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(54) Title: ANTIBODIES TO CD70

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to antibodies and antigen binding fragments thereof which bind to the human CD70 protein with high affinity and display potent inhibition of tumour cell growth.

Antibodies to CD70

Technical Field

The present invention relates to antibodies and antigen binding fragments thereof which bind to the human CD70 protein with high affinity and display potent inhibition of tumour cell growth.

Background

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The cytokine receptor CD27 is a member of the tumour necrosis factor receptor (TFNR) superfamily, which play a role in cell growth and differentiation, as well as apoptosis. The ligand for CD27 is CD70, which belongs to the tumour necrosis factor family of ligands. CD70 is a 193 amino acid polypeptide having a 20 amino acid hydrophilic N-terminal domain and a C-terminal domain containing 2 potential N-linked glycosylation sites (Goodwin, R.G. et al. (1993) Cell 73:447-56; Bowman et al. (1994)

15 Immunol 152: 1756-61). Based on these features, CD70 was determined to be a type II transmembrane protein having an extracellular C-terminal portion.

CD70 is transiently found on activated T and B lymphocytes and dendritic cells (Hintzen *et al.* (1994) *J. Immunol.* 152: 1762- 1773; Oshima *et al.* (1998) *Int. Immunol.* 10:517-26; Tesselaar et al. (2003) *J. Immunol.* 170:33-40). In addition to expression on

- 20 normal cells, CD70 expression has been reported in different types of cancers including renal cell carcinomas, metastatic breast cancers, brain tumours, leukemias, lymphomas and nasopharyngeal carcinomas (Junker et al. (2005) *J Urol.* 173:2150-3; Sloan *et al.* (2004) *Am J Pathol.* 164:315-23; Held-Feindt and Mentlein (2002) *Int J Cancer* 98:352-6; Hishima *et al.*(2000) *Am J Surg Pathol.* 24:742-6; Lens *et al.* (1999) Br J Haematol.
- 106:491-503). The interaction of CD70 with CD27 has also been proposed to play a role in cell-mediated autoimmune disease and the inhibition of TNF- alpha production (Nakajima *et al.* (2000) *J. Neuroimmunol.* 109:188-96).

Accordingly, CD70 represents a target for the treatment of cancer, autoimmune disorders and a variety of other diseases characterized by CD70 expression.

WO 2006/0044643 describes CD70 antibodies containing an antibody effector domain which can mediate one or more of ADCC, ADCP, CDC or ADC and either exert a cytostatic or cytotoxic effect on a CD70-expressing cancer or exert an immunosuppressive effect on a CD70-expressing immunological disorder in the absence of conjugation to a cytostatic or cytotoxic agent. The antibodies exemplified therein are based on the antigen-binding regions of two monoclonal antibodies, denoted 1F6 and 2F2.

WO 2007/038637 describes fully human monoclonal antibodies that bind to
 CD70. These antibodies are characterised by binding to human CD70 with a K_D of 1x10⁻⁷ M or less. The antibodies also bind to, and are internalised by, renal cell carcinoma tumor cell lines which express CD70, such as 786-O.

Summary of the invention

10 Provided herein are antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, (referred to herein as CD70 antibodies) which bind to the human CD70 protein and exhibit properties which are different, and generally superior, to CD70 antibodies described in the prior art. The superior properties of these antibodies are advantageous with regard to use in human therapy, particularly treatment of CD70-expressing cancers and also immunological

15 disorders.

The CD70 antibodies described herein are characterised by extremely high binding affinity for human CD70. All preferred embodiments described herein exhibit a binding affinity for recombinant human CD70 (measured by BiacoreTM surface plasmon resonance as described herein) which is significantly higher than the most potent prior art

- 20 CD70 antibodies proposed for human therapy, including prior art CD70 antibodies of "fully human" origin. In addition, all preferred embodiments of the CD70 antibodies described herein exhibit superior (i.e. higher affinity) binding to CD70 expressed on the surface of human cell lines, specifically human cancer cell lines, when compared to prior art CD70 antibodies proposed for human therapy. This superior binding to cell-surface
- 25 CD70 is particularly marked in regard to human cancer cell lines which express CD70 at "low copy number" and is of direct relevance to use of the antibodies in human therapy. Still further, preferred embodiments of the CD70 antibodies described herein exhibit substantially improved binding to cancer cells isolated from human patients, particularly cancer cells isolated from patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL), when 30 compared to prior art CD70 antibodies proposed for human therapeutic use.

Therefore, in a first aspect of the invention there is provided an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, which binds to human CD70, said antibody or antigen binding fragment comprising at least one heavy chain variable domain (VH) and at least

- 2 -

one light chain variable domain (VL), wherein said VH and VL domain exhibit an offrate (k_{off} measured by BiacoreTM) for human CD70 of less than 7 x 10⁻⁴ s⁻¹, when tested as a Fab fragment using the standard BiacoreTM protocol described herein.

In a preferred embodiment the antibody or antigen binding fragment comprises at least one heavy chain variable domain (VH) and at least one light chain variable domain (VL), wherein said VH and VL domain exhibit an off-rate for human CD70 of 5 x 10^{-4} s⁻¹ or less, or 2 x 10^{-4} s⁻¹ or less, or 1 x 10^{-4} s⁻¹ or less. Most preferably the CD70 antibody will exhibit an off-rate for CD70 in the range of from 0.4 x 10^{-4} s⁻¹ to 4.8 x 10^{-4} s⁻¹, when tested as a Fab fragment.

10 There is also provided an antibody which binds to human CD70, said antibody comprising two Fab regions, wherein each of the Fab regions binds to human CD70 and exhibits an off-rate for human CD70 of $5 \ge 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ or less, or $2 \ge 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ or less, or $1 \ge 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ or less and preferably in the range of from 0.4 $\ge 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ to 4.8 $\ge 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$, when tested as a Fab fragment. The two Fab regions may be identical or they may differ in terms of

15 binding properties, e.g. affinity for human CD70. The two Fab regions may bind to the same epitope or overlapping epitopes on human CD70 or they may bind to distinct, nonoverlapping epitopes on human CD70. The two Fab regions may differ from one another in terms of amino acid sequence within one or both of the VH and VL domains.

Preferred embodiments of the CD70 antibodies provided herein may, in addition to the extremely high binding affinity for CD70, exhibit potent blocking or inhibition of the interaction between CD70 and its ligand CD27. The preferred CD70 antibodies which exhibit *both* high affinity binding to CD70 *and* potent blocking of the CD70/CD27 interaction are particularly advantageous as therapeutic agents for treatment of disease indications where blocking of CD70/CD27 signalling enhances therapeutic efficacy (e.g.

in addition to cell-killing mediated by the effector functions of the CD70 antibody), for example autoimmune diseases and cancers which co-express CD70 and CD27.

Not all of the CD70 antibodies described herein exhibit potent blocking of the CD70/CD27 interaction in addition to the high affinity binding to CD70. Also described herein are a number of CD70 antibodies which exhibit very high affinity binding to CD70

30 but do not show significant blocking of the CD70/CD27 interaction. The properties of these antibodies are described elsewhere herein. The availability of high affinity non-blocking CD70 antibodies may enhance/extend the range of therapeutic possibilities.

- 3 -

Preferred embodiments of the CD70 antibodies described herein, exhibiting very high binding affinity for human CD70, are also characterised by a combination of binding properties which is not exhibited by prior art CD70 antibodies proposed for human therapeutic use. Accordingly, the preferred CD70 antibodies described herein are

5 characterised by:

- (a) binding within the amino acid sequence HIQVTLAICSS (SEQ ID NO:342) in human CD70;
- (b) cross-reactivity with CD70 homologs of rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) and cynomolgus monkey (*Macaca cynomolgus*);

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(c) binding to both native human CD70 and heat denatured recombinant human CD70.

This combination of binding properties, which is not exhibited by the prior art antibodies proposed for human therapeutic use, indicates binding to a novel epitope on CD70 which is different to the epitopes bound by prior art CD70 antibodies.

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The combination of binding properties exhibited by the preferred CD70 antibodies is advantageous in the context of human drug development. In particular, cross-reactivity with simian CD70 homologs enables toxicology studies on CD70 antibodies proposed for human therapeutic use to be carried out in primate models.

The preferred CD70 antibodies described herein still further exhibit favourable properties which are relevant to commercial manufacture as a therapeutic antibody product. As discussed elsewhere herein, the preferred CD70 antibodies provided herein exhibit extremely high level expression in the recombinant expression systems utilised for commercial manufacture of clinical grade therapeutic antibody products. The expression levels achievable with the preferred CD70 antibodies far exceed the levels typically

25 achieved even for "fully human" therapeutic antibody products. In addition, the preferred CD70 antibody products (produced by recombinant expression in a format suitable for human therapeutic use) exhibit outstanding thermal stability, which is superior to typical therapeutic antibody products.

The CD70 antibodies provided herein with superior binding affinity for human 30 CD70 and the other advantageous properties listed above are camelid-derived (for example llama-derived). The camelid-derived CD70 antibodies may be isolated or recombinantly expressed monoclonal antibodies. Preferred embodiments may be a humanised (or germlined) monoclonal antibody (e.g. a humanised variant of a camelid-

- 4 -

WO 2012/123586

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PCT/EP2012/054733

derived antibody), a chimeric antibody (e.g. a camelid-human chimeric antibody) or a humanised chimeric antibody (e.g. a chimeric antibody comprising humanised variants of camelid VH and VL domains and constant domains of a human antibody).

Camelid-derived CD70 antibodies may comprise at least one hypervariable loop
or complementarity determining region obtained from a VH domain or a VL domain of a species in the family Camelidae. In a particular embodiment, the CD70 antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, may comprise a heavy chain variable domain (VH) and light chain variable domain (VL), wherein the VH and VL domains, or one or more CDRs thereof, are camelid-derived. In particular embodiments the antibody or antigen

10 binding fragment thereof may comprise llama VH and VL domains, or human germlined variants of llama VH and VL domains. This antibody, or antigen binding fragment, may exhibit "high human homology", as defined herein.

The camelid-derived CD70 antibodies described herein typically exhibit VH and/or VL region amino acid sequences having at least 90% (e.g., 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%,

15 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99%) sequence identity the closest matching human antibody germline sequence.

Further preferred embodiments of the invention include humanised (or human germlined) variants of the camelid-derived CD70 antibodies. In particular, the invention provides humanised or human germlined variants of the llama-derived CD70 antibodies described herein.

In a further aspect of invention there is provided a chimeric camelid-human antibody which binds human CD70, wherein the antigen-binding portions of the antibody (e.g. VH and/or VL domains or CDRs thereof) are camelid-derived and the constant regions of the antibody are derived from a human antibody. In particular, the invention provides a chimeric llama-human antibody which binds human CD70.

In a further aspect of invention there is provided a humanised variant of a chimeric camelid-human antibody which binds human CD70, wherein the antigenbinding portions of the antibody (e.g. VH and/or VL domains or CDRs thereof) are humanised variants of camelid-derived sequences and the constant regions of the

30 antibody are derived from a human antibody. In particular, the invention provides a humanised variant of a chimeric llama-human antibody which binds human CD70.

- 5 -

Preferred (but non-limiting) embodiments of the CD70 antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, are defined below by reference to specific structural characteristics, i.e. specified amino acid sequences of either the CDRs (one or more of SEQ ID Nos: 49-59, 262 or 263 (heavy chain CDR3), or SEQ ID Nos: 26-37, 249, 258 or 259 (heavy chain CDP2) or SEO ID Nos: 10 20, 248, 256 or 257 (heavy chain CDP1) or

- 5 259 (heavy chain CDR2) or SEQ ID Nos: 10-20, 248, 256 or 257 (heavy chain CDR1) or one of the CDR sequences shown as SEQ ID NOs: 148-168, 271 or 273 (light chain CDR3), or SEQ ID Nos: 109-128 or 270 (light chain CDR2) or SEQ ID Nos:77-95, or 250-253, 267 or 268 (light chain CDR1), or entire variable domains (one or more of SEQ ID NOs: 177-188, 212-223, 274 or 275 (VH) or SEQ ID Nos:189-211, 230-245, 276 or
- 10 277 (VL)). All of these antibodies bind to human CD70 with high affinity, exhibiting an off-rate for human CD70 of 5 x 10^{-4} s⁻¹ or less, and typically in the range of from 0.4 x 10^{-4} s⁻¹ to 4.8 x 10^{-4} s⁻¹, when tested as a Fab fragment.

The invention also provides humanised/germlined variants of these antibodies, plus affinity variants and variants containing conservative amino acid substitutions, as

- 15 defined herein. Specifically provided are chimeric antibodies containing VH and VL domains which are camelid-derived, or human germlined variants thereof, fused to constant domains of human antibodies, in particular human IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 or IgG4. The heavy chain variable domains defined above can be utilised as single domain antibodies, or may be included within a conventional four-chain antibody or other antigen
- 20 binding proteins, such as for example Fab, Fab', F(ab')2, bi-specific Fab's, and Fv fragments, diabodies, linear antibodies, single-chain antibody molecules, a single chain variable fragment (scFv) and multispecific antibodies.

Preferred embodiments of the CD70 antibodies are antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, comprising a heavy chain variable domain comprising a variable heavy chain CDR3, a variable heavy chain CDR2 and a variable heavy chain CDR1, wherein said variable heavy chain CDR3 comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

SEQ ID NO:49, SEQ ID NO:50, SEQ ID NO:51, SEQ ID NO:52, SEQ ID NO:53, SEQ
30 ID NO:54, SEQ ID NO:55, SEQ ID NO:56, SEQ ID NO:57, SEQ ID NO:58, SEQ ID
NO:59, SEQ ID NO:262 and SEQ ID NO:263, and sequence variants of any one of the recited sequences, wherein the sequence variant comprises one, two or three amino acid substitutions in the recited sequence;

- 6 -

said variable heavy chain CDR2 optionally comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 306 $[X_1X_2X_3X_4X_5X_6X_7X_8X_9YYADSVKX_{10}]$, wherein

X₁ is any amino acid, preferably D, T, S or E,

- 5 X₂ is any amino acid, preferably I,
 X₃ is any amino acid, preferably N, S, T or Y,
 X₄ is any amino acid, preferably N, M, S or T,
 X₅ is any amino acid, preferably E, D, Y or H,
 X₆ is any amino acid, preferably G, D, S or N,
 10 X₇ is any amino acid, preferably G, Y, S, D or M,
- X_8 is any amino acid, preferably T, E, S, N, Y or R, X_9 is any amino acid, preferably T, A or R, and X_{10} is any amino acid, preferably G or S,

and the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ

15 ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:249, SEQ ID NO:258 and SEQ ID NO:259 and sequence variants of any one of the recited sequences, wherein the sequence variant comprises one, two or three amino acid substitutions in the recited sequence; and

said variable heavy chain CDR1 optionally comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 307

20 $[X_1 \underline{YYMN}]$, wherein

X₁ is any amino acid, preferably V, G or A,

amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 308 [X1X2AMS], wherein

X₁ is any amino acid, preferably D, T, S, N or G and

X₂ is any amino acid, preferably Y, S or P,

25 and the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:248, SEQ ID NO:256 and SEQ ID NO:257 and sequence variants of any one of the recited sequences, wherein the sequence variant comprises one, two or three amino acid substitutions in the recited sequence.

The heavy chain variable domain may comprise any one of the listed variable 30 heavy chain CDR3 sequences (HCDR3) in combination with any one of the variable heavy chain CDR2 sequences (HCDR2) and any one of the variable heavy chain CDR1 sequences (HCDR1). However, certain combinations of HCDR3 and HCDR2 and HCDR1 are particularly preferred, these being the "native" combinations which derive

WO 2012/123586

PCT/EP2012/054733

from a single common VH domain. These preferred combinations are listed in Table 6 and Table 14A.

The antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof may additionally comprise a light chain variable domain (VL), which is paired with the VH domain to form an antigen

- 5 binding domain. Preferred light chain variable domains are those comprising a variable light chain CDR3, a variable light chain CDR2 and a variable light chain CDR1, wherein said variable light chain CDR3 comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:148, SEQ ID NO:149, SEQ ID NO:150, SEQ ID NO:151, SEQ ID NO:152, SEQ ID NO:153, SEQ ID NO:154, SEQ ID NO:155, SEQ ID
- 10 NO:156, SEQ ID NO:157, SEQ ID NO:158, SEQ ID NO:159, SEQ ID NO:160, SEQ ID NO:161, SEQ ID NO:162, SEQ ID NO:163, SEQ ID NO:164, SEQ ID NO:165, SEQ ID NO:166, SEQ ID NO:166, SEQ ID NO:168, SEQ ID NO:271 and SEQ ID NO:273 and sequence variants of any one of the recited sequences, wherein the sequence variant comprises one, two or three amino acid substitutions in the recited sequence;

15	said variable light chain CDR2 optionally comprises an amino acid sequenc	ce
	selected from the group consisting of:	

(a) amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 310 $[X_1TX_2X_3RHS]$, wherein

X₁ is any amino acid, preferably N or S,

X₂ is any amino acid, preferably N, S or A, and

 X_3 is any amino acid, preferably S, N or T,

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(b) amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: $311 [\underline{YYSDS}X_1X_2X_3QX_4S]$, wherein

X₁ is any amino acid, preferably Y, V or L,

X₂ is any amino acid, preferably K or S,

X₃ is any amino acid, preferably H or N, and

X₄ is any amino acid, preferably G or S,

(c) amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 312 [X₁NX₂NRPS], wherein

X₁ is any amino acid, preferably V, I or Y, and

X₂ is any amino acid, preferably N or T,

- (d) amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 313 [$\underline{GDN}X_1X_2PL$], wherein
 - X_1 is any amino acid, preferably Y, and
 - X₂ is any amino acid, preferably R or M,
- (e) amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:314 $[X_1DDX_2RPS]$, wherein
 - X₁ is any amino acid, preferably D or G, and

X₂ is any amino acid, preferably S or I,

and the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:113, SEQ ID NO:116, SEQ ID NO:120 and SEQ ID NO:270, and sequence variants of any one of the recited sequences, wherein the sequence variant comprises one, two or three amino acid substitutions in the recited

5 sequence; and

said variable light chain CDR1 optionally comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:315 [GLX1SGSX2TX3X4X5YPX6], wherein

X₁ is any amino acid, preferably S or T,

 X_2 is any amino acid, preferably V or A,

 X_3 is any amino acid, preferably S or T,

X₄ is any amino acid, preferably S, T or G,

X₅ is any amino acid, preferably N or H,

X₆ is any amino acid, preferably G, D or E,

15 (b) amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:316 [$\underline{TL}X_1\underline{S}X_2X_3X_4X_5\underline{G}X_6\underline{YDIS}$], wherein

X₁ is any amino acid, preferably S, N or I,

X₂ is any amino acid, preferably G or A,

X₃ is any amino acid, preferably N or D,

X₄ is any amino acid, preferably N or S,

20 X_5 is any amino acid, preferably V or I,

X₆ is any amino acid, preferably N or S,

(c) amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:317 [OGGNLX1LYGAN], wherein

X₁ is any amino acid, preferably G or W,

- (d) amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:318 [RGD $X_1LX_2X_3Y_4X_5N$], wherein
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 X_1 is any amino acid, preferably S or T,

X₂ is any amino acid, preferably E or R,

X₃ is any amino acid, preferably R or N,

X₄ is any amino acid, preferably G or H,

X₅ is any amino acid, preferably T or A,

30 (e) amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:319 [$\underline{G}X_1X_2\underline{SGS}V\underline{T}SX_3NF\underline{P}T$], wherein

X₁ is any amino acid, preferably V or L,

X₂ is any amino acid, preferably K or T,

X₃ is any amino acid, preferably T or D,

and the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:82, SEQ ID NO:87, SEQ ID NO:88, SEQ ID NO:250, SEQ ID NO:251, SEQ ID NO: 252, SEQ ID NO:253, SEQ ID NO:267 and SEQ ID NO:268 and sequence variants of any one of the recited sequences, wherein the sequence variant comprises one, two or three amino acid substitutions in the recited sequence

5 sequence.

The light chain variable domain may comprise any one of the listed variable light chain CDR3 sequences (LCDR3) in combination with any one of the variable light chain CDR2 sequences (LCDR2) and any one of the variable light chain CDR1 sequences (LCDR1). However, certain combinations of LCDR3 and LCDR2 and LCDR1 are

10 particularly preferred, these being the "native" combinations which derive from a single common VL domain. These preferred combinations are listed in Table 7 and Table 15A.

Any given CD70 antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof comprising a VH domain paired with a VL domain to form a binding site for CD70 antigen will comprise a combination of 6 CDRs: variable heavy chain CDR3 (HCDR3), variable heavy chain

CDR2 (HCDR2), variable heavy chain CDR1 (HCDR1), variable light chain CDR3 (LCDR3), variable light chain CDR2 (LCDR2) and variable light chain CDR1 (LCDR1). Although all combinations of 6 CDRs selected from the CDR sequence groups listed above are permissible, and within the scope of the invention, certain combinations of 6 CDRs are particularly preferred; these being the "native" combinations within a single
 Fab exhibiting high affinity binding to human CD70.

Preferred combinations of 6 CDRs include, but are not limited to, the combinations of variable heavy chain CDR3 (HCDR3), variable heavy chain CDR2 (HCDR2), variable heavy chain CDR1 (HCDR1), variable light chain CDR3 (LCDR3), variable light chain CDR2 (LCDR2) and variable light chain CDR1 (LCDR1) selected

- from the group consisting of:
 (i) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:50, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:27, HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:11, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:160, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:119, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:250;
 (ii) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:49, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:26, HCDR1
- 30 comprising SEQ ID NO:10, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:148, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:109, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:77;

(iii) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:50, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:27, HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:11, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:149, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:110, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:78;

(iv) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:50, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:28, HCDR1
comprising SEQ ID NO:11, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:150, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:111, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:79;
(v) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:50, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:28, HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:11, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:151, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:110, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:80;

- (vi) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:51, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:29, HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:12, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 152, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:110, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:80;
 (vii) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:52, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:30, HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:13, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:153, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:153, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:153, LCDR3 compring SEQ ID NO:153, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:153, LCDR3
- SEQ ID NO: 112, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:81;
 (viii) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:53, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:31, HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:14, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:154, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:113, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:82;
 (ix) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:54, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:32, HCDR1
- 20 comprising SEQ ID NO:15, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:155, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:114, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:83;
 (x) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:55, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:33, HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:16, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:156, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:115, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:84;
- (xi) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:56, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:34, HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:17, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:157, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:116, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:85;
 (xii) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:57, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:35, HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 18, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:158 , LCDR2 comprising
- SEQ ID NO: 117, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 84;
 (xiii) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 58, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 36, HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 19, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 159, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 118, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 86;

(xiv) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 50, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 27, HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 11, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 161, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO:120, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:88;

(xv) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 50, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 27, HCDR1

- comprising SEQ ID NO: 11, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 162, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 121, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 89;
 (xvi) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 50, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 27, HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 11, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 163, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 122, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 90;
- 10 (xvii) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 51, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 29, HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 12, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 164, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 123, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO:91; (xviii) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 51, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 29, HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 12, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 164, LCDR2
- comprising SEQ ID NO: 124, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 91;
 (xix) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 59, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 37, HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 12, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 165, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 125, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 92;
 (xx) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 59, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 37, HCDR1
- 20 comprising SEQ ID NO: 20, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 165, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 126, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 93;
 (xxi) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 59, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 37, HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 20, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 166, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 127, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 92;
- (xxii) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO:59, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 37,
 HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 20, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 167, LCDR2
 comprising SEQ ID NO: 128, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 94;
 (xxiii) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 59, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 37,
 HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 20, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 168, LCDR2
- comprising SEQ ID NO: 110, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 95;
 (xxiv) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 262, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 258,
 HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 256, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 271, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 110, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 267;

(xxv) HCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 263, HCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 259, HCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 257, LCDR3 comprising SEQ ID NO: 273, LCDR2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 270, and LCDR1 comprising SEQ ID NO: 268.

- Further preferred CD70 antibodies, exhibiting high affinity binding to human
 CD70, include isolated antibodies or antigen binding fragments thereof, comprising a heavy chain variable domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:177, SEQ ID NO:178, SEQ ID NO:179, SEQ ID NO:180, SEQ ID NO:181, SEQ ID NO:182, SEQ ID NO:183, SEQ ID NO:184, SEQ ID NO:185, SEQ ID NO:186, SEQ ID NO:187, SEQ ID NO:188, SEQ ID NO:188, SEQ ID NO:184, SEQ ID NO:185, SEQ ID NO:186, SEQ ID NO:187, SEQ ID NO:188, S
- NO:212, SEQ ID NO:213, SEQ ID NO:214, SEQ ID NO:215, SEQ ID NO:216, SEQ ID NO:217, SEQ ID NO:218, SEQ ID NO:219, SEQ ID NO:220, SEQ ID NO:221, SEQ ID NO:222, SEQ ID NO:223, SEQ ID NO:224, SEQ ID NO:225, SEQ ID NO:226, SEQ ID NO:227, SEQ ID NO:228, SEQ ID NO:229, SEQ ID NO:274 and SEQ ID NO:275 and amino acid sequences exhibiting at least 90%, 95%, 97%, 98% or 99% sequence identity
- to one of the recited sequences, and optionally comprising a light chain variable domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:189, SEQ ID NO:190, SEQ ID NO:191, SEQ ID NO:192, SEQ ID NO:193, SEQ ID NO:194, SEQ ID NO:195, SEQ ID NO:196, SEQ ID NO:197, SEQ ID NO:198, SEQ ID NO:199, SEQ ID NO:200, SEQ ID NO:201, SEQ ID NO:202, SEQ
- ID NO:203, SEQ ID NO:204, SEQ ID NO:205, SEQ ID NO:206, SEQ ID NO:207, SEQ
 ID NO:208, SEQ ID NO:209, SEQ ID NO:210, SEQ ID NO:211, SEQ ID NO:223, SEQ
 ID NO:230, SEQ ID NO:231, SEQ ID NO:232, SEQ ID NO:233, SEQ ID NO:234, SEQ
 ID NO:234, SEQ ID NO:236, SEQ ID NO:237, SEQ ID NO:238, SEQ ID NO:239, SEQ
 ID NO:240, SEQ ID NO:241, SEQ ID NO:242, SEQ ID NO:243, SEQ ID NO:244, SEQ
- ID NO:245, SEQ ID NO:245, SEQ ID NO:247, SEQ ID NO:248, SEQ ID NO:276 and SEQ ID NO:277 and amino acid sequences exhibiting at least 90%, 95%, 97%, 98% or 99% sequence identity to one of the recited sequences.

Although all possible pairings of VH domains and VL domains selected from the 30 VH and VL domain sequence groups listed above are permissible, and within the scope of the invention, certain combinations VH and VL are particularly preferred; these being the "native" combinations within a single Fab exhibiting high affinity binding to human CD70. Accordingly, preferred CD70 antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof,

- 13 -

exhibiting high affinity CD70 binding are those comprising a combination of a heavy chain variable domain (VH) and a light chain variable domain (VL), wherein the combination is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID

5 NO:223 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:241 ;

(ii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ IDNO:177 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQID NO:189;

(iii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID
 NO:178 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ
 ID NO: 190;

(iv) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ IDNO:179 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ

15 ID NO:191;

(v) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ IDNO:179 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQID NO:192;

(vi) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID

20 NO:180 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:193;

(vii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ IDNO:181 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQID NO:194;

(viii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID
 NO:182 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ
 ID NO:195;

(ix) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ IDNO:183 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ

- 30 ID NO:196;
 - (x) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ IDNO:184 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQID NO:197;

(xi) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ IDNO:185 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQID NO:198;

(xii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID

5 NO:186 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:199;

(xiii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ IDNO:187 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQID NO:200 ;

10 (xiv) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID
 NO:178 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ
 ID NO:201;

(xv) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:178 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ

15 ID NO:202 ;

(xvi) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ IDNO:178 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQID NO:203 ;

(xvii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID

20 NO:178 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:204;

(xviii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:180 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:205;

(xix) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID
 NO:180 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ
 ID NO:206;

(xx) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:188 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ

30 ID NO:207;

(xxi) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:188 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:208; (xxii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:188 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:209;

(xxiii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID

5 NO:188 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:210;

(xxiv) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:188 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:211;

10 (xxv) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID
 NO:274 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ
 ID NO:276;

(xxvi) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:275 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ

15 ID NO:277.

20

For each of the specific VH/VL combinations listed above, it is also permissible, and within the scope of the invention, to combine a VH domain having an amino acid sequence at least 90%, 92%, 95%, 97% or 99% identical to the recited VH domain sequence with a VL domain having an amino acid sequence at least 90%, 92%, 95%, 97% or 99% identical to the recited VL domain sequence.

In the preceding paragraph, and elsewhere herein, the structure of the antibodies/antigen binding fragments is defined on the basis of % sequence identity with a recited reference sequence (with a given SEQ ID NO). In this context, % sequence identity between two amino acid sequences may be determined by comparing these two

- 25 sequences aligned in an optimum manner and in which the amino acid sequence to be compared can comprise additions or deletions with respect to the reference sequence for an optimum alignment between these two sequences. The percentage of identity is calculated by determining the number of identical positions for which the amino acid residue is identical between the two sequences, by dividing this number of identical
- 30 positions by the total number of positions in the comparison window and by multiplying the result obtained by 100 in order to obtain the percentage of identity between these two sequences. Typically, the comparison window with correspond to the full length of the sequence being compared. For example, it is possible to use the BLAST program,

"BLAST 2 sequences" (Tatusova et al, "Blast 2 sequences - a new tool for comparing protein and nucleotide sequences", FEMS Microbiol Lett. 174:247-250) available on the site http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/ gorf/bl2.html, the parameters used being those given by default (in particular for the parameters "open gap penalty": 5, and "extension gap

- 5 penalty": 2; the matrix chosen being, for example, the matrix "BLOSUM 62" proposed by the program), the percentage of identity between the two sequences to be compared being calculated directly by the program.
- The most preferred CD70 antibodies provided herein, which exhibit a particularly advantageous combination of properties, including extremely high affinity binding to human CD70, are those based on the antigen-binding portion of the llama-derived Fab denoted 27B3 in the accompanying examples, plus human germlined variants of 27B3, including the germlined variants identified in the accompanying examples. 27B3 and its germlined variants, particularly variants based on the CDRs or complete variable domains
- 15 of variant 41D12, exhibit an extremely advantageous combination of properties, summarised as follows: high affinity binding to recombinant human CD70, strong binding to cell surface CD70, specifically binding to CD70 expressed on cancer cell lines, particularly cell lines which express CD70 at "low copy number" and strong binding to cancer cells isolated from patient samples (CLL), potent blocking of the CD70/CD27
- 20 interaction, potent effector function particularly when expressed as a chimera with human IgG1 constant regions, and especially when expressed as a non-fucosylated IgG1, cross-reactivity with CD70 homologs of rhesus macaque and cynomolgus monkey enabling toxicology studies in primate species, binding to both native (i.e. cell-surface) and heat denatured CD70, partial or low levels of internalisation on certain cancer cell
- 25 lines. All of these characteristics in combination render 41D12, and indeed other 27B3 variants and the other CD70 antibodies described herein which exhibit similar properties, an outstanding candidate for therapeutic use in the treatment of CD70-associated diseases, specifically CD70-expressing cancers and immunological disorders.

27B3, and its variants, are characterised by the presence of the heavy chainvariable CDR3 sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:50 (DAGYSNHVPIFDS).

Accordingly, preferred embodiments of the CD70 antibody, or antigen binding fragments thereof, are those comprising a heavy chain variable domain wherein the variable heavy chain CDR3 comprises or consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID

- 17 -

WO 2012/123586

PCT/EP2012/054733

NO:50 or a sequence variant thereof, wherein the sequence variant comprises one, two or three amino acid substitutions in the recited sequence.

More preferred embodiments are antibodies or antigen binding fragments thereof which include the same combination of heavy chain CDRs as 27B3, or human germlined

5 variants of 27B3. Accordingly, the antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof, may comprise a heavy chain variable domain wherein

the variable heavy chain CDR3 comprises or consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:50 or a sequence variant thereof;

the variable heavy chain CDR2 comprises or consists of an amino acid sequence
selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:249 and sequence
variants thereof; and

the variable heavy chain CDR1 comprises or consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:248 and sequence variants thereof, wherein the sequence variants comprise one, two or three amino acid

15 substitutions (e.g., conservative substitutions, humanising substitutions or affinity variants) in the recited sequence.

Any combination of HCDR3, HCDR2 and HCDR1 from within the recited groups of CDR sequences is permissible, and within the scope of the invention, however certain combinations are particular preferred. Accordingly, in preferred embodiments the antigen

- 20 or antigen binding fragment thereof may comprise a heavy chain variable domain wherein the combination of HCDR3, HCDR2 and HCDR1 is selected from the following:
 - (a) the variable heavy chain CDR3 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:50
 (DAGYSNHVPIFDS) or a sequence variant thereof;
 the variable heavy chain CDR2 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:27
- (DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG) or a sequence variant thereof; and the variable heavy chain CDR1 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:11 (VYYMN) or a sequence variant thereof, wherein the sequence variants comprises one, two or three amino acid substitutions(e.g., conservative substitutions, humanising substitutions or affinity
 variants) in the recited sequence;
 - (b) the variable heavy chain CDR3 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:50 (RDAGYSNHVPIFDS) or a sequence variant thereof;

the variable heavy chain CDR2 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:249 (DINNEGGATYYADSVKG) or a sequence variant thereof; and the variable heavy chain CDR1 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:11 (VYYMN) or a sequence variant thereof,

- 5 wherein the sequence variants comprises one, two or three amino acid substitutions(e.g., conservative substitutions, humanising substitutions or affinity variants) in the recited sequence.
 - (c) the variable heavy chain CDR3 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:50 (DAGYSNHVPIFDS) or a sequence variant thereof;
- the variable heavy chain CDR2 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:27
 (DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG) or a sequence variant thereof; and
 the variable heavy chain CDR1 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:248
 (GYYMN) or a sequence variant thereof,
 wherein the sequence variants comprises one, two or three amino acid
 substitutions (e.g., conservative substitutions, humanising substitutions or affinity
- substitutions (e.g., conservative substitutions, humanising substitutions or affinity variants) in the recited sequence.

In preferred embodiments, the antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof also includes a light chain variable domain (VL), paired with the heavy chain variable domain,

20 In the preferred light chain variable domains, the variable light chain CDR3 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:160 or a sequence variant thereof;

the variable light chain CDR2 comprises or consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:119, SEQ ID NO:110 and sequence variants of the recited sequences; and

25 the variable light chain CDR1 comprises or consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:87, SEQ ID NO:250, SEQ ID NO:251, SEQ ID NO:252, SEQ ID NO:253 and sequence variants of the recited sequences, and

wherein the sequence variants comprise one, two or three amino acid substitutions
30 (e.g., conservative substitutions, humanising substitutions or affinity variants) in the recited sequences.

Any combination of LCDR3, LCDR2 and LCDR1 from within the recited groups of light chain CDR sequences is permissible, and within the scope of the invention,

however certain combinations are particular preferred. Accordingly, in preferred embodiments the antigen or antigen binding fragment thereof may comprise a light chain variable domain wherein the combination of LCDR3, LCDR2 and LCDR1 is selected from the following:

5	(a) the variable light chain CDR3 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:160	
	(ALFISNPSVE) or a sequence variant thereof;	
	the variable light chain CDR2 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:119	
	(NTNTRHS) or a sequence variant thereof; and	
	the variable light chain CDR1 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:250	
10	(GLKSGSVTSDNFPT) or a sequence variant thereof,	
	wherein the sequence variants comprises one, two or three amino acid	
	substitutions (e.g., conservative substitutions, humanising substitutions or	r affinity
	variants) in the recited sequence;	
	(b) the variable light chain CDR3 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:160	
15	(ALFISNPSVE) or a sequence variant thereof;	
	the variable light chain CDR2 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:119	
	(NTNTRHS) or a sequence variant thereof; and	
	the variable light chain CDR1 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:87	
	(GLKSGSVTSTNFPT) or a sequence variant thereof,	
20	wherein the sequence variants comprises one, two or three amino acid	
	substitutions (e.g., conservative substitutions, humanising substitutions of	r affinity
	variants) in the recited sequence.	
	Other preferred light chain CDR combinations for human "germlined" va	riants of
	27B3 are given in Table 15A.	
25	The most preferred embodiment of the CD70 antibody or antigen binding	5
	fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable domain (VH) and a light chai	n
	variable domain (VL) wherein the combination of 6 CDRs which forms the bind	ing site
	for human CD70 is as follows:	
	the variable heavy chain CDR3 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:50	
30	(DAGYSNHVPIFDS) or a sequence variant thereof;	
	the variable heavy chain CDR2 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:27	

(DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG) or a sequence variant thereof;

the variable heavy chain CDR1 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:11 (VYYMN) or a sequence variant thereof;

the variable light chain CDR3 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:160 (ALFISNPSVE) or a sequence variant thereof;

5

the variable light chain CDR2 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:119 (NTNTRHS) or a sequence variant thereof; and

the variable light chain CDR1 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:250 (GLKSGSVTSDNFPT) or a sequence variant thereof,

wherein the sequence variants comprises one, two or three amino acid
substitutions(e.g., conservative substitutions, humanising substitutions or affinity variants) in the recited sequence.

Other preferred combinations of 6 CDRs are those "native" combinations which occur in the human germlined variants of 27B3 listed in Tables 14A (heavy chains) and 15A (light chains).

15

In the foregoing preferred embodiments based on 27B3 and its germlined variants, the antibody preferably includes the CH1 domain, hinge region, CH2 domain and CH3 domain of a human antibody, in particular human IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 or IgG4. The most preferred embodiment is a human IgG1. It is still further preferred for the human IgG1 to be engineering to maximise effector function in one or more of antibody-dependent

20 cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC), complement-dependent cytotoxicity (CDC) or antibodydependent cellular phagocytosis (ADCP). Particularly preferred is a non-fucosylated human IgG1, e.g. a non-fucosylated IgG1 produced using the Potelligent[™] technology of BioWa Inc.

Further preferred CD70 antibodies, exhibiting high affinity binding to human

- 25 CD70, based on the Fab denoted 27B3 and human germlined variants of 27B3, include isolated antibodies or antigen binding fragments thereof, comprising a heavy chain variable domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:178, SEQ ID NO:212, SEQ ID NO:213, SEQ ID NO:214, SEQ ID NO:215, SEQ ID NO:216, SEQ ID NO:217, SEQ ID NO:218, SEQ ID
- 30 NO:219, SEQ ID NO:220, SEQ ID NO:221, SEQ ID NO:222, SEQ ID NO:223, SEQ ID NO:224, SEQ ID NO:225, SEQ ID NO:226, SEQ ID NO:227, SEQ ID NO:228, SEQ ID NO:229, SEQ ID NO:274 and SEQ ID NO:275 and amino acid sequences exhibiting at least 90%, 95%, 97%, 98% or 99% sequence identity to one of the recited sequences,

WO 2012/123586

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PCT/EP2012/054733

and optionally comprising a light chain variable domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:201, SEQ ID NO:230, SEQ ID NO:231, SEQ ID NO:232, SEQ ID NO:233, SEQ ID NO:234, SEQ ID NO:234, SEQ ID NO:236, SEQ ID NO:237, SEQ ID NO:238, SEQ ID NO:239, SEQ ID NO:240, SEQ ID NO:241, SEQ ID NO:242, SEQ ID NO:243, SEQ ID NO:244, SEQ ID NO:245, SEQ ID NO:245, SEQ ID NO:247, SEQ ID NO:248, SEQ ID NO:276 and SEQ ID NO:277 and amino acid sequences exhibiting at least 90%, 95%, 97%, 98% or 99% sequence identity to one of the recited sequences.

10 Although all possible pairings of VH domains and VL domains selected from the VH and VL domain sequence groups listed above are permissible, and within the scope of the invention, certain combinations VH and VL are particularly preferred; these being the "native" combinations within a single Fab exhibiting high affinity binding to human CD70. In the case of the germlined variants of 27B3 recited in Tables 14B and 15B, it

- 15 may be preferred to retain the original VH/VL pairing Accordingly, preferred CD70 antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, exhibiting high affinity CD70 binding are those comprising a combination of a heavy chain variable domain and a light chain variable domain, wherein the combination is selected from the group consisting of: (i) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID
- 20 NO:223 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:241 ;

(ii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ IDNO:178 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQID NO: 190;

(iii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID
 NO:212 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ
 ID NO: 230

(iv) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ IDNO:213 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ

30 ID NO:231;

(v) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ IDNO:214 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQID NO:232;

(vi) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ IDNO:215 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQID NO:235;

(vii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID

5 NO:216 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:234;

(viii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:217 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:235;

(ix) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID
 NO:218 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ
 ID NO:236;

(x) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:219 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ

15 ID NO:237;

(xi) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ IDNO:220 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQID NO:238;

(xii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID

20 NO:221 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:239;

(xiii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:222 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:240;

(xiv) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID
 NO:224 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ
 ID NO:242;

(xv) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ IDNO:225 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ

30 ID NO:243;

(xvi) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:226 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:244; (xvii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:227 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:245;

(xviii) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID

5 NO:228 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:246;

(xix) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:229 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:247;

10 (xx) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID
 NO:223 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ
 ID NO:244;

(xxi) a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:223 and a light chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ

15 ID NO:245.

20

For each of the specific VH/VL combinations listed above, it is also permissible, and within the scope of the invention, to combine a VH domain having an amino acid sequence at least 90%, 92%, 95%, 97% or 99% identical to the recited VH domain sequence with a VL domain having an amino acid sequence at least 90%, 92%, 95%, 97% or 99% identical to the recited VL domain sequence.

The most preferred embodiment is a CD70 antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof based on the native VH/VL combination of the human germlined variant denoted 41D12. Accordingly, there is also provided herein an antibody or antigen binding

- 25 fragment thereof comprising a heavy chain variable domain (VH) comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:223, germlined variants and affinity variants thereof and amino acid sequences at least 90%, 95%, 97%, 98% or 99% identical thereto, and a light chain variable domain (VL) comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence
- 30 selected from the group consisting of: the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:241, germlined variants and affinity variants thereof and amino acid sequences at least 90%, 95%, 97%, 98% or 99% identical thereto.

Embodiments wherein the amino acid sequence of the VH domain exhibits less than 100% sequence identity with the sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 223 may nevertheless comprise heavy chain CDRs which are identical to HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3 of SEQ ID NO:223 (SEQ ID NOs:11, 27 and 50, respectively) whilst exhibiting amino acid sequence variation within the framework regions. Likewise, embodiments wherein the amino acid sequence of the VL domain exhibits less than 100% sequence identity with the sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 241 may nevertheless comprise heavy chain CDRs which are identical to LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3 of SEQ ID NO:241 (SEQ ID NOs:250, 116 and 160, respectively) whilst exhibiting amino acid sequence

10 variation within the framework regions.

In the foregoing preferred embodiments based on the VH and VL domains of 41D12, or variants thereof, the antibody preferably includes the CH1 domain, hinge region, CH2 domain and CH3 domain of a human antibody, in particular human IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 or IgG4. The most preferred embodiment is a human IgG1. It is still further

15 preferred for the human IgG1 to be engineering to maximise effector function in one or more of ADCC, CDC or ADCP. Particularly preferred is a de-fucosylated human IgG1, preferably prepared using the Potelligent[™] expression system.

Another advantageous embodiment is an antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof comprising a heavy chain variable domain (VH) comprising or consisting of an

amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:225, germlined variants and affinity variants thereof and amino acid sequences at least 90%, 95%, 97%, 98% or 99% identical thereto, and a light chain variable domain (VL) comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:243, germlined variants and affinity variants thereof and amino acid sequences at least 90%, 95%, 97%,

98% or 99% identical thereto; or

Another advantageous embodiment is an antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof comprising a heavy chain variable domain (VH) comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: the amino acid sequence

30 shown as SEQ ID NO:226, germlined variants and affinity variants thereof and amino acid sequences at least 90%, 95%, 97%, 98% or 99% identical thereto, and a light chain variable domain (VL) comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:244, germlined 5

variants and affinity variants thereof and amino acid sequences at least 90%, 95%, 97%, 98% or 99% identical thereto.

Features/properties of CD70 antibodies

In the aforementioned aspects and embodiments, the CD70 antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, may each exhibit one or more, or any combination, of the following properties or features:

The antibody or antigen binding fragment may bind to human CD70 with high affinity, exhibiting an off-rate for human CD70 of 7 x 10⁻⁴ s⁻¹ or less, preferably 5 x 10⁻⁴ s⁻¹ or less, and typically in the range of from 0.4 x 10⁻⁴ s⁻¹ to 4.8 x 10⁻⁴ s⁻¹, when tested as a Fab fragment.

The antibody or antigen binding fragment may bind to human CD70 with high affinity and inhibit the interaction between CD70 and CD27. Alternatively, the antibody or antigen binding fragment may bind to human CD70 but not inhibit the interaction

15 between CD70 and CD27.

The antibody or antigen binding fragment may bind with high affinity to human CD70 on the surface of CD70-expressing cells.

The antibody or antigen binding fragment may bind to human CD70 on the surface of CD70-expressing cells and be slowly or only partially internalised. A key

- 20 aspect of the invention is the observation that the CD70 antibodies are in fact very poorly internalised on a large number of CD70-expressing cell-lines, including many CD70-expressing cancer cell lines. This observation is in direct contrast to previous published reports that CD70 antibodies are rapidly internalised following binding to renal cell carcinoma cell lines (see Adam *et al.*, British Journal of Cancer (2006) 95: 298-306; and
- 25 WO 2007/038637) and has direct implications for therapeutic use of the antibodies. The observation that the CD70 antibodies are very poorly internalised following binding to cancer cells strongly supports the conclusion that therapeutic strategies for treatment of many CD70-expressing cancers, and indeed CD70-associated immunological diseases, should be based on extreme high affinity binding to CD70, coupled with antibody effector
- 30 function, in particular any one or more of ADCC, CDC or ADCP, and not on the use of immunoconjugates in which the CD70 antibody is linked to a therapeutic agent, e.g. a cytotoxic or cytostatic drug moiety.

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PCT/EP2012/054733

The antibody or antigen binding fragment may bind within the amino acid sequence HIQVTLAICSS (SEQ ID NO:342) in human CD70;

The antibody or antigen binding fragment may exhibit cross-reactivity with CD70 of simian origin, specifically the CD70 homologs of rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) and cynomolgus monkey (*Macaca cynomolgus*).

The antibody or antigen binding fragment may bind to both native human CD70 (e.g. CD70 expressed on the surface of a cell, such as a cell line or a CD70-expressing cell isolated from a human patient) and heat denatured recombinant human CD70.

The antibody or antigen binding fragment may provide very high production 10 yields (>4g/L) in recombinant antibody expression systems, such as for example the CHK1SV cell line (proprietary to BioWa/Lonza), as compared to a 1-2g/L historical average for therapeutic antibody products, resulting in a substantial reduction in production costs.

The antibody or antigen binding fragment may be highly stable under 37°C 15 storage conditions and in freeze-thaw cycles, which is also a major cost reduction factor.

The antibody may exhibit one or more effector functions selected from antibodydependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC), complement dependent cytotoxicity (CDC) and antibody-dependent cell-mediated phagocytosis (ADCP) against cells expressing human CD70 protein on the cell surface.

20 The antibody may exhibit ADCC against CD70-expressing cells, e.g. cancer cells or other malignant cells, or immune cells.

The antibody may exhibit enhanced ADCC function in comparison to a reference antibody which is an equivalent antibody comprising a native human Fc domain. In a non-limiting embodiment, the ADCC function may be at least 10x enhanced in

25 comparison to the reference antibody comprising a native human Fc domain. In this context "equivalent" may be taken to mean that the antibody with enhanced ADCC function displays substantially identical antigen-binding specificity and/or shares identical amino acid sequence with the reference antibody, except for any modifications made (relative to native human Fc) for the purposes of enhancing ADCC.

The antibody or antigen binding fragment may inhibit tumour growth in an *in vivo* tumour xenograft model, in the absence of conjugation to a cytotoxic or cytostatic agent. In a non-limiting embodiment, the inhibition of tumour growth function may be at least 10 fold enhanced in comparison to the reference antibody SGN70. The antibody or antigen binding fragment may induce apoptosis of CD70expressing cells.

The antibody may contain the hinge region, CH2 domain and CH3 domain of a human IgG, most preferably human IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 or IgG4.

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The antibody may include modifications in the Fc region, such as modifications which enhance antibody effector function as explained elsewhere herein. In particular, the antibody may be a non-fucosylated IgG.

In further aspects, the invention also provides polynucleotide molecules which encode the above-listed CD70 antibodies and antigen binding fragments thereof, in

10 addition to expression vectors comprising the polynucleotides, host cells containing the vectors and methods of recombinant expression/production of the CD70 antibodies.

In a still further aspect, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising any one of the CD70 antibodies described above and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

A still further aspect of the invention concerns methods of medical treatment using the above-listed CD70 antibodies, particularly in the treatment of cancer.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The invention will be further understood with reference to the following experimental examples and the accompanying Figures in which:

Figure 1: Shows the immune response tested in ELISA on recombinant CD70 for llamas immunised with 786-O cells (top) and with Raji cells (bottom).

25 Figure 2: illustrates inhibition of binding of CD27 to CD70 by llama-derived CD70 Fabs and reference CD70 Fabs, measured by ELISA.

Figure 3: is a graphical representation of the signal for llama-derived Fabs tested in a binding Elisa (black) or in an inhibition Elisa (white).

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Figure 4: illustrates inhibition of binding of CD27 to human CD70 (A&B) or rhesus CD70 (C) by chimeric llama-human CD70 mAbs and reference CD70 mAbs measured by ELISA.

Figure 5: shows binding of chimeric llama-human CD70 mAbs to 786-O cells (A) or MHH-PREB-1 cells (B) as demonstrated by FACS analysis.

5 Figure 6: shows inhibition by CD70 specific chimeric llama-human mAbs in a Raji cell based co-culture potency assay.

Figure 7: shows the results of standard Cr⁵¹ release ADCC assay on 786-O cells.

10 Figure 8: shows the results of CDC assay on U266 cells in the presence of 9% human serum.

Figure 9: demonstrates the efficacy of chimeric llama-human CD70 mAbs in a ADCP assay on 786-O cells

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Figure 10. illustrates antibody internalisation, assessed as MFI OUT for different chimeric llama-human CD70 mAbs as a function of time on 786-O cells in two independent experiments.

20 Figure 11: demonstrates survival of mice in a Raji Xenograft model after treatment with chimeric llama-human CD70 mAb 41D12, isotype control and Fc-dead control.

Figure 12: depicts alignments of the VH and VL amino acid sequences of clone 27B3 with the amino acid sequences of human germline gene segments VH3-38 and VL8-61,

25 respectively.

Figure 13: shows gelfiltration analysis of samples of germlined 27B3 mAb variants taken after 5 weeks incubation at 37 °C.

30 Figure 14: shows the potency in CD70 binding, as measured using Biacore, of samples of germlined CD70 mAbs taken at various time points after incubation at various temperatures. Figure 15: shows the binding affinity of CD70 mAbs for CD70-expressing cancer cell lines.

Figure 16: shows the affinity of CD70 mAbs for CLL patient cells expressing CD70.

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Figure 17: shows lysis of SU-DHL-6 cells bound by CD70 mAbs.

Figure 18: shows inhibition of binding of CD27 to CD70 by CD70 mAbs, measured by ELISA.

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Figure 19: shows an alignment of CD70 sequences from different species.

Figure 20: shows the binding affinity of CD70 mAbs for human U266 cells, rhesus monkey LCL8864 cells and cynomologus monkey HSC-F cells.

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Figure 21: shows inhibition of binding of CD27 to CD70 of human, rhesus monkey and cynomologus monkey by CD70 mAbs as determined by ELISA.

Figure 22: shows binding of CD70 mAbs to denatured recombinant CD70, assessed by 20 ELISA.

Figure 23: shows CD70 chimeric sequences used for epitope mapping.

Figure 24: illustrates antibody internalisation for CD70 mAbs as a function of time on 786-O cells.

Definitions

"Antibody" or "Immunoglobulin" -- As used herein, the term "immunoglobulin"

30 includes a polypeptide having a combination of two heavy and two light chains whether or not it possesses any relevant specific immunoreactivity. "Antibodies" refers to such assemblies which have significant known specific immunoreactive activity to an antigen of interest (e.g. human CD70). The term "CD70 antibodies" is used herein to refer to antibodies which exhibit immunological specificity for human CD70 protein. As

WO 2012/123586

PCT/EP2012/054733

explained elsewhere herein, "specificity" for human CD70 does not exclude crossreaction with species homologues of CD70. Antibodies and immunoglobulins comprise light and heavy chains, with or without an interchain covalent linkage between them. Basic immunoglobulin structures in vertebrate systems are relatively well understood.

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The generic term "immunoglobulin" comprises five distinct classes of antibody that can be distinguished biochemically. All five classes of antibodies are within the scope of the present invention, the following discussion will generally be directed to the IgG class of immunoglobulin molecules. With regard to IgG, immunoglobulins comprise two identical light polypeptide chains of molecular weight approximately 23,000 Daltons, and two identical heavy chains of molecular weight 53,000-70,000. The four chains are joined by disulfide bonds in a "Y" configuration wherein the light chains bracket the heavy chains starting at the mouth of the "Y" and continuing through the variable region.

The light chains of an antibody are classified as either kappa or lambda (κ, λ) . Each heavy chain class may be bound with either a kappa or lambda light chain. In

15 general, the light and heavy chains are covalently bonded to each other, and the "tail" portions of the two heavy chains are bonded to each other by covalent disulfide linkages or non-covalent linkages when the immunoglobulins are generated either by hybridomas, B cells or genetically engineered host cells. In the heavy chain, the amino acid sequences run from an N-terminus at the forked ends of the Y configuration to the C-terminus at the

bottom of each chain. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that heavy chains are classified as gamma, mu, alpha, delta, or epsilon, (γ, μ, α, δ, ε) with some subclasses among them (e.g., γ1 - γ 4). It is the nature of this chain that determines the "class" of the antibody as IgG, IgM, IgA, IgD or IgE, respectively. The immunoglobulin subclasses (isotypes) e.g., IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, IgA1, etc. are well characterized and are known to confer functional specialization. Modified versions of each of these classes and isotypes are readily discernable to the skilled artisan in view of the instant disclosure and, accordingly, are within the scope of the instant invention.

As indicated above, the variable region of an antibody allows the antibody to selectively recognize and specifically bind epitopes on antigens. That is, the VL domain 30 and VH domain of an antibody combine to form the variable region that defines a three dimensional antigen binding site. This quaternary antibody structure forms the antigen binding site present at the end of each arm of the Y. More specifically, the antigen

- 31 -

binding site is defined by three complementary determining regions (CDRs) on each of the VH and VL chains.

"CD70 protein" or "CD70 antigen" --- As used herein, the terms "CD70 protein" or
"CD70 antigen" or "CD70" are used interchangeably and refer to a member of the TNF ligand family which is a ligand for TNFRSF27/CD27. The terms "human CD70 protein" or "human CD70 antigen" or "human CD70" are used interchangeably to refer specifically to the human homolog, including the native human CD70 protein naturally expressed in the human body and/or on the surface of cultured human cell lines, as well

10 as recombinant forms and fragments thereof. Specific examples of human CD70 include the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence shown under NCBI Reference Sequence Accession No. NP_001243, or the extracellular domain thereof.

"Binding Site" --- As used herein, the term "binding site" comprises a region of a
polypeptide which is responsible for selectively binding to a target antigen of interest (e.g. human CD70). Binding domains comprise at least one binding site. Exemplary binding domains include an antibody variable domain. The antibody molecules of the invention may comprise a single binding site or multiple (e.g., two, three or four) binding sites.

20

"Derived From" ---As used herein the term "derived from" a designated protein (e.g. a CD70 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof) refers to the origin of the polypeptide. In one embodiment, the polypeptide or amino acid sequence which is derived from a particular starting polypeptide is a CDR sequence or sequence related

- 25 thereto. In one embodiment, the amino acid sequence which is derived from a particular starting polypeptide is not contiguous. For example, in one embodiment, one, two, three, four, five, or six CDRs are derived from a starting antibody. In one embodiment, the polypeptide or amino acid sequence which is derived from a particular starting polypeptide or amino acid sequence has an amino acid sequence that is essentially
- 30 identical to that of the starting sequence, or a portion thereof wherein the portion consists of at least of at least 3-5 amino acids, 5-10 amino acids, at least 10-20 amino acids, at least 20-30 amino acids, or at least 30-50 amino acids, or which is otherwise identifiable to one of ordinary skill in the art as having its origin in the starting sequence. In one

- 32 -

embodiment, the one or more CDR sequences derived from the starting antibody are altered to produce variant CDR sequences, e.g. affinity variants, wherein the variant CDR sequences maintain CD70 binding activity.

- 5 "Camelid-Derived" --- In certain preferred embodiments, the CD70 antibody molecules of the invention comprise framework amino acid sequences and/or CDR amino acid sequences derived from a camelid conventional antibody raised by active immunisation of a camelid with CD70 antigen. However, CD70 antibodies comprising camelid-derived amino acid sequences may be engineered to comprise framework and/or constant region
- 10 sequences derived from a human amino acid sequence (i.e. a human antibody) or other non-camelid mammalian species. For example, a human or non-human primate framework region, heavy chain portion, and/or hinge portion may be included in the subject CD70 antibodies. In one embodiment, one or more non-camelid amino acids may be present in the framework region of a "camelid-derived" CD70 antibody, e.g., a
- 15 camelid framework amino acid sequence may comprise one or more amino acid mutations in which the corresponding human or non-human primate amino acid residue is present. Moreover, camelid-derived VH and VL domains, or humanised variants thereof, may be linked to the constant domains of human antibodies to produce a chimeric molecule, as extensively described elsewhere herein.

20

"**Conservative amino acid substitution**" --A "conservative amino acid substitution" is one in which the amino acid residue is replaced with an amino acid residue having a similar side chain. Families of amino acid residues having similar side chains have been defined in the art, including basic side chains (e.g., lysine, arginine, histidine), acidic side

- 25 chains (e.g., aspartic acid, glutamic acid), uncharged polar side chains (e.g., glycine, asparagine, glutamine, serine, threonine, tyrosine, cysteine), nonpolar side chains (e.g., alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, methionine, tryptophan), beta-branched side chains (e.g., threonine, valine, isoleucine) and aromatic side chains (e.g., tyrosine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, histidine). Thus, a nonessential amino acid residue
- 30 in an immunoglobulin polypeptide may be replaced with another amino acid residue from the same side chain family. In another embodiment, a string of amino acids can be replaced with a structurally similar string that differs in order and/or composition of side chain family members.

- 33 -

"Heavy chain portion" ---As used herein, the term "heavy chain portion" includes amino acid sequences derived from the constant domains of an immunoglobulin heavy chain. A polypeptide comprising a heavy chain portion comprises at least one of: a CH1

- 5 domain, a hinge (e.g., upper, middle, and/or lower hinge region) domain, a CH2 domain, a CH3 domain, or a variant or fragment thereof. In one embodiment, an antibody or antigen binding fragment of the invention may comprise the Fc portion of an immunoglobulin heavy chain (e.g., a hinge portion, a CH2 domain, and a CH3 domain). In another embodiment, an antibody or antigen binding fragment of the invention may
- 10 lack at least a portion of a constant domain (e.g., all or part of a CH2 domain). In certain embodiments, at least one, and preferably all, of the constant domains are derived from a human immunoglobulin heavy chain. For example, in one preferred embodiment, the heavy chain portion comprises a fully human hinge domain. In other preferred embodiments, the heavy chain portion comprising a fully human Fc portion (e.g., hinge,

15 CH2 and CH3 domain sequences from a human immunoglobulin).

In certain embodiments, the constituent constant domains of the heavy chain portion are from different immunoglobulin molecules. For example, a heavy chain portion of a polypeptide may comprise a CH2 domain derived from an IgG1 molecule and a hinge region derived from an IgG3 or IgG4 molecule. In other embodiments, the

- 20 constant domains are chimeric domains comprising portions of different immunoglobulin molecules. For example, a hinge may comprise a first portion from an IgG1 molecule and a second portion from an IgG3 or IgG4 molecule. As set forth above, it will be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that the constant domains of the heavy chain portion may be modified such that they vary in amino acid sequence from the naturally
- 25 occurring (wild-type) immunoglobulin molecule. That is, the polypeptides of the invention disclosed herein may comprise alterations or modifications to one or more of the heavy chain constant domains (CH1, hinge, CH2 or CH3) and/or to the light chain constant region domain (CL). Exemplary modifications include additions, deletions or substitutions of one or more amino acids in one or more domains.

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"Chimeric" --- A "chimeric" protein comprises a first amino acid sequence linked to a second amino acid sequence with which it is not naturally linked in nature. The amino acid sequences may normally exist in separate proteins that are brought together in the

fusion polypeptide or they may normally exist in the same protein but are placed in a new arrangement in the fusion polypeptide. A chimeric protein may be created, for example, by chemical synthesis, or by creating and translating a polynucleotide in which the peptide regions are encoded in the desired relationship. Exemplary chimeric CD70

5 antibodies include fusion proteins comprising camelid-derived VH and VL domains, or humanised variants thereof, fused to the constant domains of a human antibody, e.g. human IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 or IgG4.

"Variable region" or "variable domain" --- The terms "variable region" and "variable
domain" are used herein interchangeable and are intended to have equivalent meaning.
The term "variable" refers to the fact that certain portions of the variable domains VH and
VL differ extensively in sequence among antibodies and are used in the binding and
specificity of each particular antibody for its target antigen. However, the variability is
not evenly distributed throughout the variable domains of antibodies. It is concentrated in

- 15 three segments called "hypervariable loops" in each of the VL domain and the VH domain which form part of the antigen binding site. The first, second and third hypervariable loops of the VLambda light chain domain are referred to herein as L1(λ), L2(λ) and L3(λ) and may be defined as comprising residues 24-33 (L1(λ), consisting of 9, 10 or 11 amino acid residues), 49-53 (L2(λ), consisting of 3 residues) and 90-96 (L3(λ),
- consisting of 5 residues) in the VL domain (Morea et al., Methods 20:267-279 (2000)).
 The first, second and third hypervariable loops of the VKappa light chain domain are referred to herein as L1(κ), L2(κ) and L3(κ) and may be defined as comprising residues 25-33 (L1(κ), consisting of 6, 7, 8, 11, 12 or 13 residues), 49-53 (L2(κ), consisting of 3 residues) and 90-97 (L3(κ), consisting of 6 residues) in the VL domain (Morea et al.,
- 25 Methods 20:267-279 (2000)). The first, second and third hypervariable loops of the VH domain are referred to herein as H1, H2 and H3 and may be defined as comprising residues 25-33 (H1, consisting of 7, 8 or 9 residues), 52-56 (H2, consisting of 3 or 4 residues) and 91-105 (H3, highly variable in length) in the VH domain (Morea et al., Methods 20:267-279 (2000)).

30 Unless otherwise indicated, the terms L1, L2 and L3 respectively refer to the first, second and third hypervariable loops of a VL domain, and encompass hypervariable loops obtained from both Vkappa and Vlambda isotypes. The terms H1, H2 and H3 respectively refer to the first, second and third hypervariable loops of the VH domain, and

- 35 -

PCT/EP2012/054733

encompass hypervariable loops obtained from any of the known heavy chain isotypes, including γ , ϵ , δ , α or μ .

The hypervariable loops L1, L2, L3, H1, H2 and H3 may each comprise part of a "complementarity determining region" or "CDR", as defined below. The terms

5 "hypervariable loop" and "complementarity determining region" are not strictly synonymous, since the hypervariable loops (HVs) are defined on the basis of structure, whereas complementarity determining regions (CDRs) are defined based on sequence variability (Kabat et al., Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest, 5th Ed. Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD., 1983) and the limits of the

10 HVs and the CDRs may be different in some VH and VL domains.

The CDRs of the VL and VH domains can typically be defined as comprising the following amino acids: residues 24-34 (CDRL1), 50-56 (CDRL2) and 89-97 (CDRL3) in the light chain variable domain, and residues 31-35 or 31-35b (CDRH1), 50-65 (CDRH2) and 95-102 (CDRH3) in the heavy chain variable domain; (Kabat et al., Sequences of

- 15 Proteins of Immunological Interest, 5th Ed. Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD. (1991)). Thus, the HVs may be comprised within the corresponding CDRs and references herein to the "hypervariable loops" of VH and VL domains should be interpreted as also encompassing the corresponding CDRs, and vice versa, unless otherwise indicated.
- 20 The more highly conserved portions of variable domains are called the framework region (FR), as defined below. The variable domains of native heavy and light chains each comprise four FRs (FR1, FR2, FR3 and FR4, respectively), largely adopting a β sheet configuration, connected by the three hypervariable loops. The hypervariable loops in each chain are held together in close proximity by the FRs and, with the hypervariable
- 25 loops from the other chain, contribute to the formation of the antigen-binding site of antibodies. Structural analysis of antibodies revealed the relationship between the sequence and the shape of the binding site formed by the complementarity determining regions (Chothia et al., J. Mol. Biol. 227: 799-817 (1992)); Tramontano et al., J. Mol. Biol, 215:175-182 (1990)). Despite their high sequence variability, five of the six loops
- adopt just a small repertoire of main-chain conformations, called "canonical structures".
 These conformations are first of all determined by the length of the loops and secondly by
 the presence of key residues at certain positions in the loops and in the framework regions

- 36 -

that determine the conformation through their packing, hydrogen bonding or the ability to assume unusual main-chain conformations.

"CDR" --- As used herein, the term "CDR" or "complementarity determining region"

- 5 means the non-contiguous antigen combining sites found within the variable region of both heavy and light chain polypeptides. These particular regions have been described by Kabat et al., J. Biol. Chem. 252, 6609-6616 (1977) and Kabat et al., Sequences of protein of immunological interest. (1991), and by Chothia et al., J. Mol. Biol. 196:901-917 (1987) and by MacCallum et al., J. Mol. Biol. 262:732-745 (1996) where the definitions include
- 10 overlapping or subsets of amino acid residues when compared against each other. The amino acid residues which encompass the CDRs as defined by each of the above cited references are set forth for comparison. Preferably, the term "CDR" is a CDR as defined by Kabat based on sequence comparisons.

	CDR Definitions			
	Kabat ¹	Chothia ²	MacCallum ³	
V _H CDR1	31-35	26-32	30-35	
V _H CDR2	50-65	53-55	47-58	
V _H CDR3	95-102	96-101	93-101	
V _L CDR1	24-34	26-32	30-36	
V _L CDR2	50-56	50-52	46-55	
V _L CDR3	89-97	91-96	89-96	

15	Table	1:	CDR	definitions

¹Residue numbering follows the nomenclature of Kabat et al., supra ²Residue numbering follows the nomenclature of Chothia et al., supra ³Residue numbering follows the nomenclature of MacCallum et al., supra

20

"Framework region" --- The term "framework region" or "FR region" as used herein, includes the amino acid residues that are part of the variable region, but are not part of the CDRs (e.g., using the Kabat definition of CDRs). Therefore, a variable region framework is between about 100-120 amino acids in length but includes only those amino acids

25 outside of the CDRs. For the specific example of a heavy chain variable domain and for

PCT/EP2012/054733

the CDRs as defined by Kabat et al., framework region 1 corresponds to the domain of the variable region encompassing amino acids 1-30; framework region 2 corresponds to the domain of the variable region encompassing amino acids 36-49; framework region 3 corresponds to the domain of the variable region encompassing amino acids 66-94, and

- 5 framework region 4 corresponds to the domain of the variable region from amino acids 103 to the end of the variable region. The framework regions for the light chain are similarly separated by each of the light claim variable region CDRs. Similarly, using the definition of CDRs by Chothia et al. or McCallum et al. the framework region boundaries are separated by the respective CDR termini as described above. In preferred
- 10 embodiments the CDRs are as defined by Kabat.

In naturally occurring antibodies, the six CDRs present on each monomeric antibody are short, non-contiguous sequences of amino acids that are specifically positioned to form the antigen binding site as the antibody assumes its three dimensional configuration in an aqueous environment. The remainder of the heavy and light variable

- 15 domains show less inter-molecular variability in amino acid sequence and are termed the framework regions. The framework regions largely adopt a β-sheet conformation and the CDRs form loops which connect, and in some cases form part of, the β-sheet structure. Thus, these framework regions act to form a scaffold that provides for positioning the six CDRs in correct orientation by inter-chain, non-covalent interactions. The antigen
- 20 binding site formed by the positioned CDRs defines a surface complementary to the epitope on the immunoreactive antigen. This complementary surface promotes the noncovalent binding of the antibody to the immunoreactive antigen epitope. The position of CDRs can be readily identified by one of ordinary skill in the art.
- 25 **"Hinge region"** ---As used herein, the term "hinge region" includes the portion of a heavy chain molecule that joins the CH1 domain to the CH2 domain. This hinge region comprises approximately 25 residues and is flexible, thus allowing the two N-terminal antigen binding regions to move independently. Hinge regions can be subdivided into three distinct domains: upper, middle, and lower hinge domains (Roux et al. J. Immunol.
- 30 1998 161:4083). CD70 antibodies comprising a "fully human" hinge region may contain one of the hinge region sequences shown in Table 2 below.

IgG	Upper hinge	Middle hinge	Lower hinge
IgG1	EPKSCDKTHT	CPPCP	APELLGGP
	(SEQ ID NO:320)	(SEQ ID NO:321)	(SEQ ID NO:322)
IgG3	ELKTPLGDTTHT	CPRCP (EPKSCDTPPPCPRCP) ₃	APELLGGP
	(SEQ ID NO:323)	(SEQ ID NO:324)	(SEQ ID NO:325)
IgG4	ESKYGPP	CPSCP	APEFLGGP
	(SEQ ID NO:326)	(SEQ ID NO:327)	(SEQ ID NO:328)
IgG42	ERK	CCVECPPPCP	APPVAGP
	(SEQ ID NO:329)	(SEQ ID NO:330)	(SEQ ID NO:331)

Table 2: human hinge sequences

- 5 "CH2 domain" ---As used herein the term "CH2 domain" includes the portion of a heavy chain molecule that extends, e.g., from about residue 244 to residue 360 of an antibody using conventional numbering schemes (residues 244 to 360, Kabat numbering system; and residues 231-340, EU numbering system, Kabat EA et al. Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest. Bethesda, US Department of Health and Human Services, NIH.
- 10 1991). The CH2 domain is unique in that it is not closely paired with another domain. Rather, two N-linked branched carbohydrate chains are interposed between the two CH2 domains of an intact native IgG molecule. It is also well documented that the CH3 domain extends from the CH2 domain to the C-terminal of the IgG molecule and comprises approximately 108 residues.

15

"Fragment" --- The term "fragment" refers to a part or portion of an antibody or antibody chain comprising fewer amino acid residues than an intact or complete antibody or antibody chain. The term "antigen-binding fragment" refers to a polypeptide fragment of an immunoglobulin or antibody that binds antigen or competes with intact antibody

20 (i.e., with the intact antibody from which they were derived) for antigen binding (i.e., specific binding to human CD70). As used herein, the term "fragment" of an antibody molecule includes antigen-binding fragments of antibodies, for example, an antibody light chain variable domain (VL), an antibody heavy chain variable domain (VH), a single chain antibody (scFv), a F(ab')2 fragment, a Fab fragment, an Fd fragment, an Fv fragment, and a single domain antibody fragment (DAb). Fragments can be obtained, e.g., via chemical or enzymatic treatment of an intact or complete antibody or antibody chain or by recombinant means.

- 5 **"Valency"** --As used herein the term "valency" refers to the number of potential target binding sites in a polypeptide. Each target binding site specifically binds one target molecule or specific site on a target molecule. When a polypeptide comprises more than one target binding site, each target binding site may specifically bind the same or different molecules (e.g., may bind to different ligands or different antigens, or different
- 10 epitopes on the same antigen). The subject binding molecules have at least one binding site specific for a human CD70 molecule.

"Specificity" --The term "specificity" refers to the ability to bind (e.g., immunoreact with) a given target, e.g., CD70. A polypeptide may be monospecific and contain one or
more binding sites which specifically bind a target or a polypeptide may be multispecific and contain two or more binding sites which specifically bind the same or different targets. In one embodiment, an antibody of the invention is specific for more than one target. For example, in one embodiment, a multispecific binding molecule of the

20 antibodies which comprise antigen binding sites that bind to antigens expressed on tumor cells are known in the art and one or more CDRs from such antibodies can be included in an antibody of the invention.

invention binds to CD70 and a second molecule expressed on a tumor cell. Exemplary

"Synthetic" ---As used herein the term "synthetic" with respect to polypeptides includes polypeptides which comprise an amino acid sequence that is not naturally occurring. For example, non-naturally occurring polypeptides which are modified forms of naturally occurring polypeptides (e.g., comprising a mutation such as an addition, substitution or deletion) or which comprise a first amino acid sequence (which may or may not be naturally occurring) that is linked in a linear sequence of amino acids to a second amino

30 acid sequence (which may or may not be naturally occurring) to which it is not naturally linked in nature.

"Engineered" ---As used herein the term "engineered" includes manipulation of nucleic acid or polypeptide molecules by synthetic means (e.g. by recombinant techniques, in vitro peptide synthesis, by enzymatic or chemical coupling of peptides or some combination of these techniques). Preferably, the antibodies of the invention are

5 engineered, including for example, humanized and/or chimeric antibodies, and antibodies which have been engineered to improve one or more properties, such as antigen binding, stability/half-life or effector function.

"Modified antibody" ---As used herein, the term "modified antibody" includes synthetic forms of antibodies which are altered such that they are not naturally occurring, e.g., antibodies that comprise at least two heavy chain portions but not two complete heavy chains (such as, domain deleted antibodies or minibodies); multispecific forms of antibodies (e.g., bispecific, trispecific, etc.) altered to bind to two or more different antigens or to different epitopes on a single antigen); heavy chain molecules joined to

- 15 scFv molecules and the like. ScFv molecules are known in the art and are described, e.g., in US patent 5,892,019. In addition, the term "modified antibody" includes multivalent forms of antibodies (e.g., trivalent, tetravalent, etc., antibodies that bind to three or more copies of the same antigen). In another embodiment, a modified antibody of the invention is a fusion protein comprising at least one heavy chain portion lacking a CH2
- 20 domain and comprising a binding domain of a polypeptide comprising the binding portion of one member of a receptor ligand pair.

The term "modified antibody" may also be used herein to refer to amino acid sequence variants of a CD70 antibody. It will be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that a CD70 antibody may be modified to produce a variant CD70 antibody which varies in amino acid sequence in comparison to the CD70 antibody from which it was derived. For example, nucleotide or amino acid substitutions leading to conservative substitutions or changes at "non-essential" amino acid residues may be made (e.g., in CDR and/or framework residues). Amino acid substitutions can include replacement of one or more amino acids with a naturally occurring or non-natural amino acid.

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"Humanising substitutions" ---As used herein, the term "humanising substitutions" refers to amino acid substitutions in which the amino acid residue present at a particular position in the VH or VL domain of a CD70 antibody (for example a camelid-derived

CD70 antibody) is replaced with an amino acid residue which occurs at an equivalent position in a reference human VH or VL domain. The reference human VH or VL domain may be a VH or VL domain encoded by the human germline. Humanising substitutions may be made in the framework regions and/or the CDRs of a CD70

5 antibody, defined herein.

"Humanised variants" --- As used herein the term "humanised variant" refers to a variant antibody which contains one or more "humanising substitutions" compared to a reference CD70 antibody, wherein a portion of the reference antibody (e.g. the VH

10 domain and/or the VL domain or parts thereof containing at least one CDR) has an amino derived from a non-human species, and the "humanising substitutions" occur within the amino acid sequence derived from a non-human species.

"Germlined variants" --- The term "germlined variant" is used herein to refer
specifically to "humanised variants" in which the "humanising substitutions" result in
replacement of one or more amino acid residues present at a particular position (s) in the
VH or VL domain of a CD70 antibody (for example a camelid-derived CD70 antibody)
with an amino acid residue which occurs at an equivalent position in a reference human
VH or VL domain encoded by the human germline. It is typical that for any given

- 20 "germlined variant", the replacement amino acid residues substituted *into* the germlined variant are taken exclusively, or predominantly, from a single human germline-encoded VH or VL domain. The terms "humanised variant" and "germlined variant" are often used interchangeably herein. Introduction of one or more "humanising substitutions" into a camelid-derived (e.g. llama derived) VH or VL domain results in production of a
- 25 "humanised variant" of the camelid (llama)-derived VH or VL domain. If the amino acid residues substituted in are derived predominantly or exclusively from a single human germline-encoded VH or VL domain sequence, then the result may be a "human germlined variant" of the camelid (llama)-derived VH or VL domain.
- 30 **"Affinity variants"** --- As used herein, the term "affinity variant" refers to a variant antibody which exhibits one or more changes in amino acid sequence compared to a reference CD70 antibody, wherein the affinity variant exhibits an altered affinity for the human CD70 protein in comparison to the reference antibody. Typically, affinity variants

- 42 -

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PCT/EP2012/054733

will exhibit a changed affinity for human CD70, as compared to the reference CD70 antibody. Preferably the affinity variant will exhibit *improved* affinity for human CD70, as compared to the reference CD70 antibody. The improvement may be apparent as a lower K_D, for human CD70, or a slower off-rate for human CD70 or an alteration in the

- 5 pattern of cross-reactivity with non-human CD70 homologues. Affinity variants typically exhibit one or more changes in amino acid sequence in the CDRs, as compared to the reference CD70 antibody. Such substitutions may result in replacement of the original amino acid present at a given position in the CDRs with a different amino acid residue, which may be a naturally occurring amino acid residue or a non-naturally occurring
- 10 amino acid residue. The amino acid substitutions may be conservative or nonconservative.

"High human homology" ---An antibody comprising a heavy chain variable domain (VH) and a light chain variable domain (VL) will be considered as having high human

- 15 homology if the VH domains and the VL domains, taken together, exhibit at least 90% amino acid sequence identity to the closest matching human germline VH and VL sequences. Antibodies having high human homology may include antibodies comprising VH and VL domains of native non-human antibodies which exhibit sufficiently high % sequence identity to human germline sequences, including for example antibodies
- 20 comprising VH and VL domains of camelid conventional antibodies, as well as engineered, especially humanised or germlined, variants of such antibodies and also "fully human" antibodies.

In one embodiment the VH domain of the antibody with high human homology may exhibit an amino acid sequence identity or sequence homology of 80% or greater 25 with one or more human VH domains across the framework regions FR1, FR2, FR3 and FR4. In other embodiments the amino acid sequence identity or sequence homology between the VH domain of the polypeptide of the invention and the closest matching human germline VH domain sequence may be 85% or greater, 90% or greater, 95% or greater, 97% or greater, or up to 99% or even 100%.

In one embodiment the VH domain of the antibody with high human homology may contain one or more (e.g. 1 to 10) amino acid sequence mis-matches across the framework regions FR1, FR2, FR3 and FR4, in comparison to the closest matched human VH sequence.

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In another embodiment the VL domain of the antibody with high human homology may exhibit a sequence identity or sequence homology of 80% or greater with one or more human VL domains across the framework regions FR1, FR2, FR3 and FR4. In other embodiments the amino acid sequence identity or sequence homology between the

5 VL domain of the polypeptide of the invention and the closest matching human germline VL domain sequence may be 85% or greater 90% or greater, 95% or greater, 97% or greater, or up to 99% or even 100%.

In one embodiment the VL domain of the antibody with high human homology may contain one or more (e.g. 1 to 10) amino acid sequence mis-matches across the

10 framework regions FR1, FR2, FR3 and FR4, in comparison to the closest matched human VL sequence.

Before analyzing the percentage sequence identity between the antibody with high human homology and human germline VH and VL, the canonical folds may be determined, which allows the identification of the family of human germline segments

- 15 with the identical combination of canonical folds for H1 and H2 or L1 and L2 (and L3). Subsequently the human germline family member that has the highest degree of sequence homology with the variable region of the antibody of interest is chosen for scoring the sequence homology. The determination of Chothia canonical classes of hypervariable loops L1, L2, L3, H1 and H2 can be performed with the bioinformatics tools publicly
- 20 available on webpage www.bioinf.org.uk/abs/chothia.html.page. The output of the program shows the key residue requirements in a datafile. In these datafiles, the key residue positions are shown with the allowed amino acids at each position. The sequence of the variable region of the antibody of interest is given as input and is first aligned with a consensus antibody sequence to assign the Kabat numbering scheme. The analysis of
- the canonical folds uses a set of key residue templates derived by an automated method developed by Martin and Thornton (Martin et al., J. Mol. Biol. 263:800-815 (1996)).

With the particular human germline V segment known, which uses the same combination of canonical folds for H1 and H2 or L1 and L2 (and L3), the best matching family member in terms of sequence homology can be determined. With bioinformatics tools the percentage sequence identity between the VH and VL domain framework amino acid sequences of the antibody of interest and corresponding sequences encoded by the human germline can be determined, but actually manual alignment of the sequences can

be applied as well. Human immunoglobulin sequences can be identified from several

protein data bases, such as VBase (http://vbase.mrc-cpe.cam.ac.uk/) or the Pluckthun/Honegger database (http://www.bioc.unizh.ch/antibody/Sequences/Germlines. To compare the human sequences to the V regions of VH or VL domains in an antibody of interest a sequence alignment algorithm such as available via websites like

- 5 www.expasy.ch/tools/#align can be used, but also manual alignment with the limited set of sequences can be performed. Human germline light and heavy chain sequences of the families with the same combinations of canonical folds and with the highest degree of homology with the framework regions 1, 2, and 3 of each chain are selected and compared with the variable region of interest; also the FR4 is checked against the human
- 10 germline JH and JK or JL regions.

Note that in the calculation of overall percent sequence homology the residues of FR1, FR2 and FR3 are evaluated using the closest match sequence from the human germline family with the identical combination of canonical folds. Only residues different from the closest match or other members of the same family with the same combination

- 15 of canonical folds are scored (NB excluding any primer-encoded differences). However, for the purposes of humanization, residues in framework regions identical to members of other human germline families, which do not have the same combination of canonical folds, can be considered "human", despite the fact that these are scored "negative" according to the stringent conditions described above. This assumption is based on the
- 20 "mix and match" approach for humanization, in which each of FR1, FR2, FR3 and FR4 is separately compared to its closest matching human germline sequence and the humanized molecule therefore contains a combination of different FRs as was done by Qu and colleagues (Qu et la., Clin. Cancer Res. 5:3095-3100 (1999)) and Ono and colleagues (Ono et al., Mol. Immunol. 36:387-395 (1999)). The boundaries of the individual
- 25 framework regions may be assigned using the IMGT numbering scheme, which is an adaptation of the numbering scheme of Chothia (Lefranc et al., NAR 27: 209-212 (1999); imgt.cines.fr).

Antibodies with high human homology may comprise hypervariable loops or CDRs having human or human-like canonical folds, as discussed in detail below.

30 In one embodiment at least one hypervariable loop or CDR in either the VH domain or the VL domain of the antibody with high human homology may be obtained or derived from a VH or VL domain of a non-human antibody, for example a conventional antibody from a species of Camelidae, yet exhibit a predicted or actual canonical fold structure

PCT/EP2012/054733

which is substantially identical to a canonical fold structure which occurs in human antibodies.

It is well established in the art that although the primary amino acid sequences of hypervariable loops present in both VH domains and VL domains encoded by the human germline are, by definition, highly variable, all hypervariable loops, except CDR H3 of the VH domain, adopt only a few distinct structural conformations, termed canonical folds (Chothia et al., J. Mol. Biol. 196:901-917 (1987); Tramontano et al. Proteins 6:382-94 (1989)), which depend on both the length of the hypervariable loop and presence of the so-called canonical amino acid residues (Chothia et al., J. Mol. Biol. 196:901-917

- 10 (1987)). Actual canonical structures of the hypervariable loops in intact VH or VL domains can be determined by structural analysis (e.g. X-ray crystallography), but it is also possible to predict canonical structure on the basis of key amino acid residues which are characteristic of a particular structure (discussed further below). In essence, the specific pattern of residues that determines each canonical structure forms a "signature"
- 15 which enables the canonical structure to be recognised in hypervariable loops of a VH or VL domain of unknown structure; canonical structures can therefore be predicted on the basis of primary amino acid sequence alone.

The predicted canonical fold structures for the hypervariable loops of any given VH or VL sequence in an antibody with high human homology can be analysed using

- 20 algorithms which are publicly available from www.bioinf.org.uk/abs/chothia.html, www.biochem.ucl.ac.uk/~martin/antibodies.html and www.bioc.unizh.ch/antibody/Sequences/Germlines/Vbase_hVk.html. These tools permit query VH or VL sequences to be aligned against human VH or VL domain sequences of known canonical structure, and a prediction of canonical structure made for the
- 25 hypervariable loops of the query sequence.

In the case of the VH domain, H1 and H2 loops may be scored as having a canonical fold structure "substantially identical" to a canonical fold structure known to occur in human antibodies if at least the first, and preferable both, of the following criteria are fulfilled:

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1. An identical length, determined by the number of residues, to the closest matching human canonical structural class.

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PCT/EP2012/054733

2. At least 33% identity, preferably at least 50% identity with the key amino acid residues described for the corresponding human H1 and H2 canonical structural classes.

(note for the purposes of the foregoing analysis the H1 and H2 loops are treated
separately and each compared against its closest matching human canonical structural class)

The foregoing analysis relies on prediction of the canonical structure of the H1 and H2 loops of the antibody of interest. If the actual structures of the H1 and H2 loops in the antibody of interest are known, for example based on X-ray crystallography, then the H1 and H2 loops in the antibody of interest may also be scored as having a canonical fold structure "substantially identical" to a canonical fold structure known to occur in human antibodies if the length of the loop differs from that of the closest matching human canonical structural class (typically by ±1 or ±2 amino acids) but the actual structure of

15 the H1 and H2 loops in the antibody of interest matches the structure of a human canonical fold.

Key amino acid residues found in the human canonical structural classes for the first and second hypervariable loops of human VH domains (H1 and H2) are described by Chothia et al., J. Mol. Biol. 227:799-817 (1992), the contents of which are incorporated

20 herein in their entirety by reference. In particular, Table 3 on page 802 of Chothia et al., which is specifically incorporated herein by reference, lists preferred amino acid residues at key sites for H1 canonical structures found in the human germline, whereas Table 4 on page 803, also specifically incorporated by reference, lists preferred amino acid residues at key sites for CDR H2 canonical structures found in the human germline.

In one embodiment, both H1 and H2 in the VH domain of the antibody with high human homology exhibit a predicted or actual canonical fold structure which is substantially identical to a canonical fold structure which occurs in human antibodies.

Antibodies with high human homology may comprise a VH domain in which the hypervariable loops H1 and H2 form a combination of canonical fold structures which is identical to a combination of canonical structures known to occur in at least one human germline VH domain. It has been observed that only certain combinations of canonical fold structures at H1 and H2 actually occur in VH domains encoded by the human germline. In an embodiment H1 and H2 in the VH domain of the antibody with high

- 47 -

PCT/EP2012/054733

human homology may be obtained from a VH domain of a non-human species, e.g. a Camelidae species, yet form a combination of predicted or actual canonical fold structures which is identical to a combination of canonical fold structures known to occur in a human germline or somatically mutated VH domain. In non-limiting embodiments

5 H1 and H2 in the VH domain of the antibody with high human homology may be obtained from a VH domain of a non-human species, e.g. a Camelidae species, and form one of the following canonical fold combinations: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-6, 1-4, 2-1, 3-1 and 3-5.

An antibody with high human homology may contain a VH domain which exhibits both high sequence identity/sequence homology with human VH, and which contains hypervariable loops exhibiting structural homology with human VH.

It may be advantageous for the canonical folds present at H1 and H2 in the VH domain of the antibody with high human homology, and the combination thereof, to be "correct" for the human VH germline sequence which represents the closest match with

- 15 the VH domain of the antibody with high human homology in terms of overall primary amino acid sequence identity. By way of example, if the closest sequence match is with a human germline VH3 domain, then it may be advantageous for H1 and H2 to form a combination of canonical folds which also occurs naturally in a human VH3 domain. This may be particularly important in the case of antibodies with high human homology
- 20 which are derived from non-human species, e.g. antibodies containing VH and VL domains which are derived from camelid conventional antibodies, especially antibodies containing humanised camelid VH and VL domains.

Thus, in one embodiment the VH domain of the CD70 antibody with high human homology may exhibit a sequence identity or sequence homology of 80% or greater, 85%
or greater, 90% or greater, 95% or greater, 97% or greater, or up to 99% or even 100% with a human VH domain across the framework regions FR1, FR2, FR3 and FR4, and in addition H1 and H2 in the same antibody are obtained from a non-human VH domain (e.g. derived from a Camelidae species), but form a combination of predicted or actual canonical fold structures which is the same as a canonical fold combination known to occur naturally in the same human VH domain.

In other embodiments, L1 and L2 in the VL domain of the antibody with high human homology are each obtained from a VL domain of a non-human species (e.g. a camelid-derived VL domain), and each exhibits a predicted or actual canonical fold

- 48 -

PCT/EP2012/054733

structure which is substantially identical to a canonical fold structure which occurs in human antibodies.

As with the VH domains, the hypervariable loops of VL domains of both VLambda and VKappa types can adopt a limited number of conformations or canonical

5 structures, determined in part by length and also by the presence of key amino acid residues at certain canonical positions.

Within an antibody of interest having high human homology, L1, L2 and L3 loops obtained from a VL domain of a non-human species, e.g. a *Camelidae* species, may be scored as having a canonical fold structure "substantially identical" to a canonical fold

10 structure known to occur in human antibodies if at least the first, and preferable both, of the following criteria are fulfilled:

1. An identical length, determined by the number of residues, to the closest matching human structural class.

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2. At least 33% identity, preferably at least 50% identity with the key amino acid residues described for the corresponding human L1 or L2 canonical structural classes, from either the VLambda or the VKappa repertoire.

20 (note for the purposes of the foregoing analysis the L1 and L2 loops are treated separately and each compared against its closest matching human canonical structural class)

The foregoing analysis relies on prediction of the canonical structure of the L1, L2 and L3 loops in the VL domain of the antibody of interest. If the actual structure of the

L1, L2 and L3 loops is known, for example based on X-ray crystallography, then L1, L2 or L3 loops derived from the antibody of interest may also be scored as having a canonical fold structure "substantially identical" to a canonical fold structure known to occur in human antibodies if the length of the loop differs from that of the closest matching human canonical structural class (typically by ±1 or ±2 amino acids) but the actual structure of the Camelidae loops matches a human canonical fold.

Key amino acid residues found in the human canonical structural classes for the CDRs of human VLambda and VKappa domains are described by Morea et al. Methods, 20: 267-279 (2000) and Martin et al., J. Mol. Biol., 263:800-815 (1996). The structural

repertoire of the human VKappa domain is also described by Tomlinson et al. EMBO J. 14:4628-4638 (1995), and that of the VLambda domain by Williams et al. J. Mol. Biol., 264:220-232 (1996). The contents of all these documents are to be incorporated herein by reference.

5 L1 and L2 in the VL domain of an antibody with high human homology may form a combination of predicted or actual canonical fold structures which is identical to a combination of canonical fold structures known to occur in a human germline VL domain. In non-limiting embodiments L1 and L2 in the VLambda domain of an antibody with high human homology (e.g. an antibody containing a camelid-derived VL domain or

a humanised variant thereof) may form one of the following canonical fold combinations:
11-7, 13-7(A,B,C), 14-7(A,B), 12-11, 14-11 and 12-12 (as defined in Williams et al. J.
Mol. Biol. 264:220 -32 (1996) and as shown on
http://www.bioc.uzh.ch/antibody/Sequences/Germlines/VBase_hVL.html). In nonlimiting embodiments L1 and L2 in the Vkappa domain may form one of the following

15 canonical fold combinations: 2-1, 3-1, 4-1 and 6-1 (as defined in Tomlinson et al. EMBO J. 14:4628-38 (1995) and as shown on

http://www.bioc.uzh.ch/antibody/Sequences/Germlines/VBase_hVK.html).

In a further embodiment, all three of L1, L2 and L3 in the VL domain of an antibody with high human homology may exhibit a substantially human structure. It is

20 preferred that the VL domain of the antibody with high human homology exhibits both high sequence identity/sequence homology with human VL, and also that the hypervariable loops in the VL domain exhibit structural homology with human VL.

In one embodiment, the VL domain of a CD70 antibody with high human homology may exhibit a sequence identity of 80% or greater, 85% or greater, 90% or greater, 95%

25 or greater, 97% or greater, or up to 99% or even 100% with a human VL domain across the framework regions FR1, FR2, FR3 and FR4, and in addition hypervariable loop L1 and hypervariable loop L2 may form a combination of predicted or actual canonical fold structures which is the same as a canonical fold combination known to occur naturally in the same human VL domain.

30

It is, of course, envisaged that VH domains exhibiting high sequence identity/sequence homology with human VH, and also structural homology with hypervariable loops of human VH will be combined with VL domains exhibiting high sequence identity/sequence homology with human VL, and also structural homology with

hypervariable loops of human VL to provide antibodies with high human homology containing VH/VL pairings (e.g camelid-derived VH/Vl pairings) with maximal sequence and structural homology to human-encoded VH/VL pairings.

5 As summarised above, the invention relates, at least in part, to antibodies, and antigen binding fragments thereof, that bind to human CD70 with high affinity. The properties and characteristics of the CD70 antibodies, and antibody fragments, according to the invention will now be described in further detail.

10 **CD70 binding and affinity**

15

In certain aspects, the antibodies, and antigen binding fragments thereof, provided herein bind to human CD70 with high affinity. Antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, which bind to human CD70 with high affinity may exhibit a binding affinity (K_D) for human CD70, and more particularly the extracellular domain of human CD70, of about 10nM or less, or 1nM or less, or 0.1nM or less, or 10pM or less.

The CD70 antibody (or antigen binding fragment) may comprise VH and VL domains which, when the VH and VL domains are expressed in the form of a Fab, exhibit a dissociation off-rate for human CD70 binding of less than 7 x 10^{-4} s⁻¹, preferably less than 5 x 10^{-4} s⁻¹, or less than 2 x 10^{-4} s⁻¹, less than 1 x 10^{-4} s⁻¹. Typically the off rate will fall

- 20 in the range of from 0.4 x 10^{-4} s⁻¹ to 4.8 x 10^{-4} s⁻¹. Binding affinity (K_D) and dissociation rate (K_{off}) can be measured using standard techniques well known to persons skilled in the art, such as for example surface plasmon resonance (BIAcore), as described in the accompanying examples. In brief, 50 µl of sample to be tested is added to 200 µl PBS + 0.02% Tween, and diluted 1/400 as follows: 5 µl of sample (1 mg/ml) + 195 µl HBS-EP+
- 25 (Biacore buffer), further diluted $10 \ \mu l + 90 \ \mu l \ HVS-EP+ = 2.5 \ \mu g/ml$. Biacore analysis is performed at room temperature using a highly CD70 coated CM5 chip (4000 RU) using the manufacturer's supplied protocol.

In this regard, it should be noted that although the off-rate is measured for VH and VL combinations in the form of Fabs, this does not mean that the VH and VL

30 domains contribute equally to CD70 binding. For many VH/VL combinations, it is the VH domain which mainly contributes to CD70 binding, with the VL domain contributing to solubility and/or stability of the VH/VL pairing.

Binding of the CD70 antibodies described herein, or Fab fragments thereof, to recombinant human CD70 may also be assessed by ELISA.

The CD70 antibodies described herein may further exhibit binding to CD70 expressed on the surface of intact cells, e.g. 786-O renal carcinoma cells and other cancer cell lines. Binding of CD70 antibodies to CD70-expressing cells may be assessed by flow cytometry. The results presented in the accompanying examples demonstrate that preferred CD70 antibodies, including variant 41D12 (when expressed as non-fucosylated IgG1 ARGX-110), exhibit very strong binding to cell-surface CD70. Indeed, for many cell lines ARGX-110 exhibits stronger binding than comparator prior art antibody SGN70.

It is particularly noteworthy that ARGX-110 exhibits strong binding to cell lines which express CD70 at low copy number, including *inter alia* the cell lines Raji, SU-DHL-6, MHHPREB1, Mino, Mec1, JVM-2, HH and EBC-1, and also to cancer cells isolated from patients (e.g. CLL patients), in both cases the binding of ARGX-110 is

- 15 markedly stronger than SGN70. The "improved" binding to low copy number cell lines and CLL patient materials may in large part reflect the extremely high affinity of ARGX-110 for recombinant CD70. These binding characteristics are supportive of a particular utility of ARGX-110 (based on 41D12) and other CD70 antibodies described herein with similar properties in cancer treatment, particularly when utilised as an IgG exhibiting
- 20 potent effector function (e.g. non-fucosylated IgG1) rather than as an immunoconjugate linked to a cytotoxic or cytostatic moiety. The significance of high affinity binding (i.e. higher affinity than can be achieved with prior art CD70 antibodies) to recombinant CD70 and cell surface CD70 with regard to clinical utility of the antibodies is demonstrated in the accompanying examples by experiments in which PBMC samples are
- 25 "spiked" with cancer cell lines and then treated with CD70 antibodies. In this system treatment with ARGX-110 produced significantly more lysis of the target cancer cells than the comparator CD70 antibodies MDX1411 and SGN70.

The CD70 antibodies described herein exhibit high affinity binding to human CD70, and more specifically the extracellular domain of human CD70, but cross-

30 reactivity with non-human homologues of CD70 is not excluded. Indeed, it is an advantageous feature of many of the CD70 antibodies described herein, including 27B3 and its germlined variants, particularly 41D12, that in addition to high affinity binding to

- 52 -

human CD70 they also cross-react with simian CD70 homologs, specifically the CD70 homlogs of rhesus macaque and cynomolgus monkey.

In this regard, a CD70 antibody can be considered to exhibit cross-reactivity with a simian CD70 homolog, for example the CD70 homlogs of rhesus macaque and

5 cynomolgus monkey, if the difference in IC50 for human versus simian (rhesus or cynomolgus monkey) CD70 in a CD70-CD27 inhibition ELISA, such as that described in the accompanying example 20.2, is less than 5-fold, preferably less than 3-fold or less than 2-fold. The binding affinity, and therefore blocking potency, for human and simian CD70 should be broadly comparable.

10

Interaction between CD70 and CD27

In certain aspects, the CD70 antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, provided herein may bind to human CD70 with high affinity and block the interaction between CD70 and CD27.

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The ability of CD70 antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, to block binding of CD70 to CD27 may be assessed by Elisa using either captured recombinant CD70 (Flag-TNC-CD70) or directed coated CD70 and recombinant CD27-Fc. The CD70 antibodies described herein may inhibit the interaction between CD70 and CD27 with an IC50 of 300 ng/ml or less, or 200 ng/ml or less, or 110 ng/ml or less, or 70 ng/ml or less,

20 or 50 ng/ml or less.

The ability of CD70 antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, to block binding of CD70 to CD27 may also be assessed in an assay based on co-culture of Raji cells (human B cell lymphoma) and HT1080-CD27 cells (human epithelial cell line transfected with CD27), as described in the accompanying examples. The CD70

25 antibodies described which inhibit the interaction between CD70 and CD27 may exhibit an IC50 in this co-culture assay of 500 ng/ml or less, or 300 ng/ml or less, or 100 ng/ml or less, or 50 ng/ml or less, or 30 ng/ml or less.

The preferred CD70 antibodies based on 27B3 and germlined variants thereof, including 41D12 (ARGX-110) exhibit potent blocking of the CD70/CD27 interaction in

30 the Elisa system. Indeed, ARGX-110 is significantly more potent in blocking CD70/CD27 interactions than comparator antibodies SGN70 and MDX1411. The interaction between CD70 and CD27 may contribute to tumour cell survival, proliferation and/or immune suppression within the tumour microenvironment. Accordingly, potent

PCT/EP2012/054733

inhibition of the CD70/CD27 interaction, in addition to high affinity binding to CD70, may contribute to improved clinical outcome in the treatment of certain CD70-expressing cancers or immunological disorders, for example autoimmune diseases and cancers which co-express CD70 and CD27.

5 In other embodiments, the CD70 antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, may bind to human CD70 but not inhibit the interaction between CD70 and CD27. CD70 antibodies which bind CD70 but do not inhibit the interaction between CD70 and CD27 can be assessed based on Elisa using either captured recombinant CD70 (Flag-TNC-CD70) or directed coated CD70 and recombinant CD27-Fc. As demonstrated in the

10 accompanying examples, a number of Fabs have been identified which bind CD70 but do not inhibit the CD70/CD27 interaction to a significant extent. In particular, the Fab clone identified herein as 59D10 exhibits strong binding to recombinant CD70 as measured by Biacore but does not block the CD70/CD27 interaction to a significant extent, when assessed by ELISA. CD70 antibodies described herein which bind CD70 but do not

15 inhibit the interaction between CD70 and CD27 may still possess intact antibody effector functions, i.e. one or more of ADCC, CDC, ADCP or ADC and inhibit tumour cell growth *in vivo*. CD70 antibodies which bind CD70 with high affinity but are nonblocking may be advantageously utilised as "one-armed" antibodies, or PEGylated Fab products or in any other antibody format which provides a strict monovalent interaction

20 with a target cell expressing CD70.

CD70 epitopes

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In certain aspects, the CD70 antibodies described herein bind to epitopes within the extracellular domain of human CD70.

The term "epitope" refers to the portion(s) of an antigen (e.g. human CD70) that contact an antibody. Epitopes can be linear, i.e., involving binding to a single sequence of amino acids, or conformational, i.e., involving binding to two or more sequences of amino acids in various regions of the antigen that may not necessarily be contiguous.

The CD70 antibodies provided herein may bind to different (overlapping or non-30 overlapping) epitopes within the extracellular domain of the human CD70 protein. For example, the Fabs denoted 1C2 and 9E1 in the accompanying examples clearly bind to different, non-overlapping epitopes on human CD70.

PCT/EP2012/054733

As noted elsewhere herein, the preferred CD70 antibody 41D12 (ARGX-110) exhibits a particularly useful combination of binding characteristics which is not exhibited by any known prior art CD70 antibody, namely:

(a) binding within the amino acid sequence HIQVTLAICSS (SEQ ID NO:342) in human CD70;

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- (b) cross-reactivity with CD70 homologs of rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) and cynomolgus monkey (*Macaca cynomolgus*);
- (c) binding to native human CD70 and heat denatured recombinant human CD70.
- 10 For any given CD70 antibody, the ability to bind human CD70 within the amino acid sequence HIQVTLAICSS (SEQ ID NO:342) can be readily determined by a person of ordinary skill in the art, for example using the mouse-human chimeric CD70 binding analysis described in the accompanying example 20.4.
- Cross-reactivity with simian CD70 homologs can also be readily determined by a person of ordinary skill in the art, for example by FACs analysis, surface plasmon resonance (Biacore[™]) or using a CD70-CD27 inhibition ELISA. In this regard, a CD70 antibody can be considered to exhibit cross-reactivity with a simian CD70 homolog, for example the CD70 homlogs of rhesus macaque and cynomolgus monkey, if the difference in IC50 for human versus simian (rhesus or cynomolgus monkey) CD70 in a CD70-CD27
- 20 inhibition ELISA, such as that described in the accompanying example 20.2, is less than 5-fold, preferably less than 3-fold or less than 2-fold.

The CD70 antibodies described herein may also demonstrate the ability to bind both native human CD70 and heat denatured recombinant human CD70. In this connection, binding to "native" human CD70 is indicated by binding to CD70 expressed

- 25 on the surface of a CD70-expressing cell, such as any of the CD70+ cell lines described in the accompanying examples, or even natural CD70-expressing cells isolated from patient material (e.g. cells isolated from CLL patients as in the accompanying examples), activated T cells, etc. Binding to "native" human CD70 can thus be easily tested by a person of ordinary skill in the art.
- 30 Binding to heat denatured recombinant human CD70 can be tested as described in the accompanying example 20.3. It is preferred that the CD70 antibody should exhibit an OD at 620 nm of 0.6 or greater in this assay, in order to demonstrate significant binding to heat denatured recombinant human CD70.

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PCT/EP2012/054733

Partial or slow internalisation

The CD70 antibodies described herein, including the preferred CD70 antibody 41D12 (ARGX-110), exhibit partial internalisation in renal carcinoma cell lines, meaning that when antibody internalisation is tested in 786-O renal carcinoma cells a substantial proportion of the bound antibody, i.e. at least 30-40%, remains external after 6 hours, and even after 24 hours, incubation at 37°C. In addition, the CD70 antibodies may also exhibit a slow rate of internalisation. In this regard, a CD70 antibody is considered to

exhibit a slow rate of internalisation. In this regard, a CD70 antibody is considered to exhibit slow internalisation if it is internalised at a slower rate than a reference CD70 antibody 9D1 (VH SEQ ID NO:178; VL SEQ ID NO:190).

10 As demonstrated in the accompanying examples, different cancer cell lines exhibit significant differences in the degree of internalisation of CD70 antibodies. It is particularly significant that the majority of cancer cell lines exhibit less than 30%, and even less than 10%, internalisation of bound CD70 antibody, even after 6 hours incubation with ARGX-110. These results are clearly supportive of the utility of CD70

15 antibodies with potent effector function (including variants engineered for enhanced effector function) in the treatment of CD70-expressing cancers. It has previously been reported in the scientific literature that CD70 is an "internalising" target; hence it has been proposed to develop CD70 antibody-drug immunoconjugates for treatment of both CD70-expressing cancers and immunological diseases. Therefore, the results presented

20 herein, which conclusively demonstrate that internalisation of cell-surface bound CD70 antibodies is a *rare* event and that the majority of CD70-expressing cell lines do not internalise bound CD70 antibody to a significant extent, are extremely surprising.

Camelid-derived CD70 antibodies

In yet other aspects, the antibodies or antigen binding fragments thereof described herein may comprise at least one hypervariable loop or complementarity determining region obtained from a VH domain or a VL domain of a species in the family Camelidae. In particular, the antibody or antigen binding fragment may comprise VH and/or VL domains, or CDRs thereof, obtained by active immunisation of outbred camelids, e.g.
30 llamas, with a human CD70 antigen.

By "hypervariable loop or complementarity determining region obtained from a VH domain or a VL domain of a species in the family Camelidae" is meant that that hypervariable loop (HV) or CDR has an amino acid sequence which is identical, or

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PCT/EP2012/054733

substantially identical, to the amino acid sequence of a hypervariable loop or CDR which is encoded by a Camelidae immunoglobulin gene. In this context "immunoglobulin gene" includes germline genes, immunoglobulin genes which have undergone rearrangement, and also somatically mutated genes. Thus, the amino acid sequence of the

- 5 HV or CDR obtained from a VH or VL domain of a Camelidae species may be identical to the amino acid sequence of a HV or CDR present in a mature Camelidae conventional antibody. The term "obtained from" in this context implies a structural relationship, in the sense that the HVs or CDRs of the CD70 antibody embody an amino acid sequence (or minor variants thereof) which was originally encoded by a Camelidae
- 10 immunoglobulin gene. However, this does not necessarily imply a particular relationship in terms of the production process used to prepare the CD70 antibody.

Camelid-derived CD70 antibodies may be derived from any camelid species, including *inter alia*, llama, dromedary, alpaca, vicuna, guanaco or camel.

CD70 antibodies comprising camelid-derived VH and VL domains, or CDRs thereof, are typically recombinantly expressed polypeptides, and may be chimeric polypeptides. The term "chimeric polypeptide" refers to an artificial (non-naturally occurring) polypeptide which is created by juxtaposition of two or more peptide fragments which do not otherwise occur contiguously. Included within this definition are "species" chimeric polypeptides created by juxtaposition of peptide fragments encoded by 20 two or more species, e.g. camelid and human.

Camelid-derived CDRs may comprise one of the CDR sequences shown as SEQ ID Nos: 49-59, 262 or 263 (heavy chain CDR3), or SEQ ID Nos: 26-37, 249, 258 or 259 (heavy chain CDR2) or SEQ ID Nos: 10-20, 248, 256 or 257 (heavy chain CDR1) or one of the CDR sequences shown as SEQ ID NOs: 148-168, 271 or 273 (light chain CDR3),

or SEQ ID Nos: 109-128 or 270 (light chain CDR2) or SEQ ID Nos:77-95, or 250-253,
267 and 268 (light chain CDR1).

In one embodiment the entire VH domain and/or the entire VL domain may be obtained from a species in the family Camelidae. In specific embodiments, the camelid-derived VH domain may comprise the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NOs: 177-188, 212-223, 274 or 275, whereas the camelid-derived VL domain may comprise the

amino acid sequence show as SEQ ID Nos:189-211, 230-245, 276 or 277 (VL). The camelid-derived VH domain and/or the camelid-derived VL domain may then be subject to protein engineering, in which one or more amino acid substitutions, insertions or

PCT/EP2012/054733

deletions are introduced into the camelid amino acid sequence. These engineered changes preferably include amino acid substitutions relative to the camelid sequence. Such changes include "humanisation" or "germlining" wherein one or more amino acid residues in a camelid-encoded VH or VL domain are replaced with equivalent residues

5 from a homologous human-encoded VH or VL domain.

Isolated camelid VH and VL domains obtained by active immunisation of a camelid (e.g. llama) with a human CD70 antigen can be used as a basis for engineering antigen binding polypeptides according to the invention. Starting from intact camelid VH and VL domains, it is possible to engineer one or more amino acid substitutions,

- 10 insertions or deletions which depart from the starting camelid sequence. In certain embodiments, such substitutions, insertions or deletions may be present in the framework regions of the VH domain and/or the VL domain. The purpose of such changes in primary amino acid sequence may be to reduce presumably unfavourable properties (e.g. immunogenicity in a human host (so-called humanization), sites of potential product
- 15 heterogeneity and or instability (glycosylation, deamidation, isomerisation, etc.) or to enhance some other favourable property of the molecule (e.g. solubility, stability, bioavailability, etc.). In other embodiments, changes in primary amino acid sequence can be engineered in one or more of the hypervariable loops (or CDRs) of a Camelidae VH and/or VL domain obtained by active immunisation. Such changes may be introduced in
- 20 order to enhance antigen binding affinity and/or specificity, or to reduce presumably unfavourable properties, e.g. immunogenicity in a human host (so-called humanization), sites of potential product heterogeneity and or instability, glycosylation, deamidation, isomerisation, etc., or to enhance some other favourable property of the molecule, e.g. solubility, stability, bioavailability, etc.
- 25 Thus, in one embodiment, the invention provides a variant CD70 antibody which contains at least one amino acid substitution in at least one framework or CDR region of either the VH domain or the VL domain in comparison to a camelid-derived VH or VL domain, examples of which include but are not limited to the camelid VH domains comprising the amino acid sequences shown as SEQ ID NO: 177-188, 212-223, 274 or
- 275, and the camelid VL domains comprising the amino acid sequences show as SEQ ID NO: 189-211, 230-245, 276 or 277.

In other embodiments, there are provided "chimeric" antibody molecules comprising camelid-derived VH and VL domains (or engineered variants thereof) and

one or more constant domains from a non-camelid antibody, for example human-encoded constant domains (or engineered variants thereof). In such embodiments it is preferred that both the VH domain and the VL domain are obtained from the same species of camelid, for example both VH and VL may be from Lama glama or both VH and VL may

5 be from Lama pacos (prior to introduction of engineered amino acid sequence variation). In such embodiments both the VH and the VL domain may be derived from a single animal, particularly a single animal which has been actively immunised with a human CD70 antigen.

As an alternative to engineering changes in the primary amino acid sequence of Camelidae VH and/or VL domains, individual camelid-derived hypervariable loops or CDRs, or combinations thereof, can be isolated from camelid VH/VL domains and transferred to an alternative (i.e. non-Camelidae) framework, e.g. a human VH/VL framework, by CDR grafting. In particular, non-limiting, embodiments the camelidderived CDRs may be selected from CDRs having the amino acid sequences shown as

- SEQ ID NOs: 49-59 (heavy chain CDR3), or SEQ ID Nos: 26-37 (heavy chain CDR2) or
 SEQ ID Nos: 10-20 (heavy chain CDR1) or one of the CDR sequences shown as SEQ ID
 NOs: 148-168 (light chain CDR3), or SEQ ID Nos: 109-128 (light chain CDR2) or SEQ
 ID Nos:77-95 (light chain CDR1).
- CD70 antibodies comprising camelid-derived VH and VL domains, or CDRs
 thereof, can take various different embodiments in which both a VH domain and a VL domain are present. The term "antibody" herein is used in the broadest sense and encompasses, but is not limited to, monoclonal antibodies (including full length monoclonal antibodies), polyclonal antibodies, multispecific antibodies (e.g., bispecific antibodies), so long as they exhibit the appropriate immunological specificity for a human
- 25 CD70 protein. The term "monoclonal antibody" as used herein refers to an antibody obtained from a population of substantially homogeneous antibodies, i.e., the individual antibodies comprising the population are identical except for possible naturally occurring mutations that may be present in minor amounts. Monoclonal antibodies are highly specific, being directed against a single antigenic site. Furthermore, in contrast to
- 30 conventional (polyclonal) antibody preparations which typically include different antibodies directed against different determinants (epitopes) on the antigen, each monoclonal antibody is directed against a single determinant or epitope on the antigen.

- 59 -

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PCT/EP2012/054733

"Antibody fragments" comprise a portion of a full length antibody, generally the antigen binding or variable domain thereof. Examples of antibody fragments include Fab, Fab', F(ab')2, bi-specific Fab's, and Fv fragments, diabodies, linear antibodies, single-chain antibody molecules, a single chain variable fragment (scFv) and multispecific antibodies formed from antibody fragments (see Holliger and Hudson, Nature Biotechnol.

23:1126-36 (2005), the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference).

In non-limiting embodiments, CD70 antibodies comprising camelid-derived VH and VL domains, or CDRs thereof, may comprise CH1 domains and/or CL domains, the amino acid sequence of which is fully or substantially human. Where the antigen binding polypeptide of the invention is an antibody intended for human therapeutic use, it is

typical for the entire constant region of the antibody, or at least a part thereof, to have fully or substantially human amino acid sequence. Therefore, one or more or any combination of the CH1 domain, hinge region, CH2 domain, CH3 domain and CL domain (and CH4 domain if present) may be fully or substantially human with respect to

15 it's amino acid sequence.

Advantageously, the CH1 domain, hinge region, CH2 domain, CH3 domain and CL domain (and CH4 domain if present) may all have fully or substantially human amino acid sequence. In the context of the constant region of a humanised or chimeric antibody, or an antibody fragment, the term "substantially human" refers to an amino acid sequence

- 20 identity of at least 90%, or at least 92%, or at least 95%, or at least 97%, or at least 99% with a human constant region. The term "human amino acid sequence" in this context refers to an amino acid sequence which is encoded by a human immunoglobulin gene, which includes germline, rearranged and somatically mutated genes. The invention also contemplates polypeptides comprising constant domains of "human" sequence which
- 25 have been altered, by one or more amino acid additions, deletions or substitutions with respect to the human sequence, excepting those embodiments where the presence of a "fully human" hinge region is expressly required.

The presence of a "fully human" hinge region in the CD70 antibodies of the invention may be beneficial both to minimise immunogenicity and to optimise stability of the antibody.

As discussed elsewhere herein, it is contemplated that one or more amino acid substitutions, insertions or deletions may be made within the constant region of the heavy and/or the light chain, particularly within the Fc region. Amino acid substitutions may

PCT/EP2012/054733

result in replacement of the substituted amino acid with a different naturally occurring amino acid, or with a non-natural or modified amino acid. Other structural modifications are also permitted, such as for example changes in glycosylation pattern (e.g. by addition or deletion of N- or O-linked glycosylation sites). Depending on the intended use of the

- 5 antibody, it may be desirable to modify the antibody of the invention with respect to its binding properties to Fc receptors, for example to modulate effector function. For example cysteine residue(s) may be introduced in the Fc region, thereby allowing interchain disulfide bond formation in this region. The homodimeric antibody thus generated may have improved internalization capability and/or increased complement-
- 10 mediated cell killing and antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC). See Caron et al., J. Exp. Med. 176:1191 -1195 (1992) and Shopes, B. J. Immunol. 148:2918-2922 (1992). Alternatively, a CD70 antibody can be engineered which has dual Fc regions and may thereby have enhanced complement lysis and ADCC capabilities. See Stevenson et al., Anti-Cancer Drug Design 3:219-230 (1989). The invention also contemplates
- 15 immunoconjugates comprising an antibody as described herein conjugated to a cytotoxic agent such as a chemotherapeutic agent, toxin (e.g., an enzymatically active toxin of bacterial, fungal, plant or animal origin, or fragments thereof), or a radioactive isotope (i.e., a radioconjugate). Fc regions may also be engineered for half-life extension, as described by Chan and Carter, Nature Reviews: Immunology, Vol.10, pp301-316, 2010,
- 20 incorporated herein by reference.

In yet another embodiment, the Fc region is modified to increase the ability of the antibody to mediate antibody dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) and/or to increase the affinity of the antibody for an Fc γ receptor by modifying one or more amino acids.

- In still another embodiment, the glycosylation of an antibody is modified. For example, an aglycoslated antibody can be made (i.e., the antibody lacks glycosylation). Glycosylation can be altered to, for example, increase the affinity of the antibody for the CD70 target antigen. Such carbohydrate modifications can be accomplished by; for example, altering one or more sites of glycosylation within the antibody sequence. For example, one or more amino acid substitutions can be made that result in elimination of
- 30 one or more variable region framework glycosylation sites to thereby eliminate glycosylation at that site. Such aglycosylation may increase the affinity of the antibody for antigen.

- 61 -

Also envisaged are variant CD70 antibodies having an altered type of glycosylation, such as a hypofucosylated antibody having reduced amounts of fucosyl residues or a non-fucosylated antibody (as described by Natsume et al., Drug Design Development and Therapy, Vol.3, pp7-16, 2009) or an antibody having increased

- 5 bisecting GlcNac structures. Such altered glycosylation patterns have been demonstrated to increase the ADCC activity of antibodies, producing typically 10-fold enhancement of ADCC relative to an equivalent antibody comprising a "native" human Fc domain. Such carbohydrate modifications can be accomplished by, for example, expressing the antibody in a host cell with altered glycosylation enzymatic machinery (as described by Yamane-
- 10 Ohnuki and Satoh, mAbs 1:3, 230-236, 2009). Examples of non-fucosylated antibodies with enhanced ADCC function are those produced using the Potelligent[™] technology of BioWa Inc.

The invention can, in certain embodiments, encompass chimeric Camelidae/human antibodies, and in particular chimeric antibodies in which the VH and

- 15 VL domains are of fully camelid sequence (e.g. Llama or alpaca) and the remainder of the antibody is of fully human sequence. CD70 antibodies can include antibodies comprising "humanised" or "germlined" variants of camelid-derived VH and VL domains, or CDRs thereof, and camelid/human chimeric antibodies, in which the VH and VL domains contain one or more amino acid substitutions in the framework regions in comparison to
- 20 camelid VH and VL domains obtained by active immunisation of a camelid with a human CD70 antigen. Such "humanisation" increases the % sequence identity with human germline VH or VL domains by replacing mis-matched amino acid residues in a starting Camelidae VH or VL domain with the equivalent residue found in a human germlineencoded VH or VL domain.
- CD70 antibodies may also be CDR-grafted antibodies in which CDRs (or hypervariable loops) derived from a camelid antibody, for example an camelid CD70 antibody raised by active immunisation with human CD70 protein, or otherwise encoded by a camelid gene, are grafted onto a human VH and VL framework, with the remainder of the antibody also being of fully human origin. Such CDR-grafted CD70 antibodies
 may contain CDRs having the amino acid sequences shown as SEQ ID Nos: 49-59, 262 or 263 (heavy chain CDR3), or SEQ ID Nos: 26-37, 249, 258 or 259 (heavy chain CDR2) or SEQ ID Nos: 10-20, 248, 256 or 257 (heavy chain CDR1) or one of the CDR sequences shown as SEQ ID NOs: 148-168, 271 or 273 (light chain CDR3), or SEQ ID

- 62 -

PCT/EP2012/054733

Nos: 109-128 or 270 (light chain CDR2) or SEQ ID Nos:77-95, or 250-253, 267 and 268 (light chain CDR1).

Humanised, chimeric and CDR-grafted CD70 antibodies as described above,
particularly antibodies comprising hypervariable loops or CDRs derived from active
immunisation of camelids with a human CD70 antigen, can be readily produced using
conventional recombinant DNA manipulation and expression techniques, making use of
prokaryotic and eukaryotic host cells engineered to produce the polypeptide of interest
and including but not limited to bacterial cells, yeast cells, mammalian cells, insect cells,
plant cells , some of them as described herein and illustrated in the accompanying

10 examples.

Camelid-derived CD70 antibodies include variants wherein the hypervariable loop(s) or CDR(s) of the VH domain and/or the VL domain are obtained from a conventional camelid antibody raised against human CD70, but wherein at least one of said (camelid-derived) hypervariable loops or CDRs has been engineered to include one

- 15 or more amino acid substitutions, additions or deletions relative to the camelid-encoded sequence. Such changes include "humanisation" of the hypervariable loops/CDRs. Camelid-derived HVs/CDRs which have been engineered in this manner may still exhibit an amino acid sequence which is "substantially identical" to the amino acid sequence of a camelid-encoded HV/CDR. In this context, "substantial identity" may permit no more
- 20 than one, or no more than two amino acid sequence mis-matches with the camelidencoded HV/CDR. Particular embodiments of the CD70 antibody may contain humanised variants of the CDR sequences shown as SEQ ID Nos: 49-59, 262 or 263 (heavy chain CDR3), or SEQ ID Nos: 26-37, 249, 258 or 259 (heavy chain CDR2) or SEQ ID Nos: 10-20, 248, 256 or 257 (heavy chain CDR1) or one of the CDR sequences
- 25 shown as SEQ ID NOs: 148-168, 271 or 273 (light chain CDR3), or SEQ ID Nos: 109-128 or 270 (light chain CDR2) or SEQ ID Nos:77-95, or 250-253, 267 and 268 (light chain CDR1).

The camelid-derived CD70 antibodies provided herein may be of any isotype. Antibodies intended for human therapeutic use will typically be of the IgA, IgD, IgE

30 IgG, IgM type, often of the IgG type, in which case they can belong to any of the four sub-classes IgG1, IgG2a and b, IgG3 or IgG4. Within each of these sub-classes it is permitted to make one or more amino acid substitutions, insertions or deletions within the

- 63 -

Fc portion, or to make other structural modifications, for example to enhance or reduce Fc-dependent functionalities.

Humanisation of camelid-derived VH and VL domains

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Camelid conventional antibodies provide an advantageous starting point for the preparation of antibodies with utility as human therapeutic agents due to the following factors, discussed in US 12/497,239 which is incorporated herein by reference:

High % sequence homology between camelid VH and VL domains and their
 human counterparts;

2) High degree of structural homology between CDRs of camelid VH and VL domains and their human counterparts (i.e. human-like canonical fold structures and human-like combinations of canonical folds).

15 The camelid (e.g. llama) platform also provides a significant advantage in terms of the functional diversity of the CD70 antibodies which can be obtained.

The utility of CD70 antibodies comprising camelid VH and/or camelid VL domains for human therapy can be improved still further by "humanisation" of natural camelid VH and VL domains, for example to render them less immunogenic in a human

20 host. The overall aim of humanisation is to produce a molecule in which the VH and VL domains exhibit minimal immunogenicity when introduced into a human subject, whilst retaining the specificity and affinity of the antigen binding site formed by the parental VH and VL domains.

One approach to humanisation, so-called "germlining", involves engineering changes in the amino acid sequence of a camelid VH or VL domain to bring it closer to the germline sequence of a human VH or VL domain.

Determination of homology between a camelid VH (or VL) domain and human VH (or VL) domains is a critical step in the humanisation process, both for selection of camelid amino acid residues to be changed (in a given VH or VL domain) and for selecting the appropriate replacement amino acid residue(s).

An approach to humanisation of camelid conventional antibodies has been developed based on alignment of a large number of novel camelid VH (and VL) domain sequences, typically somatically mutated VH (or VL) domains which are known to bind a target antigen, with human germline VH (or VL) sequences, human VH (and VL) consensus sequences, as well as germline sequence information available for llama pacos. The following passages outline the principles which can be applied to (i) select "camelid" amino acid residues for replacement in a camelid-derived VH or VL domain or a CDR

- 5 thereof, and (ii) select replacement "human" amino acid residues to substitute in, when humanising any given camelid VH (or VL) domain. This approach can be used to prepare humanised variants of camelid-derived CDRs having the amino acid sequences shown as SEQ ID Nos: 49-59, 262 or 263 (heavy chain CDR3), or SEQ ID Nos: 26-37, 249, 258 or 259 (heavy chain CDR2) or SEQ ID Nos: 10-20, 248, 256 or 257 (heavy
- 10 chain CDR1) or one of the CDR sequences shown as SEQ ID NOs: 148-168, 271 or 273 (light chain CDR3), or SEQ ID Nos: 109-128 or 270 (light chain CDR2) or SEQ ID Nos:77-95, or 250-253, 267 or 268 (light chain CDR1), and also for humanisation of camelid-derived VH domains having the sequences shown as SEQ ID NOs: 177-188, 212-223, 274 or 275 and of camelid-derived VL domains having the sequences shown as
- 15 SEQ ID Nos:189-211, 230-245, 276 or 277.

Step 1. Select human (germline) family and member of this family that shows highest homology/identity to the mature camelid sequence to be humanised. A general procedure for identifying the closest matching human germline for any given camelid VH

20 (or VL) domain is outlined below.

Step 2.Select specific human germline family member used to germline against.Preferably this is the germline with the highest homology or another germline familymember from the same family.

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Step 3. Identify the preferred positions considered for germlining on the basis of the table of amino acid utilisation for the camelid germline that is closest to the selected human germline.

30 Step 4. Try to change amino acids in the camelid germline that deviate from the closest human germline; germlining of FR residues is preferred over CDR residues.

a. Preferred are positions that are deviating from the selected human germline used to germline against, for which the amino acid found in the camelid sequence does not match with the selected germline and is not found in other germlines of the same subclass (both for V as well as for J encoded FR amino acids).

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b. Positions that are deviating from the selected human germline family member but which are used in other germlines of the same family may also be addressed in the germlining process.

10 c. Additional mismatches (e.g. due to additional somatic mutations) towards the selected human germline may also be addressed.

The following approach may be used to determine the closest matching human germline for a given camelid VH (or VL) domain:

- 15 Before analyzing the percentage sequence identity between Camelidae and human germline VH and VL, the canonical folds may first be determined, which allows the identification of the family of human germline segments with the identical combination of canonical folds for H1 and H2 or L1 and L2 (and L3). Subsequently the human germline family member that has the highest degree of sequence homology with the Camelidae
- 20 variable region of interest may be chosen for scoring sequence homology. The determination of Chothia canonical classes of hypervariable loops L1, L2, L3, H1 and H2 can be performed with the bioinformatics tools publicly available on webpage www.bioinf.org.uk/abs/chothia.html.page. The output of the program shows the key residue requirements in a datafile. In these datafiles, the key residue positions are shown
- 25 with the allowed amino acids at each position. The sequence of the variable region of the antibody is given as input and is first aligned with a consensus antibody sequence to assign the Kabat numbering scheme. The analysis of the canonical folds uses a set of key residue templates derived by an automated method developed by Martin and Thornton (Martin et al., J. Mol. Biol. 263:800-815 (1996)). The boundaries of the individual
- 30 framework regions may be assigned using the IMGT numbering scheme, which is an adaptation of the numbering scheme of Chothia (Lefranc et al., NAR 27: 209-212 (1999); http://imgt.cines.fr).

With the particular human germline V segment known, which uses the same combination of canonical folds for H1 and H2 or L1 and L2 (and L3), the best matching family member in terms of sequence homology can be determined. The percentage sequence identity between Camelidae VH and VL domain framework amino acid

- 5 sequences and corresponding sequences encoded by the human germline can be determined using bioinformatic tools, but manual alignment of the sequences could also be used. Human immunoglobulin sequences can be identified from several protein data bases, such as VBase (http://vbase.mrc-cpe.cam.ac.uk/) or the Pluckthun/Honegger database (http://www.bioc.unizh.ch/antibody/Sequences/Germlines. To compare the
- 10 human sequences to the V regions of Camelidae VH or VL domains a sequence alignment algorithm such as available via websites like www.expasy.ch/tools/#align can be used, but also manual alignment can also be performed with a limited set of sequences. Human germline light and heavy chain sequences of the families with the same combinations of canonical folds and with the highest degree of homology with the
- 15 framework regions 1, 2, and 3 of each chain may be selected and compared with the Camelidae variable region of interest; also the FR4 is checked against the human germline JH and JK or JL regions.

Note that in the calculation of overall percent sequence homology the residues of FR1, FR2 and FR3 are evaluated using the closest match sequence from the human

- 20 germline family with the identical combination of canonical folds. Only residues different from the closest match or other members of the same family with the same combination of canonical folds are scored (NB - excluding any primer-encoded differences). However, for the purposes of humanization, residues in framework regions identical to members of other human germline families, which do not have the same
- 25 combination of canonical folds, can be considered for humanization, despite the fact that these are scored "negative" according to the stringent conditions described above. This assumption is based on the "mix and match" approach for humanization, in which each of FR1, FR2, FR3 and FR4 is separately compared to its closest matching human germline sequence and the humanized molecule therefore contains a combination of different FRs
- 30 as was done by Qu and colleagues (Qu et la., Clin. Cancer Res. 5:3095-3100 (1999)) and Ono and colleagues (Ono et al., Mol. Immunol. 36:387-395 (1999)).

Cross-competing antibodies

Monoclonal antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that "cross-compete" with the molecules disclosed herein are those that bind human CD70 at site(s) that are identical to, or overlapping with, the site(s) at which the present CD70 antibodies bind.

- 5 Competing monoclonal antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof can be identified, for example, via an antibody competition assay. For example, a sample of purified or partially purified human CD70 can be bound to a solid support. Then, an antibody compound or antigen binding fragment thereof of the present invention and a monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof suspected of being able to compete with
- 10 such invention antibody compound are added. One of the two molecules is labelled. If the labelled compound and the unlabeled compound bind to separate and discrete sites on CD70, the labelled compound will bind to the same level whether or not the suspected competing compound is present. However, if the sites of interaction are identical or overlapping, the unlabeled compound will compete, and the amount of labelled
- 15 compound bound to the antigen will be lowered. If the unlabeled compound is present in excess, very little, if any, labelled compound will bind. For purposes of the present invention, competing monoclonal antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof are those that decrease the binding of the present antibody compounds to CD70 by about 50%, about 60%, about 70%, about 80%, about 85%, about 90%, about 95%, or about
- 20 99%. Details of procedures for carrying out such competition assays are well known in the art and can be found, for example, in Harlow and Lane (1988) Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, pages 567-569, ISBN 0-87969-314-2. Such assays can be made quantitative by using purified antibodies. A standard curve is established by titrating one antibody
- 25 against itself, i.e., the same antibody is used for both the label and the competitor. The capacity of an unlabeled competing monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof to inhibit the binding of the labelled molecule to the plate is titrated. The results are plotted, and the concentrations necessary to achieve the desired degree of binding inhibition are compared.

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Preferred embodiments are antibodies which cross-compete for binding to human CD70 with antibodies comprising the llama-derived Fab 27B3, and its germlined variants, including in particular 41D12 (ARGX-110) and which exhibit the same combination of binding characteristics, namely:

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PCT/EP2012/054733

- (a) binding within the amino acid sequence HIQVTLAICSS (SEQ ID NO:342) in human CD70;
- (b) cross-reactivity with CD70 homologs of rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) and cynomolgus monkey (*Macaca cynomolgus*);
- (c) binding to native and heat denatured recombinant human CD70.

Polynucleotides encoding CD70 antibodies

The invention also provides polynucleotide molecules encoding the CD70 antibodies of the invention, also expression vectors containing a nucleotide sequences which encode the CD70 antibodies of the invention operably linked to regulatory sequences which permit expression of the antigen binding polypeptide in a host cell or cell-free expression system, and a host cell or cell-free expression system containing this expression vector.

Polynucleotide molecules encoding the CD70 antibodies of the invention include, 15 for example, recombinant DNA molecules. The terms "nucleic acid", "polynucleotide" or a "polynucleotide molecule" as used herein interchangeably and refer to any DNA or RNA molecule, either single- or double-stranded and, if single-stranded, the molecule of its complementary sequence. In discussing nucleic acid molecules, a sequence or structure of a particular nucleic acid molecule may be described herein according to the

- 20 normal convention of providing the sequence in the 5' to 3' direction. In some embodiments of the invention, nucleic acids or polynucleotides are "isolated." This term, when applied to a nucleic acid molecule, refers to a nucleic acid molecule that is separated from sequences with which it is immediately contiguous in the naturally occurring genome of the organism in which it originated. For example, an "isolated
- 25 nucleic acid" may comprise a DNA molecule inserted into a vector, such as a plasmid or virus vector, or integrated into the genomic DNA of a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell or non-human host organism. When applied to RNA, the term "isolated polynucleotide" refers primarily to an RNA molecule encoded by an isolated DNA molecule as defined above. Alternatively, the term may refer to an RNA molecule that has been
- 30 purified/separated from other nucleic acids with which it would be associated in its natural state (i.e., in cells or tissues). An isolated polynucleotide (either DNA or RNA) may further represent a molecule produced directly by biological or synthetic means and separated from other components present during its production.

In one embodiment, the invention provides nucleotide sequences which encode the VH domain and VL domain of the germlined llama-derived Fab denoted herein 41D12, wherein the VH domain has the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:223 and the VH domain has the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:241. In a

5 preferred embodiment the nucleotide sequence encoding the VH domain having the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:223 comprises the nucleotide sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:344, and the nucleotide sequence encoding the VL domain having the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:241 comprises the nucleotide sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:345.

10 In one embodiment, the invention provides nucleotide sequences which encode the VH domain and VL domain of the germlined llama-derived Fab denoted herein 57B6, wherein the VH domain has the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:274 and the VH domain has the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:276. In a preferred embodiment the nucleotide sequence encoding the VH domain having the amino acid

- 15 sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:274 comprises the nucleotide sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:346, and the nucleotide sequence encoding the VL domain having the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:276 comprises the nucleotide sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:347.
- In one embodiment, the invention provides nucleotide sequences which encode 20 the VH domain and VL domain of the germlined llama-derived Fab denoted herein 59D10, wherein the VH domain has the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:275 and the VH domain has the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:277. In a preferred embodiment the nucleotide sequence encoding the VH domain having the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:275 comprises the nucleotide sequence
- 25 shown as SEQ ID NO:348, and the nucleotide sequence encoding the VL domain having the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:277 comprises the nucleotide sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:349.

For recombinant production of a CD70 antibody according to the invention, a recombinant polynucleotide encoding it may be prepared (using standard molecular
biology techniques) and inserted into a replicable vector for expression in a chosen host cell, or a cell-free expression system. Suitable host cells may be prokaryote, yeast, or higher eukaryote cells, specifically mammalian cells. Examples of useful mammalian host cell lines are monkey kidney CV1 line transformed by SV40 (COS-7, ATCC CRL)

- 70 -

PCT/EP2012/054733

1651); human embryonic kidney line (293 or 293 cells subcloned for growth in suspension culture, Graham et al., J. Gen. Virol. 36:59 (1977)); baby hamster kidney cells (BHK, ATCC CCL 10); Chinese hamster ovary cells/-DHFR (CHO, Urlaub et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 77:4216 (1980)); mouse sertoli cells (TM4, Mather, Biol. Reprod.

- 5 23:243-251 (1980)); mouse myeloma cells SP2/0-AG14 (ATCC CRL 1581; ATCC CRL 8287) or NS0 (HPA culture collections no. 85110503); monkey kidney cells (CV1 ATCC CCL 70); African green monkey kidney cells (VERO-76, ATCC CRL-1587); human cervical carcinoma cells (HELA, ATCC CCL 2); canine kidney cells (MDCK, ATCC CCL 34); buffalo rat liver cells (BRL 3A, ATCC CRL 1442); human lung cells (W138,
- ATCC CCL 75); human liver cells (Hep G2, HB 8065); mouse mammary tumor (MMT 060562, ATCC CCL51); TRI cells (Mather et al., Annals N.Y. Acad. Sci. 383:44-68 (1982)); MRC 5 cells; FS4 cells; and a human hepatoma line (Hep G2), as well as DSM's PERC-6 cell line. Expression vectors suitable for use in each of these host cells are also generally known in the art.

It should be noted that the term "host cell" generally refers to a cultured cell line. Whole human beings into which an expression vector encoding an antigen binding polypeptide according to the invention has been introduced are explicitly excluded from the definition of a "host cell".

20 Antibody production

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In an important aspect, the invention also provides a method of producing a CD70 antibody of the invention which comprises culturing a host cell (or cell free expression system) containing polynucleotide (e.g. an expression vector) encoding the CD70 antibody under conditions which permit expression of the CD70 antibody, and recovering the expressed CD70 antibody. This recombinant expression process can be used for large

scale production of CD70 antibodies according to the invention, including monoclonal antibodies intended for human therapeutic use. Suitable vectors, cell lines and production processes for large scale manufacture of recombinant antibodies suitable for *in vivo* therapeutic use are generally available in the art and will be well known to the skilled
person.

As noted elsewhere, the CD70 antibodies provided herein, including in particular antibodies based on the Fab 27B3 and its germlined variants such as 41D12 (ARGX-110) display characteristics which are particularly beneficial for large-scale commercial

- 71 -

PCT/EP2012/054733

manufacture. Specifically, the extremely high production yield (>4g/L) achievable in a commercial scale recombinant expression system will dramatically reduce production costs.

Preferred embodiments also exhibit thermal stability when tested at 37°C and also
over several freeze-thaw cycles, which is again extremely beneficial for commercial manufacture and storage of a clinical product. Surprisingly, several of the human germlined variants of Fab 27B3, including 41D12 and 40F1, exhibit improved thermal stability compared to 27B3 itself.

Accordingly, in a further aspect the invention provides an isolated antibody or 10 antigen binding fragment thereof which binds to human CD70, said antibody or fragment comprising a heavy chain variable domain corresponding to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:178, provided that at least one amino acid at a Kabat position selected from the group consisting of H6, H18, H24, H31, H56, H74, H74, H77, H79, H83, H84, H89, H93, H94, H108, H110, and H112 is substituted with another amino 15 acid.

This antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, may exhibit greater thermal stability than an antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprising a heavy chain variable domain with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:178.

In a further embodiment there is provided a CD70 antibody or antigen binding fragment which comprises a light chain variable domain corresponding to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:201, provided that at least one amino acid at a Kabat position selected from the group consisting of L2, L11, L12, L25, L26, L30, L46, L53, L60, L61, L67, L68, L76, L80, L81, L85, and L87 is substituted with another amino acid.

25 stability than an antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprising a heavy chain variable domain with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:201.

This antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, may exhibit greater thermal

In a particular embodiment, the CD70 antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof may comprise:

a) a heavy chain variable domain with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID

30 NO:178 comprising one or more amino acid substitutions at Kabat positions selected from the group consisting of H6, H18, H24, H31, H56, H74, H74, H77, H79, H83, H84, H89, H93, H94, H108, H110, and H112; and

PCT/EP2012/054733

b) a light chain variable domain with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:201 comprising one or more amino acid substitutions at Kabat positions selected from the group consisting of L2, L11, L12, L25, L26, L30, L46, L53, L60, L61, L67, L68, L76, L80, L81, L85, and L87.

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This antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, of claim 24, may exhibit greater thermal stability than an antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, comprising a heavy chain variable domain with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:178 and a light chain variable domain with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:201.

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Therapeutic utility of CD70 antibodies

The CD70 antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, provided herein can be used to inhibit the growth of cancerous tumour cells *in vivo* and are therefore useful in the treatment of CD70-expressing cancers.

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Accordingly, further aspects of the invention relate to methods of inhibiting tumour cell growth in a human patient, and also methods of treating or preventing cancer, which comprise administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a CD70 antibody or antigen binding fragment as described herein.

Another aspect of the invention provides a CD70 antibody or antigen binding fragment as described herein for use inhibiting the growth of CD70-expressing tumour cells in a human patient.

A still further aspect of the invention provides a CD70 antibody or antigen binding fragment as described herein for use treating or preventing cancer in a human patient.

25 Preferred cancers whose growth may be inhibited using the CD70 antibodies described herein include renal cancer (e.g., renal cell carcinoma), breast cancer, brain tumors, chronic or acute leukemias including acute myeloid leukemia, chronic myeloid leukemia, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, lymphomas (e.g., Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, lymphocytic lymphoma, primary CNS

30 lymphoma, T-cell lymphoma), nasopharyngeal carcinomas, melanoma {e.g., metastatic malignant melanoma), prostate cancer, colon cancer, lung cancer, bone cancer, pancreatic cancer, skin cancer, cancer of the head or neck, cutaneous or intraocular malignant melanoma, uterine cancer, ovarian cancer, rectal cancer, cancer of the anal region,

- 73 -

PCT/EP2012/054733

stomach cancer, testicular cancer, uterine cancer, carcinoma of the fallopian tubes, carcinoma of the endometrium, carcinoma of the cervix, carcinoma of the vagina, carcinoma of the vulva, cancer of the esophagus, cancer of the small intestine, cancer of the endocrine system, cancer of the thyroid gland, cancer of the parathyroid gland, cancer

- 5 of the adrenal gland, sarcoma of soft tissue, cancer of the urethra, cancer of the penis, solid tumors of childhood, cancer of the bladder, cancer of the kidney or ureter, carcinoma of the renal pelvis, neoplasm of the central nervous system (CNS), tumor angiogenesis, spinal axis tumor, brain stem glioma, pituitary adenoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, epidermoid cancer, squamous cell cancer, mesothelioma.
- 10 The CD70 antibodies described herein can also be used to treat a subject with a tumorigenic disorder characterized by the presence of tumor cells expressing CD70 including, for example, renal cell carcinomas (RCC), such as clear cell RCC, glioblastoma, breast cancer, brain tumors, nasopharangeal carcinomas, non- Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL), acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL), chronic lymphocytic leukemia
- 15 (CLL), Burkitt's lymphoma, anaplastic large-cell lymphomas (ALCL), multiple myeloma, cutaneous T-cell lymphomas, nodular small cleaved-cell lymphomas, lymphocytic lymphomas, peripheral T-cell lymphomas, Lennert's lymphomas, immunoblastic lymphomas, T-cell leukemia/lymphomas (ATLL), adult T-cell leukemia (T-ALL), entroblastic/centrocytic (cb/cc) follicular lymphomas cancers, diffuse large cell
- 20 lymphomas of B lineage, angioimmunoblastic lymphadenopathy (AILD)-like T cell lymphoma, HIV associated body cavity based lymphomas, embryonal carcinomas, undifferentiated carcinomas of the rhino-pharynx (e.g., Schmincke's tumor), Castleman's disease, Kaposi's Sarcoma, multiple myeloma, Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia, Mantle cell lymphoma and other B-cell lymphomas.
- 25 Specific embodiments relate to treatment of any one of the above-listed cancers with an antibody comprising the llama-derived Fab 27B3, or one of its germlined variants, including in particular 41D12 (ARGX-110). In particular, any one of the abovelisted cancers may be treated using an antibody comprising the Fab regions of 41D12 (germlined variant of 27B3) fused to the constant regions of human IgG1. In the latter
- 30 embodiment, the human IgG1 constant region may be further engineered in order to maximise antibody effector functions (e.g. by addition of point mutations), or the 41D12-IgG1 antibody may be non-fucosylated, again to enhance antibody effector function.

- 74 -

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As noted elsewhere, the CD70 antibodies described herein, particularly 27B3 and its germlined variants, exhibit particularly strong binding to human cancer cell lines which express cell-surface CD70 at low copy number, such as for example the large B cell lymphoma cell line SU-DHL-6, the chronic lymphocytic leukemia cell line JVM-2, the cutaneous T cell lymphoma cell line HH, the gastric carcinoma cell line MKN-45, the lung carcinoma cell lines A549 and EBC-1, the melanoma cell lines WM852 and WM793, the glioblastoma cell line GaMG and the ovarian carcinoma cell lines OAW-42, SKOv3 and OVCAR3. Indeed, the affinity of 41D12 (ARGX-110) for these low copy-

number cancer cell lines is significantly higher than comparator prior art antibodies, such as SGN70 and MDX1411.

The "improved" affinity for low copy-number cancer cell lines is of direct relevance for clinical treatment of the corresponding cancers, as demonstrated by the cell spiking experiments in the accompanying examples. When cells of a low copy-number cell line (e.g. the diffuse large B cell lymphoma cell line SU-DHL-6) are spiked into

15 freshly isolated PBMCs from healthy donors, cells of the cancer cell line are preferentially depleted by the example CD70 antibody ARGX-110.

Accordingly, a further aspect of the invention relates to a method of treating or preventing cancer, which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a CD70 antibody or antigen binding fragment as

20 described herein, wherein the cancer is a cancer which exhibits low copy-number expression of CD70.

The invention also provides a CD70 antibody or antigen binding fragment as described herein for use treating or preventing cancer in a human patient, wherein the cancer is a cancer which exhibits low copy-number expression of CD70.

In each of these aspects the low copy-number cancer is preferably selected from the group consisting of: large B cell lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, cutaneous T cell lymphoma, gastric cancer, lung cancer, melanoma, glioblastoma and ovarian cancer.

Specific embodiments relate to treatment of low copy-number cancers with an antibody comprising the llama-derived Fab 27B3, or one of its germlined variants, including in particular 41D12 (ARGX-110). In particular, any one of the above-listed low copy-number cancers may be treated using an antibody comprising the Fab regions of 41D12 (germlined variant of 27B3) fused to the constant regions of human IgG1.

- 75 -

PCT/EP2012/054733

The CD70 antibodies described herein are also useful for the treatment of immunological disorders characterised by expression of CD70. Specific examples of such immunological disorders include the following: rheumatoid arthritis, autoimmune demyelinative diseases (e.g., multiple sclerosis, allergic encephalomyelitis), endocrine

- 5 ophthalmopathy, uveoretinitis, systemic lupus erythematosus, myasthenia gravis, Grave's disease, glomerulonephritis, autoimmune hepatological disorder, inflammatory bowel disease (e.g., Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, Celiac disease), anaphylaxis, allergic reaction, Sjogren's syndrome, type I diabetes mellitus, primary biliary cirrhosis, Wegener's granulomatosis, fibromyalgia, polymyositis, dermatomyositis, multiple
- 10 endocrine failure, Schmidt's syndrome, autoimmune uveitis, Addison's disease, adrenalitis, thyroiditis, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, autoimmune thyroid disease, pernicious anemia, gastric atrophy, chronic hepatitis, lupoid hepatitis, atherosclerosis, subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus, hypoparathyroidism, Dressier's syndrome, autoimmune thrombocytopenia, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, hemolytic anemia, pemphigus
- 15 vulgaris, pemphigus, dermatitis herpetiformis, alopecia areata, pemphigoid, scleroderma, progressive systemic sclerosis, CREST syndrome (calcinosis, Raynaud's phenomenon, esophageal dysmotility, sclerodactyly, and telangiectasia), male and female autoimmune infertility, ankylosing spondolytis, ulcerative colitis, mixed connective tissue disease, polyarteritis nedosa, systemic necrotizing vasculitis, atopic dermatitis, atopic rhinitis,
- 20 Goodpasture's syndrome, Chagas' disease, sarcoidosis, rheumatic fever, asthma, recurrent abortion, anti-phospholipid syndrome, farmer's lung, erythema multiforme, post cardiotomy syndrome, Gushing' s syndrome, autoimmune chronic active hepatitis, birdfancier's lung, toxic epidermal necrolysis, Alport's syndrome, alveolitis, allergic alveolitis, fibrosing alveolitis, interstitial lung disease, erythema nodosum, pyoderma
- 25 gangrenosum, transfusion reaction, Takayasu's arteritis, polymyalgia rheumatica, temporal arteritis, schistosomiasis, giant cell arteritis, ascariasis, aspergillosis, Sampter's syndrome, eczema, lymphomatoid granulomatosis, Behcet's disease, Caplan's syndrome, Kawasaki's disease, dengue, encephalomyelitis, endocarditis, endomyocardial fibrosis, endophthalmitis, erythema elevatum et diutinum, psoriasis, erythroblastosis fetalis,
- 30 eosinophilic faciitis, Shulman's syndrome, Felty's syndrome, filariasis, cyclitis, chronic cyclitis, heterochronic cyclitis, Fuch's cyclitis, IgA nephropathy, Henoch-Schonlein purpura, graft versus host disease, transplantation rejection, cardiomyopathy, Eaton-Lambert syndrome, relapsing polychondritis, cryoglobulinemia, Evan's syndrome, and

- 76 -

autoimmune gonadal failure, disorders of B lymphocytes (e.g., systemic lupus erythematosus, Goodpasture's syndrome, rheumatoid arthritis, and type I diabetes), Th1 lymphocytes (e.g., rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, psoriasis, Sjorgren's syndrome, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, Grave's disease, primary biliary cirrhosis, Wegener's

- 5 granulomatosis, tuberculosis, or graft versus host disease), or Th2- lymphocytes (e.g., atopic dermatitis, systemic lupus erythematosus, atopic asthma, rhinoconjunctivitis, allergic rhinitis, Omenn's syndrome, systemic sclerosis, or chronic graft versus host disease), Churg Strauss syndrome, microscopic polyangiitis and Takayasu's arteritis.
- Specific embodiments relate to treatment of any one of the above-listed immunological disorders with an antibody comprising the llama-derived Fab 27B3, or one of its germlined variants, including in particular 41D12 (ARGX-110). In particular, any one of the above-listed cancers may be treated using an antibody comprising the Fab regions of 41D12 (germlined variant of 27B3) fused to the constant regions of human IgG1. In the latter embodiment, the human IgG1 constant region may be further
- 15 engineered in order to maximise antibody effector functions (e.g. by addition of point mutations), or the 41D12-IgG1 antibody may be non-fucosylated, again to enhance antibody effector function.

As used herein, the term "treating" or "treatment" means slowing, interrupting, arresting, controlling, ameliorating, stopping, reducing severity of a symptom, disorder,
condition or disease, but does not necessarily involve a total elimination of all disease-related symptoms, conditions or disorders.

For human therapeutic use the CD70 antibodies described herein may be
administered to a human subject in need of treatment in an "effective amount". The term
"effective amount" refers to the amount or dose of a CD70 antibody which, upon single
or multiple dose administration to a human patient, provides therapeutic efficacy in the
treatment of disease. Therapeutically effective amounts of the CD70 antibody can
comprise an amount in the range of from about 0.1 mg/kg to about 20 mg/kg per single
dose. A therapeutic effective amount for any individual patient can be determined by the
healthcare professional by monitoring the effect of the CD70 antibody on a biomarker,

30 such as cell surface CD70 in tumour tissues, or a symptom such as tumour regression, etc. The amount of antibody administered at any given time point may be varied so that optimal amounts of CD70 antibody, whether employed alone or in combination with any other therapeutic agent, are administered during the course of treatment.

- 77 -

It is also contemplated to administer the CD70 antibodies described herein, or pharmaceutical compositions comprising such antibodies, in combination with any other cancer treatment, as a combination therapy.

5 Use of antibodies which are poorly internalised to deplete CD70-expressing cells

A surprising finding described herein is that CD70 antibodies bound to CD70 expressed on the surface of cancer cell lines are poorly internalised. This is a surprising result, since the prior art has previously described CD70 as an "internalising target". Although there is variation between different cancer cell types in the precise degree of

- 10 internalisation of bound CD70 antibodies, no cancer cell type is observed to "fully internalise" the bound CD70 antibody. For example, renal cancer cell lines previously described as rapidly internalising in fact are shown to internalise a maximum of about 70% of bound antibody ARGX-110. Many other cancer cell lines internalise less than 30%, less than 20% or even less than 10% of bound ARGX-110.
- 15 The variation in degree of internalisation between different cancer cell lines is largely disease-indication dependent, with similar results being observed using different CD70 antibodies. However, the poor internalisation in certain cell lines is particularly apparent when using the antibody ARGX-110. The observed low degree of internalisation on many cancer cells provides a rationale for the use of CD70 antibodies
- 20 with strong effector function in order to deplete (e.g. kill or inhibit the growth of) cancer cells *in vivo*. Since bound CD70 antibodies are relatively poorly internalised on many cancer cells, the antibody will remain bound to the cell surface and can thereby trigger effector functions (ADCC, CDC, ADCP) by interactions with the immune system of a human patient.
- 25 Accordingly, a further important aspect of the invention relates to a method of depleting CD70-expressing cells in a human patient, comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of an antibody which binds to human CD70, wherein said CD70-expressing cells exhibit 30% or less, 25% or less, 20% or less, 15% or less, 10% or less or 5% or less internalisation of said antibody after a period of 6 hours, and wherein
- 30 said antibody exhibits at least one effector function selected from the group consisting of ADCC, CDC and ADCP.

In this method, the CD70 antibody (with active effector functions) is used to *deplete* CD70 expressing cells. This depletion of CD70-expressing cells may form the

- 78 -

PCT/EP2012/054733

basis of therapeutic or prophylactic treatment, e.g. for treatment of prevention of CD70expressing cancers, or for treatment of prevention of CD70-associated immunological disorders. The precise mechanism by which CD70-expressing antibodies are depleted may depend on the type of effector functions exhibited by the CD70 antibody, but will be

5 dependent on strong (high affinity) binding of the CD70 antibody to cell-surface CD70, coupled with poor internalisation of the bound antibody.

In certain embodiments the CD70-expressing cells are CD70-expressing cancer cells. In particular, the CD70-expressing cancer cells may be of a cancer type selected from the group consisting of: Burkitt lymphoma, large B cell lymphoma, Hodgkin

lymphoma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, mantle cell lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic
 leukemia, pancreatic carcinoma, gastric carcinoma, glioblastoma and lung carcinoma.
 Cell lines derived from each of these cancers have been demonstrated to internalise 30%
 or less of bound CD70 antibody over a period of 6 hours. In a further embodiment CD70 expressing cancer cells may be of a cancer type selected from the group consisting of:

15 Burkitt lymphoma, large B cell lymphoma, Hodgkin lymphoma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, mantle cell lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, gastric carcinoma, glioblastoma and lung carcinoma. Cell lines derived from each of these cancers have been demonstrated to internalise 20% or less of bound CD70 antibody over a period of 6 hours. In a further embodiment CD70-expressing cancer cells may be of a cancer type

20 selected from the group consisting of: Burkitt lymphoma, large B cell lymphoma, mantle cell lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, gastric carcinoma and lung carcinoma. Cell lines derived from each of these cancers have been demonstrated to internalise 10% or less of bound CD70 antibody over a period of 6 hours.

In other embodiments the CD70-expressing cells may be CD70-expressing activated T cells, which do not exhibit any detectable internalisation of bound CD70 antibodies (specifically no internalisation of ARGX-110 is observed over a period of 6 hours. This observation that bound CD70 antibodies are *not* internalised by CD70+ activated T cells is strongly supportive of the use of CD70 antibodies with strong effector function (ADCC, CDC or ADCP), including but not limited to ARGX-110, in the

30 treatment of immunological diseases mediated by CD70+ activated T cells, including autoimmune disorders such as for example rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, SLE, etc.

The above-listed embodiments can utilise essentially any CD70 antibody. In specific embodiments the antibody can be any CD70 antibody which has been shown

- 79 -

PCT/EP2012/054733

experimentally to exhibit 30% or less, 25% or less, 20% or less, 15% or less, 10% or less or 5% or less internalisation after a period of 6 hours in a CD70-expressing cancer cell line selected from the group consisting of Raji, SU-DHL-6, MHHPREB1, Mino, Mec1, JVM-2, MKN-45, A549, U87MG, PANC-1, PANC-89, L428, Granta 519, Rec-1 and

5 EBC-1. In effect, the cell line internalisation assay described in the accompanying examples can be used as a screen both to determine whether particular disease indications should be targeted with CD70 antibodies having strong effector function, or with CD antibody-drug conjugates (discussed below), and also to identify suitable CD70 antibodies for use in treating particular disease indications.

10 Accordingly, the invention also provides a method of depleting CD70-expressing cancer cells in a human patient, comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of an antibody which binds to human CD70, wherein said antibody exhibits 30% or less internalisation after a period of 6 hours in a CD70-expressing cancer cell line selected from the group consisting of Raji, SU-DHL-6, MHHPREB1, Mino, Mec1, JVM-

- 15 2, MKN-45, A549, U87MG, PANC-1, PANC-89, L428, Granta 519, Rec-1 and EBC-1, and wherein said antibody exhibits at least one effector function selected from the group consisting of ADCC, CDC and ADCP. In one embodiment the antibody to be used to deplete CD70-expressing cancer cells in a human patient may be an antibody which exhibits 10% or less internalisation over a period of 6 hours in a CD70-expressing cancer
- 20 cell line selected from the group consisting of Raji, SU-DHL-6, Granta 519, Rec-1, Mec1, JVM-2, MKN-45, A549 and EBC-1, and also exhibits at least one effector function selected from the group consisting of ADCC, CDC and ADCP.

Specific embodiments of this aspect of the invention may utilise any of the CD70 antibodies described herein, which bind human CD70 with extremely high affinity.

- 25 Preferred embodiments may utilise an antibody comprising the llama-derived Fab 27B3, or one of its germlined variants, including in particular 41D12 (ARGX-110). Particularly preferred embodiments utilise an antibody comprising the Fab regions of 41D12 (germlined variant of 27B3) fused to the constant regions of human IgG1. In the latter embodiment, the human IgG1 constant region may be further engineered in order to
- 30 maximise antibody effector functions (e.g. by addition of point mutations), or the 41D12-IgG1 antibody may be non-fucosylated, again to enhance antibody effector function.

Since the rationale behind the use of poorly internalising CD70 antibodies to deplete CD70-expressing cells relies on antibody effector functions, it is preferred that the

- 80 -

PCT/EP2012/054733

antibodies used in this aspect of the invention are *not* immunoconjugates in which the CD70 antibody is linked to a pharmaceutical agent, cytotoxic agent, cytostatic agent, drug moiety, etc. Indeed, a particular advantage of this aspect of the invention is avoidance of the need to use antibody-drug conjugates, which is desirable both from a patient-safety

5 perspective (avoids administration of potentially toxic agents) and an economic perspective (avoids costly synthesis of antibody-drug conjugates).

<u>Use of antibody-drug conjugates to kill cells with significant internalisation CD70</u> <u>antibodies</u>

- 10 It is demonstrated in the present examples that there are significant cell-to-cell differences in the degree of internalisation of CD70 antibodies, and that these differences are largely dependent on cell type, rather than the nature of the CD70 antibody (although differences are particularly marked when using the antibody ARGX-110). For those cell types which exhibit a *significant* degree of internalisation of bound CD70 antibody, i.e.
- 15 30% or more, preferably 40% or more, more preferably 50% or more, or even 60% or more internalisation after 6 hours, an altenative therapeutic strategy *may* be based on the use of CD70 antibody-drug conjugates.

Accordingly, a further important aspect of the invention relates to a method of depleting CD70-expressing cells in a human patient, comprising administering to said

20 patient an effective amount of an antibody-drug conjugate comprising an antibody which binds to human CD70 and a cytotoxic or cytostatic drug moiety, wherein said CD70expressing cells exhibit 30% or more, 40% or more, 50% or more, or 60% or more internalisation of said antibody which binds to human CD70 after a period of 6 hours.

In specific embodiments the CD70- expressing cells may internalise between 40% and 70%, preferably between 50% and 70% of the CD70 antibody which forms the basis of the antibody-drug conjugate within a period of 6 hours.

In this method, the CD70 antibody-drug conjugate is used to *deplete* CD70 expressing cells. This depletion of CD70-expressing cells may form the basis of therapeutic or prophylactic treatment, e.g. for treatment of prevention of CD70-

30 expressing cancers, or for treatment of prevention of CD70-associated immunological disorders. The precise mechanism by which CD70-expressing antibodies are depleted may depend on the nature of the antibody-drug conjugate, i.e. whether the "drug" moiety is cytotoxic or cytostatic, but will be dependent on strong (high affinity) binding of the

PCT/EP2012/054733

CD70 antibody to cell-surface CD70, coupled with significant internalisation of the bound antibody.

In certain embodiments the CD70-expressing cells are CD70-expressing cancer cells. In particular, the CD70-expressing cancer cells may be of a cancer type selected from the group consisting of: cutaneous T cell lymphoma, multiple myeloma, renal cell carcinoma, astrocytoma, melanoma and ovarian carcinoma. Cell lines derived from each of these cancers have been demonstrated to internalise more than 30% of bound CD70 antibody over a period of 6 hours. In a further embodiment, the CD70-expressing cancer cells may be of a cancer type selected from the group consisting of: renal cell carcinoma,

10 astrocytoma, melanoma and ovarian carcinoma. Cell lines derived from each of these cancers have been demonstrated to internalise more than 50% of bound CD70 antibody over a period of 6 hours.

In specific embodiments of this aspect of the invention, the antibody-drug conjugate may be based on any of the CD70 antibodies described herein, which bind

- 15 human CD70 with extremely high affinity. In preferred embodiments the antibody-drug conjugate may be based on an antibody comprising the llama-derived Fab 27B3, or one of its germlined variants, including in particular 41D12. The features of antibody-drug conjugates intended for human therapeutic use are generally known in the art, particularly with regard to the nature of the "drug" moiety, e.g. a cytotoxic or cytostatic agent, and
- 20 means of conjugation of the drug moiety to the CD70 antibody moiety. Examples of CD70 antibody-drug conjugates are given, for example, in WO 2004/073656.

Pharmaceutical compositions

The scope of the invention includes pharmaceutical compositions, containing one or a combination of CD70 antibodies of the invention, or antigen- binding fragments thereof, formulated with one or more a pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients. Such compositions may include one or a combination of (e.g., two or more different) CD70 antibodies.

Techniques for formulating antibodies for human therapeutic use are well known 30 in the art and are reviewed, for example, in Wang et al., Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Vol.96, pp1-26, 2007.

Incorporation by Reference

Various publications are cited in the foregoing description and throughout the following examples, each of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

5 Examples

The invention will be further understood with reference to the following nonlimiting experimental examples.

Example 1: Immunization of llamas

- Immunizations of llamas and harvesting of peripheral blood lymphocytes (PBLs) as well as the subsequent extraction of RNA and amplification of antibody fragments were performed as described by De Haard and colleagues (De Haard H, *et al.*, J. Bact. 187:4531-4541, 2005). Two llamas were immunized with CD70-expressing 786-O cells (ATCC-CRL-1932) and two llamas with CD70-expressing Raji cells (ATCC-CCL-86).
- 15 Cells were prepared freshly for each immunization and were verified for CD70 expression by FACS analysis. The llamas were immunized with approximately 10⁷ live cells injected intramuscularly in the neck, once per week for six weeks. Freund's Incomplete Adjuvant was injected in the neck muscles a few centimetres away from the site of cellular immunization.
- Blood samples of 10 ml were collected pre- and post immunization to investigate the immune response. The sera from the llamas were tested for the presence of antibodies against recombinant CD70 (Flag-TNC-CD70) by ELISA prior to (day 0) and after (day 55 or 69) immunization. It should be noted that as detection antibody the goat anti-llama IgG1/2 (Bethyl, A160-100P) was used that does not discriminate between conventional and heavy chain antibodies, meaning that the measured CD70 response is from the total IgG. The results are shown in Figure 1.

Three-to-four days after the last immunization, 400 ml blood was collected for extraction of total RNA from the PBLs using a Ficoll-Paque gradient to isolate PBLs and the method described by Chomczynski P, *et al.*, Anal. Biochem. 162: 156-159, 1987 to

30 prepare the RNA. In average, RNA yields of 450 µg were achieved, of which an 80 µg aliquot was used for random cDNA synthesis and subsequent amplification of VHCH1, VλCλ and VκCκ gene segments.

Example 2: Library construction

Independent V λ C λ and V κ C κ libraries were constructed using a two step PCR, in which 25 cycles with non tagged primers was done followed by 10 cycles using tagged version of these primers (De Haard H, *et al.*, Biol. Chem. 274, 1999). The VHCH1

- 5 libraries were built in parallel using the same approach. The sizes of the individual libraries were between 10^7 and 10^{10} cfu. Next, the light chain from the V λ C λ and V κ C κ libraries were re-cloned separately in the VHCH1-expressing vector to create the "Lambda" and "Kappa" llama Fab-library respectively. Alternatively the digested VHCH1 amplicons were directly cloned into the V κ C κ and V λ C λ libraries avoiding the
- 10 construction of a separate VHCH1 library. As light chain shuffling generally delivers better affinity variants than heavy chain shuffling does, we chose to generate precloned light chain libraries and directly clone the heavy chain amplicons in these primary repertoires.

The final phage display libraries were between 5×10^8 and 2×10^9 cfu. Quality control of

15 the libraries by analysis of percentage of full length Fab containing clones was routinely performed using PCR.

Example 3: Selections and screening

Two-to-three rounds of phage selections were done on either captured 20 recombinant CD70 (Flag-TNC-CD70) or on directly coated CD70 using standard protocols. Elution of bound phage was done with trypsin.

From selected phage transfected into TG1, individual colonies were picked randomly for growth in 96 well plates. After IPTG induction according to standard protocols periplasmic fractions (peris) containing Fabs were prepared. In all selections

- and for all four llamas, several clones were found that were able to express Fabs capable in inhibiting the interaction between CD27 and CD70 as determined by the inhibition ELISA (figure 2 and 3). In this assay, Flag-TNC-CD70 is captured by an anti-Flag mAb and binding of CD27-Fc is detected via a biotinylated anti-CD27 mAb and strep-HRP in the absence or presence of CD70 Fabs (figure 2 and 3) or CD70 mAbs (figure 4). In
- 30 Figure 2B it can be seen that 27B3, which has an identical VH as 9D1, but contains a somewhat different light chain, seems to block binding of CD27 to CD70 more efficiently, which was in line with the better off rate of this Fab as measured on Biacore (data not shown). Table 3 indicates the blocking potency (expressed as IC50) for the

PCT/EP2012/054733

various llama-human chimeric mAbs tested in the CD70 inhibition ELISA. Fab 27B3 has an IC50 of around 0.4 nM, which even seems to improve upon formatting into a chimeric llama – human IgG1 yielding an IC 50 of 0.25nM, whereas mAb 9D1 with the other light chain is 3-fold less potent (0.73 nM). Figure 3 is a composite of an experiment testing

- 5 Ilama CD70 Fabs for blocking activity (in the inhibition ELISA, see white bars) and for CD70 binding (binding ELISA, black bars). For the binding ELISA, Flag-TNC-CD70 is captured by an anti-Flag mAb and binding of the Fabs is detected using an anti-myc-HRP mAb, which recognizes the MYC tag fused to the C-terminus of the Fd fragment. For comparison purposes, known monoclonal antibodies to CD70 (SGN70 described in US
- 10 2010/0129362 A1, clone 1F6; and MDX69A7 described in WO2008/074004 figure 5A and 5B) were tested in parallel. Many llama-derived Fab clones were identified that demonstrate pure binding in ELISA and are non-blocking (see figure 3- for example Fab clones 45H8, 45C4, 46A2, 46G7, 46E4, 46F12 and 46G12). Of interest is clone 59D10, which as Fab has no blocking activity, but when converted into a chimeric IgG was
- 15 antagonistic (see Table 3). Amino acid sequences of the VH and VL domains of binding and blocking llama-derived Fab clones are shown elsewhere herein (Tables 6 9).

Table 3: Blocking potency expressed as IC50 (ng/ml) for individual SIMPLE antibodies (mAbs) and benchmarks SGN70 and MDX69A7 as measured in the CD70 inhibition ELISA using recombinant human CD70.

mAb	IC50 (ng/ml)
SGN70	330
MDX69A7	4038
9D1	109
5F4	296
9E1	1400
9G2	40
5B2	92
9B2	126
4D2	254
24D4	84

20

- 85 -

24B6	420
27B3	38
19G10	75
57B6	154
59D10	107

mAbs 27B3 and 57B6 was also tested for their ability to inhibit the interaction between rhesus recombinant CD70 (FLAG-TNC-rhesus CD70) and CD27. The IC50 value determined by the inhibition ELISA described above was 150 and 135 ng/ml,

5 respectively.

Example 4: Affinity for human and rhesus CD70

Off-rates of the purified llama-derived anti-CD70 blocking Fabs were determined using the Biacore. Recombinant human CD70 was immobilized on a CM5 Biacore chip. The

10 immobilization was performed in accordance with a method provided by Biacore and by using the NHS/EDC kit (Biacore AB): after activation of the chip, a solution of 50 µg/ml of recombinant CD70 in 10mM acetate buffer with pH of 5 was prepared and 1µl of this solution (50ng) was injected resulting in a surface density of approximately 1000 RU.

Fabs for the CD70 mAbs ARGX-110, MDX2H5 and SGN70 were prepared by

- 15 trypsin digestion (SGN70 and MDX69A7 are described elsewhere herein, MDX2H5, also referred to as MDX1411, is described in WO2008/074004 figure 1A and 1B). Fabs, at a concentration of approximately 100-400µg/ml, were diluted 6-fold in hepes-buffered saline (0.1M Hepes, 1.5M NaCl, 30mM EDTA, 0.5% v/v surfactant P20). They were injected (30µl) and passed through the flow cells at a flow rate of 30µl/min. After
- 20 binding of the Fab to CD70, the off-rate was monitored for a period of 10 minutes. After the dissociation, the flow cell surfaces were regenerated by injecting 5µl of 10mM NaOH. Sometimes multiple injections of NaOH were needed to regenerate the surfaces depending on the affinity of the Fabs. Off-rate analysis was done by applying the BIAevaluation software. First, the sensogram of the blank runs were subtracted from
- 25 those obtained with the coated flow cell. Then the off-rate was determined for a time range of 10 minutes using the Fit kinetics application and the K_d value was calculated. Moreover, the off-rate of CD27 for CD70 was determined as well. The off rates are summarized in Table 4.

All llama-derived Fabs tested bind with apparent very low off-rates (i.e.high affinity) to human recombinant CD70 and to rhesus recombinant CD70 based on Biacore off rates in the range of 0.4-4.8 x 10^{-4} s⁻¹. The off-rates of the llama-derived Fabs for human CD70 are much better than for the reference mAb derived Fabs (7-30 x 10^{-4} s⁻¹).

5 The llama-derived Fabs with the best off-rates were shown to have comparable off-rates to that of CD27 for its interaction with CD70 ($0.8 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$). It should be noted that the lower limit for measurement of off-rates using Biacore is around $0.4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$. Hence the llama-derived Fabs with off-rates falling close to this limit as assessed by Biacore may in fact exhibit even a higher affinity for CD70.

Table 4: Off rates of llama-derived Fabs and reference Fabs for human or rhesusCD70

Fab tested	$\mathbf{k_{off}}$ (s ⁻¹) x E ⁻⁴	$\mathbf{k_{off}} (s^{-1}) \ge E^{-4}$
	human CD70	rhesus CD70
SGN70-Fab	7.0	
MDX2H5-Fab	17	No binding
MDX69A7-Fab	30	
CD27	0.8	
1C2	0.4	3.2
9D1	4.8	2.0
9G2	1.8	1.8
5F4	0.8	5.0
9E1	1.9	2.0
9B2	2.8	6.1
4D2	3.3	2.9
27B3	0.8	
24E3	0.8	
33D8	4.5	
24F2	1.6	
24B6	1.0	
19G10	0.8	

8B12	3.6	
45B12	2.1	
45D9	2.1	
45F8	2.0	
57B6	1.0	0.4
59D10	13.9	No binding

Example 5: Binding of chimeric llama-human CD70 mAbs to CD70 positive cells

The VH and VL of interesting llama-derived Fab clones were fused to constant regions of human IgG1 and to human Cλ (all variable light chain regions are of lambda origin) and produced as bivalent chimeric monoclonal antibodies in the system described in patent application WO 2009/145606. The chimeric llama-human mAbs were purified on Protein A followed by gel filtration.

- 786-O cells were incubated with a 1/5 dilution series of chimeric llama-human
 CD70 inhibiting mAbs (20 µg/ml 0.25 ng/ml) and binding of the mAbs to the cells was detected using an anti-human Fc-FITC antibody (1/500 diluted conjugate AF006 from supplier Binding Site). Fluorescence of 10,000 cells/condition was measured using a flow cytometer and the median fluorescence was plotted. The results are shown in figure 5. Most of the mAbs bind with high affinity to 786-O cells. SIMPLE antibody 1C2, which
- as Fab showed to have the best off rate and blocking potency, was not able to recognize cell surface expressed CD70 (data not shown) and therefore was not studied furthermore.
 SIMPLE antibody 27B3 has the best affinity for cell bound receptor with an EC50 of 0.24 nM.
- In a further experiment, NHL-derived MHH-PREB-1 cells (10⁵ cells) were 20 incubated with a concentration gradient of chimeric llama-human CD70 inhibiting mAbs (20 µg/ml- 0.25 ng/ml) and binding of the mAbs to the cells was detected using antihuman IgG-FITC antibody. The results are shown in Figure 5B. The EC50 values for 57B6 and 59D10 were 83 and 74 ng/ml, respectively.

Example 6: Inhibition in co-culture experiments by chimeric llama-human CD70 mAbs

In order to determine the blocking potency in a cell based assay the system described by Wyzgol and colleagues was used (J Immunol (2009) 183: 1851 – 1861).

5 Fibrosarcoma cell line HT1080 transfected with human CD27 secretes IL-8 upon ligation with trimeric recombinant CD70 and blocking of this interaction with a neutralizing mAb can be measured by reduced cytokine levels. A modified version of the assay was applied in which the B cell lymphoma Raji cell line served as source of CD70, although the molecule is expressed on the cell surface and therefore is more relevant than soluble

10 CD70.

Raji cells were cultured and checked for CD70 expression by FACS analysis. Cells were then mixed in a 96-well tissue culture plate (50,000 cells/well) with the anti-CD70 mAbs and incubated at RT for 1 hour. HT1080-CD27 cells were added (10,000 cells/well) and thoroughly mixed. Co-cultures were transferred to the incubator and

- 15 grown overnight at 37°C. Supernatants were collected and analyzed for their IL-8 content by ELISA. The results for the SIMPLE antibodies are shown in figure 6 and are compared to reference CD70 mAbs. IC50 values for the chimeric llama-human CD70 mAbs are between 3 and 517 ng/ml as compared to 42 ng/ml for SGN70 and 143 ng/ml for MDX69A7 (see table 5). SIMPLE antibodies 27B3 (IC50 of 33 pM) and 9G2 (IC50
- 20 of 20 pM) are 10 to 20 fold more potent than benchmark SGN70 (IC50 of 370 pM) that again is 3 fold more potent than benchmark MDX69A7 (1 nM). It can therefore be concluded that the chimeric llama-human mAbs are extremely potent in blocking the interaction between CD27 and CD70 and outperform the benchmark antibodies in this highly relevant bioassay.

25

Table 5: Neutralizing potency expressed as IC50 value (ng/ml) of chimeric llama-human CD70 mAbs and reference mAbs tested in Raji-based co-culture assay

mAb	IC50 (ng/ml)
9D1	29
5F4	32
9B2	213

4D2	54
9E1	517
5B2	19
SGN70	55
MDX69A7	143
27B3	5
19G10	16
9G2	3
57B6	5
59D10	10

Example 7: Antibody Dependent Cellular Cytoxicity activity

Antibody Dependent Cellular Cytoxicity (ADCC) was measured using the 5 standard Cr⁵¹-release assay, which was described by McEarchern et al. (Blood (2007) 109: 1185 – 1192). Human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) were purified from heparinized whole blood by standard ficoll separation and were used as source of NK cells (i.e. effector cells). Blood from several independent donors was used. The cells were suspended at 2x10⁶ /ml in media containing 200 U/ml of human IL-2 (for

- 10 stimulation of NK cells) and incubated overnight at 37° C. The following day, adherent and non-adherent cells were collected and washed once in culture media. The target cells were 786-O cells (RCC) and were labeled with Cr⁵¹. Target to effector cell ratio was 1:20 and the incubation was performed for 2 hours with the antibody present at different concentrations in the culture medium. Chimeric llama-human mAbs as well as the
- 15 benchmark antibodies were tested for ADCC activity on 786-O cells at different concentrations.

The percent lysis was determined by the equation: % Lysis= (sample CPM–spontaneous release CPM)/(maximum release CPM-

20 spontaneous release CPM)x100.

The results demonstrate that all of the chimeric llama-human mAbs induce lysis of target cells via ADCC activity (figure 7). SIMPLE mAb 27B3 has a potency of around $1 \mu g/ml$

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PCT/EP2012/054733

and therefore is 10 fold more potent than the affinity variant 9D1 that has a comparable IC50 as benchmark SGN70, which again is 2.5 fold more potent in ADCC than benchmark MDX69A7. SIMPLE antibody 27B3 combines best in class receptor – ligand blocking potency with superior ADCC potency and therefore has a favourable therapeutic profile.

Example 8: Complement Dependent Cytoxicity potency of CD70 specific mAbs

Complement Dependent Cytotoxicity (CDC) properties of the antibodies were determined in the standard assay described by McEarchern et al. (Blood (2007) 109: 1185
10 – 1192). In a first control experiment, U266 (MM) and MHH-PREB1 (NHL) cells were tested for the presence of CD70 antigen by FACS analysis. In a next experiment, a chimeric llama-human CD70 mAb was tested for CDC activity on both cell lines at 3 different concentrations and in the presence of 3, 6 or 9% human serum (as a source of human complement). It was concluded that the U266 cells give the best signal/noise ratio

15 in the presence of 9% serum.

In a next experiment, U266 cells were mixed with chimeric llama-human mAbs (figure 8, upper panel) or the reference CD70 mAbs (fig 8, lower panel) at 0.001-20 μ g/ml in the absence or presence of 9% human serum and incubated for 2h at 37°C. Cells were spun down and Propidium Iodide was added to determine the number of dead cells.

20 Cell lysis was measured in FACS. CDC activity was demonstrated for all chimeric llamahuman mAbs on U266 cells in the presence of 9% human serum. SIMPLE antibody 27B3 has a similar IC50 as benchmark SGN70, while again MDX69A7 is 10 fold less potent.

Example 9: Antibody Dependent Cellular Phagocytosis potency

- To analyze Antibody Dependent Cellular Phagocytosis (ADCP) properties of the SIMPLE mAbs the assay described by McEarchern et al. (Blood (2007) 109: 1185 1192) was implemented. In this assay human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) were purified from heparinized whole blood by standard ficoll separation. Blood from different donors were used. Cells were incubated in RPMI containing 10% FCS in tissue
- 30 culture flask overnight at 37°C. Non-adherent cells were removed and adherent cells were cultured for 15 days in 75mlX-VIVO 15 medium containing 500 U/ml rhGM-CSF (7.5 µg/ 75ml). After 15 days, adherent cells were harvested (monocyte derived macrophages (MDM).

PCT/EP2012/054733

 8.0×10^4 target cells (786-O cells) loaded with the red dye PKH26 were incubated with mAb for 30 minutes on ice in a V-bottom 96 well plate. Next, 2.0×10^4 MDM cells were added (target to effector (786-0 to MDM) ratio of 4:1) and after 1 hour of incubation at 37° C, the cells were centrifuged, resuspended in 100µ1 PBS 1% BSA and transferred to a

- 5 V-bottom 96 well plate. Anti-CD11b monoclonal antibody (FITC conjugated) for staining of macrophages was added for 30 min while keeping the plates on ice, cells were then washed two times with PBS and fixed with 1% paraformaldehyde (in PBS). Samples were analysed by FACS, where phagocytosis was scored on double stained cells. The results are shown in Figure 9 and these demonstrate that all chimeric llama-human mAbs
- 10 tested are potent in inducing ADCP. SIMPLE antibody 27B3 induces phagocytosis of up to 50% of the labelled tumour cells by macrophages at concentrations of 1 μ g/ml with an IC50 of around 100 ng/ml (0.4 nM).

Example 10: Internalization of anti-CD70 mAbs on tumor cell line 786-O

- 15 It has been demonstrated that binding of CD70 antibodies to the renal carcinoma derived cell line 786-O results in the rapid (within 1 hour) internalization of the antibody–receptor complex (Adam et al., Br J Cancer (2006) 95:298 306). In order to test for internalization of SIMPLE antibodies and benchmark mAbs directed against CD70, 786-O cells were cultured in a 96-well microtiter plate and incubated overnight at 37°C. 2.5
- 20 µg/ml mAb was added and incubated with the cells for 0-24 hours at 37°C. Plates were washed 3 times 5' with stripping buffer (150mM NaCl, 100mM Glycine, pH=2.5; coded "IN" representing the amount of mAb internalized via CD70) or PBS (coded "OUT" and representing the amount of mAb bound to the receptor at the outside of the cell). Subsequently, cells were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde for 30' at RT, washed with
- 25 PBS, and incubated 5' with 0.2% Triton-X-100 ("IN") or PBS ("OUT"). Next, cells were washed twice and incubated at RT for 10' with 100mM glycine followed by a 30' incubation with PBS+1%BSA. Finally cells were stained with goat anti-human Fc (Jackson immunoresearch 109-005-098) and anti-goat IRDYE800 (Li-cor 926-32214) before analysis on the Li-Cor Odyssey infrared scanner. The antibody remaining at the
- 30 outside of the cell, i.e. non-internalized, is scored as mean MFI OUT in Figure 10. The results demonstrate that several mAbs remain longer at the surface of the cells than the other mAbs (higher signal). However, none of the mAbs internalizes completely: initially (between 0 and 2 hours), mAb internalization goes very fast, but then it seems that a

PCT/EP2012/054733

steady state is reached where 30-40% of the mAb remains at the outside of the cell, even after 24 hours of incubation at 37°C. SIMPLE antibody 27B3 internalizes as rapidly as benchmark antibodies SGN70 and MDX69A7. It is interesting to observe that SIMPLE antibodies 9E1 and 19G10, but also other, remain at high levels at the outside of the cells,

5 even after 24 hours of incubation (lower panel of figure 10). In order to effectively induce ADCC, CDC and ADCP effects it is important that high levels of CD70 specific antibodies remain on the outside of the targeted cancer cells in order to recruit the effector immune cells that are responsible for cell killing. On the other hand rapidly internalizing antibodies have potential as Antibody Drug Conjugates (ADC).

10

Example 11: *In vivo* efficacy of chimeric llama-human mAbs in a tumour xenograft model

To establish disseminated disease, 10^6 Raji cells in 0.2 mL PBS were injected into the lateral tail vein of C.B.-17 severe combined immunodeficient (SCID) mice (Harlan,

- 15 Indianapolis, IN). After injection, all of the mice were pooled and then placed randomly into the various treatment groups, with 9 mice per group. Antibodies were administered in 0.5 ml at day 1, 4, 8, 11, 15 after the cell implantation by intraperitoneal injection. Mice were monitored at least twice per week and were sacrificed when they exhibited signs of disease, including weight loss of 15% to 20%, hunched posture, lethargy, cranial
- 20 swelling, or dehydration. Mice received treatment with 41D12 mAb in a dose response. Additionally, a Fc-dead version of 41D12 was tested at 10 mg/kg. This Fc-dead version has been described before in the literature and has no ADCC and CDC activity and much lower ADCP activity (McEarchern *et al.*, Clin Cancer Res (2008) 14(23):7763-72). Results are shown as survival curves in figure 11. These data show that the median
- 25 survival time for the control mice is 27 days. Median survival time was prolonged to at least 67 days when doses equal to or higher than 0.1 mg/kg of 41D12 were administered. The dose of 0.01 mg/kg is still efficacious. The Fc-dead version of 41D12 has no potency *in vivo*, illustrating the important of ADCC, CDC and ADCP in this model.

30 Example 12: Expression of non-fucosylated mAbs

Antibodies with reduced amounts of fucosyl residues have been demonstrated to increase ADCC by 10-1000 fold (Iida et al., Clin Cancer Res. (2006) 12(9): 2879 – 2887). The CHO cell line Ms704-PF and MS705, which lack the fucosyltransferase gene (FUT8,

BioWa, Inc.) was electroporated with a eukaryotic expression vector encoding the heavy and light chain of the chimeric llama-human CD70 mAbs. Drug resistant clones were selected by growth in Excell 325-PF CHO medium. Clones were screened for IgG production by a standard CD70 binding ELISA.

5

Table 6: sequence of CD70 specific llama-derived VH

		SEQ		SEQ
Fab	Framework 1	ID	CDR1	ID
1C2	ELQVVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTLS	1	NYWMH	10
9D1	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	2	VYYMN	11
8B12	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	2	VYYMN	11
8C12	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	2	VYYMN	11
9E1	EVQLQESGGGVVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFD	3	DYAMS	12
5F4	EVQVQESGGGLVHPGGSLKLSCAASGFTFD	4	TYAMS	13
5B2	QVQLVESGGDLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTVS	5	NPAMS	14
6D5	EVQLVQPGAELRKPGASVKVSCKASGYTFT	6	SYYID	15
4D2	QVQLQESGPGLVKPSQTLSLACTVSGGSIT	7	TSYYYWS	16
9A1	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	2	SYAMS	17
9G2	QVQLVESGGGLMQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	8	SSAMS	18
9B2	QLQVVESGGGLMQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	9	GSAMS	19
27B3	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	2	VYYMN	11
24E3	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	2	VYYMN	11
33D8	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	2	VYYMN	11
24F2	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	2	VYYMN	11
24B6	EVQLQESGGGVVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFD	3	DYAMS	12
19G10	EVQLQESGGGVVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFD	3	DYAMS	12
45B12	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	2	AYYMN	20
45D9	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	2	AYYMN	20
45F8	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	2	AYYMN	20
45A12	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	2	AYYMN	20
45B6	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	2	AYYMN	20
57B6	QLQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFSFS	254	HYAMS	256
59D10	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASELSFS	255	ISEMT	257

				SEQ
Fab	Framework 2	SEQ ID	CDR2	ID
1C2	WVRQAPRKGLEWVS	21	TISTDNSRTYYADSVKG	26
9D1	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS	22	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	27
8B12	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS	22	DINNEGDTTYYADSVKG	28
8C12	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS	22	DINNEGDTTYYADSVKG	28
9E1	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS	22	SIYMYDSSTYYADSVKG	29
5F4	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS	22	AISWSGGETFYAESMKG	30
5B2	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS	22	EITNYGYNRYYADSVKG	31
6D5	WVRQAPGQGLEWMG	23	RIDPEDGGTKYAQKFQG	32
4D2	WIRQPPGKGLEWMG	24	AIGSRGSTYYSPSLKT	33
9A1	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS	22	DINSGGGSTKYNDSVKG	34

1				
9G2	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS	22	SIYSDSSYTYYADSVKS	35
9B2	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS	22	SIYSHSMYTYYADSVKS	36
27B3	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS	22	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	27
24E3	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS	22	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	27
33D8	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS	22	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	27
24F2	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS	22	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	27
24B6	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS	22	SIYMYDSSTYYADSVKG	29
19G10	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS	22	SIYMYDSSTYYADSVKG	29
45B12	WVRQAPGKGLEWIS	25	DINNEGYETYYADSVKG	37
45D9	WVRQAPGKGLEWIS	25	DINNEGYETYYADSVKG	37
45F8	WVRQAPGKGLEWIS	25	DINNEGYETYYADSVKG	37
45A12	WVRQAPGKGLEWIS	25	DINNEGYETYYADSVKG	37
45B6	WVRQAPGKGLEWIS	25	DINNEGYETYYADSVKG	37
57B6	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS	22	GDNTYDGGTRYQDSVKG	258
59D10	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS	22	GISGVTGGSSTSYADSVKG	259

Fab	Framework 3	SEQ ID	CDR3	SEQ ID
	RFTISRDHAKNTLILQMNS			
1C2	LKSEDTAVYYCIR	38	GSDYEH	49
	RFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMN			
9D1	SLKPEDTALYYCVR	39	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	50
	RFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMD			
8B12	SLKPEDTALYYCVR	40	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	50
	RFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMD			
8C12	SLKPEDTALYYCVR	40	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	50
	RFTISTDNAKNTVYLQMN			
9E1	SLKSEDTAVYYCAK	41	DINRSYGSSWSHFGPIFSS	51
	RFTISRNNAKNTLYLQMN			
5F4	SLKSEDTAVYYCAR	42	GMGLAEGLTD	52
	RFTISTDNAKNTLYLQMNS			
5B2	LRSEDSAVYYCTA	43	SLGLEYGYGD	53
	RVTFTADASTSTAYVELSS			
6D5	LRSEDTAVYYCAS	44	RRRDFDY	54
	RTSISRDTSKNQFTLQLSS		VTGEITYNSGSYYYTLNLFD	
4D2	VTPEDTAVYYCAR	45	Y	55
	RFAISRDNAKNTLYLQMN			
9A1	SLKPEDTAVYYCAK	46	EGGSGRYWTNEYDY	56
	RFTISTDNAKNTLYLQMNS	47	0000/500540	
9G2		47	SSDYEGSFAS	57
000	RFTISTDNAKNTLYLQMNS	0.40		50
9B2		342	SSDYEGLFVS	58
0700	RFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMN SLKPEDTALYYCVR	39		50
27B3	RFTISRDNAKNTLTLOMN	39	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	50
24E3	SLKPEDTALYYCVR	39	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	50
240	RFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMN	39	DAGTSINHVFIEDS	50
33D8	SLKPEDTALYYCVR	39		50
0000	RETISEDIALITEVA	03		50
24F2	SLKPEDTALYYCVR	39	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	50
	RFTISTDNAKNTVYLQMN	00		
24B6	SLKSEDTAVYYCAK	41	DINRSYGSSWSHFGPIFSS	51
	RFTISTDNAKNTVYLQMN			
19G10	SLKSEDTAVYYCAK	41	DINRSYGSSWSHFGPIFSS	51
45B12	RFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMD	48	DAGYSNHVQIFDS	59

	SLKPEDTARYYCVR			
	RFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMD			
45D9	SLKPEDTARYYCVR	48	DAGYSNHVQIFDS	59
	RFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMD			
45F8	SLKPEDTARYYCVR	48	DAGYSNHVQIFDS	59
	RFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMD			
45A12	SLKPEDTARYYCVR	48	DAGYSNHVQIFDS	59
	RFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMD			
45B6	SLKPEDTARYYCVR	48	DAGYSNHVQIFDS	59
	RFTISRDNGKNTLYLQMN			
57B6	SLKPEDTAVYYCAK	260	DTGRGIMGEYGMDY	262
	RFTISRDNDKNTLYLQMN			
59D10	SLIPEDTAVYYCAT	261	TSGTYYFIPEYEY	263

		SEQ
Fab	FRAMEWORK 4	ID
1C2	WGQGTQVTVSS	60
9D1	WGQGTQVIVAS	61
8B12	WGQGTQVIVAS	61
8C12	WGQGTQVIVAS	61
9E1	WGQGTQVTVSS	60
5F4	WGQGTQVTVSS	60
5B2	WGQGTQVTVSS	60
6D5	WGQGTQVTVSS	60
4D2	WGQGTQVTVSS	60
9A1	WGQGTQVTVSS	60
9G2	WGQGTQVTVSS	60
9B2	WGQGTQVTVSS	60
27B3	WGQGTQVIVAS	61
24E3	WGQGTQVIVAS	61
33D8	WGQGTQVIVAS	61
24F2	WGQGTQVIVAS	61
24B6	WGQGTQVTVSS	60
19G10	WGQGTQVTVSS	60
45B12	WGQGTQVIVAS	61
45D9	WGQGTQVIVAS	61
45F8	WGQGTQVIVAS	61
45A12	WGQGTQVIVAS	61
45B6	WGQGTQVIVAS	61
57B6	WGKGTLVTVSS	264
59D10	WGQGTQVTVSS	60

		SEQ		SEQ
Fab	Framework 1	ID	CDR1	ID
1C2	QTVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTC	62	GLSSGSVTTTNYPG	77
9D1	QAVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTC	63	GLSSGSVTSSHYPG	78
8B12	QTVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTC	62	GLSSGSVTSSNYPG	79
8C12	QAVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTC	63	GLTSGSVTSSNYPD	80
9E1	QAVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTC	63	GLTSGSVTSSNYPD	80
5F4	QAVVTHPPSLSASPGSSVRLTC	64	TLISGDNIGGYDIS	81
5B2	QSALTQPPSVSGTLGKTLTISC	65	AGTSSDVGYGNYVS	82
6D5	QSALTQPSAVSVSLGQTARITC	66	QGGNARFSSFA	83
4D2	QSVLTQPPSLSASPGSSVRLTC	67	TLSSGNSVGNYDIS	84
9A1	QSALTQPSALSVTLGQTAKITC	68	QGGRLGSSYAH	85
9G2	QSVVTQPPSLSASPGSSVRLTC	69	TLSSGNSVGNYDIS	84
9B2	QAVLTQPPSLSASPGSSVRLTC	70	TLNSANSVGSYDIS	86
27B3	QAVVTQEPSLTVSPGGTVTLTC	71	GLKSGSVTSTNFPT	87
24E3	QAVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTC	63	GLTSGSVTSDNFPV	88
33D8	QSALTQPSTVSVSLGQTARITC	72	RGDSLERYGTN	89
24F2	QSALTQPSAVSVSLGQTARITC	66	RGDTLRNYHAN	90
24B6	QPVLTQPSAVSVSLGQTARITC	73	QGGYYTH	91
19G10	NFMLTQPSAVSVSLGQTARITC	74	QGGYYTH	91
45B12	QAVLTQPSSVSVSLGQTAKITC	75	QGGNLGLYGAN	92
45D9	QAVLTQPSSVSVSLGQTAKITC	75	QGGNLWLYGAN	93
45F8	QAVLTQPSSVSVSLGQTANITC	76	QGGNLGLYGAN	92
45A12	QAVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTC	63	GLSSGSATSGNYPE	94
45B6	QAVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTC	63	GLSSGSVTSSNYPD	95
57B6	QTVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTC	265	GLKSGSVTSSNYPA	267
59D10	QSVLTQPPSVSGSPGKTVTISC	266	AGTSSDVGYGYYVS	268

<u>Table 7: sequence of CD70 specific llama-derived VL (Q in bold encoded by amber</u> <u>STOP codon)</u>

Fab	Framework 2	SEQ ID	CDR2	SEQ ID
1C2	WFQQTPGQAPRTLIY	96	STSSRHS	109
9D1	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIF	97	NTNSRHS	110
8B12	WYQQTPGQAPRVLIY	98	NTNNRHS	111
8C12	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY	99	NTNSRHS	110
9E1	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY	99	NTNSRHS	110
5F4	WYQQKTGSPPRYLLY	100	YYSDSYKHQSS	112
5B2	WYQQLPGTAPKLLIY	101	RVSTRAS	113
6D5	WYQQKPGQAPVQVIY	102	YNTNRPS	114
4D2	WYQQKAGSPPRYLLY	103	YYSDSYKNQGS	115
9A1	WYQQKPGQAPVLVIY	104	GNNYRPS	116
9G2	WYQQKAGSPPRYLLY	103	YYSDSVKHQGS	117
9B2	WYQQKAGSPPRYLLY	103	YYSDSLSHQGS	118
27B3	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY	99	NTNTRHS	119
24E3	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY	99	TINSRHS	120
33D8	WYQQKPGQAPVLVIY	104	DDDSRPS	121
24F2	WYRQKPGQAPVLVIY	105	GDDIRPS	122
24B6	WYQQKPGQAPVLVIY	104	INNNRPS	123

		SEQ		SEQ
Fab	Framework 2	ID	CDR2	ID
19G10	WYQQKPGQAPVLVIY	104	VNNNRPS	124
45B12	WYQQNPGRAPILLIY	106	GDNYRPL	125
45D9	WYQQNPGRAPILLIY	106	GDN Q RPL	126
45F8	WYQQNPGRAPILLFY	107	GDNYMPL	127
45A12	WYQQTPGQAPRLIIY	108	NTASRHS	128
45B6	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY	99	NTNSRHS	110
57B6	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY	99	NTNSRHS	110
59D10	WYQQFPGMAPKLLIY	269	DVNKRAS	270

Fab	Framework 3	SEQ ID	CDR3	SEQ ID
	GVPSRFSGSISGNKAALTITGAQP			
1C2	EDEADYYC	129	ALEEIGSYTYM	148
	GVPSRFSGSISGNKAALTITGAQP			
9D1	EDEADYYC	129	ALLNIDDGSTM	149
	GVPSRYSGSISGNKAALTITGAEP			
8B12	EDEADYYC	130	NLHLGSYTPM	150
	GVPSRFSGSISGNKAALTITGAQP			
8C12	EDEADYYC	131	ALYWGYGTNVDV	151
	GVPSRFSGSISGNKAALTITGAQP			
9E1	EDEADYYC	129	NLYMGSGGSKV	152
	GVPSRFSGSKDASANAGLLLISGL			
5F4	QSEDEADYYC	132	SAYKSGSYKAPV	153
	GMPDRFSGSKSGNTASLTISGLQ		_	
5B2	SEDEADYYC	133	ASYTTNNKPV	154
	GIPARFSGSSSGGAATLTISGAQA			
6D5	EDEADYYC	134	QSYESGNYV	155
	GVPSRFSGSKDPSANAGLLLISGL			
4D2	QAEDEADYYC	135	SVSNSGTYKPV	156
0.4.4	GIPERFSGSSSGDTATLTISGAQA	100		457
9A1	EDEAVYYC	136	QSGSSNTNVM	157
000	GVPSRFSGSSDASANAGLLLISGL	137	CAVICOCUN	150
9G2	QPEDEADYYC GVPSRFSGSTDASANAGLLLISGL	137	SAYKSGSHV	158
9B2	QPEDEADYYC	138	SAYNRGSHV	159
902	GVPSRFSGSISENKAALTITGAQP	100	SATINGSTV	138
27B3	EDEAEYFC	139	ALFISNPSVE	160
2700	GVPSRFSGSITGNKAILTITGAQPE	100		100
24E3	DEADYYC	140	ALYLENFANE	161
2420	GIPERFSGSSSGATAALTISGAQA			
33D8	EDEGDYYC	141	QSADSSGNAV	162
0000	GIPERFSGSRLGGTATLTVSGAQA			
24F2	EDEADYYC	142	QSSDSSGYRVV	163
	GIPERFSGSISGNTATLTISGAQVE			
24B6	DEADYYC	143	QSGSSSTIPV	164
	GIPERFSGSSSGNTATLTISGAQA			
19G10	EDEAAYYC	144	QSGSSSTIPV	164
	GIPERFTISKSGGTATLTIDGAQAE			
45B12	DESDYYC	145	QSADYSGNSV	165
	GIPERFTISKSGGTATLTIDGAQAE			
45D9	DESDYYC	145	QSADYSGNSV	165
	GIPERFTISKSGGTATLTIDGAQAE			
45F8	NESDYYC	146	QSSDYPGNSV	166
45A12	GVPGRFSGSISGNKAALTITGAQP	147	LLYMGGSDFNFV	167

Fab	Framework 3	SEQ ID	CDR3	SEQ ID
	EDEADYYC			
45B6	GVPSRFSGSISGNKAALTITGAQP EDEADYYC	129	ALYMGSGSNNVV	168
57B6	GVPSRFSGSISGNKAALTITGAQP EDEADYYC	129	ALYMGSGSANAM	271
59D10	GIADRFSGSKAGNTASLTISGLQS EDEADYYC	272	ASYRSSANAV	273

Fab	Framework 4	SEQ ID
1C2	FGGGTHLTVLG	169
9D1	FGGGTHLTVLG	169
8B12	FGGGTKLTVLG	170
8C12	FGGGTKLTVLG	170
9E1	FGGGTKLTVLG	170
5F4	FGGGTHLTVLG	169
5B2	FGGGTHLTVLG	169
6D5	FGGGTTLTVLG	171
4D2	FGGGSKLTVLG	172
9A1	FGGGTHLTVLS	173
9G2	FGGGTKLTVLG	170
9B2	FGGGTKLTVLG	170
27B3	FGGGTQLTVLS	174
24E3	FGGGTRLTVLG	175
33D8	FGGGTHLTVLG	169
24F2	FGGGTKLTVLG	170
24B6	FGGGTKLTVLG	170
19G10	FGGGTKLTVLG	170
45B12	FGGGTKLTVLG	170
45D9	FGGGTKLTVLG	170
45F8	FGGGTKLTVLG	170
45A12	FGGGTKLTVLG	170
45B6	FGGGTELTVLG	176
57B6	FGGGTHLTVLG	169
59D10	FGGGTHLTVLG	169

5

Table 8: Full Length llama-derived VH

Fab	Full Length Sequence of VH domain	SEQ ID
	ELQVVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTLSNYWMHWVRQAPRKG LEWVSTISTDNSRTYYADSVKGRFTISRDHAKNTLILQMNSLKSEDT	
1C2	AVYYCIRGSDYEHWGQGTQVTVSS	177
	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKG	
	LEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKGRFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMNSLKPED	
9D1	TALYYCVRDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTQVIVAS	178
	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKG	
	LEWVSDINNEGDTTYYADSVKGRFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMDSLKPED	
8B12	TALYYCVRDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTQVIVAS	179

Fab	Full Length Sequence of VH domain	SEQ ID
	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKG	
	LEWVSDINNEGDTTYYADSVKGRFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMDSLKPED	
8C12	TALYYCVRDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTQVIVAS	179
	EVQLQESGGGVVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFDDYAMSWVRQAPGKG	
051	LEWVSSIYMYDSSTYYADSVKGRFTISTDNAKNTVYLQMNSLKSED	100
9E1		180
	EVQVQESGGGLVHPGGSLKLSCAASGFTFDTYAMSWVRQAPGKG LEWVSAISWSGGETFYAESMKGRFTISRNNAKNTLYLQMNSLKSED	
5F4	TAVYYCARGMGLAEGLTDWGQGTQVTVSS	181
514	QVQLVESGGDLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTVSNPAMSWVRQAPGKG	101
	LEWVSEITNYGYNRYYADSVKGRFTISTDNAKNTLYLQMNSLRSED	
5B2	SAVYYCTASLGLEYGYGDWGQGTQVTVSS	182
UDE	EVQLVQPGAELRKPGASVKVSCKASGYTFTSYYIDWVRQAPGQGL	102
	EWMGRIDPEDGGTKYAQKFQGRVTFTADASTSTAYVELSSLRSED	
6D5	TAVYYCASRRRDFDYWGQGTQVTVSS	183
	QVQLQESGPGLVKPSQTLSLACTVSGGSITTSYYYWSWIRQPPGK	
	GLEWMGAIGSRGSTYYSPSLKTRTSISRDTSKNQFTLQLSSVTPED	
4D2	TAVYYCARVTGEITYNSGSYYYTLNLFDYWGQGTQVTVSS	184
	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSSYAMSWVRQAPGKG	
	LEWVSDINSGGGSTKYNDSVKGRFAISRDNAKNTLYLQMNSLKPED	
9A1	TAVYYCAKEGGSGRYWTNEYDYWGQGTQVTVSS	185
	QVQLVESGGGLMQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSSSAMSWVRQAPGKG	
	LEWVSSIYSDSSYTYYADSVKSRFTISTDNAKNTLYLQMNSLKPDDT	
9G2	AVYYCAGSSDYEGSFASWGQGTQVTVSS	186
	QLQVVESGGGLMQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSGSAMSWVRQAPGK	
9B2	GLEWVSSIYSHSMYTYYADSVKSRFTISTDNAKNTLYLQMNSLKPD	107
902	DTAVYYCAASSDYEGLFVSWGQGTQVTVSS EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKG	187
	LEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKGRFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMNSLKPED	
27B3	TALYYCVRDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTQVIVAS	178
2700	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKG	170
	LEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKGRFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMNSLKPED	
24E3	TALYYCVRDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTQVIVAS	178
	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKG	
	LEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKGRFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMNSLKPED	
33D8	TALYYCVRDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTQVIVAS	178
	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKG	
	LEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKGRFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMNSLKPED	
24F2	TALYYCVRDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTQVIVAS	178
	EVQLQESGGGVVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFDDYAMSWVRQAPGKG	
	LEWVSSIYMYDSSTYYADSVKGRFTISTDNAKNTVYLQMNSLKSED	
24B6	TAVYYCAKDINRSYGSSWSHFGPIFSSWGQGTQVTVSS	180
	EVQLQESGGGVVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFDDYAMSWVRQAPGKG	
	LEWVSSIYMYDSSTYYADSVKGRFTISTDNAKNTVYLQMNSLKSED	
19G10	TAVYYCAKDINRSYGSSWSHFGPIFSSWGQGTQVTVSS	180
	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSAYYMNWVRQAPGKG	
45040		100
45B12		188
	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSAYYMNWVRQAPGKG LEWISDINNEGYETYYADSVKGRFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMDSLKPEDT	
45D9	ARYYCVRDAGYSNHVQIFDSWGQGTQVIVAS	188
4009	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSAYYMNWVRQAPGKG	100
	LEWISDINNEGYETYYADSVKGRFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMDSLKPEDT	
45F8	ARYYCVRDAGYSNHVQIFDSWGQGTQVIVAS	188
1010		100
	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSAYYMNWVRQAPGKG LEWISDINNEGYETYYADSVKGRFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMDSLKPEDT	188

Fab	Full Length Sequence of VH domain	SEQ ID
	ARYYCVRDAGYSNHVQIFDSWGQGTQVIVAS	
	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSAYYMNWVRQAPGKG LEWISDINNEGYETYYADSVKGRFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMDSLKPEDT	
45B6	ARYYCVRDAGYSNHVQIFDSWGQGTQVIVAS	188
57B6	QLQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFSFSHYAMSWVRQAPGKG LEWVSGDNTYDGGTRYQDSVKGRFTISRDNGKNTLYLQMNSLKPE DTAVYYCAKDTGRGIMGEYGMDYWGKGTLVTVSS	274
	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASELSFSISEMTWVRQAPGKGL EWVSGISGVTGGSSTSYADSVKGRFTISRDNDKNTLYLQMNSLIPE	
59D10	DTAVYYCATTSGTYYFIPEYEYWGQGTQVTVSS	275

5 <u>Table 9: Full Length llama-derived VL (Q in bold encoded by amber STOP codon)</u>

Fab	Full Length Sequence	SEQ ID
	QTVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTCGLSSGSVTTTNYPGWFQQTPGQA	
	PRTLIYSTSSRHSGVPSRFSGSISGNKAALTITGAQPEDEADYYCAL	
1C2	EEIGSYTYMFGGGTHLTVLG	189
	QAVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTCGLSSGSVTSSHYPGWYQQTPGQ	
	APRLLIFNTNSRHSGVPSRFSGSISGNKAALTITGAQPEDEADYYCA	
9D1	LLNIDDGSTMFGGGTHLTVLG	190
	QTVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTCGLSSGSVTSSNYPGWYQQTPGQA	
	PRVLIYNTNNRHSGVPSRYSGSISGNKAALTITGAEPEDEADYYCNL	
8B12	HLGSYTPMFGGGTKLTVLG	191
	QAVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTCGLTSGSVTSSNYPDWYQQTPGQA	
	PRLLIYNTNSRHSGVPSRFSGSISGNKAALTITGAQPEDEADYYCAL	
8C12	YWGYGTNVDVFGGGTKLTVLG	192
	QAVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTCGLTSGSVTSSNYPDWYQQTPGQA	
	PRLLIYNTNSRHSGVPSRFSGSISGNKAALTITGAQPEDEADYYCNL	
9E1	YMGSGGSKVFGGGTKLTVLG	193
	QAVVTHPPSLSASPGSSVRLTCTLISGDNIGGYDISWYQQKTGSPP	
	RYLLYYYSDSYKHQSSGVPSRFSGSKDASANAGLLLISGLQSEDEA	
5F4	DYYCSAYKSGSYKAPVFGGGTHLTVLG	194
	QSALTQPPSVSGTLGKTLTISCAGTSSDVGYGNYVSWYQQLPGTA	
	PKLLIYRVSTRASGMPDRFSGSKSGNTASLTISGLQSEDEADYYCA	
5B2	SYTTNNKPVFGGGTHLTVLG	195
	QSALTQPSAVSVSLGQTARITCQGGNARFSSFAWYQQKPGQAPV	
	QVIYYNTNRPSGIPARFSGSSSGGAATLTISGAQAEDEADYYCQSY	
6D5	ESGNYVFGGGTTLTVLG	196
	QSVLTQPPSLSASPGSSVRLTCTLSSGNSVGNYDISWYQQKAGSP	
	PRYLLYYYSDSYKNQGSGVPSRFSGSKDPSANAGLLLISGLQAEDE	
4D2	ADYYCSVSNSGTYKPVFGGGSKLTVLG	197
	QSALTQPSALSVTLGQTAKITCQGGRLGSSYAHWYQQKPGQAPVL	
	VIYGNNYRPSGIPERFSGSSSGDTATLTISGAQAEDEAVYYCQSGS	
9A1	SNTNVMFGGGTHLTVLS	198
	QSVVTQPPSLSASPGSSVRLTCTLSSGNSVGNYDISWYQQKAGSP	
	PRYLLYYYSDSVKHQGSGVPSRFSGSSDASANAGLLLISGLQPEDE	
9G2	ADYYCSAYKSGSHVFGGGTKLTVLG	199
	QAVLTQPPSLSASPGSSVRLTCTLNSANSVGSYDISWYQQKAGSP	
	PRYLLYYYSDSLSHQGSGVPSRFSGSTDASANAGLLLISGLQPEDE	
9B2	ADYYCSAYNRGSHVFGGGTKLTVLG	200

Fab	Full Length Sequence	SEQ ID
	QAVVTQEPSLTVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSTNFPTWYQQTPGQA	
	PRLLIYNTNTRHSGVPSRFSGSISENKAALTITGAQPEDEAEYFCAL	
27B3	FISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVLS	201
	QAVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTCGLTSGSVTSDNFPVWYQQTPGQA	
	PRLLIYTINSRHSGVPSRFSGSITGNKAILTITGAQPEDEADYYCALY	
24E3	LENFANEFGGGTRLTVLG	202
	QSALTQPSTVSVSLGQTARITCRGDSLERYGTNWYQQKPGQAPVL	
	VIYDDDSRPSGIPERFSGSSSGATAALTISGAQAEDEGDYYCQSAD	
33D8	SSGNAVFGGGTHLTVLG	203
	QSALTQPSAVSVSLGQTARITCRGDTLRNYHANWYRQKPGQAPVL	
	VIYGDDIRPSGIPERFSGSRLGGTATLTVSGAQAEDEADYYCQSSD	
24F2	SSGYRVVFGGGTKLTVLG	204
	QPVLTQPSAVSVSLGQTARITCQGGYYTHWYQQKPGQAPVLVIYIN	
	NNRPSGIPERFSGSISGNTATLTISGAQVEDEADYYCQSGSSSTIPV	
24B6	FGGGTKLTVLG	205
	NFMLTQPSAVSVSLGQTARITCQGGYYTHWYQQKPGQAPVLVIYV	
	NNNRPSGIPERFSGSSSGNTATLTISGAQAEDEAAYYCQSGSSSTI	
19G10	PVFGGGTKLTVLG	206
	QAVLTQPSSVSVSLGQTAKITCQGGNLGLYGANWYQQNPGRAPIL	
	LIYGDNYRPLGIPERFTISKSGGTATLTIDGAQAEDESDYYCQSADY	
45B12	SGNSVFGGGTKLTVLG	207
	QAVLTQPSSVSVSLGQTAKITCQGGNLWLYGANWYQQNPGRAPIL	
_	LIYGDNQRPLGIPERFTISKSGGTATLTIDGAQAEDESDYYCQSADY	
45D9	SGNSVFGGGTKLTVLG	208
	QAVLTQPSSVSVSLGQTANITCQGGNLGLYGANWYQQNPGRAPIL	
	LFYGDNYMPLGIPERFTISKSGGTATLTIDGAQAENESDYYCQSSDY	
45F8	PGNSVFGGGTKLTVLG	209
	QAVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTCGLSSGSATSGNYPEWYQQTPGQ	
	APRLIIYNTASRHSGVPGRFSGSISGNKAALTITGAQPEDEADYYCL	
45A12	LYMGGSDFNFVFGGGTKLTVLG	210
	QAVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTCGLSSGSVTSSNYPDWYQQTPGQA	
4500	PRLLIYNTNSRHSGVPSRFSGSISGNKAALTITGAQPEDEADYYCAL	
45B6	YMGSGSNNVVFGGGTELTVLG	211
	QTVVTQEPSLSVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSSNYPAWYQQTPGQA	
	PRLLIYNTNSRHSGVPSRFSGSISGNKAALTITGAQPEDEADYYCAL	
57B6	YMGSGSANAMFGGGTHLTVLG	276
	QSVLTQPPSVSGSPGKTVTISCAGTSSDVGYGYYVSWYQQFPGMA	
	PKLLIYDVNKRASGIADRFSGSKAGNTASLTISGLQSEDEADYYCAS	077
59D10	YRSSANAVFGGGTHLTVLG	277

Example 13: Germlining of anti-CD70 mAb 27B3

- Human germline genes segments with the same canonical fold structure and the
 highest amino acid sequence identity to the VH and VL regions of mAb 27B3 were
 identified by comparison with known human germline gene sequences. The closest
 human VH and VL regions to mAb 27B3 was human VH3–48 (89.7% FR identity) and
 human VL8-61 (86.1% FR identity), respectively. The closest human germline JH and JL
 human germline gene segment sequences were JH5 and JL7, respectively. Sequence
- 10 alignment of the VH and VL regions of mAb 27B3 with the closest human germline VH

and VL sequences are set forth in Figure 12. Comparison of the V regions of SIMPLE antibody 27B3 and human germline sequences identified 12 candidate humanizing mutations in the VH region and 13 in the VL region (2 in CDR1 and 1 in CDR2). An overview of the humanizing mutations in the VH and VL sequences of the 27B3, together with the needed library sizes to cover the introduced diversity, is set forth in Table 10 and 11.

 Table 10: Targeted mutations in the 27B3 VH amino acid sequence. ¶ denotes the library

 size needed to cover all potential mutants.

	1	Mutations includ	ded in library		
Kabat Postion	Camelid aa	Human germline aa option 1	Human germline aa option 2	Human germline aa	Probability
46	E	V		option 3	0.50
74	A	S			0.50
77	T	S			0.50
79	Т	Y			0.50
83/84	KP	KT	RA		0.33
89	L	V			0.50
93/94	AR	AK	VR		0.33
108	Q	L	Т	М	0.25
110	I	Т			0.50
112	А	S			0.50
					4608¶

10

Table 11: Targeted mutations in the 27B3 VL amino acid sequence. ¶ denotes the library size needed to cover all potential mutants. * denotes mutations in the CDR1 or CDR2 regions.

Kabat	Camelid	Human	Human	Human	Probability
Postion	aa	germline	germline aa	germline	
		aa	option 2	aa	
		option 1		option 3	
2	А	Т			0.50
11-12	LT	FS			0.50
26*	K	Т			0.50
30*	Т	D			0.50

46	L	Т			0.50
53*	Т	S			0.50
60	S	D			0.50
61	R	С			0.50
67/68	SE	LG			0.50
80/81/84/85	PEDEAE	PEDESD	ADDESD	ADDEAE	0.25
87	F	Y			0.50
					4096¶

Germlined libraries of VH_27B3 and VL_27B3 encompassing all combinations of humanizing mutations were created by PCR based assembly (see e.g., Stemmer et al., Gene (1995) 164: 49 - 53). Overlapping oligonucleotides with specific mutations on

- 5 certain positions were assembled by PCR. The library contained both human and llama amino acids at each mutated position to prevent complete loss of binding in the event that the wild type llama residue was critical for high affinity binding (see e.g., Baca et al., J. Biol. Chem. (1997) 272: 10678 10684; Tsurushita et al., J. Immunol. Methods (2004) 295: 9 19). The VH library contained about 1 x 10¹⁰ clones and the VL library about 8 x
- 10 10⁹ clones. The VH and VL libraries were combined and reformatted into a single Fab library with a size of 1 x 10¹⁰ clones (91% with full length Fab insert) suitable for phage display screening. To required diversity to cover all possible mutations as mentioned in tables 10 and 11 was exceeded in the primary heavy chain and light chain libraries, but also the combined Fab library was large enough to cover all possible permutations (1.89 x 10⁷).

Example 14: Selection of germlined 27B3 Fabs with high human FR identity

Phage display was used to select for germlined 27B3 Fabs with both a high affinity for CD70 and high human FR identity. Specifically, Flag-TNC-CD70 was
biotinylated and was incubated at various concentrations with different amounts of Fab expressing phage. Complexes of phage and Flag-TNC-CD70 were then captured on a streptavidin-coated microtiter plate and washed with non-biotinylated Flag-TNC-CD70 at 37°C. Phage were eluted with Trypsin and used for infection of TG1 cells. Five rounds of selection were performed, with the wash stringency increased in each round. Details of the conditions used for each round of selection are set forth in Table 12.

Round	Phage input	Antigen [pM]	Washing time	Wash temperature	Washing antigen
	(μl)				
1	10	24000-2400-240	1 hour	RT	PBS
2	1	2400-240-24	ON	37°C	24 nM CD70
3	0.1	240-24-2.4	ON	37°C	2.4 nM CD70
4	0.01	24-2.4-0.24	3 days	37°C	240 pM CD70
5	0.1	2.4-0.24-0.024	6 days	37°C	24 pM CD70

Table 12: Conditions for selection of germlined 27B3 Fabs

Phage eluted from rounds 3, 4 and 5 of selection were transfected into TG1 and plated clonally; individual clones were picked randomly for further analysis. Periplasmic

- 5 fractions containing Fabs were prepared from IPTG induced small scale cultures the off rate of each Fab was determined using a CD70 coated CM5 chip in a Biacore binding assay. Clones with Fab having off rates similar to that of 27B3 were sequenced. Off rates for clones with a total human FR sequence identity above 94% are set forth in Table 13, along with the percentage human FR identity of the individual clone (VH, VL and total).
- 10 The complete amino acid sequences of the sequenced Fab clones are set forth in tables 14 and 15 and CDR amino acid sequence variants of 27B3 are set forth in table 16. Inspection of these sequences reveals that framework 1 of the light chain often has extra (non human) mutations in the primer region at amino acid 2 (A instead of T). Variants of clones 35G3, 40F1 and 39C3 (clones 53C1, 53B1 and 53E1, respectively) were made that
- have the corresponding human amino acid at position 2. Moreover, clone 41D12 was further germlined by combining the heavy chain of 41D12 with the light chain of 40F1 (53A2) or with the light chain of 53B1 (53H1).

 Table 13: Off rate of germlined 27B3 Fab clones with more than 94% total human FR

Fab Clone	% FR identity for VL	% FR identity for VH	Total % FR identity	Isolation frequency	Off rate [10 ⁻⁴ s ⁻¹]
27B3	86.0	89.5	87.9		1.4
36A9	97.5	92.0	94.5	1	1.3
53F1	97.5	92.0	94.5	1	2.3
36D6	94.9	94.3	94.6	2	1.4
53G1	96.2	94.0	95.0	1	2.0
35G3	94.9	95.4	95.2	1	1.7
35F6	94.9	95.4	95.2	1	ND

20 identity.

36G2	93.6	96.6	95.2	7	1.1
39D5	93.7	96.6	95.2	2	1.2
42D12	93.7	96.6	95.2	2	1.6
35G1	97.5	94.3	95.7	1	2.3
41D12	92.4	98.9	95.9	4	2.3
41H8	94.9	97.0	96.0	1	2.2
35G2	96.2	96.6	96.4	1	1.7
40F1	94.9	98.0	96.6	1	1.6
39C3	97.5	97.7	97.6	6	2.5

Table 14A: VH amino acid sequences of germlined 27B3 clones with more than 94%total human identity, with sequence identifiers broken down by FR and CDR.Humanizing mutations are shaded and primer-introduced mutations ar bolded.

HEAVY CHAIN CLONE	FRAMEWORK 1	CDR1	FRAMEWORK 2
27B3	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
36A9	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
53F1	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
36D6	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
53G1	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
35G3	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
53C1	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
35F6	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCA S SGFTFS	VYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:274	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
36G2	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
39D5	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	GYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:248	SEQ ID NO:22
42D12	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
35G1	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGS V RLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
41D12	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
41H8	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
35G2	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
40F1	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
53B1	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVROAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
39C3	EVQLVASGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:275	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
53E1	EVQLVASGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVRQAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:275	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
53H1	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVROAPGKGLEWVS
	SEO ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22
53A2	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS	VYYMN	WVROAPGKGLEWVS
	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:22

HEAVY CHAIN	CDR2	FRAMEWORK 3	CDR3	FRAMEWORK 4	
CLONE					
27B3	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMNSLKPEDTALYYCVR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTQVIVAS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:39	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:61	
36A9	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNSKNTLTLQMNSLKPEDTAVYYCVR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTQVIVSS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:350	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:287	
53F1	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMNSLKPEDTAVYYCVR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTQVTVAS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:351	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:288	
36D6	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNAKNTLYLQMNSLKPEDTALYYCVR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTTVIVSS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:278	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:289	
53G1	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNAKNTLYLQMNSLKPEDTAVYYCVR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTTVIVSS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:279	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:290	
35G3	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNSKNSLTLQMNSLKPEDTAVYYCAR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTLVTVSS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:280	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:293	
53C1	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNSKNSLTLQMNSLKPEDTAVYYCAR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTLVTVSS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:280	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:293	
35F6	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNSKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCVR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTTVIVAS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:281	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:291	
36G2	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNAKNSLTLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCVR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTQVIVSS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:282	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:292	
39D5	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNAKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCVR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTTVTVAS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:283	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:291	
42D12	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNSKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCVR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTQVIVSS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:281	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:292	
35G1	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNAKNTLYLQMNSLKPEDTAVYYCAR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTLVIVAS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:284	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:294	
41D12	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNSKNSLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCAR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTLVTVSS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:285	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:293	
41H8	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNSKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCAR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTQVTVAS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:286	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:288	
35G2	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNAKNTLYLQMNSLKPEDTAVYYCAR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTLVTVSS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:284	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:293	
40F1	DINNEGG A TYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNSKNSLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCAR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTQVTVSS	
	SEQ ID NO:249	SEQ ID NO:285	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:292	
53B1	DINNEGG A TYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNSKNSLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCAR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTQVTVSS	
	SEQ ID NO:249	SEQ ID NO:285	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:292	
39C3	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNSKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCAR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTIVIVSS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:286	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:289	
53E1	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNSKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCAR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTTVTVSS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:286	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:289	
53H1	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNSKNSLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCAR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTLVIVSS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:286	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:293	
53A2	DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG	RFTISRDNSKNSLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCAR	DAGYSNHVPIFDS	WGQGTLVTVSS	
	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:285	SEQ ID NO:50	SEQ ID NO:293	

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Table 14B: VH amino acid sequences of germlined 27B3 clones with more than 94% total human identity, with sequence identifiers for the full VH amino acid sequence.

SEQ ID NO:	HEAVY CHAIN CLONE	FULL VH SEQUENCE
178	27B3	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMNSLKPEDTALYYCVRDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTQVIVAS
212	36A9	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNSKNTLTLQMNSLKPEDTAYYYCVRDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTQVIVSS

213	53F1	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG
		RFTISRDNAKNTLTLQMNSLKPEDTAVYYCVRDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTQVTVAS
214	36D6	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNAKNTLYLQMNSLKPEDTALYYCVRDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTTVTVSS
215	53G1	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNAKNTLYLQMNSLKPEDTAVYYCVRDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTTVIVSS
216	35G3	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNSKNSLTLQMNSLKPEDTAVYYCARDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTLVTVSS
217	53C1	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNSKNSLTLQMNSLKPEDTAVYYCARDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTLVTVSS
218	35F6	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCA S SGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNSKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCVRDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTTVTVAS
219	36G2	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNAKNSLTLQMNSLRAEDTAWYYCVRDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTQVIVSS
220	39D5	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFS G YYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNAKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCVRDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTTVTVAS
221	42D12	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNSKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCVRDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTQVTVSS
222	35G1	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGS V RLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNAKNTLYLQMNSLKPEDTAVYYCARDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTLVTVAS
223	41D12	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNSKNSLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCARDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTLVTVSS
224	41H8	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNSKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCARDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTQVTVAS
225	35G2	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNAKNTLYLQMNSLKPEDTAVYYCARDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTLVTVSS
226	40F1	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGG A TYYADSVKG RFTISRDNSKNSLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCARDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTQVIVSS
227	53B1	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGG A TYYADSVKG RFTISRDNSKNSLVLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCARDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTQVTVSS
228	39C3	EVQLV A SGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNSKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCARDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTTVTVSS
229	53E1	EVQLV A SGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNSKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCARDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTTVTVSS
223	53H1	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNSKNSLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCARDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTLVTVSS
223	53A2	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFTFSVYYMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVSDINNEGGTTYYADSVKG RFTISRDNSKNSLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCARDAGYSNHVPIFDSWGQGTLVTVSS

Table 15A: VL amino acid sequences of germlined 27B3 clones with more than 94%total human identity, with sequence identifiers broken down by FR and CDR.

LIGHT	FRAMEWORK 1	CDR1	FRAMEWORK 2
CHAIN			
CLONE			
27B3	QAVVTQEPSLTVSPGGTVTLTC	GLKSGSVTSTNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
	SEQ ID NO:71	SEQ ID NO:87	SEQ ID NO:99
36A9	QTVVTQEPSF'SVSPGGTVTLTC	GLKSGSVTSDNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
	SEQ ID NO:294	SEQ ID NO:250	SEQ ID NO:99
53F1	QAVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTC	GLKSGSVTSDNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
	SEQ ID NO:295	SEQ ID NO:250	SEQ ID NO:99
36D6	QIVVTQEPSLTVSPGGTVTLTC	GLKSGSVTSTNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
	SEQ ID NO:296	SEQ ID NO:87	SEQ ID NO:99
53G1	QTVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTC	GLISGSVTSTNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
	SEQ ID NO:294	SEQ ID NO:251	SEQ ID NO:99
35G3	QAVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTC	GLKSGSVTSDNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
	SEQ ID NO:295	SEQ ID NO:250	SEQ ID NO:99
53C1	QTVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTC	GLKSGSVTSDNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
	SEQ ID NO:294	SEQ ID NO:250	SEQ ID NO:99
35F6	QTVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTC	GLTSGSVTSDNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
	SEQ ID NO:294	SEQ ID NO:252	SEQ ID NO:99
36G2	QAVVTQEPSLTVSPGGTVTLTC	GLKSGSVTSDNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
	SEQ ID NO:71	SEQ ID NO:250	SEQ ID NO:99
39D5	QTVVTQEPSLTVSPGGTVTLTC	GVTSGSVTSDNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
	SEQ ID NO:296	SEQ ID NO:253	SEQ ID NO:99
42D12	QAVVTQEPS FS VSPGGTVTLTC	GLTSGSVTSTNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
	SEQ ID NO:295	SEQ ID NO:251	SEQ ID NO:99
35G1	QTVVTQEPSF'SVSPGGTVTLTC	GLKSGSVTSDNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
	SEQ ID NO:294	SEQ ID NO:250	SEQ ID NO:99
41D12	QAVVTQEPSLTVSPGGTVTLTC	GLKSGSVTSDNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
	SEQ ID NO:71	SEQ ID NO:250	SEQ ID NO:99
41H8	QAVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTC	GLTSGSVTSTNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
	SEQ ID NO:295	SEQ ID NO:251	SEQ ID NO:99
35G2	QTVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTC	GLKSGSVTSTNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
10-1	SEQ ID NO:294	SEQ ID NO:87	SEQ ID NO:99
40F1	QAVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTC	GLKSGSVTSDNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
5054	SEQ ID NO:295	SEQ ID NO:250	SEQ ID NO:99
53B1	QTVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTC	GLKSGSVTSDNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
2.2.22	SEQ ID NO:294	SEQ ID NO:250	SEQ ID NO:99
39C3	QAVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTC	GLKSGSVTSDNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
E 2 III 1	SEQ ID NO:295	SEQ ID NO:250	SEQ ID NO:99
53E1	QTVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTC	GLKSGSVTSDNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
E 2111	SEQ ID NO:294	SEQ ID NO:250	SEQ ID NO:99
53H1	QTVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTC	GLKSGSVTSDNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
E270	SEQ ID NO:294	SEQ ID NO:250	SEQ ID NO:99
53A2	QAVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTC	GLKSGSVTSDNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY
	SEQ ID NO:295	SEQ ID NO:250	SEQ ID NO:99

Humanizing mutations are shaded and primer-introduced mutations are bolded.

5

LIGHT CHAIN CLONE	CDR2	FRAMEWORK 3	CDR3	FRAMEWORK 4
27B3	NTNTRHS	GVPSRFSGSISENKAALTITGAQPEDEAEYFC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVLS
	SEQ ID NO:119	SEQ ID NO:139	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:174
36A9	NTNTRHS	GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDESDYFC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:119	SEQ ID NO:297	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
53F1	NTNTRHS	GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDESDYFC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:119	SEQ ID NO:297	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
36D6	NTNSRHS	GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDESDYFC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G

5

53G1	SEQ ID NO:110	SEO ID NO:297	SEO ID NO:160	
53G1			- <u>x</u>	SEQ ID NO:309
	NTNSRHS	GVPSRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDESDYFC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:110	SEQ ID NO:298	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
35G3	NTNSRHS	GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTI R GAQADDEAEYYC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:110	SEQ ID NO:299	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
53C1	NTNSRHS	GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTI R GAQADDEAEYYC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:110	SEQ ID NO:299	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
35F6	NTNSRHS	GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQPEDESDYFC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:110	SEQ ID NO:300	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
36G2	NTNTRHS	GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQPEDESDYYC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:119	SEQ ID NO:301	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
39D5	NTNTRHS	GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQPEDESDYYC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:119	SEQ ID NO:301	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
42D12	NTNTRHS	GVPSRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDEAEYFC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:119	SEQ ID NO:302	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
35G1	NTNSRHS	GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDESDYFC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:110	SEQ ID NO:297	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
41D12	NTNTRHS	GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDEAEYFC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:119	SEQ ID NO:303	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
41H8	NTNSRHS	GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQPEDESDYFC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:110	SEQ ID NO:300	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
35G2	NTNSRHS	GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDEADYFC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:110	SEQ ID NO:304	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
40F1	NTNTRHS	GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDEAEYFC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:119	SEQ ID NO:303	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
53B1	NTNTRHS	GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDEAEYFC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:119	SEQ ID NO:303	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
39C3	NTNTRHS	GVPSRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDESDYYC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:119	SEQ ID NO:305	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
53E1	NTNTRHS	GVPSRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDESDYYC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:119	SEQ ID NO:305	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
53H1	NTNTRHS	GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDEAEYFC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:119	SEQ ID NO:303	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309
53A2	NTNTRHS	GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDEAEYFC	ALFISNPSVE	FGGGTQLTVL G
	SEQ ID NO:119	SEQ ID NO:303	SEQ ID NO:160	SEQ ID NO:309

Table 15B: VL amino acid sequences of germlined 27B3 clones with more than 94%total human identity, with sequence identifiers for the full VL sequence. Humanizingmutations are shaded and primer-introduced mutations are bolded.

SEQ	LIGHT	FULL VL SEQUENCE
ID	CHAIN	
NO:	CLONE	
201	27B3	QAVVTQEPSLTVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSTNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNTRHS
		GVPSRFSGSISENKAALTITGAQPEDEAEYFCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVLS
230	36A9	QTVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSDNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNTRHS
		GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDESDYFCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
231	53F1	QAVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSDNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNTRHS
		GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDESDYFCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
232	36D6	QTVVTQEPSLTVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSTNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNSRHS
		GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDESDYFCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
233	53G1	QTVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTCGLTSGSVTSTNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNSRHS
		GVPSRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDESDYFCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
234	35G3	QAVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSDNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNSRHS
		GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTI R GAQADDEAEYYCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
235	53C1	QIVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSDNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNSRHS
		${\tt GVPDRFSGSILG}{\tt NKAALTI} {\bf R} {\tt GAQADDEAEYYCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL} {\bf G}$
236	35F6	QTVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTCGLTSGSVTSDNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNSRHS

		GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQPEDESDYFCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
237	36G2	QAVVTQEPSLTVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSDNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNTRHS
		GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQPEDESDYYCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
238	39D5	QTVVTQEPSLTVSPGGTVTLTCG V TSGSVTSDNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNTRHS
		GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQPEDESDYYCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
239	42D12	QAVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTCGLTSGSVTSTNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNTRHS
		GVPSRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDEAEYFCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
240	35G1	QTVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSDNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNSRHS
		GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDESDYFCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
241	41D12	QAVVTQEPSLTVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSDNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNTRHS
		GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDEAEYFCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
242	41H8	QAVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTCGLTSGSVTSTNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNSRHS
		GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQPEDESDYFCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
243	35G2	QTVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSTNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNSRHS
		GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDEADYFCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
244	40F1	QAVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSDNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNTRHS
		GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDEAEYFCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
245	53B1	QTVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSDNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNTRHS
		GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDEAEYFCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
246	39C3	QAVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSDNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNTRHS
		GVPSRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDESDYYCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
247	53E1	QTVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSDNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNTRHS
		GVPSRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDESDYYCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
244	53H1	QTVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSDNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNTRHS
		GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDEAEYFCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G
245	53A2	QAVVTQEPSFSVSPGGTVTLTCGLKSGSVTSDNFPTWYQQTPGQAPRLLIYNTNTRHS
		GVPDRFSGSILGNKAALTITGAQADDEAEYFCALFISNPSVEFGGGTQLTVL G

Example 15: Temperature stability of germlined 27B3 mAbs

Several germlined 27B3 mAb variants were expressed in HEK293 cells as full-length

- 5 human IgG1 molecules. After protein A purification, the temperature stability of the germlined 27B3 mAb clones was assessed. Specifically, each mAb was incubated at various temperatures (2 or 5°C intervals apart) for 1 hour at a concentration of 100 μg/ml in PBS buffer. The temperature of the mAbs was then decreased in a controlled manner (reduction to 25°C over 2 hours, followed by overnight incubation at 4°C) and
- 10 centrifugation was used to remove aggregates. The amount of active mAb (as percentage of the total mAb concentration) in the supernatant was measured by Biacore.

The results (set forth in Table 17) demonstrate that most clones have a similar melting temperature (T_m) as wild type 27B3 has. Surprisingly, clones 41D12 and 35G2 show to

15 have an increased thermostability as compared to 27B3.

Table 17: Temperature stability of germlined 27B3 mAbs

mAb Clone	Tm	[°C]
27B3 (WT)	64.7	64.6
35G1	63.7	
35G3	61.7	

53A2	62.2	62.2
41D12	65.9	65.9
35G2	65.6	66.0
40F1	63.5	
53H1	64.1	

The temperature stability of germlined 27B3 mAbs: 41D12, 35G2 and 40F1 was further studied using a variety of techniques. Aliquots (1 ml) of the test mAbs at a concentration of 100 μ g/ml were prepared in Delbucco's PBS containing 0.02% Tween. A negative

- 5 control aliquot consisting of buffer only (Delbucco's PBS containing 0.02% Tween) and a positive control aliquot consisting of mAb in Delbucco's PBS containing 0.02% Tween were also prepared. For each mAb preparation, aliquots were stored at 4 °C, at RT and at 37 °C for a period of 0-8 weeks. 50 µl samples were removed from the aliquots on days 1, 7, 14, 21, 28, 35, 56 and 92 for analysis. A sample was stored at -20°C and used as
- 10 reference.

15.1 Gelfiltration analysis of samples

Samples taken at each time point were also analysed by gelfiltration using a Superdex200 10/300 GL column. The 50 μ l test sample was added to 200 μ l PBS + 0.02% Tween-20.

15 A sample (125 μl) was taken for gelfiltration analysis. Samples were centrifuged before analysis to remove larger aggregates. The % of monomeric peak and area of monomeric peak was measured, as well as the retention volume. The results are shown in Tables 19, 20 and 21.

		d1	d7	d14	d21	d28	d35	d56	d92
35G2	Deferrence	99.82	99.84	99.81	99.81	99.80	99.87		
40F1	Reference	99.85	99.83	99.83	99.83	99.87	99.86		
41D12		99.84	99.81	99.84	99.75	99.73	99.23	99.82	99.84
35G2		99.85	99.75	99.74	99.83	99.66	99.84		
40F1	4℃	99.65	99.29	99.73	99.77	99.72			
41D12		99.88	99.76	99.83	99.8	99.84		99.81	99.49
35G2		99.78	99.83	99.81	99.87	99.83			
40F1	RT	99.87	99.83	99.84	99.77	99.77			
41D12		99.88	99.86	99.87	99.78	99.73		99.80	99.71
35G2	37°C	99.86	99.80	99.72	99.68	99.48	99.32		
40F1		99.83	99.78	99.78	99.77	99.40	99.27		
41D12		99.89	99.77	99.61	99.71	99.45	99.02	98.66	97.46

20 Table 19: Results of PBS stability study - % monomeric peak

		d1	d7	d14	d21	d28	d35	d56	d92
35G2	Deference	67.34	68.46	64.92	66.70	66.69	66.37		
40F1	Reference	67.04	67.96	70.36	69.62	69.53	67.23		
41D12		66.41	67.64	61.17	68.53	68.60	66.08	67.48	67.06
35G2		68.41	67.58	62.55	68.64	68.12	68.42		
40F1	4℃	69.86	67.31	65.55	66.76	68.99			
41D12		68.38	69.87	65.61	68.98	69.99		68.85	67.33
35G2	RT	66.76	67.23	71.40	68.55	68.45			
40F1		68.42	69.53	69.17	68.02	70.32			
41D12		66.47	69.01	64.32	69.72	71.56		69.36	67.16
35G2	37°C	67.52	67.14	64.49	61.89	66.51	65.64		
40F1		66.48	67.69	67.35	68.02	68.61	67.23		
41D12		67.09	68.13	61.51	68.97	68.37	68.25	67.78	66.51

Table 20: **Results of PBS stability study - area under curve of the monomeric peak** (mAU*ml)

5

Table 21: Results of PBS stability study - retention volume (ml)

		d1	d7	d14	d21	d28	d35	d56	d92
35G2	Deference	12.17	12.13	12.13	12.15	12.17	12.20		
40F1	Reference	12.14	12.09	12.11	12.12	12.14	12.16		
41D12		12.12	12.08	12.10	12.10	12.12	12.14	12.10	12.13
35G2		12.16	12.12	12.14	12.16	12.17	12.20		
40F1	4℃	12.13	12.09	12.11	12.12	12.14			
41D12		12.12	12.08	12.10	12.10	12.13		12.10	12.13
35G2		12.16	12.12	12.14	12.16	12.17			
40F1	RT	12.14	12.09	12.10	12.12	12.13			
41D12		12.12	12.07	12.10	12.10	12.28		12.09	12.13
35G2		12.16	12.12	12.13	12.14	12.16	12.17		
40F1	37°C	12.13	12.09	12.09	12.12	12.12	12.14		
41D12		12.12	12.08	12.08	12.09	12.10	12.12	12.06	12.08

10 The results of gelfiltration analysis of 35G2, 40F1 and 41D12 samples taken after 5 weeks incubation at 37 °C are shown in Figure 13. Two minor peaks are visible at a higher retention time (indicating the presence of some aggregates) and lower retention time (indicating the presence of some degradation product). The results demonstrate that the majority of the protein is intact and does not aggregate.

15

Analysis of samples by BIACORE

Samples taken at certain time points were tested for potency in CD70 binding using Biacore. The 50 μ l sample was added to 200 μ l PBS + 0.02% Tween, and diluted 1/400 as follows: 5 μ l of sample (1 mg/ml) + 195 μ l HBS-EP+ (Biacore buffer), further diluted $10 \mu l + 90 \mu l$ HVS-EP+ = 2.5 μ g/ml. Biacore analysis was performed using a highly CD70 coated CM5 chip (4000 RU). The results for mAbs 40F1, 35G2 and 41D12 are shown in Figure 16. The reference sample is the 100% sample.

5 The results demonstrate that the mAbs loose some potency (affinity for the antigen CD70) over time when incubated at 37°C. For 41D12, both the slope and the maximal signal (R0) are plotted (see Figure 16C and D).

Next, the freeze-thaw stability of germlined 27B3 mAbs: 41D12, 35G2 and 40F1 was

10 studied. Therefore, a 0.7 ml aliquot of the mAbs (at 5 mg/ml) was frozen for at least 6 hours at -20°C and thawed for 1 hour at RT. This cycle was repeated 9x (so 10 freeze-thaw cycles in total) and samples were analyzed by gelfiltration as above. The results demonstrate that the mAbs are stable upon freeze thawing for 10 cycles: no degradation products or aggregates were observed in gelfiltration.

15

Table 22: Results of gelfiltration stability study PBS (left= value after 10 F/T cycles, right is value for reference sample)

Gel Filtration	35G2	40F1	41D12
	10/ref	10/ref	10/ref
% monomeric peak	99.9/99.8	99.8/99.7	99.8/99.8
Area monomeric peak	67.5/64.7	65.9/67.2	68.2/67.8
Retention time	12.20/12.21	12.15/12.15	12.12/12.12

20

Samples were also tested for potency in Biacore as described above. The results demonstrate that after 10 freeze-thaw cycles the mAb still has 97% of its potency (for all three mAbs tested.

25 **Table 23:** Potency in Biacore upon 10 freeze-thaw cycles (%)

	35G2	40F1	41D12
Reference	100	100	100
10xFT	97.35	96.96	97.02

Example 16: ADCC potency of germlined 27B3 mAbs

Several germlined 27B3 variants were expressed in HEK293 cells as full-length human IgG1 molecules. After protein A purification, the ADCC potency of the germlined 27B3 mAbs was assessed. ADCC was measured using as described above in example 7.

The relative IC50's for the germlined 27B3 mAbs compared to the parental 27B3 are given in table 18 for both ADCC potency and CD70/CD27 blocking potency in the Raji co-culture assay (as described in example 6). A figure of < 1.0 denotes improved IC50 for germlined variant relative to parental 27B3. From these data it can be concluded that

10 germlined variant 41D12 maintained the ADCC potency as well as the CD70/CD27 blocking potency combined with the best T_m .

Table 18: Relative IC50's of germlined 27B3 variants in the 786-O based ADCC assay

 and neutralization in Raji based bioassay compared to that of parental mAb clone

mAb clone	Raji co-culture assay IC50 relative to 27B3	ADCC IC50 of germlined mAb relative to 27B3					
27B3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
53A2	0.8	1.5		1.9	1.5	4.6	0.7
41D12	1.2	1.7	1.1	2.2	1.4	2.0	2.0
35G2	1.4	1.7	2.1	4.4	1.4	1.9	2.3
40F1	1.8	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.5	2.1	1.6
53H1	1.6	0.9	1.8	3.4	2.1	1.9	1.7

15

5

Example 17 Construction and selection of cell lines expressing the non-fucosylated CD70 mAb, ARGX-110

20

A double gene vector encoding the VH and VL amino acid sequences of germlined 27B3 clone 41D12 was produced (za allotype). Nucleotide sequences encoding the heavy chain (SEQ ID NO:344) and light chain (SEQ ID NO:345) of 41D12 are given in Table 30 below.

25

Potelligent® CHOK1SV cells were stably transfected with the double gene vector by electroporation. Six rounds of transfection were performed. In each round, the cells from each electroporation were added to 200 mL of chemically defined animal component free

(CDACF) medium CM63 and plated out over forty 96-well plates at 50 μ L per well. The day after transfection, 150 μ L of the CM63 medium containing the selective agent L-methionine sulphoximine (MSX) was added to each well to give a final MSX concentration of 50 μ M. After approximately 3, 4 and 5 weeks of incubation the plates

5 were screened for the presence of colonies using a cloning mirror. Any colonies identified were examined further using a microscope to evaluate if the colony had arisen from a single or multiple cells.

Two hundred and forty-five colonies were identified and screened for antibody

- 10 production using an Octet based method. Antibody concentrations ranged from 0 to 172 µg/mL. Of the 245 cell lines screened, 214 were positive for antibody production. The cell lines were ranked based on productivity and the top 70 cell lines were selected. Cultures of these 70 cell lines were initially expanded in static culture and subsequently into suspension culture. Thirty cell lines that exhibited acceptable growth were selected
- 15 and evaluated further in a batch shake-flask culture productivity screen. Cultures were gassed on days 4, 6, 8 and 10 and harvested on day 12. The concentration of antibody in the harvest supernatant samples was determined in HPLC using Protein A containing column. The antibody concentrations in the samples from the 30 cell lines ranged from 109 to 877 mg/L. The results of the batch shake-flask assessment were used to rank the
- 20 cell lines, based on productivity. The top 20 cell lines were selected for further evaluation.

The growth and productivity data for these 20 selected cell lines expressing the ARGX-110 antibody was studied in fed-batch shake-flask cultures using CDACF medium and the results are shown in Table 24. Antibody concentrations at harvest ranged from 857

- to 3922 mg/L, as determined on a Protein A HPLC column. Cell line F13 was selected to inoculate a disposable 10L cell bag bioreactor. A harvest antibody concentration of 4327 mg/L was achieved. This cell line achieved an antibody concentration at harvest of 2711 mg/L in fed-batch shake-flask culture and had the second highest specific production rate (2.22 pg/cell/h) of all 6 cell lines assessed (B1, D4, D5, F1, F13 and F18).
- 30 This cell line also exhibited acceptable growth characteristics.

Table 24: Summary of growth and productivity data for 20 selected cell lines, expressingthe ARGX-110 antibody, grown in CDACF fed-batch shake-flask cultures.

Cell Line	Maximum Viable Cell Concentration (10 ⁶ /mL)	IVC at Harvest ⁽¹⁾ (10 ⁹ cell.h/L)	Viability at Harvest (%)	Antibody Concentration at Harvest ⁽²⁾ (mg/L)	Specific Production Rate $(q_P)^{(3)}$ (pg/cell/h)
A1	8.55	1276	47.1	1536	1.204
A9	4.01	1039	71.5	1033	0.994
B 1	8.60	1777	69.9	3922	2.206
В2	5.22	1277	59.7	2938	2.301
D4	9.10	1957	79.5	3346	1.709
D5	7.84	1791	78.5	3258	1.819
D12	7.76	1635	91.2	1424	0.871
D20	7.66	1525	60.6	3130	2.052
D24	4.25	973	28.3	1133	1.164
D30	7.58	1492	93.4	2095	1.405
F1	8.55	1717	41.0	3704	2.157
F13	6.14	1224	46.0	2711	2.215
F18	7.80	1641	50.0	3301	2.011
F20	7.76	1812	68.2	2095	1.156
F21	7.95	1693	39.7	2008	1.186
F22	8.13	1953	87.9	1572	0.805
F29	9.16	1944	88.3	1435	0.738
F31	7.27	1453	73.9	1540	1.060
F33	5.67	1409	7.2	857	0.608
F34	10.04	2049	93.4	1328	0.648

⁽¹⁾ Time integral of the viable cell concentration at harvest.

⁽²⁾ Determined by Protein A HPLC.

⁽³⁾ Calculated by linear regression analysis of the antibody concentration against the time integral of the viable cell concentration.

Example 18 Affinity of CD70 mAbs

5 <u>18.1 Affinity for cancer cell lines expressing CD70</u>

Several cancer cell lines were tested by FACS analysis for binding of ARGX-110 and SGN70 (described in US2010/0129362) at saturating mAb concentrations (at least 2 μ g/ml). This was either done at 4 °C (1 hour incubation of cells with mAbs) or at 37 °C

(15 minutes incubation of cells with mAbs). Binding was detected using anti-hIgG1-Fc FITC (AF006, Binding Site) or anti-hIgG1-Fc-PE antibody (eBioscience, 12-4998).

Fluorescence was measured using a flow cytometer. The results are summarized in Table **25**. The third column of the table shows whether ARGX-110 binds with low (+), medium (++) or high (+++) affinity to the various cell lines tested.

5 In the right-hand column, the FACS signal (MFI) for ARGX-110 is divided by the FACS signal (MFI) for SGN70 for the experiment carried out at 37 °C. These results demonstrate that ARGX-110 binds with higher affinity to the cells than SGN70, particularly for lower copy-number cell lines where it can be expected that high affinity binding of an antibody can be picked up more easily.

10

Table 25: Binding of CD70 mAbs ARGX-110 and SGN70 to cancer call lines

Туре	Cell line	ARGX-110	Signal in FACS of ARGX-110/signal in FACS of SGN70
Burkitt lymphoma	Raji	+++	1.2
Large B cell lymphoma	SU-DHL-6	+	2.4
Hodgkin lymphoma	L428	+++	1.4
Non Hodgkin lymphoma	MHHPREB1	+++	1.2
	Mino	+++	1.0
Montio Coll Lymphome	Jeko	+++	
Mantle Cell Lymphoma	Granta 519	++	0.9
	Rec-1	+	
	Mec1	+++	1.2
Chronic lymphocytic leukemia	JVM-3	++	
	JVM-2	+	2.4
Cutaneous T cell lymphoma	HUT78	+++	1.0
Cutaneous i cen lymphoma	HH	+	1.7
	U266	+++	0.8
	JNN-3	+++	
	LP1	++	
Multiple Mueleme	AMO-1	+++	
Multiple Myeloma	RPMI8226	+++	
	MM1.S	++	
	KMS11	+++	
	KMS12MB	+++	
	786-O	+++	2.1
Renal cell carcinoma	Caki-1	++	1.9
	A498	++	1.0
Astrocytoma	U251	+++	
Gastric carcinoma	MKN-45	+	10.6
	A549	+	3.8
Lung carcinoma	EBC-1	+	8.9
	WM1205-Lu	+++	
	WM852	+	
Melanoma	WM3248	+++	
weianoma	WM793	+	
	WM1552C	++	
	WM115	+++	

	GaMG	+	
Glioblastoma	U87MG	++	2.0
	U343	++	
	OAW-42	+	
Ovarian carcinoma	SKOV3	+	
	OVCAR3	+	
Pancreatic carcinoma	PANC-1	++	2.9
Fancreatic carcinolita	PANC-89	+	

In a further experiment, the apparent binding affinity of CD70 mAbs, ARGX-110, SGN70 and MDX1411 [see above], across a range of concentrations was determined for

- 5 different cell lines. Cells were incubated for 1 hour at 4 °C with a dilution series of CD70 binding mAbs and binding was detected using anti-hIgG1-Fc-FITC or anti-hIgG-Fc-PE antibody. Fluorescence was measured using a flow cytometer and the median fluorescence was plotted. The results are shown in Figure 15.
- 10 The results demonstrate that the affinity of the three different mAbs for CD70 on cells is comparable, but for some cell lines, SU-DHL-6, A549 and MKN45, binding of ARGX-110 is superior as compared to MDX1411 and SGN70. The EC50 for binding to SU-DHL-6, A549 and MKN45 is much higher for all mAbs as compared to EC50 on the other cell lines like U266 and many others, which probably indicates that the mAb is
- 15 binding only with one arm (Fab), no longer allowing for avidity and thus resulting in lower affinities. Indeed, when tested in Biacore, the affinity of the Fab of ARGX-110 versus SGN70 and MDX1411 is much higher (see below).

18.2 Affinity for patient cells expressing CD70

20

Primary cells taken from chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) patients (2 high risk patients, 1 low risk patient) were plated at 250,000 cells/ well in round bottom 96 well plates in RPMI 1640 + 10% FBS and mAbs at a concentration of 5 μ g/ml in RPMI + 10% FBS were added. After incubation for up to 5 hours at 37°C, cells were washed twice

25 with ice-cold PBS. Alexa Fluor 647 labelled goat Anti-Human IgG (Invitrogen Cat# 21445) was diluted 1/500 in PBS/1%BSA and incubated for 20 minutes at 4 °C. The plate was washed twice with ice-cold PBS and 4% paraformaldehyde was added for 15 minutes at room temperature to fix the cells. Signals were measured by FACS. The

PCT/EP2012/054733

results are shown in Figure 16. The results demonstrate that ARGX-110 binds well to the cells from the CLL patients whereas SGN70 almost gave no binding signals.

18.3 Affinity of CD70 Fabs for recombinant CD70 in Biacore

5

25

Recombinant human CD70 was immobilized on a CM5 Biacore chip. The immobilization was performed in accordance with a method provided by Biacore and by using the NHS/EDC kit (Biacore AB): after activation of the chip, a solution of 50 μ g/ml of recombinant CD70 in 10mM acetate buffer with pH of 5 was prepared and 1 μ l of this

10 solution (50ng) was injected resulting in a surface density of approximately 1000 RU.

Fabs were prepared for the CD70 mAbs ARGX-110, MDX1411 and SGN70 by papain digestion. These Fabs, at a concentration of approximately 100-400µg/ml, were diluted 6-fold in HEPES-buffered saline (0.1M HEPES, 1.5M NaCl, 30mM EDTA, 0.5% v/v

- 15 surfactant P20). They were injected (30µ1) and passed through the flow cells at a flow rate of 30µ1/min. After binding of the Fab to CD70, the off-rate was monitored for a period of 10 minutes. After dissociation, the flow cell surfaces were regenerated by injecting 5µ1 of 10mM NaOH. Sometimes multiple injections of NaOH were needed to regenerate the surfaces depending on the affinity of the Fabs. Off-rate analysis was done
- 20 by applying the BIAevaluation software. First, the sensogram of the blank runs were subtracted from those obtained with the coated flow cell. Then the off-rate was determined for a time range of 10 minutes using the Fit kinetics application and the Kd value was calculated. The off rates are summarized in Table 26.

	Off rate [10 ⁻⁴ s ⁻¹]
ARGX-110	1.4
SGN70	7
MDX1411	17

Table 26: "off rate" of Fabs for binding to human CD70

18.4 Spiking experiments to assess lysis of SU-DHL-6 cells bound by CD70 mAbs

30 SU-DHL-6 cells (a diffuse large B cell lymphoma cell line) were pipeted into wells at 50,000 cells/well which were spiked then into 300,000 freshly isolated PBMCs/well from healthy donors and mAbs were added at different concentrations. The samples were incubated for 2 days and analysed by FACS for the depletion of the cell line (as measured

with anti-human CD19 APC (eBioscience 17-0199-42)). The best potency in cell killing was obtained with ARGX-110, which also gives the highest % of lysis. The results are shown in Figure 17.

5 Example 19: CD27-CD70 blocking activity of CD70 mAbs

The interaction between CD70 and CD27 may contribute to tumour cell survival, proliferation and/or immune suppression within the tumour microenvironment. The ability of CD70 mAbs to block the interaction between CD70 and CD27 was therefore assessed by ELISA.

10

In this assay, a microtiter plate (Nunc Maxisorb) was first coated with 100 μ l anti-FLAG M2 monoclonal antibody (Sigma Aldrich, F3165) at 1250-fold dilution in PBS (to achieve a final concentration of approximately 3.5 μ g/ml) overnight at 4 °C. The plate was washed once with PBS-Tween and incubated at RT for 2 hours with 300 μ l PBS-1%

- 15 casein. The plate was washed a further three times with PBS-Tween. 100 µl of 5 ng/ml (80 pM) Flag-TNC-CD70 (The Journal of Immunology, 2009, 183: 1851–1861) diluted in PBS-0.1% casein was added to the plate and incubated at RT for 1 hour while shaking. The plate was washed five times with PBS-Tween. The CD70 mAb to be tested was added to the plate; various concentrations were achieved by diluting the stock antibody
- solution in PBS-0.1% casein. Immediately thereafter, 50 µl of 1 µg/ml (final concentration 6.5 nM) recombinant human CD27 Fc chimera (R&D systems 382-CD, MW = 46.5 kDa) was added, and incubated at RT for 1 hour while shaking. The plate was washed five times with PBS Tween. 100 µl of biotinylated anti-CD27 (eBioscience 13-0271), diluted 500-fold in PBS-0.1% casein, was added, and the plate incubated at RT
- for a further hour, while shaking. The plate was washed five times with PBS Tween. 100 μ l of Strep-HRP (Jackson Immunoresearch 016-030-084) diluted 5000 fold in PBS-0.1% casein was added, and the plate incubated at RT for a further hour, while shaking. The plate was washed five times with PBS-Tween. 100 μ l TMB was added to the plate and the OD at 620 nm was measured.

30

Using this assay, the blocking potency of ARGX-110 was compared to the potency of SGN70 and MDX1411. As shown in Figure 18, ARGX-110 is much more potent (about

PCT/EP2012/054733

100-fold) in blocking the interaction between CD70 and CD27 than the two benchmark mAbs (IC50 ARGX-110= 67 ng/ml, MDX1411= 5500 ng/ml and SGN70= 4972 ng/ml).

5 Example 20: Binding properties of CD70 mAbs

20.1 Cross-reactivity with CD70 of non-human species

Determining the animal cross-reactivity of CD70 mAbs is useful for the purposes of assessing which animal models can be used for *in vivo* proof of concept studies, and

10 which species are most suited for toxicology studies. Rhesus CD70 is 94% identical to human CD70 and Cynomolgus monkey CD70 is 95% identical to human CD70. An alignment of the sequences from the different species is shown in Figure 19. The mouse and rat CD70 sequences are also included so as to highlight the differences as compared with the human sequence.

15

CD70 mAbs ARGX-110, SGN70 and MDX1411 were tested for binding to U266 (a human multiple myeloma cell line), LCL8664 cells (rhesus B cell lymphoma cell line, ATCC-CRL-1805) and to HSC-F cells (cynomolgus monkey T-cell line, fetal spleen-

20 derived lymphocytes, Japanese health science foundation) cells in a dilution series starting at a concentration of 10-20 µg/ml.

Detection was performed using goat anti human IgG1 FITC. Samples were analysed by FACS. The results are shown in Figure 20. The copy-number of CD70 on both monkey

25 cell lines is very low (low signals in FACS). However, ARGX-110 has a high affinity for cynomolgus and rhesus CD70 as compared to the affinity of SGN70 and MDX1411 for CD70 of these species.

20.2 Blocking potency of CD70 mAbs

30 The ability of CD70 mAbs (ARGX-110, SGN70 and MDX1411) to block the interaction between CD70 and CD27 was tested using the blocking ELISA described in Example 19 above. The assay was adapted such to measure the blocking potency of each antibody for human, rhesus and cynomolgus monkey Flag-TNC-CD70 (Wyzgol, *et al.*, J. Immunol., 2009, 183: 1851–1861). In the ELISA, exactly the same conditions were used for CD70 from the different species so that the IC50 values between the different species could be compared directly. The results are shown in Figure 21 and support the results seen using cells from humans, rhesus monkeys and cynomolgus monkeys. ARGX-110 has an unaltered potency and

5 therefore an unaltered affinity for CD70 of monkeys as compared to human, whereas SGN70 and especially MDX1411 have a lower affinity for monkey than for human CD70. IC50 values are summarized in Table 27.

Table 27: IC50 for blocking of the CD27-CD70 interaction in ELISA for CD70 from10different species

	IC50 [ng/ml] in inhibition ELISA			
Cells	Human		Cynomolgus	
		monkey	monkey	
ARGX-110	39	75	48	
SGN70	54	178	112	
MDX1411	44	>10000	>10000	

20.3 Binding to denatured CD70

- 15 The binding of CD70 mAbs to denatured recombinant CD70 was assessed by ELISA. Recombinant CD70 was denatured by heating for 5 minutes at 95°C, followed by immediate cooling on ice for 5 minutes. A microtiter plate was coated with 5 µg/ml CD70 with or without denaturation. The plate was blocked and the CD70 mAbs for testing were applied at 10 µg/ml. After washing, binding of the mAbs was detected using
- 20 anti-human IgG-HRP. As a positive control for the coating, instead of using the CD70 mAbs, an anti-Flag mouse-derived mAb was applied and detection was with anti-mouse-HRP. TMB was used as a substrate and OD at 620nm was measured. The results from this ELISA are shown in Figure 22. The results demonstrate that ARGX-110 binds to a different epitope than SGN70, MDX1411 (MDX2H5) and MDX69A7 as ARGX-110 still
- 25 binds to denatured CD70 whereas the other mAbs don't. Amongst the other mAbs, some are also binding to denatured CD70 (fe 5F4, 9G2, 57B6).

20.4 Epitope mapping using mouse-human chimeras

30 Human-mouse CD70 ECD fusion proteins were constructed by exchanging domains of human and mouse CD70 in order to map the domain recognition of the mAbs. The construction was done using standard recombinant DNA and PCR methodologies. The mouse and human chimeras were cloned into a eukaryote expression vector with a Flag tag for capturing in ELISA and a TNC for trimerisation of the protein (Flag-TNC-CD70). Proteins were expressed as soluble proteins in HEK293 cells. The sequence of the different chimeras is shown in Figure 23.

5

A Maxisorb (Nunc) microtiter plate was coated with 3.5 μ g/ml mouse M2 anti-Flag mAb (Sigma Aldrich, F3165) and the different chimeras were captured. A dilution series of the CD70 mAbs to be tested was applied starting at a concentration of 10 μ g/ml and making 3-fold dilutions. After 2 hours, binding was detected using anti-human-Fc-HRP at a

- 10 16000-fold dilution. Staining was done with ABTS and OD at 405nm was measured. As a positive control, CD27-Fc was applied which is able to bind to both human and mouse CD70 with good affinity as well as to the chimeric human-mouse CD70 variants. The EC50 values for binding are summarized in Table 28.
- 15 **Table 28:** Binding of ARGX-110 to human-mouse CD70 chimeras shown in Figure 23.

EC50 [ng/ml]	ARGX-110	CD27	
human	22	79	
chim-1	27	159	
chim-2.1	15	51	
chim-2.2	16	56	
chim-2.3	15		
chim-2.4	14	76	
chim-2	NB	99	
chim-3	NB	94	
chim-4	NB	51	
mouse	NB	41	
NB= no binding			

20 The results demonstrate that ARGX-110 can bind to human Flag-TNC-CD70 and to chimeras 1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 but does not bind to chimeras 2, 3 and 4 and mouse Flag-TNC-CD70. This indicates that the epitope for ARGX-110 is within the following amino acid sequence: **HIQVTLAICSS (SEQ ID NO:342).**

25

Example 21 : CD70 internalization of different tumor cell lines and primary tumor cells

It has been demonstrated that binding of CD70 antibodies to the renal carcinoma derived

- 5 cell lines 786-O and A498 results in the rapid (within 1 hour) internalization of the antibody–receptor complex (Adam *et al.*, Br. J. Cancer (2006) 95: 298 306). In order to test for internalization of mAbs ARGX-110, SGN70 and MDX1411, 786-O cells were cultured in a 96-well microtiter plate and incubated overnight at 37°C. 2.5 µg/ml mAb was added and incubated with the cells for 0-24 hours at 37°C. Plates were washed 3
- 10 times 5' with stripping buffer (150mM NaCl, 100mM Glycine, pH=2.5; coded "IN" representing the amount of mAb internalized via CD70) or PBS (coded "OUT" and representing the amount of mAb bound to the receptor at the outside of the cell). Subsequently, cells were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde for 30' at RT, washed with PBS, and incubated 5' with 0.2% Triton-X-100 ("IN") or PBS ("OUT"). Next, cells were
- 15 washed twice and incubated at RT for 10' with 100mM glycine followed by 30mins incubation with PBS+1%BSA. Finally cells were stained with goat anti-human Fc (Jackson immunoresearch 109-005-098) and anti-goat IRDYE800 (Li-cor 926-32214) before analysis on the Li-Cor Odyssey infrared scanner. The % of mAb OUT as a function of time is shown in Figure 24.

20

25

The results demonstrate that internalization for all mAbs is comparable and that none of the mAbs internalizes completely. Initially, between 0 and 2 hours, the mAb internalization goes very fast, but then it seems that a steady state is reached where about 30% of the mAb remains at the outside of the cell, even after 24 hours of incubation at 37°C.

The internalization of CD70-bound mAbs was also assessed using other cell lines. In these experiments, only the signal of the mAb outside the cell was measured as a function of time using FACS analysis according to the protocol described below. This alternative

30 protocol was determined to be a reliable readout as compared with the method described above (see Figure 24, right-hand panel).

WO 2012/123586

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PCT/EP2012/054733

For suspension cells, cells were centrifuged, counted and the pellet resuspended in medium to a density of 5 x 10^5 cells/ml, and 100μ l of this suspension was added per well of a 96-well V-bottom plate. For adherent cells, cells were seeded in a 96-well plate and grown ON at 37°C, 5%CO₂ until cells were fully attached. Cells were plated at a density which allowed linear cell growth for an additional 48h period.

The mAbs for testing were diluted and incubated with the cells at 37°C, 5% CO₂ for varying time periods: 24h, 8h, 6h, 4h, 2h, 1h, 30min, 15min, 5min, 0min (=no mAb). Following incubation, the plates were washed on ice with cold FACS buffer to stop the

- 10 internalization reaction . At this stage, adherent cells were detached from the plate using cell dissociation solution (Sigma) and transferred to a V-bottom 96-well plate. Next, cells were spun down at 4°C. The supernatant was removed by gently inverting the plate. The cells were washed twice by gently re-suspending the cell pellet in 100 µl cold FACS buffer. After washing, the cell pellet was resuspended in 100 µl anti-hu IgG-FITC,
- 15 diluted 1/500 in FACS buffer. The plate was incubated for 30 min at 4°C, while shaking, and the cells were washed a further three times with cold FACS buffer. The cells were resuspended in 100 µl FACS buffer and fluorescence was measured immediately. The median mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) was plotted versus time.
- 20 Several of the experiments were repeated two or more times. Results from two experiments were very comparable. In some experiments, using U266, SU-DHL-6 and Raji cells, a concentration range (20 ng/ml 5 µg/ml) was used to see if there was an effect of mAb concentration on internalization rate. No such effect was observed (data not shown).

25

The results for different cell lines tested are shown in Table 29 and demonstrate that internalization is not a common phenomenon, actually it is quite a rare event. Table 29 summarizes the percentage of internalization after 6 hours for the different cell lines. These results show that most of ARGX-110 remains bound to the outside of the cells

30 making the cells more susceptible to ADCC, CDC and ADCP.

Туре	Cell line	% internalization after 6 hours	Average % per indication
Burkitt lymphoma	Raji	2	2
Large B cell lymphoma	SU-DHL-6	3	3
Hodgkin lymphoma	L428	15	15
Non Hodgkin lymphoma	MHHPREB1	19	19
Mantle Cell Lymphoma	Mino	12	
	Granta 519	7	7
	Rec-1	2	
Chronic lymphocytic	Mec1	3	
leukemia	JVM-2	8	
	JVM-3	11	7
	Patient HR	5	1
	Patient HR	7	
	Patient LR	8	
Cutaneous T cell	HUT78	35	33
lymphoma	HH	31	33
Multiple Myeloma	U266	38	
	AMO-1	36	
	RPMI8226	38	34
	MM1.S	35	
	KMS12MB	49	
Renal cell carcinoma	786-0	58	
	Caki-1	37	54
	A498	66	
Astrocytoma	U251	52	52
Gastric carcinoma	MKN-45	0	0
Lung carcinoma	A549	0	3
	EBC-1	6	3
Melanoma	WM1205-Lu	45	
	WM3248	34	44
	WM115	52	
Glioblastoma	U87MG	10	21
	U343	32	21
Ovarian carcinoma	SKOV3	51	51
Pancreatic carcinoma	PANC-1	29	25
	PANC-89	20	20

 Table 29: % internalization of CD70 mAbs on different cell lines after 6 hours.

<u>mAb</u>		
41D12	Heavy chain SEQ ID NO: 344	gccgccaccATGGGCTGGTCCTGCATCATCCTGTTTCTGGTGGCCAC CGCCACAGGCGTCCACTCTGAGGTGCAGCTCGTGGAGTCTGGG GAGGCTTGGTGCAGCCTGGGGGGTCTCTGAGACTCCCTGTG CAGCCTCTGGATTCACCTTCAGTGTCTACTACATGAACTGGGTC CGCCAGGCTCCAGGGAAGGGGGCTCGAGTGGGTCTCAGATATTA ATAATGAAGGTGGTACTACATACTATGCAGACTCCGTGAAGGGC CGATTCACCATCTCCAGAGACAACTCTAAGAACAGCCTGTACTT GCAAATGAACAGCCTGCGCGCGAGGACACGGCCGTGTACTAC TGCGCGAGAGATGCCGGGTACTAGCACCATGTACCCATCTTGA TTCTTGGGGCCAGGGGACCCTGGTCACTGTCTCCCAGCAGGA CCAGTGGAGGCACCGCCGCTCTTGGCTGCTTGGTTAAGGATTAT TTCCCGAGGCCAGGGGACCCGCGTCTTGGCTGCCTCGTCCATCCA
	Light chain SEQ ID NO: 345	gccgccacc <u>ATGGGCTGGTCCTGCATCATCCTGTTTCTGGTGGCCAC</u> <u>CGCCACAGGCGTCCACTCT</u> CAGGCAGTGGTGACCCAGGAGCCT TCCCTGACAGTGTCTCCAGGAGGGACGGTCACGCTCACCTGCG GCCTCAAATCTGGGTCTGTCACTTCCGATAACTTCCCCACTTGGT ACCAGCAGACACCAGGCCAGG

Table 30: nucleotide sequences encoding selected CD70 antibodies

		CTCACGAGGGTTCCACAGTGGAAAAGACTGTGGCCCCTACTGAA
		TGTAGTTGA
		kozak
		LEADER
		VARIABLE REGION
		LAMBDA CONSTANT REGION
57B6	Heavy chain	CAGTTGCAGCTGGTGGAGTCTGGGGGGAGGCTTGGTGCAGCCTG
0,00	-	GGGGGTCTCTGAGACTC
	SEQ ID NO:	TCTTGTGCAGCCTCTGGATTCAGCTTCAGTCACTATGCCATGAGC
	346	
		TGGGTCCGCCAGGCT
		CCAGGAAAGGGGCTAGAGTGGGTCTCAGGTGATAATACCTACGA
		TGGTGGTACAAGGTAT
		CAAGACTCCGTGAAGGGCCGATTCACCATCTCCAGAGACAATGG
		CAAGAACACGCTGTAT
		CTGCAAATGAACAGCCTGAAACCTGAGGACACGGCCGTGTATTA
		CTGTGCAAAAGATACT
		GGTAGAGGCATTATGGGGGGAGTACGGCATGGACTACTGGGGCAA
		AGGGACCCTGGTCACC
		GTCTCCTCA
	Light chain	CAGACTGTGGTGACCCAGGAGCCGTCCCTGTCAGTGTCTCCAGG
	SEQ ID NO:	AGGGACGGTCACACTC
	347	ACCTGCGGCCTCAAGTCTGGGTCTGTCACTTCCAGTAACTACCCT
	347	GCTTGGTACCAGCAG
		ACACCAGGCCAGGCTCCCCGATTGCTTATCTACAACACAAACAGC
		CGTCACTCTGGGGTC
		CCCAGTCGCTTCTCCGGATCCATCTCTGGGAACAAAGCCGCCCT
		CACCATCACGGGGGCC
		CAGCCCGAGGACGAGGCCGACTATTACTGTGCTCTGTACATGGG
		TAGTGGTAGTGCCAAT
		GCTATGTTCGGCGGAGGGACCCATCTGACCGTCCTGGGTCA
59D10	Heavy chain	GAGGTGCAGCTGGTGGAGTCTGGGGGGAGGCTTGGTGCAGCCTG
	SEQ ID NO:	GGGGGTCTCTGAGACTC
		TCCTGTGCAGCGTCCGAATTGTCCTTCAGTATTTCTGAGATGACC
	348	TGGGTCCGCCAGGCT
		CCAGGAAAGGGGCTCGAGTGGGTCTCAGGTATTAGTGGTGTAAC
		TGGTGGTAGTAGTACA
		AGTTATGCAGACTCCGTGAAGGGCCGATTCACCATCTCCAGAGA
		TTGTATCTACAAATGAACAGCCTGATACCCGAGGACACGGCCGTA
		TATTACTGTGCAACA
		ACTAGTGGTACTTACTACTTCATCCCCGAGTATGAGTACTGGGGC
		CAGGGGACCCAGGTC
		ACCGTCTCCTCA
	Light chain	CAGTCTGTGCTGACCCAGCCTCCCTCCGTGTCTGGGTCTCCAGG
	SEQ ID NO:	AAAGACGGTCACCATC
		TCCTGTGCAGGAACCAGCAGTGATGTTGGGTATGGATACTATGTC
	349	
		TTCCCAGGAATGGCCCCCAAACTCCTGATATATGACGTCAATAAA
		CGGGCCTCAGGGATC
		GCTGATCGCTTCTCTGGCTCCAAGGCCGGCAACACTGCCTCCCT
		GACCATCTCTGGGCTC
		CAGTCTGAGGACGAGGCTGATTATTACTGTGCCTCATATAGAAGT
		AGCGCCAATGCTGTG
		TTCGGCGGAGGGACCCATCTGACCGTCCTGGGT

5

Throughout this specification and the claims which follow, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", and variations such as "comprises" and "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or step or group of integers or steps but not the exclusion of any other integer or step or group of integers or steps.

The reference in this specification to any prior publication (or information derived from it), or to any matter which is known, is not, and should not be taken as an acknowledgment or admission or any form of suggestion that that prior publication (or

10 information derived from it) or known matter forms part of the common general knowledge in the field of endeavour to which this specification relates.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

An antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, which binds to human CD70, said antibody or antigen binding fragment comprising at least one heavy chain variable domain (VH) comprising variable heavy chain CDR3, variable heavy chain CDR2 and variable heavy chain CDR1, and at least one light chain variable domain (VL) comprising variable light chain CDR3, variable light chain CDR2 and variable light chain CDR1, wherein

the variable heavy chain CDR3 comprises or consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:50;

the variable heavy chain CDR2 comprises or consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:27 or SEQ ID NO:249; and

the variable heavy chain CDR1 comprises or consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11 or SEQ ID NO:248, and

wherein the variable light chain CDR3 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:160;

the variable light chain CDR2 comprises or consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:119 or SEQ ID NO:110; and

the variable light chain CDR1 comprises or consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:87, SEQ ID NO:250, SEQ ID NO:251, SEQ ID NO:252 and SEQ ID NO:253.

 The isolated antibody or antigen binding fragment of claim 1, wherein the variable heavy chain CDR3 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:50 (DAGYSNHVPIFDS);

the variable heavy chain CDR2 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:27 (DINNEGGTTYYADSVKG);

the variable heavy chain CDR1 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:11 (VYYMN);

the variable light chain CDR3 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:160 (ALFISNPSVE);

the variable light chain CDR2 comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:119 (NTNTRHS); and

- 130 -

1.

- 3. The isolated antibody or antigen binding fragment of claim 2, comprising a heavy chain variable domain (VH) comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:223, germlined variants and affinity variants thereof and amino acid sequences at least 90%, 95%, 97%, 98% or 99% identical thereto, and a light chain variable domain (VL) comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:241, germlined variants and affinity variants thereof and amino acid sequences at least 90%, 95%, 97%, 98% or 99% identical thereto.
- 4. An isolated antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, which binds to the same epitope on human CD70 as the antibody of claim 2 or claim 3.
- 5. The isolated antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, of any one of claims 1 to 4, which
 - (i) exhibits the following combination of binding properties: binding within the amino acid sequence HIQVTLAICSS (SEQ ID NO:342) in human CD70;

cross-reactivity with CD70 homologs of rhesus macaque (Macaca mulatta) and cynomolgus monkey (Macaca cynomolgus);

binding to native human CD70 and heat denatured recombinant human CD70; or

(ii) is partially internalised in 786-O renal carcinoma cells.

- 6. An antibody according to any one of any one of claims 1 to 5 which is a llamahuman chimeric antibody, wherein the VH and VL domains, or one or more CDRs thereof are derived from llama and one or more of the constant domains are derived from a human immunoglobulin.
- 7. An antibody according to claim 6 which comprises the hinge region, CH2 domain

and CH3 domain of a human IgG.

- 8. An antibody according to claim 7, wherein the IgG is a human IgG1.
- 9. The antibody or antigen binding fragment of any one of claims 1 to 8 which displays one or more effector functions selected from antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC).
- 10. The antibody or antigen binding fragment of claim 9, wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment exhibits enhanced ADCC function in comparison to an equivalent antibody comprising a native human Fc domain, complement dependent cytotoxicity (CDC) and antibody-dependent cell-mediated phagocytosis (ADCP) against cells expressing human CD70 on the cell surface.
- 11. The antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof of claim 10, wherein the cells expressing human CD70 are CD70-expressing cancer cells.
- 12. An antibody according to any one of claims 1 to 9 which is a non-fucosylated IgG, preferably a non-fucosylated human IgG1.
- 13. An isolated polynucleotide which encodes the antibody or antigen binding fragment of any one of claims 1 to 12.
- 14. An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 13, operably linked to regulatory sequences which permit expression of the antigen binding polypeptide in a host cell or cell-free expression system.
- 15. A host cell or cell-free expression system containing the expression vector of claim 20.
- 16. A method of producing a recombinant antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof which comprises culturing the host cell or cell free expression system of claim 15 under conditions which permit expression of the antibody or antigen

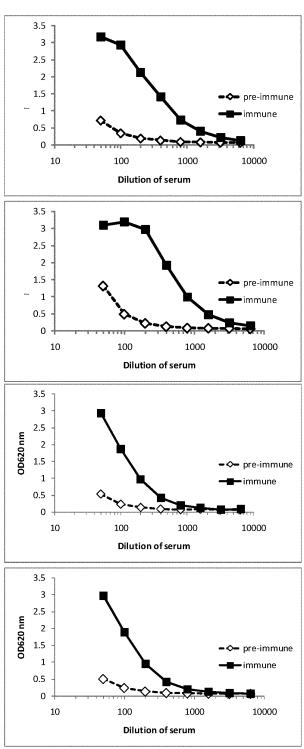
binding fragment and recovering the expressed antibody or antigen binding fragment.

- 17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody or antigen binding fragment according to any one of claims 1 to 12 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient or an immunoconjugate comprising an antibody or antigen binding fragment according to any one of claims 1 to 12 and a cytotoxic agent.
- The antibody or antigen binding fragment according to any one of claims 1 to 12 for use in
 - (a) inhibiting the growth of CD70-expressing tumour cells in a human patient; or
 - (b) treating or preventing cancer in a human patient.
- 19. The antibody or antigen binding fragment according to claim 18 wherein said cancer is a cancer which exhibits low copy-number expression of CD70.
- 20. The antibody or antigen binding fragment according to claim 19, wherein, said cancer is being selected from the group consisting of: large B cell lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, cutaneous T cell lymphoma, gastric cancer, lung cancer, melanoma, glioblastoma and ovarian cancer.
- 21. Use of the antibody or antigen binding fragment according to any one of claims 1 to 12 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating an immunological disorder in a human patient.
- 22. A method of treating an immunological disorder in a human patient comprising administering to a human patient an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding fragment according to anyone of claims 1 to 12.
- 23. Use according to claim 21 or the method according to claim 22, wherein the immunological disorder is selected from the group consisting of: autoimmune

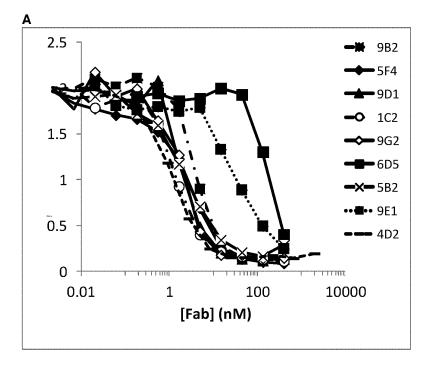
diseases, systemic lupus erythromatosus (SLE), multiple sclerosis, psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, vasculitis, Wegener's granulomatosis, Churg-Strauss disease, microscopic polyangiitis, immune complex vasculitis, polyateritis nodosa, Kawasaki disease, giant cell arthritis, nephritis, Behcet's syndrome, aortitis and Takayasu disease.

- 24. Use of the antibody or antigen binding fragment according to any one of claims 1 to 12 in the manufacture of a medicament for depleting CD70-expressing cells in a human patient, wherein said CD70-expressing cells exhibit 30% or less, 25% or less, 20% or less, 15% or less, 10% or less or 5% or less internalisation of said antibody after a period of 6 hours, and wherein said antibody exhibits at least one effector function selected from the group consisting of ADCC, CDC and ADCP.
- 25. A method for depleting CD70-expressing cells in a human patient, comprising administering to a human patient an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding fragment according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein said CD70-expressing cells exhibit 30% or less, 25% or less, 20% or less, 15% or less, 10% or less or 5% or less internalisation of said antibody after a period of 6 hours, and wherein said antibody exhibits at least one effector function selected from the group consisting of ADCC, CDC and ADCP.
- 26. Use according to claim 30 or the method according to claim 25, wherein
 - (a) wherein the CD70-expressing cells are CD70-expressing cancer cells are
 of a cancer type selected from the group consisting of: Burkitt lymphoma,
 large B cell lymphoma, Hodgkin lymphoma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma,
 mantle cell lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, pancreatic
 carcinoma, gastric carcinoma, glioblastoma and lung carcinoma; or
 - (b) wherein the CD70-expressing cells are CD70-expressing activated T cells.









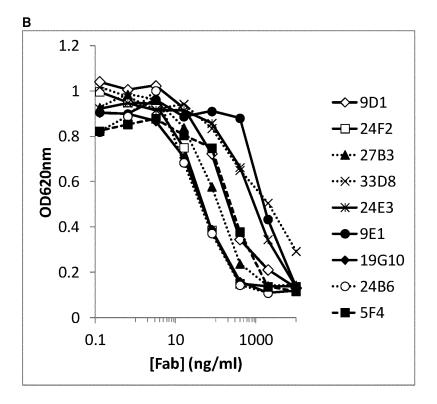
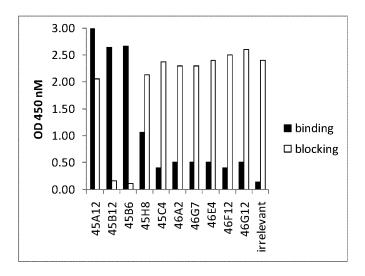
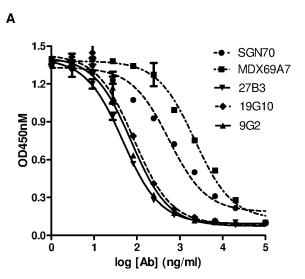


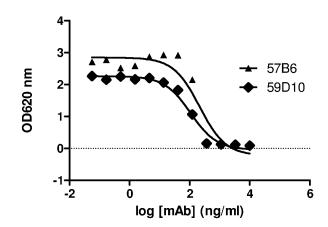
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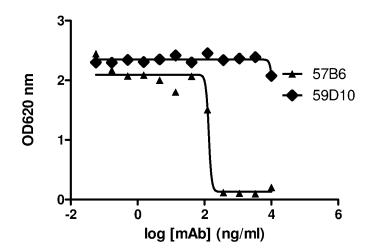




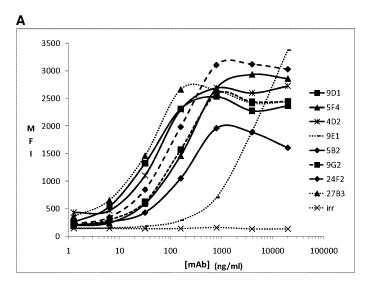
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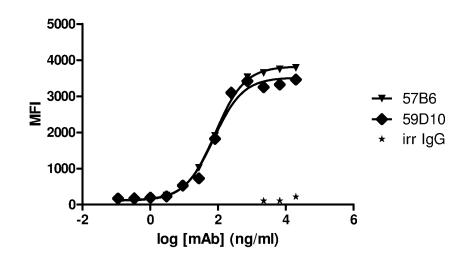
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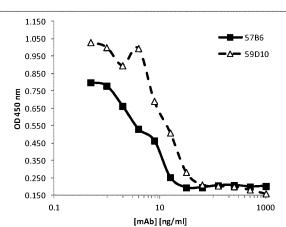






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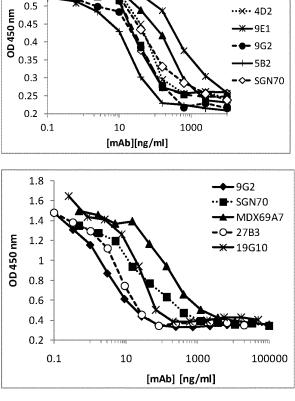
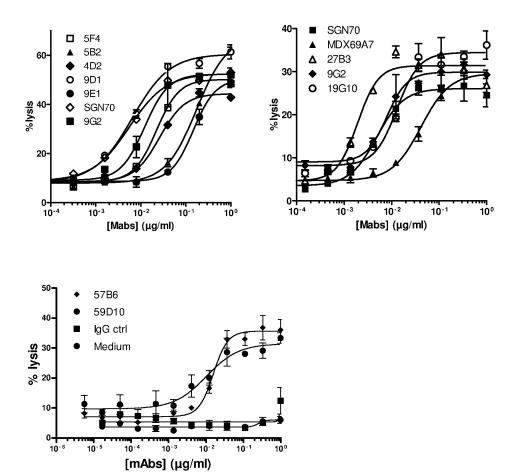
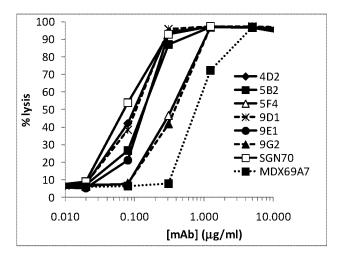
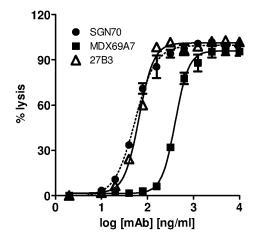


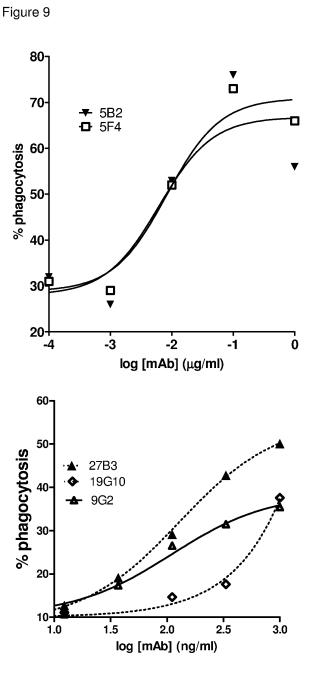
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Figure 7

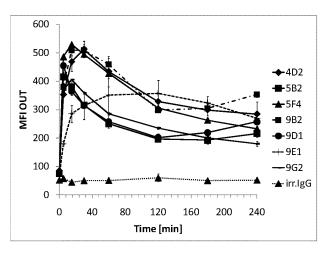












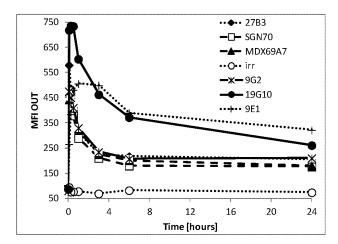
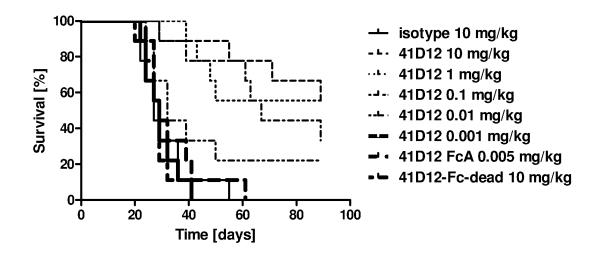


Figure 11



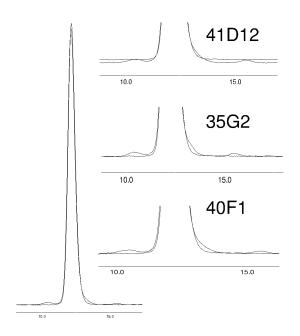
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27B3	QAVVTQEPS LTVSPGGTVTLTC	GLKSGSV TSTNFPT	WYQQTPGQAPRLLIY

CDR2	FR3	CDR3	FR4
00000000000000000000000000000000000000		80000000000000000000000000000000000000	00011111000 000100000 0001000000000000
ST NTRSS	G V P D R F S G S I L G N K A A L T I T G A Q A D D E S D Y Y C	V L A V	FGGGTQLTVL
NTNTRHS	G V P S R F S G S I S E N K A A L T I T G A Q P E D E A E Y F C	ALFISNPS VE	FGGGTQLTVL

heavy chain	FR1	CDR1	FR2	CDR2
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FR3	CDR3	FR4
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Figure 13



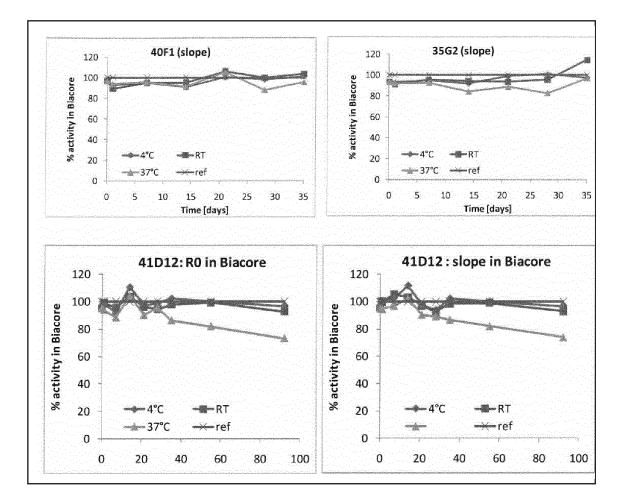
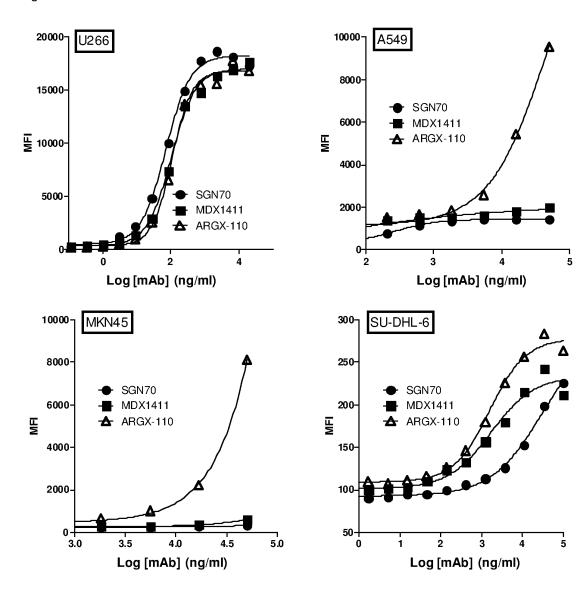


Figure 15

WO 2012/123586



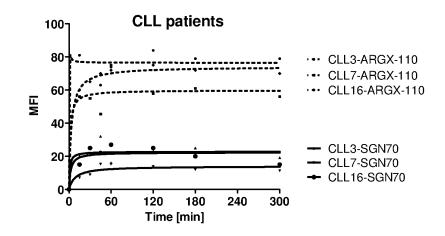
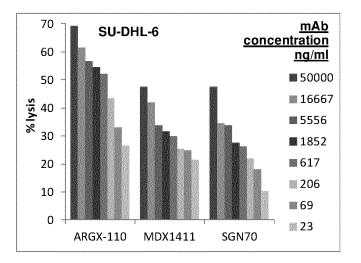


Figure 17



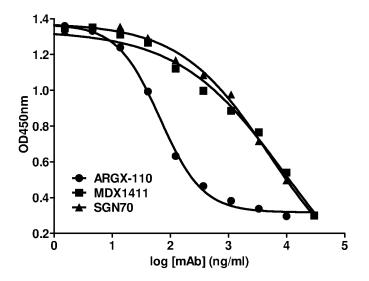


Figure 19

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RHESUS	QRLSRAQQQLPLESLGWDIAELQLNHTGPQQDPRLYWQGGPALGRSFLRGPELDKGQL
MOUSE	SGLLSKQQQRLLEHPEPHTAELQLNLTVPRKDPTLRWGAGPALGRSFTHGPELEEGHL
RAT	GGHLSKPQHVLLEPPELHVAELQLNLTDPQKDLTLRWGAGPALGRSFTHGPGLEKGNL
HUMAN CYNO	RIHRDGIYMVHIQVTLAICSSTTASR HHPTTLAVGICSPASRSISLLR RIRRDGIYMVHIQVTLAICSSTSTSRHHHPTTLAVGICSPASRSISLLR DIRRDGIYMWHIQVTLAICSSTSTSRHHPTTLAVGICSPASRSISLLR
RHESUS	RIRRDGIYMVHIQVTLAICSSTŠTSRHHHPTTLAVGICSPASRSISLLR
MOUSE	RIHQDGLYRLHIQVTLANCSSPGSTL QHRATLAVGICSPAAHGISLLR
RAT	RIHQDGIYRLHIQVTLANCSSSGSAL QHRASLVVGICSPAVHIISLLR
HUMAN	LSFHQGCTIASQRLTPLARGDTLCTNLTGTLLPSRNTDETFFGVQWVRP
CYNO	LSFHQGCTIASQRLTPLARGDTLCTNLTGTLLPSRNTDETFFGVQWVRP
RHESUS	LSFHQGCTIASQRLTPLARGDTLCTNLTGTLLPSRNTDETFFGVQWVRP
MOUSE	GRFGQDCTVALQRLTYLVHGDVLCTNLTLPLLPSRNADETFFGVQWICP
RAT	RRFGODCTVSLORLTPLARGDVLCSNLTOPLLPSRNADETFFGVORVYPWP

Rhesus monkey

SGN70 MDX1411

0

ARGX-110

i ż log [mAb] (ng/ml) ż

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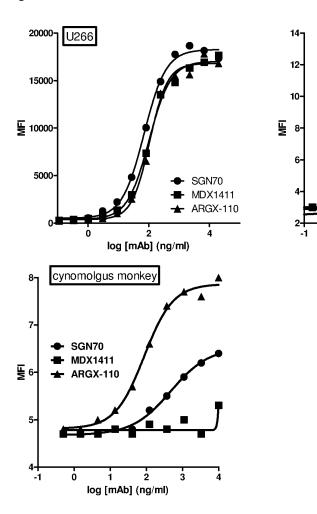
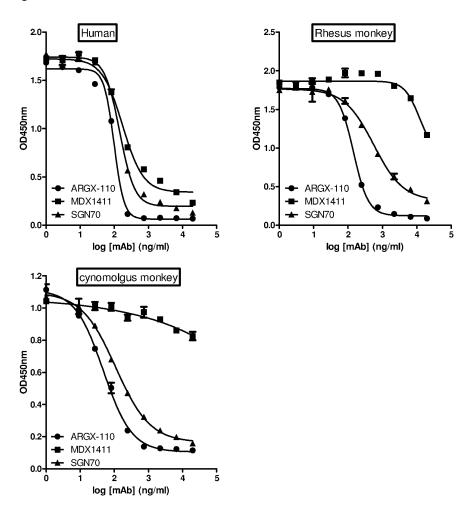
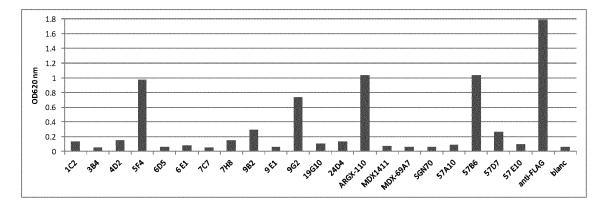


Figure 21

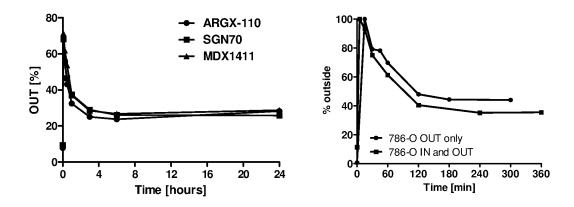




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Chimera 2.1	HPEPHTAELQLNLTVPRKDPTLRWGAG
Chimera 2.2	HPEPHTAELQLNLTVPRKDPTLRWGAG
Chimera 2.3	HPEPHTAELQLNLTVPRKDPTLRWGAG
Chimera 2.4	HPEPHTAELQLNLTVPRKDPTLRWGAG
Chimera 3	HPEPHTAELQLNLTVPRKDPTLRWGAG
Chimera 4	HPEPHTAELQLNLTVPRKDPTLRWGAG
Mouse	HPEPHTAELQLNLTVPRKDPTLRWGAG
Human	PALGRSFLHGPELDKGQLRIHRDGIYMVHIQVTLAICS
Chimera 1	PALGRSFLHGPELDKGQLRIHRDGIYMVHIQVTLAICS
Chimera 2.1	PALGRSFTHGPELEEGHLRIHRDGIYMVHIQVTLAICS
Chimera 2.2	PALGRSFTHGPELEEGHLRIHQDGLYMVHIQVTLAICS
Chimera 2.3	PALGRSFTHGPELEEGHLRIHQDGLYRLHIQVTLAICS
Chimera 2.4	PALGRSFTHGPELEEGHLRIHQDGLYRLHIQVTLANCS
Chimera 3	PALGRSFTHGPELEEGHLRIHQDGLYRLHIQVTLANCS
Chimera 4	PALGRSFTHGPELEEGHLRIHQDGLYRLHIQVTLANCS
Mouse	PALGRSFTHGPELEEGHLRIHQDGLYRLHIQVTLANCS
Human Chimera 1 Chimera 2.1 Chimera 2.2 Chimera 2.3 Chimera 2.4 Chimera 3 Chimera 4 Mouse	STTASRHHPTTLAVGICSPASRSISLLRLSFHQGCTIASQRLTPLARGDTSTTASRHHPTTLAVGICSPASRSISLLRLSFHQGCTIASQRLTPLARGDTSTTASRHHPTTLAVGICSPASRSISLLRLSFHQGCTIASQRLTPLARGDTSTTASRHHPTTLAVGICSPASRSISLLRLSFHQGCTIASQRLTPLARGDTSTTASRHHPTTLAVGICSPASRSISLLRLSFHQGCTIASQRLTPLARGDTSTTASRHHPTTLAVGICSPASRSISLLRLSFHQGCTIASQRLTPLARGDTSTTASRHHPTTLAVGICSPASRSISLLRLSFHQGCTIASQRLTPLARGDTSTTASRHHPTTLAVGICSPASRSISLLRLSFHQGCTIASQRLTPLARGDTSTGSTLQHRATLAVGICSPASRSISLLRLSFHQGCTIASQRLTPLARGDTSPGSTLQHRATLAVGICSPAARGISLLRGFGQDCTVALQRLTYLVHGDVSPGSTLQHRATLAVGICSPAAHGISLLRGFFGQDCTVALQRLTYLVHGDV
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Chimera 2.1	LCTNLTGTLLPSRNTDETFFGVQWVRP
Chimera 2.2	LCTNLTGTLLPSRNTDETFFGVQWVRP
Chimera 2.3	LCTNLTGTLLPSRNTDETFFGVQWVRP
Chimera 2.4	LCTNLTGTLLPSRNTDETFFGVQWVRP
Chimera 3	LCTNLTGTLLPSRNTDETFFGVQWVRP
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WO 2012/123586

19/19



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eolf-seql.txt

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Tyr Tyr Tyr T 35	rp Ser	Trp	lle	Arg 40	Gl n	Pro	Pro	GI y	Lys 45	GI y	Leu	GI u
Trp Met Gly A 50	la lle	GI y	Ser 55	Arg	GI y	Ser	Thr	Tyr 60	Tyr	Ser	Pro	Ser
Leu Lys Thr A 65	rg Thr	Ser 70	lle	Ser	Arg	Asp	Thr 75	Ser	Lys	Asn	GI n	Phe 80
Thr Leu Gln L	eu Ser 85	Ser	Val	Thr	Pro	GI u 90	Asp	Thr	Al a	Val	Tyr 95	Tyr
Cys Ala Arg V 1	al Thr 00	GI y	GI u	lle	Thr 105	Tyr	Asn	Ser	GI y	Ser 110	Tyr	Tyr
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Page 38

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GIn Pro Glu	Asp GLu 85	Ala Asp	Tyr		Cys 90	Al a	Leu	GI u	GI u	Пе 95	GI y
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His Tyr Pro 35	Gly Trp	Tyr Gln	GI n 40	Thr	Pro	GI y	GI n	AI a 45	Pro	Arg	Leu
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Ser Gly Ser lle 65	Ser GLy Ası 70	n Lys Ala Ala Leu Thr Ile Thr 75	Gly Ala 80
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1 Thr Val Thr Leu 20 Asn Tyr Pro Asp 35 Leu II e Tyr Asn 50 Ser GI y Ser II e 65	5 Thr Cys Gly Trp Tyr Glu Thr Asn Seu 55 Ser Gly Asu 70	10 y Leu Thr Ser Gly Ser Val Thr 25 n Gln Thr Pro Gly Gln Ala Pro 40 r Arg His Ser Gly Val Pro Ser 60 n Lys Ala Ala Leu Thr IIe Thr	15 Ser Ser Arg Leu Arg Phe Gly Ala 80
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Phe Gly Gly Gly Thr Thr Leu Thr Val Leu Gly 100 105 <210> 197 <211> 118 <212> PRT <213> Llama glama <400> 197 GIn Ser Val Leu Thr GIn Pro Pro Ser Leu Ser Ala Ser Pro Gly Ser 10 Ser Val Arg Leu Thr Cys Thr Leu Ser Ser Gly Asn Ser Val Gly Asn 20 25 30 Tyr Asp IIe Ser Trp Tyr GIn GIn Lys Ala Gly Ser Pro Pro Arg Tyr 35 40 45 Leu Leu Tyr Tyr Tyr Ser Asp Ser Tyr Lys Asn Gln Gly Ser Gly Val 50 55 60 Pro Ser Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser Lys Asp Pro Ser Ala Asn Ala Gly Leu 65 70 75 80 Leu Leu IIe Ser Gly Leu Gln Ala Glu Asp Glu Ala Asp Tyr Tyr Cys 85 90 95 Ser Val Ser Asn Ser Gly Thr Tyr Lys Pro Val Phe Gly Gly Gly Ser 100 105 110 Lys Leu Thr Val Leu Gly 115 <210> 198 <211> 108 <212> PRT <213> Llama glama <400> 198 GIn Ser Ala Leu Thr GIn Pro Ser Ala Leu Ser Val Thr Leu Gly GIn 1 5 10 15 Thr Ala Lys IIe Thr Cys Gln Gly Gly Arg Leu Gly Ser Ser Tyr Ala 20 25 30 His Trp Tyr GIn GIn Lys Pro GIy GIn Ala Pro Val Leu Val IIe Tyr 35 40 45 Gly Asn Asn Tyr Arg Pro Ser Gly IIe Pro Glu Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser 50 55 60

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eolf-seql.txt

Leu Leu Tyr Tyr Tyr Ser Asp Ser Leu Ser His GIn GIy Ser GIy Val ${50}$ Pro Ser Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser Thr Asp Ala Ser Ala Asn Ala Gly Leu 65 70 75 80 80 65 Leu Leu IIe Ser Gly Leu GIn Pro Glu Asp Glu Ala Asp Tyr Tyr Cys 85 90 95 Ser Ala Tyr Asn Arg Gly Ser His Val Phe Gly Gly Gly Thr Lys Leu 100 105 110 Thr Val Leu Gly 115 <210> 201 <211> 111 <212> PRT <213> Llama glama <400> 201 GIN Ala Val Val Thr GIN GIU Pro Ser Leu Thr Val Ser Pro GIy GIy 5 10 15 Thr Val Thr Leu Thr Cys Gly Leu Lys Ser Gly Ser Val Thr Ser Thr 20 25 30 Asn Phe Pro Thr Trp Tyr GIn GIn Thr Pro GIy GIn Ala Pro Arg Leu 35 40 45 Leu IIe Tyr Asn Thr Asn Thr Arg His Ser Gly Val Pro Ser Arg Phe 50 55 60 Ser Gly Ser Ile Ser Glu Asn Lys Ala Ala Leu Thr Ile Thr Gly Ala 65 70 75 80 GIn Pro Glu Asp Glu Ala Glu Tyr Phe Cys Ala Leu Phe IIe Ser Asn 85 90 95 Pro Ser Val Glu Phe Gly Gly Gly Thr Gln Leu Thr Val Leu Ser 100 105 110 <210> 202 <211> 111 <212> PRT <213> Llama glama <400> 202 GIN ALA VAL VAL THR GIN GLU PRO SER LEU SER VAL SER PRO GLY GLY 1 5 10 15

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eolf-seql.txt

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Lys Ser Gly Gly Thr Ala Thr Leu Thr Ile Asp Gly Ala Gln Ala Glu 65 70 75 80
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100

GI y

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Page 53

eolf-seql.txt 45 35 40 Ser Asp IIe Asn Asn Glu Gly Gly Thr Thr Tyr Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val 50 55 60 Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr IIe Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Leu Thr 65 70 75 80 Leu GIn Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro GIu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys 85 90 95 Val Arg Asp Ala Gly Tyr Ser Asn His Val Pro IIe Phe Asp Ser Trp 100 105 Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ala Ser 115 120 <210> 214 <211> 122 <212> PRT Artificial <213> <220> <223> Germlined Antibody Sequence <400> 214 Glu Val Gln Leu Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly 1 5 10 15 Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Val Tyr 20 25 30 Tyr Met Asn Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val 35 40 45 Ser Asp IIe Asn Asn Glu Gly Gly Thr Thr Tyr Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val 50 55 60 Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr IIe Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Leu Tyr 65 70 75 75 70 75 80 Leu GIn Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro GIu Asp Thr Ala Leu Tyr Tyr Cys 85 90 95 Val Arg Asp Ala Gly Tyr Ser Asn His Val Pro Ile Phe Asp Ser Trp 100 105 110 Gly Gln Gly Thr Thr Val Thr Val Ser Ser 115 120 120 <210> <211> 215 122 <212> PRT

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Val Arg Asp	AI a 100	GI y	Tyr	Ser	Asn	Hi s 105	Val	Pro	lle	Phe	Asp 110	Ser	Trp
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eolf-seql.txt

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Lys Gly Arg F 65	Phe Thr II 70	e Ser Arg A	Asp Asn Ser 75	Lys Asn S	er Leu Tyr 80
Leu GIn Met A	lsn Ser Lei 85	ı Arg Ala G	Glu Asp Thr 90	Ala Val T	yr Tyr Cys 95
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Tyr Met Asn T 35	rp Val Arg	g GIn Ala F 40	Pro Gly Lys	GIy Leu G 45	lu Trp Val
Ser Asp Ile A 50	lsn Asn Glu	ı Giy Giy A 55	Ala Thr Tyr	Tyr Ala As 60	sp Ser Val
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Leu Gln Met A	lsn Ser Lei 85	ı Arg Ala G	Glu Asp Thr 90	Ala Val T	yr Tyr Cys 95
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eolf-seql.txt

eolf-seql.txt 75 70 80 65 Leu GIn Met Asn Ser Leu Arg Ala GIu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys 85 90 95 85 Ala Arg Asp Ala Gly Tyr Ser Asn His Val Pro Ile Phe Asp Ser Trp 100 105 110 105 Gly Gln Gly Thr Thr Val Thr Val Ser Ser 115 120 <210> 230 <211> 111 <212> PRT <213> Artificial <220> <223> Germlined Antibody Sequence <400> 230 GIn Thr Val Val Thr GIn Glu Pro Ser Phe Ser Val Ser Pro Gly Gly 5 10 Thr Val Thr Leu Thr Cys Gly Leu Lys Ser Gly Ser Val Thr Ser Asp 20 25 30 20 30 Asn Phe Pro Thr Trp Tyr GIn GIn Thr Pro GIy GIn Ala Pro Arg Leu 35 40 45 Leu IIe Tyr Asn Thr Asn Thr Arg His Ser Gly Val Pro Asp Arg Phe 50 55 60 Ser Gly Ser IIe Leu Gly Asn Lys Ala Ala Leu Thr IIe Thr Gly Ala 5 70 75 80 GIn Ala Asp Asp Glu Ser Asp Tyr Phe Cys Ala Leu Phe IIe Ser Asn 85 90 95 Pro Ser Val Glu Phe Gly Gly Gly Thr Gln Leu Thr Val Leu Gly 100 105 110 <210> 231 <211> 111 <212> PRT Artificial <213> <220> Germlined Antibody Sequence <223> <400> 231 GIn Ala Val Val Thr GIn Glu Pro Ser Phe Ser Val Ser Pro Gly Gly 5 10 15 1 Thr Val Thr Leu Thr Cys Gly Leu Lys Ser Gly Ser Val Thr Ser Asp Page 64

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Asn Phe Pro 35	Thr	Trp	Tyr	GI n	GI n 40	Thr	Pro	GI y	GI n	Al a 45	Pro	Arg	Leu
Leu IIe Tyr 50	Asn	Thr	Asn	Ser 55	Arg	Hi s	Ser	GI y	Val 60	Pro	Ser	Arg	Phe
Ser Gly Ser 65	lle	Leu	GI y 70	Asn	Lys	Al a	Al a	Leu 75	Thr	lle	Thr	GI y	AI a 80
GIn Ala Asp	Asp	GI u 85	Ser	Asp	Tyr	Phe	Cys 90	Al a	Leu	Phe	lle	Ser 95	Asn
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Page 68

eolf-seql.txt Leu IIe Tyr Asn Thr Asn Thr Arg His Ser Gly Val Pro Asp Arg Phe 50 55 60 Ser Gly Ser Ile Leu Gly Asn Lys Ala Ala Leu Thr Ile Thr Gly Ala 70 75 80 GIn Pro Glu Asp Glu Ser Asp Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Leu Phe IIe Ser Asn 90 95 Pro Ser Val Glu Phe Gly Gly Gly Thr Gln Leu Thr Val Leu Gly 100 105 110 <210> 239 111 <211> <212> PRT Artificial <213> <220> <223> Germlined Antibody Sequence <400> 239 GIn Ala Val Val Thr GIn Glu Pro Ser Phe Ser Val Ser Pro Gly Gly 1 5 10 15 Thr Val Thr Leu Thr Cys Gly Leu Thr Ser Gly Ser Val Thr Ser Thr 20 25 30 Asn Phe Pro Thr Trp Tyr GIn GIn Thr Pro GIy GIn Ala Pro Arg Leu 35 40 45 Leu IIe Tyr Asn Thr Asn Thr Arg His Ser Gly Val Pro Ser Arg Phe 50 60 Ser Gly Ser IIe Leu Gly Asn Lys Ala Ala Leu Thr IIe Thr Gly Ala 65 70 75 80 GIN ALA ASP ASP GIU ALA GIU TYR Phe Cys ALA Leu Phe IIe Ser Asn 85 90 95 Pro Ser Val Glu Phe Gly Gly Gly Thr Gln Leu Thr Val Leu Gly 105 100 110 <210> 240 <211> 111 <212> PRT Artificial <213> <220> <223> Germlined Antibody Sequence <400> 240 GIn Thr Val Val Thr GIn Glu Pro Ser Phe Ser Val Ser Pro Gly Gly 5 10 15

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Ser Gly Ser Ile Leu Gly Asn Lys Ala Ala Leu Thr	lle Thr Gly Ala
65 70 75	80
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Page 72

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Page 80

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eolf-seql.txt

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eolf-seql.txt

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