) and CoV2-14 (2.0-fold change) (**Fig. 2b**). The increased
113 avidity binding was due to much slower dissociation of 14-H-06 from the RBD than other
114 antibodies, which were demonstrated by its larger fold changes of the $1/K_{dis}$ values (**Fig. 2c**).
115 These results indicate that 14-H-06 enhances antigen binding activity with stronger avidity
116 effects than the 14-crs-06.

117 We compared the neutralizing activities of the bsAbs and parental antibodies using
118 authentic SARS-CoV-2 virus²¹. Antibody 14-crs-06 neutralized SARS-CoV-2 with a half-
119 maximal neutralizing titer (NT₅₀) of 0.132 µg/ml, which was similar to CoV2-06 (NT₅₀=0.163
120 µg/ml) and 3.5-fold better than CoV2-14 (NT₅₀=0.462 µg/ml). This result is consistent with the
121 trend that observed in CoV-X2, a previously reported SARS-CoV-2 bsAb with the same
122 CrossMab design²⁰. In contrast, 14-H-06 neutralized SARS-CoV-2 with an NT₅₀ of 0.032
123 µg/ml, which was 5.1-fold and 14.4-fold more potent than CoV2-06 and CoV2-14, respectively
124 (**Fig. 2d**). To understand whether the two bsAbs alter the blocking activity against RBD binding
125 to ACE2, we performed a BLI-based competition assay²³. Antibody 14-H-06 blocked the RBD
126 and ACE2 interaction with a half-maximal inhibition concentration (IC₅₀) of 9.0 nM, which is
127 similar to the IC₅₀ of CoV2-14 (10.6 nM) and slightly lower than the IC_{50s} of 14-crs-06 (21.2
128 nM) and CoV2-06 (39.8 nM) (**Fig. 2e**). These results indicate that the avidity binding, but not
129 the steric hindrance with ACE2, contributes to the improvement of neutralizing activity for 14-
130 H-06 over 14-crs-06 and parental antibodies.

131

132 **Inter-spike crosslinking potential for 14-H-06**

133 The avidity binding of an antibody offers the opportunity to engage multiple spikes through
134 crosslinking, which is an extra line of neutralizing mechanisms for certain RBD-targeting
135 antibodies²⁴. We sought to compare the potentials for inter-spike crosslinking by the bsAbs and
136 parental antibodies. In a BLI-based sandwich assay, RBD-His was immobilized onto Ni-NTA
137 biosensors to capture antibodies, followed by incubation with Fc-tagged RBD (RBD-Fc). After
138 RBD-His capturing, 14-H-06 showed much stronger binding to RBD-Fc than did 14-crs-06 and
139 the two parental antibodies (**Extended Data Fig. 2**). The result indicates that 14-H-06 can
140 engage more RBDs simultaneously than 14-crs-06 and parental antibodies through the four
141 binding moieties, suggesting a higher potential for inter-spike crosslinking.

142 The orientations of Fab binding to RBD affect an IgG's potential for inter-spike
143 crosslinking²⁴. We used X-ray crystallography and determined the complex structure of the Fab
144 of CoV2-06 (Fab06) and RBD at a resolution of 2.89 Å (**Table S1**). The atomic details of
145 interactions established at the binding interface between Fab06 and RBD showed that VH
146 residues N32, W34 from CDR-H1, S55 from CDR-H2, and T104 from CDR-H3 interact with
147 RBD residues N450, K444, Y449 and R346 while the VL residues N33 from CDR-L1 and D52

148 from CDR-L2 interact with RBD residues T345 and R346, respectively (**Fig. 3a**). The
149 interactions revealed by X-ray crystallography are fully consistent with epitope mapping results
150 reported in our previous study⁹. Next, we used the Fab06/RBD crystal structure (this work) to
151 perform a superposition with two cryo-EM structures of the spike trimer: one where the three
152 RBD adopt the down conformation and the other with one RBD up and two RBD down. As no
153 steric hindrance was observed, this superposition suggests that Fab06 could bind to RBDs
154 regardless of their down/up conformation in the spike trimer (**Fig. 3b, left**), which supports the
155 ability of inter-spike crosslinking for bispecific antibodies incorporating the CoV2-06
156 paratope²⁴. Although we were able to obtain the structure of the free Fab14 (**Extended Data**
157 **Table 1**), so far, our attempts to use X-ray diffraction to determine a Fab14/RBD crystal
158 structure have not been successful and work with Cryo-EM to determine this structure is in
159 progress. Meanwhile, we used the X-ray structures of Fab14 and RBD for docking using
160 Haddock 2.4 guided by previous epitope mapping results⁹. Docking suggests that Fab14 can
161 only bind RBD in the up conformation as, in the down conformation, Fab14 would clash with
162 an adjacent RBD domain (**Fig. 3b, right**). Interestingly, Fab06 has little while Fab14 has large
163 steric clash with ACE2 (**Fig. 3c**). The binding epitopes and orientations indicate that the major
164 neutralizing mechanisms for individual cocktail antibodies are different: CoV2-06 through
165 crosslinking of spikes and CoV2-14 through ACE2 blocking. We used the molecular dynamics
166 (MD) method to model the structures of bsAbs and superposed them with RBDs in the spike.
167 The result shows that both bsAbs could simultaneously engage multiple RBDs in different spike
168 trimer (**Fig. 3d**). However, the maximum number of spikes can be crosslinked by the two bsAbs
169 were different when binding to RBDs adopting various combinations of up and down
170 conformations. As summarized in **Fig. 3e**, the tetravalent 14-H-06 can crosslink more spikes
171 than the bivalent 14-crs-06 and parental antibodies in all possible scenarios.

172

173 **Broader coverage of variants by 14-H-06 than the cocktail**

174 We previously identified neutralization-resistant mutation K444R for CoV2-06 and E484A for
175 CoV2-14 and generated SARS-CoV-2 viruses that contain K444R or E484A mutations^{9,23}. The
176 K444R virus escaped from CoV2-06 but was neutralized by CoV2-14; the E484A virus escaped
177 from CoV2-14 but was neutralized by CoV2-06 (**Extended Data Fig. 3a-b**). While the two
178 bsAbs and the cocktail (CoV2-06+CoV2-14) neutralized both escaping viruses, their potencies

179 were significantly different. The NT₅₀s for 14-crs-06 against the K444R and E484A viruses
180 were 2.29 µg/ml and 0.83 µg/ml, respectively, which were slightly less potent compared with
181 the NT₅₀s of the cocktail against the K444R (1.02 µg/ml) and E484A (0.59 µg/ml) viruses. In
182 contrast, 14-H-06 neutralized the K444R and E484A viruses with NT₅₀s of 0.23 µg/ml and
183 0.096 µg/ml, which were 4.4-fold and 6.1-fold more potent compared with the cocktail (**Fig.**
184 **4a-b**). Consistent with the neutralization results, the bsAbs bound to the K444R and E484A
185 mutant RBD proteins, while CoV2-06 and CoV2-14 bound to E484A and K444R mutant RBDs,
186 respectively (**Extended Data Fig. 3c**).

187 We focused on 14-H-06 and evaluated its neutralizing activities against seven SARS-
188 CoV-2 variants using the plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT) or fluorescent focus
189 reduction test (FFRNT). The complete spike gene from Alpha (B.1.1.7), Beta (B.1.351),
190 Gamma (P.1), Kappa (B.1.617.1), Delta (B.1.617.2), Lambda (C.37), B.1.618 or the Omicron
191 (B.1.1.529) variant was engineered into the backbone of an early clinical isolate USA-
192 WA1/2020 (**Table S2**)²⁵⁻²⁷. Four of these seven variants, including the Beta, Gamma, Kappa,
193 and the B.1.618 variants, carry the E484K or E484Q mutation and were resistant to
194 neutralization by CoV2-14 (**Extended Data Fig. 3d**). Notably, 14-H-06 potently neutralized
195 all the tested variants with the NT₅₀s between 0.009 µg/ml and 0.176 µg/ml, which were in a
196 close range compared with the NT₅₀ (0.037 µg/ml) against the US-WA1 strain (**Fig. 4c**). The
197 Omicron (B.1.1.529) variant has 11 RBD mutations, including a G446S mutation within the
198 CoV2-06 epitope and an E484A mutation within the CoV2-14 epitope. The two individual
199 parental antibodies dramatically or almost completely lost neutralizing activity against the
200 Omicron, while remarkably, 14-H-06 neutralized the Omicron with an NT₅₀ of 1.11 µg/ml,
201 which is more than 10-fold more potent than the cocktail (**Fig. 4d**).

202 We further used a collection of 20 mutant RBD proteins to compare the epitope
203 coverages by the two bsAbs, the cocktail, and individual parental antibodies through ELISA
204 titrations (**Extended Data Fig. 4**). These RBDs contain mutations in naturally emerging
205 variants or mutations in escaping viruses selected from two FDA approved antibodies: REGN-
206 10987 and REGN-10933²³. Selected RBD mutations reduced the binding activities of
207 individual parental antibodies, such as K444R and K444Q mutations for CoV2-06 and E484A,
208 E484K, and F486V mutations for CoV2-14. Expectedly, the cocktail and the two bsAbs had
209 good coverages of these RBD variants (**Fig. 4e**). Across all the mutants, 14-H-06, but not 14-

210 crs-06, exhibited significantly higher binding activities than the cocktail (**Fig. 4f**), indicating
211 that the IgG-(scFv)₂ design, but not the CrossMAb design, provides additional advantage for
212 binding to RBD mutants over the cocktail. Together, these data demonstrate that engineering
213 an antibody cocktail into a bsAb using the IgG-(scFv)₂ design increases the neutralizing potency
214 against SARS-CoV-2 variants and broadens the epitope coverages of RBD mutants.

215

216 ***In vivo* protection by 14-H-06**

217 We focused on 14-H-06 to evaluate the *in vivo* efficacy against SARS-CoV-2 and its variants.
218 First, we performed dose range evaluations of 14-H-06 in the Balb/c mice infection model by
219 the CMA4 strain, a mouse-adapted SARS-CoV-2 containing the spike N501Y mutation which
220 represented the Alpha variant²³ (**Fig. 5a**). Three dose levels (2.5, 0.83 and 0.27 mg/kg) for
221 prophylactic treatment and two dose levels for therapeutic treatment (2.5 and 0.83 mg/kg) were
222 tested. For prophylactic treatment, 14-H-06 reduced the viral loads in the lungs to undetectable
223 levels in 100% (10/10) and 40% (4/10) of mice in the 2.5 and 0.83 mg/kg groups, respectively.
224 Even with the 0.27 mg/kg dose, the geometric mean viral load (4.79-log) was 8.2-fold lower
225 than that from the isotype control group (5.70-log). For 14-H-06 therapy, the geometric mean
226 viral loads (excluding the mice with undetectable viruses) were reduced by 72,766- and 669-
227 fold in the 2.5 and 0.83 mg/kg groups, respectively (**Fig. 5b**). These data demonstrate that 14-
228 H-06 is highly effective for prophylactic and therapeutic treatment against SARS-CoV-2.

229 Next, we compared the therapeutic effects of 14-H-06, the cocktail, and individual
230 parental antibodies against the CMA4 strain. The geometric mean viral load for the cocktail
231 group was 1.79-log, significantly lower than was in the CoV2-14 group (4.21-log) and slightly
232 lower than was in the CoV2-06 group (2.51-log). In contrast, 14-H-06 showed substantially
233 better efficacy than the cocktail and individual parental antibodies, reducing viral loads to
234 undetectable levels for all mice (10/10) (**Fig. 5c**). We also compared the therapeutic effects of
235 14-H-06 and the cocktail against the Beta and Gamma variants in the Balb/c mouse model
236 following the same experimental design in Fig. 5a. Antibody 14-H-06 significantly reduced the
237 geometric mean lung viral loads by 136-fold for the Beta variant and 333-fold for the Gamma
238 variant compared with the isotype group. A slightly better efficacy against the Beta variant and
239 a more substantial better efficacy for 14-H-06 over the cocktail was observed against the Beta
240 and Gamma variants, respectively (**Fig. 5d-e**). We further compared the therapeutic efficacy of

241 14-H-06 and the cocktail against the Delta variant in the human ACE2 transgenic mouse (K18-
242 hACE2) model. We performed two sets of experiments to evaluate the therapeutic effects on
243 viral replication (experiment set 1) and mice body weight change (experiment set 2) (**Fig.5f**).
244 In experiment set 1, we treated the mice with one dose of antibodies at 6 h after infection with
245 the Delta variant, and the pfu assay measured viral loads in the lungs. Compared with the
246 isotype group, 14-H-06 reduced the viral load by 278-fold, significantly more potent than the
247 cocktail treatment, which reduced the viral load by 27.8-fold (**Fig.5g**). In experiment set 2, we
248 treated mice at 6 h and 30 h after infection and monitored daily bodyweight. The viral loads
249 were measured seven days post-infection (dpi) by qRT-PCR. The isotype-treated mice showed
250 disease at day 7 post-infection, with an average of 14% body weight loss (**Fig. 5h**) and the
251 geometric mean viral RNA load of 7.2-log (**Fig. 5i**). Treatment with 14-H-06 and the cocktail
252 significantly protected the mice from weight loss (**Fig. 5h**) and reduced the viral RNA loads in
253 the lung (**Fig. 5i**). No significant difference in the lung viral RNA load was observed between
254 14-H-06 and the cocktail at day 7 (**Fig. 5i**).

255 Neutralizing antibody levels predict the protection from SARS-CoV-2 infection²⁸. We
256 performed a single dose (10mg/kg) pharmacokinetics study in mice to compare the half-life of
257 14-H-06 with parental antibodies. The half-life for 14-H-06 was 29.2 h compared to 137.4 h
258 and 74.72 h for CoV2-06 and CoV2-14, respectively (**Extended Data Fig. 5a-b**). Thus, the
259 difference in the half-life may complicate the comparison of therapeutic efficacy, particularly
260 in experiment set2 for the Delta variant in the K18-hACE2 model. Taken together, these results
261 demonstrate that 14-H-06 is superior or equivalent to the cocktail for therapeutic treatment of
262 the original SARS-CoV-2 and subsequently emerged Beta, Gamma, and Delta variants in mice.

263

264 **Discussion**

265 Neutralizing antibody-based therapies are successful for treating viral infections, yet cocktails
266 are often required to reduce resistance. We have shown that a SARS-CoV-2 bsAb offers
267 advantages in neutralizing activities and spectrum against SARS-CoV-2 variants over the
268 cocktail. Unlike bsAbs using the CrossMab design, such as CoV-X2²⁰ and 14-crs-06, which
269 do not or only slightly increase the neutralizing potency compared to parental antibodies or the
270 cocktail, 14-H-06 significantly increases the neutralizing activity *in vitro* and therapeutic
271 efficacy *in vivo* against SARS-CoV-2 and broadens the coverage of RBD variants. The IgG-

272 (scFv)₂ design outcompetes the CrossMAB design unlikely via stronger blockage of RBD
273 binding to ACE2, but rather via mechanisms including avidity binding and inter-spike
274 crosslinking. In support of our results, previous studies have shown that multivalent antibodies
275 have greater and broader neutralizing activity than bivalent IgG antibodies^{23,29}. Similarly, a
276 SARS-CoV-2 tetravalent bsAb (CV1206_521_GS) uses the DVD-Ig design to combine the
277 RBD- and the NTD-specific antibodies, have demonstrated *in vitro* neutralizing activity that is
278 100-fold more potent than the cocktail. This DVD-Ig-based bsAb showed good neutralizing
279 coverages of several RBD mutations from some variants³⁰; however, its neutralization potency
280 was compromised by the NTD mutations from the Beta and Gamma variants. Nevertheless,
281 rationally designed bsAbs with suitable formats and distinct epitope specificities represent a
282 promising alternative to antibody cocktails for developing COVID-19 therapeutic antibodies.

283 We directly compared the therapeutic efficacy of 14-H-06 and the cocktail against the
284 spike N501Y mutation-containing CMA4 strain, the Beta, Gamma, and Delta variants *in vivo*.
285 Across all these tested viruses, 14-H-06 has better efficacy than the cocktail regimen. These
286 results support bsAbs as a promising alternative to cocktails for COVID-19 treatment. Although
287 the NT_{50s} of 14-H-06 against the US-WA1 strain, the Alpha, Beta and Gamma variants are in
288 close range (less than 3-fold), 14-H-06 performed better against the CMA4 strain than the Beta
289 and Gamma variants *in vivo*. Notably, antibody Fc-mediated effector functions are required for
290 optimal therapeutic protections against SARS-CoV-2 in mice³¹. Antibody 14-H-06 is
291 engineered using the IgG-(scFv)₂ design, which is an effector function-competent format³².
292 However, it is possible that the effector functions of 14-H-06 have been compromised against
293 the Beta and Gamma variants as a result of the reduced binding for the two Fab14 units to the
294 E484K mutation-containing spikes. The two scFv06 units of 14-H-06 resist the E484K and
295 other mutations in the spike proteins of Beta and Gamma variants. Yet, it is unclear whether
296 the effector functions can be supported in this model of binding. Therefore, choosing an
297 antibody less affected by viral mutations as the IgG backbone for engineering the IgG-(scFv)₂
298 format of bsAbs may mitigate the risk of losing Fc-mediated effector functions. Systematic
299 investigation on whether and how bsAb designs affect the Fc-mediated effector functions will
300 provide further insights to guide the development of bsAb-based therapeutic antibodies against
301 SARS-CoV-2.

302 The IgG-(scFv)₂ design is a promising platform and has been used for developing
303 more than ten-clinical stage bsAb candidates³³. Antibody 14-H-06 expresses in high yield (>0.5
304 g/L) in transient expression and assembles homogenously, suggesting suitable early
305 developmentability profiles. It is noted that 14-H-06 has a shorter half-life than the parental
306 antibodies in mice, which may have limited its therapeutic advantage over the cocktail *in vivo*.
307 The half-life of 14-H-06 may be extended by introducing the M252Y/S254T/T256E (YTE)
308 mutations into the Fc region³⁴, or by optimizing the antibody sequence toward favorable
309 physical and chemical properties³⁵; and the improved half-life could maximize the therapeutic
310 potential of 14-H-06. The enhanced efficacy of 14-H-6 over the cocktail demonstrated in the *in*
311 *vitro* and *in vivo* comparisons clearly support the potential to extend the application of the IgG-
312 (scFv)₂ design to other SARS-CoV-2 antibody cocktails.

313 In summary, we have engineered two formats of bsAbs and compared them with
314 parental antibodies and the cocktail in a panel of *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays. Our results
315 demonstrate the advantages of a bsAb design over the cocktail in neutralization potency and
316 spectrum. This proof-of-concept study supports that the bsAb approach and the IgG-(scFv)₂
317 design can be adapted to broader applications in the development of cost-effective and more
318 efficacious antibody therapies on the basis of antibody cocktails for treating viral infections
319 including SARS-CoV-2.

320

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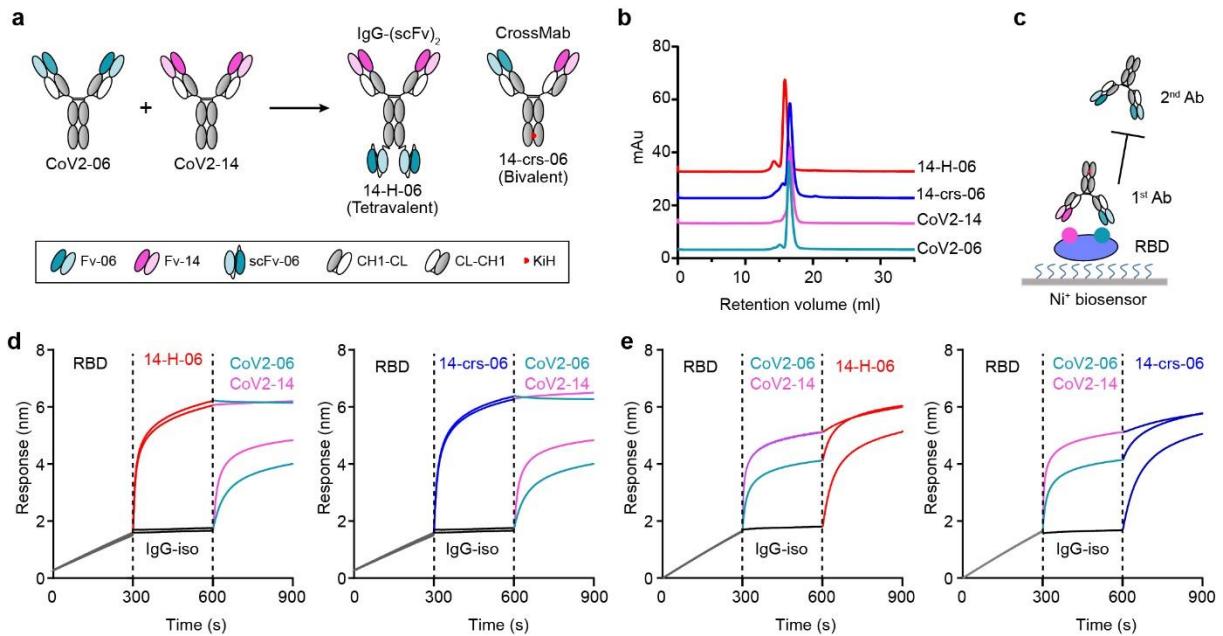
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453 **Author contributions:** Z.K., P.G., and Z.A. conceived the study. Z.K. identified the
454 neutralizing antibody cocktail. P.G., Z.K. and H.S. engineered and produced the bispecific
455 antibodies. X.X., Y.L., A.E.M., J.Z. and V.D.M. performed neutralization and mouse studies.
456 J.L., A.E.S. and B.C.G. performed structural studies. Z.K. and X.Y. generated the RBD mutant
457 proteins. X.L. and X.F. performed mouse PK study. W.X. prepared the Fab. H.D., and H.B.
458 provided support with cell culture and transfection. N.Z., J.L., P-Y.S. and Z.A. supervised the
459 study. Z.K. and P.G. wrote the manuscript with input from the team. X.X., J.L., X.Y., N.Z.,
460 J.L., P-Y.S. and Z.A. reviewed and edited the manuscript.

461 **Competing interests:** The University of Texas System has filed a patent on the SARS-CoV-2
462 IgG antibodies and the reverse genetic system and reporter SARS-CoV-2. X.X., Z.K, N.Z., P-
463 Y.S, and Z.A. are listed as co-inventors of the patent application. Other authors declare no
464 competing interests.

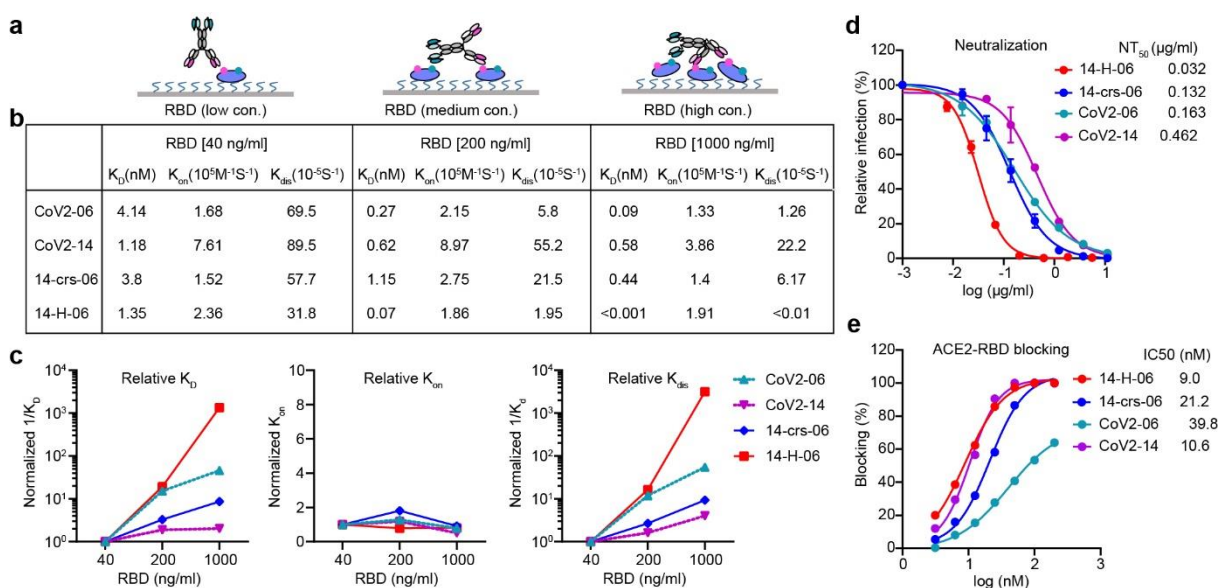
465 **Data availability:** Data associated with figures are available from the corresponding authors
466 upon reasonable request. Structures and structure factors reported in this work have been
467 deposited with the PDB with accession codes 7WPH (Fab-06-RBD complex) and 7WPV (Fab-
468 14). Source data are provided with this paper.

469 **Figures and legends**



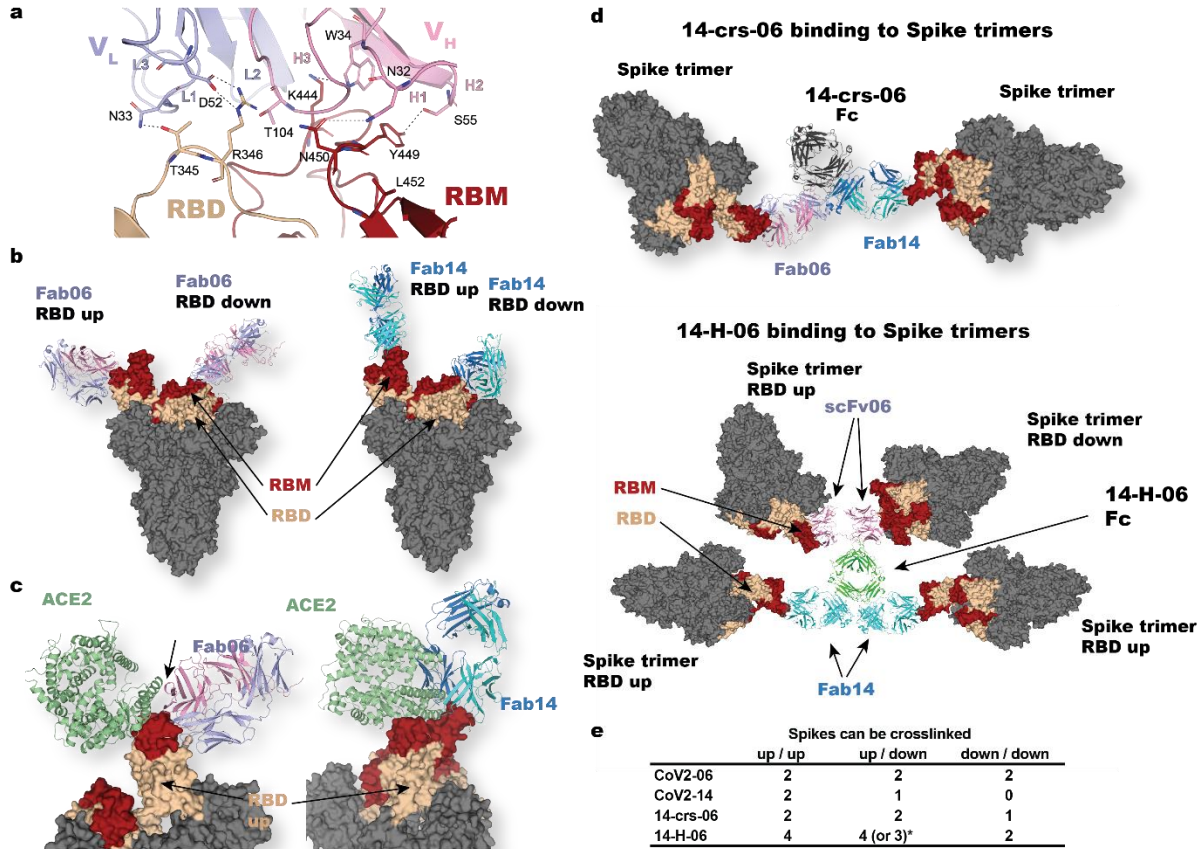
470

471 **Fig. 1. Engineering of bispecific antibodies.** **a**, Schematic diagram of engineering bispecific
472 antibodies. A tetraivalent bsAb (14-H-06) and a bivalent bsAb (14-crs-06) were engineered from
473 two parental IgGs that bind to two distinct epitopes on the RBD. The modules for antibody
474 engineering are illustrated in the box. Fv: variable fragment; scFv: single-chain Fv; CH1-CL:
475 constant region 1 for heavy chain (CH1) and constant region for light chain (CL); CL-CH1:
476 the crossover format of CH1-CL; KiH: the Knob-into-Hole design with the S354C+T366W
477 mutations (Knob) in the heavy chain CH3 region on one arm and the
478 Y349C+T366S+L368A+Y407V mutations (Hole) in the CH3 region on the other arm. **b**,
479 Purities of indicated antibodies were analyzed by SEC. **c**, The in-tandem BLI-based assay to
480 test antibody blocking of RBD epitopes. The His-tagged RBD was captured onto the Ni-
481 NTA biosensors. The first antibodies, either bsAbs or parental antibodies, were used to bind the
482 RBD. The second antibodies were tested for their abilities to bind pre-blocked RBD. **d-e**, The
483 epitope pre-blocking effects using bispecific antibodies 14-H-06 (left) and 14-crs-06 (right) as
484 1st antibodies and parental antibodies as 2nd antibodies (**d**), or using parental antibodies as 1st
485 antibodies and the bispecific antibodies 14-H-06 (left) and 14-crs-06 (right) as 2nd antibodies
486 (**e**). The segments of each sensorgram were color coded to show individual binding events.



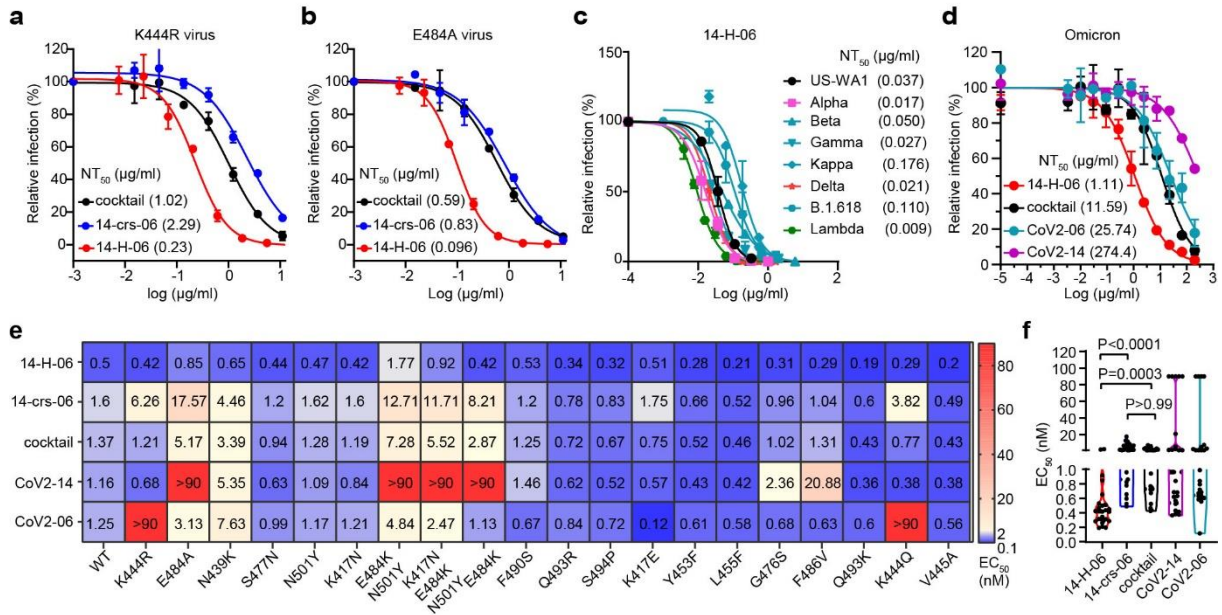
487

488 **Fig. 2. Enhanced avidity binding and virus neutralization for 14-H-06.** **a**, A diagram
489 showing the binding models of 14-H-06 to tethered RBD antigen at low (left), medium (middle)
490 and high (right) concentrations. The avidity effects manifest as multivalent interactions between
491 an antibody and multiple RBDs. **b**, Summary of the association (K_{on}), dissociation (K_{dis}) and
492 avidity (K_D) of indicated antibodies at indicated concentrations RBD. **c**, The plots of relative
493 association, dissociation and avidity for each antibodies. The relative values for each antibodies
494 were obtained by normalizing the values of $1/K_D$, K_{on} and $1/K_{dis}$ at RBD concentrations of 200
495 ng/ml and 1000 ng/ml against the corresponding values at RBD concentration of 40 ng/ml. **d**,
496 Neutralization titrations of indicated antibodies against live SARS-CoV-2 on Vero E6 cell. Data
497 points are from duplicate wells. **e**, Antibody blocking of RBD interaction with ACE2
498 determined by the BLI assay.



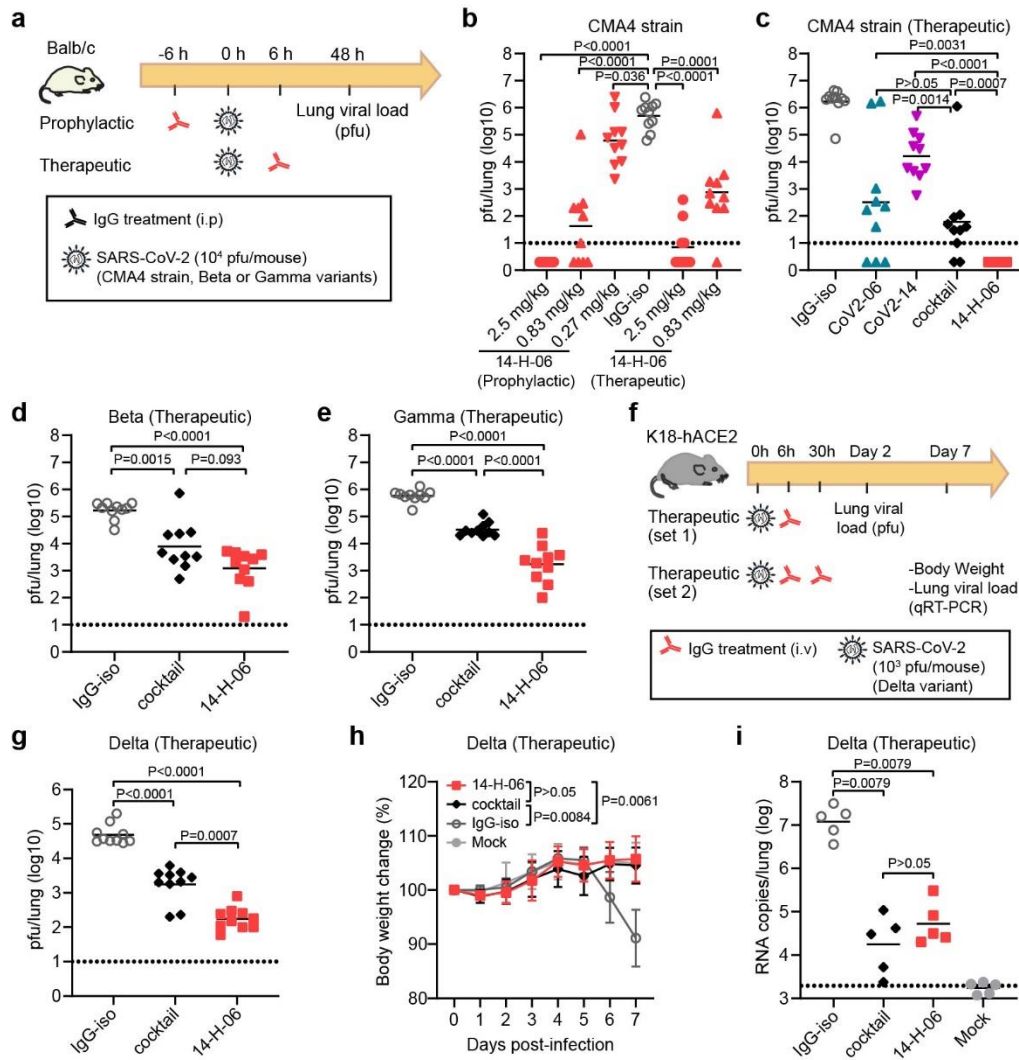
499

500 **Fig. 3. Binding and inter-spike crosslinking potential for 14-H-06.** **a.** Atomic details at the
 501 binding interface between Fab-06 and RBD as revealed by X-ray crystallography. The VH and
 502 VL of Fab-06 are colored in red and blue, respectively and RBD is colored in yellow. Dashed
 503 lines indicate polar interactions between Fab-06 and RBD. **b.** Binding models for Fab-06 (left)
 504 or Fab-14 to RBDs (either in up or down conformation) in the context of the complete spike
 505 trimer. **c.** Based on the epitope they recognize, both Fab-06 and Fab-14 introduce steric
 506 hindrance (indicated by arrows) with ACE2 binding to RBD in the up conformation. **d.** Cross-
 507 links induced by the bispecific antibodies as derived by structural studies and MD simulations.
 508 upper panel: the bivalent 14-crs-06 cross-links two spike trimers while the tetraivalent 14-H-06
 509 (lower panel) can crosslink up to four spikes. For 14-H-06, two scFvs from CoV2-06 are
 510 positioned at one end of the molecule, while two Fab units of CoV2-14 are located at the other
 511 end. **e.** Summary of cross-linking potentials by the antibodies reported in this work. *14-H-06
 512 could crosslink three spikes if it binds to three RBDs in the down conformation and one RBD
 513 in the up conformation. Otherwise, it could crosslink four spikes.



514

515 **Fig. 4. Broad coverage of variants by 14-H-06.** **a-b**, Neutralizations of the CoV2-06-resistant
516 SARS-CoV-2 virus with K444R mutation (**a**) and CoV2-14-resistant SARS-CoV-2 virus with
517 E484A mutation (**b**) by indicated bispecific antibodies and the antibody cocktail of CoV2-06
518 and CoV2-14. The assay is based on the mNeonGreen reporter virus and the NT₅₀ values are
519 labeled. **c**, Plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT) of 14-H-06 against the SARS-CoV-2
520 US-WA1 strain and recombinant SARS-CoV-2 viruses with the spike replaced by those from
521 indicated variants. The values of neutralizing titers (NT₅₀) are labeled. **d**, Neutralizations of the
522 Omicron variant by indicated bispecific antibodies, the antibody cocktail of CoV2-06 and
523 CoV2-14 and two parental antibodies. The assay is based on the mNeonGreen reporter virus
524 and the NT₅₀ values are labeled. **e**, Summary of the ELISA binding EC₅₀ values of indicated
525 antibodies to the wild type RBD and a panel of 20 RBD mutants. **f**, The violin plot of the EC₅₀
526 values in d. The Kruskal-Wallis test was used for statistical analysis.



527

528 **Fig. 5. In vivo comparisons of 14-H-06 and cocktail against SARS-CoV-2 and variants a,**
 529 Experimental design for evaluations of the prophylactic and therapeutic effects of antibodies in
 530 the Balb/c mouse model of infections. Three SARS-CoV-2 viruses were tested, including a
 531 mouse-adapted CMA4 strain containing the spike N501Y mutation and representing the Alpha
 532 variant, and the Beta and Gamma variants. n=10 mice for each group. **b**, The viral loads were
 533 determined by the pfu assay in the dose-range evaluations of the prophylactic and therapeutic
 534 effects of 14-H-06 against the CMA4 virus. **c-e**, The viral loads were determined by the pfu
 535 assay in the evaluations of the therapeutic effects of indicated antibodies at the dose of 5 mg/kg
 536 against the CMA4 virus (**c**), the Beta variant (**d**), and the Gamma variant (**e**). **f**, Experimental
 537 design for evaluating the therapeutic effect of 14-H-06 against the Delta variant in the
 538 transgenic K18-hACE2 mouse model. In experiment set 1, mice were treated with one dose of
 539 antibodies at 6h after infection, and viral loads were measured at 2 days after infection by the
 540 pfu assay. In experiment set 2, mice were treated with two doses of antibodies as indicated. The
 541 body weight was monitored daily, and the viral loads were measured at 7 days after infection
 542 by qRT-PCR assay. n=10 and 5 mice in each group for set 1 and set 2, respectively. **g**, the
 543 lung viral pfu loads for experimental set 1 in panel f. **h-i**, The body weight change (**h**), and the
 544 viral RNA load (**i**) for experimental set 2 in panel f. In panels b-e, g, and i, the solid line indicates

545 each group's geometric mean viral load, and the dotted line indicates the limit of detection
546 (LOD). For statistical analysis, the Mann-Whitney test was used in panels b-e, g, and i; the two-
547 way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons was used in panel h.

548 **Material and methods**

549 **Cells, virus and proteins**

550 Expi293F™ cells (GIBCO, cat#100044202) were maintained in Expi293™ Expression
551 Medium without fetal bovine serum (FBS). Vero (ATCC® CCL-81) and Vero E6 cells (ATCC,
552 CRL-1586) were maintained in Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium (DMEM) supplemented
553 with 10% FBS. The wild-type and K444R and E484A mutations of mNeonGreen SARS-CoV-
554 2 viruses were generated as previously described³⁶. The chimeric SARS-CoV-2 viruses with
555 spike gene replaced with B.1.1.7, P.1, and B.1.351 lineage spike gene were described
556 previously²³. The chimeric SARS-CoV-2 viruses with spike gene replaced with B.1.617.1,
557 B.1.617.2, B.1.617.2-2, B.1.618 and the Omicron (B.1.1.529) lineage spike gene were prepared
558 from clinical strain USA-WA1³⁶. Summary of spike mutations of the variants were listed in
559 **Table S1**. The biotinylated SARS-CoV-2 S protein was purchased from Acro Biosystem (Cat#
560 SPN-C82E9-25ug). The His-tagged RBD (RBD-His) protein of SARS-CoV-2 was purchased
561 from Sino Biological (Cat: 40592-V08B). The Fc-tagged wild-type and mutant RBDs
562 mentioned were generated as described previously²³. The RBD for crystallography harbours a
563 8xHis tag and is fused to a Maltose Binding Protein via a TEV protease cleavage sequence and
564 was produced from Expi293™ cells. Protein purification was carried out in three steps: an
565 IMAC purification using a HisTrap Ni-NTA column (Cytiva) followed by a TEV cleavage. A
566 reverse IMAC purification was conducted to separate the MBP moiety from the soluble free
567 RBD. The RBD was further purified by size-exclusion chromatography using a S200 16/60
568 column (Cytiva) pre-equilibrated in phosphate buffered saline at pH 7.2.

569

570 **Engineering and production of bsAbs**

571 Plasmids encoding heavy chain, light chain and scFv of CoV2-06 and CoV2-14 were
572 constructed and described previously⁹. For engineering 14-H-06, a similar approach was used
573 as described in a previous study³⁷. Briefly, the scFv of CoV2-06 was fused to the C-terminus
574 of CoV2-14 heavy chain with a (G4S)₃ linker to generate 14-H-06 heavy chain plasmid. The
575 bsAb 14-H-06 was expressed by co-transfection of the modified heavy chain and the CoV2-14
576 light chain plasmids into Expi293F cells. For engineering of 14-crs-06, the CrossMab^{CH1-CL}
577 construct was used as described previously³⁸. On one arm, the S354C and T366W mutations
578 were introduced into the heavy chain CH3 region of CoV-06 to generate the hole. This modified

579 heavy chain was paired with the CoV2-06 light chain. On the other arm, the mutations Y349C,
580 T366S, L368A and Y407V mutations were introduced into the heavy chain CH3 region of CoV-
581 14 with the crossover between the CH1 domain and the CL domain of the light chain of CoV2-
582 14. The 14-crs-06 antibody was expressed by co-transfection of four plasmids into Expi293F
583 cells. After 7 days of culture, antibodies were purified using the Protein A resin (Repligen, CA-
584 PRI-0100). All the antibody preparations were reconstituted in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS)
585 buffer for the studies. For the SEC assay, purified antibodies were analyzed on the ÄKTA pure
586 system with the Superpose 6 increase 10/300GL column in PBS buffer. About 100 µg of each
587 antibody was used for each loading. The UNICORN 7.0 software was used to data analysis and
588 exporting.

589

590 **In-tandem BLI binding assays**

591 An in-tandem BLI-based binding assay was performed on the Pall ForteBio Octet RED96
592 system. The RBD-His (1 µg/ml) was loaded onto the Ni-NTA biosensors for 300 seconds. The
593 loaded biosensors were dipped into the first antibody solutions (400 nM) for 300 seconds for
594 the formation of the antibody-antigen complex. The sensors were then dipped into the second
595 antibody solutions (100 nM) for 300 seconds for competition binding. ForteBio's data analysis
596 software was used to export data, and the binding profile was processed by GraphPad prism 8
597 Software.

598

599 **Antibody affinity and avidity assays**

600 Kinetic analysis was performed using a Pall ForteBio Octet RED96 system. For the affinity
601 assays, antibodies were used as ligands to and loaded onto the Protein A biosensors, at 2 µg/ml
602 for 300s. Following 10s of baseline in kinetics buffer, the loaded biosensors were dipped into
603 serially diluted (0.14–100 nM) RBD-His protein for 300 seconds for association. The sensors
604 were then dipped into a kinetic buffer for 600 seconds to record dissociation. Kinetic buffer
605 without antigen was set to correct the background. For the avidity assays, RBD-His was as
606 ligand and loaded onto the Ni-NTA biosensors at various concentrations (40, 200 and 1000
607 ng/ml) for 300s. Following 10s of baseline in kinetics buffer, the loaded biosensors were dipped
608 into serially diluted (0.14–100 nM) antibodies 300s for association, then dipped into kinetics

609 buffer 400s for dissociation. ForteBio's data analysis software was used to fit the K_D data using
610 the global fitting method.

611

612 **The BLI sandwich assay for testing multivalent binding to RBD**

613 The purified antibodies were tested for their abilities to simultaneously binding to multiple RBD
614 domains on the Octet RED96 system. The RBD-His (5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) was captured on the Ni-NTA
615 biosensors for 300 seconds. After capture, the biosensors were dipped into antibody solutions
616 (200 nM) for 300 seconds, and finally to the RBD-Fc solution (200 nM) or PBS control for 300
617 seconds. The binding responses were recorded for all incubation steps. Last step association
618 (dissociation) was calculated by subtraction of PBS signal from the RBD-Fc binding.

619

620 **Crystallization**

621 The Fab-06 and RBD proteins were mixed in a 1:1.2 molar ratio and incubated on ice for 10
622 minutes, followed by size-exclusion chromatography using a S200 16/60 column (Cytiva) in
623 PBS. The complex peak was pooled and concentrated to 11 mg/ml for crystallization assays
624 which were set up with commercial screening kits (JCSG-plusTM & Morpheus[®] from
625 Molecular Dimensions; IndexTM & PEG/Ion ScreenTM from Hampton Research) using a
626 mosquito crystallization robot (TTP Labtech). A thin plate-shaped crystal was obtained in
627 JCSG-plusTM condition A5 (0.2 M magnesium formate dihydrate, 20% w/v PEG 3350) with a
628 protein to buffer ratio of 2 : 1 after 13 days. The crystal was subsequently fished with a nylon
629 loop and flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen and shipped to synchrotron for remote data collection
630 (MXII, ANSTO's Australian Synchrotron). X-ray diffraction images were integrated and scaled
631 using XDS³⁹. Molecular replacement was done via Phaser⁴⁰ using Fv, CH₁/C_L, and RBD from
632 PDB accession code 7C01 as three search components. Structure refinement was performed
633 using both Buster⁴¹ and Phenix Refine⁴² interspersed with manual model correction using
634 Coot⁴³. Complex between Fab14 and RBD proteins were also prepared and set up for
635 crystallization in the same manner. Crystals were obtained in 0.1 M Lithium Chloride, 30%
636 (w/v) PEG 4000 with a protein to buffer ratio of 2 : 1 after 7 days. However only Fab14 was
637 present in the crystal. Data collection and refinement statistics for the Fab06-RBD complex and
638 free Fab14 crystal structure are presented in Table S1. Both structures were deposited on Protein
639 Data Bank with accession number 7WPH (Fab-06-RBD complex) and 7WPV (Fab-14).

640

641 **Antibody blocking of RBD and ACE2 interaction**

642 The Fc-tagged RBD proteins (4 µg/ml) were captured on the protein A biosensor for 300s. Then,
643 the sensors were blocked by a control Fc protein (150 µg/ml) for 200s to occupy the free protein
644 A on the sensor. The serially diluted antibodies (0.041~30 nM) were then incubated with the
645 sensors for 200s to allow antibody and RBD binding. After 10s of baseline in kinetics buffer,
646 the sensors were dipped in to the ACE2 solution (10µg/ml) for 200s to record the response
647 signal. For analysis of the IC₅₀ of the blocking, the ACE2 response values were normalized to
648 the starting points. The blocking percentages at each concentrations were calculated as:
649 (normalized ACE2 response of isotype antibody- normalized ACE2 response of tested
650 antibody)/ normalized ACE2 response of isotype antibody *100. The dose-blocking curves
651 were plotted and the blocking IC₅₀ values were calculated by nonlinear fit in the GraphPad
652 prism 8 Software.

653

654 **Neutralization assays**

655 All SARS-CoV-2 manipulations were conducted at the Biosafety Level-3 facility with the
656 approval from the Institutional Biosafety Committee at the University of Texas Medical Branch.
657 The neutralizing activities of antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 and two escape mutant strains
658 (K444R and E484A) were measured as previously described using mNeonGreen (mNG)
659 reporter viruses²³. Briefly, 1.2×10^4 Vero cells were plated into each well of a black clear flat-
660 bottom 96-well plate (Greiner Bio-One; Cat# 655090). The cells were incubated overnight at
661 37 °C with 5% CO₂. On the following day, serially diluted antibodies were mixed with an equal
662 volume of virus. After 1 h incubation at 37°C, the antibody-virus complexes were inoculated
663 into Vero cell plates with the final MOI of 2. At 20 h post-infection, nuclei were stained by the
664 addition of Hoechst 33342 to a final concentration of 10 µM. Fluorescent images were acquired
665 using a Cytation 7 multimode reader (BioTek). Total cells (in blue) and mNG-positive cells (in
666 green) were counted, and the infection rate was calculated. The relative infection rates were
667 calculated by normalizing the infection rate of each well to that of control wells (no antibody
668 treatment).

669 The neutralizing activities of antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 variants were measured
670 using the plaque reduction neutralization test²³. Briefly, antibodies were 3-fold serially diluted

671 and incubated with 100 plaque forming unit (PFU) of USA-WA1/2020 or mutant SARS-CoV-
672 2. After 1 h incubation at 37 °C, the antibody-virus mixtures were inoculated onto a monolayer
673 of Vero E6 cells pre-seeded on 6-well plates on the previous day. After 1 h of infection at 37°C,
674 2 ml of 2% SeaPlaque™ Agarose (Lonza) in DMEM containing 2% FBS and 1%
675 penicillin/streptomycin (P/S) was added to the cells. After 2 days of incubation, 2 ml of 2%
676 SeaPlaque™ Agarose in DMEM containing 2% FBS, 1% P/S and 0.01% Neutral Red (Sigma)
677 were added on top of the first layer. After another 16 h of incubation at 37°C, plaque numbers
678 were counted. The dilution concentration that suppressed 50% of viral plaques was defined as
679 PRNT₅₀.

680

681 **Molecular docking and MD simulations**

682 An initial model for the CoV2-14 scFv-RBD complex was obtained using the HADDOCK 2.4
683 webserver⁴⁴ by providing the experimental Fab-CoV2-14 structure (this work) and the RBD
684 (PDB access code: 7CJF) X-ray structures as input. An atomic model for the tetravalent bsAb
685 14-H-06 was built by placing one CoV2-06 scFv molecule at each of the C-terminal ends of the
686 CoV2-14 IgG molecule. A (G₄S)₃ linker was then added using MODELLER⁴⁵ to connect each
687 of these CoV2-06 scFv to the CH3 domains of the CoV2-14 IgG. The initial model for the
688 complex between 14-H-06 with four RBD molecules (one RBD bound for each of the four
689 paratopes of IgG-scFv bsAb 14-H-06) was subjected to MD simulations using NAMD 2.12⁴⁶.
690 The system was simulated in a water box where the minimal distance between the solute and
691 the box boundary was 20 Å along all three axes. The charges of the solvated system were
692 neutralized with counter-ions, and the ionic strength of the solvent was set to 150 mM NaCl
693 using VMD⁴⁷. The final system contains over 1.2 million atoms, including proteins, water
694 molecules, and ions. It was subjected to conjugate gradient minimization for 10,000 steps,
695 subsequently heated to 310 K in steps of 5 ps. The system was equilibrated for 5 ns with the
696 backbone atoms constrained by a harmonic potential of the form $U(x)=k(x-x_{ref})^2$, where k is 1
697 kcal mol⁻¹Å⁻² and x_{ref} is the initial atom coordinates. The equilibrated system was simulated for
698 50 ns under the NPT ensemble assuming the CHARMM36 force field for the protein⁴⁸ and
699 assuming the TIP3P model for water molecules. Structure analysis and image production were
700 made using PyMOL (<https://pymol.org>, Schrödinger Inc.) and COOT⁴⁹.

701

702 **ELISA binding titrations of antibodies to RBD mutants**

703 The RBD proteins were coated on Corning high binding assay plates with a concentration of 2
704 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ at 4°C overnight and blocked with 5% skim milk at 37°C for 2 hours. Serially diluted
705 antibodies were added at a volume of $100\ \mu\text{l}$ per well for incubation at 37°C for 2h. The anti-
706 human IgG Fab2 HRP-conjugated antibody was diluted 1:5000 and added at a volume of $100\ \mu\text{l}$
707 per well for incubation at 37°C for 1h. The plates were washed 5 times with PBST (0.05%
708 Tween-20) between incubation steps. TMB substrate was added $100\ \mu\text{l}$ per well for color
709 development for 3mins and $2\ \text{M}\ \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ was added $50\ \mu\text{l}$ per well to stop the reaction. The OD_{450}
710 was read by a SpectraMax microplate reader. The data points were plotted using GraphPad
711 Prism8, and the EC_{50} values were calculated using a three-parameter nonlinear model.

712

713 **Mouse infection models**

714 The animal study was carried out in accordance with the recommendations for care and use of
715 animals by the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, National Institutes of Health. The
716 Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of University of Texas Medical Branch
717 (UTMB) approved the animal studies under protocol 1802011. A previously described mouse
718 infection model was used to evaluate antibody protection. Female BALB/c mice aged 10-12
719 weeks ($n = 10$) were infected intranasally (IN) with 10^4 PFU of mouse-adapted SARS-CoV-2
720 CMA4 strain⁵⁰ or the Beta and Gamma variants²³ in $50\ \mu\text{l}$ of PBS. Animals were injected
721 intraperitoneally (i.p.) with antibodies 6 hours before or 6 hours after viral infection. Two days
722 after infection, lung samples of infected mice were harvested and homogenized in 1 ml PBS
723 using the MagNA Lyser (Roche Diagnostics). The homogenates were clarified by
724 centrifugation at 15,000 rpm for 5 min. The supernatants were collected for measuring
725 infectious viruses by plaque assay on Vero E6 cells.

726 For mouse study with the Delta variant, the 8-10-week-old female K18-hACE2 mice
727 were ordered from The Jackson Laboratory. In experiment set 1, the mice were infected
728 intranasally with 10^3 PFU of SARS-CoV-2 Delta spike variant (ref: NT162b2-elicited
729 neutralization of B.1.617 and other SARS-CoV-2 variants. Nature 596, 273–275 (2021).) in $50\ \mu\text{l}$
730 of PBS. Animals were injected intraperitoneally (i.p.) with antibodies 6 hours and 30 hours
731 after viral infection. The body weight of each mouse was monitored daily. Seven days after
732 infection, lung samples of infected mice were harvested and homogenized in 1 ml PBS for qRT-

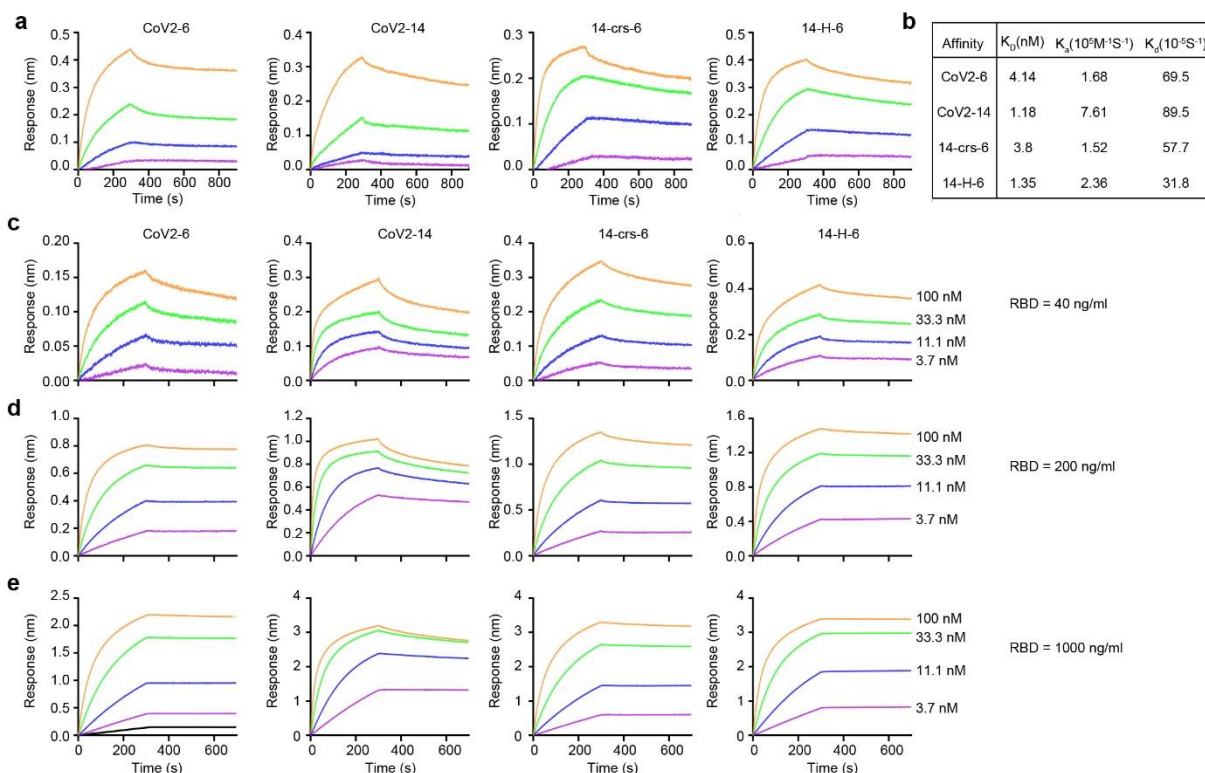
733 PCR analysis as indicated in a previous study²³. In experiment set 2, the mice were infected
734 intranasally with 10^4 PFU of SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant in 50 μ l of PBS. Animals were
735 injected intraperitoneally (i.p.) with antibodies 6 hours after viral infection. The body weight
736 of each mouse was monitored daily. Two days after infection, mouse lung samples were
737 harvested and homogenized in 1 ml PBS for plaque assay as described previously²³.

738

739 **The pharmacokinetics of antibodies in mice**

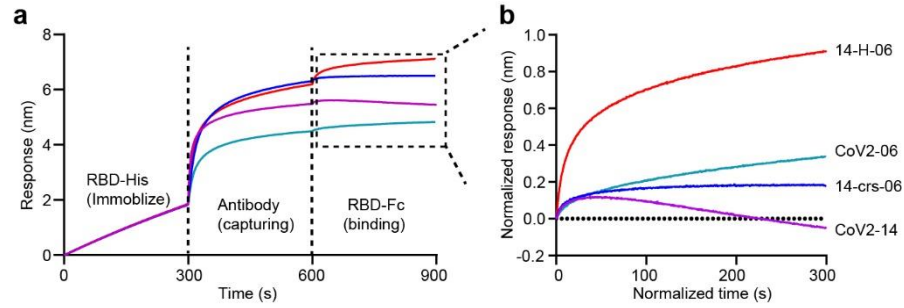
740 Animal experimental protocols were approved by the Animal Welfare Committee at the
741 University of Texas Medical School at Houston. Seven-week-old female BALB/c (Jackson lab,
742 USA) were randomly divided into three groups (5 mice/group) and were injected by i.p with
743 10 mg/kg of antibody. After injection, mouse blood were collected at 4, 8, 24, 72 h, and day 5,
744 day 7, and day 10. Mouse tail vein was used for blood collection, and up to 0.01 ml of serum
745 was needed for quantification by ELISA. The mouse blood was collected using a sterile scalpel
746 blade, nick the lateral tail vein. Mouse blood (2-3 drops) were collected into Eppendorf tubes.
747 For mouse serum collection, the blood samples were stored at room temperature for 1 hour, and
748 then centrifuged the samples for 30 min at 15,000 rpm at 4°C. The mouse serum was carefully
749 transferred to the new 0.5-ml Eppendorf tubes, and stored them at -20°C until assay. The
750 indirect ELISA was used to quantify serum antibody levels. Briefly, the 96-well plates were
751 coated with the wild type RBD antigen for quantitation of CoV2-06 and CoV2-14
752 concentrations, and the E481A RBD antigen for quantitation of 14-H-06. Antigens were coated
753 at the concentration of 2 μ g/ml in PBS (pH 7.2) and incubated at 4 °C overnight. Plates were
754 blocked with PBS supplemented with 3% BSA at room temperature for 1 h. The mouse sera
755 were diluted 400x for incubation for with plates for 2 h at room temperature. The HRP-
756 conjugated goat anti-human IgG-F(ab')₂ was used as the secondary antibody and incubated at
757 room temperature for 1 h. The plate washing, color development steps were the same as
758 described above in ELISA titrations. For analysis of the half-life, the Phoenix 64 WinNonlin
759 (8.3.3.33) software (Certara) was used according to instructions.

760 **Extended Data Figures**



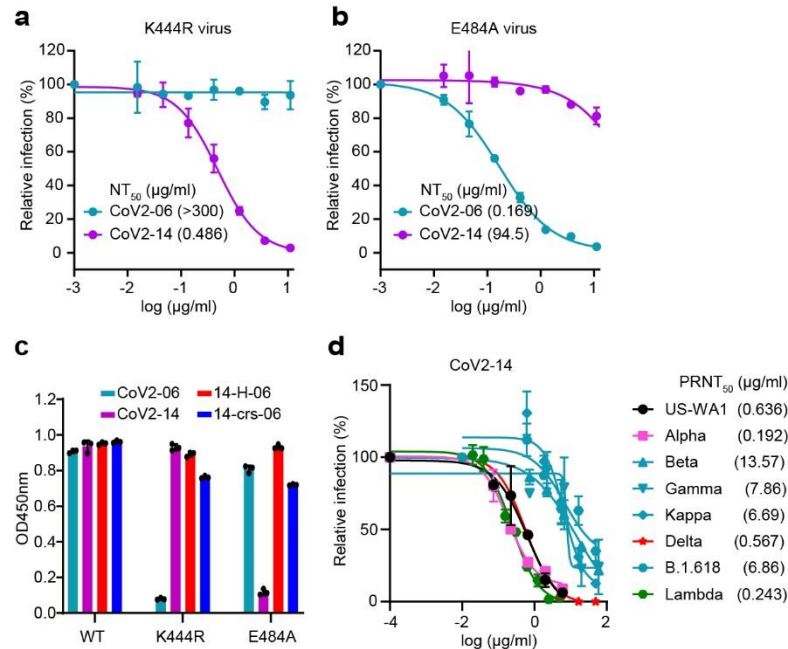
761

762 **Extended Data Fig. 1. Kinetic bindings of the BLI-based affinity and avidity assays. a**, The
 763 sensorgrams of affinity binding for indicated antibodies. Antibodies were immobilized onto the
 764 protein A biosensors and the RBD-His was in solutions. **b**, Summary of the affinity binding
 765 (K_D), the association (K_{on}) and the dissociation (K_{dis}) parameters. **c-e**, The sensorgrams in the
 766 avidity binding for indicated antibodies. The RBD-His was immobilized onto the Ni-NTA
 767 biosensors at concentrations of 40 ng/ml (**c**), 200 ng/ml (**d**) and 1000 ng/ml (**e**) and indicated
 768 antibodies were in solutions.



769

770 **Extended Data Fig. 2. Multivalent binding to RBD by 14-H-06.** Simultaneous binding of
771 antibodies to multiple RBDs was determined by a BLI sandwich assay. **a**, The sensorgrams
772 showing the immobilization of RBD-His for 300s, the capturing of indicated antibodies for
773 300s and the following binding by RBD-Fc for 300s. The binding to RBD-Fc shown in the
774 dashed box was normalized and shown in the panel **b**.



775

776 **Extended Data Fig. 3. Additional binding and neutralizing characterizations of antibody**

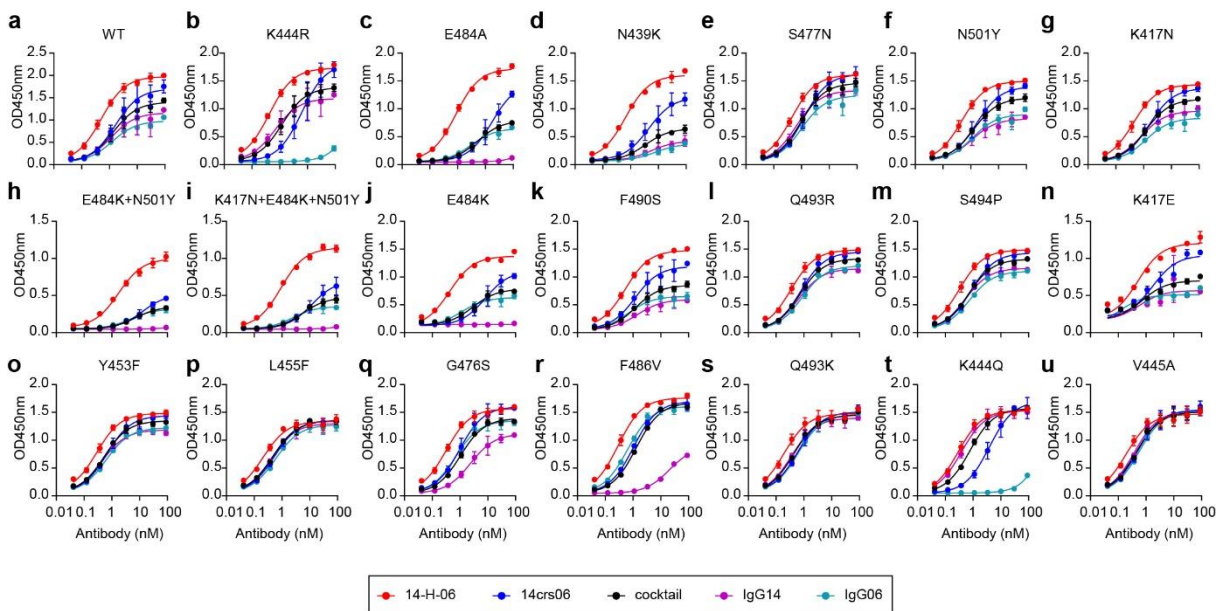
777 **against the variants. (a-b)** Neutralizations of SARS-CoV-2 virus with K444R mutation (a)

778 and E484A mutation (b) by CoV2-06 and CoV2-14. The assay is based on the mNeonGreen

779 reporter virus and the NT₅₀ values are labeled. c, ELISA binding to the WT RBD and the K444R

780 and E484A RBD mutants by indicated antibodies. d, PRNT of CoV2-14 against the SARS-

781 CoV-2 US-WA1 strain and indicated SARS-CoV-2 variants. The PRNT₅₀ values are labeled.



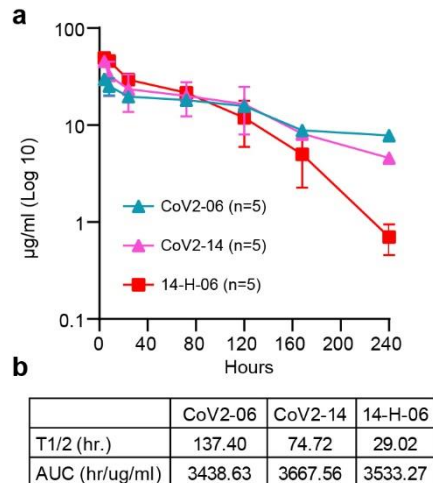
782

783

784

785

Extended Data Fig. 4. ELISA bindings of bsAbs, individual antibodies and the cocktail to wild type and mutant RBDs. a-u, ELISA titrations of indicated antibodies to immobilized WT RBD and RBD mutants. Data points are from duplicate wells.



786

787 **Extended Data Fig. 5. Antibody pharmacokinetics in mice.** **a**, The serum concentrations of
788 injected antibodies at multiple time points (4, 8, 24, and 72 hours 5, 7, 10 days) post injection
789 were quantified by ELISA. **b**, Pharmacokinetics parameters were calculated by non-
790 compartmental analysis using Phoeⁿⁱx 64 WinNonlin (8.3.3.33) software (Certara).

791 **Table S1. Data collection and refinement statistics for crystal structures**

	Fab06-RBD Complex	Fab14
Wavelength (Å)	0.9464	0.9464
Resolution range (Å) ^a	47.55 - 2.89 (2.993 - 2.89)	48.03 - 2.46 (2.548 - 2.46)
Space group	P 2 ₁ 2 ₁ 2	C2
Unit cell a,b,c (Å)	50.17, 266.35, 112.61	77.7, 71.22, 96.76
α,β,γ (°)	90, 90, 90	90, 99.07, 90
Total reflections	363812 (35178)	130818 (11319)
Unique reflections	34882 (3389)	18867 (1696)
Multiplicity	10.4 (10.4)	6.9 (6.7)
Completeness (%)	99.81 (98.86)	98.83 (89.35)
Mean I/sigma(I)	8.31 (1.08)	13.60 (1.81)
Wilson B-factor	63.19	53.73
R _{merge}	0.3153 (2.504)	0.1281 (1.076)
R _{meas}	0.3316 (2.632)	0.1385 (1.165)
R _{pim}	0.1006 (0.7924)	0.05213 (0.4418)
CC _{1/2}	0.994 (0.48)	0.997 (0.765)
CC*	0.998 (0.806)	0.999 (0.931)
Reflections used in refinement	34874 (3388)	18855 (1694)
Reflections used for R-free	1743 (170)	943 (85)
R _{work} ^b	0.2287 (0.3623)	0.2104 (0.3511)
R _{free} ^b	0.2694 (0.4140)	0.2563 (0.3683)
CC _(work)	0.938 (0.656)	0.948 (0.795)
CC _(free)	0.888 (0.374)	0.907 (0.788)
Number of non-hydrogen atoms	9536	3384
protein	9411	3310
NAG	28	
water	97	74
Protein residues	1242	438
RMS(bonds) (Å)	0.012	0.010
RMS(angles) (°)	1.55	1.27
Ramachandran favored (%)	95.43	95.39
Ramachandran allowed (%)	4.57	4.61
Ramachandran outliers (%)	0.00	0.00
Rotamer outliers (%)	0.66	0.00
Clashscore	13.06	8.74
Average B-factor	67.21	57.01
protein	67.34	57.00
water	49.33	57.17

792

793 **Table S2. Engineered mutations in the spike region of recombinant SARS-CoV-2 variants.**

Variants	Spike mutations
Alpha (B.1.1.7)	Δ69-70, Δ145, N501Y, A570D, D614G, P681H, T716I, S982A, and D1118H
Beta (B.1.351)	D80A, D215G, Δ242-244, K417N, E484K, N501Y, D614G, and A701V
Gamma (P.1)	L18F, T20N, P26S, D138Y, R190S, K417T, E484K, N501Y, D614G, H655Y, T1027I, and V1176F
Kappa (B.1.617.1)	G142D, E154K, L452R, E484Q, D614G, P681R, Q1071H, and H1101D
Delta (B.1.617.2)	T19R, G142D, L452R, T478K, D614G, P681R, and D950N
Lambda	G75V, T76I, Δ246-252, D253N, L452Q, F490S, D614G, and T859N
B.1.618	H49Y, Δ145-146, E484K, and D614G
Omicron (B.1.1.529)	A67V, del69-70, T95I, Δ142-144, Y145D, del211, L212I, ins214EPE, G339D, S371L, S373P, S375F, K417N, N440K, G446S, S477N, T478K, E484A, Q493R, G496S, Q498R, N501Y, Y505H, T547K, D614G, H655Y, N679K, P681H, N764K, D796Y, N856K, Q954H, N969K, L981F

794